

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

SOUTH ASIA

29 June 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

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In Brief

Appeal No. 01.61/2004; Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: 1 January to 30 April 2004; Appeal coverage: 47%; Outstanding needs: CHF 1,558,412 (USD 1,252,512 or EUR 1,020,400).
Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List - also available on the website.

Appeal target: CHF 2,920,099 (USD 2,336,928 or EUR 1,910,774).

NB: The appeal budget has been revised down by CHF 861,273 (23%) from the originally appealed amount of CHF 3,781,372¹

Click here to go directly to the attached revised appeal budget.

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Annual Appeal 01.64/2004](#)

Programme summary: On the whole, programme implementation across the core programmes has been satisfactory in the four months to date in 2004. A re-evaluation of activities for the remainder of 2004 has seen the appeal budget revised down by 23 per cent. The major changes have occurred in the health programme (reduced by 36 per cent) and disaster management (down 32 per cent). The health programme remains intact but personnel costs are significantly lower due to the cost sharing with Sri Lanka for the regional senior health manager's salary, lower than expected consultancy costs for the SIDA proposal, and the late arrival of a trainee delegate from the Japanese Red Cross Society, meaning salary support is only required for six months rather than a full year. The budget for workshops and seminars has been more than halved. Disaster management's budget reduction is due mainly to the postponement of mitigation activities until next year. This is due to time constraints and the need to achieve other planned activities before the end of the year.

The overall representation, management and implementation budget reduces by 17 per cent. Cutbacks in the programme support recovery supported core cost allocation for the delegation for 2004 have necessitated a substantial revision of the Federation coordination and Federation management (core cost) budgets. The Federation coordination appeal budget has therefore been revised upwards considerably to compensate for this unanticipated shortfall. The South Asia regional delegation wishes to acknowledge the support of the Swedish and Finnish Red Cross Societies (and their respective governments), and DFID for their funding of this appeal.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

¹ Note this was stated in error as CHF 3,827,700 in the original appeal.

Operational Developments

Maturity is a word that springs to mind when reflecting on the year to date, which started with an exclusive secretaries general meeting. The leadership of South Asia's national societies got together, without the ICRC or the Federation, to look at where they are and how they operate in terms of supporting each other and working with the other components of the Movement. They presented their views to the head of Asia and Pacific department, the ICRC and the Federation head of regional delegation. With the national societies taking ownership of regional processes, this is moving the *Strategy for Change* from words into action and accountability.

This maturity and boldness came through strongly at the South Asia regional partnership meeting in Nepal in March. This was reflected through a higher degree of openness and an environment of trust where strategies, impediments and matters of efficiency were freely discussed. Significant progress has been made towards the goal of well functioning national societies, both partner and national, since the last regional partnership meetings in 2000 and 2002.

We are on the cusp of resolving many long standing impediments which have often been the result of miscommunication and cultural misunderstandings.

Four years ago, the secretaries general of South Asia mandated the regional delegation to facilitate the national societies through a process of capacity building/organisational development. This has included human resource development, change management, constitutional review, policies in disaster management, branch development and secretaries general meetings. This process has helped produce policies and declarations from secretaries general meetings, and engendered an environment of greater trust and transparency.

With the continuing huge needs in Afghanistan and Pakistan, all departments in the regional delegation will be looking to give these countries priority to ensure a high level of support. This issue has been discussed among the various departments and will be followed up with country heads of delegation at a meeting in June.

Geopolitically, there have been changes of government in Sri Lanka and India, but these developments have not impacted adversely on the regional delegation's programmes. Security concerns remain in Afghanistan and Nepal in particular, which have impacted on the ability to carry out some activities.

To date the region has been spared any major natural disasters though the monsoon season is approaching; this will present challenges to the various disaster-prone areas of South Asia.

Health and Care

Overall Goal: National societies deliver high quality public health interventions, making significant impact on reducing vulnerability in South Asia.

Programme Objective: To enable national societies in South Asia to enhance their capacity to deliver high quality sustainable public health interventions in the identified core fields, supported through effective regional networking and coordination mechanisms.

Expected Results

- Regional networking is strengthened and supporting individual country efforts - including the South Asia Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (SARNHA) being effective and integrated with other regional forums;
- scaling up of HIV programmes;
- effective advocacy through regional fora on sensitive issues; and
- the sharing of best practices.

Progress/Achievements

SARNHA

The fourth meeting of SARNHA was held in March 2004. The organisation is at a crossroads in its approach to mutual support in scaled-up HIV/AIDS programming. The meeting focussed on reviewing the vision, mission, strategic directions, and roles and responsibilities of key players steering the network in the context of scaling up of HIV programmes in all national societies and the continued evolution of the epidemic in the region.

The participants were member national society governance representatives, senior managers and HIV coordinators, as well as representatives from the Asia Pacific Network of Positive People (APN+). The meeting reviewed the role and challenges of network members and confirmed the role of the network as an exchange and knowledge sharing body dedicated to strengthening horizontal linkages between national societies and regional approaches in the HIV response. The meeting decided on a half-year plan of action and to review the draft strategic plan at the next meeting (to be held in Kabul in October) in view of the regional scaling up and the potential strong, long-term support from development partners.

The SARNHA coordination office published and circulated in January 2004 the sixth issue of the network newsletter, presenting various articles on the ongoing scaling up of national society HIV responses. With a circulation of 1,500, the magazine was distributed to regional and national stakeholders. The coordination office has compiled materials for the next issue which is scheduled for May.

SARNHA, supported by the regional health unit (RHU), procured a laptop for the Afghan Red Crescent Society HIV unit to enable the national society to actively participate in the networking and sharing of information and experiences relating HIV/AIDS. All HIV focal points in the six national societies in the region now have computers. This is largely due to the Japanese Red Cross Society contribution in 2002 which supported equipment procurement in three national societies in the region.

Development of first aid minimum standards in Asia

The development of minimum standards in first aid was one of the key recommendations of the Asia Pacific first aid meeting in Kathmandu in 1998. The aim is to harmonise basic first aid certificates in Asia, ensure quality of first aid programmes, and better position national societies in their respective countries. Despite challenges in the development process, the regional committee tasked to formulate the minimum standards produced a final draft. A meeting of Federation first aid focal points in south and Southeast Asia, together with the health and care senior officer for Asia & the Pacific region, reviewed the current situation and outlined a road map on how to complete the harmonisation process.

A consultation with regional national societies in March revealed a continued interest in going ahead with the finalisation of the minimum standards. The national societies still see the added value of the harmonised training programmes and this view was reinforced during last year's regional health mapping exercise.

It is envisaged that two meetings attended by representatives of national societies of the three sub-regions will be needed in order to formulate validation and certification mechanisms to put the minimum standards into effect. These will commence as soon as the consultation processes in southeast and east Asia are completed

Profiling national society health programme

The RHU, in close collaboration with the regional information unit, undertook a project to assist national societies in profiling their key health programmes as well as improving the awareness of stakeholders and the difference these programmes make. Proposed earlier as a *Positive Lives* exhibition to be undertaken in two countries, this was expanded to cover key health programmes and to develop other communication materials in addition to the exhibition. Powerful images of different health programmes, which range from HIV/AIDS prevention, first aid, primary health care and reproductive health, blood services, and water and sanitation, were captured by professional in-country photo-journalists.

Using a selection of the captured images, a photo exhibition was staged during the South Asia regional partnership meeting in Nepal in March. The images were also utilised by the Indian Red Cross Society in developing quality information packs during the HIV/AIDS consortium meeting (March 2004), while the Nepal Red Cross Society also staged a photo exhibition during the cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) meeting (April 2004) using the images.

Pending the completion of photo coverage in Afghanistan and Pakistan, high resolution images will be compiled onto CD-ROM and distributed to regional national societies as well as relevant Movement partners. Some of the images will also be submitted to Geneva for inclusion in the Federation website and to Reuters for the same purpose. Negatives of the images will also be sent to the Federation Secretariat for use and proper storage, while all digital copies of the images are stored at the South Asia regional delegation's electronic photo-bank.

This project was generously supported by the Japanese Red Cross Society.

