

PROGRAMME UPDATE



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

SOUTHEAST ASIA: REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

4 June 2004

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

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In Brief

Appeal No. 01.66/2004; Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: January to March 2004; Appeal target: CHF 5,036,470; Appeal coverage: 56.5%; Outstanding needs: CHF 2,191,717.

(Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List (also available on the website).

The appeal budget was under revision towards the end of the quarter. A reduction in the budget for the management of the delegation is expected.

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Annual Appeal \(01.66/2004\)](#)

Programme summary: Initiatives of the regional delegation took place as planned for the first quarter. Developments in the region, such as disasters in the Philippines, Indonesia and East Timor, and avian flu in the region, also determined the focus areas for the delegation. Highlights for the quarter were as follows:

- The regional health unit and national society health managers jointly formulated guidelines for responding to public health emergencies during the avian flu crisis.
- The disaster management unit certified some more national society response managers as regional – regional disaster response team – resource persons. The unit trained disaster management staff in leadership and management skills and also helped some national societies prepare strategic plans in disaster management.
- The work of national societies was highlighted all through the period via web stories and publications. The regional information unit collected a photo archive for future stories and for Movement publicity.
- The regional delegation facilitated human resource exchange between national societies and encouraged knowledge sharing in the region.

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

Operational Developments

The socio-political scenario, health and disaster situation, and other developments in Southeast Asian countries in the 1st quarter of 2004 influenced the work of the Red Cross/Red Crescent in each country. The quarter started in the wake of disasters in two countries – earthquake followed by floods in Indonesia and landslides in the Philippines. Though the local Red Cross societies effectively managed the response operations, the regional and country delegations were closely monitoring local needs and launched international appeals to support ground efforts. Also during the floods in East Timor in early January, the local Federation office worked closely with the Red Cross in responding to flood victims. In another local tragedy in the Philippines where a passenger ferry caught fire, the Philippine National Red Cross helped reunite the missing with their families.

There were tensions in the south of Thailand most of the quarter following a raid on a police station that triggered retaliations from the police force and suspected local militants. The International Federation regional delegation was monitoring the situation while the ICRC and the Thai Red Cross Society were operational in the southern provinces.

Thailand faced another challenge during the quarter after there were an alarming number of poultry deaths from the avian flu virus. This resulted in a mass culling of poultry and a potential health emergency when a few cases of human deaths (due to the virus) were detected. Immediately, the WHO advised against eating uncooked or semi-cooked poultry and provided stringent measures in culling and disposing of bird carcasses. Bird flu was also rampant in Viet Nam and it affected Indonesia and the Philippines to a lesser degree. The Red Cross in these countries offered support to local authorities in disseminating health and hygiene messages, as well as compensating small poultry farm owners. The Federation's regional delegation offered suggestions and support to the Red Cross societies should they have needed an internationally backed response. The first half of the quarter was also a high season for dengue fever in the Mekong delta countries. In Red Cross chapters and communities, staff and volunteers provided primary health care services and hygiene education.

Throughout the quarter, the Federation Secretariat's regional delegation encouraged and supported the 11-member Red Cross/Red Crescent societies in their work of:

- providing health and care service to communities;
- responding and preparing for disasters; and
- promoting the Fundamental Principles (humanitarian values) of the Red Cross/Red Crescent.

The delegation also facilitated the capacity building of national societies through its initiatives in organisational development. The report below details first quarter achievements – of the delegation and serving national societies – in these four sectors. Country delegations – in Cambodia, Myanmar, East Timor, Indonesia and Viet Nam – worked in close communication with the regional delegation and both drew on each other's resources. In Viet Nam, the country office was directly supervised by the regional delegation during the latter part of the quarter (in the absence of an office head). Achievements in Viet Nam are therefore summarised in an annex to this report.

Health and Care

Southeast Asia is characterised by enormous differences in development stages, social wealth, political systems, culture, education and health. However, in spite of the differences, over the last decades there has been substantial progress in disease prevention and control with a region wide decline in communicable diseases. Still, diseases such as HIV/AIDS, dengue, and TB pose increasing threats in the region, adding to the burden caused by endemic diseases such as malaria and diarrhoea. Population movements, including cross-border migration and urbanisation, combined with microbial evolution, have put all countries in the region at risk. The outbreak of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) in 2003 was a clear example of how the emergence of a new infectious disease, combined with extensive global travelling and trade, could suddenly threaten a new worldwide pandemic with potentially catastrophic consequences had it not been contained in time. Again in early 2004, both the public healthcare and social welfare system in Southeast Asian countries were put to the test after a rise in poultry and human deaths due to the avian flu virus.

