

Appeal 2004



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Southeast Asia Regional Programmes

Appeal no. 01.66/2004

The International Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. The Federation is the world's largest humanitarian organisation, and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. All international assistance to support vulnerable communities seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, according to the SPHERE Project.

This document reflects a range of programmes and activities to be implemented in 2004, and the related funding requirements. These are based upon the broader, multi-year framework of the Federation's Project Planning Process (PPP). The PPP products can be requested through the respective regional department. For further information concerning programmes or operations in this or other countries or regions, please also access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

| | 2004 |
|---|------------------------------|
| Programme title | in CHF |
| Strengthening the National Society | |
| Health and Care | 1,552,406 |
| Disaster Management | 1,742,574 |
| Humanitarian Values | 294,979 |
| Organisational Development | 734,760 |
| Representation, Management, and Implementation | 711,750 |
| Total | 5,036,470¹ |

¹ USD 3,777,353 or EUR 3,223,341

Regional Context

The Southeast Asia region comprises a kaleidoscope of 11 countries with a total population of around 550 million people, of which more than 100 million live below the poverty line. It is a region characterised by large diversity with regard to socio-economic and human development levels, political systems, cultural, religious and ethnic patterns, population sizes and geographic features. It is markedly disaster-prone, with two countries, Indonesia and the Philippines, struck by calamity somewhere within their borders almost on a daily basis, while in East Timor, which achieved nation status in 2002, poverty is endemic. Rarely a year passes without serious flooding along the Mekong River affecting tens of thousands in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, while Myanmar's political isolation, which increased during 2003, poses significant difficulties for disaster response when the need arises.

The vulnerability of certain countries in the region to unexpected, sudden onset events was dramatically demonstrated by the crisis generated by the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) virus, which even at the height of the Iraq war, captivated the world's attention for several months in the first half of 2003, seriously affecting economies across Southeast Asia and at one point threatening a huge health emergency. Statistics from the World Health Organisation (WHO) show that the number of cases in six Southeast Asian countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) amounted to just over 300, with more than 40 dead – a fatality rate which if extrapolated to higher caseloads provided the real cause for concern.

Nevertheless the region is gradually emerging from the Asian economic crisis of 1997/98, with stability returning to Brunei, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore, though elsewhere the recovery continues to be slow and painful, not helped, for instance by the ongoing spectre of terrorism in Indonesia where the humanitarian and economic fallout from the Bali bombing of October 2002 will be felt for many years to come.

Disparity within and between countries has resulted in extensive labour migration in the region. In part this is a well established and regulated phenomenon, particularly with labour migration from the Philippines to countries in Southeast and East Asia and the Middle East, which constitutes a major source of national income. But much migration is considered illegal by the 'host' government and gives rise to vulnerability among migrants, who invariably work under unhealthy and dangerous conditions, with lack of access to health and social services, and absence of legal protection. Extensive cross-border movements contribute to the spread of infectious disease in the region.

Meanwhile, disease patterns are changing influenced by socio-economic transformation and possibly also by climate change. Increasingly serious dengue epidemics in many countries – including middle or high-income countries such as Malaysia and Singapore – are just one example of epidemiological change. Although Thailand has successfully achieved a decline in HIV infection rates, other countries face an alarming AIDS outlook. Those countries in economic transition simultaneously experience ill-health patterns typical of developing countries - as well as those of affluence - creating a double burden for governments.

It is against this complex and challenging background that the region's Red Cross Red Crescent societies must operate in the never-ending quest to improve the situation of the most vulnerable by harnessing the power of humanity. These societies, long established apart from the newly-formed Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste, are uniquely positioned in their respective countries through their extensive national network and a huge volunteer base, to play a vital auxiliary role with their governments in addressing the humanitarian imperative. As the charts in this section indicate, the diversity of the vulnerability and stability in Southeast Asia is immense.

Over the coming year and into 2005, the Federation Secretariat, though its regional delegation in Bangkok, supported by strategically located country delegations and offices, will continue to add value as the architect of Red Cross Red Crescent cooperation and coordinator of international assistance in Southeast Asia. Health and care, disaster management, promotion of humanitarian values and organisational development will remain the primary programme areas where the regional delegation will maintain capability to provide technical support and advice to the national societies and the country delegations/offices in the region. It should also be noted that from the start of 2004, the regional delegation's workload will increase significantly as it takes on managerial and operational responsibility for direct support to the Lao PDR and Vietnam Red Cross societies – the former since the Federation Secretariat office in Vientiane will close and the latter due to some serious cooperation and coordination

challenges. The regional delegation's budget for 2004 reflects the extra accountabilities and activities now falling under its remit.

Key Regional Human Development Indicators: Socio-economic

| Country | HDI Rank | Gender HDI Rank | Life Expectancy at Birth | | Adult Literacy Rate | | Estimated Earned Income (PPP US\$) | |
|-------------|----------|-----------------|--------------------------|------|---------------------|------|------------------------------------|--------|
| | | | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male |
| Singapore | 28 | 28 | 80.0 | 75.7 | 88.7 | 96.4 | 14,992 | 30,262 |
| Brunei | 31 | 31 | 78.7 | 74.0 | 88.1 | 94.6 | 11,716 | 26,122 |
| Malaysia | 58 | 53 | 75.3 | 70.4 | 84.0 | 91.7 | 5,557 | 11,845 |
| Thailand | 74 | 61 | 73.2 | 64.9 | 94.1 | 97.3 | 4,875 | 7,975 |
| Philippines | 85 | 66 | 71.6 | 67.6 | 95.0 | 95.3 | 2,838 | 4,829 |
| Viet Nam | 109 | 89 | 71.0 | 66.3 | 90.9 | 94.5 | 1,696 | 2,447 |
| Indonesia | 112 | 91 | 68.2 | 64.3 | 82.6 | 92.1 | 1,987 | 3,893 |
| Myanmar | 131 | ... | 59.8 | 54.4 | 81.0 | 89.1 | 746 | 1,311 |
| Cambodia | 130 | 105 | 59.4 | 55.2 | 58.2 | 80.5 | 1,621 | 2,113 |
| Laos | 135 | 109 | 55.2 | 52.7 | 54.4 | 76.8 | 1,278 | 1,962 |
| East Timor* | 153 | ... | 59.2 | 55.6 | 42.8 | 43.1 | ... | ... |

Key Regional Human Development Indicators : Health

| Country | Population with access to | | | HIV/AIDS Prevalence | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Improved sanitation % | Improved water sources % | Affordable drugs % | Adult Rate (age 15-49) % | Women (age 15-49) | Children (age 0-14) |
| Singapore | 100 | 100 | 95-100 | 0.20 | 860 | <100 |
| Brunei | ... | ... | 95-100 | ... | ... | ... |
| Malaysia | ... | ... | 50-79 | 0.35 | 11,000 | 770 |
| Thailand | 96 | 84 | 95-100 | 1.79 | 220,000 | 21,900 |
| Philippines | 83 | 86 | 50-79 | <0.10 | 2,500 | <10 |
| Viet Nam | 47 | 77 | 80-94 | 0.30 | 35,000 | 2,500 |
| Indonesia | 55 | 78 | 80-94 | 0.10 | 27,000 | 1,300 |
| Myanmar | 64 | 72 | 50-79 | ... | ... | ... |
| Cambodia | 17 | 30 | 0-49 | 2.70 | 74,000 | 12,000 |
| Laos | 30 | 37 | 50-79 | <0.10 | 350 | <100 |
| East Timor* | 38 | 50 | ... | ... | ... | ... |

Source: Human Development Index (HDI), Human Development Report, UNDP 2003 (* East Timor, 2002)

Red Cross Red Crescent Priorities

Regional strategy

Three overall priority areas for Red Cross Red Crescent activities in Southeast Asia are defined in the Federation's current regional assistance strategy, which is due for review and update during 2004/2005, following the sixth Asia Pacific regional conference in Manila (November 2002) and its focus on health, population movement and disaster management:

- *There is national and international recognition of humanitarian needs in Southeast Asia and of the Red Cross Red Crescent's role in addressing them, with its actions being matched with adequate resources.*

The primary strategies in achieving this aim centre on advocacy in international and regional bodies, particularly ESCAP, the ASEAN Regional Forum, WHO and with individual governments, as well as networking.

- *National societies possess the organisational characteristics and technical capacity to identify and address existing and new vulnerabilities and to publicise their action.*

Principal strategies include regional and national workshops, seminars and training opportunities, staff exchange and on-the-job training, offering of technical advice by Federation staff or other resource persons, networking and information sharing.

- *The Federation Secretariat, through its Southeast Asia regional delegation is capable of providing a first response during emergencies as well as long-term technical support in the areas of disaster preparedness, health, organisational development and information, including the ability to advise national societies on new humanitarian concerns in the region.*

The priority here is on quality of staffing and the flexibility of the regional delegation to be able to respond immediately to emergencies, while retaining the ability to carry out continuous technical tasks and advisory services for national societies.

During 2004/05, the Federation will continue to focus less on direct programme implementation and more towards regional coordination, facilitation and providing technical support, in keeping with its principle task of empowering national societies in Southeast Asia to deliver activities that have the greatest impact on vulnerability. There will also be ongoing interface with the *Manila Action Plan* (MAP) implementation taskforce and the working group formed to follow through the priority areas defined at last year's regional conference in the Philippine capital.

There will be considerable emphasis too, on supporting and working with Red Cross Red Crescent partners undertaking bilateral activities in the region. The increasing mix of Red Cross Red Crescent multilateral and bilateral initiatives in Southeast Asia (and elsewhere) intensifies the importance of developing cooperation agreement strategies (CAS) in the respective countries. In September 2002, the Lao Red Cross reached agreement with its partners on a CAS document and memorandum of understanding (MoU), which is enabling the withdrawal of the Federation's representative from Laos at the end of 2003, thus placing responsibility for coordination as well as implementation of Red Cross Red Crescent activities in Laos, firmly in the remit of the national society. There was good progress too during 2003 with the preparation of a draft CAS document in Indonesia, with similar activity elsewhere in the region a high priority.

Movement context

The International Federation's Southeast Asia regional delegation was established in Kuala Lumpur in 1991 and transferred to Bangkok in June 2000. In line with the Federation's regionalisation process, initiated in 2001, during 2004, five Federation delegations and offices based in Southeast Asia (Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Myanmar and Vietnam) will continue to be managed from the regional delegation in Bangkok which offers support to all 11 of the region's Red Cross Red Crescent societies - including Brunei, Laos (whose Federation office closes at the end of 2003) Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore - through technical units specialising in health and care, disaster management, information and organisational development.

Consistent with the foregoing is the imperative of close linkages between all components of the Movement, especially the Federation and ICRC at regional and country level. The ICRC's network in Southeast Asia extends to two regional delegations (Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur) and three country delegations (Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines). In the region covered by these delegations (which include Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, China, Mongolia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea for Bangkok and Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Japan for Kuala Lumpur), the ICRC works to promote the ratification and implementation of humanitarian treaties, to encourage incorporation of international humanitarian law (IHL) into military training programmes and to support the development of national societies in areas mandated to the ICRC.

In Cambodia, the ICRC helps restore family links, visits detainees and assists disabled people who are victims of past conflicts. The Cambodian Red Cross Society is gradually taking ownership of the tracing services previously run by the former country delegation. The ICRC supports a national orthopaedic components factory, and, has separately co-hosted a continuing education program in an orthopaedic school.

In Thailand, IHL training materials, jointly produced with the armed forces, have been distributed, in addition to briefing sessions to combatants before their deployment.

In accordance with its mandate to ensure the continuity of ICRC programmes to help the Vietnam war-disabled, the ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled has since 1995 supported the Ho Chi Minh City rehabilitation centre in partnership with the labour ministry IHL programme modules are organised in collaboration with the education ministry.

In East Timor, the ICRC has concentrated on the issue of persons who went missing from 1975 to 1999, restoring family links, visiting detainees and promoting adoption of relevant IHL treaties such as the Geneva Convention of 1949. It also works to support the formation of the national Red Cross Society, especially strengthening its capacity in tracing and dissemination. Its water sanitation project, launched at the end of the 1980s, was formally handed over to the East Timor Red Cross early in 2002.

