

ANNUAL REPORT



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

PACIFIC REGION

14 May 2004

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.71/2003; Appeal target: CHF 1,353,390 (USD 927,242 or EUR 919,248);

Appeal coverage: 79.8%

[\(click here to go directly to the Financial Report\).](#)

This Annual Report reflects activities implemented over a one-year period; they form part of, and are based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. 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](#) 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's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For further information specifically related to this [Annual Appeal](#) please contact::

- In Suva: Mr. Leon Prop, Head of Regional Delegation; phone: +679 3311855; fax + 679 3311406; email: ifrcfj01@ifrc.org
- In Geneva (Asia Pacific Department): Ms. Eunhee Cho, Regional officer; phone: +4122 7304392; fax +4122 7330395; e-mail: eunhee.cho@ifrc.org.

Overall analysis of the programme

The Pacific region covers a vast geographical area comprising thousands of medium sized or tiny islands, and the island nations exhibit a wide diversity of culture, languages, geographical and political characteristics. Most countries are in the lower middle income grouping, as defined by the World Bank. Long-term barriers to development include the geographical dispersion of small land masses scattered over a vast 'water continent', growing populations, small domestic markets, relative isolation from major trading partners, ecological fragility, and vulnerability to natural disasters. These particular challenges for small island developing states are sometimes summed up as 'poverty of opportunity'. Although most Pacific Island countries are in the medium human development range, there are significant variances in key indicators between countries. In addition, there are enormous differences in access to basic services such as health care and education for those living in urban areas as compared to those living in isolated island communities or remote rural areas. As urbanisation trends continue, there is also a growing underclass of marginalised people living in precarious conditions in squatter settlements.

The limited development of some nations, combined with worsening employment opportunities, limited basic government services and capacity (most notably in law and order issues), rising crime and weak national cohesion, has led to several instances of instability in the region. Growing trans-border issues such as money laundering, people smuggling and diseases (particularly HIV/AIDS), and the regional response to terrorism have become increasingly important. The Australian government in particular reassessed its role in the region, prompted in part by recent global and regional events, including the Bali and Jakarta bombings. It also reviewed the impact of its aid programme, and has developed a more hands-on approach in the Pacific, most notably in PNG and the Solomon Islands.

An Australian-led regional assistance mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) was deployed in July at the invitation of the government. The following months saw the voluntary surrender or arrest of key rebel leaders and followers, and a large number of arms were handed in under a weapons amnesty. The operation was carried out without any bloodshed and led to significant improvements in law and order, one of the main aims of the intervention.

Objectives, Achievements and Constraints

Health and Care

The regional health and care programme is considered pivotal to the Federation's capacity building efforts in the Pacific region. Health and care programmes such as first aid training and blood donor recruitment often form the core of day-to-day activities in Pacific national societies. Capacity building focusses on strengthening both the quality and impact of these activities, through technical support and guidance, training, knowledge sharing and the promotion of regional cooperation. In addition, the programme provides excellent opportunities for supporting wider organisational development in areas such as volunteer and staff development, administration & finance, sustainable income generation, and communication.

In recent years the Pacific national societies have also stepped up their efforts in the global fight against HIV/AIDS, and activities in prevention and fighting stigma and discrimination are being incorporated increasingly into regular programmes.

An external review of the regional health and care programme for the period 2000-2003 was carried out in mid-2003. The main conclusions and recommendations have been widely shared and discussed and have been taken into account during the planning process for 2004 and beyond. Technical working groups in first aid, HIV/AIDS and blood donor recruitment have been set up or strengthened to further enhance local ownership of the programme. Meanwhile, the challenge of effective communication both within and between national societies and the regional delegation will need to be addressed through a combination of appropriate communications technology and fostering a culture of communications at all levels.

