

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

CENTRAL AMERICA

30 June 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.
For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.53/2004; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: 1 January to 30 April, 2004; Appeal coverage according to revised appeal target: 51.2%; Outstanding needs: CHF 1,843,327 (USD 1,463,339 or EUR 1,206,283)

Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List (also available on the website). The list is currently being updated and will be attached shortly

Appeal target: CHF 5,167,642; this appeal budget has been revised to CHF 3,783,014

Click here to go directly to the attached revised appeal budget

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: None

Programme summary: Given a significant funding shortage for programmes in the region, the appeal target for the Central America Annual Appeal 2004 has been revised. This is being accompanied by the cancellation, or reduction of projects and planned activities in the areas of health, humanitarian values and organizational development, together with initiatives which have been scaled down in the area of Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic partnerships. The only three donors which are contributing to programmes in the region: the British, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies, are continuing to provide the majority of the core and programme funding for the Regional Delegation while expressing their desire to share funding needs with other donor National Societies. The Regional Delegation is successfully implementing the Federation's change process as articulated and approved by member National Societies. Funding from sources such as the European Union and the Global Fund are increasingly being sent directly to the National Societies in the region, rather than being channeled through the Regional Delegation.

A regional meeting was held in Panama in January with Federation staff from throughout Central America and the Caribbean to define the goals and strategies for the coming year. Country profiles and analyses were updated for all the National Societies in the region to ensure coherence between the Federation's Plan of Action and the National Societies' national development plans.

Also in January, the Centre of Excellence for Disaster Preparedness was officially opened in Costa Rica. This is intended to serve as a reference centre for all National Societies in the Americas on the subject of community based education in disasters.

Work has been ongoing throughout the first four months of the year on the new Central American Health Network (REDCAS). There is now an agreement on the terms of reference for the network which will link together health departments from throughout the region, giving health practitioners the opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned.

Another major accomplishment during the first four months of 2004 was the completion of the Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) process in Guatemala. The CAS was drawn up and agreed to by the ICRC, the Federation, and the American, British, Netherlands, Norwegian, Spanish and Swedish Red Cross Societies.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- *In Panama: Gilberto Guevara, Head of Panama Regional Delegation, Panama; email ifrcpa51@ifrc.org, phone (507) 317-1300, fax (507) 317-1304*
- *In Geneva: Luis Luna, Federation Regional Officer, Americas Department, Geneva; email luis.luna@ifrc.org, phone (41 22) 730-4274, fax (41 22) 730-0395*

This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). 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, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

Thus far, 2004 has been quiet in terms of natural disasters as the rainy season in many Central American countries starts in May and the hurricane season in the Caribbean begins in June. The region has also been stable politically. In Panama, there has been a lot of activity leading up to the Presidential election which will be held in early May, but there have been no disturbances. In Guatemala, the newly elected President took office in January after the elections process concluded in late December. The Guatemalan Red Cross had drawn up a contingency plan in anticipation of unrest during and immediately following the elections, but there were only a few minor incidents that needed to be attended to.

The Federation's structure in Central America now includes the Regional Delegation, the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), the Regional Finance Unit and the Regional Reporting Unit in Panama, as well as a Federation representation office in Guatemala. In addition, there is an organizational development delegate working in Nicaragua and a health delegate in El Salvador. Programmes in Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti are being managed by the Regional Delegation in Panama (see programme update 1 for the Caribbean region), although the objectives related to Haiti have been transferred to the Social Unrest Emergency Appeal (Appeal 07/04). The Regional Delegation has finally reached its full staffing, after having filled a vacancy in the disaster preparedness programme and a vacancy in the programme coordinator position. These positions were filled thanks to financial backing, mainly from the British Red Cross.

Health and care

Goal: Efficient, responsive, and focused programmes that contribute to reducing vulnerability are implemented by the National Societies in the region.

Programme Objective: The National Societies of the region are contributing to a significant improvement of health conditions and are empowering vulnerable groups and communities to reduce vulnerability to ill health and disease.

Objective 1: The capacity of the National Society health departments has been strengthened and effective partnerships secured in line with the Santiago de Chile Commitment.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- The Regional Delegation's health team and the health delegate in El Salvador continue to support the process of strengthening the Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC) health department. With the support of the Federation and through a productive partnership between the Canadian, Italian and Spanish Red Cross Societies, the Nicaraguan Red Cross and the Federation health and organizational development delegates, advances have been made in focusing the NRC's health activities in key strategic areas. Terms of reference (ToR) have been drawn up and a consultant was hired to guide the NRC through the process. The

Federation has taken on the role of technical advisor, through both the health and organizational development delegates.

- The health team is also supporting the HIV/AIDS programme in the Red Cross Society of Panama through continued support for the HIV/AIDS coordinator's salary. The team is also helping the Red Cross Society of Panama in writing proposals and in gaining access to potential donors.
- The National Societies in El Salvador, Guatemala and Panama have all improved their capacity to write health project proposals and implement programmes. With the exception of Costa Rica, all National Societies in the region have received at least two project planning process (PPP) courses, which are helping them to carry out health project planning.
- In Guatemala, the health team provided technical advice for the Guatemalan Red Cross's HIV/AIDS programme and assisted in the organization of a workshop to restructure the HIV/AIDS programme.

Constraints:

- Many National Societies in the region are not sufficiently aware of the Santiago de Chile Commitment or of their responsibilities under the Commitment. However, the documents presented, adopted and accepted at the Conference were prepared by all National Societies in the region. In the coming months, the Commitment needs to be more actively promoted within the National Societies so that they can begin to comply with the objectives laid out in the agreement.

Objective 2: The response of the National Societies in Central America to the HIV/AIDS epidemic has been refined and scaled up in the areas of prevention, care and the fight against stigma and discrimination.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- The *Together We Can* (TWC) HIV/AIDS youth peer education methodology developed in the Caribbean has been widely and successfully implemented. The Red Cross Society of Panama has accepted the TWC methodology as the standard methodology and is beginning to implement activities within this framework.
- Work has been ongoing throughout the first four months of the year on the new Central American health network (REDCAS). There is now an agreement on the terms of reference for the network and a logical framework and budget have been drawn up for its implementation. This network will link together health departments from throughout the region, giving health practitioners the opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned. The network's plan of action, logical framework and budget were shared with the Swedish Red Cross which has expressed interest in supporting this network. The Swedish Red Cross has also expressed interest in supporting the creation of a website focusing on health in Central America. There is a need to move forward on building up the network as a viable entity, as there is already a nominated head of the network, a Federation technical support person and an interested donor.
- In November 2003 a working group was created during the regional HIV/AIDS workshop to review the regional health network. A three-person team was voted in to oversee the distribution of the Central American health network document and to request feedback in order to produce a plan of action to be used following the launch of the network planned for 2004. The team composed of representatives from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras continued to work with the regional health delegate in order to develop the terms of reference which were completed in February and an interim coordinator was elected to drive the process forward.
- A regional HIV/AIDS officer was hired in late April, which will greatly enhance the Regional Delegation's ability to offer high quality technical support in the region in the area of HIV/AIDS. The new officer has extensive experience in networking and will be able to move the health network initiative forward in the coming months.

Constraints:

- Conservatism in some National Societies is causing a degree of difficulty in moving forward the HIV/AIDS projects and makes it difficult to reach agreements with organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWAs). Agreements with PLWAs need to be formalized in the future to improve the Federation's work in the area of HIV/AIDS programming. The regional health programme will focus on El Salvador and Mexico to implement PLWA programming in the future.

Central America; Appeal no. 01.53/2004; Programme Update no. 1

- Given the lack of funding support for programmes in the Regional Delegation, funds need to be sought from other sources, such as the Global Fund. In the past, this has not been a strength of the Federation, but increased efforts must be made to gain support from non-traditional donors in the future.