In neighbouring Indonesia's trouble spots of the Moluccas, Aceh and Papua, the ICRC works closely with the Indonesian Red Cross Society to protect and assist victims of violence, especially displaced and resident populations whose livelihood or family contacts have been disrupted by fighting. Throughout the country, the ICRC works to broaden the acceptance of IHL by promoting its implementation, supporting its inclusion in training programmes for armed forces and police personnel, and developing activities with universities to foster the study of IHL in academic circles. Following the Bali bombing in October 2002, a joint Indonesian Red Cross and ICRC tracing team collaborated in the search for missing persons, while together with the Federation, the ICRC coordinated assistance to the Indonesian Red Cross from the Australian Red Cross.

The ICRC also makes regular visits to people deprived of their freedom in Myanmar. It supports prosthetic/orthopaedic programmes for mine casualties and other disabled people. In Shan, Kayin and Mon states, the ICRC addresses basic sanitation needs in selected villages and assists hospitals providing surgical care to the wounded.

In the Philippines, the ICRC works to assist and protect civilians displaced or otherwise affected by armed clashes between the government and insurgent groups, primarily on the southern island of Mindanao. It visits detainees held in connection with security matters and works with the Philippine National Red Cross to provide assistance to the displaced and to promote IHL and humanitarian principles in all sectors of society.

Overall, some 20 Red Cross Red Crescent societies from outside Southeast Asia contribute to the work of the region's 11 national societies either through their permanent presence in one or more countries and/or multilateral contributions of resources (financial/human/material). Realistically, the interest of many of the major donor governments is largely reflected through bilateral assistance from the respective partner national society (PNS). Sound progress has been made in recent years in the coordination of bilateral and multilateral Red Cross Red Crescent aid to some countries, particularly in Cambodia and Laos.

Nevertheless, the Federation Secretariat is facing growing difficulties in securing sufficient funding to maintain a minimum infrastructure for effective coordination across Southeast Asia. This is exemplified in Vietnam where the Federation Secretariat, Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC) and its nine bilateral Red Cross Red Crescent partners have encountered significant coordination and cooperation complications during 2003 (outlined in more detail in the Vietnam country summary). Initially, at least, there is no separate Federation Secretariat appeal for Vietnam in 2004; instead, existing funds already received or hard pledged will be channeled through the relevant regional programmes coupled with increased direct support from the Bangkok regional delegation to the Federation office in Vietnam, the VNRC and its partners. Obviously this will stretch the regional delegation's capacity still further and, as described earlier, also impacts the budget and appeal target

Strengthening the National Societies

Federation Secretariat support for Southeast Asia in 2004/2005 has been developed on the basis of the considerable humanitarian needs in the region, the development requirements of national societies, the comparative advantages of the Red Cross Red Crescent, including the Federation membership and the strong external support already being provided on a bilateral basis. Priority will be given to strengthening the capacity of the region's national societies to deliver integrated and effective programmes to the most needy, focusing on:

- **Health and Care** : the Federation will seek to ensure there is a sustainable improvement in the general health of vulnerable communities in the region, through projects and activities which focus on capacity development support for regional health networks, coordination and advocacy.

- **Disaster Management:** the Federation will provide technical support to help national societies to be well prepared and able to respond to disasters in a timely, efficient and coordinated manner, through direct linkage, as required, to the Federation's response system, thus improving the ability of communities at risk to cope with disasters.
- **Humanitarian Values:** the Federation will work to ensure national societies in Southeast Asia are motivated and able to generate a high degree of visibility, credibility, cooperation and support for Red Cross Red Crescent activities.
- **Organisational Development:** the Federation's regional organisational development programme will assist Southeast Asia national societies to make measurable progress towards meeting the criteria defined in the *Characteristics of a Well Functioning National Society* document, thereby strengthening their capability to assist vulnerable people at the community level.
- **Implementation and Management:** the Federation is committed to delivering effective and efficient management and coordination of its programmes and activities as reflected in this appeal, working with the region's national societies, ICRC and PNS to help ensure that external support is provided in the best long term strategic interests of the national societies in the region.

1. Health and Care

Background and achievements/lessons to date

Southeast Asia is characterised by wide ranging demographic diversity across the health sector: in Laos, for example, life expectancy at birth averages 54.8 years with an under-five mortality rate of 105 per 1,000 live births, while the equivalent figures for Singapore are 79.8 years and four per 1,000.

Over recent decades there has been substantial progress in disease prevention and control with a region-wide decline in communicable diseases. However, emerging and re-emerging diseases such as HIV/AIDS, dengue haemorrhagic fever and tuberculosis pose increasing threats in the region, adding to the burden caused by endemic diseases such as malaria and gastrointestinal infections stemming from a pervasive lack of access to safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation. Population movements, including cross-border migration and urbanisation, combined with microbial evolution put all countries in the region at risk. The recent outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is a clear example of how the emergence of a new infectious disease, combined with extensive global travelling, could suddenly threaten a new and worldwide pandemic, with potentially catastrophic consequences had it not been detained in time. Further compounding the situation is a development-linked transition of the epidemiological disease pattern with several countries in economic transition simultaneously experiencing ill-health patterns typical of developing countries as well as those of affluence, creating a double burden for governments. All of this places an enormous challenge on the health departments of Red Cross Red Crescent societies constantly to redefine their role and adapt to the external conditions in order to continue serving the most vulnerable in their communities.

Based on the recommendations of the 2002 Southeast Asia regional health unit (RHU) evaluation, and on the growing recognition within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement that regional programmes need to develop a more country-specific focus in order to achieve significant and sustainable impacts, the Federation in 2003 moved away from regional projects towards a programme that focuses on assisting individual national societies in the region in effective design, planning, implementation and management of relevant high quality health and care programmes. Accordingly, the RHU provides technical advice and facilitation to national societies in accordance with particular needs, while continuing to support regional networks and cross border initiatives according to arising needs within the focal health areas.

The year saw the start of developing health strategic plans for the Lao and Vietnam Red Cross Societies, increased programming capacity in the area of HIV/AIDS, improved quality of water and sanitation activities and a growing ability to respond to health in emergencies, as exemplified by activities undertaken by national societies in Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore and the Philippines in response to the outbreak of SARS.

The regional blood donor recruitment network and the blood advisory group have been redefined to better match the needs and priorities of the national societies, while the Asian AIDS task force (ART) has undergone an external evaluation that will serve as the basis for developing a new strategic plan 2004-08, which again will define the future direction of the network. In the coming years, ART will continue to collaborate with governments and other agencies in its care and support programmes. Over the past decade, the network has become a powerful mechanism

for regional cooperation, helping individual countries to produce their country strategic plans, encouraging them to integrate monitoring and evaluation into their project design, and to focus on outcomes and impact measurement.

During 2003, there were enhanced efforts at developing closer cooperation with and providing support to national societies that do not have a permanent Federation Secretariat presence and as a result, the RHU in 2004 will incorporate specific support to health programmes implemented by the Lao and Philippine societies.

The closing of the Federation office in Vientiane at the end of 2003, with the establishment of a new CAS office for Laos, requires the RHU to become more involved in providing technical and financial support to Lao Red Cross in the development and implementation of health programmes. The main priorities for 2004 include finalisation of the health strategic plan, continuation of the HIV/AIDS programme (in close collaboration with Australian Red Cross) and further development of water and sanitation activities. Funding for these programmes is included in this regional appeal.

Until recently, the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) had been involved with the RHU mainly through involvement in regional initiatives such as World AIDS Day and through participating in regional networks, including the first aid, HIV/AIDS, blood donor recruitment, and water sanitation networks. However, during 2003 with the outbreak of SARS, the RHU and PNRC established closer links leading to the inclusion of the society into the Federation's emergency appeal for programmes aimed at scaling up activities and preparedness for health in emergencies. In 2004, the RHU will continue to support PNRC in strengthening the capacity for dealing with health in emergencies, while providing additional support to the national society in developing partnerships with WHO and the Ministry of Health with regards to measles eradication and reduction of malaria.

In Vietnam, where ongoing health activities supported by the Federation Secretariat will be managed by the RHU – and funds channelled through the Bangkok regional delegation – the focus will be limited to two long-term projects, community-based social work and HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

The overall RHU approach for 2004 can be summarised as follows:

- Supporting capacity development of national societies in the region, with focus on organisational development at all levels, development of strategic health plans, recruitment and mobilisation of Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers, adequate national societies' response to prevailing and emerging health needs in the communities and reduction of vulnerabilities.
- Supporting regional networks in order to enhance the capacity for cross-border transfer of technology, resource mobilisation and advocacy at the regional level and developing and strengthening partnerships and working with other humanitarian agencies.
- Supporting coordination of health and care activities within the region in order to optimise human as well as financial resource utilisation and to ensure coherence and consistency in programme planning and implementation.
- Advocacy as an integral part of all components and includes dissemination of Red Cross Red Crescent principles, participation in global and regional campaigns against stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS and Red Cross Red Crescent activities to mark World Water Day, World First Aid Day and so on.

Overall Goal

There is a sustainable improvement in the general health of vulnerable communities in the region.

Programme Objective

The region's national societies deliver quality health and care programmes that address the needs of the most vulnerable communities.

Expected Results

The programme is based on three projects that will have the following overall results:

1. There is increased capacity in the region's national societies for effective design, planning, implementation and management of relevant high quality health and care programmes. The RHU will support this capacity building

process by providing technical assistance and advice to national societies in accordance with specific needs and development plans.

2. Enhanced regional networking for cross-border transfer of technology, information sharing, advocacy, and effective resource mobilisation and utilisation within the region. Underpinning the regional networks will be enhanced focus on increasing the ownership of the membership, with national societies taking on the chair/secretariat role of the networks and, importantly, becoming more committed to supporting one another. The RHU will be instrumental in assisting the networks in developing and implementing cross-border activities.
3. Improved coordination of health and care activities within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and with relevant external agencies in the region, to ensure development of sustainable national society health programmes. The RHU will act as a facilitator in the coordination of health and care activities in the region.

| Expected Results | Indicators | Risk/Assumptions | Activities |
|--|--|--|--|
| Project One: Increased capacity of national societies in the region | | | |
| Increased capacity in the region's national societies for effective design, planning, implementation and management of relevant high quality health and care programmes | By the end of 2004: two national societies have developed health strategic plans; two national societies have developed response plans to meet health needs in emergencies; two national societies have comprehensive water sanitation programmes using the PHAST approach | National societies recognise the value of strategic planning and commit to participate and take ownership of the process | Assist 2-3 national societies in developing health strategic plans and appropriate response plans to meet health needs in emergencies; assist national societies to improve HIV/AIDS and water sanitation activities; support skills development among national society health staff |
| Project Two: Enhanced regional networking | | | |
| Enhanced regional networking for cross-border transfer of technology, information sharing, advocacy, and effective resource mobilisation and utilisation within the region | By the end of 2004 the water sanitation working group has developed a strategic plan; by April 2004 the ART secretariat has been fully established within new host national society; by June 2004 the regional first aid working group has finalised the standardisation of the first aid training programme | National societies are willing to take the lead in running the various regional networks; regional network activities are understood and supported by the leadership of the national societies; the ART strategic plan 2004-08 has been finalised by the end of 2003 | Support the water sanitation working group in developing its capacity to promote sustainable activities at community level; strengthen the capacity of the ART (network and its secretariat); support the regional first aid working committee to complete the first aid standardisation process; support the regional <i>health-in-emergencies</i> network |
| Project Three: Improved coordination | | | |
| Improved coordination of health and care activities within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and with relevant external agencies in the region | By the end of 2004, closer links have been established between the RHU and PNS health delegates; reports and newsletters covering regional events and issues, produced and distributed | All ICRC, Federation and partner national society health and care delegates understand the need for coordination and are willing to cooperate | Strengthen the links between all Federation, ICRC, national society and partner national society health and care delegates in the region; assist national societies in strengthening relationships and coordination with external organisations; facilitate regional information sharing |

Monitoring and Evaluation

Follow-up, monitoring and evaluation will be an integral part of the programme. The activities will be regularly monitored by the RHU, the country delegations/offices and national society personnel. Progress will be reflected regularly in the Federation programme updates and in the annual report.

