

# Report 2006-2007

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Central America and Mexico

Appeal No. MAA43001

This report covers the period of 01/01/06 to 31/12/06 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.



School children playing the giant version of the “Riskland” board game during the International Disaster Risk Reduction Day in Panama on 11 October 2006. International Federation.

### In brief

#### Programme Summary:

Following the decisions at the General Assembly in November 2005, the Regional Delegation has been working with the National Societies of the region and their partners to identify ways to respond to the Global Agenda and scale up the impact of Red Cross work in the region. Their goal has been increasingly reflected throughout 2006, leading up to the next Inter-American Conference in June 2007.

Throughout 2006 the Regional Health Programme continued to implement the priorities in health as identified in the Santiago de Chile Plan of Action 2003-2007. 2006 saw the expansion of the promotion and use of common methodologies in HIV and AIDS and work on “Mother and Child Health”, Psychosocial Support Programmes, and work to prepare National Societies for their role in responding to Avian Influenza / Pandemic Influenza as well as an increased focus on monitoring and evaluation of the different programme components.

In 2006, the Regional Disaster Risk reduction programme has worked towards shifting the focus of disaster risk reduction in the region from projects to programmes, seeking to establish links between individual projects in order to ensure a common approach to risk reduction within each country and

building the National Societies' capacity to work at community and institutional levels in all aspects of preparedness for response and disaster risk reduction.

Throughout the reporting period, the Organizational Development programme has played a pivotal role in developing the capacity of National Societies through the strengthening of the institutional structures of such, focusing particularly on volunteer management and recruitment, as well as on strengthening the regional OD network to enable peer to peer support between National Societies.

During 2006, the Humanitarian Principles and Values programme incorporated humanitarian principles and values into each core area by making tools and training accessible and available to National Societies through the regional website and working closely with different regional programme networks. Particular attention was given to supporting HIV and AIDS anti-stigma and anti-discrimination.

**Goal:** Guided by the Plan of Action of the Inter American Conference and by Strategy 2010, the Panama Regional Delegation's goal is to strengthen links between and build the capacities of the National Societies in the core areas of health, disaster risk reduction and the promotion of Humanitarian Principles and Values through a range of strategies, including supporting regional networks, the harmonizing of regional methodologies and campaigns, and organizational development interventions in key strategic areas.

**Needs:** Total 2006-2007 revised budget CHF 5,975,903 (USD 4,787,850 or EUR 3,710,280), of which 36% is covered. The 2006 Appeal target revised to 3,089,418 (US 2,475,220 or EUR 1,918,139) of which is 70.0% is covered. [Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

**No. of people we help:** The Panama Regional Delegation focuses on building the capacities of National Societies in the region- as well as giving support to the Spanish-speaking National Societies in the Caribbean. Therefore, the direct beneficiaries of the regional delegation's programmes are the National Societies of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, their staff at headquarters and branch level, governance bodies and volunteers.

**Our Partners:** The Panama Regional Delegation has a number of different partnerships which support and/or work alongside the delegation's programmes, as well as funding partners which provide resources for the implementation of the delegation programmes in order to arrive at expected results. Partner National Societies include the American, British, Canadian, Italian, Netherlands, Norwegian, Spanish, Swedish, Swiss and French Red Cross Societies, with funding received from the British, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies and DFID. The regional delegation has continued to build on its relationships with other organizations during 2006 such as Plan International, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNOCHA, PAHO/WHO, and the Organisation of American States (OAS). McCann Erickson, an advertising company, has also provided valuable support to the HIV and AIDS programme in the region.

## Current context

In 2006, Central America and Mexico continued to face many of the same problems that have been observed in the past: high levels of poverty and inequality, drug trafficking and money laundering, rising levels of violence in urban areas, and extreme vulnerability to natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, volcanic activity and earthquakes.

Moreover, the aftermath of a hard and prolonged 2005 hurricane season left a large number of people and communities in Central America and Mexico more vulnerable to existing conditions of malnutrition, rising prevalence of HIV and AIDS, infant and maternal mortality, and further exacerbated the general poverty that affects the region. After the widespread impact of Hurricane Stan, rehabilitation efforts by

many National Societies in the region took place during the first half of 2006, with the Federation supported operation in Guatemala extended through to the end of the year, due to severe damage caused by floods that affected more than 500,000 people. The year 2006 presented a relatively calm hurricane season, which provided the Regional Delegation with the opportunity to take important steps in the implementation of the regional programmes, together with revision of Plans of Action for 2007 and in preparation for the 18<sup>th</sup> Inter-American Conference to be held in Guayaquil, Ecuador in mid 2007.