Objective 3: The National Societies' capacity to recruit, manage and maintain a pool of volunteer blood donors, contributing to a safe and adequate national blood supply, has been enhanced.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- During the early part of the year, the Federation participated in coordination meetings with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Panamanian Ministry of Health, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Red Cross Society of Panama regarding safe blood programmes.
- The Red Cross Society of Panama has taken the initiative of putting together a campaign with a local advertising agency to increase non remunerated blood donation. Three posters have been produced and advertisements are being placed in local newspapers. The campaign includes a Red Cross Society of Panama telephone contact number where prospective donors can call and register as donors. The Federation has agreed to see how it can assist the National Society in developing this project, which can be used as a best practice or model for other National Societies in the region.
- The Federation worked closely with PAHO to produce a banner for the 9th Colloquium on Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood, which was held in Beijing in April. The Federation also worked closely with PAHO to assist in the planning of World Health Day on 7 April. Together, the Federation and PAHO produced traffic safety posters that were distributed at World Health Day activities, which were the focus for 2004.

Constraints:

- There is a lack of interest on the part of traditional donors to support this programme.

Objective 4: Integrated health interventions using IMCI as a basis, in partnership with PAHO, the Ministry of Health (MoH) and other partners (including vulnerable communities) are being implemented by National Societies.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- The Inter-American Health Meeting was held in Panama on 26-28 March. During this meeting, much progress was made towards standardizing the Federation's approach to community health. One of the agreements made at the meeting was to meet with key stakeholders and see how service delivery, particularly in the area of integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI) can be improved. The forthcoming American Red Cross evaluation of IMCI, which will be carried out by The John Hopkins University and Centres for Disease Control (CDC) in the United States, will greatly assist the Federation in fine-tuning its approach to these programmes.
- The Federation participated in coordination meetings with the American Red Cross and PAHO to define "next steps" and to promote the IMCI methodology in the region.
- IMCI is currently being implemented in four branches of the Guatemalan Red Cross and progress is being made towards reducing common childhood illnesses.
- The Federation has sought to boost donor support of the IMCI programme by adapting the original IMCI methodology to include more of a focus on the health of the mother. This adapted methodology, called IMCI-AINM-C, is currently being implemented in Guatemala.

Constraints:

- Funding remains an issue as there has been little interest from donors.
- The resignation of the regional water and sanitation delegate, assigned to PADRU, puts additional pressure on the Federation's human resources. An integrated water and sanitation / community health programme is an ideal model that the Federation's health team is working towards achieving. A new proposal has been put forward to deploy a water and sanitation delegate to the Regional Delegation who will work closely with the staff in Pan American Disaster Response Unit and the Lima Regional Delegation.

Objective 5: The capacity of the Guatemalan Red Cross health department has been strengthened in line with Strategy 2010 and the Santiago de Chile Commitment.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- The Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) is running health projects in IMCI, HIV/AIDS and water and sanitation. The 2004 plans of action for these community health projects were drawn up during the first part of the year and will be implemented in the coming months if there is sufficient funding available.
- A total of 51 community facilitators from the Retalhuleu, Coatepeque and El Palmar branches were trained in the community-based IMCI (IMCI-AINM-C) promotion and prevention strategy, focusing on the 16 key community health messages. The Federation and the GRC have printed 500 guides on the theme of prevention and promotion which are being used to train other local community facilitators in using this methodology.
- The Spanish Red Cross is continuing its HIV/AIDS programme in Izabal, which is focusing on youth peer education. Joint work between the Guatemalan and Spanish Red Cross Societies has also focused on the drawing up of a GRC anti-discrimination / anti-stigma manual to be used as part of the GRC's HIV/AIDS programming. This may also be used as a regional resource in the future.

Constraints:

- There is a need to secure funding for this programme to continue making progress. The Swedish Red Cross has indicated that it is not in a position to support the GRC and is currently seeking other funding sources to cover the programme.
- Guatemala, as a regional priority country, will need more support as its health capacity is being gradually reduced. The Federation has made commitments to four branches based on the project designed for three years with the communities served by these branches through continued support to the IMCI process; however funding shortages result in the Federation no longer having the financial capacity to follow up on these commitments after the first year.
- The lack of funding is also affecting the GRC's water and sanitation technical unit (UTAS). A coordinator for the unit has been hired, but the Federation must provide the UTAS with the funding needed to carry out planned activities.
- The lack of a health coordinator in the Guatemalan Red Cross is also a severe constraint in the context of the GRC and this matter has been discussed with the National Society's management.

Objective 6: The capacity of the Salvadorean Red Cross Society's health department has been strengthened in line with Strategy 2010 and the Santiago de Chile Commitment.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- The community health office personnel from the Salvadorean Red Cross Society (SRC) participated in a course in "AIEPI Clinico" (Clinical IMCI) and progress has been made in integrating IMCI as a core component of the health office. This project has also been integrated in health and disaster preparedness focusing on youth involvement.
- The Federation provided technical assistance during a workshop to review the annual operational plan for the IMCI strategy which was held in February with the participation of Salvadorean Red Cross Society personnel and the Ministry of Health.
- The Federation's health delegate in El Salvador has provided technical support in Guarnevia, Texistepeque and Santa Ana through the "Empress Shoken Fund" project. This project, called "Promoting Health in my Community," has an emphasis on health promotion, community first aid and community-based micro projects.
- The health delegate was involved in the revision of the proposal of the PRRAC project, developed by the El Salvador health delegate, in which the Salvadorean Red Cross Society plans to implement an 18-month community health, latrine and disaster preparedness project. PRRAC is a European Union fund for reconstruction in Central America following Hurricane Mitch in 1998. The SRC project began in April and will involve the construction of 900 latrines, integrating a community health and disaster preparedness

component in 46 communities in San Miguel, Morazán and La Unión in eastern El Salvador. The Federation will be available to provide technical assistance for this project.

- The Salvadorean Red Cross, in cooperation with a local university received a grant of EUR 200,000 to implement an HIV/AIDS prevention programme. The health delegate in El Salvador provided technical assistance for the development of the proposal.



Construction relating to a community project in El Salvador

Constraints:

- There is a need for the Regional Delegation to ensure that high-quality projects are implemented in a timely and effective manner in order to meet donor requirements and assist the National Society in securing further funding in the future.

Disaster Management

Goal: Efficient, responsive, and focused programmes that contribute to reducing vulnerability are implemented by the National Societies in the region.

Programme Objective: The National Societies in the region are implementing effective disaster management (DM) programmes which contribute to the reduction of the vulnerability and increased capacity of populations in high risk areas.

Objective 1: The disaster management capacities of the region's National Societies have been strengthened and effective partnerships secured in line with the Santiago de Chile Commitment.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- Strong coordination has been developed in the region with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). MoUs have been developed with UNICEF and ISDR.
- A significant level of information sharing is taking place with Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC). A draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) between CEPREDENAC and the Federation was developed, shared and discussed. This Memorandum of Understanding is in line with an MoU developed in the Caribbean for the Caribbean Disaster Response Agency (CDERA).

Membership of the Regional Risk and Disaster Management Group (GR-GRD) was ensured. This group includes all the major UN and international organizations that work continentally, including the Federation, UNICEF, OCHA, WFP, PAHO, UNHCR and UNDP.

Central America; Appeal no. 01.53/2004; Programme Update no. 1

- The Pan American disaster management strategy outlined in the Santiago de Chile Commitment has been operationalized and a regional disaster management strategy has been developed. The strategy promoted by the Santiago de Chile Commitment looks at risk reduction and includes elements of prevention, community preparedness, response preparedness, disaster response and integrated community based programmes.
- The network of National Society relief directors has now been formalized with a shared vision. Working groups have been established and increased contacts achieved. This is helping to move the network forward, allowing relief directors from around the region to share experiences and lessons learned.

