

Report 2006-2007



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

FedNet

Appeal No. MAA00009

3 July 2007

This report covers the period of 01/01/2006 to 31/12/2006 of a two-year planning and appeal process.

In a world of global challenges, continued poverty, inequity, and increasing vulnerability to disasters and disease, the International Federation with its global network, works to accomplish its Global Agenda, partnering with local community and civil society to prevent and alleviate human suffering from disasters, diseases and public health emergencies.



An excerpt of the FedNet Website.
International Federation Website

In brief

Programme Summary: FedNet was established in 2003 as a core platform for information-sharing in the International Federation. Access is open to all Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers, and an account can be requested on <http://fednet.ifrc.org>.

The **FedNet Plan of Action 2006-2008** sets out a programme of consolidation, development, training and promotion. Despite some human resource and funding constraints, the initial stages of the plan of action were carried out in 2006.

Goal: To create a universally accessible extranet system which supports the information and communication needs of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

Needs: Total 2006-2007 budget CHF 645,583 (USD 530,674 or EUR 390,100), out of which 49.2 per cent covered. [Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

No. of people we help: At the moment, there are about 7,000 people who use FedNet. This number is bound to increase in the coming years.

Our Partners: FedNet has registered users in all national societies as well as in the ICRC and the network of International Federation delegations. In 2006, the unit trained editors in national societies of the Asia Pacific Service Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

Current context

Extranets are increasingly useful in the management and coordination of international organizations. They are particularly relevant in an organization such as the International Federation, with its complex structure of formal bodies and informal networks worldwide.

FedNet, as a single universally accessible platform, addresses the needs highlighted in the Global Agenda for improved coordination, regionalization of the Secretariat and more formal support for networks operating inside the International Federation.

Progress towards objectives

Objective 1: Consolidate and extend the capabilities of FedNet.

Expected result: FedNet is established on a stable and scalable IT platform and routine operations and administration are assured. Information presentation is of a consistently high and improving standard, and additional functionality is made available in response to the needs of users and information managers in national societies and delegations.

Achievements

In 2006, FedNet implemented a new photo library application, installed a new statistics tracking package, implemented a system which automatically identifies page editors and developed a methodology for user integration with the Disaster Management Information System (DMIS). The unit also and initialized a platform review, to be implemented in 2007.

Maintaining a stable and scalable platform for FedNet was a challenge in 2006. As FedNet grows, not only the performance of the system needs to be maintained, but there is also a need for more human resources to support an ever-increasing number of users. During the year, FedNet continued to automate processes to meet demands, without increasing resources. In parallel, a number of enhancements to user services have been added, various integration projects have been carried out or planned, and planning has begun for a major systems upgrade, potentially in 2007.

Objective 2: Train and equip Red Cross and Red Crescent leadership and staff worldwide to share their information on FedNet.

Expected result: A worldwide network of information providers based in national societies, the Federation's Secretariat and delegations is in place to feed information into FedNet and provide FedNet access to their own constituencies.

Achievements

In 2006, the FedNet team continued the FedNet editors training programme in Geneva and trained regional delegation staff in Ankara and Budapest on the development and management of regional content. The team also held the first regional training workshop in Kuala Lumpur. As a result of the workshop, eight national societies have now set up their own FedNet pages, which include strategic plans and organizational charts.

Selected regional delegations have also expanded the amount of information available on their regional pages. The FedNet team also held a regular training programme in Geneva to contribute to improve the quality of information on FedNet.

Constraints

Continued funding constraints have limited the extent of training to national societies. Alternative training methods, including distance training over the internet, have been rolled out with some success, but inadequate funding prevents the FedNet team to carry out a systematic programme of assistance to national societies.

Objective 3: Extend the scope and depth of content in FedNet.

Expected result: Information is available on FedNet covering a wide range of Red Cross and Red Crescent activities, in all four official languages. The information content of FedNet develops in line with increasing demands from users, and is structured and presented to maximize ease of use.

Achievements

In 2006, FedNet established an Africa partnership database and introduced a section in Russian language content and one on avian influenza. The unit also cross-linked with external initiatives such as the Climate Centre and the Legal Base Centre as well as extended support to statutory meetings, including providing background on the emblem issues, and provided support to Partner National Societies and management meetings¹.

The Africa partnership database demonstrates the potential of FedNet to strengthen partnerships in Africa through information-sharing. The quality, diversity and quantity of information on FedNet continues to grow, driven mainly by the demand from information providers.

In principle, specific information on FedNet should be considered the responsibility of the information providers. In the future, the FedNet team anticipates working closer with information providers on the development of their content.

Constraints

Staff and funding constraints continue to limit the active promotion of content development, especially in languages other than English and to audiences outside the Secretariat. Some new approaches to resolving these issues will be sought in 2007.

Objective 4: Promote understanding and use of FedNet in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Expected result: The potential of FedNet is understood at all levels within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement; FedNet is used to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the widest possible range of Red Cross and Red Crescent activities and to strengthen the sense of common identity and cooperation in the organization.

