

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

BANGLADESH

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In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA046; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: 1 May to 30 September 2005; Appeal coverage: 104.7%; ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List \(also available on the website\)](#)).

Appeal target: CHF 3,187,767 (USD 2,515,388 or EUR 2,068,701)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Tsunami Emergency and Recovery Plan of Action 2005-2010 \(28/2004\)](#), [South Asia Regional Annual Appeal 05AA051](#)

Programme summary: During the reporting period, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) continues with the implementation of its change process, especially in the area of organizational development. The lack of funding for the health and care programme was limiting implementation of activities. However, the German Red Cross support to the mother and child health centres and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) funding for the regional HIV/AIDS project was finalized and activities will start shortly. The revised disaster management strategic plan 2005-2008 was finalized and will provide the basis for upcoming activities.

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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 for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) 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

There has been a continuation in Bangladesh of *hartals* (strikes), terrorist incidents and criminality during the reporting period. There have been frequent political strikes at various locations. These are accompanied by the heightened potential for civil unrest, and are disruptive to daily life and business. On 17 August, close to 500 small bombs exploded in 63 out of 64 districts across the country within 30 minutes, killing two people and injuring more than 100. The government has banned several Islamic groups believed to have been connected to the 17 August attacks and other terrorist incidents.

In spite of the many challenges the country faces, the steady economic growth during the 1990s, particularly during the second half of the decade, has helped placed the country among the top performers within the developing world. According to the United Nations development programme (UNDP) Human Development Report 2005, Bangladesh has made significant improvement in its economic development since 2001, moving from 'low development countries' status to 'medium development countries' status, putting it ahead of Nepal and Pakistan in the South Asian context.¹ It has risen 14 places in the Human Development Index since 1990. As the 2005 report states, Bangladesh has made significant progress in terms of human development:

'Since 1990 Bangladesh has recorded some of the developing world's most rapid advances in basic human development indicators. Child and infant mortality rates have been falling at more than five per cent a year, the fertility rate has fallen sharply, and malnutrition among mothers has fallen from 52 per cent in 1996 to 42 per cent in 2002. Primary school enrolment rates have reached more than 90 per cent, up from 72 per cent in 1990, with close to gender parity, and enrolment in secondary education has been rising.'

However, in terms of ordinary people's access to income, Bangladesh is a poor country and continues to remain at the lower end of the scale with its per capita annual income of USD 350 (CHF 458 or EUR 298).

Every year the monsoon season causes extensive flooding in this low-lying land at the delta of the Ganges. While compared to previous years (and certainly compared to the major disaster of 2004) there have been no major floods this year. However, the north and northwest parts of Bangladesh have been affected. BDRCS has been in constant contact with its district units affected by flash floods and coordinated responses in the affected areas with the local authorities, district relief and rehabilitation personnel and community leaders. The national society has been able to handle the flood situations, utilizing disaster preparedness stocks.

As mentioned in the first programme update, BDRCS finalized its second four-year strategic development plan (2005-2008). The plan is designed to focus on six key strategic directions, which are critical in strengthening the foundation of the national society and building the overall capacity throughout the organization. BDRCS continued its strategic work during the second reporting period and in September 2005 the revised disaster management strategic plan 2005-2008 was finalized and shared and discussed with all directors. The revised plan was formulated in an open and participatory manner and will provide guidance to the disaster management division in its implementation of planned programmes and activities. The main reason for the revision was to incorporate tsunami preparedness related activities and identify the tasks that need to be undertaken.

BDRCS, with the support from the Federation country delegation, also completed the draft Annual Appeal 2006-2007 in September 2005.

BDRCS submitted the final draft constitution to the ministry of health and family welfare earlier this year, after necessary approvals at the national society and Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement levels, and is now awaiting the final approval from the parliament.

¹ UNDP Human Development Report 2005

Health and care

Background

BDRCS seeks to contribute to the implementation of the national health policy by promoting the provision of essential health service packages (ESP), with special focus on populations with little or no access to government health services.

The main focus of the programme is curative and preventive aspects of health care, which are implemented through four general hospitals, five maternity hospitals, three outdoor clinics, two eye clinics and five blood centres.

Additionally, the national society has a nationwide network of 57 mother and child health (MCH) centres, located in remote rural areas providing essential primary health care services at community level. Treatment for simple ailments, preventive care and maternal care are provided to the community through the rural MCH centres (including antenatal care, safe delivery services, and post-natal care).

During the reporting period, BDRCS has continued its efforts to increase community involvement in national society health activities. A special focus has been put on the development of community self-management of MCH centres, in order to make them as self-sufficient as possible.

