

# 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

## PAN AMERICAN DISASTER RESPONSE UNIT

14 July 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization 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. 05AA0440; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: 1 January to 30 May 2005; Appeal coverage: 20.7%; Outstanding needs: CHF 1,634,404 (USD 1,255,329 or EUR 1,052,123).**  
*(click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List (also available on the website).*

**Appeal target: CHF 2,061,935 (USD 1,584,016 or EUR 1,327,471)**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Central America Annual Appeal (05AA043), Caribbean Annual Appeal (05AA041), South America Annual Appeal (05AA044), Haiti Annual Appeal (05AA042), Haiti: Hurricane Jeanne Emergency Appeal 22/2004, Hurricane Response Operations in Cuba (Appeal 20/2004 and 21/2004, Colombia: Floods Emergency Appeal 24/2004, Guyana: Floods Emergency Appeal (05EA001)**

**Programme Summary:** During the reporting period, the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) has worked in coordination with the Panama Regional Delegation and the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office on ongoing emergency operations, as well as the closing of emergency operations relating to the 2004 Caribbean hurricane season: the emergency operations for Hurricane Frances in the Bahamas and for Hurricane Ivan in the Cayman Islands, Grenada and Jamaica. The emergency operation for Hurricanes Ivan and Charley in Cuba have been extended until September, as has the emergency operation for Tropical Storm Jeanne in Haiti. Much of the work of both the National Societies in the region and the regional disaster response system has been focused on these operations during the first several months of 2005. In addition, PADRU has provided support to five National Societies for minor emergencies, primarily due to floods. The regional monitoring system has been strengthened through the support of the information and relief networks that are active in the Americas region. Work has been ongoing in strengthening National Intervention Teams (NITs) within the National Societies in the region, and Regional Intervention Teams (RIT) members specialized in public health in emergencies and IT and telecommunications have been trained. During the Presidents and Technical Seminars meeting held in Panama in early May, PADRU facilitated the disaster response and preparedness discussion. In anticipation of the upcoming 2005 Caribbean hurricane season, one disaster management delegate from PADRU has been assigned specifically to the Caribbean region and is coordinating preparedness and response activities. During the reporting period, PADRU also provided support to the Asian tsunami disaster relief effort.

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

- *In Panama: Nelson Castaño, Head of Pan American Disaster Response Unit, Panama; email [ifrcpa07@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcpa07@ifrc.org), phone (507) 316-1001, fax (507) 316-1001*
- *In Geneva: Olaug Bergseth, Federation Regional Officer, Americas Department, Geneva; email*

[olaug.bergseth@ifrc.org](mailto:olaug.bergseth@ifrc.org), phone (41 22) 730-4535, fax (41 22) 733-0395

*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 (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). 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

During the first several months of 2005, PADRU followed up on the emergency operations that were started in 2004, particularly those related to the 2004 Caribbean hurricane season. The Federation launched a request for assistance and appeals to respond to the effects of Hurricanes Charley and Ivan and Tropical Storm Jeanne in August and September of 2004. An additional response activity was the Federation response to floods in Guyana in mid-January, which included the deployment of Regional Intervention Team members.

Throughout the reporting period, the continued internal conflict in Colombia has caused alarming levels of vulnerability. In addition, a maximum alert was declared in the area around the Galeras volcano in the south of Colombia as it began once more to demonstrate signs of activity and risks of eruption were identified. The National Society developed a contingency plan together with PADRU. This plan includes the Ecuadorian Red Cross which provides support to the communities near the Galeras volcano on Ecuadorian territory.

In mid May, the first hurricane of the 2005 East Pacific Hurricane Season, Hurricane Adrian, threatened El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Although the Hurricane made landfall on 20 May as a category one Hurricane about 35 miles west of San Salvador, El Salvador, there were no casualties, particularly since some 14,000 vulnerable people had been previously evacuated. In Honduras, there was minor flooding and landslides which blocked some roads, and the loss of some poorly constructed houses, but no deaths; in Guatemala two deaths were reported. Red Cross local branches in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras were on alert and the National Societies ensured liaison with the national emergency authorities. DREF funding was allocated for activities to assist vulnerable affected families in El Salvador and to promote preparedness for emergencies in Honduras.