2. Disaster Management (DM)

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The Federation's global strategies are the foundation of the Southeast Asia regional disaster management cooperation framework, established by 11 national societies in the region in November 2001. A 'Framework Document for the Federation's DM Cooperation in Southeast Asia' basically outlines the programme and the organisational framework for the cooperation mechanism. Four main objectives and a range of activity areas under each objective were agreed.

The framework of the regional disaster management committee (RDMC) was subsequently endorsed by all 11 national societies. The overall purpose of both the framework and the Federation's disaster management programme in Southeast Asia is to strengthen the capacity of the national societies in disaster preparedness and response, at national, regional and global level. Initially the focus was on the process towards the development of the cooperation mechanism. Since 2002, there has been a gradual shift into a more operational phase and over the last 12 months the approach has concentrated on building closer ties with the national societies' DM programmes.

Since early 2003, the regional DM team has taken a more proactive role in assisting programmes particularly in those countries where there is a Federation Secretariat presence. This approach will continue for the foreseeable future with support and facilitation from the regional DM team, while longer term cooperation structures gain strength and momentum.

The outcomes of the 2003 programme summarised below are in keeping with the objectives and activity areas defined within the framework document, sound progress achieved in improving national societies' preparedness and response measures, through:

- Identification of national, regional or global DM tasks relevant for national societies through the completion of the 'checklist for a well-prepared national society' (WPNS) and the increasing utilisation of this checklist as an action planning tool;
- Development of the regional DM team (RDMT) comprising two regional and two country delegates and four DM programme officers;
- Sharing and the progressive adoption of Federation DM policies, strategies, concepts and standards;
- Training and regular use and participation on Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) - facilitated by the RDMT - for selected national society staff in Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Indonesia and the Philippines;
- Research, progress and preparations towards the first of the RDRT training, held in 2003 in Indonesia;
- Attendance at global/regional meetings and training events facilitated by the RDMT;
- Training of trainers from Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar in DM training methodology;
- Exchange of training materials among national societies;
- Development of contingency plans (for slow onset floods and other major hazards) with national societies in Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Challenges remain to ensure that the RDMT can work effectively with PNS in the region in DM, (principally the Danish, Netherlands, Belgian, Australian and French Red Cross Societies). During 2004, the regional team in Bangkok will also continue its direct support to the Vietnam Red Cross, through a programme targeting disaster preparedness and mitigation at the community level, for which funds will be channelled through the Bangkok regional delegation. The main activities will centre on two projects: mangrove planting in at-risk areas in six northern provinces and associated community-based, disaster mitigation initiatives, funded by the Japanese Red Cross; preparedness for risks and mitigation of the impact of natural disasters through community based disaster preparedness and mitigation activity, human resource and institutional development, with funding from DipECHO.

Overall Goal

National societies are: well prepared, able to respond to disasters in a timely, efficient and coordinated manner, clearly linked to and utilising the Federation's response systems and thus able to improve the ability of communities at risk to cope with and respond to disasters.

Programme Objective

The disaster preparedness and response capacity at national and regional level is substantially improved and the linkages and mobilisation of the Federation’s global response system assured, through a comprehensive, integrated regional DM approach.

Expected Results

The programme is based on four key projects with the following overall results:

1. All societies systematically address their DM development needs, based on well-developed plans and through enhanced regional cooperation.
2. The emergency response and preparedness capacity within the region is further strengthened, at both individual national society as well as regional level, through close coordination with the Federation Secretariat’s global response system.
3. The linkages and structures for disaster management information and knowledge sharing between the national, regional and global level are substantially improved.
4. The Federation’s regional DM cooperation framework is further developed towards more sustainability and achieving more concrete outcomes.

| Expected results | Indicators | Risks/Assumptions | Activities |
|---|---|--|---|
| Project one: Individual national society preparedness support | | | |
| Check list for a well-prepared national society (WPNS) applied in DM work | Check list part of planning process | Needs assessment conducted | Update WPNS checklists; address staff development needs; undertake prioritised activities in WPNS |
| Strategic DM plans in place | Strategic DM plan feeds to action plans | Regional DM framework adhered to | Workshop for developing strategic DM plans |
| DM plans improve disaster preparedness/ disaster response (DP/DR) operations | DM plans part of national society programme | National societies strategic DM plans follow agreed standards | Provide technical and operational support |
| Project two: Response preparedness and disaster response | | | |
| Federation’s global response system disseminated and used | National societies emergency response linked to standards | National societies accept and use when appropriate the Federation’s system | Support for national societies training events |
| National societies emergency response capacity improved/ RDRT functional/participation in FACT/ERU level training | RDRT trained team members available and deployed as per national society request; RDRT team leader prospects identified and provided further training | National societies support/MoUs made for smooth deployment | RDRT training; develop and adopt Federation standard operating procedures for RDRT deployments |
| Federation’s DM policies adhered to | National societies’ DM planning follows Federation’s policies | DM training and materials are made available | DM policy documentation disseminated to all national societies in the region |
| Contingency plans for most major hazards are available | Contingency plan library set up at regional delegation and through DMIS | National societies undertake contingency planning | Technical support for conducting country-level contingency planning workshops |
| National societies in the Mekong Delta cooperate prior and during floods | National societies have an integrated action plan | National societies benefit from cooperation | Facilitate cooperation with national societies and Mekong River Commission |
| Project three: Disaster management information and knowledge sharing | | | |
| Disaster information is available quickly for any level emergency response | National societies provide effective and timely disaster information on DMIS | Focal point persons are resourced by all 11 national societies | DMIS training for national society support teams |
| Regular knowledge sharing through information technology | All national societies use modern IT for their DM information needs | Each national society has adequate IT support and identifies gaps | Information technology needs assessment with 6 national societies |
| All national societies are networking | Active participation in meetings attended. | National society leadership takes responsibility | Share relevant timely information on training/meetings |

| Project four: Regional disaster management cooperation and coordination | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Federation DM unit coordinates RDMC activities as its secretariat | RDMC and DM unit communicate regularly and meet at least twice a year | RDMC members are engaged and responsive | Motivate RDMC members in responding and communicating |
| Cooperation and the development of the framework agreement through RDMC meetings | Meetings focus on obtaining results through agreed action plans | RDMC pursues regional framework. | Regular bi-annual meetings |
| RDMT meetings enhance Federation's strategies | Promotion of Federation's standards by delegations/ national societies | Delegations allow time for regional DM work | Well prepared meetings and training events on relevant topics |

Monitoring and Evaluation

The regional DM unit, with support from the Geneva Secretariat focal persons, will initiate a comprehensive programme evaluation at the end of 2004 by an independent consultant or agency working in the field of disaster management. During country visits, RDMT members rigorously monitor the development of the programmes in individual societies. Country delegations also regularly review their DM programmes and related activities in close coordination with the regional delegation and PNS in the region.

3. Humanitarian Values

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The main strategic direction pursued by the Federation in recent years in its approach to communications in Southeast Asia - and, indeed, across the Asia and Pacific region - has centred on: promoting the role, principles and activities of the national societies and their Federation; and providing technical support to develop the communications capacity of individual national societies.

Although marked progress has been made in raising the profile of the Red Cross Red Crescent in the region, the communications assets of each national society remains limited, as many maintain only one communications officer at national headquarters whose general role is to service all communication needs on a national level. This hampers the ability of the officers to plan their work and approach their work strategically. Many communications officers are involved in tasks as disparate as fundraising, recruiting volunteers, disseminating IHL and visiting embassies. While there has been some improvement in this regard over the last few years, national society senior management still need to deliver a higher degree of support to their information staff and also commit a greater investment to resource adequately their communications departments.

The Federation's Bangkok-based regional information unit has been in a state of flux in 2003 due to significant changes in staffing and approach, with a planned regional communications network meeting cancelled due to the SARS outbreak and then a region-wide reappraisal of the value of such gatherings. Nevertheless, the unit has continued to deliver output, including: the production of an educational CD and video on HIV/AIDS, entitled *Changing Attitudes*; an update of the regional Red Cross Red Crescent profile; the final issue of *Asia Pacific Focus* as a single language, four-colour broadsheet newspaper with high delivery and production costs; and, importantly, an increasing number of web stories and media initiatives.

In July and August the new staff in the unit travelled to the Philippines, Cambodia and Myanmar to make contact with counterparts and profile programmes including disaster response, HIV/AIDS projects, dengue fever and clean water initiatives. These stories were offered to the Federation website and donor publicity departments; a one-day communications workshop for the Cambodian Red Cross was also facilitated in Phnom Penh. In addition a regional newsletter, *Southeast Asia Link* was launched – distributed by email and fax – to help drive the information flow between national societies and delegations. A key aim of the new title is to motivate national societies to generate news material regularly, continuing the process established for the previous regional publication.

A major change of approach to information and publicity in the region was initiated in mid-year, when the Federation commissioned an experienced information and publicity consultant to review its communications activities across Asia and the Pacific. The ensuing provocative and challenge report, with wide-ranging recommendations, was reviewed in detail at a seminar in Kuala Lumpur in September. The seminar, attended by Federation Secretariat information specialists from the region and Geneva, focussed on the role, priorities and

linkages of the region's information teams and how best to maximise Red Cross Red Crescent visibility coupled with the imperative of longer-term support to the region's membership.

The information and publicity programme planned for Southeast Asia in 2004 very much reflects the precepts of the consultant's report and recommendations. In summary, the priority of the information team (working with national society counterparts) is directed towards initiatives and activities to enhance Red Cross Red Crescent visibility with more emphasis on media and related interventions, integration of communications tasks across all programmes, greater use of the range of publicity and information sharing tools, underpinned by more in-depth support to national societies on an individual basis. Skills development in national societies remains a priority, with the Federation Secretariat information teams operating more on in a resource rather than an organisational mode. This approach was successfully adopted in Surabaya, Indonesia, during September, when the unit presented a module at a regional disaster response team training course.

Accordingly in 2004 the Southeast Asia information unit aims to produce a steady flow of written and audio-visual material for use by donors, national societies, the Federation Secretariat and international media. Working with national society counterparts, contacts with media organisations across the region will be developed. Linkages within the regional delegation and professional colleagues throughout Asia Pacific will be strengthened to expand and seize opportunities for dissemination, advocacy and profile building.

Overall Goal

The awareness and application of humanitarian values is enhanced across the region.

Programme Objective

National societies in Southeast Asia are motivated and able to generate a high degree of visibility, credibility, cooperation and support for Red Cross Red Crescent activities.

Expected Results

The programme is based on three key projects that will have the following overall results:

1. Expanded strategic links with local and international media will be further strengthened to secure sustained and high profile media coverage for the activities of the Federation and national societies in the region, particularly in times of emergencies.
2. There will be integration of communications components into all regional/national programmes.
3. Communications skills development and capacity of both national societies and the regional information unit are sustainably expanded.

| Expected Results | Indicators | Risks/Assumptions | Activities |
|---|--|--|---|
| Project One: Visibility | | | |
| Red Cross Red Crescent is primary source for humanitarian related issues | Greater media coverage of Red Cross Red Crescent activities across all media | Red Cross Red Crescent information officers able to initiate/respond in a timely fashion | Planned programme for media relations in SEA countries with associated briefing/profile tools |
| Project Two: Integration | | | |
| Programmes in all four core areas reflect a communications component | Communications interventions are undertake not just by the information team | Management support and willingness of the relevant units to follow through | Materials productions and inclusion of communications training modules into regional workshops and seminars |
| Project Three: Skills development | | | |
| A stronger bond is developed between the regional information team and national societies | Two six-month postings to the unit by national society information staff | National societies are willing to release motivated and qualified staff | Identify, recruit, induct and manage suitable candidates |

Monitoring and Evaluation

The regional information unit will manage the projects, reporting through programme updates drawing on media monitoring, media log book, workshop reports and progress with the internship programme. Regular, informal feedback with donors will also take place.