BDRCS continues to coordinate with the ministry of health and family welfare, the international centre for diarrhoeal disease and research in Bangladesh, the UN and other agencies in order to share experiences more effectively, improve public health technical knowledge and develop client-centred, quality community health care services.

Despite progress achieved in the last 20 years, measles remains a major cause of childhood death and disability in Bangladesh. BDRCS mobilized 500 community volunteers for a three-week pilot 'measles catch-up' campaign in collaboration with the government in September 2005 in the Bogra district.

In the first phase, more than 24,000 children were vaccinated and BDRCS intends to continue to support the campaign throughout 2006.

During the reporting period, there was limited funding received for the health and care programme, except from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) for the regional HIV/AIDS programme. A new contribution from the Japanese Red Cross will help speed up implementation of some of the planned activities.

Goal: To improve the health status of communities with a special emphasis on vulnerable sections of the population through preventive, promotional and curative measures.

Objective: To consolidate existing health services of BDRCS to ensure quality and sustainability of healthcare services as well as establish an integrated and coordinated HIV/AIDS programme.

Progress/Achievements

Expected result 1: Basic health care is provided on a sustainable basis through community managed MCH centres. Until the end of April 2005, eight MCH centres of the BDRCS Dhaka division primary health care programme were financially supported for monitoring and supervision by the Federation. Due to lack of donor support, the programme was temporarily discontinued from 1 May 2005 until 1 July 2005. The original plan under the 2005 appeal was for BDRCS to provide support to 35 of 57 MCH centres. The remaining 22 centres are run by their respective communities and are totally self-funded.

A planning workshop in June developed a logical framework and activity plan for the continuation of the MCH centres. Following the planning and donor negotiations, the German Red Cross agreed to expand their already existing bilateral support from 13 MCH centres to 52 centres from 1 July 2005 onwards. This new BDRCS-German Red Cross primary health care project covers:

- 22 MCH centres in Khulna Barisal division;
- eight MCH centres in Dhaka division;
- 13 MCH centres in the south eastern community health project;
- nine MCH centres, which had previously not received donor funding for the past 20 years.

This interim project will last six months. It started on 1 July 2005 with a preparation phase and will result in a joint funding process by January 2006. A memorandum of understanding has been signed.

Since 1 July, the 22 centres in Khulna division have been undergoing major renovations and old equipment has been replaced to improve service quality. Eight centres in the Dhaka division and the newly integrated nine centres have elected their respective management committees and appointed three community health workers each. Eleven midwives, working in these new centres, have undergone extensive refresher training on safe delivery, reproductive health and integrated child health management. Monitoring and supervision by eight field officers continued in all 52 centres.

A unified management information system was introduced in all MCH centres. However, this requires further strengthening in data entry and data analysis.

Expected result 2. An appropriate, integrated and well-coordinated HIV/AIDS programme using the existing BDRCS network to raise awareness and provide preventive measures is established.

Many of the activities planned for the second reporting period has still not been implemented due to delays in finalizing programme details/protocols etc in relation to the SIDA funding.

During this reporting period meetings have been conducted with the South Asia Regional Delegation (SARD) and in particular the regional HIV/AIDS delegate to finalize programme planning. The position for a national society HIV/AIDS coordinator was advertised and interviews were conducted in September but, unfortunately, a suitable candidate was not identified. The position will be re-advertised in due course.

The aim of the project will be to increase awareness and knowledge of the population and at the same time build networks for better coordination and cooperation to achieve maximum impact in the long run. The first year of the programme focuses on operational set-up, baseline studies and training of trainers. The programme implementation will commence within the coming months.

Procedural/technical delays aside, BDRCS has continued to address HIV/AIDS-related issues. For example, the HIV/AIDS programme is incorporated in all MCH centres and other health institutions. During the reporting period, a six-month HIV/AIDS awareness programme was implemented and finalized with the financial assistance of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). During the project period, BDRCS carried out extensive networking with non-government organizations (NGOs) collaborating with UNICEF.

BDRCS is a member of and liaises with fellow members in the South Asia Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (SARNHA).

The recruitment of a health delegate with a focus on HIV/AIDS is underway. The position is expected to be filled by the beginning of January 2006.

Impact

The MCH programme seeks to improve the health status of women and children in the rural areas of Bangladesh through the provision of preventive and limited curative health care services in the form of ESP and safe delivery through MCH centres. The MCH programme is recognized as being an excellent sustainable community-owned model. The programme and the centres provide opportunity to receive quality health care and it is built on a community-based participatory approach ensuring future sustainability. In this respect, the community participation in the management of MCH centres increased, and the concept of community midwives developed further, contributing to self-reliance of MCH.

