

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

BANGLADESH

7 March 2005

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.56/2004; Appeal target: CHF 2,175,802 (USD 1,631,852 or EUR 1,437,249) Appeal coverage: 71.1%. ([click here to go directly to the attached 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. This annual report also covers the operational period 1 November to 31 December 2004 not covered by the last programme update.

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>

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Operational developments

With the Federation and sister national societies' support and modest participatory input from the ICRC, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) is slowly moving towards its aim of becoming a principled, skilled and efficient national society supportively linked to communities within which vulnerability is being progressively reduced. The Movement's humanitarian values (HV) and principles lie at the heart of all BDRCS activities.

In this regard, throughout 2004 BDRCS continues to receive support from the Federation as well as a number of long-term partners such as the British, German and Swedish Red Cross Societies, implementing a number of key strategic processes aimed at increasing service delivery to vulnerable communities.

BDRCS's major long-term undertaking in 2004 was to update and finalize its four-year strategic development plan (2005-2008), including the new four-year disaster management (DM) strategy, in an open and participatory manner, involving all departments, rather than the old 'central planning' model. This provides the basis for the coming year's programme priorities and revision of the BDRCS cooperation agreement strategy (CAS). The strategic work was successfully carried out at the same time as the major floods relief operation was implemented.

The BDRCS secretary general presented the national society's four-year vision in the South Asia Regional Partnership Meeting in Kathmandu in March. The response of the PNS towards BDRCS was encouraging.

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

Another important event was the approval of BDRCS's final draft constitution by the joint ICRC/Federation commission for national society statutes. Following the meeting with BDRCS's constitution review committee chairman and member of the managing board and joint statutes committee at Geneva in August, the joint committee approved the draft constitution with some amendments and provision for significant changes on two key issues within six years. The final draft constitution was also approved in the BDRCS annual general meeting held on 29 December.

The Federation and BDRCS had done advocacy with government agencies for provision of better living condition for unrecognised Myanmar refugee staying in a makeshift camp at Teknaf. BDRCS/the Federation also provided water and sanitation facilities for improving the basic needs of drinking water and sanitation facilities for the refugees. The process is ongoing.

In early January, BDRCS responded rapidly to an emergency situation created by a severe cold spell in northern Bangladesh, distributing 8,000 blankets in 30 districts and 1,100 sweaters among the most vulnerable using emergency buffer stocks.

In April, BDRCS again responded rapidly when a twin tornado with severe destructive winds of over 120 km per hour struck over 20 villages in the northern districts of Mymensingh and Netrakona, killing at least 76 people and injuring over 3,000. Another tornado struck the district of Gazipur and Comilla during the same month, causing casualties and destruction. BDRCS distributed 2,000 family kits, 1,550 kg BP5 biscuits and 550 kg of soybean oil among the affected population within 72 hours of the disaster.

Following the severe floods starting late July, BDRCS/the Federation has implemented the Floods 2004 Emergency Relief Operations in a rapid, efficient and professional manner, providing timely and appropriate assistance to more than 1.4 million beneficiaries affected by floods and river erosion in 43 of the most severely affected districts. By 12 December, in a period covering 18 weeks, 90 per cent of relief operations had been completed (*see separate Operations Updates for Bangladesh on www.ifrc.org*).

The annual country appeal received 71.6 per cent funding against original appeal budget. However, programmes were adjusted and activities scaled down in the DM, HV and health sectors. Very limited funding was received in the important health areas and in promoting HV in 2004.

The year-round political situation continued to be tense as the major opposition party, Awami League, organized agitations and called several day-long *hartals* (general strikes) demanding government resignation on deteriorating law and order situation amongst other issues. Following the bombings at a Dhaka political rally on 21 August, the security situations provided an additional emergency for the government. The general public faced hardship and constraints due to the above deadlocks, and this has impacted on the public's confidence relating to safety and security. However, Bangladesh is relatively politically stable, although frequent protest strikes are always potential for civil unrest, and prove to be disruptive to normal life and business.

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report 2004, Bangladesh has made significant improvement in its economic development since 2001, moving from low development country status to medium development country status, putting it ahead of Nepal and Pakistan in the South Asian context. However, in terms of ordinary people's access to income, Bangladesh continues to remain at the lower end of the scale with its per capita annual income of USD350.

Objectives, Achievements, and Constraints

Health and care

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

Objective: To improve the health of mothers and children and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS throughout Bangladesh by strengthening the existing BDRCS network of 60 mother and child health centres.

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

Mother and Child Health project objective: To improve the capacity of BDRCS's mother and child health (MCH) centres to reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality.

Expected results:

- With emphasis on mother and child health care, essential services package (ESP) is implemented in eight MCH centres;
- MCH centres are renovated and equipped for improved MCH delivery;
- MCH centres have progressed towards self-sustainability.

Progress/Achievements

As reported in earlier programme updates, BDRCS had a nationwide network of 60 MCH centres, with 44 of these centres externally supported by several national societies (22 from the Japanese Red Cross (phased-out), nine American Red Cross (phased out) and 13 German Red Cross (ongoing). Treatment for simple ailments, preventive care and maternal care are provided to the community through the rural MCH centres.

With support from the Federation and its partners, the MCH centre activities implemented by BDRCS includes providing services to 300,000 beneficiaries in a catchment of 60 MCH centres, or some 50 per cent of the population.

The German Red Cross is currently supporting 13 MCH centres under the South Eastern Community Health Project (SECHP). The project conducted its annual planning workshop from 7 to 12 December. During the workshop, the 13 SECHP-MCH centres were formally handed over to the respective centre management committee for a period of one year (2005) to look after the day-to-day management and running of these centres, except supervision and technical support which will be provided by BDRCS.

All 22 Japanese Red Cross-supported MCH centres were formally handed over to the respective centre management committee on 22 December for a period of three years (2005-2007). During the year, the German Red Cross also partially helped 10 Japanese Red Cross-supported MCH centres that were previously funded by Japan Red Cross Society for supervision and monitoring. Limited supervision through field officers supported by BDRCS will be continued with reduced supervisory staff.

Due to the lack of funding through this appeal to implement the planned activities in the eight MCH centres (formerly AMCROSS-supported centres), the German Red Cross agreed to provide financial supports for one year to these eight MCH centres on a bilateral basis in an attempt to make them self-sustainable. Promised support from partner national societies (PNSs) was not forthcoming.

Two field staff attended a training of trainers (ToT) workshop on life skills and adolescent health during the reporting period; on completion of their training they are conducting training on life skills and adolescent health at different MCH centres.

As earlier reported, a unified reporting and management information system (MIS) had been developed for all MCH centres and has been implemented since July 2004.

During last year's flooding, 30 MCH centre working areas were also affected. BDRCS distributed food items among 6,000 beneficiaries of the MCH centre areas. Additionally, 17 MCH centres severely damaged by last year's flooding will be renovated under the ongoing flood relief operation.

HIV/AIDS project objective: To increase BDRCS's capacity in developing awareness among health care providers and beneficiaries about HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Expected results:

- BDRCS capacity to manage HIV/AIDS and STD programmes has improved.

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

- Increased awareness with appropriate knowledge, behaviour and practices among target beneficiaries on HIV/AIDS and STDs in the target areas.
- Linkages with the Bangladeshi government sister societies and non-government organizations (NGOs) strengthened.

Progress/Achievements

Due to lack of funding, the planned activities in 2004 under this project cannot be implemented. During the year, BDRCS developed its own HIV/AIDS strategic plan based on the South Asia regional delegation (SARD) regional five-year HIV/AIDS strategy, which has been used as the framework for the establishment of a new five-year HIV/AIDS programme.

However, funding is expected for this programme in 2005. The forthcoming HIV/AIDS programme was intended to increase awareness and knowledge while at the same time build networks for better coordination and cooperation to achieve maximum impact to be implemented from 2005 onward. The first year of the programme focuses on operational set-up, baseline studies, and ToT.

BDRCS is continuously taking a proactive part in addressing HIV/AIDS-related issues, and has been involved in a prevention programme on HIV/AIDS and STD as well as confidential counseling on HIV/AIDS-related issues in a limited manner. BDRCS received a grant of USD20,000 from UNICEF for the implementation of a six-month long HIV/AIDS awareness programme in November 2004.

The national society is also maintaining close coordination with the South Asia Regional Network on HIV/AIDS (SARNHA). A two-person delegation, consisting of BDRCS managing board member and a HIV/AIDS focal person, will participate in the fifth SARNHA meeting at New Delhi from 20 to 24 November.

BDRCS also celebrated the World Aid Day on 1 December. An awareness rally was organized on the occasion.

Analysis of health and care programme in 2004

The MCH programme contributes to improve the health status of particularly women and children in the rural areas of Bangladesh through the provision of preventive and limited curative health care services in form of ESP and safe delivery in MCH centres. The programme's implementation is building on a community-based participatory approach ensuring future sustainability of the provided health services.