Impact

The health image project has raised awareness of the health needs of a number of vulnerable populations across South Asia, and the role Red Cross/Red Crescent health programmes play in addressing this vulnerability. To date, distribution has been relatively small, while the potential audience is huge. The CDs will serve as an advocacy tool for partners across the world to continue to mobilise resources for continued support to address vulnerabilities.

The Indian and Nepal Red Cross Societies have already utilised the images in producing quality information/communication materials during crucial meetings with Movement partners. Other national societies, individually or together with their respective Federation delegations, will be able to do the same considering the availability of new images of their health programmes.

The regional mapping exercise conducted in 2003 clearly demonstrated that first aid programmes are consistently a strong programme in all six national societies in South Asia. Standardisation and the development of quality assurance standards will help national societies in South Asia focus the first aid programmes further. This will potentially link into cost recovery schemes and increase the coverage of services in response to the large and increasing needs.

SARNHA continued to be instrumental in the forging of horizontal linkages between the national societies in the region for sharing of and collaboration on HIV responses through biannual meetings, information dissemination and sharing of good practices.

Constraints

The completion of the health images project took longer than expected. The photo coverage in Afghanistan and Pakistan could only be done in early May due to security and logistical concerns, as well as the difficulty of completing this activity on top of those planned during the period.

Expected Result

National societies increase their capacity to carry out high quality public health interventions through consistent support, direct training, linking with public health institutes, and consulting relevant literature.

Progress/Achievements

The RHU provided technical assistance, funded and facilitated health managers to attend trainings, conference and exchange programmes, as well as distributed relevant resource materials to regional national societies.

Technical support

The RHU provided focussed technical and management support to the health development priorities of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society through two three-week visits of the regional health manager. Key health development issues addressed included the recruitment of the health director, streamlining of the health division structure, and finalisation of the operational budget allocation. Technical and management guidance was also provided to each programme area, such as community health, HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, first aid (including the development of volunteer management systems), and formulation of a project proposal that outlines the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society contribution to the national measles/rubella catch-up immunisation campaign in September 2004.

The Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies of Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka also received technical support in connection with their strategic aim of further improving their leading position as providers of quality first aid training programmes in their respective countries. In coordination with the Federation regional delegation in Bangkok, relevant national societies in southeast Asia with first aid training institutes/centres were explored for the possibility of sharing their practices and providing peer support advice to the abovementioned societies.

Training, study visit and exchange programme

The RHU funded a senior health officer of the Nepal Red Cross Society to present papers during the 18th World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education (Australia, April 2004). The papers were related to their experience in utilising first aid as an effective approach to preventing or mitigating deaths and injuries related to road traffic accidents, as well as to attend to victims of internal violence and conflict.

Coordination support was also provided to the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society to enable its HIV/AIDS programme manager to attend a short course in Thailand on managing community-based HIV programmes in Asia; this was co-organised by the Macfarlane Burnet Institute (Australia) and the Australian Red Cross Society. The manager was also assisted in undertaking a short study visit to observe the HIV prevention programmes of the Thai Red Cross Society. Preparations are being made for a study visit of the Nepal Red Cross Society to observe HIV/AIDS and other health programmes of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, as well as to share experiences of the former's community-based health programmes. The visit is envisaged to take place during the second quarter.

Resource material distribution

CD-ROMs comprising Federation health and related policies, first aid programme development guidelines and reference materials were distributed to all national societies in the region. These information materials are intended to update programme managers on various emerging public health issues where first aid can have added value, such as road safety, injury and violence. Reference materials on HIV/AIDS, blood safety and blood donor recruitment, and health programme management were also shared with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society.

Impact

Support to national society representation at public health conferences and forums plays a key role in ensuring that they are recognised for their huge efforts in addressing long-term ongoing vulnerability and in supporting them in ongoing training and networking with other key players in the public health arena.

Technical public health and management support to the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society continues to be a priority, especially in the area of strengthening the public health capacity of the national headquarters in the context of a number of health programmes supported by various Movement partners, envisaged to start this year.

Constraints

A number of concerns were raised at the Sri Lanka partnership meeting in March regarding the financial situation of the national society. This continues to impact negatively on the ongoing good efforts of different partners, and implementation of agreed upon next steps is urgently awaited.

Expected Result

National societies benefit from well established regional networks and partnerships. Country delegations receive effective support from regional office. Funds are readily available and partners are well coordinated.

Progress/Achievements

Federation/WHO collaboration

The RHU has regularly followed up and supported country delegations and national societies on the technical collaboration outlined in the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the Federation and WHO. This was complemented by the participation of WHO focal points during the Federation regional management meeting in February, where they shared views on the added value of the collaboration between the two organisations and how to put this into practice.

At the regional level, a number of meetings were conducted during the period in order to sustain the current momentum, as well as to identify specific action points in the broad areas of collaboration outlined in the MoU. In April, WHO sponsored a consultant to work on a complementary WHO funding proposal outlining areas where WHO can complement the efforts of the Federation and national societies with regard to the HIV response. This step presents a new and potentially very beneficial way of working and is a token of the commitment of the organisations to building partnerships for developing comprehensive and complementary ways of addressing public health challenges in line with the new MoU and drawing on the strengths of different players. The RHU also coordinated possible technical collaboration with WHO in relation to raising awareness on the public health impact of climate change, which will be a component of a three-year regional climate change and disaster preparedness programme.

HIV/AIDS funding partnership

The process of developing a long-term proposal outlining a strategy for the scaling up of HIV responses in the region continued. A team of two external consultants on public health and HIV/AIDS, supported by regional team members and a partner national society (PNS) representative was formed. In line with the principles of participatory approaches, efforts were made to ensure the fullest consultation with the different stakeholders.

An internal regional stakeholder meeting was held in Kathmandu in March with the participation of three representatives from each country – the HIV manager, a senior executive and a representative from the country delegation - as well as representation from APN+. The meeting focussed on consultation with regard to the planning process and obtaining input into the proposal on scaling up HIV responses in South Asia from the different stakeholders.

The members of the proposal development team then visited all six countries in the region to gain a better understanding of government HIV/AIDS plans and strategies, current responses, key players' expectations from the national societies, and assess the institutional capacities of the national societies to meet these programme gaps. Supported by representatives from the national societies and country delegations, meetings were held with key national and international stakeholders such as government HIV representatives, key NGOs and UN agencies. Focus was given to understanding the input required for strengthening the national society capacity for implementation of HIV/AIDS interventions. Standard tools for needs assessments were prepared and pre-tested in Nepal before being uniformly applied in each country.

The exercise was carried out in close collaboration with the Swedish Red Cross Society which participated actively in the process from the initial stages. Efforts are ongoing to secure long-term funding based on the proposal from the planning exercise, as well as active participation from different PNS, with the potential for securing long-term financial resources.

Support to country delegation

The RHU provided scholarship support to the Federation Pakistan delegation to enable its senior health programme officer to participate in the Health Emergencies in Large Populations (HELP) course.

Coordination meetings

Japanese Red Cross Society support for the regional health mapping last year has continued to bear fruit, with the ongoing use and dissemination of the report to both external and internal players in various regional and global forums. The mapping exercise was presented as a case study in the Geneva biannual health retreat meeting in March, attended by regional health delegates from across the world, health advisers of PNS, and Secretariat health and care department members. Following this, several partners in other regions indicated interest to replicate the exercise. Findings from the exercise were also presented at the recent South Asia regional partnership meeting and the information gathered has been an important marketing tool supporting ongoing efforts to secure long-term development funds.

As part of the HIV prevention proposal development process, the consultation and coordination meetings with key stakeholders in the six countries in South Asia enabled the RHU to establish contacts and explore future coordination/collaboration mechanisms with key UN agencies involved in the HIV/AIDS response, regional and national networks of HIV positive people, key government agencies, donor agencies, NGOs, and research institutions.

Impact

The securing of long-term developmental funding is a prerequisite for any meaningful large scaling up of the Movement's HIV response in the region. The epidemic continues to advance at an alarming rate. National societies as well as respected civil society players with wide-reaching community networks are in a unique position to reduce the impact of this potentially explosive epidemic. Supporting the national societies and the various Movement partners in good analysis, coordination and well grounded participatory planning is imperative for realising the large potential role the Movement is likely to play in combating the epidemic in South Asia.