During these months, an evaluation of the hurricane season response was also carried out. This evaluation gave a series of recommendations in terms of administrative, operational and financial procedures during emergency operations. In addition, several recommendations issued as a result of last year's evaluation of PADRU were implemented during the initial months of the year including the formation of a steering committee for PADRU. The steering committee held its first meeting February. Based on the lessons learned from the 2004 emergency response operations, PADRU has revised its disaster response system in order to better respond to the upcoming 2005 hurricane season. This has included new proposals for financing through non-traditional donors, such as ECHO and the Spanish International Cooperation Agency.

**Goal: Red Cross National Societies in the Americas receive significant benefit through support, services, coordination, resources and training from an efficient and effective disaster management unit that contributes to increasing the capacity to successfully help people reduce risk, respond to and recover from disasters, thus alleviating human suffering.**

### Programme Objective 1: Disaster Response

**Upon the request of the Regional Delegations on behalf of National Societies affected by disasters, PADRU will provide a professional, effective and technically competent delivery of disaster response services and resources through well-coordinated and integrated planning.**

### Expected Results

**At the request of the Regional Delegations, PADRU will deliver to National Societies in times of disaster, trained human resources, essential relief supplies, professional technical and coordination services that will**

**strengthen, enhance and, if necessary, augment their own emergency response capacities and assist in the transition from relief to rehabilitation.**

#### **Progress/Achievements:**

As of 30 May, PADRU had responded to several emergency situations in the countries in the Americas region, primarily due to the rainy season in Central America and the northern part of South America. In Colombia, in addition to the response to ongoing flooding, PADRU continued to support to the Colombian Red Cross Society's relief activities following an earthquake in the Choco region in November 2004. During the reporting period, serious flooding occurred in border region between Costa Rica and Panama, for which PADRU provided technical and logistical support, as well as telecommunications expertise, to the two National Societies. PADRU also responded to serious flooding in Guyana in January, provided immediate response and carried out damage and needs assessments. PADRU is also monitoring the situation in Colombia and Mexico, where volcanoes have threatened to erupt. In addition, PADRU provided support to the tsunami relief effort in Asia through the provision of human resources with expertise in disasters, logistics and information.

#### *2004 Hurricane Season*

During the initial months of the year PADRU continued to support the response activities ongoing in the countries affected by hurricanes in 2004. Most of the relief operations have now closed; however, the operation in Haiti following Tropical Storm Jeanne and the operations in Cuba following hurricanes Charley and Ivan have been extended and work continues to be carried out to strengthen the National Societies' response capacities. The following chart details the number of families assisted through the Federation's relief operations in response to the hurricanes in 2004:

**Federation Beneficiary Population - Hurricane Season 2004**

Hurricane	Dates	Country	Families
Charley	09/08 – 17/08	Cuba	5,000
Frances	15/08 – 25/08	Bahamas	4,000
Ivan	02/09 – 15/09	Cuba	3,000
Ivan	02/09 – 15/09	Grenada	10,000
Ivan	02/09 – 15/09	Jamaica	3,000
Ivan	02/09 – 15/09	Cayman	1,000
Jeanne	12/09 – 13/09	Bahamas	3,000
Jeanne	12/09 – 13/09	Haiti	10,000
Total =			39,000

#### *Tsunami operation*

In response to the emergency operation following the tsunami that struck Southeast Asia on 26 December, PADRU provided support to the Federation's global response system and provided human resources to support the relief effort. Two disaster management delegates from PADRU were deployed to Indonesia and Sri Lanka as part of a Federation Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) and an Emergency Response Unit (ERU). A third disaster management delegate was assigned to provide logistics support for the first six months of the year. PADRU also provided support in communications as PADRU's information officer was deployed to the Secretariat's headquarters to work with the media services unit.

