

# 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

## PACIFIC REGION

30 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.

For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 01.72/2004; Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: January to April 2004;**  
**Appeal coverage: 23%; Outstanding needs: CHF 1,580,780.**

*[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List - also available on the website.](#)*

**Appeal target: CHF 2,051,860 (USD 1,538,895 or EUR 1,313,190).**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Annual Appeal 01.72/2004](#)**

*For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:*

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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

Red Cross disaster response capacity was tested repeatedly as the 2003/2004 cyclone season continued unabated. Cyclone Heta had a devastating impact on the small state of Niue, after having first affected Samoa and, to a much lesser extent, Tonga. In close coordination with the Federation, the New Zealand Red Cross Society (NZRCS) deployed an experienced disaster management delegate to Niue to assist in the needs assessment, and to prepare for the distribution of relief supplies mobilised from Fiji, New Zealand and the Cook Islands. The Australian Red Cross Society (ARCS) provided two short-term health delegates at the request of the Niue government to reinforce local health capacity in the immediate aftermath. The Samoa Red Cross Society collaborated effectively with the national disaster management office, focussing on the distribution of relief materials as well as the provision of drinking water to the most affected communities.

The Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) took a leading role following the impact of cyclone Ivy, providing effective emergency relief. Activities were coordinated closely with the national disaster management office and with local and international partners. The cyclone occurred only days after an interim CEO - on loan from NZRCS - had taken up position to guide VRCS through its recovery programme. The Federation mobilised its head of delegation for Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the regional finance officer, while NZRCS also made a relief delegate available.

Heavy rains in Fiji caused severe flooding, causing the evacuation of thousands and leaving several hundred families homeless. The Fiji Red Cross Society responded quickly by mobilising branch volunteers who distributed pre-positioned supplies during the first phase. Second phase rehabilitation is currently underway with the provision of temporary housing in the form of tarpaulins and prefab metal frames, which can later also be used as a part of more permanent solutions.

Finally, typhoon Sudal struck the island of Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia, causing severe damage to the majority of houses. An experienced disaster manager from the American Red Cross Society Northern Marianas chapter and a relief coordinator from NZRCS were mobilised to assist in the initial damage assessment and distribution of relief supplies.

## **Health and Care**

**Overall Goal: Well functioning national societies are able to deliver effective and relevant health and care programmes.**

**Programme Objective: Pacific national societies develop and deliver effective programmes in the areas of first aid, HIV/AIDS and voluntary blood donor recruitment.**

### **Expected Result 1**

National societies carry out commercial and community-based first aid programmes to agreed standards.

### **Progress/Achievements**

First aid programmes are well underway with the arrival in March of a regional first aid delegate, supported by the NZRCS. First aid audits are almost complete and the information gathered has allowed the first aid delegate to develop clear objectives and strategies for the upcoming year.

National societies that have limited first aid policies or standards are being encouraged to adopt the Pacific First Aid Quality Management Committee Audit First Aid Policy and adapt it according to their specific requirements.

The programme for 2004 will also concentrate on increasing first aid's market share. To achieve this, instructor capacity will be increased and programmes will work towards sustaining the competency of instructors. Work towards introducing the Pacific Red Cross Code of Practice has begun and will help to formalise and professionalise Red Cross first aid in the region. Topics will include :

- standards worked to;
- course outline and guidelines – including compliance to country's legislation;
- available modules; and
- instructor qualifications.

The programmes will aim to scale up community-based first aid and community-based self-reliance (CBSR) in order to work towards establishing sustainable minimum standards of first aid in the Pacific. Such standards will help to support the development of the conflict first aid and/or psychological support programmes.

### **Impact**

National societies have become more aware of their specific requirements for establishing clear policies and standards as well as working towards increasing first aid's market share and instructor capacity.

### **Constraints**

Not all national societies have a first aid policy. Some courses are run on an ad hoc basis and vary dramatically in length and content throughout the Pacific. Communication and information issues within the Pacific also provide a challenge to continued progress.