The MCH programme was being implemented through a comprehensive and integrated approach of primary health programme under ESP for the implementation of activities in all MCH centres throughout Bangladesh. ESP emphasizes quality health care for rural communities, community management with financial sustainability through cost recovery, and local resource mobilization. The recovery of costs has been an important strategy of the programme to achieve sustainability. Fortunately, the programme has been able to introduce cost recovery mechanisms rather smoothly and successfully.

The other successful strategy has been the promotion of CMCs as the key management group at community level. Communities have provided land for MCH centre construction, put up boundary walls or fences, built roads, provided deep tube wells and so forth. They helped organize local functions to raise funds for the centres. Many CMCs have started various income generation activities, including the provision of small loans and have been quite successful in these ventures. The programme would like to raise the membership of women in the CMC to 50 per cent in the next four years.

The project implementation is built on a community-based participatory approach ensuring future sustainability of the health services with the aim of providing quality health care through these facilities and attracting more clients. In this respect, the community participation in the management of MCH centres activities increased and community midwives are developed for self-reliance of MCH centres. Reporting system is improved and MIS for BDRCS health division have been developed.

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

MCH centres field level supervision and backstopping hampers due to engagement of field officer for the implementation of flood medical relief operations.

Despite limited funding support, BDRCS established a firmer platform from which to be more proactive in addressing the issues relating to HIV/AIDS. These limited activities increased awareness about HIV/AIDS among youth volunteers, service providers and policy makers, as well as confidential approach and free access with results in behavioral changes in the community.

The national society developed a strategic plan while also establishing a HIV/AIDS coordination cell at national headquarters (NHQ) with the cooperation of SARNHA, and participated in various SARNHA meetings and training opportunities.

There was also the development of anti-stigma awareness materials and integration of HIV/AIDS information in all life skills, first aid and other training programmes. To build the capacity of the national society's HIV/AIDS programme further.

Not all planned activities were fully implemented due to financial constraint and lack of donor support, only limited activities were carried out among beneficiaries of the ongoing primary healthcare programme and five BDRCS blood centres and health institutions. Dissemination of information on HIV/AIDS and confidential counselling service for patients infected with STDs were provided at BDRCS NHQ.

Conclusion (*Health and Care*)

The MCH programme is recognised as being an excellent sustainable community owned model and deserves an extended level of financial support. There was increased awareness among beneficiaries of the BDRCS primary healthcare programme in HIV/AIDS prevention. However, the planned MCH programme could not be implemented due to a lack of donor support.

In order to develop the institution, BDRCS strongly feels that their programmes have to be downsized. It is envisaged that the MCH centres will be handed over from the BDRCS midwives to the community midwives at the earliest as it does not have the financial resources to maintain highly paid staff nor to maintain premises. BDRCS's idea is to turn the MCH centres into self-reliant sustainable institutions, with the aim of having the community completely managing and financing the centres.

There was an increase in the dissemination of information and education materials among the community, which will hopefully enhance the public's attitude to and understanding of issues relating to HIV/AIDS. Youth volunteers, service providers and policy makers also gained a greater awareness of issues surrounding HIV/AIDS as a result of programme activities. The national society is strengthening links with the government's national AIDS programme, UNAIDS and other organisations in AIDS prevention activities. The establishment of the HIV/AIDS coordination cell is an important element in this.

Disaster Management

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

Programme Objective: To increase the capacity of BDRCS to provide support to individuals and communities seeking to withstand the impact of disasters and become more self-reliant

Long-term Humanitarian Assistance Operations project objective: Maintain for one year the distribution of food rations and essential non-food relief items to refugee families from Myanmar.

Expected results:

- Nutritional sufficiency for 20,000 Myanmar refugees;

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

- Practical experience of operating in cross-cultural, multinational and multi-agency environment acquired by BDRCS staff and volunteers;
- Appropriate exit strategy identified and agreed with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP) and the government.

Progress/Achievements

BDRCS continued to distribute a daily food ration provided by WFP, (2,100 calories per person) and non-food items among the Myanmar refugees during the reporting period. The food items include rice, dhal (pulse), cooking oil, salt, sugar and baby food, and non-food items include soap, rice husk, spices and kerosene among the beneficiaries staying in two camps.

BDRCS is implementing this programme with the financial assistance of UNCHR and WFP, as per the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in January 2004. The Federation delegation is supporting BDRCS for the extension of MoU with UNCHR and WFP for another year.

Due to slow repatriation and a very high camp birth rate, the number of refugees has remained around 20,000. During the reporting period, only seven refugees (two families) were repatriated back to Myanmar. After a long break the monthly inter-agency coordination meeting was held on 10 November attended by all concerned agencies working in the camp. The Ministry of Food and disaster management secretary visited the two camps on 26 November. He also attended meetings in both camps and at Cox's Bazar with all stakeholders. The repatriation process is delicate and is ongoing.

Building Disaster Response Capacity of the National Society project objective: Increase and sustain the response capacity of BDRCS and branches for efficient and effective management of crises with a functional contingency plan.

Expected results:

- Efficient and effective disaster response is undertaken with coordinated initiative at national headquarters and branch level;
- Extended and regular BDRCS networking with national and regional agencies engaged with DM.

Progress/Achievements

As reported in earlier updates, despite lack of financial support for this component of the DM programme in 2004, the national society has kept buffer stocks of relief items for rapid response for the emergency needs of the most vulnerable. Blankets and warm clothing had been utilised during the cold wave spell in the northern part of the country in January. BDRCS was also the first agency to assist the victim of a fire at a slum in Mirpur, Dhaka, and distributed relief items, including family kits among the most affected population.

Bangladesh experienced the most severe floods since 1998 between July and September 2004. A total of 36 million people (over 25 per cent of the population) in 43 of Bangladesh's 64 districts have been affected and 747 people killed. BDRCS responded immediately and as the needs of the affected population grew, the Federation launched an emergency appeal to assist the affected population by providing food and non-food assistance for six months. Due to the flood operation, implementation of long-term programme activities under this appeal was affected and slowed down.

The secretary general attended the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee working group meeting at the United Nations headquarters in New York from 22 to 23 September and made a highly acclaimed presentation entitled *Floods in South Asia* with special reference to Bangladesh. Considering the importance of the Red Cross/Red Crescent intervention during the disaster, a resolution has been adopted that in all future disaster-related meetings, the Federation will be ensured of the UN's participation.

Following the severe earthquake that occurred off the west coast of Northern Sumatra on 26 December, Indonesia, a massive tidal surge was triggered, severely affecting Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia and Thailand.

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

Chittagong Port in Bangladesh also felt the aftershocks of the earthquake tremors. The tremors were recorded at Bangladesh's observatory centre in Chittagong measured 7.36 on the Richter scale.

The BDRCS cyclone preparedness programme (CPP) immediately used its early warnings network in the coastal belt, as none of the radio stations reported any major structural damages, deaths or injuries following the tremor. Damage assessment of the whole Bangladesh coastal belt through early warning network was completed in four hours. In 2003, experts issued warnings of a possible major earthquake following a series of moderate to medium tremors in the Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region.

Early Warning and Disaster Information Systems project objective: Improve BDRCS's capacity in effectively preparing for and responding to natural disasters and through its volunteer network, enhance the capacity and capability of communities to cope with and reduce the impact of natural disasters.

Expected results:

- Increased public preparedness among coastal communities about the threat of cyclone and earthquake related disasters;
- Reinforced local DM with community involvement through conducting various trainings for the volunteers at community level;
- Strengthened early warning systems ensuring effective action and response in the event of disaster.

As reported in the previous update, CPP is presently implementing an earthquake preparedness project supported by DIPECHO, because of the late sign up of the contract and start of the operation, two months of non-cost extension of the project up to March 2005 was requested in order to utilize savings. ECHO approved extension in December 2004, and savings will be used for the procurement of additional early warning equipments (25 VHF radios, 10 antennas, 45,000 cyclone/earthquake preparedness leaflets, 35,000 posters and 468 first aid bags) in the coming weeks.

During the reporting period, the DIPECHO project coordinator and head of delegation maintained close contacts with Dhaka and New Delhi ECHO representatives. In addition, regular cooperation and coordination with ECHO and other DIPECHO partners in Bangladesh (Oxfam, Action Aid, TDHI, DCA) has also been continued.



CBFA training at Cox's Bazar

During November and December 20 Mass awareness the volunteers with spontaneous participation of local people the demonstration organized rallies on earthquake and cyclone preparedness. With own initiatives of the Volunteers of different upazilla (sub-districts) under CPP command area six numbers of rallies on cyclone preparedness were arranged and about 12,000 community people witnessed the rallies.

Two day-long first aid refresher training courses were conducted in 38 centres, 1,330 volunteers participated and successfully completed the training. A total of 110 first aid refresher courses have been conducted under this project, with 3,850 volunteers participating.