This annual report presents the main achievements in 2006, the progress within each of the programme areas, revealing each of the programme project's results and impacts while at the same time presenting the readjustment of priorities in order to reflect the Global Agenda's goals.

## Progress towards objectives

### Health and Care

**Objective:** National Societies in the region have increasingly adhered to the commitments in health as set out in the Plan of Action of the XVII Inter-American Conference, particularly with respect to the development of their health departments, and in the areas of HIV and AIDS, health in emergencies, community health, the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD) and water and sanitation.

Throughout 2006 the Regional Health Programme continued to implement the priorities in health as identified in the Santiago de Chile Plan of Action 2003-2007. Being the third year of implementation, 2006 clearly saw the expansion of the promotion and use of common methodologies in HIV and AIDS. In addition, "Mother and Child Health" (MCH) and Psychosocial Support Programmes (PSP) were further developed, as were the activities to prepare National Societies for their role in responding to Avian Influenza / Pandemic Influenza. There was also an increased focus on monitoring and evaluation of the different programme components.

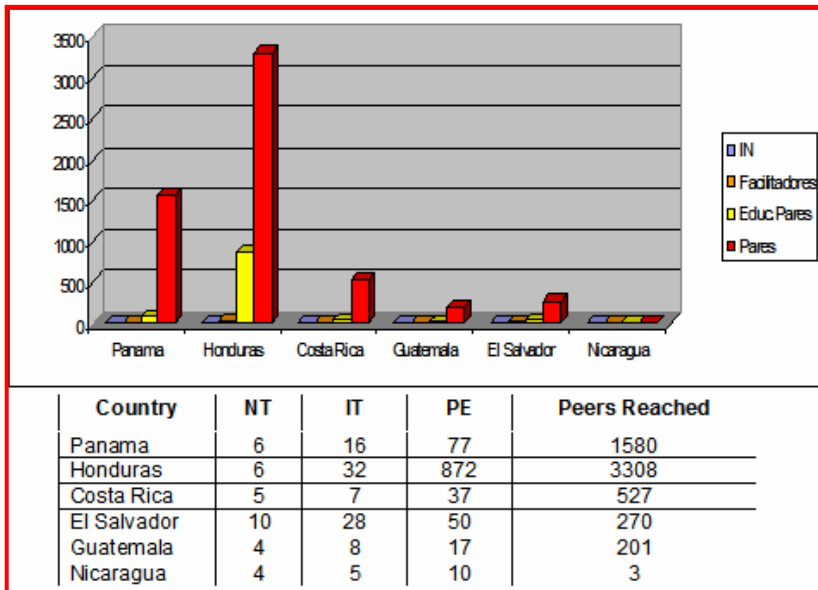
Furthermore, the response of National Societies in the HIV and AIDS epidemic has been refined and scaled-up in the areas of prevention, care and advocating against stigma and discrimination through a number of projects in the course of the year. A number of HIV and AIDS campaigns and methodologies implemented throughout the region have been hugely successful.

The "Nobody has the Truth Written on their Face. Protect Yourself. Use a Condom" campaign promoting condom use amongst the sexually active population was implemented in Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Guatemala. The campaign was also promoted throughout the Caribbean during the last months of the year and was the focus of the World AIDS Day Celebration. Aside from images displayed on bus stops, billboards and youth internet sites, approximately 8,000 printed T-shirts and 15,000 posters were sold and distributed respectively in 2006. Still, the campaign lacks an impact measuring tool or methodology that can provide the Regional Delegation and NS with qualitative and/or quantitative information indicating the impact. The programme aims to develop such a tool and conversations are ongoing with academic institutions about addressing this imperative limitation early in 2007. Copy and paste the following link to watch a video on the Faces Campaign:



**"I learned a lot about issues that I had a wrong concept about before. For example, I used to give speeches about HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections to boys and girls and I would just talk and talk. I had no idea of the huge amount of activities and games you can use to transmit the right information."**

**-Efraín de la Torre- Panamanian RC Volunteer & Peer Educator, 18 years old**



[www.caribbeanredcross.org/caran/hivfaces.htm](http://www.caribbeanredcross.org/caran/hivfaces.htm)

The regional health programme also expanded its flagship in the HIV and AIDS youth peer education methodology “Together We Can” (TWC), throughout the Central America region in the past year. As a result of this expansion, a total of 5,899 youth peers have been reached in the region through Federation supported Training of Trainer (ToT) workshops (refer to above table). With the production of the TWC Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit, the programme has emphasized focus on impact

and monitoring.