Exploring new partnerships with organisations such as WHO has the potential to have a very beneficial effect on the national society programmes and is in line with an increasing demand for broad comprehensive responses with participation of many different public health actors.

Constraints

As outlined above, long-term funding support for the Movement is the only meaningful strategy to effectively combat the threat of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the region.

Disaster Management

Overall Goal: To reduce the impact of disasters on vulnerable populations throughout South Asia, as indicated by a reduction in the number of deaths and the amount of damage sustained during disasters, and to increase the capacity of the population to respond and recover.

Programme Objective: South Asia national societies have an improved response mechanism to the needs of the most vulnerable disaster-prone population before, after and during disaster and emergency situations.

Disaster preparedness project objective: South Asia national societies meet the criteria for well prepared national societies and demonstrate their capacity to reduce the vulnerability of disaster-prone communities.

Expected Result 1

South Asia national societies have adopted the consolidated community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) and awareness raising programmes.

Progress/Achievements

A regional meeting on training materials, held in Bangladesh in April, discussed skills and awareness requirements at various levels of Red Cross/Red Crescent operations, i.e. volunteers, districts and national headquarters. Participants from the national societies of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka attended. Analysis of training needs was promoted and integration of knowledge/awareness modules and skill modules was encouraged. Subsequent meetings with health and organisational development delegates highlighted the need to develop a minimum training programme for volunteers and separate modules for technical competencies. This approach will help to increase reach in communities through coordinated branch development/programme capacity building. This will be further discussed during a regional disaster management (DM) planning meeting scheduled for July, to be facilitated by the regional DM team.

The training materials will include basic and advanced knowledge on the Better Programming Initiative (BPI), humanitarian values, vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA), *Safer Access*/conflict awareness, etc. based on programme requirements.

Expected Result 2

South Asia national societies have identified community capacities and vulnerabilities leading to operational and strategic DM plans, reflecting regional and global priorities of the Movement.

Progress/Achievements

The national societies of India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan are better prioritising activities through consulting district chapters and branches. The Afghanistan Red Crescent Society has started conducting VCAs in selected provinces to identify community vulnerabilities. The use of the map-based Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) will help national societies achieve this by storing information and providing analysis of data.

A consultant is helping the regional team develop a solution for DMIS where all national society branches which have computers will have easy access to relevant data, contact information and maps of programme areas. This tool will help the national societies both in planning and during disaster response by efficient deployment of resources available with nearby branches/chapters.

The South Asia Regional Delegation (SARD) has shared DM policy/plan documents with national societies engaged in the development of their country disaster preparedness policies/plans. The Sri Lanka, Indian and Pakistan national societies have made good progress and have draft documents under discussion, while Afghanistan has a CBDP policy draft.

Expected Result 3

The demand for trained and competent staff of each gender is met, with four national societies to develop and use locally appropriate disaster preparedness/disaster response training materials.

Progress/Achievements

During a six-day regional disaster response team (RDRT) training-of-trainers (ToT), held in April in Bangladesh, the scope and approach to conduct national disaster response teams (NDRT) was discussed. The skills required to develop appropriate training materials and functional simulation exercises were also looked at. Participants carried out this simulation exercise and demonstrated their newly acquired skills in planning, organising and facilitating the event. This was attended by the Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka DM managers. The Nepal Red Cross Society and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society will arrange their first NDRT in the third quarter of 2004.

The regional disaster preparedness manager attended the Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) workshop in Australia in March. The learning from this workshop will help develop appropriate modules for training of national society staff in coordination and assessments, which will complement the NDRT modules national societies are working on.

In order to build a good library at each national society, several videos and publications on general training aspects and DM have been shared with them. A kit is also being developed to help national societies carry out functional simulation exercises. The kit will consist of a guide book, portable telephone EPABX, wires, and a video of the Bangladesh simulation event.

With their new skills and resources, DM managers will be able to build capacity of sub-national human resources more effectively.

Expected Result 4

DM staff in South Asia national societies/delegations are using appropriate software and hardware tools for cost effective and efficient operations, through better operational and knowledge management linkages with government and other disaster preparedness practitioners in South Asia.

Progress/Achievements

The lessons from simulation exercises, one-to-one discussions with secretaries general and DM staff members in Bangladesh in April has provided opportunities to discuss and develop IT tools which will help national societies to reduce costs of knowledge management and communications, and respond better during disasters. All the RDRT members now have an exclusive email ID on rdrt.org, in order to facilitate their communication and consultation. This will also be a platform for information dissemination and email alerts.

Map-based DMIS is also progressing well with two modules ready for data entry and query. After discussions with organisational development and health delegates, it has been agreed that all programme sectors will make efforts in helping national societies map their capacities and resources for better programme planning and optimal resource utilisation.

A knowledge management tool will also be developed by a consultant to map good practices related to resource mobilisation for DM programmes. Such good examples will be shared with national societies in order that they use this information and contribute development of this knowledge repository for regional/global use. Initially managed by an outside agency, the operation of this tool will then be managed by SARD staff and ultimately national society staff after adequate training.

Impact

There has been an increase in the availability of trained staff and volunteers.

There has been more analysis and consolidation of training needs. This has led to the development of appropriate materials/modules, making training programmes more effective and creating more impact.

There has been the development of cost effective tools for knowledge management and successful practices. The development of specific email IDs means trained staff are available electronically while the availability of map - based DMIS has increased.

There is a wider distribution among national societies of reference materials on training, management and DM. National societies are building libraries of these resources.

Coordination has improved as a result of the above activities, with improved communication with government and other agencies. There also has been increased coordination among the regional health and organisational development departments and the integrated DM department (disaster preparedness, disaster response and population movement).

NB: The Finnish Red Cross Society, besides funding an important part of the DM programme, contributes with 30 per cent support to the Finnish Red Cross Society regional delegate in the areas of networking, knowledge sharing and the development and promotion of partnerships with other stakeholders for capacity building in DM.

Disaster response project objective: South Asia national societies have a strong regional disaster response capacity that is operational by linking the Movement's regional and international resources effectively and efficiently, supported by global resources as needed, to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable people in a participatory manner.

Expected Result 1

Regional disaster response (DR) team concept further developed, structured and equipped, linking and supporting national response mechanisms in the region as well as international response tools such as emergency response units (ERU) and FACTs.

Progress/Achievements

A first draft of the regional DM guidelines has been circulated for comment within the DM team and a second draft is being prepared, to be shared with country delegations and the national societies in the region. The purpose of these guidelines is to clarify what can be expected from the regional DM team on a continuous basis through a systematic process of updating and improving.

Expected Result 2

A network of disaster managers has been developed to facilitate peer-to-peer communication in the region and is linked with Federation response systems.

Progress/Achievements

Through integration with disaster preparedness, important parts of this expected result have been accomplished. (See disaster preparedness section above).

Expected Result 3

Regional DR curriculum available linking the national curriculum to FACT and ICRC training activities in order to further facilitate development of a regional movement approach and minimum standards in DR at national, regional and international level.

Progress/Achievements

A ToT RDRT was held, followed by a workshop on regional resource development for training. (See also section on disaster preparedness). This will facilitate the development of a broader base at national level for RDRT, while at the same time the development of NDRT by national societies is supported. The development of a regional trainers' pool will support the regional peer-to-peer interaction.

Impact

A comprehensive regional response structure is in place, linked to national societies, country delegations, global response systems and PNS. A regional DR manager has been recruited and arrangements are being made for the function of an emergency response coordinator. With these arrangements and the additional support of the Finnish Red Cross Society, the function of the DR delegate has become redundant; he ended his mission in May.

Constraints

Due to lack of funding, and in view of the timeline for implementation, the mitigation projects mentioned in the appeal are postponed until next year.

Some activities had to be postponed for a variety of reasons, most of them related to security issues.

Population movement project objective: All South Asia national societies have an operational, comprehensive and inclusive population movement project, linking DM with other RCRC core programmes, while assisting uprooted vulnerable people.