Despite delays in implementing the HIV/AIDS project, BDRCS has continued to work on awareness on HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support. The national society has established a firmer platform from which to be more proactive in addressing issues relating to HIV/AIDS in the future.

A reporting system and management information system in the BDRCS health division has been established and is being further developed.

Constraints

The lack of donor support for the health programme has severely restricted the planned activities in relation to the MCH centres. Limited support was provided to just eight of a planned 35 centres, and this had to be suspended for three months due to lack of funds. The bilateral arrangement with the German Red Cross to support a total of 52 of the 57 MCH centres nationwide begun in July 2005 will continue for five years.

Due to delays in the HIV/AIDS regional project set up and recruitment of a suitable candidate for the position of HIV/AIDS coordinator, the HIV/AIDS project has not progressed as planned. Planned activities are expected to have commenced before the end of the year.

Disaster Management

Background

As outlined in the first programme update, the disaster management strategic plan 2005-2008 has been finalized and is guiding the priorities and activities of the programme.

The disaster management programme has received 53 per cent funding against the appealed amount of CHF 2 million (USD 1,529,710 or EUR 1,300,245). Expenditure is just over 40 per cent of the operational budget of CHF 1 million (USD 764,826 or EUR 650,088). There was a delay in the transfer of funds until March due to problems with regards to the settlement of prior outstanding working advances. This led to a delay planned implementation in the early part of the year.

As mentioned in the first programme update, the national society is continuing to face difficulties in addressing all priorities due to the lack of proper human resources. This is due in part to staff deployed on missions for the tsunami operation in other countries and, more recently, to the Pakistan earthquake operation.

The draft disaster management organogram is still at the draft stage and is expected to be finalized and implemented in the coming months.

The 2004 tsunami prompted a review of the 2005-2008 strategic plan to incorporate tsunamis specifically as a disaster to prepare for. BDRCS formed a committee consisting of national society and Federation staff which met several times during June and August to review and make necessary changes and then finalize the revised plan. The revisions were shared with all the BDRCS staff at a meeting in September. The revised 'disaster management strategic plan 2005-2008', consisting of narrative, logframes and timeframes for each of the eight expected results, will be produced in the coming months.

Under the tsunami recovery plan (separate from this appeal), the disaster management division has a budget of CHF 4.49 million (USD 3,434,041 or EUR 2,918,864) over the next five years for the implementation of disaster management and organizational development activities. These involve a community-based disaster management project, strengthening the early warning system in coastal regions and disaster response capacity building of Red Crescent branches in high-risk disaster-prone districts.

Goal: The vulnerability of people in Bangladesh, particularly of women, to disasters is reduced.

Objective: The capacities of high-risk communities to mitigate the impact disasters have on life and property, particularly in flood, cyclone, conflict and earthquake-prone areas of Bangladesh, is enhanced and sustained.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: High-risk communities and women at household level in flood-prone areas are prepared in managing severe floods.

As outlined in the first programme update, the community-based disaster management flood preparedness project is being implemented in ten selected flood-prone districts. The districts were selected utilizing information from the government, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Institute of Water Modelling.

During the reporting period, two basic disaster management trainings have been held for staff and members of community disaster management committees. Staff members also received community-based first aid (CBFA) training and sessions on humanitarian values. A disaster preparedness handbook was also prepared during this time for ongoing dissemination.

The micro group meetings, which are one of the major interventions of this project, started in August in most of the flood programme areas. The micro groups consist on average of 40 families living in close proximity. To facilitate these meetings, guidelines were issued for respective field personnel. These highlight various methodologies to conduct the meetings in a participatory manner and on how to promote messages on disaster risk reduction.

A guidebook titled *Family and Community-Based Preparedness For Floods* has been provided to all programme officers and supporting staff members for use in the micro groups. The book gives guidance on sessions on disaster management basics, first aid and primary health care. Monthly meetings of community disaster management committees (containing representatives from the micro groups) commenced in June in 80 selected high-risk communities.

A quarterly coordination meeting of project officers and staff was held. It was decided that in order to help facilitate reporting/documentation of project activities, monthly reports would be filed consisting of narrative, data base, bills/vouchers, bank statements, etc. The BDRCS community-based disaster management department at national headquarters designed a reporting format which has been used since July.

During this reporting period, orientation exercises in 20 of the 80 communities in the ten units/branches were carried out involving community disaster management committee members. These exercises assessed community-specific physical, social, economic and behavioural vulnerabilities. As a result of the assessments, home-based forestry was replaced with community forestry as one of the long-term investments, particularly for building up community capital as well as contributing to the protection of environment in general.

Community disaster response teams of 25 volunteers apiece were formed in each community over May and June. A third of each team's membership is made up of women. In total 2,000 Red Crescent volunteers have been recruited. CBFA training courses are being carried out for teams in two communities.