The “Transporting Respect for People Living with HIV and AIDS” (The Taxi Initiative) – which is a project whereby taxi drivers are used as transmitters of key HIV and AIDS messages focusing on prevention and on promotion of tolerance - continues to exceed expectations since it began as a pilot project in late 2005. At the end of 2006 the Guatemalan Red Cross, the Honduran Red Cross and the Salvadorean Red Cross Society are working with a total of 300 taxi drivers who are reaching an estimated 10-12 passengers each on a daily basis reflecting the capacity to reach over 90,000 people per month, providing them with accurate information that focuses on HIV and AIDS prevention and the promotion of tolerance towards people living with HIV and AIDS.



**Taxis Parade during HIV and AIDS Day in Honduras December 1st**

The Nicaraguan Red Cross has also started with the implementation of this initiative as a pilot project with 20 taxi drivers. This is being done with the support of the Italian Red Cross, and the initial report suggests that the initiative will also become a great success in Nicaragua.

In the area of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD) a regional mapping and baseline study was carried out focusing on National Societies implementing the “Club 25” methodology. Information from this study will be of crucial importance to the rolling-out and scaling-up of this methodology in 2007 and beyond with support from Finnish Red Cross as part of a three year partnership commitment.



**Dengue and Malaria Parade October 31st 2006 in Panama**

All National Societies in the region reported interventions in MCH, working with the most vulnerable communities. In El Salvador the Salvadorean Red Cross continued its focus on integrated community interventions in favour of 5,000 of the most vulnerable members of isolated communities. The Honduran and Nicaraguan

Red Cross Societies began a multi-year MCH project with assistance from the Canadian Red Cross whilst the Red Cross Society of Panama piloted a campaign with the Panamanian Ministries of Health and Education on dengue prevention and social mobilization. The campaign reached vulnerable communities in Panama City as well as three provinces with high dengue prevalence. It is hoped that this will be extended throughout the region in 2007 as dengue is becoming an ever more serious threat.

The *Continental Workshop on Avian Influenza / Pandemic Influenza* held in November 2006, led to the improvement of the first draft of the “Continental Strategic Plan”; the strong presence of strategic partners including UNICEF, WFP, PAHO, Plan International and CARE International, further demonstrating the importance of strategic alliances as we continue to prepare for the almost inevitable arrival in the region of avian and/or pandemic influenza.

REDCAMP-SALUD - the Central America regional health network - provided support to all the mentioned initiatives by working on the strengthening of the Health Programme’s impact in the region and on the capacity of National Societies’ Health Departments. In addition to the participation of all NS, a first draft of the *Health Plan of Action for the 18<sup>th</sup> Inter-American Conference* was produced after a three day workshop held by REDCAMP-SALUD. This key document will help guide the harmonization and scaling-up process of the Continental Health Programme 2007-2011. The Health PoA was further discussed and improved upon at the first Meeting of the *Health Thematic Working Group* in Guayaquil, Ecuador in November.

The Water and Sanitation plans of the Regional Delegation were not carried due to lack of interest shown by potential donors and have therefore been removed from the plan of action for 2007. The Regional Delegation is looking for other ways of collaboration with partners in supporting National Societies in their interest to pursue activities in the water and sanitation area.

## Disaster Risk Reduction Programme

**Objective:** Strengthened National Societies are working at the community, national and regional levels to reduce risk, making communities safer and more resilient to disasters.

In 2006, the regional Disaster Risk Reduction Programme has worked towards shifting the focus of disaster risk reduction in the region from projects to programmes, seeking to establish links between individual projects in order to ensure a common approach within each country. Tools and methodologies developed through the Centres of Reference in El Salvador and Costa Rica have been adopted by all National Societies in the region, and the DRR programme has been working on disseminating the importance and usefulness of these guides.



The “Better Be Ready...” series - the cornerstone of community based education on disaster preparedness in the region - served an important role for Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) implementation during 2006. VCA workshops were carried out throughout the Central America and Mexico region, as well as in the Dominican Republic. The Salvadorean Red Cross Society carried out three such workshops from which 9,200 people indirectly benefited. The “Better Be Ready...” series



was revised during the last months of the year by the Costa Rican Centre of Reference for Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CRCBDP) through the addition of new modules focused on flooding and Psychological First Aid. The “Better Be Ready” series serves to establish early warning systems and community plans of action, and was put to good use in the aftermath of Hurricane Stan, for example in Guatemala in municipalities severely affected by flooding, as well as in Nicaragua, Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama and El Salvador.