Expected Result 1

Population movement (PM) focal points established in each national society.

Progress/Achievements

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has recruited a PM coordinator. He has been trained in *Reach Out* and is conducting a basic assessment to identify which branches work on PM activities. The Nepal, Indian and Pakistan national societies have PM focal points. Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have yet to appoint focal points. However the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society has advertised for a PM coordinator whose first task would be to do a situation analysis of the PM programme in the national society.

Expected Result 2

Tools such as the BPI, *Reach Out*, Red Cross/Red Crescent legal instruments and human rights instruments concerning PM translated into South Asian local languages.

Progress/Achievements

Materials and handouts of tools such as BPI, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, code of conduct, etc. are being translated into Nepalese.

Expected Result 3

Conduct awareness programmes on PM activities in Red Cross/Red Crescent, its legal instruments including international humanitarian law, humanitarian values and refugee law/protection, in cooperation with ICRC and other organisations at regional and national level. (NB: This expected result has been amended from the original appeal).

Progress/Achievements

The expected result has been amended to also include "refugee law/protection" as part of the awareness programme. This will be done in cooperation with the ICRC and other organisations at regional and national levels. These changes more accurately reflect the intended expected result.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society hosted a *Reach Out* ToT and is in the process of completing a situation analysis on the PM programme. The national society intends to identify a focal point for PM.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society has been very active in conducting BPI workshops. Two have been held at branch level and another was held for senior managers from national headquarters. The national society is interested in using the tool in their programmes as BPI appears to be very relevant in the current country context.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society has taken the initiative to translate PM related materials and tools such as BPI, *Reach Out*, code of conduct, etc.

UNHCR had hosted two *Reach Out* workshops in Pakistan, with PM focal points from the Afghanistan and Pakistan Red Crescent Societies participating. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society's PM focal point is particularly active and has been trained in BPI. However, with the new changes within the organisation and in the country, the refugee issue remains a major concern.

A regional PM awareness regional seminar was held with four South Asia national societies participating (including three secretaries general). Other organisations attending were the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), UNHCR, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and UNIFEM. All are involved in working with different categories of forced migration. National societies stressed the need to coordinate and cooperate with other organisations at national and regional levels which have specific mandates relating to forced migration. For example, UNHCR is involved with refugees while the ILO deals with migrants. It was recognised by Red Cross/Red Crescent components that the Movement does not have expertise in all these subjects. It was suggested that, to build the capacity of national societies, coordination with external organisations is necessary.

Expected Result 4

Developed guidelines, policies or strategies for regional PM programme. (NB: This expected result has changed from the original appeal).

Progress/Achievement

It was highlighted by national societies at the PM regional awareness seminar that establishing strategies or policies on PM is a priority, rather than specific guidelines such as family reunification which could be incorporated into the programmes as one of the approaches. Therefore the expected result is amended and focusses on developing guidelines, policies and strategies on PM in general rather than specific programmes such as family reunification.

The Nepal Red Cross Society successfully adopted a PM policy in April 2004.

Expected Result 5

Development and implementation of pilot projects by each national society in South Asia based on their needs and priorities identified.

Progress/Achievements

The Nepal Red Cross Society has been successful in implementing the PM pilot project which used BPI as a tool to develop skills of refugees and local people. The national society has gained a year's funding from the Netherlands Red Cross Society to conduct a skills training project for Bhutanese refugees and people from local communities.

The Nepal Red Cross Society is carrying out two other projects for Bhutanese refugees, i.e. distribution of water containers and a river bank project. The psychosocial first aid programme is also being conducted for the Bhutanese refugees with the support of the American Red Cross Society.

Meanwhile, there has been a little progress in the PM pilot project in Jaffna. The pilot project concerns a HIV/AIDS prevention programme targeting internally displaced persons as well as high risk groups in the Point Pedro division. The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society has made the acting HIV/AIDS director national headquarters focal point for this project. An MoU has been drafted and is being reviewed by all the components of the Movement as well as the branch. Once the MoU is agreed upon and signed, the implementation of the project will start immediately. The NGO assigned to carry out the needs assessment and the knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) studies will be Lanka Alliance, which has more expertise than the local NGO initially identified.

Expected Result 6

Existing initiatives for replication and potential national societies' activities in the area of PM have been mapped and evaluated.

Progress/Achievements

At the regional workshop in February 2004, the Afghan Red Crescent Society outlined a desire to:

- create more awareness on PM issues;
- map national society PM activities;
- set up pilot projects for internally displaced persons; and
- create a policy or strategy for PM.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society identified three main categories it intends to target in PM:

- Myanmar refugees in Cox Bazar;
- victims of human trafficking and smuggling; and
- migrants (including economic).

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society has integrated PM activities with humanitarian values in their four-year DM strategy.

As outlined earlier, the Nepal Red Cross Society has successfully adopted a PM policy this year. The main focus of the policy is on refugees and internally displaced persons. The national society has also voiced concern about the growing problem of victims of human trafficking.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society identified returnees, internally displaced persons and migrants as its target groups with regard to PM.

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society identified refugees and internally displaced persons as its target groups under the PM programme. With DM being a major focus for the national society, PM is now a part of the DM department. The national society is developing its four-year strategy which includes examination of the PM component of DM.

Expected Result 7

Establishing an effective informative communication system on PM in the region and globally. (NB: This is a new expected result).

Progress/Achievement

The national societies at the PM awareness regional seminar suggested that a communication and information sharing mechanism needs to be established. This would be to ensure national societies are informed and updated on PM issues in the region as well as globally. It would also provide a base for national societies to coordinate among themselves and share knowledge and best practices. This new expected result has been incorporated into the appeal to reflect this.

The regional PM project is working on establishing a link on the internal Federation website *FedNet* for the South Asia regional PM programme.

Impact

Obviously, there has yet to be any impact relating to the *FedNet* activity and more will be reflected once it is up and running.

The PM programme in the region has had a focus on building national societies' capacity and providing assistance, helping to increase knowledge, sharing experiences, providing technical assistance and some financial assistance in human resource development, and establishing pilot projects.

The regional seminar was an effective forum for national societies to discuss PM and the role they have played and would like to play. The gathering assisted coordination with other organisations such as ICRC, UNHCR, UNIFEM, ILO and IOM.

Constraints

PM, whilst an old problem, is a relatively new project in the Movement. This means that, in South Asia, it tends to attract less funding and recognition than some more well established programmes/projects. The term "population movement" is still vaguely defined for some national societies and external organisations, leading to misunderstanding as to what the objective of the programme is. The highlighting of PM in the *Manila Action Plan* has helped, to some degree, to clarify what the Movement's goal and strategy is in this area and how it relates to forced migration.

There is a lack of expertise among national societies in South Asia in the legal mandates and international legal instruments relating to the various categories of forced migration. Although the national societies have identified specified target groups under PM, there is a need to identify the approach they will take and build their expertise in those areas.

Further extensive technical and financial support will have to be provided to national societies in the region to increase their capacity to deal effectively with the various categories of vulnerable people that fall under PM.

There is a need to strengthen PM programmes in all national societies in the region. A strong theme which came out of the regional forum was the need to integrate PM issues into all existing core programmes.

Humanitarian Values

Overall Goal: Increase trust and understanding and reduce violence and discrimination within communities across South Asia, through existing programmes of the national societies.

Programme Objective: Effective communication with internal stakeholders, the media, public authorities and civil society results in changed behaviour of target groups and consequent reduction in discrimination.

Expected Result 1

The Global Agenda on Discrimination and humanitarian values are promoted through effective communication and advocacy with internal stakeholders, the media and civil society and national society programmes, bringing about changes in behaviour.

Progress/Achievements

To progress the Global Agenda on Discrimination in the South Asia region, a comprehensive introduction of the issues was presented at the South Asia regional partnership meeting in Nepal in March. Humanitarian values were major themes of the meeting. The gathering was attended by senior representatives of all six national societies in the region as well as ICRC, SARD and 14 PNS.

The head of the Federation principles and values department (Geneva) outlined the department's mission in the promotion of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.