Most significantly, instructor capacity and funding to run first aid instructor courses is limited. Expenses related to accessing many isolated branches are high. Follow-up and continuing instructor training is a concern and should be a priority in working towards increasing the sustainability of instructor competency.

## **Expected Result 2**

National societies scale up HIV/AIDS programmes on prevention, home-based care and fighting stigma.

### **Progress/Achievements**

Capacity building projects to increase effective responses to the impact of HIV have commenced in Kiribati and the Cook Islands and are currently in the planning process in the Federated States of Micronesia. Advocacy and prevention activities have also begun, with several World Red Cross Day campaigns focusing on HIV/AIDS implemented in the region. Information materials to address HIV related stigma and discrimination and prevention education have been developed, and a Pacific Red Cross HIV/AIDS Committee meeting was conducted in January with representatives from three sub-regions.

As a part of the targeted stream programme, the Cook Islands and Kiribati Red Cross Societies have initiated national HIV intervention activities. HIV/AIDS prevention and anti-stigma activities have also begun in several societies and will continue to be integrated into voluntary blood donor, youth and disaster preparedness programs. The aim of these activities is to help raise awareness and increase the knowledge of HIV/AIDS, as well as reduce discrimination against people living with the disease. All national societies will have access to resources to implement such activities within their programmes by June.

### **Impact**

The incorporation of HIV/AIDS programming into national society agendas continues. The targeted stream programme is progressing well and activities involving increasing the knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDS, preventing its spread and addressing stigma and discrimination related to the disease are underway. The delegation of responsibility to the ARCS for many HIV/AIDS related activities has greatly contributed to the development of HIV/AIDS programmes in the region.

### **Constraints**

HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination, coupled with a reluctance to discuss sexual behaviour, remain a significant challenge in the Pacific. There are a number of national societies in the Pacific who have indicated a strong interest in participating more actively in the HIV/AIDS programme; however, funding will need to be sourced which is inclusive of both activities in combination with technical support. In addition to this, with more focussed technical support, the three national societies currently involved in the targeted stream will be able to move more actively into the areas of care and support.

## **Expected Result 3**

National societies contribute to a safe blood supply by recruiting sufficient voluntary blood donors.

### **Progress/Achievements**

Following the regional workshop on "Making a Difference" in voluntary blood donor recruitment last December, three national level workshops were scheduled for 2004. A first successful workshop was held in Samoa, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and WHO. The second workshop will take place in Palau in June, while the third workshop is tentatively scheduled for Vanuatu later this year. Eleven national societies have trained two donor recruiters each since December 2003. The 2004 calendar to promote donor recruitment has been produced and distributed and the donor recruitment promotional video was revised for future distribution. Two representatives from the Pacific region attended the World Blood Donor colloquium in Beijing in April.

Memorandums of understanding are under negotiation in Kiribati, Cook Islands and PNG, with the respective Ministries of Health regarding their role and legal responsibilities in blood donor recruitment. The Pacific Regional Advisory Blood Committee has been established and its terms of reference drafted. Activities for the upcoming World Blood Donor Day on 14 June have also been discussed and are in the process of being organised.

### **Impact**

Human and material resource achievements in this reporting period have strengthened national societies' abilities to carry out their mandate in voluntary blood donor recruitment. The information, education and communication materials produced and reviewed so far this year have helped to increase awareness in national societies.

National societies are increasing their capacity to recruit safe donors and meet targets, as has been demonstrated by an increase in the number of voluntary blood donors in Kiribati and Samoa for the first half of this year.

### **Constraints**

Not all national societies have a specific programme or position dealing with donor recruitment. The integration of donor recruitment into other programmes should therefore be considered a priority in societies where human resources are limited. Also, national societies do not effectively collaborate with their Ministry of Health and WHO. Better cooperative relationships with these organisations would help strengthen and promote progress in the donor recruitment programme.