Two day-long search and rescue training conducted in five centres saw 140 volunteers participating and successfully completed the training. A total of 55 search and rescue training was planned. To date, six trainings were conducted with the remaining 49 trainings held between January and February 2005.

Besides the earthquake preparedness project activities, CPP is also implementing its regular activities during the reporting period. Regular organizational meetings were held and attended by the general volunteers, unit, union and upazilla team leaders, were held in unit, union and upazilla levels, and were facilitated by respective zonal officers.

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

Radio workshops located in Dhaka, Chittagong and Barisal repaired 46 wireless radios during the reporting period. Twenty-five 12-volt batteries were procured and installed at different HF and VHF field stations for use in warning equipments during disaster seasons.

A total of 7,100 large size and 34,314 medium size dry cell batteries funded by the government were procured and dispatched to the field station for distribution among the volunteers in order to disseminate cyclone warning through megaphone using these batteries.

Community-Based Disaster Preparedness project objective: Increase the capacity of local volunteers to prevent and mitigate disasters in vulnerable communities.

Expected results:

- Developed and consolidated organizational capacity for effective DP and disaster response (DR) among 3,400 volunteers, 34 BDRCS branches and 102 associated vulnerable communities;
- The range and scope of local coping mechanisms available to communities vulnerable to disaster is increased;
- Locally managed, well maintained safe refuges (cyclone shelters) for 40,000 vulnerable families in 143 communities located within ten coastal districts (including German Red Cross phased-out district);
- Implementation of CBDP programme activities are completed and phased out in an organized manner from 34 branches and 143 coastal communities;
- Integrate the comprehensive CBDP programme into the BDRCS four-year development plan.

Progress/Achievements

As reported in earlier updates, in addition to the 27,066 members enrolled up to October 2004 in the CBDP working area, during the reporting period 222 new life members have joined the national society, bringing the number of life members to 27,288. Enrolment of new members has been increasing, as civil society is eager to be involved with the Red Crescent Movement's good humanitarian work.

Branch-level squad volunteers and RCY open troop monthly meeting were regularly held in 11 operational units during November and December. Programme-related issues like the implementation of activities at unit and community levels and squad roles and responsibilities were discussed in these meetings.

During the reporting period 23 DP and CBFA refresher trainings for CBDP squad and RCY had been organized in 23 phased-out RC branches (two courses each).

Community volunteers in 68 communities at 11 operational units continued to hold regular monthly meetings during the reporting period, but are losing momentum in the phase-out units. These meetings provides the community an opportunity to assess the performance of the volunteers, get updates on DP subscriptions and to draw a mutually agreed plan to withstand the emerging threats of tornadoes, early flooding and other disasters.

As reported in previous update, in addition to four ToT on gender and DP, two more three-day long ToT on gender in DP was organised by NHQ officers in Bogra and Feni with a view to bringing about change in the traditional attitude towards women and thus encouraging their active involvement in DP. The objective of this training is to further strengthen the knowledge and skills of officers and staffs in conducting such training in the targeted communities. During the year, the trained branch level officers have conducted 95 gender and DP training in the targeted communities in 32 districts.

During the reporting period one day-long training on gender and DP has been organized at 65 communities in 26 RC branches with 30 participants (15 female, 15 male) taking part, while additional interested male and female of nearly every community voluntarily attending the training session as observers. Thirty such trainings in five districts have been conducted as reported in the earlier updates. New in its kind under the programme, the objective of this training was to bring about change in society's traditional attitude towards women so they can contribute positively in DP at both household and community levels, leading to reducing loss and sufferings.

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

A three-day-long workshop on *Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA)*, organised from 7 to 9 November at Bogra and facilitated by the regional DM manager, saw 19 officers and volunteers and the Federation DM programme officer participating.

Disaster emergency fund (DEF) is one of the most important activities at unit level to tackle post disaster situation. The objective of creating such fund is exclusively for facing emergency situation by the branch. Mentionable, all flood-affected branches have withdrawn fund (partial) to respond to affected people. During the reporting period, CBDP programme has provided a matching grant of Taka 50,000 to Patuakhali and Feni RC branches as they succeeded in collecting the targeted amount of Taka 50,000 for the fund. As reported in the earlier updates, Patuakhali received the grant, after verification of their source of funding. During the year, four RC branches have received the matching grant. A total of Taka.2.62 million (approximately CHF 56,000) has been deposited as DEF in 32 out of 34 branches.

As reported in the earlier updates, the building up of community disaster assistance fund (CDAF) had been the most crucial task undertaken by CBDP. The creation of CDAF is a significant achievement of the CBDP communities to respond disaster efficiently. As community members were primarily the sole subscriber of CDAF, with 79 communities out of 100 having established CDAF and have opened bank accounts and continuously deposited their subscriptions on a regular basis. A total of Taka 1.65 million (approximately CHF 35,000) has been deposited to date in the CDAF.

Scheduled activities under the programme, i.e. monthly and bi-monthly coordination meetings, are held at branch level. The meeting discusses the latest situation of the programme and exchange views for better implementation of activities, which leads to wider dissemination of the Movement.

Awareness raising open field drama had been staged in 13 additional communities under seven RC branches during the reporting period. Open field drama is considered to be an entertaining tool for raising DP awareness (including personal hygiene and further strengthening the community's knowledge and skills, with an average of 1,500 community people from each community (of whom 35 per cent are women) witnessing the drama.

Additionally, an open field drama and adry-run rehearsal (DRR), focusing on disaster preparedness and response measures (warning, first aid, evacuation and rescue) were organized at Rangpur and Kurigram respectively. About 2,500 people, of whom 40 per cent were women, witnessed the events. DP advisor Adam Poulter and programme development advisor Vendela Fortune from the British Red Cross also observed the events during their visit in December.

Operational guidelines have been formulated to keep activities ongoing during post phase-out periods at unit, community and shelter level. For this purpose, separate guidelines for flood as well as cyclone prone activities were prepared and distributed to all units and communities so that they can retain the programme even after phase-out.

To ensure CBDP activities are kept ongoing after phase-out at community level, a joint meeting, with unit secretary/European Community member, ULO, community volunteers participating, was organised by community units in which phase-out strategy (change of signatories for operating CDAF accounts, transfer of sanitation participatory money to CDAF, etc.) were explained and justified. Change of signatories for operating CDAF Accounts.

Out of 34 CBDP branches 20 were severely affected by this year flooding. As disaster response DR is an integral part of the programme, all affected CBDP branches responded immediately by providing assistance to affected population to move them to safer places and also distributed emergency food items to meet their basic needs. In addition, squad and RCY were actively involved in damage and need assessment, rescue, first aid, and implementation of the flood relief operation) distribution of food, non-food and seeds, medical relief operation 2004. In addition, branch level officers attended coordination meeting organized by district administration. Meanwhile, 20 units utilized their DEF to respond flood through purchasing and distributing of emergency relief items like: chira (compressed rice), gur (molasses), rice and lentils.

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

During flood 2004, community volunteers/people of different communities applied local coping strategy for survival (e.g. making platform to protect belongings, banana stem) through their knowledge conceived from CBDP intervention. Meanwhile, after the recession of floods-water community people participated in many post disaster services e.g. repair of village roads and reconstruction of houses etc.

During Feb-March 2004 NHQ CBDP officers were actively involved for a five-month period to develop a four-year DM strategy (2005-2008).

DP and CBFA training have been organized for Shelter Management Committee members at 27 shelter sites of Bhola, Barguna, Chittagong, Noakhali, Banskhali. The training aims to provide knowledge and skills about DP and DR to perform their responsibilities effectively. During the year, 440 SMC members and 1,040 DP squad members received this training.

Two-day long 15 training course (Noakhali-10, Barguna-5) on Search and Rescue organized for the SMC members and DP squad members of 15 cyclone shelters. A total 390 participants (26 DP squad members from each shelter) received the training. The objective of the training is to create a pool of shelter squad trainer on search and rescue operation who after having the training will conduct the same in their respective shelter areas as well as in other BDRCS programme areas as and when required.

The annual general meeting (AGM) was organized in each of 107 cyclone shelter under (Chittagong-10, Noakhali-50, Barguna-32 and Bhola-15) SMM zone. Various issues like: activities of current year, future plan, income and expenditure etc, were discussed in each AGM.

At the end of the reformation process and reconstituting SMC in 112 cyclone shelters in four zones (Chittagong, Barguna, Noakhali and Bhola), all SMCs are holding regular monthly meetings. The village disaster preparedness committees (VDPC) of cyclone shelters located in Cox's Bazar also continued their monthly meeting where DP and various issues related to proper maintenance and management of cyclone shelters are discussed.

All SMC and VDPC are also maintaining a shelter maintenance and disaster assistance fund with a bank. With encouragement from CBDP department officers, SMCs have been encouraged to further enhance their funds through community subscription.