The institutional background of humanitarian values was stressed (the *Manila Action Plan*, the Kabul Pledge 2002, the Council of Delegates 2003 Resolution 9, and the Federation Pledge at the International Conference 2003.)

The contextual background was also highlighted (the regional CAS, aspects raised in South Asia national society presentations at the meeting, technical presentations such as those on HIV/AIDS, etc.)

With funding support from the Danish Red Cross Society, the new position of humanitarian values coordinator has been created. (Previously the information manager also had responsibility for humanitarian values). This new position will allow for increased focus and energy to be put into this programme. The recruitment process has been completed and the coordinator will assume his full duties in June. A major task to be completed before the end of the year will be a comprehensive mapping exercise. This will examine what national societies in the region have done in the past to address discrimination through their programmes. This will be followed up by analysis of the data collected; this activity is expected to carry through until 2005.

With support from SARD, the Nepal Red Cross Society redesigned its humanitarian values programme to more accurately reflect the national society's role in dealing with the conflict situation in the country. The terms of reference for the department previously dealing primarily with information and dissemination has been broadened to give an overarching role for the humanitarian values programme. The department has been renamed the humanitarian values department. It will liaise closely with ICRC when undertaking activities.

The regional humanitarian values programme helped the Nepal Red Cross Society develop training materials suitable to the context of the conflict situation in the country. This material is being piloted with senior national society staff and members of the governing board.

Expected Result 2

Alongside promoting the understanding of the Fundamental Principles, national societies have advocated on different forms of discrimination vulnerable people face, with a focus on people living with HIV/AIDS.

Progress/Achievements

Humanitarian values were highlighted at the regional seminar on PM in Nepal in March. The event was attended by representatives from government, (I)NGOs, UN organisations and five of the six national societies in the region. There were discussions on the Global Agenda on Discrimination with relation to those vulnerable people affected by PM.

This seminar also addressed issues of discrimination in general and how national societies were placed to respond. Discrimination based on gender was one area of particular concern, with the issue raised by three of the national society secretaries general present. The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society has indicated this is an area of humanitarian values it will explore with a view to focussing on it in future.

The Nepal Red Cross Society is very active in dealing with the issue of racial discrimination and has incorporated elements of BPI into most of its programming, especially in projects addressing the vulnerabilities of Bhutanese refugees.

Following on from the encouraging results in 2003 of the journalist fellowship programme, which focussed on stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS, a similar exercise will be carried out this year. It is hoped that four journalists will take up the fellowship. Material gathered from last year's activity (feature articles, dissertations, etc.) will be edited and utilised for promotional and educational materials. Progress on this will be reflected in future updates.

Impact

National societies are still in the process of grappling with understanding the various dimensions of the programme. The relevance of the Global Agenda against Discrimination is only just beginning to be understood. In that sense, there is limited impact. However, it is apparent that national societies in the region are beginning to get a clearer view of what activities to undertake and what strategies to employ to implement the Global Agenda against Discrimination. The challenge for the new regional humanitarian values coordinator is to continue this momentum and to help clarify the path forward for national societies. The planned mapping exercise will be integral to this.

Constraints

Funding was very low in the first quarter with just 20 per cent coverage. However this has since improved markedly to 60 per cent.

Organisational Development

Overall Goal: Vulnerable communities benefit from relevant, effective and accountable services as a result of the national societies demonstrating the characteristics of well functioning societies.

Programme Objective: Regionally consistent standards and mutual capacity building strategies will strengthen service delivery systems through improved planning, management skills, human resource development, communications capacity, and sustainable programmes in all national societies.

Strategy and management development project objective: South Asia national societies will manage strategic change processes that result in relevant and focussed services to vulnerable communities delivered through strong legal bases, effective and diversified human resource bases, sustainable programmes, and integrated approaches to capacity building in all programmes.

Expected Results

- Strengthened legal bases in all South Asia national societies are developed, leading to clearer positioning and recognition as leading providers of humanitarian services.
- Standardised understanding and approach to capacity building and organisational development (OD) across all national societies, Federation and ICRC in the region lead to better quality and consistent community level service provision.
- Active and diverse junior and youth membership and volunteer base integrated into all levels of governance and service delivery across the region.
- National society with women active in membership and all levels of governance and management, leading to policies and services in all programmes with clear gender perspectives.
- National societies with diversified resource bases leading to sustainable service provision to the vulnerable.
- National society senior governance and management with the confidence and support to manage strategic change processes.

- Mutual capacity building between national societies will have increased quality of services and capacity building because of two strategic staff-on-loan opportunities per year.

Progress/Achievements

Progress in strategy and management in early 2004 has been slowed due to the departure of the previous OD delegate and the handover process for the replacement delegate. The new OD delegate has conducted a consultative process to decide which of the planned activities will be continued and whether there need be any changes. The following have been identified as key activities to be implemented in 2004:

- Joint regional senior governance and management workshop with ICRC;
- Technical support and advice to national societies, as required, to assist in development and implementation of country level plans of action;
- Regional OD/capacity building workshop for all national societies. The theme of the workshop will be how to strengthen national societies through programmes. It will be conducted back-to-back with a regional DM workshop and include joint training sessions;
- Establish regional knowledge sharing practices to build on use of common agreed frameworks – capacity building fact sheets and branch development framework;
- Annual fundraising forum for fundraisers in national societies; and
- Review of impact of this programme by all national societies. This is highlighted as a key activity in the 2004 Annual Appeal. The project will be closely linked to the Tripartite Advisory Group request to measure impact of the Capacity Building Fund grants. A final report will be produced in 2005.

Since the regional constitution review workshop in 2001, there has been an ongoing process of strengthening the legal base of national societies. An example of this is the completion in 2003 of uniform branch rules in the Indian Red Cross Society which were approved by the managing body in March 2004.

Under the OD programme in 2003, an external consultant worked with three national societies to build their capacity to mobilise resources locally. As a result, the Nepal Red Cross Society, with support from the Capacity Building Fund, is seeking to recruit two fundraising staff. The Afghanistan Red Crescent Society has this year also asked for further assistance from the consultant to continue development of its resource mobilisation capacity.

At the regional partnership meeting in Kathmandu in March 2004, there was full commitment to the use of the regional CAS as a guiding document for all partners in the region. This shows progress in the building of a regional capacity where sharing information, learning from each other and using the same guiding documents is becoming the norm.

The 2004 Annual Appeal budget has been revised downwards slightly due to a reprioritisation of the management and strategy part of the OD programme as outlined above. In striving to ensure that activities can realistically be achieved, some earlier planned activities will not take place. However this process is a refining of the programme rather than a reduction. Another reason for the reduced budget is that some activities will be co-funded with ICRC.

Impact

The approval of the uniform branch rules was a significant step in the lengthy process of reviewing the Indian Red Cross Society's constitution.

Constraints

The gap between the departure of the previous OD delegate and the arrival of his replacement has impeded the implementation of some of the planned activities.

Information development project objective: Effective communications, advocacy and networking initiated by the national societies in the region delivers enhanced services to vulnerable communities by national societies improving internal and external information management techniques.

Expected Results

- Enhanced technical skills, knowledge sharing and mutual support between national societies;
- A strong organisational network focussed on flow of information and knowledge;

- Resources and professional staff in each national society to further the objectives of the branch development framework; and
- National society branches exhibit improved internal communication.

Progress/Achievements

There has been little progress to date with regard to the enhancement of technical skills, knowledge sharing, etc. A peer group has been initiated amongst the information officers of the Indian and Nepal Red Cross Societies and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. The peer group has been sharing knowledge and mutually supporting one another's activities. For instance, the Nepal Red Cross Society information department has supported its counterparts in the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society with advice on various operational matters.

The establishment of a strong organisational network has been impeded by a change of several information officers in three national societies. Activities relating to this expected result will be pursued in the remainder of 2004. A new regional information manager takes up his position in June. As opposed to the previous manager, who also had responsibility for humanitarian values, the new manager will be able to focus primarily on information development.

In furthering the objective of the branch development framework, the regional information department funded the Nepal Red Cross Society in printing a Nepali version of the *Movement Guide for Communicators*.

