

# Report 2006-2007



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Southeast Asia

Appeal No. MAA51001

7 April 2008

This report covers the period of 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2007 of a two-year planning and appeal process.



***Not just a game:** the Red Cross in Timor-Leste (CVTL) uses football among other things to connect with the communities they support.*

### In brief

**Programme summary:** The regional office made consistent efforts throughout 2006-2007 to understand the needs of Southeast Asian national societies and provide tailor-made support at country level. It consolidated regional network capacities and partnership relations, both within and outside the Movement, to this end. Examples of this included: an **independent regional review** of national society work; **regional health mapping**; **four 'retreats' (Philippines, Timor-Leste, Lao PDR and Cambodia)** to hear directly from national societies on their priorities for change and how the regional secretariat can help; **regular sector consultation** meetings in each of the four Global Agenda goal areas; **annual leadership/secretaries-general forums** (the latest in September 2007, hosted by Cambodian Red Cross, in preparation for the November 2007 statutory meetings); and **management meetings** (heads of delegations, partner national society regional heads and unit heads meetings three times a year). This comprehensive and effective approach will continue in 2008 and 2009 with the support of both host and partner national societies.

**Financial situation:** Total 2006-2007 budget CHF 8.77 million (USD 7.84 million or EUR 5.3 million)<sup>1</sup> out of which 69% covered.

Click here to go directly to the attached financial reports:

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**No. of people helped:** The regional programme principally supports the 11 national societies of Southeast Asia, who in turn work with millions of people.

<sup>1</sup> Exchange rates: USD1.00 = CHF1.118, EUR1.00 = CHF1.65

**Our partners:** The Federation regional team's primary partners are the 11 Southeast Asian national societies as well as relevant government ministries, such as health and disaster management bodies. Within the Movement, there has been strong and loyal support from our multilateral supporters, which include: the Swedish Red Cross/government, Norwegian Red Cross/government, Australian Red Cross/ government, Japanese Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross, German Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, the Hong Kong branch of China Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Capacity Building Fund (CBF), and Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Outside of the Movement, UN OCHA (through the Inter Agency Standing Committee), UNESCAP, WHO and several UN agencies are important partners in addition to NGOs such as CARE and Oxfam.

## Current context

The Southeast Asian secretariat team concentrated on country-level support to national societies through country delegations. This approach secured significant gains, including the strengthening of:

- Volunteer programming in the **Philippines**,
- Disaster response planning in **Cambodia**,
- Disaster management in **Lao PDR**,
- Health and water and sanitation programmes in **Lao PDR**,
- Planning processes in **Thailand**,
- National preparedness planning through the national society in **Timor-Leste**,
- National society avian influenza preparedness planning in several countries including **Lao PDR, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam**,
- Psychosocial support in **Indonesia, Philippines, Viet Nam, and Thailand**.

Underpinning this approach was the effective mapping, coordination and deployment of national society resources. One example of this was the success of Southeast Asian national society personnel trained in regional disaster response teams (RDRT).

Five partner national societies – American, Danish, French, German, and Finnish – attended biweekly information/coordination meetings as well as heads of delegations management meetings. Formal integration agreements are in place for these partners. These agreements in 2008 and 2009 will expand towards stronger coordination and operational alliances. The tsunami water and sanitation coordinator for Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka, the international disaster response law (IDRL) programme and the Global Road Safety Partnership were also hosted in the Bangkok office.

The Southeast Asian regional team faced significant demands on its time from various meetings involving the UN (OCHA mainly on UN Reform, UNDP, and ESCAP), governments and regional organizations, Geneva-sponsored forums (such as Global Alliance on HIV/AIDS), and regional national society discussions.

Challenges remain, particularly in terms of: clarifying working relations and authority levels within the new zonal structure; keeping partner national societies contributing to the coordination and core budget in light of the new structures; adjusting Federation systems, rules and working precedence to the new reality of this region, including the rapid growth of some national societies in capacity. The regional team is aware of this but will build on momentum and the endorsement of national societies active in Southeast Asia to achieve more in 2008-2009.

## Achievement of objectives

### Disaster management

**Programme Objective:** The disaster preparedness and response capacity at national and regional level is substantially improved and the linkages to the Federation's global response system assured, through a comprehensive, integrated regional disaster management (DM) approach.

**Achievements:**

During 2006 and 2007, a number of trends emerged within the region, linked to the cumulative development of the capacity of the 11 national societies over the previous six years and the evolving nature of Red Cross

Red Crescent work in disaster management. The obvious focus on disaster response and response preparedness after the Asian tsunami of December 2004 has impacted the region with regard to its consideration of initiatives around risk reduction and climate change. In light of this, the regional disaster management programme worked with each national society to address a holistic or balanced approach to DM. In so doing, it encouraged national societies to reflect on their individual needs and look to institutionalizing a risk reduction approach into their strategies, policy and planning.

Furthermore, the Southeast Asia regional disaster management committee (RDMC) initiated a process of *'getting down to business.'* At the heart of this process was a desire to convert accumulated theoretical knowledge into practical applications of support to vulnerable communities in addressing their risk to disaster. This renewed energy on the part of national society disaster managers has produced commendable results at the regional, national, and community levels.

In particular, the 10th RDMC meeting in Cambodia in 2006 saw national societies within Southeast Asia renew their commitment to the regional DM framework and strengthen ownership of the development of DM capacity within the region at all levels. The ratification of the RDMC framework for developing DM capacity within Southeast Asia reinforces the achievements of the RDMC since its inauguration and continues to provide an effective mechanism for DM within the region. The acknowledgement of the national society DM managers to review the RDMC framework in today's context indicates their willingness for self reflection, measurement of achievements and openness to challenging their process, systems and ownership of future DM development.