Constraints:

- Thus far, there are no funds available for this project. In addition, for the first three months of the year, there was no disaster preparedness delegate in the Panama Regional Delegation. The activities carried out during this period were facilitated by the disaster preparedness delegate in the Sub Regional Office in Port of Spain, Trinidad, in coordination with the head of the Panama Regional Delegation. This delegate is now based in Panama and covering both Central America and the Caribbean.

Objective 2: National Societies have been empowered in the area of disaster management and their capacities have been increased.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- Log frames were developed by project for the Guatemalan Red Cross and Salvadorean Red Cross Society disaster management programmes, with the support of the Regional Delegation. The log frames are in line with the Santiago de Chile Commitment and include monitoring tools for both National Societies.
- A clear structure now exists in the National Societies of El Salvador and Costa Rica with well defined roles and resources for the implementation of disaster management programmes.
- The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has completed approximately 80% of the revision and updating of the "3000 Series," which is the National Society's disaster preparedness and response procedures manual and includes the disaster management policy and guidelines.
- The Guatemalan Red Cross developed a contingency plan for the Easter holidays with support from the Panama Regional Delegation and in coordination with the ICRC. Prior to this, the National Society had drawn up a contingency plan for the Presidential elections in 2003. The Red Cross Society of Panama was able to draw on these plans to begin working on the National Society's contingency plans for the Presidential elections scheduled for May 2004.
- Disaster management strategic plans exist for Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama. However, of these, only Nicaragua's plan is linked to the National Society's strategic and development plans.
- Disaster response operations in the region are being reviewed systematically and recommendations based upon the findings of these reviews are being shared and implemented throughout the region.
- The Federation has been developing strong partnerships with government disaster management bodies in the region as well as with PAHO, the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, UNDP and other organizations and institutions working in disaster management. The Federation now has agreements with all these organizations.
- The ProVention proposal was developed by the Regional Delegation to enhance the ability of four National Societies in the region: Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua in the area of vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA). The ProVention Consortium seeks to support developing countries to reduce the risk and social, economic and environmental impacts of disasters. A major partner, the Organization of American States, was also involved in the drawing up of the proposal.

Constraints

- The implementation of activities within this objective has been hampered by a lack of funds and the lack of a disaster preparedness delegate in the Regional Delegation for the first three months of the year.
- In Guatemala, the National Society disaster management coordinator resigned in March. The department is now being headed by a former National Society volunteer with limited experience.

Objective 3: An integrated community based disaster management (CBDM) model, complete with tools and guidelines has been developed and implemented by National Societies.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- Four manuals have been validated through field testing and the first drafts have been 90 percent completed: The manuals are as follows:
 1. Education, organization, preparedness for disaster risk reduction
 2. Family disaster plan
 3. School disaster plan
 4. Community first aid guide.

The manuals for education, organization, preparedness for disaster risk reduction and community first aid are in line with the approach under development in the Caribbean as part of a process of bringing coherence to the material in the entire region. In addition to these community based manuals, existing Federation manuals have been updated. The GR-GRD, which meets regularly in Panama, has agreed to use and share these community disaster education materials developed by its membership.

- During the early part of this year, the Regional Delegation has focused on supporting the revision of tools for working in community based disaster management and on incorporating those tools into CBDM programmes. The Centre of Excellence, a disaster management pilot project being developed in Costa Rica which is part of the concept of “centres of competence”, has played a major role in designing the manuals and validating tools for working at the community level. In addition, the Cuban Red Cross has started to support the Federation and the Centre of Excellence; the Cuban Red Cross has provided a National Society disaster management expert to work on the development of the draft of the school disaster plan manual.



One of the illustrations for the new edition of “Es Mejor Prevenir” CBDM manuals relating to the hurricane

- A board game addressing risk reduction was developed in 2003 by UNICEF. The game, called “Riesgolandia” or “Riskland,” has now been adapted and translated into Mayan languages for use in indigenous communities by the Federation. The new version of the game has been validated and, as a result of the validation, a project proposal has been developed to work with 20 in schools in Mayan communities in Guatemala.
- The ISDR developed two educational soap operas that have been included in the Federation’s CBDM materials. The first, entitled “Heart Beat,” addresses risk reduction preparedness and response to

earthquakes and the second, entitled “In times of hurricanes,” deals with disaster preparedness for floods and hurricanes.

- Information sharing between the Regional Delegations in Lima and Panama has increased over recent months. The Panama Regional Delegation supported the development of the first regional vulnerability and capacities assessment (VCA) training for South America, which was held in Bolivia in March. Meanwhile, the Lima Regional Delegation supported the validation of the first module of the CBDM manual and offered key feedback on the initial version. As a result of this coordination, the CBDM network with South America has been further strengthened, both at the Secretariat and National Society levels.
- Regular coordination meetings with regional partners have allowed the Federation to explore new developments in the area of CBDM, especially with regard to sharing information within regions and within organizations. During the first three months of the year, regular contact was maintained with ISDR, UNICEF, JICA, CEPREDENAC and DIPECHO, which allowed the Federation to explore potential areas of cooperation that are currently being developed.
- In the National Societies of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, a focal point has been identified to support the implementation and further development of community based disaster management projects. As a result of this, the National Societies’ capacities have been strengthened at both the headquarters and branch levels.

Constraints

- For the first three months of the year, the disaster preparedness delegate was supporting the disaster management programme from the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office. This delegate, now the regional disaster preparedness delegate in Panama, is filling a post that was left vacant for six months. This long period without a regional disaster preparedness delegate has created a backlog of work.

Humanitarian Values

Goal: Efficient, responsive, and focused programmes that contribute to reducing vulnerability are implemented by the National Societies in the region.

Programme Objective: Humanitarian values and principles are integrated into and form the foundation of all core areas and the programming of National Societies within the region.

Objective 1: A regional strategy for the promotion of humanitarian principles and values is under implementation in Central America.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- The first coordination and planning meeting with the coordinators of the regional health network (REDCAS) was held in El Salvador, with the participation of the health coordinators from the Guatemala, Honduran and Salvadoran Red Cross Societies. The regional health delegate, the health delegate based in El Salvador and the regional humanitarian principles and values coordinator also attended this meeting. The main objective of the meeting was to promote the regional integration of the health network and to develop the health network plan of action, incorporating the promotion of humanitarian principles and values. As a result, humanitarian principles and values are now part of the regional agenda in the areas of health, youth, communications and information and have been included in the health network plan of action.
- A humanitarian principles and values youth forum was held during the National Youth Camp in Costa Rica in February, with the participation of volunteers from Panama, Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The main issues discussed during this activity were discrimination, HIV/AIDS anti stigma and migration.
- The regional humanitarian principles and values team worked to develop a regional humanitarian principles training manual, together with the Honduran Red Cross (HRC) head of principles and values and the coordinators of training, volunteering, disaster preparedness and youth.
- As part of the regional humanitarian values campaign, the first calendar containing humanitarian values messages was distributed to the National Societies in the region. This calendar was created in coordination with Darío Banegas, a graphic artist who works at “La Prensa” newspaper in San Pedro de Sula, Honduras.