The Centre of Reference for Disaster Preparedness (CRDP) at the institutional level - based in El Salvador - is now fully functional and has provided integral support in strengthening National Intervention Teams (NIT) and contingency and disaster response plans in the region through the dissemination of the Contingency and Disaster Response Plan Guide and the Security Guide. As a result, throughout the year several National Societies of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama have implemented NIT workshops with support from the Federation. This means that the NS are better prepared to respond to future disaster situations. These achievements have been the result of both the NIT Basic Training Manual and the Field Manual, harmonized for NS in the sub-region.

With the support of the Honduran Red Cross - the focal point for Sphere in the region - a ToT workshop was conducted toward the end of the year which resulted in 24 new qualified trainers from Central and South America. Additionally, a Training Curriculum on Disaster Policies was created by the Honduran Red Cross with the support of the Regional DRR Programme. This curriculum increases the effectiveness of assistance in emergencies through the establishment of minimum standards and application of disaster policies to be followed by risk reduction departments in all NS.

Moreover, the capacity of NS to advocate on behalf of disaster-stricken people has been strengthened during 2006 through the implementation of the global campaign "Disaster Reduction begins at School". This campaign was unveiled in Panama and included the "Riskland" board game and its giant version which teaches children about early warning and risk reduction practices. "Riskland" has been disseminated throughout the region and implemented in schools located at high risk zones in Panama and Costa Rica. Disaster risk reduction information was also effectively used to increase awareness and identify hazards through the joint creation of the Continental Risk Reduction Bulletin by the Panama and Lima Regional Delegations. This bulletin is a web-based newsletter regularly fed by risk reduction departments in all NS on activities reflecting the implementation of the different methodologies.

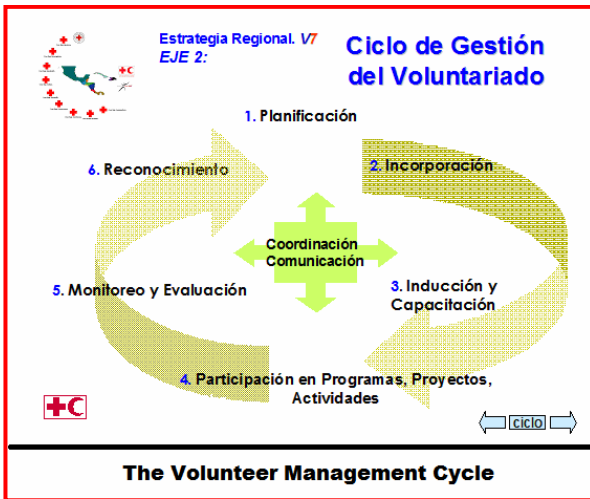


The harmonization and support between all NS - not only in the sub-region but also in the Caribbean and in South America – was enhanced during 2006. This progress was achieved through the acknowledgement by the NS acknowledging of the two reference centres, the congruent use of materials and guides and the constant sharing of information, achievements and lessons learned. Having all NS working together and in line with the same strategies and methodologies has created an effective mode of cooperation, which has contributed to the strengthening of REDCAMP-DESASTRES, the regional DRR network. This new cooperation mode has in turn generated five harmonized Red Cross proposals to ECHO (DIPECHO V) that have already been approved and will receive funding in 2007, a first time achievement.

The amount of tools, materials and workshops that the Risk Reduction Programme was able to disseminate and implement accordingly during the last year has surpassed expectations, especially since the programme had a very small budget. Nevertheless the programme's profile has acquired significance and is seen as a provider of substantial input in risk reduction methodologies not only throughout the region but throughout the Americas as whole. 2007 will see a substantial scaling-up of the disaster risk reduction programme, supported by a number of new and existing donors.

## Organizational Development

**Objective:** The National Societies in the region are increasingly adhering to the criteria of a "Well Functioning National Society," and are improving their capacity to work with vulnerable communities.



The Organizational Development programme plays a pivotal role in developing the capacity of National Societies through the strengthening their institutional structures, focusing particularly on volunteer management and recruitment, as well as on strengthening the regional OD network to enable peer to peer support between NS. In 2006, the OD team focused on validating and implementing a Regional Volunteering Strategy which has improved the capacity of National Societies to assist vulnerable people through a newly strengthened ability to recruit, retain and train volunteers. This strategy has focused on key steps involving: advocacy, protocols, training, regulations and management. The National Societies of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama have already started implementing this strategy through guides and manuals on volunteering policies, the establishment of a volunteer management cycle, a restructuring of Youth programmes and the implementation of insurance schemes for volunteers. This ensures a more prominent and sustainable role for volunteers in programmes, projects and activities as well as a more efficient incorporation, training and the recognition of efforts.