4. Organisational Development

Background and achievements/lessons to date

In October 2001 the Federation commissioned a study of its Southeast Asia regional organisational development (OD) programme, first introduced in 1998. The review, which has formed the basis for subsequent activities and initiatives, found that the focus on governance and management has proved useful and the criteria defined in the document, *Characteristics of a Well-functioning National Society*, are a worthwhile road map for the OD framework for Southeast Asia national societies. The review also recommended the incorporation of issues relating to youth, volunteering, gender and resource development in the Federation's continuing support to the national societies in this region.

Over the past five years, there has been significant achievements and progress, leading to key developments within the OD sphere, including:

- The regional OD forum has been instrumental in bringing the OD practitioners together, enabling them to support and learn from each other. An approach is slowly developing for OD practitioners to take on certain regional roles, for instance preparation of a regional 'fact file' by the office in Lao PDR.
- The Southeast Asia secretaries-general forum (SGF) is providing an important reference point for ongoing regional delegation work and this body will take a pivotal role in monitoring and supervising the various regional networks and cooperation committees. The OD unit functions as the secretariat of the SGF.
- There is strong commitment to an integrated approach at the regional technical level. This needs to be further strengthened but there is a genuine commitment from all units to work as a team in the years to come.
- The regional strategic planning workshop organised in late 2002 provided an impetus to start the strategic planning process in many countries in the region. Cambodia Red Cross has revised its strategic plan; Myanmar, Vietnam and Indonesia have initiated the process. Thai Red Cross has started the implementation of its three-year plan. Operational planning in the national societies is being boosted with increased trained manpower in the project planning process (PPP). The Vietnam and Indonesia Red Cross Societies have opted to use PPP as a basis for their project planning, translating the manual in the local languages, with country level training organised in both the countries.
- The partnership between Lao Red Cross and Thai Red Cross societies is strengthening, especially through active support to Lao Red Cross fundraising. The Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) and Thai Red Cross have also exchanged people and ideas in various areas of fund raising.
- PNRC has started a comprehensive financial resource development training initiatives with the help of a local fundraising consortium to train its manpower on new areas of fundraising, revision of its fundraising policy, development of training programmes for the chapters and increasing knowledge sharing among the chapters and also with sister societies in the region.
- Targeted management training support is being provided to selected senior managers from Cambodia and Philippines through contracting a management institute in Manila.

Among the lessons learned:

- While there is some value in regional workshops, a more country-specific approach is needed to deliver better capacity building impact.
- Various national societies have indicated that more attention should be given to key issues, including youth, skills development, regional exchanges, and volunteering.
- Despite some progress in 2003, the wider exchange of regional human resources within the region has not occurred and a more concerted effort is required to facilitate the regional experience sharing through regular contacts, exchange visits and on-the-job learning.

In summary and based on the foregoing, the overall approach to OD in the region continues to remain as follows:

- Continue work on promoting full national society ownership of the OD process.
- Work with all activity areas to develop OD as a cross-cutting function within programmes.
- Identify and utilise local resources both from within and outside of the Movement.
- Develop the OD unit as the resource centre for OD material, good OD practices and a facilitator of the OD knowledge-sharing network.
- Promotion of the CAS process as an essential next-step of the national society development plan.

- Strengthening of the regional OD forum as an institutionalised framework for sustainable regional cooperation.
- Emphasis on regional coordination, facilitation and resource/knowledge sharing, with focus on country specific impacts.
- Direct support for national societies without a permanent Federation presence.

In 2004, the Laos delegation will be closed and the support to the Lao Red Cross will be managed by the CAS office to be established in Lao. OD support to the Lao Red Cross will be provided by the regional OD unit in Bangkok. Similarly for Vietnam, funds will be channelled through the regional delegation, to resource activities targeted at the development of a national strategy for the Society and a CAS, enhancement of leadership skills and modern management techniques, financial systems and fund raising and resource mobilisation.

The Asia Pacific information and publicity review has recommended that the capacity development component of the information work should be part of the regional OD programme. Accordingly the 2004 regional OD programme also includes the information development in Southeast Asia.

Overall Goal

A greater number of people in the region have access to humanitarian services and relief interventions through the Red Cross Red Crescent.

Programme Objective:

Southeast Asia national societies are aligned with the criteria defined in the document *Characteristics of a Well-functioning National Society* and are in a position to deliver quality humanitarian services to the most vulnerable people.

Expected Results

The programme is based on four key projects with the following overall results:

1. National societies in the region achieve significant improvements in regional cooperation and coordination through a strong regional network of OD practitioners and practical training in OD related issues.
2. The capacity of national societies in Southeast Asia in the field of human resource development is enhanced in order to ensure the engagement and retention of a sufficient number of qualified people to carry out the required programmes and activities.
3. Information development: national societies in Southeast Asia are motivated and able to generate a high degree of visibility, credibility, cooperation and support for Red Cross Red Crescent activities.
4. The Lao, Philippine Cambodia and Vietnam Red Cross Societies benefit through direct assistance from the regional OD unit in, respectively, general OD and capacity building, human and financial resource development and gender mainstreaming.

| Expected Results | Indicators | Risks/Assumptions | Activities |
|---|---|---|--|
| Project One: Regional Cooperation and Coordination | | | |
| Strengthening of regional cooperation through the regional OD forum | Regional OD forum provides a knowledge-sharing platform for the range of OD priorities | Secretaries general continue to support the initiative | Regular regional OD forum meetings and production of the OD bulletin |
| Increased interaction among the regional OD practitioners | Increased knowledge sharing and better coordination and support among the region's OD practitioners in the region | Flexibility between all parties in sharing of resources | Technical support to national societies/ country delegations; regional OD resource centre developed |
| Planning and reporting development | At least three national societies make substantial progress in strategic planning process | National society leaderships remain committed to the change process | One regional PPP; continued support in strategic planning; support for CAS; reporting needs assessment and training. |
| Project Two: Human Resources Development | | | |
| Regional exchanges | National societies share their skilled human resources on a bilateral or multilateral basis | National societies are open to human resource exchanges | At least five exchange visits in 2004 |
| Leadership and management development | Management capacity of the selected senior managers enhanced | National society senior management available for focussed training | Follow up workshop on leadership and management |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| SEA youth networking | Increased interaction and knowledge sharing among various youth groups | All national societies have established youth units | Regional youth directors' meeting; youth exchange visits |
| Project Three: Information Development | | | |
| Enhanced technical skills and capacity at the national society level | National societies equipped with suitable human and material resources for information activities | Commitment from national society leaderships to continue the process under OD unit coordination | Country-specific training using regional resources. |
| Regional networking for knowledge sharing and mutual support further strengthened and fostered | Increased interaction among the national society information officers in the region | Commitment from national society leaderships to continue the process under OD unit coordination | One regional meeting of national society information officers |
| Project Four: Direct support to national societies | | | |
| Lao Red Cross leadership have the skills and capacity to manage the society without a full-time, in-country Federation Secretariat presence | New statutes in place, together with enhanced capacity in fundraising, gender awareness and information and publicity | Lao Red Cross is committed to make substantial changes in its statutes and the CAS office functions as planned | Support as per MoU with partners (September 2002), including statute revision, management training, financial systems, recruitment/retention of volunteers |
| Increased capacity of the Philippine National Red Cross to diversify its funding and volunteer base and effectively mobilise available financial and human resources | Increased internal fund raising to sustain PNRC services; volunteer management and capacity of national society further strengthened | PNRC is committed to project implementation at the chapter level beyond the project period | Continue financial resource development training; support the implementation of a comprehensive volunteer management training programme |
| The Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) has a balanced participation of women and men in its organisation, management and activities | Increase in integration of gender in CRC planning process; CRC programmes have addressed gender equality | CRC leadership is committed to bring about changes | Gender mainstreaming at organisational level; gender incorporated into all aspects of project cycle; Red Cross volunteers trained on gender issues |
| The Vietnam Red Cross develops a national strategy and enhances leadership, management and fundraising skills and financial systems | CAS is developed, the overall resource base of the society is strengthened with clear understanding of governance and management roles | Vietnam Red Cross and its partners are committed to the process with current coordination difficulties soon resolved | Work on national strategy and CAS; leadership, financial systems and resource mobilisation training |

Monitoring and Evaluation

Follow-up, monitoring and evaluation will be an integral part of the programme. The activities will be regularly monitored by the regional delegation OD staff, the country delegation and national society personnel. Progress will be reflected regularly in the Federation programme updates and in the annual report.

5. Implementation and Management

Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships

The Bangkok based Southeast Asia regional delegation continues to work in promoting the International Federation's principles and policies in the region, also ensuring dissemination of and compliance with the associated procedures, guidelines and quality standards. Building on progress in 2002, the secretaries general forum has proved an important reference point for the regional delegation in relation to policy matters. The forum has also made it possible to transfer the ownership of various regional networks back to the national societies with the regional delegation technical units undertaking more of a supporting and advisory role.

The regional delegation facilitates and encourages the establishment of a cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) process at the national society level. Important progress has been made during 2003 by the Lao Red Cross with active support from the International Federation. From 2004, to take forward the CAS process the Lao Red Cross will establish a coordination office, effectively replacing the Federation Secretariat office in Vientiane, which is closing. All partners who were signatories to the Lao CAS memorandum of understanding (September 2002) will contribute to overall running of the office and its day-to-day work, focussed on reporting and financial management. The CAS process in Indonesia is at an advanced stage, while in Cambodia the adoption of a new

national society strategic plan has provided a fresh impetus. The Myanmar Red Cross is also moving steadily in that direction.

The increased capacity of the region's national societies has encouraged and contributed to the expansion of bilateral cooperation in a number of Southeast Asian countries. To ensure effective coordination and a consistent approach to the priorities set by the host national societies, the Federation delegations/offices will continue to play more proactive coordination role and the promotion of CAS is expected to facilitate this process even further. Holding regular partnership meetings by the regional delegation also provides an opportunity for various partners to evaluate the strength of their partnership and an opportunity to look for new and innovative partnership opportunities.

A close working collaboration will continue to be maintained with the ICRC regional delegations in the region, though the scope and geographical responsibilities of ICRC delegations based in Southeast Asia do not overlap precisely those of the Federation regional delegation. Regular monthly meetings take place with ICRC Bangkok delegation, covering Myanmar, Lao, Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand. All visits to countries in the region where the ICRC has presence are used to intensify contact and collaboration between the two institutions. The ICRC contributes materially as well as financially to the annual Southeast Asia partnership meeting.

In September 2003, an MoU was signed between the WHO Southeast Asia region and the Federation, covering, inter alia four countries in the sub-region: East Timor, Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand. This agreement gives the Federation and these four national societies, an opportunity to forge partnerships, which could entail free technical advice and support in day-to-day health and HIV/AIDS programmes, in addition to support in times of emergencies.

Effective Representation and Advocacy

The regional delegation with the support of the national societies in the region continues to monitor the political, economic and social trends in the region to keep abreast with the changing scenario in this very diverse region in order to ensure that the Federation Secretariat's planning is in tune with the external environment.

All regional programmes are designed to be inclusive of components that contribute towards the overall goal of international representation and advocacy. Programme managers participate in a variety of interagency coordination mechanisms, information sharing meetings and forums including conferences and seminars that are relevant to their programme areas. In 2003, greater emphasis was placed on developing strategic links with partner organisations, particularly in the field of HIV/AIDS in order to support the aims of the global campaign to fight stigma and discrimination. This will continue to be a priority area during 2004 and beyond.

Federation Secretariat managers in Southeast Asia continue to be guided by the main precepts of the *Manila Action Plan*, which places significant emphasis on the role of the Movement in advocating for the most vulnerable, particularly people living with HIV/AIDS and those affected by slow onset disasters and/or subject to population movements.