All of this has placed an enormous challenge on the Red Cross/Red Crescent to constantly redefine its role and adapt to the external conditions in order to continue serving the most vulnerable in their communities. The

regional health unit seeks to support the national societies in this process and its approach for 2004 can be summarised as follows:

- Supporting capacity development of national societies in the region, with a focus on organisational development at all levels; development of strategic health plans; recruitment and mobilisation of Red Cross/Red Crescent volunteers; ensuring 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 including dissemination of Red Cross/Red Crescent principles; participation in global and regional campaigns against stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS; Red Cross/Red Crescent activities to mark World Water Day, World First Aid Day etc.

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.

Progress/Achievements

Health Strategic Plans – In 2003, the Lao Red Cross health and blood programme managers attended a one-week workshop on strategic planning, conducted by the regional health unit in Bangkok. The workshop led to the development of a five-year strategic plan for the blood programme (finalised in early 2004) which is now being used as a tool for fundraising and securing government support for the programme. In March, the unit and the Lao Red Cross followed up on general health strategic plans and agreed to implement the plan from the 2nd quarter this year. A strategic planning process is also underway in Viet Nam and, as part of this process, the Red Cross of Viet Nam is currently undertaking a branch survey on health activities, with support from the regional health unit and the Danish Red Cross Society.

Health-in-Emergencies – In February 2004, 19 health-in-emergencies managers from 10 national societies and the Federation met in Bangkok to discuss lessons learnt from the Red Cross/Red Crescent response to SARS in 2003, and to discuss preparedness for future epidemics such as the avian flu. The purpose of the four-day workshop was to strengthen the capacity of national societies to respond to and manage future public health emergencies. Presentations from national societies that had been involved in SARS prevention and control activities highlighted some of the constraints faced and achievements made in dealing with SARS. The SARS outbreak was a very difficult and complex situation, not only for the Red Cross/Red Crescent but also for ministries of health, the WHO and other health agencies. It was a new infectious respiratory disease whose mode of transmission and epidemiological pattern were unknown and it threatened the world with a potentially devastating pandemic. For many national societies it was also the first time in decades that they witnessed the emergence of a new epidemic disease, and most did not have either preparedness plans or structures in place to deal with such a situation. Because of these factors, the Red Cross/Red Crescent response was somewhat delayed.

However, national societies responded to the challenge and designed activities according to the needs and priorities in their countries and in conformity with their capacity and mandate. Indeed, their efforts in spreading health information and promoting preventive measures contributed to containing the disease. The clear advantage for the societies in their efforts was access to vulnerable groups in remote areas and marginalised populations. Some countries even reported seeing long lasting impacts of their activities in terms of improved health and hygiene behaviour. The workshop led to the formulation of a set of generic Red Cross/Red Crescent guidelines for dealing with public health emergencies such as SARS and avian flu, and for preparing for and responding to health needs in disasters. A workshop report is currently being prepared and will be widely distributed once finalised.

HIV/AIDS – In January the ART (Southeast Asian national societies' network on HIV/AIDS) Secretariat was transferred to the regional health unit (RHU) and the unit programme officer was appointed as part-time ART secretary. This restructuring is in accordance with the network's strategic plan and the new structure will be endorsed during the 16th ART meeting scheduled for July. Quarterly ART management meetings have been instituted and the first meeting was held in February 2004. Preparations for the upcoming international conference on HIV/AIDS in Bangkok also started in January and included preparation of an abstract on ART that has been accepted for poster presentation at the conference. Implementation of the OPEC funded HIV/AIDS programme continued throughout the reporting period, with the project coordination team concentrating on the preparation of the first annual report, revision of plans and budgets, including reallocation of funds and preparation of the mid-term evaluation.

Blood Donor Recruitment – As mentioned above, the Lao Red Cross finalised a five-year strategic plan for its blood programme. The plan served as input for a scheduled evaluation of the programme by the Japanese Red Cross Society and as a tool for fundraising from other sources. Two members of the health unit participated in the evaluation in March. The evaluation team recommended that the Japanese Red Cross Society continue to support the programme in accordance with its planned funding and exit strategy outlined in the strategic plan.

Water and Sanitation – The wat/san delegate left the delegation at the end of February. Prior to his departure, the delegate visited East Timor and China to give technical support to ongoing programmes. The delegate also visited Cambodia for initiating wat/san activities. The regional health delegate visited the Lao Red Cross in March and advised the society on its plans for a wat/san project. The Lao Red Cross is now preparing a proposal for the project.

First Aid – A process of developing minimum standards for certification in first aid training was initiated in 1998 and put on hold in 2002 due to lack of funding. With funding secured for 2004, the unit resumed this process in February. All national societies in the region were asked if they still considered the minimum standards as essential and 10 responded positively. The RHU will now seek formal endorsement from national society leaderships for the minimum standards. Many health departments have already revised their first aid curricula in accordance with the draft standards.