As reported in earlier updates CDBP programme is providing continuous support to four shelter-based child literacy education centres (CLEC) located in remote places in Noakhali, Hatiya and Monpura. About 1,285 students are studying in these centres and average attendance of students is around 90 per cent. The respective Red Crescent units are exploring the possibilities of handing these centres over to the government's education department.

Disaster Mitigation/Reduction project objective: Increase the resilience of communities vulnerable to disaster in remote villages of the Chittagong Hill Tracts region.

Expected results:

- Wider understanding of humanitarian values within targeted communities, local authorities, sustaining social harmony between members of formerly hostile ethnic groups.
- Targeted communities were organized and mobilized to prepare for (and respond effectively to) local disasters and linkages developed with local government institutions and NGOs.
- CBFA services and basic primary health care support including TBA (particularly for women and children) established in six targeted sub-districts and enhancement of nutrition status of the indigenous vulnerable communities.
- Increased access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation facilities in targeted communities.
- Community management and marketing skills facilitating locally sustainable livelihoods based on improved and extended indigenous traditional skills, agro-based and farming systems.

Progress/Achievements

During the reporting period, health awareness and water and sanitation, income generation activities principles and humanitarian values disaster preparedness (DP) programme were implemented in the CHT. Additionally, training on the aforementioned issues is the important element of the development activities.

Health awareness activities:

About 157 trained traditional birth attendants (TBA) volunteers were continuously discharging their duties in all the programme areas under three CHT RC branches.

During the reporting period health volunteers distributed simple, essential medicines among the most vulnerable people.

RC/RC Principles and Humanitarian Values:

During the reporting the CHT development programme is continuously promoting the Movement's Principles, international humanitarian law (IHL) and the esteem in which the emblem is held. The programme had a well-trained team of dissemination workers who were undertaking new initiatives by disseminating Federation Principles and humanitarian values (HV), ensuring and acting on the basis of the Fundamental Principles in their work with vulnerable people in time of peace, disaster and in the event of conflict.

Home-Based Income Generation Activities:

As reported in the previous updates the home-based income generation activity was one of the most important components of the programme. BDRCS had earlier provided Taka 1.2million (approximately CHF 25,500) as revolving funds to be disbursed as micro-credit among the beneficiaries in three CHT districts.

To enhance the capacity of the volunteers for the implementation of income generation activities, a total of 6 income generation refresher trainings were organized in each of six sub-districts in December. A total of 140 volunteers attended the course.

Water and Sanitation Activities

In each sub-district, 25 RC volunteers continued to motivate people to consume water only from safe sources (principally protected wells) and to use sanitary latrines such as those provided by the programme.

A total of 29 community volunteers from six sub-districts participated in the water and sanitation refresher training, organized in Khagrachhari, from 28-29 November 2004.



Training:

During this reporting period, five-day long TBA refresher trainings were organized in Bandarban, with 25 TBAs attending the course.

With this training a total of 157 TBA's were provided refresher training during 2004. It is expected that this training would help them to improve their service delivery in the remote area of CHT.

To enhance basic primary health knowledge of the community volunteers, four two-day long ESP refresher training were organized in Khagrachhari and Bandarban districts in November. A total of 132 community health volunteers participated in the events. It is expected that after receiving training, community health volunteers will be able to provide their services in a better way.

With the active support of the branch executive committee, each of the CHT district organized DP seminar in three CHT districts during December. A total of 95 participants from different organizations and government agencies participated in the seminar. The purpose of these seminars was to build linkages among different stakeholders working in the CHT region.

PRA on WATSAN needs in the community

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

Analysis of disaster management in 2004

Slow repatriation process of refugees and indefinite nature of end of Myanmar Refugee Operation Programme dates resulted in poor donor response. No funding received since 2000.

Buffer stocks of relief items, including family kits and blankets, were maintained for rapid response for the emergency needs of the most vulnerable. These have been used in several smaller emergency relief operations conducted during the year. Timely distribution of food rations had helped in maintaining nutritional balance among the refugees.

The ongoing relief operation will further strengthen the capacity of the national society to implement the four-year disaster management strategy, particularly for community-based disaster management (CBDM) programme. While funding is secured in 2005 for the implementation of the flood preparedness programme, the BDRCS continue to seek partners for its long-term strategic development of disaster and response programmes, including preparedness for future potential earthquake and tsunami in the coastal belt.

The national society's image was further enhanced for its rapid response during disaster by distributing buffer stocks and emergency relief distribution among the most vulnerable. IFRCS monitored these distributions in order to confirm that distributions of buffer stocks were made in accordance of agreed guidelines.

Regular contact and networking with national and international agencies engaged with DM resulted in better coordination and cooperation for the society's disaster preparedness (DP) and humanitarian work.

Insufficient funding and lack of donor support hampered the implementation of disaster response capacity project planned activities. However, some activities, like BDRCS transport facilities, were improved with the purchase of three new trucks.

By the end of December, the overall progress of the DIPECHO project implemented through cyclone preparedness programme, (CPP) was reported as being 90 per cent completed and the overall performance of the BDRCS field coordinators and volunteers being quite impressive. They have exercised high levels of flexibility and immediately responded to provide first hand information following tsunami. In addition the programme is also newly raised challenges to investing their efforts in dissemination and networking among the key stakeholders in their respective areas.

The CPP volunteers were well organized, and with the early warning system strengthened and well maintained, were prepared to face any eventualities. The vulnerability of the coastal community people was reduced due to their strengthened capability in coping with the cyclonic situation. The result of arranging training programme among the students is very much positive and significant.

Some of the warning equipments, like megaphone, transistor radio, hand siren, and torch lights, used by the volunteers for disseminating cyclone warning signals, were getting out of order because of long-term usage, hampering timely dissemination of warning signals during disaster. The replenishment of the wireless sets and worn-out warning equipments have not been implemented as yet.

While progress was made in the training of volunteers, the sheer size of the task is a significant challenge with the programme encompassing a total of 33,000 volunteers.

The CBDP programme had been run for nearly eight years. During this period, the multi-dimensional programme had manifold effects at all levels. It had paved the way to for setting up DM Division, enhanced organizational capacity at NHQ level, liaison with stakeholders strengthened. At unit level dormant unit re-activated, unit's capacity has been enhanced, CBDP programme, RC/RC Movement and society's overall activities have widely been disseminated, reactivation of Squad and RCYS by CBDP units proved their efficiency during flood peak period compared to their non-CBDP counterparts. At community level, community cohesiveness increased, learnt preparedness measures through awareness raising drama, documentary video shows and DRR minimize loss and sufferings, during and post disaster situation. Sanitation activity complemented the government's sanitation

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

programme under which 93,600 disadvantaged (15,600 slab latrines) people have significantly been benefited. Rate of waterborne diseases reduced. More remarkably, Principles of RC/RC Movement have been disseminated at community level through various events. Gender equity has been ensured at all levels of the programme.

At community level, dry run rehearsals have raised awareness regarding disaster response. Distribution of slab latrines and subsequent use by the beneficiaries has reduced health hazards. Training of arsenic contamination testing has helped to boost the supply of safe drinking water. DP and CBFA training facilitated the work and generated enthusiasm among volunteers. In shelter management and maintenance zones, evacuation drills and video shows have raised awareness of the responsibilities of the zone members during pre- and post-disaster situations. The CBFA training resulted in 130 trained first aid volunteers capable of rendering services in their respective communities.

Coordination meetings have ensured implementation of activities within the timeframe at unit as well as community level. The disaster emergency fund has been created to ensure an effective disaster response by all CBDP units. The formulation of disaster contingency plans will strengthen the coordinated response capacity in the wake of disaster. A phase-out strategy has been developed, shared and put into practice. Coordination and cooperation with government and NGOs as well as other stakeholders increased and details of the CBDP programme and history of the Movement's principles were widely disseminated.

Meanwhile 142 shelter users (about 300,000) had been empowered towards ownership over their cyclone shelters. Being implementing various activities, now they feel proud of ensuring maintenance and management of cyclone shelters and participating in DP/DR interventions during/after different cyclones.

Insufficient and delay placement of fund, incessant rainfall, severe flood, transfer of branch level officers, involvement of officers (NHQ and Unit) in long-term relief operation and political situation to some extent caused slow progress of programme activities at all levels.

Development activities in health, water and sanitation and income generation field having an overall positive impact in the community, reducing their vulnerability. Community volunteer's capacity had enhanced through provision of training, which motivates them to provide their services to the community in an efficient manner. Health behaviour has improved in targeted communities through the increased use of water facilities and sanitary slab latrines provided by BDRCS. This results in a reduction of waterborne diseases. Assistance provided through income generation activities is helping the beneficiaries earning money through investing in small businesses, which helped them maintain a modest livelihood. Red Cross and Red Crescent principles and values visibility increase in the three CHT districts,

The overall situation of the post-conflict region of CHT is rapidly changing. There have been many improvements in the area but changes and, at times, tense political situations still affect the pace of implementing development activities.