In association with the Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), the delegation has been advocating the work of the Movement in disaster management and identifying suitable opportunities for national society representatives to interact with external agencies. Recent contacts with the Institute of Disaster Risk Management foresee joint collaborations in disaster training. A closer collaboration on disaster management issues is being formed with the ASEAN committee on disaster management (ACDM) and more involvement with the ASEAN Secretariat is envisaged during next year, with support from UNHCR in Jakarta.

During 2003, the regional delegation participated in UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) meetings, to effect important interventions on safe water supply and HIV/AIDS. The regional delegation has also supported the Thai Red Cross Society on advocacy of core messages common to the Movement, including the HIV/AIDS campaign on World Red Cross Red Crescent Day. The launch of a regional newsletter *Southeast Asia Link* provides another platform for sharing key humanitarian advocacy messages/activities with/from the Federation membership in the region.

The regional delegation will continue its regular interaction with the diplomatic community and the international organisations in the region, with the appointment of a new programme coordinator in the second half of 2003,

further boosting the delegation's capacity in this regard. For instance, the delegation participates in the regular United Nations development cooperation meetings, where all UN organisations present in Bangkok plus major government organisations, NGOs and foundations exchange views on matters of concern to the region.

International Disaster Response

The regional delegation's implementation of the Federation Secretariat's mandate to provide international disaster response support to the Southeast Asia membership is an integral part of the disaster management programme described earlier in this appeal. Based on the experience gained in 2002 and 2003, the disaster management regional team will continue to include government representatives and other stakeholders in disaster management planning activities to advocate, where appropriate, for a central role for the Movement in national disaster management planning. Close links have been generated with the established disaster management institutions in the region including ADPC.

The role of the regional delegation in regionalised international response has grown during the last two years, with emphasis on connecting international and national response mechanisms and tools through the development of new and existing structures, systems, tools and curricula. Further disaster response initiatives are detailed in the disaster management section of this document. At a broader level the focus from 2004 onwards will be towards:

- Improved regional and international disaster response particularly in the areas of databases (including human resources), information flow and regional disaster response teams.
- Shifting the mindset of the region's various disaster management networks more towards activities in addition to the information-sharing and discussion rationale.
- Promoting the benefits of the proposed international disaster response law to governments and relevant officials, UN agencies and the various components of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in Southeast Asia.

Governance Support

Although, currently there are no members of the Federation's governing board drawn from Southeast Asia, with Bangkok's established position as an international hub and conference centre, the regional delegation necessarily takes a proactive role whenever senior representatives of the International Federation visit the region on Red Cross Red Crescent business. Within the region itself, the regional delegation maintains close contacts with the governance, as well as the executive arms of the 11 national societies, ready to advise and assist when required.

Delegation Management

For 2004, the Federation Secretariat's regional network in Southeast Asia is budgeted to comprise a regional delegation in Bangkok, spearheaded by four technical units (health and care, disaster management, information and organisational development), four country delegations (Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar and Vietnam) and an office in East Timor, whose reporting lines are all through the head of regional delegation. This group forms the core management coordination team, which meets regularly throughout the year, co-opting as necessary representatives from the Kuala Lumpur-based regional finance and reporting units which have pan-regional (Asia Pacific) responsibilities.

This approach to field management has been drawn and developed from the 'action research' initiative undertaken by the Federation in 2001, in which the Southeast Asia region was one of three pilot projects, aimed at centring more decision-making and accountability at the regional level. While the overall results were mixed - it was necessary, for instance, to re-establish the desk officer position in Geneva - and some clear lessons learned, notably in the areas of systems and financial management, the exercise itself has provided a number of firm and positive pointers for the future, and found wider application across Asia Pacific, with all country delegations/offices now reporting to their respective regional delegation.

The Southeast Asia regional delegation enters 2004 with stretched capacity, since in addition to its overall management task, including direct support to five countries without a permanent Federation Secretariat presence (Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Malaysia), the Lao PDR and Vietnam Red Cross Societies will also look to Bangkok for technical and operational input and advice. The Federation Secretariat is closing its office in Laos from the start of 2004 - with the host national society taking on a wider organisational role among its partners - while in Vietnam, with the scaling down of the Hanoi office and no Federation representative yet in place, it is left to the Bangkok regional delegation to underpin the society and its partners.

Nevertheless the regional delegation has managed to enhance its capacity especially through the recruitment of a regional programme coordinator, as a major and much needed asset to the senior management team. In addition, significant benefits have quickly accrued by reorganising the administrative unit and engaging human resources, information technology and reporting staff. All international training opportunities including the basic training course (BTC) are now coordinated by the regional human resources officer; the regional human resources mapping software is in its final stage of development and the staff-on-loan scheme has proved an excellent opportunity for knowledge sharing and career enhancement opportunity for the national society staff. More broadly the regional delegation remains committed to promoting the concept of using regionally recruited delegates. The introduction of quarterly programme updates has generated a regular and consistent reporting regime in the region and, with support from the pan-regional reporting unit in Kuala Lumpur, the delegation will continue to invest in further improving the frequency and quality of reports from the region.

Through 2003, the regional delegation emerged successfully from a very challenging financial position in mid-2002 by rigorous monitoring of expenditure and close interaction with the regional finance unit in Kuala Lumpur. The emphasis on strict adherence to the Federation procedures and fiscal discipline will continue in 2004. The introduction of the budget holder concept has greatly contributed to improved financial management in the region.

Security has increasingly become a priority for the Federation Secretariat in Southeast Asia, as new and unpredictable threats have endangered the region in recent years. The regional delegation has moved to a more secure location in Bangkok. Security and administrative procedures are regularly updated and the communications capacity of the delegation to handle security alerts is being enhanced.

In summary, through 2004 and beyond, the Southeast Asia regional delegation's management imperative will focus primarily on ensuring:

- The regional delegation operates effectively as the Federation Secretariat's central service to the region's national societies, their partners and country delegations/offices.
- There is efficient and effective programme monitoring and implementation, with timely and quality reporting to partners and contributors.
- The region's membership benefits from sound technical and operational advice and stronger partnerships in programme planning, content and support.
- Adequate funding is secured for national societies' priority programmes, including key sustainability components, coupled with sound financial management to deliver expenditure within agreed budgets.
- The CAS process is advanced wherever practicable.
- National societies' governance and executive arms are properly informed and advised on Federation policies, procedures and other matters of relevance.
- Regional recruitment for delegate positions both inside and outside the region is increased.
- The public profile of national societies and their Federation are enhanced both within the region and beyond.

For further information please contact:

- *In Bangkok: Juergen Weyand, Regional Head of Delegation; Phone: +662 6616933; Fax: +662 6616937; email: ifrc23@ifrc.org*
- *In Geneva: Charles Eldred-Evans/ Sandra Rosner; Phone: 41 22 730 4320/4456; Fax: 41 22 733 0395; email: eldred@ifrc.org or rosner@ifrc.org*

Brunei Darussalam

National Context

Brunei Darussalam, a small state with barely 360,000 inhabitants, is situated on the north-west coast of the island of Borneo. One of the smallest countries in the world, the kingdom's vast oil reserves also makes it one of the wealthiest. Forests cover roughly 75 per cent of the country. Brunei is a constitutional sultanate with an economy almost totally supported by exports of crude oil and natural gas. Revenues from these activities, as well as from the petroleum sector, account for over half of the country's GDP. The economy is a mixture of foreign and domestic entrepreneurship, government regulation and welfare measures, and traditional village activities. Plans for the future include upgrading the labour force, reducing unemployment, strengthening the banking and tourist sectors, and, in general, further widening the economic base beyond oil and gas.

National Society Priorities

Before independence in 1984, the Brunei Red Crescent was a branch of the British Red Cross. The Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) was formed and recognised by the Movement in 1997. The BDRCS does not have a permanently manned office or paid staff, with the secretary general working with an informal task force in running the national society and conducting activities. However, the government presented the society with a new headquarters building in 1999. It also receives limited financial support from the government in the form of a B\$ 5,000 annual contribution.

BDRCS programmes and activities are limited to youth training in first aid, Red Cross Red Crescent fundamental principles and organising volunteers in camps or during events.

Red Cross Red Crescent Priorities

The BDRCS, while fairly active as a branch of the British Red Cross, has seen its activities reduce in recent years. Support is greatly needed to help the society strengthen itself into a well-functioning national society, to clarify its role vis-à-vis the government and also to raise its profile in Brunei.

Partnerships

BDRCS participates in various regional networks and hosted a meeting of the regional disaster management committee in 2002.

Federation Secretariat Support

Through 2004, the Federation secretariat's regional delegation in Bangkok will continue its efforts to establish dialogue with BDRCS to gain a deeper understanding of the society's priorities and activities and also to test fundraising potential.

Lao PDR

National Context

The present state of Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), founded in 1975, is governed by the Lao People's Revolutionary party. This landlocked country, where more than 60 per cent of the population of five million live in relative poverty, has a lower disaster profile in comparison with its neighbours. However, it is affected by seasonal flooding from the Mekong River as well as fires, droughts and health epidemics.

The economy is mainly agricultural, with 85 per cent of its population working in farming, although forestry, hydropower and tourism are also significant industries. Lao PDR is highly vulnerable from the health perspective and health education poses a challenge because of the remoteness of many villages and the diversity of languages, many of which are not written.

One of the major challenges facing the country is how to provide employment and education for more than half a million Lao adolescents now aged 15-19 years, and in the longer term to ensure quality education, health and social services to equip the nations children. Currently the population is growing at the fastest ever rate, at nearly three per cent. According to the latest health ministry statistics, barely half the population has access to clean water with only 39 per cent benefitting from family latrines and eight per cent of children with access to school latrines.

National Society Priorities

The Lao Red Cross (LRC) was recognised by the Movement in 1957. In the 1980s, it became a department of the health ministry, and in the 1990s was transferred to the Ministry of Social Welfare as a department. The Politburo Decree of December 1992 and Prime Ministerial Decree one year later officially recognised LRC as an independent national Red Cross society. A new decree (Prime Minister 36/PM) in May 1999 approved the role and status of the society and defined a clear organisational structure at headquarters and branches.

As a social organisation, the LRC has a role as an auxiliary to the government to alleviate poverty, help victims of disaster, promote public health, and participate in humanitarian activities. A strategic five-year development plan (2001-2005) is in place, outlining areas within which the society will focus while a well-established participatory annual planning process exists. In September 2002, LRC and its key partners signed the region's first cooperation agreement strategy (CAS). In collaboration with a number of ministries, the society has also drawn up various memoranda of understanding (MoUs) or development contracts with a number of participating national societies in support of its core programmes.

Disaster preparedness and response: The LRC is a member of the national disaster management office and works towards ensuring timely relief to disaster victims, focusing on community-based disaster preparedness. Typical activities include providing relief to victims of drought, fire and floods.

Health: Most branches of the LRC run community-based first aid training programmes; those in the north also focus on primary health care activities, building latrines and improving water supply.

HIV/AIDS: Peer-education projects on HIV/AIDS are conducted by the society in seven provinces throughout the country.

Organisational development: Organisational development and capacity building remain the focus of the Federation's work in Lao PDR, particularly at the society's headquarters.

Blood services: Established in eight provinces throughout the country, the goal of the LRC blood service is to provide adequate and safe supply of blood to the sick and those in need.

Youth: The programme has provided community-based first aid training for volunteer teachers and first aid coverage at sporting events. It is also engaged in road safety peer group education activities for youth in the Vientiane municipality.

Dissemination: Dissemination of the humanitarian values of the Red Cross Red Crescent will be reinforced using teaching kits, prepared for each branch by the ICRC and LRC information department.

Communications: The LRC communications strategy has been prepared following a communications workshop in August 2002 and is now being implemented.

Red Cross Red Crescent Priorities

The society's main partners - the Federation, ICRC, and the Red Cross societies of Australia, Austria, Denmark, France, Japan, Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland - are committed to supporting the LRC core programmes through the CAS. The plan has been developed in accordance with the strategic directions in the Federation document *Strategy 2010*, targeted at meeting the needs of the country's most vulnerable groups. It provides the foundation for developing capacity and capabilities within LRC as it moves towards the goal of becoming a well functioning national society by 2010.