Coordination – During the 1st quarter of 2004, the RHU participated in several international/regional meetings and conferences:

- In January, the RHU project officer attended the Asia-Pacific Alternative Community Forum on HIV/AIDS in Bangkok, representing the RHU and the ART network. The theme of the forum was 'Toward Community Access' and the objective was to enhance the capacity of communities to identify and develop responses to HIV/AIDS and to prepare participants for the forthcoming international conference on HIV/AIDS in Bangkok.
- In February, the RHU project officer attended Siam Care's Third International Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Siam Care is a Thai NGO that provides support to some of the poorest and most vulnerable families and children, especially those affected by HIV/AIDS. The conference was attended by approximately 80 representatives from a large number of organisations and agencies. A number of issues were addressed at the conference including: adolescent sexual health, male and female sexual health, elderly health care, sex education, and other topics related to sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.
- In March, the unit's trainee delegate in HIV/AIDS attended a meeting organised by the WHO on 'Development of Health Collaboration along Thailand/Myanmar Border Areas'. The objective of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for health staff, NGOs and other stakeholders working in the Thailand/Myanmar border areas to exchange information, discuss common issues and identify potential solutions.
- The regional health delegate participated in a global health retreat in Geneva in March. The aim of the retreat was to facilitate the sharing of experiences and understanding of key issues: integration of programmes, monitoring and evaluation, social mobilisation, coordination and partnerships, mechanisms to improve service delivery. The retreat brought together a large number of health and care professionals from the Federation and national societies and provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the issues listed above and find ways to improve our work.

Impact

As elaborated above, the SARS lessons learned workshop in February identified some constraints national societies faced and achievements they made in dealing with SARS last year. The workshop led to the formulation of a set of generic Red Cross/Red Crescent guidelines for health-in-emergency preparedness and response, which will pave the way for better and timely future action.

Constraints

The wat/san delegate left the delegation at the end of February and has not yet been replaced. The lack of capacity in this area has led to some delay in the development and support of wat/san programmes to national societies. The RHU expects to fully catch up on these once a new delegate is in place.

Disaster Management

Over the quarter, small scale emergencies in the Philippines, Indonesia, East Timor and Viet Nam required engagement of the regional disaster management unit (RDMU). However, mostly these were handled by the national societies/country delegations. Following the Federation's international appeal for the Philippines landslide disaster, a relief delegate was placed with the national society to assist with post emergency rehabilitation in Southern Leyte. The delegate's mission in monitoring and reporting on the operation started towards the end of the quarter.

Priority for the unit has remained ongoing support to the national societies in Laos, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Cambodia in the implementation of their disaster management programmes. Particular support during the quarter was provided to the Malaysian Red Crescent Society for response team training and for future deployment of personnel for Federation disaster response operations. The unit was further strengthened this quarter through the appointment of an assistant programme officer. There were no major financial constraints, although further funding for the unit to support activities was actively sought. The unit currently receives funding from the British, Swedish, Danish and Netherlands Red Cross Societies as well as DFID.

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

Programme Objective: The disaster preparedness and response capacity at national and regional level is substantially improved and the linkages to the Federation's global response system assured, through a comprehensive, integrated regional disaster management approach.

Progress/Achievements

The RDMU has four main project areas. The progress and achievements for each project are described below.

Project 1 Expected Result - All national societies are systematically addressing their disaster management (DM) development needs, based on well developed plans and through strengthened regional cooperation.

Eleven disaster managers representing seven national societies participated in the first leadership and management development course held in Bangkok. The course covered key aspects of leadership and management appropriate to the context of DM. It was facilitated by two consultants from the Institute for Disaster Risk Management (IDRM), Manila, and by Federation staff from the region; and was designed based on individual training needs assessments. The course is part of an ongoing programme that aims to improve leadership and management skills in national societies. The programme includes a personal development plan for each individual which is monitored by regional staff. Another course is scheduled tentatively for August. Participants – DM directors and their deputies – overall felt that the course was appropriate to their needs and was well designed and facilitated. There was however no attendance from Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore and Viet Nam. A special provision was made for the DM director and deputy director of the Red Cross of Viet Nam who could not attend the training due to a disaster response operation in Viet Nam. The unit and the IDRM therefore conducted a shortened two-day course for Viet Nam disaster managers.