Achievements

In 2006, FedNet was integrated into a new Web Communications Unit. Regular FedNet focal point meetings were held, and a steering group was initiated. FedNet was also promoted in regional meetings in Ankara, Budapest and Kuala Lumpur, and its use was incorporated in staff induction trainings in the Harare and Budapest delegations.

There is an increased awareness on the potential of FedNet among delegations, General Assembly participants and the international departments of some national societies. In national societies, knowledge of FedNet is mainly by word of mouth and promotional activities. Further development of FedNet has not been possible due to inadequate resources to promote and train national societies on the use of this platform.

Objective 5: Manage the development of FedNet.

Expected result: FedNet develops in a sustainable manner both technically and financially in response to the needs and objectives of national societies and the Federation's Secretariat and delegations.

¹ FedNet is used for the posting of draft documents and meeting minutes between national societies and the Federation Secretariat.

Achievements

During the year 2006, new statistical tools were created to develop new indicators, and an ongoing user survey has been initiated.

Despite inadequate financial and human resources, FedNet continues to develop in line with expectations and the objectives set out in the plan of action. At a time of significant organizational change, a new Web Communications Unit, covering both FedNet and the public web site, should align the development of FedNet more closely with the International Federation's objectives in the Global Agenda.

Working in partnership

FedNet was created to increase the access of information to all staff working for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and is vital in supporting effective partnerships. In 2006, the first national societies contributed information directly on FedNet following the training workshop in Kuala Lumpur. This was a significant step towards complimentary information-sharing among Movement partners.

FedNet also makes existing partnerships more effective by improving coordination and transparency. The [coordination database for Africa](#) (implemented in 2006), shows partnership agreements at the country level, by scale and by resource. It is hoped that this initiative will be replicated in other regions in the near future.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Modern, effective tools to access and share information are essential when working in an international organization. This is highlighted in the Global Agenda and in the ten areas for improvement in the Framework for Action, which call for a greater capacity to support and link networks, and to coordinate the International Federation's work.

FedNet is a universal platform for information-sharing, and a test-bed to search for new ways to increase efficiency within the organization. In the past, this has not existed in the International Federation, therefore implying a major culture shift for the organization. In the same way that the introduction of e-mail and public web sites has enabled us to communicate in new ways, and required us to adjust to different ways of working, the use of an extranet offers new opportunities, including strengthening the support to informal networks and enhancing institutional memory, as well as challenges. In the years to come (as was in 2006), part of the role of the FedNet and its team will be to identify and exploit new methods of enhancing information-sharing.

Looking Ahead

The merge of FedNet and the public web site into a new Web communications Unit provides an opportunity to review FedNet's development over the last two years, and to revisit plans for the future. While the basic functions necessary to run the service, such as maintenance of the platform and training will not change, it will be important to ensure that FedNet effectively fulfils the communication requirements of the International Federation. Maintaining pace with the development of technology will also be a challenge, and significant work is anticipated in the next twelve months to enhance the functionality and usability of the platform.

For further information please contact:

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To support or find out more about the International Federation's programmes or operations, click on www.ifrc.org

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA00009 - FEDNET: SHARING GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE

Annual Financial Report 2006

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/12
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA00009
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget					645,583	645,583
B. Opening Balance					61,060	61,060
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>British Red Cross</i>					0	0
<i>DFID Partnership</i>					141,456	141,456
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>					0	0
<i>Spanish Red Cross</i>					4,836	4,836
<i>Spanish Red Cross</i>					47,730	47,730
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>					35,000	35,000
C1. Cash contributions					229,022	229,022
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
<i>Spanish Red Cross</i>					-11,670	-11,670
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>					-34,996	-34,996
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or					-46,666	-46,666
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
<i>Spanish Red Cross</i>					74,400	74,400
C5. Inkind Personnel					74,400	74,400
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)					256,756	256,756
D. Total Funding = B + C					317,816	317,816

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance					61,060	61,060
C. Income					256,756	256,756
E. Expenditure					-317,816	-317,816
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)					0	0

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)							645,583	645,583
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	13,500						13,500	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	13,500						13,500	
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	434,000				198,551	198,551	235,449	
Delegate Benefits					44,775	44,775	-44,775	
Total Personnel Expenditures	434,000				243,326	243,326	190,674	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	12,250						12,250	
Total Workshops & Training	12,250						12,250	
General Expenditure								
Travel	49,200						49,200	
Information & Public Relation	7,280						7,280	
Office Costs	19,800				13,200	13,200	6,600	
Communications	67,590				882	882	66,708	
Total General Expenditure	143,870				14,082	14,082	129,788	
Depreciation								
Depreciation					40,065	40,065	-40,065	
Total Depreciation					40,065	40,065	-40,065	
Program Support								
Program Support	41,963				20,344	20,344	21,619	
Total Program Support	41,963				20,344	20,344	21,619	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	645,583				317,816	317,816	327,767	
VARIANCE (C - D)					327,767	327,767		