- A compact disc version of the “Breaking the Silence” video was produced in English and Spanish. The video, which was produced last year, contains the testimonies of people living with HIV/AIDS and is being used throughout the region as part of the regional humanitarian principles and values programme.
- In support of the ICRC, the Federation participated in a training workshop for teachers addressing the “Exploring Humanitarian Rights” methodology, held in the community of Apaneca, El Salvador. The workshop included the participation of 30 teachers from the western region of El Salvador, as well as members of the Ministry of Education and the Salvadorean Red Cross Society.
- The Federation supported the Honduran Red Cross in a workshop held to conduct the midterm evaluation of the humanitarian principles and values section of the HRC’s national development plan. Three working meetings were held with the heads of the HRC’s organizational development and dissemination departments and, as a result, the humanitarian values section of the national development plan was reformulated.
- The regional campaign “Actúa, Rechaza la Discriminación” (Act, Reject Discrimination) was launched with the cooperation of all the National Societies in Central America, as well as the Cuban and Dominican Republic Red Cross Societies. This campaign seeks to fight against the stigma and discrimination suffered by those living with HIV/AIDS, immigrants, and ethnic and indigenous populations. The campaign includes radio messages, folders, stickers, videos and brochures that contain key messages and are distributed to children, youth and adults throughout the region. A customized radio message addressing humanitarian values was recorded for each National Society in the region, in coordination with the publicity agency Atenea Producciones, which is part of BBDO international group.
- With the collaboration of the Guatemalan Red Cross and the Guatemalan Mayan Languages Academy (Academia de lenguas Mayas de Guatemala), two sets of posters were produced containing the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. The posters were created in two Mayan languages, Quiché and Quepché, and were designed to raise awareness of the Fundamental Principles in the indigenous communities where the Guatemalan and Mexican Red Cross Societies are developing community programmes. This project is increasing awareness of humanitarian principles and values by making key information available to indigenous communities in their own languages.
- The regional campaign to raise awareness on humanitarian principles and values has been sent to the National Societies of the region. National Societies are being encouraged to use these promotional tools such as radio spots, posters and videos provided by the Federation. National Societies also have the use of the Federation’s humanitarian values and advocacy manuals for their human resource training sessions.
- The National Societies of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua have defined their strategies regarding humanitarian principles and values. The Honduran Red Cross in particular has defined concrete activities to be carried out during 2004 to address humanitarian principles and values.
- The regional humanitarian principles and values coordinator obtained the authorization from the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) for National Societies to use the “Defence and Advocacy” manual for the training sessions for volunteers and technical staff.

Objective 2: At least three National Societies in the region: El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras have developed and are implementing projects to reduce youth violence by 2007.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- The Honduran Red Cross’s strategy for violence prevention was reviewed in three meetings which included the participation of the HRC’s Director General and the coordinators of humanitarian principles and values, volunteering, youth and organizational development. The document is pending the approval of the executive board. The HRC now has an institutional strategy for the prevention of violence within which the National Society can focus specific activities.
- The Federation is working with the Honduran National Institute for Educational Investigation and Training (INICE) and the Ministry of Education to implement the “Exploring Humanitarian Rights” (EDH) project in Honduran schools. The EDH project is now being carried out in schools in Honduras to raise awareness of humanitarian principles and values. This project is being carried out jointly by the Federation and the ICRC and is part of the Federation/ICRC harmonization process.
- The HRC revised the strategy for boosting the visibility of the project “Increasing Opportunities for Youth and Adolescents” during the first part of the year, and the HRC now has a defined visibility campaign for

Central America; Appeal no. 01.53/2004; Programme Update no. 1

the violence prevention pilot project. This strategy includes promoting the project both within and outside the National Society.

- Two working meetings were held with youth volunteers of the National Autonomous University of Honduras who are participating in the youth violence prevention project. The university is now actively involved in the violence prevention project being carried out in Ciudad España.

Constraints:

- Lack of funding has affected the implementation of some activities for the violence prevention projects being carried out in Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Objective 3: Stigma and discrimination of those living with HIV/AIDS in Central America has been reduced.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- The anti stigma manual produced by the Guatemalan Red Cross has been revised and can now be used in that National Society's anti stigma and discrimination projects. In addition, the Federation met with the Honduran Red Cross to discuss the drawing up of the final report for the anti stigma project. The Honduran Red Cross has shared its experiences and lessons learned on the implementation of the project to fight against discrimination.
- The "Breaking the Silence" video was distributed throughout the Central American region, as well as to National Societies in the Caribbean. The video, which is available in Spanish and with English subtitles, is now being used by National Societies in North America, Central America and in the Caribbean as part of anti stigma and discrimination campaigns. In addition, a proposal for a second video on anti stigma has been designed.
- The Federation's humanitarian principles and values team is identifying and supporting new initiatives for the fight against discrimination and stigma, including the mapping of anti stigma projects in the region.
- Much work was done during the early part of 2004 on creating new tools to be used in the fight against stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS. The Federation's humanitarian principles and values team created and distributed eight radio spots to be used in the regional humanitarian values campaign. The regional team also created a CD containing educational cartoons addressing humanitarian values, which was later distributed to the National Societies in the region. National Societies throughout the region are now using these promotional tools to reduce stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Information regarding the humanitarian principles and values campaign has been published on the regional webpage (www.cruzroja.org) and is bringing visibility to the projects and activities being carried out in the region.

Constraints:

- There is a lack of humanitarian values-specific resources in the region that can be used to support new initiatives of the National Societies of the region. This is slowing the implementation of new projects.

Objective 4: A regional strategy advocating for indigenous populations in the region is under implementation.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- In Guatemala, the Federation participated in the forum entitled "Principles and Values—In Search of a More Human Guatemala," which was carried out in coordination with the Rafael Landívar University.
- Humanitarian principles and values posters were printed in the Mayan languages, Quiché and Q'eq'chi', to support the National Societies of Guatemala and Mexico in their community programmes being carried out in indigenous communities. The Federation also coordinated with the Honduran Miskita Association (Asociación Miskita Hondureña), the Guatemalan Mayan Languages Academy (Academia de lenguas Mayas de Guatemala) and the Honduran Garifuna Association (Asociación Garifuna de Honduras) to design educational materials in various indigenous languages to be used in the regional humanitarian principles and values campaign. As a result of these efforts, important information and documentation on humanitarian principles and values are now accessible to indigenous communities.

- Through the production of posters, participation in national and regional forums and the training of National Society volunteers, all the National Societies in the region are now participating in the regional campaign on humanitarian values to raise public awareness with respect to the rights of ethnic, indigenous and minority groups in the region.

Objective 5: The capacity of the National Societies in the area of communications and advocacy is strengthened in accordance with Strategy 2010 and the Red Cross image is enhanced.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- Special sections for International Women's Day (8 March), World Water Day (22 March) and World Health Day (7 April) were created on the Federation's regional website (www.cruzroja.org). National Societies in the region were able to publish articles, pictures and press releases about their activities within these sections. This helped National Societies to improve their visibility within their countries, as well as within the region.
- Two editions of the bimonthly electronic bulletin "Noticias de las Américas" (News from the Americas), were prepared, edited and sent to a continental database, in coordination with the Lima Regional Delegation.
- Three stories from the region were published on the Federation's website (www.ifrc.org). In addition, information about the National Societies' activities is sent twice a week and published on the regional website www.cruzroja.org. Public relations directors from the National Societies in the region now have an increased awareness of the need to send information and other materials on a regular basis to be published on the regional website.
- A three-day workshop with journalists, social communicators, and volunteer communications promoters was organized by the Cuban Red Cross as part of the final activity of the long distance training in communication. This long distance learning project is being carried out as part of the regional communications capacity building project.
- Training in information management during disasters was carried out during a National Intervention Team (NIT) workshop held in the Dominican Republic. This workshop was conducted as part of the final evaluation of the three-month emergency operation carried out after the floods that occurred in November 2003.
- The Dominican and Nicaraguan Red Cross Societies have requested assistance to improve or create their webpages. A coordination and planning meeting was held as a result of this request with the National Societies' public relations and communications directors.
- During the first part of 2004, the communications team worked closely with other programme areas, such as health and disaster management, to prepare manuals and other tools. In health, the regional communications team designed and printed the "donor kit" of the Together We Can manuals, which will be used by donors funding the Together We Can health intervention methodology. The communications team also designed and printed visibility and marketing materials for the Caribbean Red Cross HIV/AIDS network (CARAN) meeting, and a large banner that was displayed during the International Colloquium on the Recruitment of Voluntary, Non-Remunerated Blood Donors, held in Beijing, China. The banner promoted the joint effort between the Federation and the Pan American Health Organization in the "Making a Difference" manuals. In disaster management, the communications team provided support and advice on the design and presentation of the new community based disaster preparedness manuals "Es mejor prevenir", and in the preparation of forthcoming promotional products. The information and communications office in the Regional Delegation is now seen as an important support to the Federation's main programme areas.
- The communications team fully supported and participated in the preparation of the materials for the humanitarian principles and values campaign "Actúa Rechaza la Discriminación" (Act, Reject Discrimination), as well as other communications products prepared for World Red Cross Day on 8 May.