Impact

During the reporting period there has been clear progress in all programme areas. First aid technical audits show improvements in both quality and coverage, and the well established first aid working group is providing guidance and direction to national societies. Most national societies have now incorporated HIV/AIDS programming into their agendas, often integrating the issue into regular activities, and three national societies are taking part in the targeted stream. The review of the health and care programme was completed and a final report submitted to the regional delegation and the 11th Partnership meeting. While generally positive, it highlighted the need for communication and closer national society ownership and involvement in programme design.

Perhaps the most significant impact has been in the area of safe blood where national societies are defining their roles and responsibilities in voluntary blood donor recruitment and stepping up involvement. The number of voluntary blood donors has increased throughout the region and it is hoped that this positive trend will continue.

Constraints

Most national societies in the Pacific have limited human and financial resources to carry out their work. Volunteer development is a major challenge for the future and will be crucial to the effectiveness of community programmes and branch development alike.

The Pacific region covers a vast region and a large number of relatively small national societies with varying needs and expectations. The delegation of responsibility to the Australian Red Cross Society for many HIV/AIDS related activities has greatly contributed to the development in this area and at the same has eased some of the workload for the regional health delegate. Nevertheless, it is felt that there is a strong need for an additional health

delegate to focus on the technical area of first aid, which would enable the regional health delegate to assume a stronger overall programme development role – especially in the area of community-based self-reliance.

Goal: National societies in the Pacific have the necessary knowledge, information, skills and technical support to implement quality programmes in HIV/AIDS, first aid, community-based self-reliance and voluntary blood donor recruitment that meet the needs of the most vulnerable communities and individuals.

Objective: By the end of 2004, five national societies have the technical capacity in health and care to provide quality programmes and service delivery to the most vulnerable.

Expected result

National societies in the Pacific have access to and knowledge of HIV/AIDS resources to assist in the development and implementation of their programmes.

Progress/Achievements

HIV/AIDS is a growing issue of concern in the Pacific and national societies highlighted HIV/AIDS as one of the three top health and care priorities for the region at the Pacific regional partnership meeting. The number of cases in the region continues to rise but there is only very limited awareness among communities. The Federation has stepped up its involvement in HIV/AIDS activities through the development of new and existing programmes, the creation of a strategic group and membership of a regional committee. Access to, and knowledge of, HIV/AIDS resources for national societies have greatly improved as a result.

In June 2003, the first ever Red Cross Pacific regional HIV/AIDS workshop was held in Nadi, Fiji. National societies were represented at the workshop by two of their key HIV/AIDS focal persons. The Pacific regional HIV/AIDS committee (PRHAC) was created and potential members nominated. The Committee was officially endorsed by all Pacific national societies, as represented by all Secretaries General at a specific meeting in Brisbane in July 2003. At its first official meeting in October, the terms of reference were further developed and key priorities for programming were discussed.

The regional HIV/AIDS programme is therefore well underway, with overall management responsibility delegated to the Australian Red Cross Society. Activities this past year focussed on agreed priorities including awareness, peer education and fighting discrimination and stigma. The programme has been especially active in assisting national societies to integrate HIV/AIDS into their existing first aid, blood donor recruitment, disaster management and youth programmes. National societies also organised specific HIV/AIDS activities for World AIDS Day.

In addition to regular activities covering the entire region, the PRHAC received six proposals for targeted funding for programmes for 2004. Three of these were selected by the committee – the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Kiribati. Representatives from these societies then attended a one-week workshop and worked more closely with the facilitators on their programmes.

The Federation's regional delegation was formally accepted as a member of the Pacific Islands Region Country Coordinating Mechanism (PIRCCM) and continues to participate in regular regional meetings. The Federation has also been invited to join the Regional Strategic Reference Group for development of a Pacific regional strategy on HIV/AIDS. The group will be hosted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) as the principal recipient for the PIRCCM, with a first meeting scheduled for early 2004.

The UNAIDS office in Suva donated one hundred "Fleet of Hope" backpacks which will be used for first aid and HIV/AIDS activities at the community level. The backpacks contain basic information and educational materials on HIV/AIDS and are a joint project by the regional delegation and UNAIDS.