To date, no other activity has been undertaken with regard to this expected result, due in part to funding and the changes to information staff in half the national societies in the region.

However, there has been cumulative progress in information development as a result of ongoing work from previous years. The raising of professional standards of national society information staff has been part of a long-term approach by the regional delegation and this is now bearing fruit. Development of the information capacities over the past two years, especially in the Nepal Red Cross Society, has yielded good results. Examples of this have been the production of reasonable quality daily newsletters during the national society's youth workshop and also during the Nepal CAS meeting.

There has been no activity to date to progress the expected result of national society branches exhibiting improved internal communication, but these will be carried out in the remainder of 2004.

As at May 2004, this project was funded at just 38 per cent and more money is urgently required. Key activities planned for the remainder of 2004 are:

- regional information workshop and three country-based information workshops for information focal persons from branches;
- staff-on-loan from national societies to SARD;
- a ToT to enable all national society national headquarters information units to train branch personnel; and
- internships for three branch-level information focal persons at national headquarters.

Impact

The regional information development programme of SARD is now in its fourth year and significant progress has been made. This is evident from improved performance of information departments in some of the national societies in enhancing the overall visibility of their national societies and the Movement in the region.

The Nepal Red Cross Society is an equal participant with the Finnish Red Cross Society in a Finland-based fundraising campaign. This collaboration has produced some good publicity for Red Cross/Red Crescent programmes in South Asia. An exchange programme between the Nepal and Finnish Red Cross Societies was also explored.

A photographic exhibition of *Strategy 2010* activities of national societies, corresponding to health and care in the community and the regional health programme, is helping raise visibility of Federation/national society programmes. The exhibition was launched at the regional partnership meeting in Nepal in March and is available

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as a promotional/educational resource for all six South Asia national societies. It is also available for PNS and other

interested Movement partners. The regional information and health departments are putting the exhibition on CD-ROMs and will distribute these shortly. National societies will be encouraged to explore fundraising opportunities as well as promotional activities utilising this resource.

This activity was kindly supported by the Japanese Red Cross Society.

Constraints

A lack of funding in the early part of 2004 has restricted activities. Staff changes in three of the six national societies in the region have also impeded progress. However, the funding situation has improved while new staff at national society level are settling in and this project should proceed as planned for the remainder of 2004.

Regional finance development project objective: To improve national society financial accountability, reporting and management capacity, in support of management decision making, with a resulting improvement in quality and timeliness of reports and a gradual reduction in dependency on donors and the Federation.

Expected Result

- Vulnerable communities receive well timed and efficient services through improved financial planning and management capacities at all levels of the national societies.

Progress/Achievements

The initial assessment work in the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society to develop a sound, transparent and effective manual accounting system has been completed. The regional finance development manager, after consulting the OD delegate and finance delegate of the Afghanistan delegation, emphasised the need to have a focal person who could follow up with the national society on a regular basis. Accordingly, the post of a finance development officer has been advertised. Once this position has been filled, the regional finance development department will be able to more clearly map out its plan to assist the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society with a sound, transparent and effective accounting system.

A refresher course for Navision finance software was conducted in the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in February. A consultant made a week-long visit to assist staff with day-to-day issues working with the software.

The Indian Red Cross Society has agreed to develop its financial and accounting manual to regulate financial systems and procedures. The regional finance development manager will work closely with the India delegation's OD manager as well as finance director of the Indian Red Cross Society and an external consultant.

Finance management development was funded at just 40 per cent against the appeal budget as of May 2004 and urgently requires more funding. Key priorities for the remainder of 2004 are:

- assisting the Afghan Red Crescent Society in developing a transparent and effective accounting system;
- conducting finance management workshops in five national societies;
- facilitating a regional finance directors meeting;
- exchange programme visits for staff from three national societies;
- purchase of software for warehouse, to be installed in the Nepal Red Cross Society;
- developing regional finance procedures manual and internal audit manual; and
- purchase of finance software for Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

Impact

Finance development work continues to produce results and the efforts of the past three years are now paying significant dividends. The quality of financial management and reporting throughout the national societies in the region three years ago could have generally been categorised as poor. However, basic processes such as working advances have improved markedly.

It should be noted that due to funding and human resources, the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society has not received as much financial development assistance. However, as reflected in the South Asia 2004 Annual Appeal, this national society will be receiving more assistance from the regional delegation from 2004.

ICRC Nepal has agreed to support finance management training for accountants of 18 district branches of the Nepal Red Cross Society, with similar training for another 20 accountants in conflict-affected districts to commence shortly. ICRC has also been supporting the salary of an accountant for the Nepal Red Cross Society from the beginning of 2004. This support is a direct result of the region's finance directors meeting which was attended by ICRC for the first time.

Constraints

Funding for the finance development programme has been a constraint. However, some donors have recently confirmed their support and this project is expected to proceed according to planned and approved activities.

Planning and reporting project objective: Timely and increased resources reach vulnerable communities because of improved reporting capacities at all levels of the national societies.

Expected Results

- Increased quality and meeting of deadlines by national societies for standard appeals and reports, currently coordinated by the Federation's regional or country delegations;
- Designated, competent person responsible for planning and reporting in place in each national society;
- Designated persons receive practical on-the-job training as part of the Federation's internships by end of 2004;
- Basic hardware and software is available for the use of the designated reporting/planning person in each national society;
- The Federation's standard appeals and reports from South Asia are of a high standard.

Progress/Achievements

There is continued improvement among the six national societies in the region in meeting reporting deadlines for standard mandatory Federation reports. The reporting consultant has instituted an 'early warning' reminder system to alert national societies (and country delegations/Federation representatives) of upcoming deadlines.

Little progress has been made on the expected result of designated, competent people responsible for reporting in place in each of the national societies. At the time of writing, just two of the six national societies have a specific reporting focal point. Others delegate or share the task amongst staff but this is not a satisfactory or sustainable solution. There had been a third (and very promising) reporting focal person at national society level who unfortunately resigned in March 2004 and has not been replaced.

The reporting consultant has lobbied national societies on the importance of quality reporting and the advantages of having a designated member of staff responsible for reporting. He has also utilised visits by the head of regional delegation and various regional delegates to convey this message.

The reporting consultant has conducted development visits to Pakistan and Nepal. Visits to the remaining four national societies are scheduled for the remainder of 2004. The approach has moved away from a workshop mentality to more intensive one-to-one training. Workshops are more useful once a solid skill base has been established; this is not yet the case in the majority of the national societies in South Asia.

The reporting consultant is working closely with the regional DM and health departments in particular, to try to improve the quality of information bulletins and the writing of emergency appeals at national society/country delegation level.

Reporting quality has improved in 2004 but this improvement must be seen in perspective. There is still a heavy reliance on country delegations/Federation representatives to assist with finalising drafts and their input has helped maintain a reasonable standard of the final product.

The activities relating to internships and the provision of hardware/software are scheduled for later this year.

The appeal budget for the planning and reporting project has been revised down by 20 per cent. The bulk of this reduction is due to the decision not to employ a reporting officer to assist the consultant as the current human resource capacity is sufficient. The reduced appeal budget means the project is 87 per cent funded as at the end of May 2004.

Key activities to be undertaken before the end of 2004 include :

- support to a national society reporting focal person with English language/writing training;
- an internship at SARD for a national society reporting focal person. On-the-job training and one-to-one tutoring is a powerful and effective method of achieving results; and
- a regional reporting meeting/workshop with intensive training and follow-up; however this will be dependent on more national societies appointing reporting focal points.

Impact

As outlined above, there has been an improvement in reporting quality and timeliness. There is more evidence of analysis in reporting as opposed to long lists of activities. It has been challenging to get national societies out of the mindset of quantitative reporting and move towards qualitative reporting; however, there has been some progress in this area.

Constraints

Attitudes to reporting at national society level remain a major stumbling block. It is often seen as an onerous chore in addition to and not part of their other work. The reporting consultant has impressed strongly on national societies the value of reporting as an analytical/planning tool and that it needs to be seen as integral to the process and not external to it. Continued lobbying, training and reporting development visits are meant to overcome this attitudinal problem.