Organizational Development

Goal: Efficient, responsive, and focused programmes that contribute to reducing vulnerability are implemented by the National Societies in the region.

Programme Objective: Vulnerability-focused programmes and organizational development and change, led and managed by the region's National Societies, has resulted in constantly improved service delivery to and with vulnerable people.

Objective 1: The separate roles of governance and management are well defined and in practice by National Societies in the region.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- The first meeting of National Societies' Directors General has been planned for the month of July in Panama. This meeting will be an opportunity for Directors General to share experiences and lessons learned.
- The Red Cross Society of Panama is continuing the process of revising its Statutes and regulations. Clearer Statutes and an improved definition of the distinction between governance and management are leading to increased effectiveness in the Red Cross Society of Panama, which is in turn benefiting the rest of the National Society's projects and activities.
- During a meeting to review the priorities of the Salvadorean Red Cross Society, the National Society's Director General declared the process of revising Statutes to be a priority for this year. Work in this area will be ongoing in the coming months.
- The Statutes of the Mexican and Nicaraguan Red Cross Societies are still under review by their corresponding boards.

Constraints:

- There was a delay in receiving funding for this project, which meant that activities scheduled for the beginning of the year had to be postponed.
- Due to the general elections in Panama, which will conclude in early May, the volume of Red Cross activities in the country were reduced.
- Technical assistance to the Mexican Red Cross for the completion of the revision of the Statutes is dependent upon the offer made by the ICRC to provide a technical lead to assist with the implementation of the recommendations made by the Joint Commission of the ICRC and the Federation.

Objective 2: A regional network of Red Cross OD practitioners is established and well functioning.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- Negotiations are ongoing with the Honduran Red Cross to select a regional coordinator for the regional organizational development network. Terms of reference detailing the specific roles and responsibilities for this position have been drafted.
- Criteria were established for selecting members of the project. A letter detailing criteria for participation will be sent out shortly to National Societies across the region so that they can nominate potential members.
- The training methodology for the first organizational development network workshop in Governance and Management and Volunteer Management has been established. This workshop will be held in Panama in August with the participation of all the new network members from Central America, Mexico, Cuba and the Dominican Republic.
- New organizational development related materials and National Society's key documents have been uploaded to the virtual organizational development library.
- The goal of the organizational development network is to increase the ability of the National Societies to support each other in organizational development issues. The network will provide a peer support mechanism to provide assistance regarding the key elements of organizational development around the region.

Constraints:

- There has been a delay in negotiations with the Honduran Red Cross, which is, in turn, slowing the launch of the network.

Objective 3: National Societies have enhanced their capacity to recruit, manage, train, motivate, support and reward volunteers.**Progress/Achievements and impact**

- Guidelines for the volunteer management programme developed in 2003 are available for all National Societies as a model and a tool. These guidelines have been shared with the National Societies of the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.
- A CD Rom containing all the materials provided to the participants of the volunteer management conference in November 2003 has been shared with the Regional Delegation.

Constraints

- No clear plan of action or follow up activity to the volunteer conference held in November 2003 has been developed.
- No activities were carried out during the first four months of the year due to the lack of funding. Activities for this objective, including the collection of best practices in volunteer management, are expected to start in May.

Objective 4: National Societies have enhanced their capacity to sustain their programmes and infrastructure through a strategic marketing approach.**Progress/Achievements and impact**

This project has been cancelled due to the lack of funding and resources to carry out the scheduled activities and objectives.

Objective 5: A process of planned change—owned, directed and carried out by the Nicaraguan Red Cross headquarters and branches—is institutionalized.**Progress/Achievements and impact**

- After a break of activity for several months in 2003 the Nicaraguan Red Cross restarted activities to revise the Statutes. In March 2004 the Federation representative for Guatemala with strong experience in this area, worked with the National Society providing guidance and support, including a visit. Following this input the NRC started to produce another draft document. It is hoped that a final version can be presented to the Joint Commission and a General Assembly held before the end of the year in order to approve the new Statutes.
- Support has been provided to the planning processes for 2005/06. The CRN held two workshops (co-funded by ICRC and Federation) in March and April 2004 with branch directors and directors at headquarters level. The first focused on the Plan of Action for 2004 and improving the knowledge of the Strategic Plan, the second gathered directors of national programmes to identify a first draft of priorities.
- The National Society's strategic plan was approved and is now being disseminated to branches throughout the country. The objective of the strategic plan is to outline the National Society's priorities and develop plans in specific areas to ensure that all members of the National Society are working towards a common goal. The strategic plan also seeks to develop strategic partnerships with other organizations, the government and with the community.
- This period saw the definition of a process to strengthen the health department in the next 20 months. The Federation is technically supporting the process, both from a health and organizational development perspective. The project to strengthen the National Society's health department is being developed with the support of the Federation's health delegate in El Salvador. The health delegate and members of the National Society's health department are working to put together a work plan and develop analytical tools to measure the progress and impact of this project. The Canadian, Italian, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies are supporting the efforts of the Federation to merge their programming and current funding to develop a unified strategy for developing and strengthening the health department of the NRC.

Central America; Appeal no. 01.53/2004; Programme Update no. 1

- Improving the internal communications of the NRC (including phone and intranet/internet) has become a priority in order to improve communications (particularly between branches and headquarters, but also between departments of the headquarters) and reduce costs. The Federation regional IT officer visited the NRC in January and reviewed requirements and is currently working with the National Society to define the focus of the project. It is hoped that this project will be implemented during the next quarter.
- Strengthening the community education department has been defined as a priority cross-cutting issue that both the areas of health and disaster preparedness need to have developed. The NRC started definition of a project to strengthen the community education department and capitalize upon its past experience, with the technical support of the regional delegation .
- In an effort to revise the financial procedures of the National Society, work was carried out to modernize the Nicaraguan Red Cross's accounting system. In addition, an audit was conducted within the National Society by a firm whose recommendations need to be made available to the Federation and Movement members.

Constraints :

- A number of internal issues within the NRC have impacted upon the ability of the National Society to make progress in implementing its change process. A number of planned activities within this project are either behind schedule or have yet to be started.
- A rift in the governance membership contributes to an environment of low productivity and institutional apathy to the change process.
- The head of the Americas Department and the Head of Regional Delegation visited the NRC in March 2004 and met with the President and National Board to express concern regarding the slowing down of implementation of the change process and encourage the continued reorientation of the National Society to the priority lines of the strategic plan.