Three five-day DM training events were facilitated by the RDMU with support from external facilitators. The first, conducted for 22 Viet Nam Red Cross participants from headquarters and disaster-prone provinces, focussed mainly on organising communities. The course was facilitated by two external consultants with expertise in community-based disaster risk management. The second course, for 15 participants from the Lao Red Cross and three from the Thai Red Cross Society, was aimed at providing practical skills training in participatory rural appraisal and included a two-day field exercise. The third one was conducted in Cambodia with 25 participants – the training team from headquarters and development officers from seven disaster-prone provinces. This course also focussed on practical skills training in the use of participatory methods. The courses in Laos and Cambodia were facilitated by an external consultant and staff from the unit.

The unit also facilitated three-day DM strategic planning workshops with the Lao and Myanmar societies. The workshops were in both cases attended by some 20 to 25 participants from national headquarters and disaster-prone provinces. In Myanmar, two ICRC staff and Federation health and DM delegates were also present throughout the workshop. Both workshops resulted in strategic plans for the next three years and in each case were approved by the participants, including the secretaries general of the societies.

Regular visits were made by the DM unit staff to Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam to support DM staff in the implementation of Federation in-country programmes. In Cambodia and Viet Nam, the programmes are large and complex given the scale and number of activities, geographical spread and number of donors. In Cambodia, support focussed on the development of a DM policy for the national society and its roles and responsibilities with relation to the National Committee for Disaster Management. In Viet Nam, a project with support from DIPECHO provided particular challenges for the national society which required specific attention. In Laos, the programme is considerably smaller but developing and requires regular support from the unit. Visits to Indonesia are less frequent as there is an in-country delegate and any support required is provided at a distance.

The translation of a generic Red Cross volunteer manual was completed in Khmer, Vietnamese and Bahasa Indonesia. This will pave the way for piloting the material in three or four countries later in the year. These national societies developed a first draft of the manual during a regional meeting organised by the unit last year.

Project 2 Expected Result - The disaster response and response preparedness capacity within the region is further strengthened, at both individual national society and regional level, and the understanding of and linkages to the Federation's global response system are assured.

A major event of the first quarter was a two-week disaster response team training organised by the Malaysian Red Crescent Society and supported by the DM unit. The course drew largely from the established regional disaster response team (a Federation standard) training curriculum and was facilitated mainly by a team from the regional delegation and staff from the Geneva Secretariat. One of the main objectives of the training was to equip the 31 participants with knowledge of the Federation global response mechanism. The training was practical in nature and included field-based team exercises. At the end of the training event, the participants understood better how they would operate in a possible future deployment as part of a Federation response team. Sixteen of the thirty-one were certified and admitted to the regional disaster response team (RDRT) roster. The unit further developed its human resource database comprising RDRT and FACT (another standard Federation response mechanism) trained national society staff and volunteers.

Since the beginning of the year, the unit was actively involved with support to the Philippine National Red Cross in response to the landslide disaster in Southern Leyte. The society responded to the disaster with its relief team. However, the RDMU deployed a response delegate for monitoring and reporting on the rehabilitation programme. (For details, see the Philippines landslide operation updates). The unit also supported national societies in East Timor and Indonesia for minor emergencies.

The DM unit supported a staff member from the Indonesian Red Cross Society to attend the FACT training held in Australia. In addition, staff members from the Indonesian and Thai Red Cross Societies were supported to attend the *SPHERE* (minimum standards for emergency response) training-of-trainers in Bangkok (facilitated by RedR). The course was also attended by an RDMU staff member.

Project 3 Expected Result - The linkages and mechanisms for DM information and knowledge sharing between the national, regional and global levels are substantially improved.

The unit continued to provide support to the national societies disaster management information system (DMIS) focal persons in quality assurance, making entries, providing constructive criticism and ensuring that the national societies themselves are responsible for timely and accurate entries. The DMIS is the Federation's information sharing system on disasters.

Project 4 Expected Result - The Federation's regional DM cooperation framework is further developed, maintained, and sustained.

The RDMU made and implemented monthly plans to support the regional disaster management committee (RDMC) activities. The RDMC is a regional cooperation network for national societies' DM directors. For activities in climate change and disaster risk mitigation the unit applied for European Union funding. The unit also applied for DFID funding for a global appeal on disaster risk reduction activities. Planning and preparation was undertaken for the seventh regional DM cooperation meeting which will take place in Hanoi next quarter.

Impact

Subsequent to the leadership and management course, some participants reported that they applied knowledge from the course – delegation skills, situational leadership and improved negotiating ability –in their daily work.

The tailor-made DM courses targeted some 70 national society staff and volunteers (from high risk areas or national society headquarters). Given the fact that the audience had some of their expressed development needs met during these courses (as indicated by positive feedback on daily/course evaluations), it is anticipated that the training will, over time, impact upon the way in which they work and ultimately improve the services of the national societies.