Not so much a constraint but certainly a challenge is that some field staffs are not implementing planned activities according to time frame, which delayed the pace of implementation. Also lack of field level monitoring by the field staff resulting in delays in submission of reports. The absence of a project coordinator in the field for long time also hampered implementation of planned activities.

Conclusion (*Disaster Management*)

The national society maintained its ability to provide rapid response during disaster by distributing buffer stocks of relief items among the most vulnerable. Regular contact and networking with national and international agencies engaged with disaster management is resulting in better coordination and cooperation.

With extensive experience in responding to flood emergencies, BDRCS has developed its operational capacity through disaster relief and preparedness programmes over the last few years. The impact of investment in CBDP was demonstrated during a participatory learning process during the current flood operation

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

In 1997 the BDRCS community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programme had set out its journey and has been phased out in December 2004. The programme had been implementing with the financial and technical assistance of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The aim of this programme was to reduce vulnerability of those communities living in the high-risk areas of disaster prone district of the country and thus to contribute to DP at national level.

Since its inception 34 disaster-prone districts and 142 cyclone shelters were brought under the programme, which has benefited around 450,000 vulnerable (150,000 flood and 300,000 cyclone) people directly and around 900,000 vulnerable people indirectly. Meanwhile the CBDP programme resulted a very good impact during devastating flood 2004 as CBDP units and their communities responded flood disaster effectively and efficiently.

The efforts of the BDRCS to assist the vulnerable people of the CHT is recognized both among the tribal and non-tribal communities. Development activities in the fields of health, water sanitation, income generation and the formation of VDCs are having an overall positive impact in the communities, reducing their vulnerability. People in the post-conflict region are now more aware of Red Cross/Red Crescent principles and values.

Humanitarian Values

Overall Goal: Countrywide knowledge, awareness and understanding of humanitarian values, international law and significance of the Movement's emblem, thereby encouraging the population to act more humanely and compassionately with increased respect for the dignity of human life.

Programme Objective: To increase awareness, understanding and acknowledgement of the humanitarian values that guides the movement and respect for the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society as an independent, principled and impartial humanitarian organization .

Expected results:

- Increased awareness and motivation of the BDRCS staff and volunteers reflected in their respective fields of activities.
- Increased awareness and knowledge among BDRCS potential stakeholders, including media, of the Movement, principles and ideals through campaign and motivational drive.
- Enhanced communication and advocacy skills and networking with external organizations and programme stakeholders.

As reported in the earlier updates, this is an area that has no donor support; however humanitarian values (HV) are promoted through all programmes where possible.

On 28-29 November two participatory workshops on HV, international humanitarian law (IHL), better programming initiatives (BPI), RC/RC Principles and emblem were held at BDRCS NHQ, with 51 participants, including the vice-chairmen, secretaries and UEC members from 27 Branches and six officials from the Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College Hospital attending two workshops. The BPI sessions drew attention and created sensitisations among the participants. The introduction of BPI tools for effective planning in both the conflict and non-conflict situations was well received by the participants. An action plan on reducing the misuse of the RC emblem was formulated, with the participants committed to implement in the year 2005 in their respective branches.

A drama competition to promote dissemination of RC/RC principles and ideals at branch level was organized by the planning and development department. Eight Red Crescent branches (Rajshahi City, Natore, Rangpur, Jenaidah, Satkhira, Feni, Noakhali and Brahmanbaria) participated in the competition, while the respective branches prepared the drama scripts, which were scrutinized and approved by the planning and development department. A large number of people from different sectors of the society observed the drama, which strengthened the team spirit among the volunteers as well as promoting RC/RC dissemination in a practical manner. After the evaluation, winners up to fourth position were given awards.

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

In December 7,000 poster calendars, 50,000 pocket calendars and 1,000 diaries were printed and widely distributed to all the 68 RC branches, government organizations and NGO's throughout the country for wider dissemination of the RC/RC Movement.

BDRCS is planning to further focus its HV and Principles interventions through actively applying the crosscutting issues of 'anti discrimination' and 'tolerance' into the ongoing programmes and projects in 2005. Potential areas for intervention would be in HIV/AIDS, gender and ethnic conflict. In this respect the BDRCS HV focal point person is consulting and coordinating with programme departments in order to integrate the HV agenda into the ongoing programmes.

Furthermore, during the reporting period BDRCS also implemented activities for the dissemination of Red Crescent Principles and values with ICRC's support.

Analysis of humanitarian value in 2004

The Movement's HV and Principles lie at the heart of all BDRCS activities. Emphasizing the impartiality and neutrality of its actions, the national society's approach to humanitarian values encourages respect for human life and promotes gender and ethnic equality.

Conclusion (humanitarian value)

Significant progress has been made during the year to reach the goal of the programme. Nevertheless, insufficient and irregular flows of funds and lack of donor support have slowed the implementation of activities and some could not be achieved. There is no mechanism in the existing plan to collect feedback from unit level on the implemented activities.

Organizational Development

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

Programme Objective: To move the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society closer towards becoming a well functioning national society, with a national network of active branches and volunteers carrying out activities in accordance with its mandate and principles and motivated to improve the lives of vulnerable people.

Programme Management Skills Development project objective: Increase Bangladesh Red Crescent management skills, at headquarters and branch level, to enable them to run more effective and efficient programs to better meet the needs of the vulnerable.

Expected result:

- Senior staff possess significantly improved and expanded professional skills

The planning and development department has organized a two day-long training on 'management development' from 9-10 November 2005 at the BDRCS training room participated by 30 senior level key managers from various departments of the society. The objective of the training was to develop the management capacity of the concerned departments through identifying the constraints and adopting possible alternative strategies. Another such training course was also conducted for 19 senior level managers of Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College from 7-8 December 2005.

As reported in Programme Update 2, the planning and development department organized two day-long gender sensitization workshops in September/October. Additionally, between November and December 2004, two day-long gender sensitisation workshops were organized at 14 Red Crescent branches (Manikganj, Sherpur, Brahmanbaria, Mymansingh, Panchaghar, Nilphamari, Pabna, Natore, Bogra, Sirajganj, Tangail, Kishorganj,

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

Jamalpur, Bagerhat Red Crescent branches). Thirty participants, including 20 women and 10 men from each of these branches, attended the workshops.

The objective of the workshop was to create an environment on gender equality and equity, particularly in motivating and inspiring the local potential female personalities towards their active involvement with the RC/RC activities at branch level. The enthusiastic participants entailed themselves with their innovative ideas and sincere efforts to strengthen the issue of gender equality as well as integrating the same into the gender mainstreaming of the branches. Through strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis, a strategic annual work plan was formulated, aiming to implement in a participatory manner with other stakeholders of the branches. Due to the eagerness and interest of some the branches, three additional workshops were organized on top of the 15 planned workshops, expenses of which were incurred from the budgeted amount.

With the planning and development department's assistance, a training of trainers (ToT) on 'search and rescue' was organized at Chittgong from 22 to 26 November 2004. A total of 30 participants from three CHT Red Crescent branches (Rangamati, Khagrachari and Banderban) and 24 from Chittagong city and district Red Crescent branches participated in the training.

In December, the trained trainers facilitated three-day long search and rescue trainings, 90 community DP volunteers (30 volunteers each from Rangamati, Khagrachari and Banderban) participated in the training. The CHT development programme provided nine sets of rescue training kits for facilitating the work of the search and rescue trained volunteer teams of the respective branches.

In addition to the 16 training conducted up to October 2004, the training department conducted more one basic first aid training for external organization during the reporting period. During the year training department earned a total amount of Taka 577,365 (CHF 12,284) out of which Taka 94,000 (CHF 2,000) earned as rental fee for the use of training room.

The planning and development department has provided various office equipment and support materials like computer and its accessories, furniture, telephones etc. for upgrading functional facilities in performing day to day affairs of different departments of the society. One laptop computer, one overhead projector and one digital camera have been procured for the training department in December 2004. The capacity of the training department has now increased further with the procurement of the new training equipment.

Leadership Training project objective: Better understanding by the leadership of BDRCS, at headquarters and branch level of the history, principles and mandate of the RCRC Movement and motivation to lead the national society towards providing better services to the vulnerable.

Expected results:

- Well functioning, locally representative, inclusive and efficient branches effectively demonstrating the practical and social value of voluntary service.
- Organizational capacity as well as functional facilities of various departments of the society increased.
- The Movement's fundamental principles and values inform and reinforce all decisions of the BDRC managing board and branch executive committees.
- Volunteer members of the society's governing bodies, at all levels are well informed and highly motivated

As reported in earlier programme updates planning and development department organized OD orientation workshop at 12 RC branches. During the reporting period three more two-day long OD orientation workshops held at Khulna City, Magura and Moulivibazar RC branch during December 2004. The objective of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of the volunteers and staff, and identifying OD intervention, to develop and manage the activities of the respective branch through mobilizing local human and financial resource including well functioning branch programme management, communication, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting.