Partnerships

The LRC maintains active partnerships with the United Nations system and some non-governmental organisations, specifically in the fields of community health, HIV/AIDS and disaster preparedness. As part of the human resources development programme, stronger links with other members of the international donor community as well as the private sector are being forged. It is hoped such ties will lead to future support or sponsorship for activities such as blood donor recruitment, youth and road safety.

Federation Secretariat Support

The LRC participates and contributes to the Federation-supported regional networks including the Southeast Asia secretaries general forum, regional OD forum, regional disaster management committee, as well as the Asian regional taskforce for AIDS (ART) and regional blood donor recruitment, health and communications networks. With the closure of the Federation secretariat office at the end of 2003, the Southeast Asia regional delegation will manage multilateral support to Lao Red Cross through the CAS office, as detailed in the planned programmes for 2004 described elsewhere in this appeal.

Malaysia

National Context

Malaysia comprises Peninsular Malaysia and the states of Sabah, Sarawak and the Federal Territory of Labuan on the island of Borneo. Its population of 25 million represents three main ethnic groups - Malays, Chinese and Indians - as well as various indigenous groups. Economic growth from the 1970s to the 1990s was almost exclusively driven by exports - particularly of electronics - and, as a result, Malaysia was hit by the global economic downturn and the slump in the information technology (IT) sector in 2001. A substantial fiscal stimulus package mitigated the worst of the recession and the economy rebounded in 2002. The government enjoys healthy foreign exchange reserves, relatively small external debt, and aims at achieving developed-nation status by 2020.

National Society Priorities

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS), founded in 1948, was recognised by the government in 1957, and by the Movement in 1963. It has branches in all 13 states and two federal territories of Malaysia, with a governing national executive committee broadly representative of the population.

The MRCS has fundraised considerable sums of money for international operations in recent times, including relief in North Korea. Between the 1970s and 1990s MRCS provided health and community welfare to Vietnamese boat people, with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) financing the operations.

Disaster preparedness and response: As part of the national contingency plan for disasters, the MRCS works closely with government and non-government disaster relief agencies to respond to national disasters and provide relief to victims. It has also launched community-based preparedness programmes to educate and enhance the ability of people living in disaster-prone areas to deal with disasters.

Health and Care: The MRCS initiative 'A First Aider in Every Home', seeks to achieve its goal by 2010. The society also conducts first aid courses for industrial workers, as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Act. As part of its efforts to combat AIDS, the society runs education, counselling, and public awareness programmes on HIV/AIDS. It also carries out blood donor and collection campaigns throughout the year.

Red Crescent Youth: Young people, mostly school students, constitute more than 90 per cent of the society's total membership of approximately 260,000. Members are involved in peer education on HIV/AIDS, disaster response, youth camps and exchange programmes. They also support the society's fundraising projects and dissemination of international humanitarian law. International youth exchange programmes have been carried out with Australia, Austria, Canada, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Thailand.

Organisation and planning: The MRCS headquarters structure was reorganised in 2000 when certain departments and functions merged. Branches are generally self-supporting with a responsibility for fundraising, though equipment and programme support is provided from headquarters.

Red Cross Red Crescent Priorities

Both the International Federation secretariat and ICRC have developed a significant presence in Malaysia in recent years, through the establishment of regional delegations focusing on resource development and communications (ICRC) and pan-regional services (Federation).

Partnerships

The MRCS is an auxiliary to the government and works closely with a number of non-governmental organisations. It is a partner to several government ministries including the Ministry of National Unity and Social Development, which reimburses the society's ambulance service. The society collaborates with government organisations in efforts to fight AIDS.

Federation Secretariat Support

The Federation provides MRCS with training in health in emergencies, and in various aspects of disaster response. Together with the regional organisational development unit, the society conducted management and leadership development training in 2003, which is expected to continue in the future. The MRCS is part of several Federation facilitated regional networks including the Asian regional taskforce for AIDS (ART), water sanitation and first aid working groups, regional disaster management committee, and the organisational development forum. Most recently, it participated in the Red Cross Red Crescent volunteer curriculum development workshop.

Philippines

National Context

The Republic of the Philippines, an archipelago of more than 7,100 islands covering an area of 1,600 km, comprises three main islands - Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The Filipino population is basically of Malay race and predominantly Christian. Population density is high, with more than half of the Filipino people residing in urban areas. The economy is driven by agriculture, light industry and support services and is recovering from combined effects of the spill-over of the Asian economic crisis and poor weather conditions. In 2002, the Philippines recorded GDP growth of about 4.6 per cent but also incurred a record budget deficit. Government reforms are seen to include privatisation, reforming the tax system, and promoting additional trade integration within its region. The Philippines suffers from the effects of rapid deforestation, frequent cyclones and periodic volcanic eruptions. Sporadic armed fighting in some areas in the south has been a socio-political concern.

National Society Priorities

The Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC), formerly a chapter of the American Red Cross, was declared an independent national society and recognised by the Movement in 1947. Its general assembly is held every two years, when elections are also held for the board of governors. The last elections were held in December 2001. With 84 chapters and nine sub-chapters, PNRC is represented in almost all provinces of the country. At present, the total membership is estimated at seven million, mostly youth.

Disaster management: The PNRC provides emergency assistance during natural disasters and armed conflicts. Volunteers are regularly trained in disaster preparedness and response. Radio communications networks and warehouses are maintained for pre-positioning relief supplies. The society also has a disaster preparedness scheme - the Integrated Community Disaster Planning Programme. Psychological first aid services have recently been introduced to assist disaster victims.

Health: Courses in nursing are needs-specific for home or disaster situations. The PNRC complements the government's primary health care programme by training volunteer health care workers in remote areas, implementing water and sanitation programmes and strengthening the local health system, providing medical equipment, supplementary medicines and support to health centres. It also trains student nurses from public and private universities in community-based nursing and health services and enhances home health care support by training caregivers.

Blood: The national blood programme is rated number one in the country providing voluntary, non-remunerated blood donations through a network of regional and chapter blood centres. The national blood centre in Manila also provides clinical laboratory services, ranging from blood chemistry to urinalysis. It also maintains a registry of rare blood group types.

Safety services: Safety courses conducted by PNRC include first aid, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and other life saving skills, accident prevention, and training of emergency medical technicians.

Social services: Apart from psychological first aid, PNRC provides welfare assistance to the disabled and other vulnerable groups. It operates two centres for women in crisis.

Youth: The youth programme has four objectives: protection of health and life, providing opportunities for community services, fostering international friendship and peace, and dissemination of international humanitarian law and the Movement's fundamental principles.

Red Cross Red Crescent Priorities

The society receives support from several sister societies including the Danish Red Cross (disaster preparedness and street children), the Japanese Red Cross (youth programme/artesian wells with toilet components), and the Spanish Red Cross (primary health care, disadvantaged women and relief).

Partnerships

The PNRC collaborates with the Rotary Club of Pasig to maintain a registry of rare blood types, and with the Philippine Blood Coordinating Council for professional education.

Federation Secretariat Support

The Federation Southeast Asia regional health unit is funding the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) preventive programme in PNRC. The health unit will also appeal for the society's measles eradication programme. Other support includes technical expertise in the water sanitation project, and staff training on disaster management information sharing. The regional organisational development unit has facilitated the financial resource development of the national society, including an exchange visit to discuss fundraising initiatives, and will support a candidate from PNRC for a management course. In association with its counterparts in the sub-region, PNRC has been involved in regional gatherings - facilitated by the regional delegation - including the water sanitation, first aid and blood advisory working groups, regional disaster management committee and the OD forum. The national society also contributed to the Red Cross curriculum development workshop recently held by the regional disaster management unit.

Singapore

National Context

Singapore was founded as a British trading colony in 1819. Since gaining independence in 1965 the island city-state has grown to be the region's financial, information technology and life-sciences hub. The parliamentary republic, with an elected president as head of state, has a mixed ethnicity of Chinese, Malays, Indians and other groups. Although not prone to sudden onset of disasters, environmental concerns in Singapore include industrial pollution and limited natural fresh water resources.

National Society priorities

First established as a branch of the British Red Cross in 1949, the Singapore Red Cross Society (SRCS) was incorporated by an act of parliament in 1973 and, in an effort to remain relevant in providing for the needs of the less fortunate, continuously updates its constitution, most recently in 2001.

Disaster preparedness: The SRCS plays a part in Singapore's national society disaster plan. Together with the health ministry, its response during a disaster includes an ambulance service, set-up and operation of first aid posts and psychological support to victims and volunteers. The society continuously trains staff and volunteers in first aid and other skills preparing them to respond during emergencies and disasters.

Blood donor recruitment programme: Since the inception of its blood collection programme in 1984, SRCS has emerged as the country's authorised national blood donor recruiter. In partnership with the Health Sciences Authority for the national blood programme, its chief functions are to recruit and retain blood donors, increase public awareness, and organise blood drives in the community. The programme has an annual collection target of 65,000 units of blood.

Red Cross training centre: The SRCS annually trains more than 5,000 individuals in standard and industrial first aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. It acts as the secretariat for the National First Aid Council (NFAC), the body that promotes and heightens awareness on first aid and standardises first aid training in Singapore. Together with the NFAC and other partners, the society aims to train at least one member in every household in first aid, by 2020. Besides conducting courses on its premises, instructors also reach out to the public, in schools and the work place.

Youth activities: The society runs programmes for youth of all age groups, with a range of activities that promote community service and impart leadership skills to youth between the ages of 9 and 16. The society's humanitarian network programme targets youth between the ages of 17 and 25, encouraging life saving skills and habits, social responsibility as well as instilling a sense of global citizenship. These youth in turn promote these values to their peers.

Organisation and planning: The society's main strategic directions are to strengthening its role in disaster preparedness, enhancing services for community needs and encouraging volunteerism.

Red Cross Red Crescent Priorities

The SRCS has participated in major emergency appeals launched by the Federation and ICRC, significantly: the Balkans crisis (1999), Turkey (1999) and Gujarat (2001) earthquakes, China floods (2002), humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan (2002) and Iraq (2003), and the Bali bomb blast (2002).

The national society has also been involved in a number of bilateral programmes with the Red Cross societies of Indonesia and East Timor.

Partnerships

The SRCS cooperates with a number of corporate organisations as well as civic and community organisations to bring humanitarian services to the less fortunate, both at home and abroad. This includes partnerships with corporate, civic and community organisations to organise blood drives with employees, members and the community; collaborations with relief organisations such as Singapore International Foundation and Mercy Relief to provide aid to victims of conflicts and disasters abroad; and teaming up with corporate organisations in raising funds for both local and international humanitarian services.

Federation Secretariat Support

The regional disaster management unit has negotiated with the Finnish Red Cross to set up a basic health care emergency response unit (ERU) in Singapore and provide it with technical expertise. At the same time human resources will be deployed from within the region. The unit's overarching involvement in the region, with Singapore as an important player, has been in bringing national managers of the regional disaster management committee together for greater regional cooperation. The SRCS participates and contributes to the Southeast Asia secretaries general forum. It is also a member of the regional organisational development forum, which has been instrumental in bringing organisational development practitioners together to learn and support each other. During the SARS outbreak in 2003, the SRCS and the Federation shared information on health in emergencies. The Federation provides technical advice to the SRCS in its projects in Indonesia and East Timor.

Thailand

National Context

The Kingdom of Thailand is strategically poised in the centre of Southeast Asia. The majority Buddhist country is a constitutional monarchy, with the king as head of state and the prime minister as head of government.

Thailand, a middle income developing economy with relatively good social indicators, is rapidly recovering from the economic downturn that followed the 1997 Southeast Asian financial crisis. Increased consumption and investment spending pushed GDP growth up to more than five per cent in 2002 despite a sluggish global economy. There is disparity in income levels between segments of society, especially between the capital, Bangkok, and outlying rural areas.