Six field officers/volunteers participated in a youth peer education workshop run by the AIDS Task Force, Fiji. Puppet theatre remains a key activity for community education in the region. Samoa Red Cross Society volunteers developed new puppets, while the Cook Islands and Tonga Red Cross Societies facilitated training for new puppeteers. An evaluation of the puppet theatre approach will take place in 2004.

The Pacific region was represented through the Fiji Red Cross Society at the HIV/AIDS conference held in Dakar, Senegal. This provided a good opportunity to share experiences and learn valuable lessons from other regions in the world where the impact of HIV/AIDS is far more acute and many national societies have developed active programmes to fight the pandemic.

Expected result

Seven national societies' first aid programmes comply with agreed quality standards.

Progress/Achievements

Progress towards the achievement of quality standards is underway. First aid quality audits, which have taken place throughout the Pacific, will be used as a basis for the development of agreed standards throughout the region. The Pacific first aid quality management committee meets on a regular basis, and is taking the lead on further development of training systems and tools. The New Zealand Red Cross Society will fund a first aid delegate to be based in Suva for two years from early 2004. The delegate will support the implementation of the agreed action plan.



A regional training for instructors was organised in June in collaboration with the Asia Foundation/Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), funded by the New Zealand Red Cross Society. Most of the participants were first aid instructors or assistant instructors. Two first aid instructors from Kiribati and the Solomon Islands were certified by a New Zealand Red Cross Society first aid instructor at the same time.

First aid field officers teaching in maritime schools, representing seven national societies, were invited for the first time to attend the Maritime First Aid at Sea advance training conducted by SPC. In September, World First Aid Day was marked in the region with seven national societies conducting special activities.

Expected result

In coordination with ICRC, two national societies have "first aid in conflict" programmes.

Progress/Achievements

The importance of developing guidelines and training modules for the provision of first aid in conflict situations was highlighted at the Brisbane partnership meeting. The head of delegation attended a workshop hosted by the ICRC in Jakarta on "Safer Access", both *for* Red Cross workers and *to* people in need. The meeting was attended by national society staff from Nepal, Indonesia and three Pacific countries - Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, as well as representatives from the Federation and ICRC. Further decisions on how best to incorporate first aid in conflict throughout the Pacific will be taken once the guidelines have been finalised in Geneva. The new regional first aid delegate will assist in developing the programmes.

Expected result

Three national societies have the necessary expertise in vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) and community-based self-reliance (CBSR) to work on small island communities.

Progress/Achievements

The Papua New Guinea and Cook Island Red Cross Societies continued CBSR training in remote communities. A training-of-trainers (ToT) workshop, facilitated by the regional health and disaster management delegates as well as the Secretary General of the Cook Islands Red Cross Society, was held for 23 participants from the Tonga Red

Cross Society headquarters and branches in Nuku'alofa. An action plan for follow up by three Tonga Red Cross Society branches was developed during the meeting.

A review of the CBSR programme approach, including its methodology, tools and materials, will take place during the year 2004. The challenge of developing a programmatic approach that can be delivered at community level by Red Cross branches in a sustainable manner, and the further integration with disaster management and especially community risk reduction activities, will be a central theme. The programme development will adopt a learning-by-doing approach which supports and builds on the piloting of new approaches and the sharing of knowledge and experience throughout the region.

Expected result

Five national societies have a well functioning voluntary blood donor recruitment programme and up-to-date database.

Progress/Achievements

Voluntary blood donor recruitment programmes have progressed significantly in several countries. Fiji, Samoa and Tonga have programmes up and running, while programmes have also been initiated elsewhere. A safe blood workshop was held in Kiribati for Red Cross and Ministry of Health staff, in close cooperation with and funded by the World Health Organization (WHO). The workshop was facilitated by the Secretary General of the Samoa Red Cross Society.