The quality of written English is patchy amongst national societies, which results in reports with good content still requiring substantial sub-editing. Capacity building of reporting focal points by means of English writing skills training is one method of improving this situation. However, the reporting consultant impresses upon national societies the value of employing staff with good English writing skills from the outset with regard to reporting.

The internal methods and reporting systems of national societies (especially from branch to national headquarters level) are often at odds with the Federation formats. There is a tendency for internal reporting to focus on statistics, tables and ticked boxes with no emphasis on narrative or analysis. The reporting consultant has suggested changes in internal reporting systems to two national societies and will be following this up. He will also study and suggest changes/improvements in internal reporting systems in the other four national societies.

Representation, Management and Implementation

Federation Coordination and Representation project

Overall Goal: The roles and policies of the Federation at the global and regional levels are widely understood and supported by key stakeholders within the international community, enabling South Asia national societies, and the vulnerable communities they serve, to receive optimal support for the implementation of their priority programmes through a coordinated response by partners from inside and outside the Movement.

Programme Objective: Strong coordinated and diversified partnerships with long-term stakeholders lead to sustainable, cost effective national society priority programmes targeted at those most in need of assistance, and based on agreed regional policies and strategies which effectively maximise the use of regional resources.

Expected Results

- National societies will benefit from stronger PNS partnerships in programme planning, content and support;
- Regular partnership and secretaries general meetings are forums for coordination and peer monitoring;

- Secure multi-year funding for the national societies' priority programmes, all of which have elements that lead to sustainability;
- The regional CAS provides each national society with strategic support to be the leading humanitarian organisation in its respective country;
- Increased level of regional recruitment for the Federation's staff and delegate positions inside and outside of the region;
- Increased number of staff exchanges and secondments between the Federation and national societies, and between national societies within the region;
- Strategic and coordinated development of Red Cross/Red Crescent human resources in the region;
- Status agreements are secured between the Federation and the governments of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan;
- Regular meetings held with relevant counterparts in targeted diplomatic missions to market the annual appeal, emergency appeals and provide operational/policy updates;
- Enhanced, positive public profile of the Federation and national societies in the region; and
- Key stakeholders receive regular and appropriate Federation information/publicity materials.

Progress/Achievements

The partnership with the Finnish Red Cross Society, whereby a dual role (bilateral coordination and Federation) delegate is placed in SARD, continues to develop fruitfully. The delegate's role has become more focussed on involvement in DM activities in the regional delegation during 2004. One of the benefits for the regional delegation is having a PNS perspective close by at all times. Unfortunately, a similar partnership with the German Red Cross Society has been temporarily disrupted this year due to the delegate's redeployment to Berlin for the first half of 2004.

The secretaries general of the South Asia national societies for the first time arranged their own independent meeting, held in Sri Lanka in January. Discussions centred on cooperation and coordination and resulted in a meeting declaration (available on request from SARD). SARD head of regional delegation and head of Asia and Pacific were invited to attend for the last day, as was an ICRC representative.

A successful regional partnership meeting, co-sponsored by ICRC, was held in Kathmandu in March. It was well attended with a total of 62 participants, including representatives from 16 PNS (including 2 observer PNS) in addition to the six South Asia national societies. The Federation was represented by members of SARD, the country delegations and offices and the Geneva South Asia and humanitarian values teams. ICRC was also well represented through delegates from each of their South Asia offices. The themes of the meeting were 'South Asia Four-Year Vision' and 'Humanitarian Values'. In the meeting evaluation by participants, there was a high level of satisfaction expressed.

Partners attending the meeting agreed on the following key commitments which are integral to a regional four-year vision and which will be used to shape our collective future support to South Asia national societies:

- to use the regional CAS as a framework for coordination and collective mobilisation;
- to assess carefully the vulnerabilities of communities in conformity with the principle of independence and involve beneficiaries in all stages of the programme cycle;
- to provide effective support through utilising the strategy for the Movement as the action plan for collaboration;
- to work towards a more long-term, holistic perspective, integrating the contributions of all partners and volunteers and ensuring that internal and external communications reflect and promote our approach; and
- to increase our attention and support to all aspects of volunteer and staff management.

A separate comprehensive report on the meeting has been distributed to all key partners and is available electronically on request from the SARD reporting consultant.

Preparation of a major programme proposal for scaled up support to national societies in the field of HIV/AIDS is currently underway. It is being targeted to obtain long-term funding support from the Swedish government (SIDA)

and is being developed by the SARD health team in partnership with the Swedish Red Cross Society. In line with the MoU signed last year with WHO in the extended South Asia region, WHO is also involved in the proposal

preparation phase with the intention that they will play an integral role as a collaborative partner in the resulting programme implementation. Other potential partners are also being considered. Further details can also be found in the health section of this programme update.

In line with the policy of diversity of human resources, two senior positions in the SARD have been filled through regional recruitment during this period. A regional DR manager has been recruited from Nepal and will be out-posted in Kathmandu; and a regional information manager recruited from Sri Lanka will join the SARD team in Delhi in June.

An extensive job evaluation exercise has been carried out in SARD and the India delegation to harmonise terms and conditions and establish a solid structure and grading system with potential application in other Federation delegations.

Development of the RDRT concept continues to make progress, led by the DM team. Several national society personnel throughout the region have been selected and trained, ready for possible deployment during this year's flood season. (See the DM section for more information.)

The head of regional delegation has maintained regular contact with a wide range of diplomatic missions, government officials, the ICRC, NGO's, UN agencies, etc. Constant and strategic lobbying of the diplomatic community, UN agencies, INGOs and the private sector has been maintained to emphasise and highlight the annual appeal, emergency appeals, and to provide operational/policy updates where applicable.

Key stakeholders and potential partners for long-term partnerships, particularly in the area of HIV/AIDS, have been lobbied and are kept briefed on SARD policy directions in this area.

Impact

South Asia secretaries general have taken ownership of their own regional meeting process to develop and coordinate their own priorities. This will result in a more strategic use of the Federation support structure to provide improved services to the vulnerable in their respective countries.

The regional partnership meeting resulted in a high level of commitment amongst all participants to provide longer term and more sustainable support to the South Asia national societies more focussed on involvement of vulnerable people. The final impact of this is yet to be seen but is expected to result in more appropriate and better targeted programmes.

The lobbying of diplomatic missions and other key contacts continues to raise the profile of the regional delegation and the Movement as a whole. This has also achieved increased knowledge of the policies and strategic directions of the regional delegation and the Movement as a whole in South Asia. This activity has also more clearly positioned Red Cross/Red Crescent as a major international humanitarian organisation.

An important impact is continuing to clarify for organisations outside the Movement the separate but complementary roles of the Federation and ICRC.

Constraints

Budget limitations during this early part of the year have precluded staff secondments and exchanges; however, these remain an integral part of the specific project appeals and project operational budgets will be revised accordingly as the situation improves.

Legal status agreements continue to be pursued in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka; however, the India application is currently stalled due to the Indian general election. In Sri Lanka, progress is good and it is likely this process will be concluded in the second half of this year.

The information programme has been implemented previously by one person who has also handled humanitarian values. The net result has been that coverage of Red Cross/Red Crescent events and information and publicity has

been limited. During the first part of 2004, these functions were separated and an additional person recruited. This will permit renewed focus on promotional activities as well as a more focussed humanitarian values programme during the second half of the year.

Cutbacks in the Programme Support Recovery supported core cost allocation for the delegation for 2004 have necessitated a substantial revision of the Federation coordination and Federation management (core cost) budgets. The Federation coordination appeal budget has therefore been revised upwards considerably to compensate for this unanticipated shortfall. The revision principally consists of removal of the programme coordinator's costs, along with some of the head of regional delegation's costs to the Federation coordination budget. Additional funds will therefore need to be sought for this project and this programme update should be considered as a revision of the appeal in this regard.

Delegation Management project

Overall Goal: Country delegations, Federation representatives and regional delegates provide coordinated, optimal support to the national societies in their work to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable.

Programme Objective: Federation financial, human and programme resources in the region are managed efficiently and cost effectively, with optimum support, guidance and coordination provided from SARD to country delegations and Federation representatives.