#### *Floods in Panama and Costa Rica*

Torrential rains caused serious flooding and landslides on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica and Panama, affecting more than 45 thousand people. Assessments indicated that the greatest needs were for water and sanitation assistance and emergency relief: blankets, kitchen kits and water purification filters. In response to the flooding, the Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC) activated its Emergency Operations Committee and sent 14 relief teams to the affected region. In Panama, more than 200 relief personnel from the Red Cross Society of Panama (PRC) took part

in the relief operation. CHF 90,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to assist at least 1,000 families in the affected areas. The PRC drew up a plan of action to respond to this emergency and to assist 400 families affected by the floods. Both National Societies worked closely with PADRU and the Panama Regional Delegation in coordination, monitoring and response to the emergency. A satellite phone was provided by PADRU to the PRC to guarantee communication in the area.

#### *Guyana Floods*

Three days of torrential rains caused serious flooding in Guyana, affecting more than 150,000 people. Thousands were displaced by the floods and forced to seek shelter. PADRU deployed a water and sanitation delegate to Guyana and the Regional Health Delegate was also in the country, together with the Coordinator from the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office; four Regional Intervention Team members experts in water and sanitation, logistics and disaster management traveled to Guyana to ensure support for the National Society. PADRU chartered three flights to Guyana. The first shipment contained 5,000 blankets, 1,000 kitchen kits, 26 rolls of plastic sheeting, 1,000 hygiene kits and 1,000 collapsible jerry cans for distribution to the neediest families in community shelters. This consignment also included one ton of relief goods purchased by UNICEF and comprising jerry cans, oral rehydration salts, water purification tablets and health kits. The second flight transported 8,000 blankets, 1,375 hygiene kits, 1,375 collapsible ten-litre jerry cans, 50 raincoats, 50 pairs of rubber boots and Federation visibility items. This consignment also included 624 boxes of water purification tablets and 10,000 sachets of oral rehydration salts shipped by PADRU on behalf of UNICEF. The third relief flight contained clean up kits which included the following items: 1 machete, 1 shovel, 1 yard brush, 1 pair of rubber boots, 1 set of gloves, 10 heavy duty plastic bags and 1 bucket of bleach disinfectant. At the end of February, PADRU handed over the operation to the Federation's Port of Spain Sub Regional Office, although PADRU continues to follow up on technical activities, such as telecommunications. The Regional Intervention Team members from the American Red Cross, the Barbados Red Cross Society, the Red Cross Society of Panama and the Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society all completed their missions by 15 March.

#### *Floods in Colombia*

The latest rainy season began in Colombia in February, just as the country was recovering after suffering its worst rainy season in eight years at the end of 2004. The rains caused considerable damages in 10 departments and 63 municipalities. The official figures of the Colombian Red Cross Society list the number of families affected as 17,108, including 5,862 houses that were totally destroyed and another 4,481 houses that were seriously damaged. PADRU sent a disaster management delegate to the country to provide technical support to the Colombian Red Cross Society.

#### *Floods in Venezuela*

Since the beginning of February various states in Venezuela have been seriously affected by flooding, prompting the government authorities to declare a state of emergency. The Venezuelan Red Cross, in coordination with the Civil Protection Agency, has provided humanitarian assistance to 1,000 families in seven of the affected states. PADRU has supported the work of the Venezuelan Red Cross in the design of a plan of action to include food and non-food relief items for 1,000 families and water and sanitation and health activities.

#### *Galeras Volcano (Colombia) and Colima Volcano (Mexico)*

Together with the Colombian Red Cross Society, the Lima Regional Delegation and the Colombia Federation representative, PADRU has continued to follow up on activities to help the National Society prepare for possible emergency relief activities in response to potential eruption of the Galeras Volcano. The Colombian Red Cross Society's contingency plan was revised. The preparedness model for this event could also be used for a possible operation in Mexico in relation to the Colima volcano.