Red Cross societies in Tonga, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and the Solomon Islands revised their memoranda of understanding with the Ministry of Health regarding their role and legal responsibilities in blood donor recruitment. Kiribati is in the process of concluding a similar agreement. Blood donor databases have been updated in eleven national societies and further database development will take place in 2004. Most societies currently work with manual registers but the integration of computer databases is under consideration.

A promotional video entitled "Liquid Love" was developed to encourage blood donor participation. The video has been translated into three different languages and national societies received copies to use in their blood recruitment programmes. A 30-minute interview with the regional health delegate was broadcast on television in sixteen Pacific countries and information, education and communication materials were made available across the region.

A regional workshop on safe blood and voluntary blood donor recruitment was held in Suva in early December. Twenty-four participants representing eleven national societies were trained in using the Federation's "Making a Difference" manual for recruiting voluntary non-remunerated blood donors. They will also have skills to plan and implement programmes on donor recruitment in their national societies. The workshop was co-funded by the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), and the Japanese Red Cross Society. During the workshop a regional advisory group was established. It will consist of two representatives from the Pacific national societies plus two expert members, including one from WHO.

Expected result

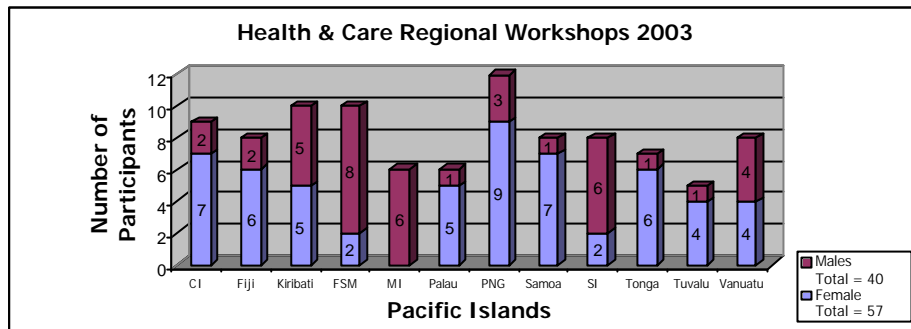
Five national societies have benefited from each others' experiences and capitalised on opportunities offered by the Red Cross partners and external agencies.

Progress/Achievements

Regional and national workshops on HIV/AIDS, safe blood and CBSR promoted the sharing of ideas and experiences by participants, and two national societies have been co-facilitating workshops for sister societies. Details of participants of regional workshops by country and by gender are shown below. National societies have been encouraged to work with partner organisations and to exchange ideas and human resources. Due to

workshops, meetings and sharing of ideas, better networking and coordination have been achieved over the reporting period. Technical working groups in first aid, HIV/AIDS and blood donor recruitment have been set up or strengthened to further enhance local ownership of the programme.

The review of the regional health and care programme was debated at the Brisbane partnership meeting. The main conclusions and comments were taken into consideration for the Pacific Action Plan and the Annual Appeal 2004.



In general, Red Cross societies have been more involved with their respective Ministries of Health and with other partners such as WHO and the National AIDS Councils. The regional delegation also continues to liaise with external partners such as SPC, UNDP, UNICEF, UNAIDS and the Pacific Island AIDS Foundation, and participated in meetings of the working group for health and population of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific.

Disaster Management



Fiji Red Cross volunteers in action

During the second week of the year, cyclone Ami caused extensive damage in Fiji, especially on the second largest island of Vanua Levu. The Fiji Red Cross Society responded quickly and effectively and the Federation launched an international emergency appeal in support, focussing on water and sanitation, school repairs, replenishment of relief stock and the further strengthening of response capacity, including training of staff and volunteers. Relief and rehabilitation operations were completed by the end of June. The Solomon Islands Red Cross Society participated in the joint assessment and relief mission to Tikopia following cyclone Zoe. Later in the year, it also provided humanitarian relief to those affected by internal conflict, including displaced people in Honiara and on the Weathercoast. This operation was supported throughout by the ICRC which re-opened its Honiara office in August. Elsewhere in the region, the Red Cross also responded to minor emergencies including local floods, storms, landslides and fires.