For Viet Nam and Cambodia, where many of the staff have received DM training, the challenge had been to fill gaps in their knowledge and skills base. Therefore the training needs assessments, which formed the basis of the course structure, helped address the participants' specific needs. The courses were practical in nature and interactive, giving opportunities for specific skills to be developed. Follow-up through future visits and monitoring by the RDMU staff will enable a better understanding of the impacts on participants and their work. For participants from Laos and Thailand, the practical nature of the course – using participatory rural appraisal with communities – will help to ensure that learning through doing has long lasting effects on the way that participants undertake their work.

Almost 100 persons from national societies in the region have participated in the three regional disaster response training events so far. The RDRT roster consists of 54 trained members from diverse backgrounds. The team has standard operating procedures for response and the system is ready to be tested and rehearsed.

Constraints

A major constraint during training in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia was a certain loss in interpretation from English speaking external facilitators to a second language. A major learning is to ensure that in future training events, if external facilitators are used, interpreters who are familiar with DM terminology should be hired and that all documentation is translated in advance of the training.

Follow-up of trained personnel remains one of the key challenges facing the unit. The staff and volunteers who participated in regionally organised training events will require further nurturing and monitoring to ensure that knowledge and experiences gained are applied in their work.

Humanitarian Values

Southeast Asia is a region whose national societies – like their home countries – have varying degrees of capacity and focus in information. Many communications departments are not given a high status within their national societies and therefore have difficulty setting their own goals and carrying out visibility activities. Some are required to perform a myriad of functions including organising volunteers, printing certificates, tracing and

landmine awareness. A lack of qualified staff – and little power to match pay to ability – further hampers many communications departments.

Nevertheless, national societies often have a good profile in their own countries, generating credibility and visibility for their work. When necessary, the regional information unit has added value in enhancing the quality of information material and helping distribute it so it can reach regional and international audiences. Such collaboration resulted in 13 web stories (of 22 for the whole Asia & Pacific region) on the Federation website, a widely accessed site. Another role the unit played was in coordinating and distributing information on matters of regional (or global) interest such as World Water Day (22 March) and World Red Cross/Red Crescent Day (8 May).

In January the unit's information delegate attended an induction course in Geneva; the course was designed to improve her understanding of the Movement and its processes. Throughout the reporting period the delegate visited the national societies of Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam Cambodia and the Philippines. A main constraint facing the unit this quarter (and it will continue into the 2nd quarter) was in meeting its appeal budget due to the lack of a staff-on-loan available in the first half of 2004.

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.

Progress/Achievements

Project 1 - Visibility – Expected Result - The Red Cross/Red Crescent is the primary source for humanitarian issues.

The quarter began with Indonesia, the Philippines and East Timor recovering from disasters. Each provided an opportunity to highlight the work of the national societies in responding to the most vulnerable in their countries on Federation website. The information delegate travelled to Southern Leyte in the Philippines to gather material on landslides for web stories and to back up an international appeal.

In February the information delegate travelled to Cambodia with a Scottish doctor who had been part of a Red Cross surgical team during the fall of Phnom Penh to the Khmer Rouge in 1975. The visit was of great interest to international media (broadcast and print) and the Cambodian English-language print media. The delegate also wrote about the visit in *A Gateway to Cambodia's Past* which was posted on Federation website in April. The visit was a chance to show that 30 years after the end of the Pol Pot era, Cambodia is still desperately in need of humanitarian development.

Further, the unit helped the Cambodian Red Cross Society's communications department with visibility for a fundraising visit by British cyclists who travelled from Thailand to Cambodia; this included issuing a press release from Bangkok. The delegate also worked with a volunteer of the Cambodian Red Cross Society who produced a story and photos about a woman who lost her legs in a landmine explosion. This visibility was important for the society because funding for landmine awareness was in jeopardy in Cambodia.

In March, using Swedish Red Cross Society funds (and in April using other funds), the unit hosted a visit by an Icelandic volunteer documentary photographer who travelled to Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam to gather photos of national society disaster and health activities. The photographer also ran short, practical training sessions in each country for national society photographers. The information delegate accompanied the photographer during much of his time in Thailand, Viet Nam and Cambodia to facilitate the visit, work with the national societies, and take notes for captions and stories. During the next quarter, more than 1,400 photos (black and white and colour) will be archived using a special computer software package, FotoStation. The plan is to make it much faster and easier to retrieve and use photos of the Movement's work in Southeast Asia, thereby giving it a higher profile. The Federation and national societies (including donors) will receive photos, which they can use in campaigns, exhibitions, media work or for their own publications. Already photos from the Icelandic volunteer have been used to highlight World Water Day (22 March) along with a story *Fishing for Safer Water* in

Indonesia on the Federation website. In the next quarter, the delegate will work with national society counterparts to develop stories illustrated by the photos, demonstrating how national societies are meeting humanitarian needs.