Honduras, Mexico and Panama have already started implementing this strategy through guides and manuals on volunteering policies, the establishment of a volunteer management cycle, a restructuring of Youth programmes and the implementation of insurance schemes for volunteers. This ensures a more prominent and sustainable role for volunteers in programmes, projects and activities as well as a more efficient incorporation, training and the recognition of efforts.

Significant advances during the year have been achieved in strengthening institutional capacities of National Societies, particularly in terms of improving statutes and electoral processes, developing tools for the drafting of Plans of Action to improve resource mobilization and monitoring methods for the OD network. The Guatemalan, Nicaraguan and Panamanian National Societies have strengthened electoral processes by reorganizing their government bodies and approving electoral statutes respectively. The Red Cross Society in Panama has also developed tools that allow the NS in the region to follow certain guidelines in the elaboration of operational plans and budgets for programmes and projects. After the Continental Forum for Financial Development in August 2006, where a representative of each of the seven NS in the region was trained in resource mobilization, the participating NS were to produce strategies that would maximize resources by maintaining donors and attracting new investors. As a result, both the Guatemalan and Honduran Red Cross have established offices for resource development while the Salvadorean Red Cross Society has drafted a Resource Mobilization Plan of Action. A similar plan is currently being drafted by the Costa Rican Red Cross.



NS were also encouraged by the OD programme to develop the capacity to manage integrated programmes at community level. Such was the case of the Costa Rican and Panamanian National Societies that carried out cross-border integrated community programmes. This programme has provided support to previously identified communities which are highly vulnerable in terms of high flood prevalence, poor hygiene and high incidence in exploitation of minors. The analysis of results obtained to date from the implementation of Integrated Community Programmes serves as a step towards the increase in knowledge sharing and in the planning process for future integrated community programmes.

Even though the OD programme was able to achieve tangible results through a high implementation

rate during the past year, a major constraint has been insufficient funding. Consequently, the budget was revised down by approximately 30 percent. Additionally, given the absence of funds and interested donors, the communication needs of the region - both for National Societies and the Regional Delegation - could not be fulfilled albeit its imperativeness within the programme. Despite these constraints, the acknowledgement and approval of the regional volunteering strategy and the response of all NS in its implementation has been a successful outcome this year.

## Humanitarian Principles and Values

**Objective:** Humanitarian principles and values are integrated in each of the core programme areas within the National Societies in the region, in accordance with Strategy 2010.

During 2006, the programme incorporated humanitarian principles and values (HPV) into each core area by making HPV tools accessible to National Societies through the regional website ([www.cruzroja.org/pvh/redicom/index.htm](http://www.cruzroja.org/pvh/redicom/index.htm)), by working closely with different regional programme networks and by conducting training sessions in different regional events that took place. The regional HPV website, which was improved during the last year through a redesign and a new constantly updated news section, served as a vital mechanism for communicating with all regional NS who regularly shared information on programmes and activities related to HPV. The type of information that has been contributed to the website has been on HIV and AIDS, specifically on anti-stigma and anti-discrimination, violence and gender issues, humanitarian values and youth and volunteers. Additionally, the HPV programme has seen the unveiling of new tools such as the Regional Volunteering Strategy, its methodology and a model, the Regional Guide for Training in Disaster Policy and the Regional Strategy for the Prevention of Violence which has been the product of collaboration with the Spanish Red Cross.

REDICOM, the regional communicators network, has been following up in coordination with the Costa Rican Red Cross, on the development of an HPV tool for communicators which will be accompanied by a methodological guide currently being drafted. The new methodologies in the HPV programme have been based on interactive teaching methods such as games, questions and answers and videos that have significantly improved receptiveness and further interest. For instance, the Nicaraguan Red Cross' staff was part of an HPV workshop which they then replicated in communities.

Throughout the reporting period, the programme has successfully advocated non-discrimination values through the dissemination of the Federation Pledge of Non-Discrimination via workshops in four National Societies with a total of 247 volunteers trained, as well as through the dissemination of the Non-Discrimination Pledge itself. This workshop has brought a tangible change of attitude within National Societies in the region on the subject of HPV and the participation in and further willingness to work within these lines has widely increased amongst youth volunteers.