Goal: National societies have the capacity and resources to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable in times of emergency.

Objective: By the end of 2004, three national societies have the technical capacity to provide quality services to the most vulnerable in times of emergencies.

Expected Result

Four national societies have workable disaster management plans in place.

Progress/Achievements

Existing disaster management plans were reviewed and updated in several national societies. The reviews also demonstrated the need for wider dissemination of disaster management plans within the various countries, in order to provide awareness of the specific roles and responsibilities of national societies, the government, partners and other stakeholders. Further efforts are required to explain to all partners the importance of upholding Red Cross Fundamental Principles such as independence, neutrality and impartiality.

The Palau Red Cross Society hosted its first disaster management planning workshop in early November to develop a national disaster plan. Board members, emergency response team leaders and government representatives participated, and the Red Cross' role in emergencies was identified and discussed.

With continued support from Japanese Red Cross Society's Kanagawa chapter, the Micronesia Red Cross Society hosted one national and three state disaster management planning workshops. Each state chapter held a workshop in which a local disaster management plan was drafted. They also took the opportunity to raise their profiles by training staff and volunteers from communities and local governments. The national workshop held in November included headquarters staff and volunteers from the state chapters, as well as representatives from their state governments. The society's roles and responsibilities in times of emergencies were discussed and the disaster management plan developed in January 2002 was reviewed. During this workshop, the participants collectively recommended many changes in order to create a more realistic and workable plan.

The Solomon Islands Red Cross Society and the Fiji Red Cross Society revised their disaster management plans and began drafting standard operational procedures through national level workshops.

Expected Result

The Regional Disaster Management Core Group is functioning and is an advisory body to the national societies.

Progress/Achievements

Considerable progress was made regarding the establishment and operation of the emergency management core group in the Pacific. National societies, through their own initiative, formed an advisory group in disaster management. This group is a starting point for progressive ownership and independence within Pacific national societies in relation to disaster management issues. Its production of a regional contingency plan is one example of its commitment to assisting and developing national societies' capacities and independence.

The second emergency management core group meeting was held in Tonga in the last week of October during which core members of Pacific national societies and participants from the Australian and New Zealand Red Cross Societies further elaborated key activities of the Pacific Action Plan. The Pacific contingency plan 2003-2004 was also drafted as a guideline for national societies before and during the 2003/04 cyclone season. The contingency plan has been circulated to all national societies for comments and appropriate actions. The next core group meeting is set to take place in April 2004.

The core group also produced a reference CD-ROM with relevant disaster management information for the Pacific. The provision of such information was in response to societies' information needs where internet access is often limited due to high cost or technical constraints. The Info Web CD-ROM provides necessary information and tools and is intended to help strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of Pacific national societies in disaster management.

Expected Result

Disaster preparedness container projects in six national societies in the Pacific are managed in a sustainable manner.

Progress/Achievements

Pre-positioned stocks were used to provide relief items for many minor and major disasters, most notably during cyclone Ami in Fiji. With donor support, the Fiji Red Cross Society was able to replenish all used items and manage the containers effectively. Containers in the Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu and Kiribati were also utilised for various emergencies. All used items were replenished and many societies have been able to raise funds locally to do so.

Additionally, new disaster preparedness containers were procured in Fiji and the Samoa Red Cross Society relocated four containers to its new Red Cross compound. They also moved a further container on the island of Savai'i to a safer location and volunteers built proper foundations as well as a roof for the containers in Apia.

There are now a total of sixty-five containers with relief supplies throughout the Pacific and Papua New Guinea. All national societies hold authority over the release and replenishment of the containers.