Objective 6: The Guatemalan Red Cross has the characteristics of a well functioning National Society, in the areas of governance and management both at national and branch levels.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- The report on the Guatemalan Red Cross's Emergency and Institutional Rescue Plan of Action (PAERI) for 2003 was drawn up and published. The PAERI was a six-month plan designed to reorganize the National Society's basic internal structure, administration and finances. The National Society is now in a process institutional and financial recovery.
- During the first four months of the year, the Guatemalan Red Cross's 2004 Plan of Action was adjusted, outlining the activities and projects to be carried out during the rest of the year. Volunteer regulations were also revised and approved during this period.
- In an effort to revise the financial procedures of the National Society, work was carried out to modernize the GRC accounting system. Approximately 80 percent of the accounting system has now been modernized. In addition, an internal audit is currently being carried out within the National Society. The capacities of the National Society's accounting and finance department have now improved, which was an important goal for the institutional recovery of the National Society.
- During the second donors meeting in Guatemala, a cooperation agreement for Guatemala was developed and signed by the Guatemalan Red Cross, the Federation, the ICRC, and the American, British, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies. The British Red Cross was also representing the Swedish and Norwegian Red Cross Societies during this meeting. This meeting confirmed that the GRC is eager for change and the Movement's members are willing to contribute technically and financially to assist the National Society in its efforts to achieve the objective and goals laid out for institutional recovery. The cooperation agreement signed during this meeting also set up important procedures to strengthen coordination and improve the efficiency of the cooperation.
- On 10 February, the Federation representative in Guatemala provided the operational committee of the National Board with recommendations related to the roles and responsibilities of the National Board, the Board of Directors, and the management areas of administration, finance and fundraising. These

recommendations were ratified during the donors' meeting. It is essential that the National Society follow up on these recommendations in the coming months.

- The first regional meeting of branch presidents was held in the Guatepeque branch, with the purpose of orienting participants on the application of branch regulations.

Constraints

- The lack of funding is affecting the implementation of activities and is resulting in significant cuts in project expenditure. Due to this situation, the number of personnel had to be reduced and the Federation's country office in Guatemala was obliged to release the organizational development officer and the programme assistant.
- Activities were reduced during the month of April, due to end of mission of the Federation representative. The delegate who will replace the Federation representative in Guatemala is expected to begin his mission at the end of May.
- As various members of the National Board also form part of the Board of Directors of the Guatemalan Red Cross, the flow of activities has been limited.
- The new bylaws affecting the branches will be implemented in early June, causing many of the branches to either change their boards, their management or to close their offices. There may be a period of internal crisis as the National Board implements these new bylaws throughout the country.

Objective 7: The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has the characteristics of a well functioning National Society in the areas of planning, organizational structure, volunteer management and resource mobilization.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- On 22-23 April, the second workshop to revise the National Society's national development plan was held in El Salvador, with the participation of 25 persons from the headquarters and branches. The goal is to divide the current document into a national development plan and a strategic plan. The strategic plan will focus on developing relationships and projects with potential partners, while the national development plan will focus on internal issues that require improvement. The development of these two plans is based upon the objectives laid out in the Santiago de Chile Commitment. The disaster management delegate and the health delegate in El Salvador also attended the workshop and actively participated in the discussions. There is now a commitment from the regional programme areas, such as disaster management and health, to develop an integrated approach for technical assistance to the Salvadorean Red Cross Society.
- The Federation made a formal proposal to the Director General to provide support to the National Society to implement the integrated branch development (IBD) methodology in at least three branches of the Salvadorean Red Cross Society. The IBD methodology was explained and caught the interest of the management and branch representatives.
- A plan of action has been developed for the remaining funding from Hurricane Mitch and the earthquake in 2001, integrating all the programmes and services through the identification of technical assistance required from the Regional Delegation. This plan of action is being formalized in a MoU to provide for better project based management of current balances in El Salvador.
- The National Society has qualified as a full recipient and contractor to be allocated funds from PRRAC.

Constraints

- There is a lack of commitment from the National Society towards results-based projects.
- The Santiago de Chile Commitment which resulted from the XVII Inter American Conference has not been well disseminated among the programme directors within the National Society. This must take place in the coming months in order to ensure that the National Society is working towards the objectives related to the plan of action of the Inter American Conference.
- A better understanding and definition of technical assistance must be negotiated between the regional programme delegates and the National Society to enhance the Federation's ability to collaborate with the National Society in a more transparent process with regard to the negotiation for proposals.

Objective 8: The capacities of the Nicaraguan Red Cross to formulate and develop its role in the civil society of its country are strengthened.

Progress/Achievements and impact

Activities for this project are being covered under the Nicaragua Change Process project. For more information, please see *Organizational Development*—objective 5.

Integrated Community-Based Programming

Goal: Efficient, responsive, and focused programmes that contribute to reducing vulnerability are implemented by the National Societies in the region.

Programme Objective: The National Societies in the region have improved their capacity to work in vulnerable communities through integrated programmes and projects, partnerships and branch networking which contribute to a reduction in community risks and promote empowerment.

Objective 1: A model integrated branch development approach is designed, tested and ready for adaptation throughout the Americas.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- An Integrated Branch Development (IBD) project was started in El Real, Panama, in 2003 to benefit approximately 500 Embera Indians. According to the IBD methodology, the branch is being developed on the basis of a concrete project that is meeting the needs of this vulnerable group. A strategic planning workshop for the El Real branch of the Red Cross Society of Panama was carried out on 13-15 February with 27 volunteers and staff members of the El Real branch and the National Society headquarters. Results were presented to stakeholders such as PAHO/WHO, UNICEF, the Pan American Social Marketing Organization (PASMO) and the Central American AIDS Action Project (PASCA) which are currently implementing or are interested in implementing projects in El Real, in the Darién Province of Panama. These organizations now have a commitment to support the activities in the El Real branch. In particular, PASCA has now signed an agreement with the Red Cross Society of Panama.
- As a result of the strategic planning workshop, the El Real branch now has a formal structure and is better prepared to organize and run projects. In addition, the El Real branch of the Red Cross Society of Panama is now working with the Pan American Health Organization and the Panamanian Ministry of Health to implement a GTZ-funded water and sanitation project in an area inhabited by indigenous people. Finally, the Embera of El Real have formed their own organization in response to the need for organization that was identified through the participatory needs assessment.
- Two modules of the Integrated Branch Development manual were developed: Participatory Project Design and Participatory Project Implementation. These modules are available in English and Spanish and are being used in IBD projects in Guatemala and Nicaragua.
- In Nicaragua, an IBD project was started in 2003 to benefit 400 commercial sex workers in the city of Chinandega. After completing the participatory needs assessment of commercial sex workers in Chinandega in 2003, which was carried out by the local branch of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, the final report is currently being developed. The report will be presented on a press conference in June. In addition, a participatory project design and implementation workshop was carried out in Chinandega on 27-29 April with the participation of 29 Red Cross volunteers and staff and members of the community.
- The Chinandega branch of the Nicaraguan Red Cross has formed strategic alliances with the local Ministry of Health to provide free medicines to commercial sex workers in the city as a result of the work being carried out by the branch.
- Also in Nicaragua, a workshop was carried out in Waspán in February to introduce the participatory learning and action (PLA) approach and to share data collection tools and methodologies. The workshop included the participation of 35 members of the community and the local Red Cross. The project in Waspán is being carried out to benefit the local Miskito community.
- The Nicaraguan Red Cross has expressed interest in integrating the participatory needs assessment methodology with the Project Planning Process (PPP) to implement it nationwide. There is now a group of

trained volunteers of the Nicaraguan Red Cross that can design and implement participatory needs assessments.

- The advantage of the IBD methodology is that it creates a “multiplying” effect in that members of the Red Cross from communities where IBD projects have been successfully implemented can share their knowledge and experience with other communities. This is the case in Guatemala, where the IBD methodology is being replicated through a member of the Board of Directors of the Guatemala City branch of the Guatemalan Red Cross. This volunteer visited Chinandega and saw the processes and methodologies being used in the IBD project. Based upon his experiences in Nicaragua, he was then able to begin implementing an IBD project in Guatemala, without direct assistance from the regional organizational development team. The GRC volunteer facilitated participatory needs assessment workshops in the Guatemalan Red Cross with the multi-sectoral team and representatives of Zone 6, which is a particularly vulnerable area of Guatemala City, using the tools and methodology learned in Chinandega.
- There is now an increased awareness among trained Red Cross staff and volunteers, external partners and vulnerable people in Chinandega, Nicaragua and El Real, Panama that they can become part of the solution by actively participating in and promoting IBD projects.