#### *Monitoring*

PADRU provided monitoring and follow up after the occurrence of flooding in the Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Ecuador and Panama and social unrest in Bolivia and Ecuador, as well as disturbances in Panama. PADRU worked in direct coordination with the National Societies, the Regional Delegations and the ICRC to ensure that security regulations were respected. In Nicaragua, there were also social disturbances in April. The Nicaraguan Red Cross organized a special operation to cover the emergency situation during demonstrations in the capital city. In this case, 28 Red Cross members, including first aid personnel, paramedics and rescue teams were mobilized. PADRU's

efforts in monitoring these emergency situations are evidenced in the increased use and quality of the information included on the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS).

#### *2005 Hurricane Season—Hurricane Adrian*

The 2005 Eastern Pacific Hurricane Season officially began in May, while the 2005 Caribbean Hurricane Season begins on 1 June. In May, the first hurricane of the Eastern Pacific Hurricane Season, Hurricane Adrian, affected the coastal regions of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. PADRU activated its monitoring system and maintained constant contact with these three National Societies, as well as the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Red Cross Societies. Adrian was a category one hurricane when it struck El Salvador, but it quickly dissipated over land and fortunately only caused minimal damage. PADRU pre-positioned a disaster management delegate with expertise in water and sanitation in El Salvador prior to the event. PADRU's information team was also placed on alert to follow up on the operation and provide support to the Salvadorean Red Cross. The Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) disaster preparedness coordinator was monitoring the situation with the support of staff from the Federation and shared information with the Federation's Regional Delegation. The Honduran Red Cross (HRC) was monitoring the situation and, through the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergencies (OPADE), sent an alert to members of its National Intervention Teams.

#### **Impact**

Six National Societies in the Americas received support for their relief operations from PADRU during the reporting period. PADRU's monitoring system was put to the test during the situation in Colombia and Mexico following increased activity of local volcanoes, and the system proved successful in keeping National Societies and the Federation up-to-date on any developments. Monitoring and exchange of information with National Societies has allowed PADRU to make better use of DMIS and to provide information for the drawing up of information bulletins to alert donors to new emergencies. PADRU has also improved its efforts in applying for DREF funding, which has allowed for faster response operations to support the National Societies. PADRU has also achieved a high level of coordination with PNS and other donors, particularly ECHO.

#### **Constraints**

One of the most significant constraints during the reporting period has been the limited financial resources. In addition, there has been an almost constant rotation of human resources in PADRU, which disrupts the continuity of the unit's programmes. Both the telecommunications and the water and sanitation delegate have completed their missions, and PADRU is currently awaiting their replacements.

#### **Programme Objective 2: Disaster Response Preparedness.**

**Expected Results: At the request of the Regional Delegations, PADRU will contribute, through technical support, to the strengthening of the capacities of National Societies to reduce risk, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. Disaster preparedness and response mechanisms will be improved through systematic early warning, disaster monitoring and information sharing mechanisms.**

#### **Progress/Achievements:**

##### *Training for Regional Intervention Teams (RITs)*

###### *IT and Telecommunications*

The Federation, through the Pan American Disaster Response Unit, together with the Panama and Lima Regional Delegations carried out the IT and Telecommunications Regional Intervention Team Workshop in Panama between 21 and 27 February 2005. The objectives were to strengthen the response capacity of the Red Cross in the Americas through the telecommunications network, preparing people with training in the Federation's response systems in the area of IT and telecommunications. The participants are now in a position to use and install necessary equipment for successful communication in disaster areas and to use the Federation's response system tools for an efficient response during disasters.

###### *Public Health in Emergencies*

The Panama Regional Delegation and PADRU held two workshops for Regional Intervention Team members with an emphasis on public health in emergencies. A workshop was held between 11 and 16 April for National Societies

of Central America, Mexico and the Hispanic speaking Caribbean; in addition, four participants from the South America region were invited. The workshop for the English-speaking Caribbean took place from 13 to 19 March. Both workshops succeeded in strengthening the response capacity of the Red Cross system in the Americas through the health network, increasing the number of people trained in Federation response systems, focusing on health in emergencies. Each participant now has an understanding of how the components of the response system interact and is able to recognize major diseases as well as indicators in an emergency situation. Participants now also recognize the importance of the application of the SPHERE project in humanitarian response, and are able to identify the mandate of major coordination agencies as well as Movement counterparts in disaster response and to use the tools that the Federation's disaster response system has available to ensure efficiency in disaster operations. In total, 18 National Societies took part in the workshops.