Pacific Island	units
Cook Islands	2
Fiji	21
FSM	3
Kiribati	2
Marshall Islands	1
Palau	1
PNG	18
Samoa	5
Solomon Islands	5
Tonga	2
Tuvalu	2
Vanuatu	3
Total containers	65



Samoa Red Cross Society – Repair and relocation of disaster preparedness containers to the new Red Cross compound.

Expected Result

Targeted communities in three national societies have identified their vulnerabilities and capacities; three national societies have the necessary expertise in VCA and CCSR to work with remote small island communities.

Progress/Achievements

At the 11th Partnership meeting in Brisbane, it was agreed to promote VCA as an essential tool, and national societies declared their commitment to stepping up activities in the area of community risk reduction in general. Although the CCSR approach was introduced several years ago, there is still a need to refine methodologies and tools. The Tonga Red Cross Society is working with the Federation in developing a pilot model which will provide valuable lessons for other societies. A ToT course in CCSR methodologies was held in October; it was attended by 23 staff, volunteers and branch officers of the Tonga Red Cross Society. The Secretary General of the Cook Islands Red Cross Society co-facilitated the workshop and shared technical experiences and skills with participants. Following the workshop, participants identified needs and designed a project, currently under review for potential support by the regional delegation.

A five-day VCA workshop for the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society took place in Honiara in April, in which sixteen staff, branch programme officers and volunteers participated.

In collaboration with the regional delegation, the Samoa Red Cross Society hosted a community disaster management planning workshop in July. The workshop was attended by community leaders and focussed on the Red Cross' role in disasters, VCA and community-based disaster management planning, while the need and potential for climate change adaptation projects was also discussed briefly.

Expected Result

National societies have benefited from each other's experiences and capitalised on opportunities offered by Red Cross partners and external agencies.

Progress/Achievements

The Pacific Emergency Management Training Advisory Group (PEMTAG) was established by the Federation, the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Asia Foundation/OFDA, in an effort to better coordinate training activities. It was introduced officially during the 11th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting and the "Communities at Risk" conference organised by SOPAC in early May. It is envisaged that PEMTAG will also provide a forum for discussion on risk management.

Disaster management featured prominently on the agenda of the Brisbane partnership meeting and all partners agreed on the broad outline of the Pacific Action Plan. The emergency management core group has taken the lead on the further detailed elaboration of tasks and serves as a forum for sharing knowledge and experience.

The regional disaster management delegate participated in the Federation's global disaster management coordinators/delegates meeting in Panama in October, where participants exchanged knowledge and skills and discussed key issues in disaster management. The Federation also participated in the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Pacific development meeting hosted by OCHA. It was noted that the challenges of deployment following disasters echoed Federation experiences with its field assessment and coordination team (FACT) system.

An assessment of the possible future Red Cross role in climate change mitigation and adaptation was carried out by a climate change adaptation officer from the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme and an independent consultant, with a view to developing a concrete programme proposal. The assessment was funded and carried out in collaboration with the Netherlands Red Cross Centre for Climate Change. The team met with all national societies in Brisbane, carried out field trips to the Cook Islands and Samoa, and met with other agencies such as SOPAC and the World Wide Fund for Nature. The finalised proposal has been incorporated into the Federation's 2004 Annual Appeal.

Impact

The increased ability of Red Cross societies in the Pacific to respond effectively to disasters and emergencies was demonstrated on several occasions. The pre-positioning of basic relief items in shipping containers throughout the region continues to be an important element of the regional approach, as is the ongoing training of staff and volunteers in basic disaster management. The growing confidence in disaster response has also allowed national societies to further examine opportunities in disaster preparedness, and some have gradually started playing an active role in the entire disaster management cycle. They are, therefore, able to contribute not only to emergency response but also to preparedness, prevention and mitigation.

National level disaster management planning workshops have led to increased understanding of Federation disaster mechanisms and tools such as the disaster relief emergency fund (DREF), disaster management information system (DMIS) and VCA.