Continuing in this spirit, the 11<sup>th</sup> RDMC meeting in Lao PDR in 2007 acknowledged that much has been achieved in developing regional and national capacity. These achievements included the building of considerable human and material resources within the Red Cross Red Crescent in the region to effectively respond to sudden onset of disasters. These resources have proven invaluable when supporting emergency response operations in Indonesia (e.g. tsunami in 2004, and earthquake in 2006) and the Philippines (e.g. mudslide and typhoons in 2006) as well as beyond the region, such as in Pakistan (e.g. earthquake in 2005). However, in terms of overall disaster management, several challenges have emerged which require a new approach. As a result, the RDMC adopted flexible working groups comprising select national society representatives to encourage focused discussion and recommendations on key issues facing the region such as climate change, vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA), IDRL, and volunteer management.

The outcome has been an increased commitment to working collectively in meeting the challenges and in so doing, strengthening of the region's disaster management capacity. This renewed enthusiasm, as well as past success, will guide the regional disaster management programme through 2008 and 2009.

Genuine progress was recorded in 2006 and 2007 at the national and regional levels. In line with the regional disaster management strategy over the two-year period, the focus has been on supporting country-level initiatives in the development of national society capacity and impact at the community level.

At the national level, the Federation's Southeast Asia regional disaster management unit (RDMU) directly supported key processes through tailored inputs and close work with the national societies and country delegations. These were in programming, strategic development, preparedness plans, workshops, courses and evaluations that included support to the **Cambodia Red Cross** and **Thai Red Cross** to complete their five- and three-year **disaster management strategies** respectively.

The **Myanmar Red Cross** was supported in discussions with **their government departments** to develop a **multi-hazard contingency plan**. The initial workshop shared ideas and improved knowledge of respective roles and responsibilities. Further discussions in 2008 will refine the contingency planning to date.

The **Lao Red Cross** and **Thai Red Cross** community-based activities continued in their respective countries. Support to the **VCA** process in vulnerable communities was provided in Lao PDR, while the development of general understanding and **awareness of disaster management, damage and needs assessment** and **community-based approaches** was provided in Thailand. Ongoing support is also being provided to the **Philippines Red Cross's** 143 project which focuses on developing **community-based disaster preparedness and response nationwide**.

In **Timor-Leste**, an integrated team comprising Federation, partner national society (PNS) and an external consultant developed a **holistic proposal** for the national society (CVTL) to take their **disaster management programme** forward over the next **five years** in line with the strategic plan, and also developed a national disaster response team (NDRT). Similarly in **Lao PDR**, support was provided for the development of NDRT and the review of their overall disaster management programme for 2007 and beyond. Support was also provided to the **Cambodian Red Cross** in developing a **multi-year disaster response preparedness project** incorporating the formation of branch disaster response teams and NDRT.

**VCA** was taken a step forward within the region through a regional course that was facilitated by representatives from the Federation's Maldives delegation, the Indonesian Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross in Viet Nam with support from the RDMU, through a truly Federation-wide cooperative approach. The course was based on the lessons from VCA application in Southeast Asia in that it was very much focused on **practical application** with indoor and outdoor exercises (group work and a two-day field trip) rather than theoretical presentations. The course was considered highly successful not only in developing a greater understanding among the participants regarding the benefits and implementation of VCA but also for its impact within the Thong Noy village, reflected in the following statement from the village head.

*"We were, on behalf of Thong Noy people, so impressed by what has happened in the village during two days. To be honest I did not know how to identify the critical issues in a logical way like you did in my village before and did not know how to find out the solutions following the appropriate steps and process either,"* said the village head. *"Thanks to your field trip, our people and myself were aware of the process and benefited from you. Some actions need to be considered and discussed more among ourselves for the future reduction of risk,"* he added.

As part of the renewed commitment of the RDMC, a **sub-regional contingency planning** meeting was held to address the common **Mekong River hazard** for **Lao PDR, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnamese Red Cross societies**. The meeting reviewed the region's contingency planning procedures and **developed a standard format** to guide their own contingency plans and those of other Southeast Asia national societies. Following the development of the standard format during this meeting, the Myanmar Red Cross has successfully used this to support the development of their multi-hazard contingency plan with the Myanmar government.

The **volunteers in emergencies issue group** met to identify how best **national societies within Southeast Asia** can effectively support and celebrate the role and contributions of their volunteers involved in disaster management programming. The group developed a set of **minimum standards** for the management of volunteers during the various phases of disaster.

At the Southeast Asia regional level, systems and readiness were improved with regard to **hazard mapping, response preparedness**, regional disaster response team (RDRT) deployment and **information exchange**. This has also provided a greater understanding and communication of hazard monitoring, disaster preparedness and the way in which the regional DM programme supports the wider Federation. This greater awareness was in part through the national society consistently using the Federation's disaster management information system (**DMIS**) tool. The regional **RDRT induction course**, which saw a total of four courses and 118 participants trained, was improved through the **review of the curriculum**, as well as **participant selection** and the introduction of a more **formalized assessment process**. The assessment process identifies participants who are suitable to be deployed immediately and those who require further experience. This is particularly helpful feedback to the national society DM managers who can then manage their staff and volunteers accordingly.

The first joint South and Southeast Asia specialized RDRT course was conducted for **experienced RDRT and logistics managers**. The outcome was a strengthened understanding and ability for RDRT members to support national societies and Federation delegations in the logistics of relief operations. The move towards joint RDRT courses indicates the growing cooperation between national societies within Asia Pacific as well as the progress and acceptance of RDRT as an effective disaster management tool.

A regional disaster response team (**RDRT**) reflection course in **Singapore** pinpointed issues to be followed up in 2008 so as to continue the development of this highly successful tool. RDRT also took part in an **ARDEX (ASEAN regional emergency response simulation) scenario** (also in **Singapore**) where they

provided **first aid support** and **relief assessment** efforts in the wake of a simulated building collapse that brought international support/teams from ASEAN countries.

There was an extensive range of disasters in 2006, while 2007 was relatively less hazardous. Many of these were **handled by the societies themselves**. However, there were a number which required technical and management support from the region including the **deployment of RDRT to Timor-Leste, Indonesia, the Philippines** and more recently, **Bangladesh**. In addition, Federation **global disaster response tools** were also called upon including the field assessment and coordination team (**FACT**) to the Philippines and the allocation of disaster relief emergency fund (**DREF**) in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. **Emergency appeals** were launched in support of disaster response operations of the Timor-Leste, Indonesian, Philippines and Vietnamese national societies.