The unit worked with the Philippine National Red Cross on preparing web stories about various activities: their actions to reunite families when a passenger ferry caught fire in Manila Bay; first aid when fire swept through a Manila slum; a community-based disaster preparedness programme and a massive measles campaign that was funded by the New Zealand Red Cross Society. Much of the credit for the society's excellent visibility – on the website and in the Philippines media – must go to the head of the communications unit in Manila. This former staff-on-loan from the regional delegation grew in confidence in story writing following her mission and often took the initiative in suggesting stories.

A particular success during the period was the publication of a story on mangroves planted along Viet Nam's eastern coast to protect homes and livelihoods from storms. The story was remarkable for the effort put in by the author, a writer for *Humanity Magazine*, a mass audience publication that is connected to the Red Cross of Viet Nam. In addition, the visibility is useful because it is an appealing, concrete programme that improves the environment, livelihood and security of vulnerable people.

Also during the quarter, the delegate visited Malaysian Red Crescent Society headquarters to discuss communications strategies, including raising visibility of the society's recent mission following the Bam earthquake. On request from the Australian Red Cross Society, the delegate wrote a profile of an Australian health delegate working in Myanmar which was used to publicise International Women's Day (8 March). The delegate also began working with colleagues from the Federation and the Australian and Thai Red Cross Societies to plan Red Cross/Red Crescent visibility for the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok in July 2004. The event will be a prime opportunity to showcase the Movement's work in HIV/AIDS.

Drawing on material produced by national societies and by the unit, the information delegate edited and distributed an edition of Southeast Asia Link which, for the first time, was posted on *Fed Net* (the Movement intranet), making it available to a wider audience. Previous issues were also posted.

Project 2 – Integration – Expected Result – Programmes in all four core areas reflect a communications component.

The delegate gave training in photography and interview techniques to regional disaster response training participants in Kuching, Malaysia. None of the participants have been sent on RDRT missions yet.

Project 3 - Skills development – Expected Result – A stronger bond is developed between the regional information team and national societies.

Since the selected staff-on-loan from the Myanmar Red Cross Society could only join in July, the unit used the funds for this position in the 1st quarter on the Icelandic volunteer (see above). During the national society visits, the volunteer helped develop the photographic skills of Red Cross/Red Crescent photographers. There is also the possibility of using some of the funding to raise visibility during the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok in July.

Later in 2004, the unit will work with the organisational development unit to plan a regional information meeting which will focus on sharing experiences, drawing on national society successes, and generating a practical outcome such as web stories.

Impact

A growing relationship between the delegate and national societies resulted in more contact and some spontaneous production of web stories or other initiatives. This relationship should continue to develop in 2004. During the reporting period, Southeast Asia maintained a high profile on the website. Photographs taken during the period have already started making the Movement's activities in the region more visible. This is expected to raise the profile of the Red Cross/Red Crescent in Southeast Asia even more in the coming year. Further, the heightened visibility should also help national societies influence behaviour in communities and maintain or enhance their current level of funding.

Through informal one-on-one coaching and mentoring, the unit believes individuals in communications departments have an improved ability to raise the profile of their national society programmes.

Constraints

As described above, no qualified staff-on-loan from a national society was able to work in the regional information unit in the first half of the year. As a result there was no spending on staff-on-loan, although the unit sought alternatives to using the funds.

An organisational constraint was a major restructuring of the media service in the Geneva Secretariat, accompanied by the loss of many of its experienced staff and a shift in focus away from visibility through the media. The full ramifications of this change are unknown yet but the unit can expect much less support from a new external relations and communications department which is much reduced in size. Thus, considering that there might be fewer postings of web stories, one solution for the unit might be to focus on communicating directly with donors who still require photos and stories for their own purposes.

Organisational Development

The activities and initiatives of the organisational development (OD) programme are based on a study done by the Federation in October 2001. Furthermore, national societies in Southeast Asia also identified needs through their regional network – the OD forum. Both recommended the incorporation of issues relating to youth, volunteering, gender and resource development in the Federation's continuing support to national societies in this region.

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 Asian 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.

Progress/Achievements

Staffed by a single person in the first quarter, the regional OD unit facilitated programmes of the national societies in the region in broad areas as highlighted below. By the end of the quarter, a delegate – who had in her last mission worked in Viet Nam – joined the delegation to oversee finance development in select national societies in the region.