HPV-Non Discrimination Workshops	
RED CROSS NATIONAL SOCIETY	VOLUNTEERS TRAINED
Costa Rica	26
Honduras	60
	25
	40
Mexico	30
Panama	15
	25
Health Network	26
	<b>TOTAL: 247</b>



**“This taxiing work, as we call it, is a work where one is in contact with all kinds of people, then through that we have an opportunity to spread information on AIDS as well as making them conscious of this subject as the Red Cross has done with us. I think the members of the cooperative now feel the need of transmitting this information.”**

**José Victorino Pineda, member of the Taxi-drivers cooperative ACONT TAXIS- El Salvador**

In coordination with the regional Health Programme, the regional HPV Programme implemented the regional “Transporting respect to people living with HIV and AIDS” (The Taxis Initiative) in 2006. This initiative has exceeded expectations: it has not only created discussion spaces in communities where individuals can learn about and discuss HIV and AIDS but has also had constant television and written press coverage as well, and has strengthened the HIV and AIDS programmes of those National Societies that are implementing it (El Salvador, Guatemala and

Honduras). It has also raised awareness on the subject of discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS within NS, which is reflected through the use of appropriate, sensitive language. Towards the end of the year, with funding from DFID’s Institutional Strategy, the Panama Regional Delegation started to work on a ground-breaking film and case study project which will share the experience of the region in developing this project and the changes it is bringing about.

An important achievement during 2006 was the elaboration and distribution to all NS of the HPV Information Toolkit, which included all training manuals, videos, important documents and strategies, radio advertisements, etc. This toolkit is essential in guiding and supporting NS in their work towards promoting HPV internally and externally.

The HPV programme faced a major constraint during 2006 due to insufficient, limited funding which in consequence made finalizing the third expected result of the programme, impossible. Even though the National Societies of Costa Rica, Panama, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras have incorporated advocacy within their National Strategic Plans, the concept of advocacy is still only vaguely understood amongst NSs in the region and the regional delegation was unable to take assertive steps to address this shortcoming due to not receiving the required funds.



**Spreading by word of mouth HIV and AIDS prevention methods.**

## Working in partnership

The Regional Delegation aims to complement and enhance the work of Movement partners in the region and contribute to the development of the image of the Red Cross Movement, through promoting innovative ways of working together, as well as to cooperate with other organizations hence increasing the number of joint ventures and collaborations.

Day to day cooperation between National Societies has progressed, in part because of the increased contact through networks, together with new and updated internet-based communication tools such as the Continental Risk Reduction Bulletin and the regional HPV website. These tools have allowed harmonized methodologies and the consequent sharing of information and results of such within programmes of the different NS in the region which may serve as lessons learned and models to be followed.

The Panama Regional Delegation utilized a highly collaborative approach in order to present a

coherent set of proposals for the DIPECHO V call for in Central America. With four national proposals presented by European National Societies and one regional proposal developed by the Panama Regional Delegation, for the first time all Red Cross proposals have been approved for implementation in 2007-08. The regional proposal also builds on cooperation with a number of other agencies, such as UNICEF, Plan International and CEPREDENAC (the regional disaster preparedness body).

The Panama Regional Delegation has built vital alliances with other NGOs, UN agencies and the private sector through the regional Health and the regional Disaster Risk Reduction programmes. Examples include a strategic alliance with the advertising company, McCann-Erickson and resulted in the “Faces” campaign advocating non-discrimination and condom use and the “Necesitamos Sangre” (We Need Blood) campaign to support voluntary non-remunerated blood donation. In the Risk Reduction programme, a partnership with UNICEF, Plan International and the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR) resulted in the initiative “Disaster Reduction begins at School” and the elaboration of its board-game “Riskland.”

The strategic position of the Panama Regional Delegation facilitates improved collaboration with other organizations, as Panama (and particularly the Ciudad del Saber/City of Knowledge where the Panama Regional Delegation’s office is located) has become the regional hub for the UN, NGOs, and other humanitarian and development agencies. Nonetheless, the Delegation has missed opportunities to invest in the development of further alliances and partnerships because of insufficient time and resources and 2007 will therefore see an increased focus on addressing these lost opportunities.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

Throughout the reporting period, the Regional Delegation has worked on improving the regional capacity to respond to disasters through the scaling up of actions with vulnerable communities in disaster risk reduction. It has also significantly promoted respect for human dignity through tolerance, anti-stigma and non-discrimination messages in terms of HIV and AIDS advocacy and planning during 2006. Hence, the Regional Delegation has contributed to the International Federation’s Global Agenda. Additionally, the network study, a review of the region’s experience in working through networks has been drafted and disseminated. The review offers an external perspective of the strengths and opportunities of the networks and it highlights some of the difficulties faced by a few of the networks. This review, in turn, provides valuable recommendations to different stakeholders in networks on how to confront some of the challenges faced and practical ideas as how to ensure that networks fulfil their potential; thus inputting into global discussions related to networks and collaborating centres, as part of the Global Agenda focus.