As part of the Federation's commitment to the ongoing **humanitarian reform process**, a number of activities were undertaken to strengthen the understanding and participation in this global process. These included briefing the RDMC and heads of delegation from Southeast Asia on the Federation's support to humanitarian reform and specifically, the **emergency shelter cluster**. In addition, the following was managed: engagement with the inter-agency standing committee (**IASC**) **Asia Pacific humanitarian network**; hosting of a training course for **coordinators of emergency shelter clusters** during natural disasters; and facilitation of a **shelter technical workshop** to enhance the awareness of national societies in the **technical, social and coordination issues** related to **shelter in emergency response and recovery operations**. UN OCHA Asia Pacific has commented that progress and the attitude of the Red Cross Red Crescent in its approach to the reform process is proving to be a useful peer example to others in the humanitarian sector.

The regional disaster management programme also hosted a regional training on **cash transfer in humanitarian assistance**. Representatives from the Philippines, Indonesia, Danish and German Red Cross societies attended this three-day training. The aim was to raise awareness of the issues associated with cash transfer programmes and build the relevant skills and knowledge of emergency managers who will be responsible for running such initiatives in emergencies. The RDMU will look to both the **Philippines** and **Indonesia** to provide input into the regional network of national society disaster managers in the coming year.

The increasing need to look at supporting vulnerable communities in a holistic manner through a **disaster risk reduction (DRR) approach** was discussed recently in Nairobi where the RDMU and Cambodian Red Cross representatives were in attendance. The meeting was called to discuss the Red Cross Red Crescent approach to DRR and how the Movement can build on existing expertise and develop key strategic approaches to support disaster resilient communities. The outcomes identified a number of key areas where the Movement needs to develop approaches for supporting the DRR global alliance and Red Cross Red Crescent work at the community and national level. This is important for Southeast Asia and the RDMU will be working extensively on how the region can collectively address DRR within its programming.

In line with the discussion in Nairobi, a high-profile Red Cross Red Crescent team represented **the Movement** at a high-level **Asia Pacific regional workshop on school education and disaster risk reduction** focusing on school children in Asia Pacific. National societies and the Federation contributed, particularly around **non-formal education** and **community mobilization**. Representation from Southeast Asia was also made at the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) **Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction** in which representatives from Viet Nam gave an overview of activities being conducted in the region.

Changes within the delegation saw the move of the successful **population movement (PM)** programme transfer to the humanitarian values department and become incorporated into a wider advocacy and awareness raising initiative. Before this was undertaken, the RDMU oversaw major achievements in this area. This included the identification of specific PM issues faced by national societies through country visits to **Cambodia, Indonesia** and the **Philippines** to map their activities and assess gaps in national societies with recommendations to start new projects, improve existing programmes and fill identified gaps. Through the country visits, the regional PM coordinator has held half-day advocacy and awareness raising meetings at the national level on PM issues. Although these meetings generated interest, the systematic capacity building of national societies at the branch level has been limited due to lack of resources.

### Challenges and constraints:

The regional DM programme set an ambitious programme over the reporting period and achieved much. The programme, jointly implemented, by the regional disaster management unit (RDMU) and the regional disaster management committee (RDMC) of the 11 Southeast Asia national societies maintained a good pace. It required genuine commitment from national societies to complete individual tasks as well as contribute to the overall advancement of regional DM capacity and quality.

A key issue which was not fully explored during 2006 and 2007 was the concept of pre-disaster agreements between national societies and their governments, and the clarification of the role of the Red Cross Red Crescent vis-à-vis the increasing government-to-government support in times of disaster response. With the further consolidation of the Asia Pacific disaster management unit's (APDMU) role in this area, it is hoped that this issue can be broached in 2008.

Further stress on achieving planned activities resulted from the turnover of staff and formation of a new RDMU team. A new head of unit and key staff members were appointed. Although initially challenging, a tight-knit unit has developed with a good mix of skills and expertise to effectively support the programme.

During 2006, the disaster management structure of the Federation was strengthened with the establishment of the APDMU. This followed in 2007 with the formation of the Asia Pacific Zone office. While both processes will strengthen the overall support to the Southeast Asian national societies and their disaster management work, time and resources were used to assist in the formation of the new structure and working methodologies. This added to the existing large workload.

### Best practices and lessons learned:

During the preparations for discussions with the Myanmar government regarding the development of a multi-hazard contingency plan, the Myanmar Red Cross realized there was a need to develop consensus on **what it means to be auxiliary to government in disaster management**. As such, a specific workshop was held with representatives from the Myanmar Red Cross states and divisions, national headquarters' departments and the executive committee. The group drew on their experiences and that of the Movement in this area to develop a common understanding of their auxiliary role. This process proved vital when the Myanmar Red Cross engaged with 16 government departments during the initial stages of the contingency planning process, whereby the national society representatives were collectively able to describe the role and responsibility of their society as a **neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian organization**. The event raised the evolving nature of national society work in DM and the changing perception of governments and their relationship with national societies. As such, similar discussions are planned at the national and regional level in 2008.

The Cambodian Red Cross (CRC), with support from the Danish Red Cross, country and regional delegations, successfully developed its five-year DM strategy. The process involved extensive consultation with CRC senior management, leadership and departments, in-country partners as well as donors to enable CRC to identify their strengths, weaknesses and way forward to provide effective services to their community. The process and strategy document are of high quality and set the way forward for a holistic disaster management programme in Cambodia that focuses on reducing risk across all aspects of disaster management.

To support the interpretation of the strategy, and building on the existing projects of CRC, a programme approach linking currently implemented projects with future identified areas of work through an integrated manner is being undertaken. This will again be supported by CRC in-country partners as well as donors in a form of operational alliance. It is hoped that this process will be a leading example for other national societies in the Southeast Asia region to follow in the review of their strategies and disaster management work.