#### *Improvement of the RITs system*

In addition to promoting human resources through the RITs, PADRU has succeeded in developing a reference document which outlines the processes for this tool to boost human resource expertise, based on training, promotion, activation and follow up. Although the concepts have not changed, it has been possible to define standards which guide and ensure the relevance of the work of the RITs. This can be seen more clearly if we compare numbers of RITs deployments, either for operations, internships or training courses; between 1999 and 2003, statistics indicate a total of 17 missions, whereas in 2004 alone 21 RITs missions took place. The tools which guide the process are the reference document, the new data base and the standard alert system. Currently, work is taking place in other areas such as the development of the guidelines for reports and web implementation as tools promoting the exchange of information and training. One of the relevant aspects of the process is the follow up of selection for missions and responsibilities and tasks which are carried out. Progress has also been made in respect to availability, recruitment, profile of members and insurance cover.

#### *Finance Workshop*

PADRU supported the Regional Finance Unit (RFU) in the definition of contents and facilitation of the sessions dealing with the response system, which was a major theme in this workshop. In collaboration with the RFU and the Regional Delegation, finance and administration personnel from the Regional Delegations, Sub Regional Offices and country offices received not only training in their area of specialization, but also underwent a day of training in management of the response system, the tools of which it is composed and its implementation in times of disaster with a view to ensure optimum preparation in the event of future emergency situations. On the basis of this workshop, as appropriate, contingency plans in the area of finance are being updated; this is a task shared between PADRU, the Regional Delegation and the Regional Finance Unit.

#### *FA HUM 2005*

During the first week of April, PADRU represented the Federation in the meeting of the Humanitarian Allied Forces (FA HUM) in Trinidad. The FA HUM is a seminar held to maximize opportunities to exchange personal and professional experiences among participants and examine the challenges of responding to and mitigating disaster in the region. It is organized by the US Army South Command based in Houston, Texas. This seminar is designed for military personnel involved in regional response. Non military, UN and Red Cross Movement representatives are invited to give their perspective in this area. The main areas covered in this meeting were as follows: multinational and regional disaster response coordination; the promotion of multinational and inter-regional disaster response interoperability and discussion of operational response capabilities and limitations at multinational, regional, international, and interagency levels. Participants discussed organizational structure and standard operating procedures for a multinational disaster relief team, logistics support for multinational disaster response, integration of NGOs, international organizations and the private sector in multinational disaster response operations and information sharing during disaster response operations.

#### *Preparation for the 2005 Hurricane Season*

During this period, the Federation, and specifically PADRU, began the process of preparation in the face of the 2005 Hurricane season.

##### *1. Pre Hurricane Season Meeting*

Representatives of National Societies in Central America and the Caribbean, including the overseas branches of the British and French Red Cross Societies, as well as other members of the Federation and of international

organizations and PNS working in the region are scheduled to meet for a week in early June in Panama to review and update plans in anticipation of the 2005 hurricane season, as well as to draw up new contingency plans and define coordination mechanisms between the various actors. The objective of this meeting is to consolidate an overall response strategy for the region in coordination with external actors and donor organizations. PADRU is responsible for the organization of this meeting in coordination with the Panama Regional Delegation and the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office.

### *2. Container Project*

PADRU has continued providing support, together with the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office, to the container project funded by the Japanese Red Cross Society, which consists of pre-positioning stocks in key areas in the Caribbean in order to support the National Societies in the region so that they are in a position to ensure rapid and effective response to disasters as soon as they occur.

### *3. Telecommunications Network*

The IT and Telecommunications unit has succeeded in establishing a VHF and HF radio communications network; the project is under implementation in cooperation with the Caribbean National Societies, the base unit of which has been set up in PADRU. In addition, the selection criteria for participation of National Societies in the plan for the running of the telecommunications network are being defined. National Societies proposed to date are: Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts & Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago.