Expected Result 2: High-risk communities and women at household level in 11 cyclone-prone districts are better prepared to deal with cyclones.

A total of 256 awareness rallies were held in 30 *upazillas* (sub-districts) under the cyclone preparedness programme (CPP) command area. These rallies involved nearly 48,000 people.

Within the 30 *upazillas*, 30,285 students in 106 institutions were given awareness sessions on cyclones, disaster preparedness, disaster mitigation and the Movement. Orientation programmes on cyclone preparedness for fishermen in 29 centres were held, with a total of 1,450 participating.

However, six awareness rallies, two awareness campaigns with students and an awareness campaign with one group of fishermen could not be held as planned due to unavoidable circumstances and will be arranged in the next quarter.

A cyclone field demonstration was organized by the Red Crescent volunteers of the Chakoria upazilla in Cox's Bazar district. Approximately 6,000 people witnessed the event, including government officials, students, NGOs, etc.

A total of 235 cyclone preparedness seminars were held for various unions, reaching over 31,000 people. A further 30 planned seminars were not held and have been rescheduled for the final quarter.

Radio technicians carried out repair work at HF/VHF stations utilized for the cyclone preparedness programme. Repairs were conducted on 11 HF sets, 12 VHF sets, three antenna masts and three solar panels. Four solar controllers and five 12-volt batteries were replaced and 29 new VHF sets and 12 VHF new antennas were installed in various field stations. A team of radio engineers and technicians is in the field to repair/maintain the wireless network in the Cox's Bazar zone.

With financial assistance from Save the Children, a total of 828 volunteers were recruited in the Bhola Sadar upazilla in Bhola district. Basic training for 345 volunteers has been carried out to date and training of the remaining newly recruited volunteers is in progress. The volunteers were provided with early warning equipment etc.

One hundred and seventy-five officers and volunteers in the cyclone preparedness programme received introductory training on tsunami preparedness and response.

Expected Result 3: A policy, including a sustainable financial plan for the maintenance of BDRCS cyclone shelters, is developed and operational.

The exchange programme that BDRCS had planned with the Indian Red Cross Society, with support from the German Red Cross, did not occur. This will be pursued in the future. The aim is to establish a systematic approach to ensure shelter repair and maintenance is conducted on a sustainable basis.

Expected Result 4: High-risk communities in nine *upazillas* of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) are supported to live in harmony with each other on a sustained basis.

After discussions with the Federation and as per the new disaster management strategy 2005-2008, BDRCS approved and extended the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) development programme in three more *upazillas*, bringing the total for the programme to nine. The new *upazillas* are in the districts of Bandarban, Khagrachori and Rangamati.

Formalities and procedures for an administrative set up at the field level in the three new *upazillas* have been completed. A recruitment committee was formed in May and field supervisors, assistant field supervisors and field workers have been recruited. There are now 120 field workers, re-designated as 'community organizers' in the six existing *upazillas* under the programme. Community-based first aid training courses were held in August for the 300 newly recruited volunteers in the three new *upazillas*.

Each of the 144 communities in the nine selected *upazillas* consists of 250 families. Among the 250 families, ten micro groups have been formed and one 11-member community development committee has been formed by each community with assistance from the respective units/branches.

Surveying for site selection for installing water wells has been completed in the three new *upazillas*. Water wells were repaired as part of an ongoing maintenance programme in Khagrachori and Rangamati by the respective community tube-wells maintenance committees.

Orientation workshops were held on ongoing and planned activities in the nine *upazillas*, with a total of 188 participants.

A humanitarian values workshop with 35 participants was held in Rangamati district in September 2005. Participants included national society staff members and representatives from the government and NGOs.

Traditional birth attendant (TBA) basic training courses were held in the three new *upazillas* in September for 60 newly recruited women. Additionally, during the reporting period, refresher training was held for 150 TBAs from the six existing *upazillas*.

The acting BDRCS secretary general and the Federation head of delegation visited the programme areas of Bandarban and Rangamati districts in September.

Expected Result 5: Disaster preparedness and disaster response capacity for earthquakes are established within the disaster management division at national headquarters and at unit level in four high-risk cities/towns (Chittagong, Dhaka, Rangpur and Sylhet).

The national society's new earthquake preparedness and response programme was launched in August. The programme involves activities covering:

- awareness raising and dissemination on do's and don'ts in case of earthquake;
- training/organizing volunteers at unit/branch/community and school levels (Red Crescent youth (RCY)) providing training on the Movement, disaster management basics, earthquake preparedness/response measures, CBFA and search.