The workshops highlighted and discussed issues on the characteristics of well functioning national societies and its implication to the branches, resource mobilization and development, SWOT analysis on branch development,

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

importance of communication and reporting etc. The workshops concluded with the formulation of branch's own participatory action plan based on the results of the SWOT analysis and recommendations. A total of 40 participants, including the acting chairman, members of the branch executive committee, life members, branch level officer, RCY chief and senior RCY members attended each of the workshops.

In December two members of the BDRCS managing board visited six Red Crescent branches, each of them visited three branches (Cox's Bazar Rangamati, Bandarban Khagrachari from 11-17 December and Faridpur, Madaripur, Rajbari Shariatpur from 21-25 December). The aim of the visits was to monitor the branch activities and to share and exchange views and experiences for better co-operation and coordination between the branches and the NHQ. The board members have seen several ongoing activities of the branches and attended the meetings of the respective branch executive committee. Both the visits were very encouraging and beneficial for the concerned branches.

Volunteer Management Development project objective: Increase the capacity of the Bangladesh Red Crescent to recruit and retain a diversified volunteer base, reflecting its membership, to enable vital services to the vulnerable (including new HIV/AIDS awareness campaign) to continue and improve.

Expected results:

- Well-trained, highly motivated and actively organized volunteers.
- An increased volunteer base, which is more diverse in cultural, social, gender and age.
- Greater sense of common purpose between staff and volunteers.
- A revitalized RCY having significantly increased membership of highly motivated and well organized youth volunteers.
- Increased BDRCS participation in public awareness campaigns related to vulnerability reduction.
- HIV/AIDS awareness and anti-stigma campaign launched and 120 volunteers from 30 units are well trained as trainers to disseminate the idea.
- Solidarity networks formed with other youth organizations and linkages established with families of vulnerable communities.

Progress/Achievements

As reported in earlier updates, the Federation's capacity building fund has been supporting this programme for the past two years, and the programme is entering its third and final year. The youth volunteers are becoming the focal group to conduct different youth programmes in the schools, colleges and other organizations in the country. Regular communication on RCY movement is continued and ongoing with 68 BDRCS branches, including 20 branches under the pilot project supported by Japanese Red Cross.

To upgrade and reframe the BDRCS youth and volunteers policies

The revised youth policy approved by the managing board was printed and distributed at NHQ and branch level during the reporting period

Leadership Training Camp for RCY leaders from 20 branches and NHQ

Two leadership training camp was held during the reporting period at NHQ with 50 volunteers participating. The objective of the training was to enhance the leadership qualities among existing RCY leaders. Altogether four leadership training camps were held during year with the participation of 100 volunteers.

A membership drive at branch level has been organized by the youth and volunteers department to increase the total number of Red Crescent youth volunteers under the CBF-funded pilot programme. To recruit volunteers, the youth and volunteers department arranged to address in the assemblies of the schools and collages at branch level to disseminate the idea of the Movement among all the students of the school. Ten schools were selected in one branch and a team of 53 members was formed in each school. A total of 10,600 volunteers was enrolled newly in 20 branches after the drive.

Dissemination through cultural competition and cultural programme

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

The youth and volunteers department organized a month-long cultural competition in 20 branches in November. The participant branch organized cultural competition for school and college level RCY volunteers. After the competition the respective branches send a list of branch level winner to the youth and volunteers department.

The youth department organized a cultural competition for the branch level competition winners at national headquarters. After the competition, a prize giving ceremony was organized for the winners, followed by a cultural programme with participation of the winners of the competition. The BDRCS chairman and managing board members were present in the occasion to inspire the participating youth volunteers and to distribute the certificate and prizes among the winners.

Campaign for eliminating misuse of RC emblem at 20 branches.

The youth and volunteers department launch a dissemination campaign for stopping misuse of RC emblem during November and December. The usual organisation that misuse the RC emblem like the pharmacy, doctors, clinics, pharmaceutical companies and ambulance services are the target group of the campaign. The volunteers of the units are provided with some flyers, posters and stickers related to the issue and are also trained in dissemination messages to be provided to the target group. Youth and volunteers department printed some flyers, posters and stickers to distribute among the branches for the purpose of the emblem campaign.

The objective of the campaign is to inform the above target group, importance and significance of the protection of RC emblem. The respective district administrations were also briefed about the issue. The civil surgeons (district head of the health department) gave the commitment that they will advise the doctor's community not to use the RC emblem.

Dissemination through Field Drama:

During the reporting period one field drama was organized in each branch disseminating the history and principles of Red Cross and Red Crescent. Local elites and important governmental officials were present on the occasion. Field drama will further help to disseminate the movement principles and values in order to raise the awareness of the civil society about RC movement, so at the time of need they can extend their hand to support in times of disaster or any development program taken by the movement.

Other activities conducted by the department's own initiative during the reporting period:

Participation in the ongoing flood relief operation

As reported in programme update two RCY volunteers continued their support for the implementation of flood relief operation 2004 by participating in the identification of beneficiaries and the organization and distribution of relief goods.

RC/RC Basic and First Aid Training

During this period one three-day long basic first aid training aimed to strengthen the RCY volunteers' motivation towards the Movement was organized for RCY members of the Sylhet branch. Youth and volunteers department supported the training by providing trainers to conduct these trainings and participants contributed the funds to organize the training. Thirty-two participants attended the training course. Additionally, a three-day basic and first aid training course was conducted for the open troops RCY members of the Jessore unit with the support of the youth and volunteers department. The participants contributed the funds for the training. Forty-eight participants attended the training course. These trainings prove the motivational level of the volunteers towards the movement.

Communication and Advocacy Development project objective: Continued growth in public knowledge and understanding of the RCRC Movement and an increase in the BDRCS mandate and programmes.

Expected results:

- Increased capacity and competence for the timely preparation, publication and effective propagation of accurate and relevant information.
- BDRCS has an effective and operational computer networking and management system.

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

- Enhance communication skills and more effective advocacy and networking with external organizations and programme stakeholders.
- A widely known, regularly updated and frequently accessed BDRCS website.

On 6 and 7 November, the planning and development department organized and conducted two day-long orientation workshops on 'communication, information and reporting' at BDRCS NHQ in two batches, with 59 senior volunteers from 28 branches attending the workshops. The objective of the workshops was to enhance the knowledge, skills and capabilities of the volunteers, enabling the branches to share their activities through communication and information with the stakeholders and to keep a regular flow on objective-based, impact-oriented reporting. The participants were enthusiastic and sincere in strengthening their capacities on the issues.

One day-long workshop on 'networking with the non-government organizations (NGOs) were held at 11 RC branches (Pirojpur, Khulna City, Magura, Bagerhat, Brahmanbaria, Jamalpur, Kishoreganj, Manikganj, Mymensingh, Moulavi Bazar and Tangail) from October to December 2004. A total of 30 participants, including five European Community Union (UEC) members, life members, two senior RCY volunteers and 20 local NGO representatives attended each of the workshops. The local NGO representatives expressed their willingness to be associated with the Red Crescent branches activities. The workshop's objective was to establish more coherent relations, co-ordinations and networking with the NGOs in the respective field of interventions.

During the reporting period the implementation of the national society's special 'branch development package programme' continued with the active participation of the branch level office bearers and volunteers. Many of the branches have mapped out comprehensive plan of action including membership drive and resource mobilization through fundraising. The planning and development department produced a bi-monthly 'Package Bulletins' published and circulated to all concerned on the basis of the monitoring results and reports obtained from the branches

Fourteen computers with accessories have been procured and provided to 14 branches with a view to enhance the functional facilities as well as a source of fundraising in the form of facilitating computer training. The computers were allotted to respective RC branches confirming the precondition that the respective branch will procure one computer by their own initiative and funding.

As reported in earlier updates, publication of a monthly newsletter has continued and circulated to various stakeholders, including partner national societies (PNS), Federation secretariat and others at regional and national level.

An advanced computer training for four senior officials of the accounts department has been conducted.

Established in 2003, the BDRCS library has been enriched with more relevant reference books, which have been procured in December 2004.

The Asia Pacific National Societies Collaborative Forum meeting jointly organized by the Malaysian Red Crescent Society and International Federation of Red Crescent Societies on measuring the impact of Organizational Development and Capacity Building work on the vulnerable people was held in Kuala Lumpur from 30 November to 3 December. The deputy director of the planning and development department attended the forum.