Constraints

- Federation support through the organizational development programme for Integrated Branch Development projects is limited. In addition, the funding shortages in the regional organizational development programme are affecting the scope of this project as some activities have had to be cut back.
- The Panama Regional Delegation is currently awaiting the production of IBD manuals and tools from the Lima Regional Delegation that will be used in regional IBD programmes in the future.

Objective 2: The capacities of the Salvadorean Red Cross Society branches and local communities in health and disaster preparedness are strengthened.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- During the first four months of the year, activities for the Golfo de Fonseca project in El Salvador were focused on developing community action plans. Several communities in the area have now completed community action plans.
- The design and formulation of the “Let’s make our community micro projects” module was the priority during the reporting period and a first draft was developed and revised. The first validation workshop for this module was carried out in Texistepeque with the participation of surrounding communities. Based upon the suggestions that came out of the validation workshop, it was decided that more graphics and pictures will be included so that the module can be used at all levels.
- Local Red Cross branches are following up on the community water and sanitation micro projects and are expecting to complete final reports on the impact of these projects in the next few months. Staff and volunteers from Red Cross branches have now adopted the community-based approach to activities promoted by these micro projects and are becoming more active and responsive. In addition, communities have been empowered by these projects and are now more committed to problem-solving.
- Activities in the areas of fundraising and recruiting new volunteers and donor partners were developed during this period, particularly in the branches of Santa Rosa de Lima, Intipuca and La Unión. These efforts are being carried out in order to increase the capacities of the Salvadorean Red Cross Society branches so that they can continue to implement projects and follow up on the success of the Golfo de Fonseca project after the project closes. New partners have now been recruited and training and participation in capacity building programmes are making branches more self-sufficient.
- A representative of the British Red Cross visited the Salvadorean Red Cross Society in April to review the Golfo de Fonseca project and to establish the terms of reference and methodology for the project’s final evaluation. The evaluation will be carried out after the projects official closing date which is in June.

Constraints

- Communication issues delayed the transfer of ownership of the Golfo de Fonseca project to the National Society. Development of activities has been limited during this period pending the transfer of the project.

Eventually, a decision was made that since there is so little time left until the end of the project, the project will continue under Federation management.

- Golfo de Fonseca staff have faced a number of challenges which have resulted in the reduction of trained, available human resources to support projects at community level.

Objective 3: The capacities of the Nicaraguan Red Cross branches and local communities in health and disaster preparedness are strengthened.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- The results and implementation of the community water and sanitation micro projects for the Golfo de Fonseca project in Nicaragua are being continuously followed up by the Nicaraguan Red Cross branches. In coordination with ENACAL COSUDE, a programme that provides financial support and specialized technical assistance to the Rural Water Supply Management in Nicaragua and the local municipality, four wells were fully constructed; ENACAL COSUDE drilled the wells and the Red Cross's Golfo de Fonseca project installed the pumps. In addition, an evaluation for a micro project in the community of El Rosario was carried out. The project consists of rehabilitating one community well and installing a pump and distribution network to benefit more than 270 people.
- Community Red Cross volunteers are continuing to receive training in humanitarian principles and values, use of the Red Cross emblem, the history of the Red Cross and first aid. Community volunteers also completed information management training, which was organized jointly with the Ministry of Health as part of the training in the community information system. This system is now being applied by community volunteers. Community volunteers have now been officially recognized by the Ministry of Health and municipal authorities and have joined national health prevention campaigns.
- National Society headquarters has showed an interest in applying and replicating lessons learned. This has proven successful in the community of Waspán, where the Golfo de Fonseca team helped facilitate the first participatory needs assessment in that area. The workshop was carried out in February with 35 participants. Although the branch in Waspan has no meeting facility of its own, the Red Cross is very active in the area.
- The Golfo de Fonseca team surveyed and put together a multi-sectoral team to replicate the participatory learning and action methodology in a nearby community of Las Cocinas. Financial support will be provided to the community of Las Cocinas through a new fundraising plan being implemented by the Chinandega branch's new fundraising division. The fundraising plan includes the reopening of the local cinema, a mini snack bar and raffles.
- A representative of the British Red Cross visited the Nicaraguan Red Cross in April to review the Golfo de Fonseca project and to establish the terms of reference and methodology for the project's final evaluation. The evaluation will be carried out after the project's official closing date which is in June.
- The national board, management and staff have taken ownership of community development through the participatory needs assessment implemented in Chinandega. In addition, the National Society is attracting strategic partners to work with the Nicaraguan Red Cross on future projects.
- Staff and volunteers from Red Cross branches adopted a community-based approach, becoming more active and responsive. Training and participation in capacity building programmes have made branches more self-sufficient. Communities are empowered and committed to problem-solving.

Constraints

- Communication issues with the donor delayed the transfer of ownership of the Golfo de Fonseca project to the National Society.

Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships

Goal: Efficient, responsive, and focused programmes that contribute to reducing vulnerability are implemented by the National Societies in the region.

Programme Objective: All National Societies will receive support leading to better coordinated service delivery backed by cooperation agreements with PNSs, further integration of Red Cross partners and increased presence from the corporate sector towards more sustainable programmes.

Objective 1: Cooperation Agreement Strategies based on National Society development plans are in place and respected by all members of the Movement and are the coordination mechanisms for disaster response.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- The Federation sponsored and coordinated the cooperation agreement strategy meeting in Guatemala where the CAS was drawn up and agreed upon by the ICRC, the Federation and the American, British, Netherlands, Norwegian, Spanish and Swedish Red Cross Societies.
- Movement coordination meetings are regularly held in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. A regional PNS and Movement coordination meeting is being planned for July during the Presidents and Directors General meeting in Panama. The consultation commissioned by the Regional Delegation on corporate social responsibility has been shared with PNSs, the Lima Regional Delegation and Geneva-based staff. The report will be revised and translated into Spanish for further dissemination with all the National Societies in the region.
- A directory of government cooperation agencies, donors, international organizations, foundations, corporate donors and private funding sources was designed and has been published for use by National Societies in the region.
- The documents developed as part of the coalition that was formed in Nicaragua among PNSs and the Federation for joint management of DIPECHO projects have been shared with all PNSs and National Societies in the region.
- The harmonization process with the ICRC has proven an effective process in development work with the National Societies in the region.
- ICRC cooperation programmes have become more effective through the interface with the organizational development processes of the Federation.
- An agreement was signed with the Organization of Caribbean States and the Federation to enhance and promote disaster response programmes.
- Joint missions between the Federation and the ICRC were effective in assisting National Societies in the region to prepare the contingency plans for the Presidential elections within their countries. These missions also helped National Societies to advance their level of compliance with regard to the revision of Statutes, and national development plans and the inclusion of strategic partners such as Ericsson Response in their operations.
- Participation in the Allied Humanitarian Forces (FA-HUM) exercise in March in Panama ensured further coordination with the Southern Command and the military authorities engaged in disaster response continentally.

Constraints

- Further coordination between the Regional Delegation and the Pan American Disaster Response Unit is needed to ensure the development of common mechanisms for disaster response, drawn from the cooperation agreement strategies with National Societies in the region.
- Although the Guatemala CAS was approved by the ICRC, the document was not considered final by the ICRC since it was based on a more thorough and comprehensive national development plan referred to as the Emergency and Institutional Rescue Plan of Action (PAERI), rather than the official national development plan document.
- Further financial resources are needed in order to complete the revision of the CAS for El Salvador and finalization of the CAS document for Honduras.