An orientation programme, which included a training course on earthquake awareness for 32 staff members/volunteers, was conducted in August. The participants were from four units/branches and the national headquarters. A major telecommunications company has donated approximately USD 30,000 (CHF 39,223 or EUR 25,499) for the earthquake programme.

During August/September, earthquake preparedness programme offices were established in Chittagong City, Dhaka, Rangpur and Sylhet. This involved organizing volunteers, orientation workshops, training courses, etc. Similar trainings and workshops are scheduled for other programme areas in October. Arrangements have also been made to hold CBFA trainings for Red Crescent members in four units/branches in October.

Ten thousand leaflets, 5,000 posters and 5,000 stickers have been produced for distribution in the different units/branches for dissemination activities.

Expected Result 6: Strengthening of Red Crescent branch response capacity.

The community-based disaster management flood programme is being run in ten branches. Each branch has a 25-member unit disaster response team. Most of the response team members are local residents of the concerned districts and are available on short notice. Gender issues have also been taken into consideration with at least one third of each team made up of women. The teams are receiving ongoing training on the history and Principles of the Movement and basic disaster management.

Expected Result 7: BDRCS national headquarters response capacity is further strengthened.

A 25-strong national disaster response team was formed in August. The team is made up of BDRCS staff members and RCY members from national headquarters and various units/branches. The team will receive ongoing training.

Outside of the planned activities under this expected result, the general disaster response/preparedness activities in this period are as follows:

- A continuation of the Myanmar refugee relief operation. Relief materials were provided to more than 20,000 refugees encamped at the southern tip of Bangladesh. The monthly inter-agency meetings continued.
- An ECHO mission, accompanied by a Federation staff member, visited the Teknaf makeshift camp in May. The Federation head of delegation visited the Rohingya refugee camps.
- The national society attended a workshop on a joint food assessment mission and action plan organized jointly by the WFP and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Cox's Bazar in September.
- BDRCS assisted 15,000 families in May/June affected by tornados and strong winds which hit six districts. Relief materials consisting of family kits, blood pressure-5 (BP-5) compact food and clothing were distributed.
- BDRCS assisted 1,100 families affected by flooding in three districts in August through distribution of relief materials consisting of family kits, BP-5 compact food and clothing. Floods and tidal surges also occurred in the districts of Gaibandha, Mymensingh, Nilphamari and Sherpur causing water stagnation. The affected population was assisted with relief materials.

Expected Result 8: Disaster preparedness and disaster response capacity of BDRCS on population movement, arsenic poisoning, river erosion, accidents and other common disasters is established.

No action has yet been taken by BDRCS due to lack of human resources. BDRCS is still in the process of developing a disaster management cell to gather knowledge and skills on preparedness and response in relation to different types of conflict, arsenic poisoning, river erosion, accidents and other common disasters.

Impact

The community-based disaster management flood programme activities are being implemented in close cooperation with the units/branches. Respective unit/branch authorities are fully aware of ongoing activities and are enthusiastic participants in most of the community level programmes. The Red Crescent volunteers recruited for the community disaster response team (CDRT) will add strength and value to combating floods at the community level. A database on the target population has been prepared during the reporting period. The community orientation sessions have proved to be a unique opportunity for both the target beneficiaries and the implementing agency to share/exchange views and aspirations as well as enabling them to identify problems and address remedies through mobilizing of local resources and skills. A monitoring format has been introduced by the programme which has been in use since July.

Communities involved in the cyclone preparedness programme have shown appreciation for the efforts of volunteers in the various awareness-raising and training activities. Communities living in the coastal region continue to increase their capacity to implement early warning systems in case of emergency. The HF/VHF wireless networks are operational following upgrading/repairs.

Communities involved in the CHT development programme are benefiting from the activities of the Red Crescent TBA volunteers. Income generation activities are helping in improving living standards of targeted communities. The ability of families to generate more income means children are more readily able to go to school.

The earthquake preparedness and response programme, whilst still in its formative stages, is laying the foundation for the national society and relevant actors to build the capacity to work in a coordinated manner. This is vital to raise awareness on earthquake preparedness and response amongst the general population. While earthquakes are a very real threat in Bangladesh, the awareness levels of the general public is low and needs to be addressed.

The initial earthquake preparedness and response training for BDRCS staff members has been an important initial step. Participants learned in detail about the impact of an earthquake, the probable damage, and preparedness and response measures. The participants have also been acquainted with the national society's planned activities and implementation procedures. It is important for staff members to understand their roles and responsibilities with respect to the earthquake programme. Through the training, the volunteers have received the knowledge and skill to implement the programme activities.