Real linkages were developed between the Federation of the Future (FoF) and the regional DM programme, especially through the preparation for the Asia Pacific statutory conference in Singapore in November 2006 and the documents that the focal national society contributed to this forum. This was followed up in 2007 in preparing for the 30<sup>th</sup> International Red Cross Red Crescent conference where the RDMC provided input into the debate on **IDRL** and **climate change** within the Red Cross Red Crescent.

The annual meeting of the Southeast Asia senior managers and leaders was hosted by the Cambodian Red Cross in September. The RDMC had the opportunity to report on its previous year's activities and also present the recently developed papers on climate change and IDRL. The accountability through such reporting by the technical managers of the Southeast Asia national societies at the national and regional level was highly appreciated by the participants at the meeting. This activity also strengthened the awareness of disaster management issues and achievements within the regions' senior managers and leaders.

Many initiatives were achieved over 2006 and 2007 with continued support from various partners, particularly the Swedish and Japanese Red Cross societies who have been long-term contributors to the regional disaster management programme. It is hoped that such long-term partnerships continue and that new partnerships are also being formed.

## Health and care

**Programme Objective:** The region's national societies deliver quality health and care programmes and services that address the needs of the most vulnerable communities.

### **Achievements:**

In 2006-2007, the Federation's regional health and care programme supported national societies to deliver quality programmes and services that met the needs of vulnerable communities. The mix of technical assistance, networking, resource mobilization, coordination and advocacy was consolidated and remained the basis of the regional health team's capacity building support. A large scale mapping exercise of Southeast Asian national societies' health activities was completed in 2006. Key data will be used as part of a regional monitoring system.

Regional and cross-border cooperation between governments and national societies became increasingly important with the **emergence and re-emergence of infectious diseases** that do not respect borders and carry no passport. There was a growing realization that with large numbers of people moving more easily within and between countries, no single country can prevent, control and contain communicable diseases on its own. There was also agreement that governments and health system-based actions alone cannot tackle these challenges; **strong community-based prevention programmes are equally important in a successful fight against communicable diseases – and this is where national societies play a crucial role.**

The regional health unit represented national societies and advocated for the right to health of vulnerable communities in relevant regional forums, such as the **first regional health forum for the Mekong sub-region** focusing on the control of communicable diseases and organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and WHO, and an **Asia Pacific meeting for health emergency partners** organized by WHO. Global **collaboration between WHO and the Federation** was promoted with a regional focus on HIV including safe blood, and health in emergencies.

**Avian human influenza** is one such challenge that required strong regional and in-country cooperation. Southeast Asia continued to experience human deaths caused by the H5N1 virus, **Indonesia** being the hardest hit with 116 confirmed cases of which 94 were fatal. A number of national societies accessed funding from the Global Appeal for Avian Human Influenza and actively built community awareness and coordinated with key stakeholders in their countries. In Bangkok, the regional health unit continued to host a **monthly inter-agency meeting** and joined an ADB-AHI-NGO-RCRC<sup>2</sup> partnership with CARE, IRC (International Rescue Committee) and the ADPC (Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre) on **strengthening community-based approaches to the management of avian and human influenza in Asia**, funded by the ADB. The initiative seeks to strengthen the role of non-government and humanitarian community organizations in combating avian human influenza at the community level; regional training workshops and study tours will be conducted and a regional tool-kit developed.

Another example of a communicable disease of increasing public health importance is **dengue/dengue haemorrhagic fever**. Many countries in 2007 experienced a higher number of cases and rate of mortality. The Cambodian government declared dengue a public health emergency and the **Cambodian Red Cross** launched a disaster response emergency fund (DREF) appeal. Increased travel, urbanization and migration

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<sup>2</sup> Asian Development Bank-Avian Human Influenza-Non-Governmental Organizations-Red Cross Red Crescent

contributed to the spread of dengue. Longer and/or changing rainy seasons and an increase in temperature due to climate change may have also added to the problem. Many national societies engaged in prevention programmes played an essential role at the community level by raising awareness and supporting elimination of mosquito breeding sites.

The **Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent HIV Network, ART**, was re-engaged in 2007, holding two management meetings, one in July and one to coincide with the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual ART meeting in Malacca, Malaysia in October. The meeting saw participants from **13 national societies**, the regional health unit, and APN+ (Asia Pacific Network of People with HIV/AIDS). The chairman of the European Red Cross and Red Crescent Network on HIV and AIDS (ERNA) also participated and further cooperation between the two networks is expected. Participants received training on **harm reduction**, and set the agenda to re-invigorate the network and set its direction until 2010. From 2008, ART will be chaired by the **Thai Red Cross** with a management team consisting of members from Cambodia, Mongolia and Japan. Future challenges identified for the network include maintaining the momentum and relevance of the network; employing a secretariat position to support the network, ensuring the network members take on stronger ownership for maintaining and setting the agenda for the network; with the Federation providing technical and capacity support.

A regional **Global Alliance on HIV** meeting in Kuala Lumpur included participants from **10 national societies**, eight people from seven partner national societies, three people from external organizations as well as eight people from the Federation regional offices, country delegations and Geneva. All national societies with the support of partners drafted country plans to scale up their HIV programming from 2008-2010 and bring it in line with the **Global Alliance Framework**, including discussions on resource mobilization. Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, Indonesia, and the Philippines national societies agreed to join the Global Alliance. Challenges identified included: securing leadership commitment to scale up HIV programming and work with vulnerable groups; building available human resources and technical capacity of national societies to work with vulnerable groups and to scale up HIV programming; making the Global Alliance framework fit with the HIV programmes of national societies and to gain the support of external donors for the framework. There was strong commitment to work with APN+ and country-level networks of people living with HIV. However, a continued challenge is the genuine involvement of people living with HIV in Red Cross Red Crescent HIV programming, and identifying areas where the Movement and people living with HIV networks can work collaboratively.

Leadership was the theme selected by the World AIDS Campaign for **World AIDS Day** 2007. This was very much in line with the Federation's message, which focuses on the importance of communities to 'take charge of their own destinies' in the fight against AIDS, especially women and people living with HIV who are among the most vulnerable groups. National societies conducted various awareness raising events across the region ranging from community walks and rallies, television and media events to the provision of free health check-ups for the general public and people living with HIV. In 2008, a higher profile coordinated regional response and campaign has been proposed by the ART Network.