Concerning gender and diversity, programmes within the Panama Regional Delegation integrated this approach in search of parity and non-discrimination while at the same time contributing to the Global Agenda. All programmes aim towards ensuring a balance in numbers of women and men attending workshops and having access to training and development opportunities. In the Disaster Risk Reduction programme, one of the goals for the ToT SPHERE workshop in 2006 was to achieve an equal number of participants between men and women, since one of the minimum standards during assistance in emergencies in this curriculum is gender parity. In consequence, 12 men and 12 women attended the seminar.

The Organizational Development programme has spread the Federation’s gender policy in all training capacity building workshops on a regional level as well as the Federation’s integrity policy. Additionally, during regional and national workshops on humanitarian principles and values, the principle of gender equity has acted as a vital focus point. National Societies’ work plan in HPV must include a gender focus as well. An outcome of the latter has been the drafting of the first gender

mainstreaming study by the Honduran Red Cross.

## Looking Ahead

2007 is a key year for the Central America region, in terms of representing the final year of implementing the commitments made at the Inter-American Conference held in Santiago de Chile, evaluation and the impact of Red Cross actions in Health, Disaster Risk Reduction, Humanitarian Principles and Values and Organizational Development. Hand-in-hand with this will be the preparation for the next Inter-American Conference in Guayaquil, Ecuador in June 2007, and then intensive work that will follow the Conference to start translating the commitments from the event into actions and plans for the following four years.

2007 will also be a critical year programmatically, as the Panama Regional Delegation will be focusing on consolidating its programming. The Panama Regional Delegation will also be looking for longer-term sustainability for its regional programmes and for the National Societies which are making good progress in implementing the priorities of Strategy 2010. Together with this will be the continued decentralization of the Secretariat's work, with the setting up of the Zonal structure, to ensure that Federation support is closer and more tailored to the needs and capacities of the National Societies.

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA43001 - CENTRAL AMERICA

Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/12
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA43001
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
<b>A. Budget</b>	<b>2,113,859</b>	<b>1,795,799</b>	<b>268,317</b>	<b>1,326,505</b>	<b>471,425</b>	<b>5,975,903</b>
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>168,865</b>	<b>123,973</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>159,678</b>	<b>51,027</b>	<b>503,574</b>
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>British Red Cross</i>	48,245	178,047	0	0	3,119	229,410
<i>Canadian Red Cross Society</i>	18,895					18,895
<i>Capacity Building Fund</i>		46,720		0		46,720
<i>DFID Partnership</i>	72,998	70,078	17,462	102,342	37,810	300,690
<i>Irish Red Cross Society</i>		8,784				8,784
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>	413,582			138,631	38,310	590,524
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>	176,896		42,419	84,838		304,152
<b>C1. Cash contributions</b>	<b>730,615</b>	<b>303,629</b>	<b>59,881</b>	<b>325,811</b>	<b>79,239</b>	<b>1,499,174</b>
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>	-15,744					-15,744
<b>C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</b>	<b>-15,744</b>					<b>-15,744</b>
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
<i>American Red Cross</i>	0			0		0
<i>Australian Red Cross</i>				6,015	-6,015	0
<i>British Red Cross</i>		0			0	0
<i>Capacity Building Fund</i>				-0		-0
<i>DFID - British Government</i>	-14,624			-0		-14,624
<i>DFID Partnership</i>					40,000	40,000
<i>Irish Red Cross Society</i>	0					0
<i>Italian DREF</i>		2,641				2,641
<i>Netherlands Red Cross</i>		40,000		20,000	15,594	75,594
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>				0	0	-0
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>	0			0		0
<b>C3. Reallocations (within appeal or</b>	<b>-14,624</b>	<b>42,641</b>		<b>26,015</b>	<b>49,579</b>	<b>103,611</b>
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
<i>British Red Cross</i>					74,400	74,400
<b>C5. Inkind Personnel</b>					<b>74,400</b>	<b>74,400</b>
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)</b>	<b>700,247</b>	<b>346,270</b>	<b>59,881</b>	<b>351,826</b>	<b>203,218</b>	<b>1,661,441</b>
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	<b>869,112</b>	<b>470,244</b>	<b>59,912</b>	<b>511,504</b>	<b>254,244</b>	<b>2,165,015</b>

## II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	168,865	123,973	31	159,678	51,027	<b>503,574</b>
<b>C. Income</b>	700,247	346,270	59,881	351,826	203,218	<b>1,661,441</b>
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	-801,028	-458,106	-43,379	-419,948	-248,802	<b>-1,971,264</b>
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	68,084	12,137	16,533	91,555	5,442	<b>193,752</b>