Objective 2: Organizational analysis will be promoted in order to define the areas of need, validated by the National Development Plans, to serve as the basis for the search for funds to support programmes and projects by the end of 2004.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- As a result of the regional planning meeting held in January, the first of three scheduled for the year, country profiles have been updated for all National Societies to ensure coherence between the Federation's plan of action and the national development plans of the National Societies in the region.

Central America; Appeal no. 01.53/2004; Programme Update no. 1

- The MoUs for the World Food Programme and UNICEF, and the verbal agreement with UNDP have given the Federation access to the vulnerability and risk assessments of these organizations and to the missions conducted by their staff. A joint agreement was reached to participate in joint missions to the priority countries in the region and to share the knowledge and information gathered from these missions.
- The Infolac software and database developed and managed by UNICEF on behalf of all UN agencies has been offered to the Federation and will be linked to the database currently being developed as a clearing house of all projects and proposals by the members of the Movement in the region.

Constraints

- The Infolac software and database will be made available only after a one-week training of Federation staff by UNICEF.
- The PPP courses provided to the National Societies in the region have all but stopped due to lack of funding. Organizational analysis to validate future projects and proposals continues to be a weak area within the National Societies.
- PNSs, such as the American Red Cross which have systematically collected data related to organizational analysis, have not come forward to share this information so that it could be made available to all Movement members as part of the Secretariat's knowledge sharing mandate.

Objective 3: A lead National Society is designated for a particular programme area to manage a regional network for all National Societies by the end of 2004.

Progress/Achievements and impact

- The Costa Rican Red Cross and the Federation signed the agreement in early December to set up the Centre of Excellence for community based disaster preparedness, as part of the concept of "centres of competence". This centre is intended to serve as a reference centre for all National Societies in the Americas on the subject of community disaster education.
- Networks have been strengthened in youth and communication and information through the Red Cross Society of Panama. The Honduran Red Cross is being recruited to manage the regional organizational development network and the humanitarian principles and values network (for more information, please see *Organizational Development*—objective 2).
- The VCA programme is being rolled out in four National Societies in the Central American and Caribbean regions. While not under the concept of centres of competence, the aim is to have the National Societies in the four high risk and most vulnerable countries (Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua) share their best practices and resources with the other National Societies on the continent.

Constraints

- The concept of centres of competence is not well known and accepted within the Movement despite its inclusion in the Strategy for the Movement.
- Regional differences and issues of diversity sometimes impede the full development of centres of competence in individual National Societies.

Representation, Management, and Implementation

- The programme funding available to PNSs working in the region has remained steady, and in some instances has increased, as the Federation no longer seeks to run projects, and has been supportive of their presence and management of programme specific projects. The Federation has also coordinated the formation of coalitions for the major European PNSs to participate in the submission of proposals for funding, as in the case of the Red Cross Societies of El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua with DIPECHO funding.
- The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has signed a EUR 500,000 contractual agreement with PRRAC, a European Union fund for the reconstruction of Central America following Hurricane Mitch, for the construction of latrines, sanitation and health education, and disaster preparedness activities at the community level. The Federation also provided the Salvadorean Red Cross Society with technical

assistance and guidance in proposal writing and budget development which helped the National Society receive over EUR 200,000 from the Global Fund.

- While the Spanish Red Cross continues to be an indirect supporter of the Federation, its work continues to focus on managing its current portfolio of projects, aimed at strengthening National Society programming in the different areas of Strategy 2010.
- The American Red Cross has closed almost all of its offices in the region, leaving a head of regional delegation in El Salvador to continue with business development. The most recent opportunities for the ARC have been in the Presidential fund through which the National Society was allocated several million dollars to work on HIV/AIDS programming in Haiti and Guyana.
- The Canadian Red Cross continues to manage the funding secured through the Canadian International Development Agency for work in health.
- Coordination between the Regional Delegation and the various PNSs working in the country continues to be as complex as ever, in particular since the Federation has less operational presence in the Mtc countries as funding is depleted. The only presence in the region projected through the end of the year will be a Federation representation office in Guatemala, a health delegate in El Salvador and an organizational development delegate in Nicaragua. In addition, there is also a Sub Regional Office based in Port of Spain, Trinidad, which covers the Caribbean countries.
- Outside funding sought by the Regional Delegation is earmarked and transferred directly to National Societies as is the case with the Costa Rican Red Cross, which received a Capacity Building Fund grant for the creation of a centre of competence in community based disaster preparedness. Another example is the ProVention proposal which will involve Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Belize.
- With the current level of implementation of the change process, the Regional Delegation programmes will require external financial support in order to remain viable.
- The Regional Delegation has finally reached its full staffing, after having a vacancy in the disaster preparedness programme for seven months and a vacancy in the programme coordinator position for nine months. These positions filled thanks to financial backing, mainly from the British Red Cross.
- Participation in regional and continental fora has provided the Federation with a platform for presenting points of view on work regarding gender balance, inclusion of vulnerable populations, such as indigenous persons and people living with HIV/AIDS into civil society, and have been an effective mechanism to meet and coordinate with members of international organizations and donors such as the European Union.
- In late January, the Panama Regional Delegation held its official opening ceremony for the office with the attendance of ambassadors, representatives of international organizations with regional presence in Panama, the head of the Americas department, and other Geneva-based staff. This event provided the Regional Delegation with an important opportunity to interact with other organizations operating in the region, which will facilitate future partnerships. In addition, the Regional Delegation in Panama is now better known among the diplomatic, academic, governmental, entrepreneurial, and mass media community in Panama.



The opening ceremony of the Panama Regional Delegation with the posing of a commemorative plaque.

- Membership in the Regional Risk and Disaster Management Group (GR-GRD) was ensured. This group includes all the major UN and international organizations that work continentally.

Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.

BUDGET 2004

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 01.53/2004

Name: Central America Regional Programmes

PROGRAMME:	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Emergency	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	0	8,000	0	0	0	0	8,000
Clothing & textiles	1,420	0	0	0	0	0	1,420
Food	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seeds & plants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water & Sanitation	9,000	0	0	3,500	0	0	12,500
Medical & first aid	2,120	0	0	1,200	0	0	3,320
Teaching materials	44,117	25,000	0	13,991	25,000	18,648	126,755
Utensils & tools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other relief supplies	0	0	0	1,000	0	0	1,000
SUPPLIES	56,657	33,000	0	19,691	25,000	18,648	152,995
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computers & telecom	0	12,050	5,023	6,638	699	15,486	39,895
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENSES	0	12,050	5,023	6,638	699	15,486	39,895
Warehouse & Distribution	0	0	0	0	0	1,847	1,847
Transport & Vehicules	16,940	9,300	5,400	37,500	7,933	0	77,072
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	16,940	9,300	5,400	37,500	7,933	1,847	78,919
Programme Support	64,419	34,496	15,382	94,806	29,544	7,249	245,895
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	64,419	34,496	15,382	94,806	29,544	7,249	245,895
Personnel-delegates	254,400	207,273	0	311,400	142,964	7,868	923,905
Personnel-national staff	193,714	51,082	43,997	194,593	87,860	27,020	598,265
Consultants	29,200	13,982	0	101,228	0	0	144,410
PERSONNEL	477,314	272,337	43,997	607,221	230,824	34,888	1,666,581
W/shops & Training	209,981	101,756	78,924	342,479	35,000	17,591	785,730
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	209,981	101,756	78,924	342,479	35,000	17,591	785,730
Travel & related expenses	52,227	32,500	15,905	75,875	57,377	0	233,883
Information	52,861	13,300	58,544	116,680	46,034	0	287,419
Other General costs	60,663	21,970	13,468	157,662	22,110	15,820	291,692
GENERAL EXPENSES	165,751	67,770	87,917	350,217	125,521	15,820	812,995
TOTAL BUDGET:	991,062	530,709	236,643	1,458,552	454,521	111,529	3,783,014