Regional cooperation and coordination

Nine national societies in the region attended the 4th regional Project Planning Process (PPP) training organised by the unit. Participants worked in groups to plan a relief operation – based on a case study – and this created an environment for active discussions, decision making and healthy competition among groups. The course facilitator guided the groups through their group work and graded them on the viability of plans. The evaluation of feedback forms from participants showed they would like to use PPP as a basis for their project planning.

Human resources development in the region

Partnership between the Thai Red Cross Society and the Philippine National Red Cross is strengthening through a joint initiative of visiting the youth department of the Philippines society. In 2003 the Thai Red Cross Society reorganised its youth bureau structure to be totally separated from the government's education department. From the first youth director's meeting in Manila last year, the Thai Red Cross Youth Bureau learnt that the youth department of the Philippine National Red Cross is well structured and has an independent constitution and an impressive plan of action. Since then, both societies have agreed to have exchange visits and the process is supported by the regional OD unit.

Direct support to national societies

The Lao Red Cross has developed an OD work plan which has been agreed by all concerned parties. Its implementation, which includes statutes revision, management and skill training, financial systems development, recruitment/retention of volunteers, has started and will be regularly monitored by the regional OD staff. Further,

since drafting its gender policy in December last year, the society has increased integration of gender sensitivity to its planning process. In the 1st quarter the regional OD unit also supported some costs of the society's cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) office.

Since drafting its fundraising plans, the Philippine National Red Cross has intensified its internal fundraising activities. Training in financial resource development has cascaded to the chapter level as a result of which 105 people are trained. For each chapter, fundraising focal points were identified to work closely with the chapter's board of directors to design and implement the plan. Chapters have tried new means of fundraising and the best practices are available to share within the national society and among sister societies. A significant improvement in resource generation is expected.

The unit conducted PPP training for the Philippine National Red Cross. Though the training was not part of the plans for 2004, the unit accommodated the society's request early this year by allocating some funds from the regional PPP training. The Philippine society also contributed to this training and their staff found the training very useful and practical. Other countries without Federation delegations have also requested the unit to conduct national level PPP training. The societies in the region still need project management tools to be able to better plan and implement projects.

The regional OD unit staff, a Philippine National Red Cross staff member and the ICRC conducted an income generating workshop for the East Timor Red Cross Society. The fundraising plans for chapter and national levels were formulated. The participants included volunteers and staff. It was found that volunteers have great potential to further develop 'doable' fundraising activities with supervision and guidance from society staff. The workshop also enhanced partnership and cooperation with the two national societies and the ICRC.

Further, the unit organised for Federation resource people in the region to train Cambodia Red Cross Society staff in monitoring and evaluation of its programmes.

Impact

The process of regional human resource exchange has indicated enhanced regional cooperation among national societies. The high level visit from the Thai Red Cross Society to the Philippine National Red Cross is expected to initiate cooperation between the two national societies, initially in the field of youth development and expanding to other areas in the future. The training workshop for East Timor Red Cross Society conducted by the Philippine National Red Cross is also another good example of the regional cooperation. Both cases serve as an example of partnership and use of resources from within the region.

The regional and country delegations, by training 140 people in the region in PPP, have helped strengthen the planning processes of national societies.

The start of a Lao CAS office is a positive step for the Lao Red Cross to take ownership of the implementation of all internationally supported programmes and coordination with partner national societies.

Constraints

The replacement of a regional OD delegate has taken longer than expected, though it is now known the new delegate will start their mission in the 2nd quarter. During this time the unit, staffed by a single person, managed and maintained the Federation's regional OD programming. Consistent support to the East Timor Red Cross Society – a new society with several organisational needs – in the absence of a country OD delegate further stretched the resources of the unit. In the 2nd quarter, the Federation office in East Timor will have an OD delegate to support the society which is currently undergoing restructuring.

Coordination and Implementation/Management

This section summarises developments with regard to coordination and management of regional programmes during the 1st quarter. In its daily dealings, the delegation management – head of regional delegation and programme coordinator – interacts closely and as necessary with country delegations, Geneva Secretariat and the leadership in national societies in the region. The overriding management goal has been to promote the Federation strategy – *Strategy 2010* – in the region.

Moving towards the strategic direction of 'working together effectively' as a Movement, the delegation, Lao Red Cross and its international Red Cross partners jointly invested in a coordinating office in Laos (also known as the CAS office). It was also the 1st quarter after the Federation closed its office in Laos. The CAS office replaced this Federation office by both its presence and function, which is primarily coordination of internationally supported Lao Red Cross programmes. This is explained by the framework for CAS, which is to develop capacity building cooperation programmes in national societies. Managed solely by Lao Red Cross staff, the office presented its work for the 1st quarter and plans for the year to the CAS committee in March. The regional programme coordinator, who is the delegation's focal person for Laos, is also on this committee of partners that supervises the CAS office. The office, which is in its formative stages, is setting up a monitoring system for internationally supported programmes. The office is training the finance staff of the Lao Red Cross in a new financial software package. The next committee meeting will be at the end of June.