Participation in the **ICAAP** (International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific) in Sri Lanka, as well as coordination of the one-day Red Cross Red Crescent pre-ICAAP meeting, provided an opportunity to showcase Red Cross Red Crescent work in Asia Pacific. The role of the Movement however, given its nominal representation in the actual conference programme, needs to be expanded, in order to be more influential and effective in the area of HIV in the region. Continued representation and meetings with allied HIV organizations and authorities as well as networking with key donor agencies at regional and country level is essential not only to promote the Red Cross Red Crescent HIV work, but also to explore potential resource mobilization opportunities. Meetings have included international NGOs, national AIDS authorities, UN agencies, ICRC, APN+, DFID, and USAID.

**Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donor Recruitment** (VNBDR) was a core activity of most national societies and some have been given a special mandate by their ministries of health to manage national blood services. Through an agreement with the regional delegation, **Singapore Red Cross** provided technical support to regional activities related to VNBDR such as facilitation of a national training of trainers (ToT) in **Lao PDR** for staff from the national blood transfusion centre and all provinces; a ToT workshop in **Cambodia** was co-facilitated by the regional technical advisor from Singapore Red Cross and the Lao Red Cross donor recruitment director. Demonstrating their commitment to strengthening blood donor recruitment, **Myanmar Red Cross** went ahead and organized a scheduled follow-up workshop for VNBDR even though the regional advisor could not support as planned due to unrest in the country. The 5<sup>th</sup>

**regional VNBDR meeting** was organized in Phnom Penh in December 2007 with the participation of nine national societies following meetings in Myanmar in 2006, Lao PDR in 2005, and Singapore in 2003 and 2000.

Recognizing the significant role some national societies have in national blood services, the regional health unit linked up with the Global Advisory Panel (GAP) to provide technical support outside VNBDR. **Viet Nam Red Cross** initiated a process to develop a strategy and action plan with close in-country cooperation with WHO and the National Institute for Blood; GAP will visit Viet Nam in February to support this process.

The 11<sup>th</sup> International Colloquium on VNBDR, a bi-annual global event, was to be held in Cairo on 12-18 January 2008. The Southeast Asia region will be well represented with nine participants from **Singapore Red Cross, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Philippines National Red Cross, Thai Red Cross Society, and Indonesian Red Cross.**

**Water and sanitation:** Likewise, national society capacity related to water and sanitation in emergencies and water and sanitation in development has improved and shows great potential for scaling up in 2008-2009. Linked to water and sanitation has been support of participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST), and integration of water and sanitation, health in emergencies and community-based first aid (CBFA) and other community health activities. National societies' water and sanitation activities include: spring catchments and development; rainwater harvesting; hand-dug wells; water purification; school-based activities; wastewater treatment and latrine construction, also for disabled persons.

The regional health unit is represented at the water and sanitation in emergencies group. This group is responsible for coordinating the network of water and sanitation for health (WASH) cluster coordinators and their training, and is currently drafting a national capacity mapping and assessment framework. As part of this process, support is being provided to the 'Piloting of a Training Package for Hygiene Promoters (Level 1), Community Volunteers (Level 2)', and the 'Capacity Analysis of Key Stakeholders Involved in Hygiene Promotion in Emergencies' process.

The revitalization process of '**Community-based First Aid in Action**' was ongoing and field testing took place in **Indonesia. Lao Red Cross** initiated a commercial first aid programme in cooperation between the health and organizational departments. **Thai Red Cross** provided technical support and training with funding provided by the regional health unit as part of the long term multilateral support from **New Zealand Red Cross to Lao Red Cross.** The regional health unit coordinated with the **Netherlands Red Cross** as partners to Lao Red Cross's CBFA and water and sanitation programme in three provinces in the south, including 10 villages. Under the programme, village health volunteers were identified and trained, first aid kits and T-shirts distributed, water and latrines construction initiated and basic hygiene promotion carried out. Progress at the community level was, however, slow and intensified in-country and regional support to the programme is planned.

Valuable **partners to the regional health programme** included among others: **Japanese Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Australian Red Cross and German Red Cross.**

#### **Challenges and constraints:**

Ownership of - and commitment to - networks is an interesting challenge: What are the key determinants of a well-functioning network? What is the added value of a network that will make members feel it is worthwhile to contribute? A health network with a developmental agenda (such as HIV or VNBDR) is by nature very different from a network with an emergency/response agenda (such as some disaster-related networks). What are the best approaches and strategies to support and develop different kinds of networks? These issues continue to surface and require reflection from the national societies and secretariat.

The regional health unit positions of a psychosocial delegate and a health-in-emergencies delegate ceased to exist mid-2007; the water and sanitation delegate position was vacant from July until mid-November 2007. In the context of the new zone structure, the health unit is still attempting to establish a structure and system that builds on existing capacities and strengths of national societies and country and regional delegations, and avoids duplication of efforts.

### **Best practices and looking forward:**

In a rapidly changing environment, national societies have continually adjusted their strategies and activities to deliver relevant services to the most vulnerable communities. Consequently the focus of their health programmes varies from one country to another. The regional health unit support to national society health programmes in 2008-2009 will focus on:

- taking the Global Health and Care Strategy to national societies and community level
- global alliance for HIV
- technical and management capacity development
- coordination including support to networks and partnerships/operational alliances
- advocacy for the most vulnerable and promotion of an integrated approach to health
- emerging and re-emerging diseases
- linking health, organizational development (OD) and disaster management (DM)

At the regional level, the monthly inter-agency meetings on avian human influenza will continue in 2008 with ADB funding as part of the NGO-Red Cross AHI Partnership.

In-country support will continue to be prioritized as will regional workshops and the facilitation of national society participation in regional and global events.