## **Disaster Management**

**Overall Goal: Communities become self-resilient to potential disasters.**

**Programme Objective: National societies are better prepared for effective emergency responses as well as community risk reduction.**

### **Expected Result 1**

National societies are better prepared to respond in times of disasters.

### **Progress/Achievements**

A partnership has been developed between the South Pacific Geo-Science Commission and the Asia Foundation to draft a proposal for basic disaster management training courses to be carried out systematically in the Pacific. The proposed courses are an "Introduction to Disaster Management", "Initial Damage Assessment" and "Training For Instructors".

The Kiribati Red Cross Society (KRCS) commenced its disaster management programme, hosting its first disaster management planning workshop in April. During the workshop, KRCS pledged to tackle issues such as road safety, health related disasters and climate change issues. KRCS identified a timeframe for its 2004 activities and discussed the development of its disaster management plan.

Together with the regional disaster management delegate, KRCS also reviewed its disaster preparedness container maintenance in April. Volunteers and staff cleaned, sorted and undertook a thorough stocktake of relief items.

In this reporting period a number of national societies have optimised the use of pre-positioned relief stocks. The Samoa Red Cross Society (SRCS) assisted victims of tropical cyclone Heta in January with relief items – water containers, tarpaulins and cooking sets – from its five disaster preparedness containers in Apia and Salelologa. The SRCS received local support to replenish the containers. In April, relief stocks from a disaster preparedness container, located on Yap in Micronesia, were released to assist about 1,400 households after typhoon Sudal devastated this island group.

A disaster management officer for the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRCS) has been identified and will be supported for twelve months by the regional programme. This position will help SIRCS to develop its disaster management agenda, especially at the community level. The regional programme has also helped to develop a database that includes information about training courses, participants and locations. The database currently contains disaster management related training courses and workshop information dating from the year 2000.

### **Expected Result 2**

National societies carry out effective programmes that reduce community risks.

### **Progress/Achievements**

SIRCS initiated three small pilots to carry out vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA). The pilots in Malaita, Guadalcanal and Western Province were started in late April. Field officers, volunteers and the regional disaster management delegate worked together to design the VCA study. The officers stayed in several villages for a number of days to learn local behaviour, coping mechanisms and customs. An analysis of the three pilot programmes' progress is scheduled for mid-May.

The Cook Islands Red Cross Society (CIRCS) hosted a national VCA workshop on Rarotonga in February. Twenty-eight participants from outer island branches and other agencies took part and were briefed about participatory methodologies.

### **Impact**

There are indications that community development activities have contributed to progress in Pacific national societies' community risk reduction. SIRCS has recently effectively responded to natural, as well as man-made disasters and has therefore become a well known and respected relief organisation. The society has also commenced pilot projects in community development with VCA.

By assisting successfully with a number of disasters, several national societies have been able to raise their profiles. As a result, national societies such as SRCS were able to replenish their pre-positioned relief stocks primarily with local support and donations.

### **Constraints**

Although gradually improving, national societies still need to improve the micromanagement of their disaster preparedness containers. There is a need to review container contents and set up standards that are suitable for the Pacific context.

## **Organisational Development**

**Overall Goal: Well functioning national societies are able to carry out their mandate effectively and efficiently.**

**Programme Objective: Pacific national societies have made sustainable progress towards being well functioning national societies.**

### **Expected Result 1**

National societies' governance and management have been strengthened at headquarters and branch level.

### **Progress/Achievements**

Negotiations have begun with the University of the South Pacific on the design of a leadership development training course for the region. Branch leaders from SIRCS have received training on governance and an assessment of VRCS' statutes is beginning.

A four-year strategic plan for KRCS was completed in April. Discussions and meetings were held with volunteers, staff members and executive committee, as well as other stakeholders within the country, on appropriate targets, opportunities, needs and the identification of vulnerable communities. The 2004 work plan for KRCS has been developed for their new disaster management capacity building programme.