Constraints

The main constraint for the disaster management division to implement its activities has continued to be the absence of key personnel. These staff members have been on mission in Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, working in the tsunami and earthquake operations.

Some of the community-based disaster management flood programme areas are big distances from district headquarters. This poses problems in smooth implementation of activities, supervision and monitoring. The coordination process with the government health sector to arrange primary health care and reproductive health training for the community health workers of all the 80 target communities is under process and will be implemented in the last quarter of 2005.

The home-based income generation activities under the CHT development programme covering the three districts are temporarily on hold. This is due to a large amount of revolving fund provided by BDRCS which is yet to be utilized.

Humanitarian Values

Background

The humanitarian values (HV) programme is a core area that continues to receive low funding support. The programme has gained just 44 per cent coverage of its appeal budget of CHF 32,537 (USD 24,887 or EUR 21,152). Despite funding constraints, HV is promoted through all programmes where possible. During the reporting period, some funding was provided through the regional HV programme supported by the British Department for International Development (DFID).

The main focus of the BDRCS HV programme is on active application of cross-cutting issues of anti-discrimination and tolerance into the ongoing programmes and projects in 2005. Potential areas for intervention are relief, HIV/AIDS, gender and ethnic conflict. In this reporting period, the original programme plan was reviewed, and necessary prioritizations were made in view of the limited time left for the programme implementation.

During the reporting period, BDRCS implemented activities related to dissemination of Red Cross and Red Crescent Principles and values, with ICRC support.

Goal: BDRCS effectively promotes humanitarian values through dissemination of the Movement's Fundamental Principles, anti-discrimination, tolerance, mutual understanding, and behavioural change in the community, ensuring respect for all people both inside and outside of the national society.

Objective: To enhance knowledge and better understanding of humanitarian values through integration into all existing programmes and projects.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: BDRCS staff and volunteers are aware, motivated and skilled in promoting humanitarian values, which is reflected in their field of activities.

Five orientation workshops on HV have been held since May with a total of 152 participants. These have included programme and project managers and volunteers. The workshops outlined the concept of HV and how they can be applied in various programme/project areas.

The HV training module was translated into Bangla which will assist the national society programme managers in conducting training at unit level.

Expected Result 2: BDRCS potential stakeholders are knowledgeable about humanitarian values-related issues such as anti-discrimination, tolerance, mutual understanding, attitude and behavioural change through campaigns and motivational drives.

The UNHCR, Confidential Approach to HIV/AIDS Positive People (CAAP), Ashar Alo working with HIV/AIDS and Narri Pakkho working on women rights in Bangladesh participated in workshops organized by BDRCS. They shared their experiences on HV and discrimination.

Impact

The orientation workshops have motivated staff and volunteers in the national society to be more proactive about HV and seek to apply the concept in various projects/programmes. The workshops have also helped gain greater backing from governance to push on with this programme.

The external organizations mentioned above have expressed interest in working with BDRCS in areas such as discrimination.

Constraints

HV faces the challenge of being given due priority and focus by the national society. Progress has been made as evidenced by the workshops and the interaction with external agencies. However, BDRCS faces the issue of

whether to give HV greater prominence. The planned programme funding made up just one per cent of the total appealed amount in the 2005 budget, and of this, it has received just 44 per cent coverage.

Organizational Development

Background

BDRCS is continuously working on developing its organization into a 'well-functioning national society'. This requires a transformation process in all areas: constitutional development, overall governance and management, planning and monitoring development, human resources development, financial management, programme development and management, communications and advocacy, financial resource mobilization, volunteer and youth management and branch development. While progress has been achieved, significant challenges remain.

As outlined in the first programme update, BDRCS completed its second four-year development plan (2005-2008) last year. The aim is to have a realistic four-year development plan that is prepared and owned by the national society, rather than the old, centrally planned, model. The new plan focuses on six key strategic directions critical to strengthening the foundation of BDRCS:

1. Continued constitutional reform support;
2. Human resource reform (including: organogram, staffing review, job descriptions, appraisal system, and downsizing strategy);
3. Resource mobilization (national headquarters and branches);
4. Management skills development;
5. Branch development;
6. Volunteer management and development.

The organizational development programme intends to continue to facilitate the development of the national society in these strategic directions through focused interventions in all departments (based on their annual plans) in the areas of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Goal: BDRCS is transformed into a well-functioning national society, effective and efficient in reducing vulnerability by mobilizing the power of humanity.

Objective: To provide strategic support and coordination to all departments to improve their capacity to plan, implement, monitor, evaluate and report on programmes and activities in their respective field of operation.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: Strategic planning skills of management focusing on long-term, sustainable planning are increased.