A high incidence of HIV/AIDS and large population movements within and across its borders are some of the nation's humanitarian concerns.

National Society Priorities

Established as the Red Unalom Society in 1893, the Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) was recognised by the ICRC in 1920 and became a member of the Federation in 1921. It is represented in all 75 provinces and 193 districts of the country.

Disaster preparedness and response: The relief and community health, and volunteer bureaus of TRCS provide assistance in times of disaster to people living in remote areas. Together with the government, the society provides emergency support by stockpiling essential relief goods and by making flat bottom boats and vehicles as well as telecommunications equipment available. The society also provides knowledge and technical skills through its trained personnel.

Medical and health care services: The TRCS manages two modern hospitals, the 1,777-bed King Chulalongkorn Memorial teaching hospital, and the 500-bed Queen Savang Wadhana Memorial hospital. The Red Cross College of Nursing runs specialised undergraduate and graduate level programmes. The society also operates twelve primary health care stations in remote areas and several other medical centres. In addition, it manages a first aid and health education training centre that provide first aid and special educational services to the public. The AIDS Research Centre of the TRCS has a leading role in Thailand and the region on prevention, counselling, treatment and research on HIV/AIDS. The society also runs the 'Anonymous Clinic' for HIV testing and advice and provides support to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Blood/Eye/Organ donation services: The public health ministry has entrusted the formulation and implementation of the national blood programme to the TRCS national blood centre. This establishment receives voluntary blood contributions, which are supplied to patients nationwide; its facilities are also used for research and training. The TRCS maintains an active eye and organ donation centre.

Community services: Activities range from child, elderly and disabled support services and disaster relief services to other services to disseminate the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and international humanitarian law. The TRCS has active volunteer and youth programmes.

Red Cross Red Crescent Priorities

The TRCS is active in regional networks and one of the leading members of the Asian regional taskforce for AIDS (ART). Chairmanship of the Southeast Asian secretaries general forum was also held by the society for much of 2003.

Partnerships

The Netherlands/Australia/Thailand cooperative HIV research project (HIV-NAT) comprising the TRCS AIDS Research Centre and centres in partnering countries serves as an excellent example of external collaboration. The society also works with various universities and government hospitals in the country and conducts training courses in several areas of competence for the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other Red Cross Red Crescent national societies.

Federation Secretariat Support

The TRCS is a member of several regional networks, including the first aid and water sanitation working groups, the regional blood advisory and (former) blood donor recruitment groups, the organisational development forum and the regional disaster management committee. The society currently hosts the ART secretariat, which recently underwent an external performance evaluation of the past five years. Most recently the regional health unit supported the ART secretariat at the 14th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug-related Harm.

The Federation secretariat organisational development unit offers support to TRCS in programme management, resource development and mobilisation, youth network and gender balance. Federation standardised tools in organisational development are also regularly provided to the society. In addition, the unit collaborates with TRCS in fundraising and youth exchange visits, which help to enhance the visibility of the society in the region.

Disaster management support to the community-based disaster management (CBDM) programme involved initial training, followed by exchange visits to Cambodia and the Philippines to learn about the CBDM programmes in these societies. Training workshops and subsequent individual sessions on the disaster management information system has enabled the TRCS focal person regularly to contribute disaster related information to the Federation website. The unit recently facilitated a cross-border disaster response agreement between the TRCS and its Malaysian counterpart.

Vietnam

Introduction

While the Federation Secretariat currently retains a representative office in Vietnam, there is no formal appeal for 2004 mainly due to uncertainties over the future of this office, including its role and capacity to support the Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC) in the utilisation of additional funds. This awkward situation emanates largely from difficulties encountered through 2003 in appointing a Federation representative, following the end of missions of the previous and then acting head of delegation (November 2002 and June 2003 respectively). Moreover, considerable carry-over funds from 2003 (including support to the VNRC disaster preparedness programme) will need to be expended in 2004 – managed in conjunction with the Federation Secretariat’s regional delegation in Bangkok – entailing a period of consolidation ahead of any operational decisions. In any event, emergencies excepted, Federation Secretariat focus in Vietnam from 2005 onwards almost certainly will be directed towards cooperation and coordination priorities.

National Context

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam was established in 1976, following a period of prolonged warfare and partition that succeeded more than a century of French colonial rule. The country’s government and political structure was reformed in 1992 and a new constitution adopted whereby the Vietnamese Communist Party remains the dominant political force in the country.

Its geography and demographics (population 80 million) make Vietnam one of the countries in the Asia and Pacific region most vulnerable to natural disasters. The long coastline and topography expose it to frequent typhoons, floods and drought. Deforestation, the pressure of a large and dense population, increasing urbanisation, the impact of the regional economic crisis, health and social problems (particularly the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the legacy of war) all combine to make Vietnam one of the region’s highest priorities for humanitarian assistance. By far, the greatest needs are in the rural areas of Vietnam, inhabited by approximately 75 per cent of the population.

The country continues its development of the open market economy, which received a major boost with the ratification of a bilateral trade agreement with the United States at the end of 2001. Even so, foreign direct investment has dropped significantly in recent years, requiring more in-depth reforms in the state sector.

National Society Priorities

The Vietnam Red Cross is recognised as one of the leading humanitarian organisations in the country. It was founded in 1946 and joined the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in 1957. The VNRC priority programmes and activities include health and first aid at community level, social work, disaster response and cooperating with sister national societies.

The VNRC operates as an auxiliary to the humanitarian and social welfare activities of the state authorities of Vietnam and has a key position in the national disaster emergency response mechanism. It has a country wide network of local-level branches in its 61 provinces and is widely represented down to district and commune level. Capacities at provincial level have been strengthened in recent years through branch development programmes, supported by a number of partner national societies. Traditional dissemination and general promotion of humanitarian values are areas under constant development in cooperation with both ICRC and the Federation.

The VNRC has a five-year cycle for its governance body. The national society’s 7th National Congress was held in August 2001, electing the national leadership and governing bodies, including the Central Executive Committee and the National Standing Board, reviewing progress of current strategy and setting priorities for the coming five years (2002-2006). VNRC defined the general direction for this period as:

- Upholding and consolidating the achieved results and increasing public awareness of humanitarian causes and of Red Cross Red Crescent activities;
- Building a strong Red Cross organisation, capable of fulfilling its role as the backbone of the Vietnamese humanitarian front; and
- Expanding international relations based on self-reliance, exchange of experience and knowledge, and making effective use of foreign aid in humanitarian and socio-economic development.

Furthermore, the National Congress established the following priority tasks:

- Implementing, respectively, the 'Hanoi Declaration' of the 5th Asia and Pacific Regional Conference, the Plan of Action of the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and 'Strategy 2010' of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
- Strengthening and developing dissemination services. Continuing innovation and increased effectiveness in VNRC's focus on the poor and efforts to help this group better integrate into the community.
- Consolidating the organisation, especially at grassroots levels, by further enhancing the skills of the VNRC volunteers, staff and members. Providing more help for newly established local VNRC units, particularly those in remote areas.
- Actively raising funds locally to become more self-reliant. Strengthening coordination with different sectors and other mass organisations, and, by doing so, taking a lead role in humanitarian activities throughout the country.
- Establishing action plans at all levels, based on the general directions and tasks, with realistic targets and priorities, formulating and replicating best practices.
- Raising the quality of actions, while addressing legitimate moral and material benefits of the organisation's human resources, namely the volunteers, staff and members.
- Establishing regulations and working rules, renovating the information system, more investment in working aids, raising effectiveness in management skills, strengthening research and actively addressing how to help the weaker links in the organisational structures.

Red Cross Red Crescent Priorities

The main priorities for the Federation Secretariat, which established a delegation in the late 1980s in Vietnam, are to support the VNRC in its capacity building and in the sustainable development of its programmes as well as to provide service and guidance to the VNRC partners engaged in Vietnam. In 2001, the VNRC and the Federation restarted discussions on the development of a cooperation agreement strategy (CAS), in order to clearly define the future roles of the society's various partners. The coordination difficulties that have beset the Red Cross Red Crescent in Vietnam over past year was the subject of intense dialogue at the Southeast Asia partnership meeting in Hanoi at the end of October and while the question still remains open, it is hoped that a solution will emerge before the end of the year.

During the partnership meeting VNRC presented the new draft Development Strategy Framework for the national society for the period from 2003 to 2010. The strategic goals have been outlined as follows:

1. Strengthen and develop all levels of the Red Cross structure; develop Red Cross human resources both in quantity and quality; strengthen the society's financial resources and maintain the state support to all levels of the Red Cross.
2. Review and revitalise activities in terms of content and methodology to develop capacities, efficiency and effectiveness of Red Cross community services.
3. Strengthen and develop structures, increase capacity, effectiveness and quality of Red Cross communication.
4. Develop cooperative relationships with domestic and overseas organisations and individuals.

An action plan has been drafted already outlining priorities, objectives and activities within the Development Strategy Framework 2003-2010. Involving both branch and headquarters levels, VNRC will be heavily engaged in finalising this pivotal strategy document over the coming months.

Disaster preparedness and response: Vietnam is prone to frequent natural disasters, including typhoons, drought or floods, occurring in many areas and severely affecting large sections of the population. The VNRC has over the last years (and with assistance from the International Federation and partners) developed its capacity and is today seen as a key organisation in Vietnam to mobilise, coordinate and provide assistance to disaster victims.

A comprehensive disaster preparedness programme, focusing on human resources development, material resources and risk reduction activities, has strengthened not only VNRC capacity, but also developed communities' ability to cope with disasters. Activities have included construction of flood-resistant houses, schools, preparedness centres and relief stores, as well as training of a huge number of school children. There is also a well establish mangrove planting programme in six northern provinces.

Health and Social Welfare: The VNRC is currently working in several health and care related areas; community-based first aid, primary health care, humanitarian clinics and traditional medicine, HIV/AIDS, blood donor recruitment and community-based social work. Through these programmes, VNRC is providing services to

disadvantaged and vulnerable children, the lonely elderly, extremely poor and people who for different reasons are in critical need for assistance. The national society is also paying special attention to one particularly vulnerable group - those with disabilities, many believed to be suffering from the effects of the chemical defoliants (Agent Orange) sprayed over large parts of Vietnam during the war.

The VNRC is planning further to develop and expand its health and social welfare activities to respond to the needs at local level. Preparations are underway for increasing its intervention in HIV/AIDS, joining the Federation's global campaign and working to prevent the spread, provide care and support and to reduce stigma and discrimination. Road safety and commercial first aid are other areas being considered for development.

Humanitarian Values: VNRC has made some progress in this field by training key staff and volunteers in 'Red Cross' knowledge. Promotion of the Movement's principles and values are mostly integrated into VNRC activities. The national society has lobbied for further recognition and support from the government and public services, which is hoped will bring results over the coming year. VNRC is quite visible in the national and regional media, primarily through its disaster response work and support to Agent Orange victims. With its vast network throughout the country, the VNRC has an enormous potential to promote the Movement's principles and values. Some first steps to develop a more comprehensive communications strategy have been taken in order to be more effective in this area.

Organisational development: The first VNRC organisational development plan has been implemented laying the background for the continuation of organisational changes. Some encouraging achievements have been made, including:

- VNRC has shown its commitment for changes particularly the strategic planning process and management issues.
- Leadership capacity, the retention of qualified staff, fundraising/resource development and skills in daily and programme management are being closely incorporated in an overall plan for the organisation's development.
- A branch development programme is being implemented in more than a dozen provinces with support of partner national societies.