**Strategic framework and partnership:** The regional health unit works within the regional context and the Federation's Health and Care Strategy 2006-2010 and broader strategic framework, as represented by the Global Agenda, the Framework for Action. These all serve as a reference point for national societies and partners in the region. The collaboration between the Federation and WHO in Southeast Asia concentrates on health in emergencies and HIV. With the secretariat's consolidation project underway, it is expected that the cooperation among the four regional health units within the Asia Pacific Zone will be strengthened. The Federation currently has country-based health delegates in Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, and Timor-Leste.

2008-2009 support will build on achievements, lessons learned and requests for support from national societies. Specific support for the ongoing CBFA and water and sanitation programme in Lao PDR will also continue.

## Capacity development

**Programme Objective:** Improved services to vulnerable people.

### **Achievements:**

Overall, there are three main messages from the organizational development (OD) programme when reflecting on 2006-2007:

- The Southeast Asia OD team has an infusion of new talent, sense of team spirit and momentum;
- Priorities for OD in the region are well established and address needs; and
- There were three donors for personnel (the Danish, New Zealand and Swedish Red Cross societies) and two donors for programming (the Japanese and Swedish Red Cross societies). For 2008, partner support ideally should expand.

In 2006, the programme progressed in providing integrated initiatives, within OD as well as with other programme areas such as DM, to the region's national societies. The regional delegation took its role as a change agent seriously and supported national societies in their quest for improvement.

The national society leadership in the region gave a clear signal of intent when they launched the Southeast Asia regional strategic review. It began a process of self-reflection and common learning around national societies' work and their relationships with partners. The leaders committed to using the review to help empower leadership, governance and management as well as staff and volunteers in the region.

Support to leadership was consistent and ordered around several important milestones, such as preparation for the VII statutory conference of Asia Pacific national societies in Singapore in November

2006. The regional team supported the national societies to feed into and influence the articulation of regional priorities within the global Federation of the Future. Governance support and training were also provided to individual societies.

There were several examples of short- and long-term support to planned national societies' change processes in such areas as leadership development, branch development and strategic planning. Partner national societies continue to want the regional office to provide a clear lead on OD. Relations with the region's societies are strong and the Bangkok team is mostly respected as a catalyst of ideas and change agent on OD issues.

Some of the headline achievements during 2006 were as follow:

- The Southeast Asia strategic regional review provided a series of recommendations for a more comprehensive and coherent approach for the **Federation** over the next five years to intensify implementation of the S2010/Global Agenda. The review offered in-depth analysis of the vulnerability and capacity of national societies in **Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Timor-Leste**, and **Viet Nam** as well as the **secretariat's** regional programming. The review, launched by the region's society leaders, continues to be used to strengthen individual and collective work around priorities.
- A series of retreats – four thus far, in **Timor-Leste, Philippines, Lao PDR** and **Cambodia** – provided a forum for the host national society to strengthen common understanding of challenges and chart more coherent action with partners, drawing in part on the review's findings. They also provided a reality check on the feasibility of Federation of the Future plans and specifically, on scaling up using operational alliances.
- Strategic planning strengthened: at least four national societies – **Cambodia, Lao PDR, Timor-Leste** and **Viet Nam** – progressed in this realm. In Timor-Leste, vulnerability assessments are the basis of its strategic plans. Thematically, **regional DM, health** and **OD planning** also improved country level planning and action to reduce vulnerability.
- The **region's youth volunteers** agreed on an action framework at a forum of youth leaders in **Philippines** detailing how youth can play a more empowered role in decision-making and programming.
- **Cooperation agreement strategies (CAS)** evolved at varying rates in many countries, including **Cambodia, Lao PDR, Timor-Leste** and **Viet Nam**. In the meantime, appropriate, if opportunistic, approaches to partnership contributed to reduced vulnerability, i.e. the **Viet Nam Red Cross** partnership with the **Netherlands Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross** over a **DipECHO** programme.
- The **Thai Red Cross Society** continued to nurture its volunteers. Following a workshop entitled "Volunteering Excellence", the society is: establishing a steering committee under the leadership of the assistant secretary-general; strengthening policy/guideline development; and third, improving information management and the development of a database. All will enhance the role of volunteers in the Thai Red Cross and as a consequence, strengthen the society itself.
- There were several encouraging trends evident in 'domestic' resource mobilization. In the **Philippines**; most branches are self-sufficient and contributing to the headquarters. The **Cambodian Red Cross's** 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary saw significant funds being raised for the national society (in the region of USD 2 million or CHF 1.99 million). The tsunami witnessed widespread generosity and effective fundraising by the region's national societies, i.e. **Thailand** (approximately USD 5 million or CHF 4.9 million) and **Viet Nam** (approximately USD 3 million or CHF 2.98 million).

For 2007, the focus was re-validated towards: governance, financial development, volunteering and youth, human resources (HR), and fundraising. Progress around these issues is summarized below:

**Finance Development:** Support was provided to national societies that identified finance development as a priority, namely Myanmar, Lao PDR, Timor-Leste (CVTL) and Cambodia Red Cross societies. The finance development delegate worked directly with each.

In **Myanmar**, draft financial rules and procedures were created and translated into English. This has enabled useful comment and discussion about how issues might be addressed in such documents to promote clarity and transparency. The finance development delegate used tools he himself created as a fruitful base for discussions.

Meetings with a software supplier took place 'in country' with a view to upgrade the finance software currently in use.

In **Lao PDR**, investigations into replacing the current unfinished software with a standard international package continued. In addition, 14 accounting staff members are to be trained in basic skills in a government-recognized course. Negotiations are underway for a one-year plan of finance development and a two-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Lao Red Cross Society to ensure lasting progress in finance development can be made.

In **Timor-Leste**, the national society is anxious to improve its finance systems, which are currently managed by staff with a limited accounting background. The **Australian Red Cross** has agreed to partner with CVTL on this front. The finance development delegate has written the terms of reference to engage a consultant from Australian Red Cross.

In **Cambodia**, a mission from the finance development delegate established that the Cambodian Red Cross has progressed in its financial management. The national society is currently seeking to computerize the finances of 24 branches. The finance development delegate is on standby if required.