In February, an interim head of the Federation in Viet Nam completed her four-month mission, which focussed on reorganising responsibilities in the country office. National staff members were handed responsibilities in managing programmes in health, DM, OD and information. The regional programme coordinator directly oversaw the Viet Nam office and in this respect was consistently informed by the office manager. Details of the Viet Nam programme are given in the annex to this report. In late March, the coordinator visited the office to seek feedback on pending issues and also took the opportunity to share information with the Red Cross of Viet Nam and partner national societies. Meanwhile the Secretariat opened a position for a Federation representative in Viet Nam and a candidate was identified and accepted by the leadership of the Red Cross of Viet Nam towards the end of March. He will take up office by mid-May.

In its first management meeting for 2004 with the regional team, the regional delegation emphasised the importance of strategic planning in the region. Team members agreed long-term planning provides a strategic direction to efforts of developing well functioning national societies in the region. In the next meeting, team members will present their priority areas for each country. The delegation had an internal risk assessment exercise the following month which will provide inputs for streamlining financial and office management procedures with the Federation's *Strategy for Change*. The strategy calls for regional delegations to increasingly provide member societies with access to global Secretariat resources.

Member societies from outside Southeast Asia also used the delegation's services during the period. The delegation helped organise a regional seminar for the Swedish Red Cross Society in February. The former head of the Viet Nam country office also used the delegation premises and met with delegation staff in preparation for Austrian Red Cross Society activities in the region. On separate occasions the delegation had visitors from the Australian, American and Danish Red Cross Societies to discuss cooperation in programmes and funding possibilities. A member from the Norwegian Red Cross Society, who has initiated a research project that is mapping the various cooperation models in the Federation, also visited the delegation during the quarter. Findings from the project will include a cost benefit analysis of various cooperation models and might be called upon to set the pace for future cooperation in the Federation.

In another example of sub-regional cooperation, the delegation designated the Australian Red Cross Society as a sub-delegation to its office in Bangkok. In doing so the delegation not only provides services such as the necessary legal presence for the society but has also added to the pool of expertise in the region. The Australian Red Cross Society has been an implementing partner for HIV/AIDS programmes in the region.

As an interlocutor for the Federation Secretariat in Asia Pacific, the head of delegation had preliminary discussions with the chief of the social issues division of the UN Economic and Social Commission in Asia Pacific (ESCAP) in March. The delegation and its UN counterpart, headquartered in Bangkok, agreed to identify common areas for collaboration and to follow up with a meeting next quarter.

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

South East Asia Regional Programmes

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.66/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

02/06/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				5,036,470	TOTAL COVERAGE 56.5%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				910,693		
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		55,826	USD	71,905	20.05.04	DISASTER PREPARENESS MEKONG DELTA PROVINCE
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		146,705	AUD	136,656	13.05.04	DISASTER PREPARENESS MEKONG DELTA PROVINCE
BRITISH - RC		10,000	GBP	22,865	05.02.04	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004				595,500	29.01.04	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, NS DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, VIETNAM CBDP
NETHERLANDS - GOVT		20,535	EUR	32,035	05.01.04	VIETNAM FED. REPRESENTATIVE
NEW ZEALAND - RC		280,000	NZD	235,760	23.02.04	MEASLES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN
NEW ZEALAND - RC		100,000	NZD	84,400	30.01.04	COMMUNITY BASED FIRST AID
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		700,000	NOK	129,675	30.03.04	ART HIV/AIDS NETWORK
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,047,500	SEK	176,504	26.03.04	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		300,000	SEK	50,550	26.03.04	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		350,000	SEK	58,975	26.03.04	FINANCE DELEGATE PROJECT
SWEDISH - GOVT		152,500	SEK	25,696	26.03.04	FINANCE DELEGATE IN-COUNTRY COSTS
SWEDISH - RC				25,339	01.01.04	VIETNAM: BAL. 02 FOR IN- COUNTRY COSTS DELEGATE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2,556,553	CHF	50.8%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATES			73,200		
DENMARK	DELEGATES			42,600		
FINLAND	DELEGATES			26,600		
GERMANY	DELEGATES			45,800		
NEW ZEALAND	DELEGATES			38,800		
SWEDEN	DELEGATES			61,200		

Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.

South East Asia Regional Programmes

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.66/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

02/06/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				288,200	CHF	5.7%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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