A committee has been formed to finalize the terms of reference for a monitoring and evaluation unit. Once this process is completed, the unit will be formed. There have been ongoing discussions about improving the planning process.

Expected Result 2: Programme management skills are strengthened enabling departments to effectively implement plans, monitor and evaluate programmes and report on results.

The following workshops have been conducted during the reporting period:

- On the BDRCS organizational development programme, and how it links with the goal of being a 'well-functioning national society'. The workshop promoted branches to seek gender diversity in their volunteer base. Volunteer motivation, organization and training were also covered.
- An orientation workshop on policies relating to gender, disaster preparedness, fundraising, youth, health and finance. The gathering promoted awareness of these policies amongst management.
- Basic training of trainers on the Movement and first aid for 30 volunteers from 15 Bangladesh Red Crescent units.
- A five-day basic training on the Movement and first aid for 30 national society staff.

During the reporting period, the training department conducted first aid training courses for various companies covering 120 people, earning revenue of Bangladesh Taka 53,000 (CHF 1,049).

Expected Result 3: BDRCS members of the governing board and branch executive committees are well-informed of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and values and are highly motivated.

A workshop on the Movement and organizational development was held in June for the vice-chairman, secretary and unit executive committee members.

Expected Result 4: A volunteer base which is gender diverse, well-trained, highly motivated, well organized with revitalized volunteers, and with a significantly increased membership.

Ten gender sensitization workshops in ten units were held during the reporting period. Each workshop had 35 participants (25 women, 10 men). The objective was to create a gender-balanced environment in order to motivate and inspire women towards active involvement in BDRCS.

Expected Result 5: BDRCS has an enhanced capacity to access financial opportunities through effective and optimum use of available human and financial resources.

Resource mobilization workshops were held in seven BDRCS units. The gatherings involved unit committee members, life members, government officials and various prominent community members. The meetings sought to identify/motivate potential donors. Commitments were made by external individuals/organizations to provide support to the national society.

The fundraising department has continued to develop a range of souvenirs such as pens, key rings, pins, mugs etc. The sale of these items generated Bangladesh Taka 526,247 (approximately CHF 10,480).

The BDRCS earthquake awareness campaign has been supported by a local telecommunication company for a sum of Bangladesh Taka two million (approximately CHF 40,000).

The national society has installed 26 donation boxes with the permission of civil aviation authorities at all airports in Bangladesh.

Expected Result 6: Communication and advocacy development: BDRCS has an established network with non-governmental organizations, government and civil society enhancing overall coordination and effectiveness through communication and advocacy.

The publication of the monthly national society newsletter continued since coming out in April 2003. The newsletter, which is widely distributed internally and externally, profiles BDRCS activities and highlights upcoming events.

BDRCS observed World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on 8 May with a variety of events. This included a rally through the capital Dhaka by youth members and volunteers. The rally highlighted the Movement's Principles and the HIV/AIDS anti-stigma campaign. A seminar was also held at the Holy Family Red Crescent medical college hospital with speakers discussing the significance of the day and the activities of BDRCS. The national society honoured various organizations and individuals for their contribution in blood donation. A children's art competition was held. Similar events were replicated throughout all the 68 BDRCS units nationwide.

Expected Result 7: Youth programme development: Red Crescent youth skills and knowledge are developed to provide key humanitarian services at community level.

The youth and volunteers department has conducted a series of activities over the reporting period:

- The department organized seven basic Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and first aid trainings for volunteers, students and teachers over May to September. There were a total of 315 participants.
- Provision of first aid services at various events in July.
- Staged a cultural function for students from various schools in August.
- Four hundred RCY volunteers attended a measles campaign rally organized by the Bogra unit as part of the national society's overall measles campaign during September.

Impact

The programme management capability of BDRCS departments is gradually increasing. The quality of training is improving and for the likes of first aid, this is attracting external clients which contribute to income generation.

There is a growing awareness in branches in addressing gender issues connected with their activities. A branch-level women's volunteer forum has been formed and there is evidence women are keen to become more involved in branch activities.

The youth volunteers are becoming the focal group for conducting the various youth programmes in schools, colleges and other organizations. Regular information on the RCY movement is being provided to all 68 BDRCS branches. The youth leaders in the branches are now more confident and ready to contribute to the national society's development. The level of the commitment towards the Movement has increased significantly amongst young people.

The fundraising department, with the help of an external consultant, created a wide range of resource mobilization tools, and has accessed the corporate sector of the country. The department's initiatives have helped improve networking with local stakeholders. The top priority in fundraising efforts has been for branch development programme.

Constraints

During the reporting period, implementation of planned activities was delayed due to various reasons. These included internal issues such as late transfer of funds caused by late clearance of old working advances. There has been a slow donor response, with the programme just 55 per cent funded against the appealed amount. The programme director was diverted to take part in the tsunami response in Indonesia and Sri Lanka for much of the year to date.