**Human Resources and Management:** After careful negotiations with the **Cambodia Red Cross**, terms of reference were negotiated for a consultant to support the development of a HR strategy. This consultant reports directly to the national society leaders to ensure that the national society leads the process.

The **Myanmar Red Cross** is looking at their HR system in the context of a health department in need of reorganization. A local consultant began work with an international consultant with Federation support. They will carry out in-depth research in the national society before recommending next steps to its executive committee.

The **Lao Red Cross** has investigated the possibility of significant reform of its HR system to improve the incentive structure, set a standard salary scale and then seek a percentage of programme costs from partners. However, the decision has been made to explore minor changes to the system before attempting a major reorganization.

The **Thai Red Cross** has developed a new HR scorecard system to help them reform processes. It has also developed training modules in HR which will soon be rolled out in the national society.

**Volunteering and youth:** In the **Malaysian Red Crescent**, volunteer management training was carried out in the Sarawak branch.

In **Viet Nam**, the national society worked on policies and procedures for volunteers. It was supported in this process through meetings involving the Federation and their other partners. The process is continuing and feedback will be included in an updated draft in January 2008.

**Philippines Red Cross** continued to implement its programme to recruit volunteers in every village in the country (called Project 143). It is hoped that input on volunteer management will be welcomed in 2008.

Achievements related to volunteer work in partnership with the DM and health programmes are detailed below under 'Coordination'.

**Indonesian Red Cross** (PMI) held its first ever youth council following discussions at the last regional youth directors' meeting. This is an encouraging development in youth taking a more visible role in the society.

The regional meeting of youth directors was hosted by the **Malaysian Red Crescent Society**. Details for a new regional youth challenge were agreed upon and will result in the production of videos from each national society highlighting their youth work. This will form part of the activities in 2008. A number of arrangements were also made for youth participants to take part in events of other countries in the region.

The regional OD officer participated in a major gathering of Asia Pacific youth hosted by the **Japanese Red Cross** sharing the Federation's approach to youth development.

**Governance:** Three major events were the focus of governance support. The first was the **Southeast Asian leaders' meeting** hosted by the **Cambodian Red Cross**. A number of decisions were made to focus on OD work in the region, including seeking improvements in board training and the refocusing of the OD forum. The opportunity was also taken to provide leaders' input on the auxiliary role of their national societies. This was a key agenda item during the statutory meetings in Geneva in November 2007.

The second event was a leadership forum in Myanmar discussing the Federation's integrity policy and the Movement statutes. This meeting has led to plans for further discussions on the responsibility of **Movement partners** as seen in the **Seville agreement** and has increased interest in revising the legal base of the **Myanmar Red Cross**.

The **Viet Nam Red Cross** progressed on the development of a **Red Cross law**, which provides an opportunity to clarify the relationship between the government and national society. The **Federation** and **ICRC** provided advice on how to ensure that the new law respects the principles and requirements of the Movement. A joint mission was undertaken to meet with **the society** leadership on this issue and discussions are ongoing.

**Fundraising:** This has not been a major focus for the regional OD unit. However, it is worth noting that efforts to support the commercial first aid work of the **Lao Red Cross** earlier in the year has enabled them to develop a partnership with the **New Zealand Red Cross** for this programme.

In addition, the OD unit sponsored one representative from the **Philippines Red Cross** to attend the **Global Fundraising Skillshare** event in London on the condition that he/she be available for two missions to support fundraising in other national societies on their return. The representative should prove a useful resource in 2008.

#### Challenges and constraints:

- Relations with Federation country delegations: In general these are good but still need to improve in some instances. Relations with countries where there is no Federation country presence also need more attention.
- Working effectively as a regional OD team: a regular monthly meeting, including the OD unit, volunteering staff from the Asia Pacific office in **Kuala Lumpur** and the OD delegate for **Lao PDR** and **Cambodia** is seeking to address this but more synergy, particularly with the Asia Pacific office in Kuala Lumpur, is being sought.
- Developing **trusting relationships** with national societies: this exists mostly and is key to OD and capacity building work but ongoing effort is required for work in 2008 to be truly effective.
- Translating recognition of a priority issue to a desire for change and later achieving that change is a long road to travel. Even the initial step of translating recognition of an issue into a clear agreed work plan to address it has been slow. However, one cardinal rule is to move at a pace that the national society is comfortable with.
- Support to the **Lao Red Cross**. The national society is open to change and keen to work on agreed priorities but there is a concern that sufficient resources will not be found for 2008.
- National society ownership of the OD network also needs to be strengthened.

#### Best practices and lessons learned:

Valuable partners in the regional OD programme providing either programme funding or personnel funding include: The **Swedish, New Zealand, Danish** and **Japanese Red Cross societies**. Progress has been made on coordinating with the zonal OD team based in Kuala Lumpur and through meeting and planning together as a wider team. This has been an encouraging initiative that has enabled the zonal team to build momentum as a group rather than several individuals.

Progress in the integration of OD with health and DM has been made in the following initiatives:

- Creating a new model for volunteering and disaster management through facilitating a regional DM focus group
- Providing strategic planning inputs alongside DM as the **Thai Red Cross** relief bureau worked on its strategic plan
- Creating a draft 'consent form' for volunteers involved in avian human influenza programmes with the health department
- Drafting a plan to create tools addressing volunteer management issues specific to different types of volunteer programmes

Some useful joint work has also been done with other Movement partners working in the region including:

- Close teamwork with **ICRC** in providing input to the Red Cross law drafting process in **Viet Nam**
- Providing a Federation perspective on gender training carried out by tsunami recovery staff of the **American Red Cross** in Thailand
- Collaboration with the **Danish Red Cross** in finance development and HR development in **Lao PDR**.
- Input into a health manual on coaching and supervisory skills for those working with community volunteers. This was an **American Red Cross** initiative which has been piloted in **Indonesia** and will soon be piloted in **Thailand**.