A governance training workshop for branch representatives in the Solomon Islands was followed by a successful General Assembly, during which a new constitution was formally adopted. New statutes were also adopted in PNG.

## **Expected Result 2**

Pacific national societies have developed sustainable models for local branch development.

### **Progress/Achievements**

No progress during this reporting period.

## **Expected Result 3**

Communication, knowledge sharing and learning between and within national societies has been improved.

### **Progress/Achievements**

Capacity assessment tools are being developed to identify priority issues and highlight areas of best practice that may be shared between and within national societies. A baseline assessment of KRCS' capacity has been carried out.

NZRCS and VRCS have worked closely in this reporting period to strengthen VRCS and lend support in procedural and financial management.

A partnership between the Korean Red Cross Society and KRCS has been facilitated, with the Korean Red Cross Society funding a new disaster management capacity building programme for the next 3 years.

### **Impact**

Through the support of NZRCS and the Korean Red Cross Society, achievements in the first part of 2004 have led to an increase in energy and commitment by VRCS and KRCS.

### **Constraints**

Many national societies have limited standard frameworks for financial management and monitoring and evaluation tools. Comprehensive baseline information on the capacity of national societies throughout the region is also scarce. The absence of a forum for communication and therefore effective interaction within and between national societies remains an important challenge.

## **Coordination and Implementation**

The Pacific Director General Forum was held in Wellington in May, hosted by NZRCS. Managers from nine Pacific national societies discussed issues of common interest, together with counterparts from NZRCS, ARCS, and the Federation. Reports from technical working groups demonstrated clear progress against objectives agreed in the *Pacific Action Plan*. Further strengthening of financial systems and procedures was seen as a key priority. It was agreed to work towards full compliance with common accounting standards, with all national societies committing to the goal of satisfactory external audits by the end of 2005 as a minimum.

The regional health delegate completed her mission, and was replaced by a delegate seconded by the Finnish Red Cross Society. The regional delegation was also strengthened by the arrival of a first aid delegate, fully funded by NZRCS. She will be tasked with the coordination of activities agreed by the first aid quality management committee, allowing the regional health delegate to focus more attention especially on further developing community-based programming. As the Melbourne-based ARCS technical advisor for HIV/AIDS took up maternity leave, it was agreed that her placement would be based in Suva to further enhance coordination; she took up the hosted position in the regional delegation in April. The reporting officer – on a volunteer internship since Dec 2003 - left the delegation in June and it is hoped that she can be replaced shortly.

The regional team has been strengthened during the past six months and activities outlined in the appeal are well underway. Although a number of firm pledges have been received, there remains a shortfall in the overall funding – most significantly in the area of health – and further support is needed if all planned activities are to be achieved. During the next six months, the focus will be on further consolidating the programmes, especially in the area of integrated programming at community level.

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

# Pacific Regional Programmes

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.72/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

23/06/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,051,861	TOTAL COVERAGE 35.9%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				302,317		
AUSTRALIAN - RC		10,000	AUD	9,670	18.04.04	DISASTER MANAGEMENT/YAP/ CYCLONE
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		56,000	EUR	88,228	09.03.04	REGIONAL HEALTH & CARE
SECR. PACIFIC COMMUNITY		15,000	USD	18,735	20.01.04	NATIONAL WORKSHOPS BLOOD DONATION SAMOA, PALAU & VANUATU
JAPANESE - RC		5,000,000	JPY	57,950	01.03.04	MICRONESIA, DP & FIRST AID TRAININGS
NEW ZEALAND - RC		10,000	NZD	8,665	01.03.04	IVY CYCLONE
NEW ZEALAND - RC		76,553	NZD	64,611	20.04.04	FIRST AID DELEGATE IN- COUNTRY COSTS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				550,176	CHF	26.8%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
NEW ZEALAND	DELEGATES			140,000		
FINLAND	DELEGATES			46,200		
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				186,200	CHF	9.1%

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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