The Asia and Pacific Reporting Meeting focusing on monitoring and evaluation organized by the Asia Pacific Regional Reporting Unit was held in Kuala Lumpur from 30 November to 3 December. The BDRCS assistant director, DM division and BDRCS focal person for reporting and delegation reporting officer attended the meeting.

Delegation OD programme officer participated in the organizational development course for increasing knowledge and of methods and tools for change management organized by Federation Secretariat at Geneva from 5 to 10 December.

Finance Resource Development project objective : Increase the Bangladesh Red Crescent's capacity to generate, access, mobilize, and manage financial resources and ensure sustainable support to vulnerable groups.

Expected results

- Comprehensive and well developed fundraising strategies and related plans.
- A regularly reviewed and updated database of actual and potential local donor's utilization, involvement and fund generation.
- Increased and improved financial management and reporting skills.

As reported in earlier programme updates the fundraising department organized two day-long resource mobilization workshops together with donor seminars at sixteen RC branches with 50 to 60 participants drawn from the branch executive committee, senior volunteers attending each workshops and staff. In December one more two-day long resource mobilization workshops together with donor seminar was held at Sherpur RC branch. The workshop adopted several practical measures, including formulation of a donor forum with local administration actively involved in the process of branch level resource mobilization. During the seminar, potential donors committed substantial funds for the implementation of branch level activities and response in the event of disaster.

The fundraising department has further developed different souvenir items such as Red Crescent vest, training bag, Red Crescent mug and flower base etc. The department has sold souvenir items worth Taka 551,320 (CHF 11,730) during the year and earned a net profit amounting to Taka 110,000 (CHF 2,340).

The deputy director, fundraising department attended the FR skill share workshop held in the Netherlands from 15 to 18 October and FR manager forum's meeting from 17 to 19 November respectively.

In association with the planning and development department, on 26 to 27 December, the accounts department organized a two day-long training on finance development at BDRCS NHQ, with 30 officers and accountants from the field and NHQ participating in the training. The training course included the society's financial rules, plan, budget and control, procurement procedures, basic accounting system, financial reporting system and procedures, the Federation's accounting system and procedures etc.

Analysis of Organization al Development in 2004

BDRCS is continuously developing its capacities for programme management, leadership, volunteers and youth recruitment and retention, communications and advocacy, branch development and financial resource mobilization. This change process has enabled the introduction of more coherent management policies and strategies, and facilitated decentralization of the decision making process at national level. In 2004, considerable progress was achieved on all these fronts.

Initiated in 2003, the preparation of BDRCS four-year development plan (2005-2008) went through an intensive participatory strategic planning process in 2004, involving all 22 departments of the society. The planning and development department facilitated the whole formulation process of this long-term strategic plan. For some of the departments – especially disaster management (DM), health and fundraising – external professional consultants were engaged in facilitating the formulation of their respective strategic plans.

The intended result is to have a realistic four-year development plan (2005-2008) that is prepared and owned by the nationally society rather than the old 'centrally planned' model. Formulation of the society's four-year development plan is in the final stage. Some delay was experienced in the implementation of planned activities as the planning and development department was intensively engaged in the preparation of the BDRCS four-year development plan, and later the severe flooding situation in the country slowed the pace of implementation of activities in the field.

The planning and development department implemented its activities through five projects, namely *Programme Management Skills Development, Leadership Training, Volunteer Management Development, Communication*

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

and Advocacy Development and Finance Resource Development under the OD Programme. The lasting effect of the OD programme includes branch level capability particularly in respect of gender sensitisation, resource mobilization and networking with the NGOs, which have been ascertained through reporting and monitoring.

Majority of the branch executive committee members and volunteers are well aware of the Movement's work in general, as well as the characteristics of well functioning national societies and branches. Overall management capability of the concerned departments is gradually increasing and the overall capacity of the officers increased and the activities are being implemented more efficiently. Quality of training attracted outside organizations and income is being generated through sale of training courses.

The branches are more sensitized in addressing gender issues in their own activities. Potential women force has been actively involved through forming of the branch level women volunteers forum and demonstrated their enthusiastic support in performing humanitarian tasks in collaboration with the branches. The CHT development programme community squad volunteers are well acquainted with the CBFA and search and rescue techniques.

With these motivated and trained RCY volunteers the respective branches of the national society is able to disseminate the Movement's Fundamental Principles and ideals and IHL to the school and college students to motivate them to be enrolled as new volunteers and to work with the movement. The revised RCY policy will provide guidelines to the RCY volunteers to work in a better and systematic way for the movement.

The RCY leaders in the branches are now more confident and ready to face any challenge for the development of the Movement. The level of the commitment towards the movement is increased a lot. The national society will have a disciplined young force to serve for the distressed humanity.

The youth volunteers are becoming the focal group to conduct different youth programmes in the schools, colleges and other organizations in the country. Regular communication on RCY movement has established with 68 branches of BDRCS including the 20 branches under the pilot project.

All the units organized a cultural programme after the competition. The local elites were invited to witness the program with a large number of audiences of the community, which created a lot of dissemination of the Movement in the community. Cultural activity is a very good media to build the team spirit as well as to develop the acceptance of winning and defeat. This practice is contributing to maintain a harmonized environment in the branches. The branches have very good response and RCY membership is increasing.

The impact is very positive where dissemination dramas were held. The local support towards the RC branches activities is increased. All the programs and activities are getting support of the community people. The campaign to stop the misuse of the RC emblem created good awareness among the people about the misuse of emblems, the commitment of the civil surgeon, and advice of the local government authority created a good impact. At least 30 per cent of the misuse has been reduced.

Fundraising methods and techniques disseminated to unit executive committee members, volunteers and officers will further strengthen the unit capacity to explore local resource mobilization and achieve self-reliance. Along with fundraising, lottery, promotional and souvenir items served the purpose of dissemination. The field level officers have been enriched in financial management. Due to insufficient HR and lack of technical knowledge of the fundraising department, delays have occurred in the implementation of recently developed resource mobilization plan and strategy.

Branch level resource mobilization workshops had been able to generate enough enthusiasm at the unit level in raising funds and networking with the local stakeholders. The branches are more capable to organize and manage new fundraising initiatives.

The over all achievement of the projects is satisfactory which has been figured out over 80 per cent. The British Red Cross signed the PMN for the partnership PoA only in June 2004 though the activities were designed for the whole year. Unusual flooding made the BDRCS staff and volunteers engaged in relief activities, though some of

the branches were unable to conduct the scheduled tasks in time. In achieving the overall objectives the national society and the Federation delegation were actively and intensively involved. The significant lasting effect of OD programme is the increasing trend of the branches towards self-sustainability.

Conclusion

The overall implementation of the activities of OD programme has successfully been accomplished and resulted cent per cent of the desired effect. All through the year, the BDRCS OD team was intensively engaged along with the Federation OD team for formulation of society's four-year development plan, which more or less delayed in implementing the planned activities. Still the overall achievement is satisfactory. Specially, the gender sensitisation, resource mobilization and networking with the NGOs have been able to generate enough spirit and enthusiasm in ensuring the gender balance, initiating fund raising drives and cooperation and coordination at the branch level. Stress on branch development will continue as top priority in the coming years.

By the implementation of capacity building programme for the development of youth, BDRCS is currently developing its capacity to recruit, motivate and manage youth volunteers as well as improve the technical competence of its more than 63,000 youth volunteers through the provision of appropriate and effective training.

The youth department has continued with motivating and recruiting new members and being able to draw the national society's attention by taking initiatives and by generating new ideas for further development of the RCY members and volunteer's quality and commitment towards the movement to become more active.

The analysis and planning phase for the next strategic development plan (2005-2008) has now been completed, and the development plan will be finalized by the end of February 2005. The new plan will focus towards six key strategic directions critical to strengthening the foundation of BDRCS:

1. Continued constitutional reform support;
2. HR reform (including: organogram, staffing review, job descriptions, appraisal system, and downsizing strategy);
3. Resource mobilization (NHQ and branches);
4. Management skills development;
5. Branch development; and
6. Volunteer management and development.

The OD programme intends to continue to facilitate the development of the national society in these strategic directions through focused interventions in all departments (based on their annual plans) in the areas of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Representation, Implementation and Management

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

As reported in the earlier updates Federation and country delegation had continued to solicit and coordinate international support from UN agencies and diplomatic missions for humanitarian emergency operations and capacity building initiatives undertaken by BDRCS. The Federation/BDRCS continued to take part in regular co-ordination meetings organized by various UN and government agencies.

Regular contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding delegation administration matters was maintained. The head of delegation also visited the Federation secretariat in December for consultation and briefing with regional and other concerned departments.

The final draft constitution was approved in the BDRCS annual general meeting held on 29 December 2004, following the approval of the BDRCS final draft constitution by the ICRC/Federation Joint Commission for National Society Statutes in September with some amendments and provision for significant change on two key issues within the next six years.