Implementation and management**Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships**

The Federation delegation has continued to liaise/work with UN agencies, diplomatic missions, etc. Regular contact with the ministry of foreign affairs and other ministries continued. The Federation and BDRCS continued to take part in regular coordination meetings organized by various UN and government agencies.

The Federation Secretariat and the delegation are continuing to advise and assist BDRCS in governance/management, operational management, and guiding it through an ongoing process of organizational change.

Good cooperation and communication with ICRC has been maintained. In August, a four-member ICRC delegation visited the Federation delegation and BDRCS and met the acting secretary general and the tracing and information/public relations department to discuss issues of mutual interest and future plans to support the most vulnerable people through BDRCS.

The South Asia regional disaster management planning meeting was held in May at Cox's Bazaar with 35 participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the South Asia Regional delegation. The meeting discussed the planning process of regional disaster management and DFID Mark II for three countries – Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

The national society hosted the South Asia regional secretary generals meeting in September. The gathering discussed the priorities for the coming years, regional cooperation and the current issues of the various national societies. All national societies from the region – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka – were represented.

Effective representation and advocacy

The BDRCS chairman, accompanied by the acting secretary general, visited ICRC headquarters and the International Federation Secretariat in Geneva in June and received an orientation on the Movement. The chairman and the acting secretary general met with the ICRC President and IFRC Secretary General.

All 68 units of the national society observed World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on 8 May with various rallies, cultural competitions in schools and colleges, art competitions, seminars and distribution of food to vulnerable communities.

BDRCS, with the support from the delegation, has taken an active role in raising awareness and in local fundraising for their work in disaster management. This has included Grameen Phone Bangladesh Ltd donating Bangladesh Taka two million (approximately CHF 40,000) to the national society earthquake awareness programme.

Delegation management

The Federation continues its presence in Bangladesh, with additional support provided by the South Asia regional delegation. The main focus is on promotion of external funding, knowledge sharing, providing adequate financial/narrative reporting to donors/partners, ensuring accountability and skills transfer to the national society in order to assist the most vulnerable.

Regular contact is maintained with the regional delegation, Secretariat Asia Pacific desk, the regional reporting and finance units in Kuala Lumpur, donor agencies, bilateral programmes and sister societies.

During the reporting period, a new head of delegation was appointed and arrived on 13 August 2005, three months after the departure of his predecessor. The delegation has seen a high turnover of staff due to senior staff leaving for tsunami and other operations. The delegation has also provided personnel as staff on loan to Papua New Guinea and the Maldives for periods ranging from three weeks to three months. The support to BDRCS has, however, continued without any interruptions.

The bilateral blood programme delegate from the Italian Red Cross ended his six-month mission in July. The health delegate from the German Red Cross arrived in September to support the BDRCS primary health care project supported by the German Red Cross.

Due to the continuing tense political situation and deteriorating law and order, the delegation maintains strict security regulations. There was one incident reported to the regional delegation of a bilateral delegate being mugged in July. Whilst the delegate was not injured, they suffered the loss of money and possessions.

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

APPEAL No. 05AA046

PLEDGES RECEIVED

06/12/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3,187,767	TOTAL COVERAGE 104.7%	
OPENING BALANCE				209,715		
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		40,000	GBP	87,240	04.04.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT				64,500	01.01.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BRITISH - RC/HARAMEAD TRUST		100,000	GBP	226,000	03.06.05	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
BRITISH - DIFD				402,200	01.05.05	DISASTER REDUCTION PHASE II
CHINA HONG-KONG - RC BRANCH		8,235,500	HKD	1,342,387	13.10.05	DISASTER MANAGEMENT, PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE
GERMAN - RC				50,000	19.01.05	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
ITALIAN - RC		50,000	EUR	75,825	15.12.04	DISASTER MANAGEMENT CHITTAGONG HILLS TRACKS
ITALIAN - RC		288,000	BDT	5,760	23.08.05	BERNARDO SALA
JAPANESE - RC		52,178	USD	67,519	17.10.05	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
JAPANESE - RC		52,178	USD	67,519	17.10.05	HEALTH & CARE
SWEDISH - RC		1,400,000	SEK	239,400	29.03.05	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,300,000	SEK	222,300	29.03.05	DISASTER MANAGEMENT, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,190,000	SEK	203,490	29.03.05	HIV/AIDS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				3,263,855	CHF	102.4%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			72,800		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				72,800	CHF	2.3%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT

Bangladesh

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05AA046

PLEDGES RECEIVED

06/12/2005

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