### *4. Pre-Inventory system*

PADRU has worked on the pre-positioning of humanitarian relief goods in its warehouses as a preparedness measure in anticipation of the dispatch of humanitarian aid required during the hurricane season. The Regional Logistics Unit ensures pre-stocking, the management of virtual warehouses, as well as pre-stocking of goods for UNICEF in line with a cooperation agreement between this UN agency and the Federation. In addition, improvements are being made to the new warehouse premises in the Free Zone in Colón, as a result of the active cooperative relationship between the Federation and the Colón Free Zone, with the vital support of the Red Cross Society of Panama.

### *Contingency and Response Plans*

The National Societies in the region have expressed the necessity of revising and updating the “Contingency Planning Guidelines and Recommendations”, including a practical and participatory methodology which describes the full process for the implementation of contingency plans; in the same way, they have expressed their interest in the drawing up of a document with a simple methodology for the development of response plans ensuring coherence in the region in line with the Plan of Action 2003 – 2007 and the “Reducing Risks and Improving Coordination” strategy of the XVII Inter American Conference. As a result, PADRU facilitated a workshop together with the Regional Delegations and the National Societies. From 22 to 25 May a meeting was held in Bogotá to ensure the revision and updating of the planning guidelines and the development of guidelines and recommendations for the design of response plans. Four National Societies: two from Central America and two from South America took part in this meeting, as well as two representatives from PADRU and a representative from OXFAM who acted as the facilitator. With the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross, PADRU is working with the Nicaraguan Red Cross in the process of revising the National Society’s contingency plans with a view to being prepared for the forthcoming election period.

### *Logistics*

PADRU’s Regional Logistics Unit sent a total of 13,000 kg of humanitarian aid to Cuba in support of the Hurricane operations in that country. The RLU also sent seven vehicles to Haiti to support the flood operations in that country. To support the Red Cross Society of Panama, PADRU delivered 1,300 clean up kits, 1,000 kitchen sets and 1,000 blankets. Three charter planes carrying humanitarian assistance were sent to Guyana and, in total, close to 70,000 tonnes of assistance were sent to Guyana by sea and air. It is expected that during the pre hurricane season meeting in Panama in June a cooperation agreement will be signed between the Colón Free Zone in Panama and the Federation for the renting of a space in the Free Zone warehouses so that the Federation can pre-position relief stocks. Since 2002, the Federation has had a cooperation agreement with UNICEF for the pre-positioning of stocks in PADRU’s warehouses in Panama City. During the pre-hurricane meeting, the Colon Free Zone will formally deliver the rental contract for the new warehouse. During the reporting period, the RLU also provided support to the

Grenada Red Cross Society for the training of a team of logistics experts in order to strengthen the logistics capacity of the National Society.

#### *IT and Telecommunications*

The installation of a new communications antenna has been finalized, which has now made the VHF and HF radio installed in the telecommunications centre completely operational. This centre now allows for radio communication between PADRU and the National Societies in the region. PADRU has received the selection criteria from the National Societies to participate in the Caribbean telecommunications network. It has been proposed that the Red Cross Societies of Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago participate in this project, which is being financed by the Spanish Red Cross. During the reporting period, the telecommunications unit participated in the monitoring efforts for developing emergency situations in the Bahamas, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama and Suriname and also provided technical support to Chile, Colombia, Venezuela and the Sub Regional Office in Trinidad. The telecommunications system currently includes three telecommunications kits pre-positioned in PADRU, each containing a laptop, wireless, HF, VHF and repeater, among other equipment. In addition, with the installation of a new data server, work is progressing on the creation of a virtual library which will contain all the products and information produced by the response system. Work on this project is being carried out with technical assistance from the Regional Disaster Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean (CRID).