Expected Results

- SARD operates effectively as the Federation's central service, support and knowledge core in support of country delegations and Federation representatives;
- Regular coordination meetings maintain a sense of teamwork between all delegates and staff in the Federation's country delegations and the SARD;
- Efficient and effective programme monitoring and implementation with quality reporting is delivered to partners and donors;
- Sound financial management at all levels ensures expenditure within approved budgets; and
- Efficient mechanism established to ensure complete and timely flow of key information to donors and between all delegations in the region.

Progress/Achievements

SARD has continued to enhance its capacity to deliver more effective service to country delegations. Regional technical programme managers established close working relationships with their country level counterparts during 2003 and this has been consolidated during the first part of 2004. Technical matters are now routinely discussed between country and regional levels. In the DM programme in particular, the focus of regional support is moving closer to vulnerable people through active enhancement of national society DM capacities at all levels.

The regional delegation has provided national societies with continuous coaching, monitoring, motivation and encouragement.

The regional programmes coordinator spent considerable time assisting the Sri Lankan team in formulating and fine-tuning an operational cooperation agreement defining the terms for Federation financial support to the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society. It is hoped that this agreement can form a model for other delegations in the region.

The regional delegation has provided national societies with continuous coaching, monitoring, motivation and encouragement.

Regular SARD team meetings involving SARD staff and country heads of delegation/Federation representatives continued with the first meeting for the year being held in mid-February. The meeting covered a wide range of issues and was well appreciated by attendees. It was also attended by the head of planning from the Geneva Secretariat, a regional officer from the Asia and Pacific department, head of the regional finance unit in Kuala Lumpur, and two representatives from the ICRC regional office. A senior regional representative from WHO also

attended to discuss opportunities for collaboration in terms of the WHO/Federation MoU. The Indian Red Cross Society secretary general addressed the meeting to summarise outcomes of the secretaries general meeting in Colombo in January.

The 2003 annual reports on the regional and country appeals were all processed through SARD and reached the regional reporting unit in Kuala Lumpur in good time. Additional assistance has also been given by SARD to preparation of specific country level reports, including the Sri Lanka floods and landslides final report.

As part of the ongoing delegation of financial management, all programme managers in SARD revised their operational budgets during April to better represent current operational and financial realities. Revision of appeal budgets has also been carried out where necessary and is reflected in this programme update. Though it is still rather early in the year, expenditure is, for the most part, on track with operational budgets, though income in some programme areas is not as good as anticipated. (See programme sections above for specific details).

Two SARD newsletters have been produced in 2004 in accordance with the bi-monthly target. These have been distributed to all internal stakeholders including national societies, Geneva Secretariat, ICRC, and the Asia and Pacific delegations. Minutes of the regional partnership meeting have been prepared and distributed to all interested parties. Routine and systematic sharing of relevant information with country delegations and, where appropriate, national societies, is carried out on a day-to-day basis.

Impact

SARD technical support and advice to country delegations has increased.

SARD assistance to country delegations in the production of reports, and the processing of final edited versions, has resulted in consistently higher quality reports delivered on time.

Revised operational budgets have enabled programme managers to manage their expenditure within available funding limits.

Stakeholders have been kept fully informed of progress of regional programmes and events.

Constraints

Major revisions of SARD core costs budget and Federation coordination budget have been required. (See coordination and representation section above).

As reported last year, to continue to implement the 'new way of working', delegation management capacity needs to be enhanced to permit more time to be spent on strategic issues and a more proactive approach to planning and coordination. This has yet to be addressed successfully due to competing financial and workload priorities during the first part of 2004.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

South Asia Regional Programmes

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.61/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

23/06/2004

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

CASH

| REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF -----> | | | | 3,827,700 | TOTAL COVERAGE 38.4% | |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------|-----|-----------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CASH CARRIED FORWARD | | | | 133,789 | | |
| BRITISH RC | | 40,000 | GBP | 92,320 | 18.06.04 | REGIONAL OD - FINANCE DEVELOPMENT, REPORTING DEVELOPMENT |
| BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004 | | | | 361,500 | 29.01.04 | ID, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HEALTH, |
| DANISH - GOVT | | | | 32,047 | 17.05.04 | HUMANITARIAN VALUES COORDINATOR |
| FINNISH - GOVT/RC | | 145,000 | EUR | 228,448 | 26.02.04 | DISASTER MANAGEMENT, POPULATION MOVEMENT, DELEGATE |
| FOUNDATION BOARD | | | | 15,000 | 16.02.04 | HIV/AIDS |
| SWEDISH - RC | | 400,000 | SEK | 67,400 | 16.04.04 | ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, DISASTER MANAGEMENT, HUMANITARIAN VALUES |
| SWEDISH - GOVT | | 2,300,000 | SEK | 387,550 | 16.04.04 | HUMANITARIAN VALUES, DISASTER MANAGEMENT, HEALTH, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT |
| WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION | | 11,700 | USD | 14,789 | 11.04.04 | HIV/AIDS |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH | | | | 1,332,843 | CHF | 34.8% |

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
| DENMARK | DELEGATES | | | 64,400 | | |
| ICELAND | DELEGATES | | | 73,200 | | |
| Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete. | | | | | | |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES | | | | 137,600 | CHF | 3.6% |

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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

South Asia Regional Programmes

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.61/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

23/06/2004

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

BUDGET 2004

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 01.61/2004

Name: South Asia Regional Programme

| PROGRAMME: | Health & Care | Disaster Management | Humanitarian Values | Organisational Development | Coordination & Implementation | Emergency | Total |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| | CHF | CHF | CHF | CHF | CHF | CHF | CHF |
| Shelter & construction | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Clothing & textiles | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Food | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Seeds & plants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Water & Sanitation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medical & first aid | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Teaching materials | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Utensils & tools | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other relief supplies | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SUPPLIES | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Land & Buildings | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vehicles | 25,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25,000 |
| Computers & telecom | 14,000 | 35,340 | 0 | 34,500 | 10,500 | 0 | 94,340 |
| Medical equipment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other capital exp. | 1,676 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,676 |
| CAPITAL EXPENSES | 40,676 | 35,340 | 0 | 34,500 | 10,500 | 0 | 121,016 |
| Warehouse & Distribution | 0 | 1,200 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,200 |
| Transport & Vehicules | 6,840 | 11,400 | 0 | 0 | 5,200 | 0 | 23,440 |
| TRANSPORT & STORAGE | 6,840 | 12,600 | 0 | 0 | 5,200 | 0 | 24,640 |
| Programme Support | 36,952 | 45,622 | 12,987 | 49,391 | 21,761 | 0 | 166,713 |
| PROGRAMME SUPPORT | 36,952 | 45,622 | 12,987 | 49,391 | 21,761 | 0 | 166,713 |
| Personnel-delegates | 161,550 | 88,980 | 0 | 119,850 | 318,700 | 0 | 689,080 |
| Personnel-national staff | 83,418 | 123,818 | 29,964 | 185,207 | 115,419 | 0 | 537,825 |
| Consultants | 65,270 | 42,155 | 42,000 | 80,988 | 0 | 0 | 230,413 |
| PERSONNEL | 310,238 | 254,953 | 71,964 | 386,045 | 434,119 | 0 | 1,457,318 |
| W/shops & Training | 71,060 | 215,568 | 64,395 | 167,800 | 74,500 | 0 | 593,323 |
| WORKSHOPS & TRAINING | 71,060 | 215,568 | 64,395 | 167,800 | 74,500 | 0 | 593,323 |
| Travel & related expenses | 31,755 | 61,300 | 12,254 | 74,626 | 21,100 | 0 | 201,034 |
| Information | 22,000 | 51,500 | 33,500 | 600 | 16,800 | 0 | 124,400 |
| Other General costs | 48,966 | 25,000 | 4,700 | 46,900 | 106,088 | 0 | 231,654 |
| GENERAL EXPENSES | 102,721 | 137,800 | 50,454 | 122,126 | 143,988 | 0 | 557,088 |
| TOTAL BUDGET: | 568,487 | 701,883 | 199,800 | 759,862 | 690,068 | 0 | 2,920,099 |