Partnerships

The VNRC is engaging in an increasing number and various forms of collaborations with national societies and other partners, including various NGOs and government ministries. The society still has limited capacity to undertake effective management of such partnerships and continues to rely on coordination support from the Federation and through the developing CAS process.

| <i>Partners in Vietnam in 2004</i> | |
|--|---|
| <i>American Red Cross</i> | American Red Cross is committed to a long-term, multi-faceted partnership with the VNRC that complements and adds value to the range of Red Cross assistance in Vietnam. Priorities include ongoing support to the society's disability programme through the representative office in Hanoi. In addition, a child nutrition education programme in four provinces is targeting 50,000 school children and 200,000 family members over a 15 month period. |
| <i>Australian Red Cross</i> | The Australian Red Cross (ARC) has made a long-term commitment to support the VNRC HIV/AIDS programme and seeks other opportunities to support the society's work in Vietnam. The current plan is to maintain a project office in Hanoi, with a new disaster preparedness and water sanitation project slated for the central provinces. |
| <i>Belgium/Netherlands Red Cross (shared delegate)</i> | The Belgium (Flemish section) and Netherlands Red Cross Societies collaborate on a bilateral disaster preparedness programme and climate change project at national level and with chapters in the five provinces of Nge An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Ninh Thuan and Binh Thuan. There is also support for the VNRC street children project in Quang Tri province, in addition to health and capacity building programmes in three northern provinces: Thai Nguyen, Bac Kan and Cao Bang. |
| <i>Danish Red Cross</i> | Danish Red Cross (DRC) has pledged support for the primary health care and disaster preparedness programmes between 2003-2005. The DRC will continue to maintain an office in Hanoi, headed by a DRC representative, until 2005. |

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| <i>French Red Cross</i> | Ongoing programme development and bilateral assistance from the French Red Cross (FRC) includes community health (Hai Phong), water and sanitation (Ninh Thuan) and disaster preparedness (Soc Trang). The FRC intends to maintain a Hanoi-based representative. Further plans include: an HIV/AIDS counselling/hospital twinning project; road safety; and rural water sanitation and health education activities. |
| <i>Norwegian Red Cross</i> | Bilateral support for 2003-2004 from the Norwegian Red Cross Society (NRCS) is confirmed for VNRC chapters in the three provinces of Binh Dinh, Phu Yen and Khanh Hoa. This will include organisational development and capacity building in the fields of disaster preparedness, social work and community-based first aid. The NRCS plans to maintain a project office in Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa, headed by a branch development delegate, until 2005. |
| <i>Spanish Red Cross</i> | Spanish Red Cross (SRC) runs bilateral projects covering community and branch development in chapters in the provinces of Ha Nam, Ha Tay and Hoa Binh. The SRC currently maintain a project/representative office in Hanoi, headed by a SRC delegate, until 2005, with a possible extension. |
| <i>Swiss Red Cross</i> | The Swiss Red Cross will continue its bilateral support for disaster preparedness, through the construction of 250 flood and storm resistant houses in the province of Phu Yen, and to VNRC's disability programme. |
| <i>ICRC</i> | Through its regional delegation in Bangkok, the ICRC will continue its support to VNRC for the promotion of international humanitarian law, tracing, and the dissemination of the Movement's fundamental principles. |

Federation Secretariat Support

The Federation delegation/office in Vietnam was established in late 1980s with the aim of supporting the organisational development of VNRC, strengthening its programmes and enhancing its ability to respond to disasters. Considerable assistance has been provided through the country delegation/office, with input from the Southeast Asia regional delegation and, latterly, the Kuala Lumpur-based regional finance unit. Over these years, VNRC's capacity has developed significantly, and thereby, the Federation Secretariat's presence and role been subject to review. Although programme implementation assistance is no longer required to the same degree, VNRC has asked for the Secretariat's continued presence and assistance, primarily in the following areas:

- Providing consultancy and advisory support to the VNRC in developing its long-term strategies;
- Assisting VNRC, if required, in coordinating and facilitating the increasing number of partners, including support with establishing mechanisms and developing a CAS;
- Ensuring, as a facilitator and guide, that the appropriate capacity building and technical support is provided to the VNRC by its partners in key functions, including programme and financial management.

It is recognised that the bilateral activities of national societies have an invaluable contribution to make towards building the capacity of the VNRC to implement programmes, but at the same time the VNRC's capacity for coordination and management is not well supported by an intensive bilateral project approach. Continued emphasis is needed on developing consensus on mechanisms for cooperation to facilitate coordination and partnership relations and also to ensure that the collective support aligns with VNRC priorities and overall capacity building to a greater extent than at present.

The past two years have been particularly difficult for the Federation office, with very limited support for its coordination and management costs resulting in an unacceptably high deficit on its core costs budget, which had to be written off (against the Federation's reserves) at the end of 2002, with significant operational implications. At the same time, it became necessary to transfer the then delegation head to another post within the Federation and seek a fully-funded replacement as Federation Representative - a search which has continued unresolved into the final quarter of 2003.

In the meantime and in the absence of a Federation representative and with a pared-down Federation Secretariat office in Vietnam, the Southeast Asia regional delegation has supported both VNRC and the Vietnam office to carry through 2003 programmes. Pending resolution of the coordination issue, the regional delegation will be similarly tasked from the start of 2004.

Health and Care: Recent years have seen some significant achievements in health and care, including the development of a strategic plan for HIV/AIDS and enhancing the capacity of the health and care department at central level.

The department has also recognised the need to formulate longer-term strategies and plans and in 2003, with the support of the Bangkok-based regional health unit (RHU), has started the process of developing the VNRC strategic health plan. This will continue as part of the RHU support to VNRC in 2004, with particular focus on two programmes, community-based society work and HIV/AIDS prevention and care, targeted at:

- Increasing the VNRC's capacity to respond to social welfare needs of the most vulnerable groups in Vietnam.
- Supporting communities seeking to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, coupled with providing care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Disaster Management: The VNRC disaster management programme was established in the early 1990s and has evolved from infrastructure development - primarily the establishment of disaster preparedness centres - to developing material and human resources and then to adopting a more community-focused approach since 2000. Over recent years, the disaster situation in Vietnam has become more complex and disasters have occurred in areas that were not previously considered disaster prone. As a consequence, in addition to the 21 provinces that are considered the most disaster-prone, the VNRC considers that a further nine provinces should also receive support in disaster management activities. During 2002/3, the VNRC implemented different activities aimed at achieving four main strategic objectives:

- The society has the skilled human resources in disaster management at national headquarters and in 30 of the most disaster-prone provinces to manage the national disaster management programme, with reduced Federation technical support.
- The material resources required for disaster management at national headquarters and in 30 provinces considered to be most disaster-prone are enhanced.
- Appropriate risk reduction activities are identified and undertaken by the most disaster prone communities with the support from the VNRC and its partners.
- The VNRC plays an active role within a local, regional and global network in disaster management.

For 2004, the Federation Secretariat will support the VNRC in strengthening its capacity to assist the most vulnerable people in Vietnam to cope with disasters. This work will continue to be concentrated at the community level covering: training, provision of material resources (preparedness kits, radios, early warning sirens, etc.), risk reduction activities and the ongoing development of regional/local disaster management network. The main activities will centre on two projects: mangrove planting in at-risk areas in six northern provinces and associated community-based, disaster mitigation initiatives, funded by the Japanese Red Cross; preparedness for risks and mitigation of the impact of natural disasters through community-based disaster preparedness and mitigation activity, human resource and institutional development, with funding from DipECHO.

Humanitarian Values: At the VNRC national congress held in August 2001, the society set as one of its key tasks to 'uphold reached results, renovate and develop working methods and promote and disseminate the Red Cross widely to the population'. Communication will play an increasingly important role if the VNRC is to achieve this important task. Competition for donor interest and resources is increasing in Vietnam and will require the VNRC to take decisive actions even to maintain its present level of trust and support.

The VNRC has recognised a need for a more coordinated and effective approach to communications and more structured and consistent cooperation between the various departments. The Federation Secretariat's regional information unit has provided regular consultancy support and advice to the VNRC in recent years, and will, together with the country office, support VNRC to develop and implement a communications strategy and help to improve inter-departmental coordination and cooperation.

Organisational Development: The coming year is critical for the organisational development imperative in VNRC and Federation Secretariat support is needed to help the national society lay the foundation for sustainable development, with particular emphasis on:

- Developing a VNRC national strategy and CAS, incorporating technical strategies in health, social welfare and disaster management.
- Enhancing leadership skills and ensuring they are widely applied within VNRC.
- Introducing modern management techniques covering financial systems, leadership training, human resource development and project management skills.
- Fundraising and resource mobilisation, including a strong national headquarters and branch structure.

Implementation and Management: Following recent discussions on new models of partnership in Vietnam between VNRC, partner national societies and the Federation, which intensified with the nomination of the new president of VNRC, the lack of a coordination body for the Movement and a partner to VNRC for strategic planning and monitoring of programmes has been clearly identified. Given the collaboration of all partners, in 2004 the Federation Secretariat will focus on supporting the society in the preparation of a strategic plan and to strengthen VNRC's capacities for monitoring and supervision of the various Red Cross Red Crescent programmes in the country. The role of the Federation office will be adapted depending on the results of discussions and decisions made between the partners involved. The Federation office will in addition support the programmes which are implemented through the technical units in the regional delegation and VNRC.

BUDGET 2004

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 01.66/2004

Name: South East Asia Regional Programmes

PROGRAMME:

| | Health & Care | Disaster Management | Humanitarian Values | Organisational Development | Coordination & Implementation | Emergency | Total |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| | CHF | CHF | CHF | CHF | CHF | CHF | CHF |
| Shelter & construction | 0 | 22,700 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22,700 |
| Clothing & textiles | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Food | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Seeds & plants | 0 | 122,040 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 122,040 |
| Water & Sanitation | 83,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 83,000 |
| Medical & first aid | 80,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 80,000 |
| Teaching materials | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Utensils & tools | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other relief supplies | 0 | 550 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 550 |
| SUPPLIES | 163,000 | 145,290 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 308,290 |
| Land & Buildings | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vehicles | 0 | 4,183 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,183 |
| Computers & telecom | 0 | 2,184 | 0 | 20,391 | 7,500 | 0 | 30,075 |
| Medical equipment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other capital exp. | 0 | 7,259 | 0 | 1,092 | 0 | 0 | 8,351 |
| CAPITAL EXPENSES | 0 | 13,626 | 0 | 21,483 | 7,500 | 0 | 42,609 |
| Warehouse & Distribution | 0 | 4,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,000 |
| Transport & Vehicules | 0 | 12,029 | 0 | 3,239 | 19,920 | 0 | 35,187 |
| TRANSPORT & STORAGE | 0 | 16,029 | 0 | 3,239 | 19,920 | 0 | 39,187 |
| Programme Support | 100,906 | 113,267 | 19,174 | 47,759 | 46,264 | 0 | 327,370 |
| PROGRAMME SUPPORT | 100,906 | 113,267 | 19,174 | 47,759 | 46,264 | 0 | 327,370 |
| Personnel-delegates | 264,000 | 322,134 | 109,620 | 170,059 | 271,500 | 0 | 1,137,313 |
| Personnel-national staff | 402,000 | 174,082 | 96,820 | 55,860 | 162,590 | 0 | 891,351 |
| Consultants | 18,000 | 122,060 | 0 | 45,708 | 0 | 0 | 185,768 |
| PERSONNEL | 684,000 | 618,276 | 206,440 | 271,627 | 434,090 | 0 | 2,214,432 |
| W/shops & Training | 331,500 | 590,359 | 0 | 247,341 | 7,100 | 0 | 1,176,299 |
| WORKSHOPS & TRAINING | 331,500 | 590,359 | 0 | 247,341 | 7,100 | 0 | 1,176,299 |
| Travel & related expenses | 144,500 | 65,936 | 44,365 | 73,172 | 48,820 | 0 | 376,793 |
| Information | 110,500 | 30,299 | 25,000 | 37,257 | 1,248 | 0 | 204,304 |
| Other General costs | 18,000 | 149,492 | 0 | 32,882 | 146,808 | 0 | 347,182 |
| GENERAL EXPENSES | 273,000 | 245,727 | 69,365 | 143,311 | 196,876 | 0 | 928,280 |
| TOTAL BUDGET: | 1,552,406 | 1,742,574 | 294,979 | 734,760 | 711,750 | 0 | 5,036,470 |