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA43001 - CENTRAL AMERICA

Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/12
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA43001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### 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	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>2,113,859</b>	<b>1,795,799</b>	<b>268,317</b>	<b>1,326,505</b>	<b>471,425</b>	<b>5,975,903</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief	28,000							28,000
Construction Materials	14,000		54		83		137	13,863
Clothing & textiles	7,000	1,003	1,736		1,059		3,797	3,203
Food		265			143		408	-408
Water & Sanitation					1,964		1,964	-1,964
Medical & First Aid		5,562	622				6,185	-6,185
Teaching Materials	85,730	6,289	20,353		1,862		28,504	57,226
Utensils & Tools	54,000		42		1,690		1,732	52,268
Other Supplies & Services					2,389		2,389	-2,389
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>188,730</b>	<b>13,119</b>	<b>22,806</b>		<b>9,190</b>		<b>45,116</b>	<b>143,614</b>
<b>Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>								
Computers & Telecom	13,750		8,964		2,320		11,283	2,467
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.		1,945					1,945	-1,945
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>13,750</b>	<b>1,945</b>	<b>8,964</b>		<b>2,320</b>		<b>13,228</b>	<b>522</b>
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	14,750	543					543	14,207
Distribution & Monitoring	310	313	278		97		687	-377
Transport & Vehicle Costs	15,648	6,510	1,000	236	3,779	58	11,583	4,065
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>30,708</b>	<b>7,366</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>3,876</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>12,813</b>	<b>17,895</b>
<b>Personnel Expenditures</b>								
Delegates Payroll	928,107	117,213	51,486		68,566	13,861	251,125	676,982
Delegate Benefits	250,579	44,117	32,161		33,969	166,242	276,489	-25,910
Regionally Deployed Staff	203,303	72	10,677		181	144	11,074	192,229
National Staff	385,548	54,996	26,695	15,117	5,497	7,854	110,160	275,388
National Society Staff	194,058	62,878	99,395	10,304	21,997		194,573	-516
Consultants	409,304	43,404	8,598		17,129	40,508	109,639	299,665
<b>Total Personnel Expenditures</b>	<b>2,370,898</b>	<b>322,679</b>	<b>229,011</b>	<b>25,421</b>	<b>147,340</b>	<b>228,610</b>	<b>953,060</b>	<b>1,417,838</b>
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	2,070,059	222,007	81,287	5,421	145,661	5,693	460,067	1,609,991
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>2,070,059</b>	<b>222,007</b>	<b>81,287</b>	<b>5,421</b>	<b>145,661</b>	<b>5,693</b>	<b>460,067</b>	<b>1,609,991</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	406,383	66,088	43,803	2,717	39,306	8,089	160,003	246,380
Information & Public Relation	385,633	62,275	29,953	3,220	20,878	1,674	118,000	267,633
Office Costs	78,040	16,293	20,238	806	4,596	1,442	43,375	34,665
Communications	35,744	18,280	15,628	2,012	9,912	3,487	49,318	-13,574
Professional Fees	4,000	8,232	5,018		1,475		14,725	-10,725
Financial Charges		8,830	6,670	727	6,003	-10,801	11,429	-11,429
Other General Expenses	3,525	3,865	792		869	317	5,843	-2,318
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>913,325</b>	<b>183,863</b>	<b>122,102</b>	<b>9,482</b>	<b>83,038</b>	<b>4,208</b>	<b>402,693</b>	<b>510,632</b>
<b>Program Support</b>								
Program Support	388,434	52,067	29,777	2,820	27,297	15,858	127,818	260,616
<b>Total Program Support</b>	<b>388,434</b>	<b>52,067</b>	<b>29,777</b>	<b>2,820</b>	<b>27,297</b>	<b>15,858</b>	<b>127,818</b>	<b>260,616</b>
<b>Operational Provisions</b>								
Operational Provisions		-2,017	-37,117		1,227	-5,624	-43,531	43,531
<b>Total Operational Provisions</b>		<b>-2,017</b>	<b>-37,117</b>		<b>1,227</b>	<b>-5,624</b>	<b>-43,531</b>	<b>43,531</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>5,975,903</b>	<b>801,028</b>	<b>458,106</b>	<b>43,379</b>	<b>419,948</b>	<b>248,802</b>	<b>1,971,264</b>	<b>4,004,640</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>1,312,831</b>	<b>1,337,692</b>	<b>224,938</b>	<b>906,556</b>	<b>222,622</b>	<b>4,004,640</b>	