The focus on national level workshops this year has provided an opportunity to bring branch level staff and volunteers together for Red Cross training. These workshops also initiated information sharing between societies and with other actors. In Fiji, the first branch level disaster management planning workshop was carried out. In Samoa, police and community members were invited, while in Tonga, the workshops were widely reported by local media.

The formation of the emergency management core group has improved communication and information sharing on technical disaster management issues, both between the regional delegation and national societies as well as among national societies themselves.

Despite the fact that most Pacific national societies have relatively small capacities with limited resources, their growing confidence in disaster response has also allowed them to further examine opportunities in disaster preparedness. National societies have gradually started playing an active role in the entire disaster management cycle. They are, therefore, able to contribute not only to emergency response but also to preparedness, prevention and mitigation. For instance, several national societies such as Samoa, Cook Islands, Palau and Micronesia Red Cross Societies were involved in various disaster prevention measures and discussions with their government partners in bio-terrorism initiatives and climate change adaptation projects.

Constraints

Most national societies have only a small human resource base with few office staff, each of whom are assigned multiple tasks and responsibilities. As a result, progress can be slow and there are delays in reporting, including regular stock reports and national society well preparedness self-assessment questionnaires. Knowledge of the Federation's specific tools and standards for disaster response and of the Red Cross in general is still limited.

Although gradually improving, the national societies' branch structures are still weak, and pre-arrangements for the cyclone season were difficult to finalise within relatively short periods. Regular communication between headquarters and branches needs to be improved and further attention must be given to standardised training and operational procedures.

The lack of effective communications systems in the region, especially with remote islands, presents an important challenge in disaster situations. In addition, national disaster plans are relatively weak, are often abandoned and standard operating procedures – where they exist – are not always followed. The limited capacity to produce reliable initial damage assessment data in particular seriously hampers effective decision making in the early stages.

Organisational Development

Goal: National societies in the Pacific have the organisational and technical capacity to provide quality programmes that focus on the needs of the most vulnerable.

Objective: To have five functioning national societies with an organisational management capacity that enables them to provide quality programmes and services by the end of 2004.

Expected results

1. Coordination and networks between Red Cross/Red Crescent partners and relevant agencies have assisted in the development of specific regional resources and strategic alliances.
2. Five national societies have the technical skills to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate their programmes, and have the financial structures and systems to support their programmes and service delivery.
3. Three national societies have sufficient numbers of skilled volunteers to carry out their programme activities. Effective volunteer management is operational in five national societies for their health and disaster management programmes.
4. Leadership in five national societies is adequate, ensuring organisational change has commenced and resulted in improved programme and service delivery and effective governance and management practices.

Progress/Achievements

Following a final revision and adoption of its new constitution, the Micronesia Red Cross Society was recognised officially by the ICRC in November 2003. It was subsequently admitted as a member of the International Federation, together with the Cook Islands Red Cross Society, which had gained recognition in 2002. This formal

recognition and admission is a tribute to the dedication and commitment of board members, staff and volunteers sustained over many years during which the societies in formation already carried out their humanitarian role.

A three-day workshop on good national society governance in the Cook Islands drew participants from all outer islands, some of whom subsequently established new branches upon their return. The meeting ended with the adoption of a new constitution at the Annual General Meeting, as well as the formal election of office bearers.

The capacity building programme in the Solomon Islands, supported by the Australian Red Cross Society, was delayed as the national society was forced to resume a strong operational role providing humanitarian relief to people affected by the conflict. At the same time, the society saw a change of leadership, with the new secretary general taking up position formally at the end of the year. With the RAMSI operation progressing well, it is hoped that planned activities can resume early next year. The regional delegation hosted the Australian Red Cross Society technical adviser for the Solomon Islands capacity building project during the last quarter of the year, providing a solid basis for continued cooperation during 2004.