#### *Ericsson Response*

With the collaboration of Ericsson, work is being done to improve PADRU's telephone lines. The installation of the telecommunications centre in PADRU has been completed. This centre is now managing the radio communications network, pre-positioned cellular and satellite phone equipment and PADRU's monitoring system. Within the framework of the cooperation programme with Ericsson, pre-positioned cellular telephones have been sent from PADRU to the Bahamas, Costa Rica and Grenada. In addition, 500 GSM cellular phones will be distributed throughout the region. In January, all the equipment for the Ericsson Response programme was checked, at which time, technical problems were detected in one of the containers. This container has now been replaced with a new container containing GSM technology. This was done with the assistance of an Ericsson Colombia volunteer who carried out an internship in PADRU in March.

#### *Database*

The new database has been finalized and is expected to be presented during the pre-hurricane meeting in June. The tool automatically generates e-mail alerts and contains multiple selection criteria which are expected to assist in making decisions as to the deployment of personnel during emergency operations.

#### *Water and Sanitation*

With the support of three volunteers from the Red Cross Society of Panama, including a RITs member with expertise in water and sanitation, all the water and sanitation equipment pre-positioned in PADRU has been reviewed and inventoried to ensure that it is in working order for use in any emergency operation. Supplies such as water pumps, tanks, piping and generators have been inventoried according to the Federation's logistics standards. Equipment such as water tanks, tents and pipes were also routinely cleaned. Currently, a final list is being drawn up of all water, sanitation and hygiene supplies available to the Federation's response system.

#### *Information Management for Disasters*

Together with the Americas' Communicators' Network, the contingency plan for management of information during disasters was revised during the Inter-American Communications Forum. This document is being shared with all National Societies who have committed to adapting the plan to their response plans. The most significant changes to the document were regarding monitoring of emergency situations, activating alerts and activating the communicators' network. The document clearly outlines the support National Societies will provide to the regional response system during times of disaster. Similarly, the Americas' information team has revised the regional communications strategy for emergencies, which will be presented during the pre-hurricane meeting in June. In addition, the information team has completed a video and brochure highlighting all of the work carried out in response to the 2004 Atlantic hurricane season in the Caribbean. The video was created in both English and Spanish, and is accompanied by a CD containing reference documents. A plan is currently being drawn up for the distribution of these materials.

*Internships*

During the reporting period, PADRU continued to strengthen its internship programme. During the first months of the year, the regional information delegate from Lima and the regional information officers from Panama and Trinidad worked in PADRU to strengthen its communications programme. The team was also strengthened by the presence of a member of the Mexican Red Cross, who produced the 2004 hurricane season video. Leading up to the pre-hurricane meeting in June, PADRU's team was also strengthened by two volunteers from the Cuban Red Cross and one volunteer from the Jamaican Red Cross.

**Impact**

- The activities carried out in disaster response preparedness have resulted in better coordination between PADRU, the National Societies in the region and the Regional Delegations
- The regional disaster response system, specifically within the National Societies, has been strengthened by the efforts of PADRU to provide equipment and training and support during times of emergency.
- Through the series of meetings in which PADRU has participated, PADRU has been able to link the United Nations' system with the Federation's response system in the region. This relationship is providing the Federation with access to donors and other organizations such as OXFAM, OCHA and Ericsson Response. PADRU is holding joint meetings on a regular basis with UN agencies present in Panama to ensure that this relationship remains strong.

**Constraints**

Some work scheduled to be carried out during the reporting period has been affected by the limited funding available to PADRU. This has made it necessary to reschedule or cancel some activities

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

APPEAL No. 05AA040

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

12/07/2005

## CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					TOTAL COVERAGE	
					2,061,935	20.7%
AMERICAN - RC	200,000	USD	226,400	07.02.05		
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT			35,000	01.01.05		
BRITISH - RC	14,080	GBP	30,709	18.05.05	LOGISTICS WORKSHOP	
ERICSSON	17,201	USD	19,472	27.05.05		
SWEDISH - GOVT	500,000	SEK	84,150	20.06.05		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH					395,731	19.2%

## KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SPAIN	DELEGATE(S)			31,800		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				31,800	CHF	1.5%

## ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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