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

As reported earlier BDRCS had a strategic four-year partnership agreement with British Red Cross, which is running into its second year, supporting DM and OD activities. A three-member BRCS team consisting of disaster preparedness (DP) advisor, programme development advisor and desk officer visited BDRCS from 4 to 19 December 2004. During the visit, the BRCS representatives exchanged their views with secretary general and other senior officials on mutual interests, particularly on the implementation of partnership activities.

BDRCS also participated in a 'real time' action learning exercise, coordinated by the Federation's South Asian regional delegation and British Red Cross. A field study was conducted, focusing on learning how previous investments in disaster preparedness have increased Red Crescent and community capacity to cope with disasters. The ongoing flood operation provides a good opportunity for real time learning at times of emergencies. Although from an operational point of view the learning process was not comprehensive as most of the key persons were implementing the emergency relief operation, and were not consulted at an early stage.

Findings are encouraging and positive and will further help in terms of future planning for effective disaster response. Findings of the study are also shared and discussed in a regional participatory action learning workshop held from 2 to 3 November.

Cordial, cooperative and mutually beneficial relations between the Federation's country delegation and the ICRC regional delegation based in Delhi had been continued during the reporting period.

Analysis of Representation, Implementation and Management in 2004

Throughout the year, the Federation secretariat (both at Geneva and country level) continued to play a leading role in attracting funding support, particularly with international donors based in Bangladesh. The delegation maintains a close relationship with all of its international donors.

Increased support and daily meetings are held with the BDRCS chairman and board members in order to provide necessary guidance to the newly appointed board of management. Main areas include changes to the BDRCS constitution and the national society's change management process. The secretariat and delegation is also advising and assisting the national society in its operational management, guiding it through an ongoing process of organizational change.

New initiatives and support to assist in strengthening the management and governance of BDRCS have enabled the national society to make some major advancement in line with its change management process. The active representation that the delegation has maintained was reflected in the 2004 floods appeal, where over CHF 500,000 was raised locally and with the support of the diplomatic community, the appeal was funded 162 per cent.

Conclusion

Throughout 2004, BDRCS had considerable success in a number of areas such as mother and child health (MCH) centres, seen as a model for other national societies in the region, and the 30,000-strong volunteer network cyclone preparedness programme (CPP). Another key achievement is the preparation of the BDRCS four-year development, including a four-year DM strategy (2005-2008). The floods of 2004 saw investment in BDRCS disaster response and preparedness come to the fore, with BDRCS and the Federation helping some 250,000 people by providing medical treatment needed via 70 medical teams dispatched to affected areas, distributing food supplies to 188,250 families, and providing disaster relief in 43 districts by mobilizing volunteers and staff to flood-prone areas.

In keeping with *Strategy 2010*, key areas of operation will be: health and care, disaster management (DM), humanitarian values (HV) and organizational development (OD):

1. *Health and Care*: Continued support to the countrywide MCH programme focusing on providing basic health services to mothers and children, and achieving sustainability for all MCH centres; and the introduction of a

Bangladesh Annual Appeal; Appeal no 01.56/2004; Annual Report

new five-year HIV/AIDS programme which intends to increase awareness and knowledge while at the same time build networks for better coordination and cooperation to achieve maximum impact.

2. *Disaster Management:* After one year of intensive analysis, planning and preparation, the newly developed DM strategy, with standardized systems, shared use of resources, and an integrated approach to planning and service delivery, will be launched.
3. *Humanitarian Values:* This year's emphasis is on promotion of HV and the Movement's Fundamental Principles through 'integration into current programming'.
4. *Organizational Development:* OD will continue to facilitate the development of the national society in the five strategic directions through focused interventions to all departments (based on annual plans) in the areas of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

The long-term presence of a Federation delegation, staffed by experienced and competent delegates and local staff, has added considerably to the capacity of the Federation in Bangladesh and has promoted external funding support; knowledge sharing and skills transfer to the national society.

Regular contacts are maintained with SARD and Chris Lamb, head, secretariat-humanitarian advocacy department on any political/regional developments.

Due to tense political situation and deteriorated law and order situation, delegation maintained through out the year a close vigil on the security situation, delegates and local staff were requested to stringently follow the delegation security regulation. No security incident reported during the year.

[*Click here to return to the title page*](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

01.56/2004 BANGLADESH

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2004/1-2004/12
Appeal	M04AA056
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
Budget (A)	166,151	1,401,733	30,111	577,807	0	2,175,802
Opening Balance (B)	22,411	126,731	1	36,500	6,771	192,414
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>British Red Cross</i>		179,830		142,321		322,151
<i>Capacity Building Fund</i>				92,500		92,500
<i>ECHO</i>		173,273				173,273
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>					3,783	3,783
<i>German Red Cross</i>		8,564				8,564
<i>Italian Red Cross</i>		76,475				76,475
<i>New Zealand Red Cross</i>		62,559				62,559
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>		6,600				6,600
<i>Other</i>	0		0			0
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>		340,500		161,088	4,745	506,333
Cash contributions (C1)	0	847,801	0	395,909	8,528	1,252,238
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
<i>New Zealand Red Cross</i>		0				0
Reallocations (C2)		0				0
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
<i>German Red Cross</i>		16,947				16,947
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>				60,967		60,967
Inkind Personnel (C4)		16,947		60,967		77,914
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Bank Interest-Current Acc-Federation</i>					19	19
Other Income (C5)					19	19
Total Income (C) = SUM(C1..C5)	0	864,748	0	456,876	8,547	1,330,171
Total Funding (B + C)	22,411	991,478	1	493,376	15,319	1,522,586

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
Opening Balance (B)	22,411	126,731	1	36,500	6,771	192,414
Income (C)	0	864,748	0	456,876	8,547	1,330,171
Expenditure (D)	-10,983	-909,413	-1	-377,157	-15,316	-1,312,870
Closing Balance (B + C + D)	11,428	82,065	0	116,220	2	209,715

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2004/1-2004/12
Appeal	M04AA056
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		166,151	1,401,733	30,111	577,807	0	2,175,802	
Supplies								
Shelter	99,245							99,245
Construction			30,229		2,711		32,940	-32,940
Clothing & textiles			13,747				13,747	-13,747
Seeds,Plants	2,024		7,200				7,200	-5,176
Water & Sanitation			32,679				32,679	-32,679
Medical & First Aid	81,272		20,599				20,599	60,672
Utensils & Tools	2,260		14,388				14,388	-12,128
Other Supplies & Services	55,401		1,351		6,312		7,663	47,739
Total Supplies	240,202		120,195		9,022		129,217	110,985
Capital Expenditure								
Computers & Telecom	104,170		16,647		14,622	1,447	32,715	71,455
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.					4,887		4,887	-4,887
Others Machinery & Equipment	5,179		7,512				7,512	-2,333
Total Capital Expenditure	109,349		24,158		19,508	1,447	45,113	64,236
Transport & Storage								
Storage	3,390		4,743			180	4,923	-1,533
Distribution & Monitoring			4,066		261	47	4,373	-4,373
Transport & Vehicle Costs	45,179	124	44,726		6,509	1,355	52,714	-7,535
Total Transport & Storage	48,569	124	53,535		6,769	1,582	62,010	-13,441
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	313,010		5,283		140	129,133	134,556	178,454
Delegate Benefits			145,860		107,471	-105,023	148,308	-148,308
Regionally Deployed Staff	495,894							495,894
National & National Society Staff		9,800	306,599		78,375	6,127	400,902	-400,902
Consultants	1,177		13,873		13,366		27,239	-26,062
Total Personnel Expenditures	810,081	9,800	471,616		199,352	30,237	711,005	99,076
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	464,707	1,191	91,054		106,850	3,245	202,340	262,368
Total Workshops & Training	464,707	1,191	91,054		106,850	3,245	202,340	262,368
General Expenditure								
Travel	44,885	8	23,231		5,560	1,550	30,350	14,536
Information & Public Relation	139,876		40,483		20,478	504	61,465	78,411
Office Costs	124,747	216	14,511		15,632	25,608	55,968	68,779
Communications	26,408	419	13,261		3,979	25,021	42,679	-16,271
Professional Fees	25,550							25,550
Financial Charges		35	77		2	-14,900	-14,786	14,786
Other General Expenses			21,607	1	4,388	-59,885	-33,889	33,889
Total General Expenditure	361,466	679	113,171	1	50,039	-22,103	141,786	219,680
Program Support								
Program Support	141,427	714	59,040		24,258	996	85,007	56,420
Total Program Support	141,427	714	59,040		24,258	996	85,007	56,420
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		-1,525	-23,356		-38,641	-87	-63,609	63,609
Total Operational Provisions		-1,525	-23,356		-38,641	-87	-63,609	63,609
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	2,175,802	10,983	909,413	1	377,157	15,316	1,312,870	862,932
VARIANCE (C - D)		155,168	492,320	30,110	200,650	-15,316	862,932	