Organisational development priorities agreed during a joint ICRC/Federation mission to Vanuatu in early 2003 were discussed with all main partners during a side meeting in Brisbane. The delegation's finance officer visited the Vanuatu Red Cross Society to review financial systems and to provide support for planning, budgeting and reporting.

Capacity building efforts will be stepped up during 2004, including further training of board members, staff and volunteers.

A three-day strategic planning workshop was held in Kiribati in November. A draft development plan will now be shared for further consultation, with external partners' formal adoption in early 2004.

Constraints

The regional organisational development programme was carried out without a full time delegate for most 2003, even though the programme is seen as a cornerstone to further capacity building efforts in all programme areas. The position was re-opened and subsequently filled in November, supported by the New Zealand Red Cross Society. It is expected that concrete organisational development support to national societies can now be stepped up significantly.

Effective communication within and between national societies remains an important challenge. There is often poor access to internet and email, and information does not always reach those intended. Narrative reporting also continues to be relatively weak and certainly needs to be improved further.

Regional Cooperation

The Pacific Action Plan was formally adopted at the 11th Pacific partnership meeting in Brisbane, in July. The meeting was hosted by the Australian Red Cross Society Queensland state branch and funded by AusAID, with further contributions from the New Zealand, Japanese and Chinese Red Cross Societies. Follow up will include the preparation of a concrete implementation plan, which was discussed with all partners in December. During 2004, this should lead to a collective regional cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) setting out the strategic directions, concrete programmes and activities, and resource mobilisation commitments for the Pacific for the next three to four years. Meanwhile the CAS process for Papua New Guinea was set in motion with a first meeting held in July, where the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society outlined its priorities for the next years. It is expected that a CAS process in the Solomon Islands will be initiated during 2004. The Movement's approach to the evolving situation in the Solomon Islands was discussed at a separate side meeting, and again at a follow-up meeting hosted by the ICRC in Sydney. Ad hoc coordination meetings are also added on to already scheduled events where feasible, such as the one following the Movement's basic training course for delegates in Wellington, New Zealand.

Representatives from almost all Pacific national societies attended the Movement's statutory meetings in Geneva, providing a forum for dialogue and consultation on key humanitarian challenges both at a global and regional level.

Coordination and Management

In accordance with the main directions of the Asia Pacific regional implementation plan to realise "Strategy for Change", the basic infrastructure of the regional delegation was reviewed, with input from all stakeholders. A regional organisational development delegate joined the team in November on a fully funded position for two years. With the support of the Asia Pacific regional reporting unit, an internship position for reporting was developed and an officer took up the position, also in November. It is expected that this position will be maintained on a revolving six-monthly basis, whereby the focus would shift gradually from meeting Federation needs and standards to directly supporting national societies.

Following the revision of the Asia Pacific communications strategy, it was decided that information and communication needs should be addressed through a part time consultant based in New Zealand, providing tailored support as and when required. Consolidation of the regional team - including Papua New Guinea - will hopefully allow for closer integration of health, disaster management and organisational development programmes, and further development of appropriate tools and methodologies in support of Pacific national societies.

At year end, the regional delegation comprised four delegates (head, health, disaster preparedness and organisational development), one intern and four local staff, with further finance support provided by the regional finance unit in Kuala Lumpur. The Papua New Guinea country delegation now reports formally to the regional delegation, allowing for better integration of programmes and more flexible use of resources.

During 2003, the Red Cross societies of Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Finland, as well as the ICRC, provided technical, material and financial support to capacity building in the Pacific region, while NZAID provided funding to Federation core programmes and capacity building. These partnerships will be consolidated in 2004 and beyond. New donors to the region include the Korean Red Cross Society, the Chinese government through the Chinese Red Cross Society, who contributed to health programmes and regional coordination, and the GFATM through the secretariat of the Pacific community, who contributed to the safe blood workshop.

Priorities for the coming year will focus on the country tailored implementation of the Pacific Action Plan, and the negotiation of multi-year support from new and existing donors and partners in support of this.