Other contributions to regional networking and cooperation include:

- Sharing the regional delegation's database on national society information with partners
- The use of **Philippines Red Cross** staff to provide training on branch development to Federation staff
- Two case studies on branch development work in **Myanmar**
- Research into information sharing approaches to contribute to thinking in the zone
- Sharing the 'branch development' game with the **German Red Cross** and **Danish Red Cross**. The German Red Cross has subsequently used it to great effect to promote thoughtful engagement with branches of the **Viet Nam Red Cross**.

In terms of 2008, there will be:

- Increasing Federation teamwork operating 'as a zone'
- Increasing engagement between Movement partners working in OD
- A more subtle approach in OD work based on strengthening relationships to maximize the effectiveness of the work building on progress in 2007.

## Principles and values

**Programme Objective:** Southeast Asia national societies are motivated and able to generate a high degree of visibility, credibility, cooperation and support for Red Cross Red Crescent activities.

### **Achievements:**

During 2006-2007, the regional team tried to make the humanitarian values programme 'live' in terms of supporting national societies in this core area of Red Cross Red Crescent work. It was one of the biggest challenges of all programming with success only patchy at best. The information and media relations element of the programme continued to be the most visible, most effective and easiest to measure. The more challenging work of promoting values within national societies and communities remained harder to capture and report on.

The need to build national society capacity in terms of advocacy remained a clear priority (see area 3 under the Framework for Action). Indeed, it was one of the recommendations of the independent regional review. In addition, the regional team tried to 'build relations higher' and better represent the Movement in the wider world with governments and among other international organizations.

Some of the headline achievements were:

- The **Philippines Red Cross's** strong commitment to values and principles helped maintain it as one of the world's leaders in disaster response. The society constantly tried to 'live its values' in a world of ever more complex disasters. The leadership mentored, coached and trained volunteers and staff to maintain this core responsibility. The **Philippines Red Cross** was one of **ten Southeast Asian national societies** to attend a regional workshop entitled 'living our values' that shared best practices. This initiative, which heard epic personal stories of humanity from several attendees, inspired **national societies throughout the region** to live their values more. In a related initiative, **Philippines Red Cross** and **ICRC**, with support of the **secretariat**, debated what it is to be humanitarian, particularly in times of armed conflict and how greater protection can be offered to those who are most vulnerable. This process continued after the first international humanitarian law forum in Manila.

- The **Cambodian Red Cross** continued to lead by example in terms of tolerance and respect towards people living with HIV/AIDS. Its workplace policy on HIV/AIDS is one that other national societies, including **Indonesia**, are keen to follow.
- Consistent professional management of the media ensured that the humanitarian message remained at the heart of most Red Cross Red Crescent communications, i.e. during the **Philippines** landslide tragedy of 2006 and the floods in **Viet Nam** in 2007. The values element of Red Cross Red Crescent communications was strengthened after lessons from the tsunami in terms of dignity and respectful representation of people during disasters. A precursor for authentic communication of values is a consistent demonstration of them in action. This was at the heart of many programmes of all **Southeast Asian national societies**.
- The **Timor-Leste Red Cross's** respect for the Fundamental Principles preserved its access to the most marginalized communities during a series of crises in both 2006 and 2007, including storms and floods and major civil unrest. *'Without the respect that our extensive membership has for our Fundamental Principles, access to the displaced populations in various districts simultaneously would have been impossible,'* the CVTL secretary-general said.
- The Movement continued to play its unique community-global role in terms of mobilizing populations and governments to prepare; this time for a potential avian influenza pandemic. National societies worked (often with the support of **partner national societies**) among communities and representation was influential throughout **the region**. In tandem, the **secretariat team** represented the Federation at a World Bank video conference bringing together health and agriculture ministries around the world. The team also continued to promote the unique position/influence of national societies as auxiliaries to governments at monthly Southeast Asian avian influenza coordination meetings (organized by the **regional office**) attended by UN agencies and various organizations.
- The work of **Southeast Asian national societies**, including **Myanmar, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste** and **Viet Nam** in terms of relief, disaster preparedness, water and sanitation, basic community health, and HIV/AIDS was promoted via web profiles on the **Federation's** website, which received millions of hits in 2006 and 2007 and is a regular source for other influential sites (such as Reliefweb). A [review of news articles](#) on specific countries is available.

Representatives from 22 Asia Pacific national societies and the secretariat (delegations and Geneva) met in Kuala Lumpur (5-7 November), organized by the Southeast Asia regional delegation. As witnessed at the series of statutory meetings in Geneva in November 2007, climate change is now a core Red Cross Red Crescent issue. The **Indonesian Red Cross (PMI)** illustrated the strength of their work in this respect. The most interesting learning experience was **Thai Red Cross's** 'Do It Love' fundraising campaign which caught the imagination of sister national societies. This illustrated the tremendous work going on in many national societies and how the Federation as a network needs to capture and share more of this. It was agreed that the Federation needs a strong vision of what global communications are and how this can be implemented through all seven zones, including Asia Pacific. This will ensure that the world's largest humanitarian organization has a global presence on news agendas and in policy debates.

#### **Challenges and constraints:**

National societies and the secretariat have the basis of a good zonal communications team in place, working together on issues. However, further work is required in terms of identifying the priorities for humanitarian values and delegating tasks to the respective parties.

The Geneva secretariat has encouraged more of a field lead on the publishing of articles on the Federation website and other media. However, a lack of resources to do many of the things earmarked as desirable was a constant challenge. As stated above, and in common with the Federation as a whole, the regional office struggled to effectively support the humanitarian values mandate, which is at the core of Red Cross Red Crescent work. This will remain a challenge into 2008-2009.

#### **Best practices and lessons learned:**

The value of the **International Federation's** agreement with **Reuters** was again illustrated with pictures of the floods used from the **Viet Nam Red Cross**. This partnership has global significance but considerable effort is needed to make it live consistently.

One of the Federation's great comparative advantages is its local-global network that offers tremendous opportunities for knowledge sharing and learning. Unfortunately this is often not utilized to the full. **FedNet**, however, proved to be an increasingly useful platform to share such experience, thanks in part to support and advocacy from the regional team.

## Working in partnership

Good working relations were built in several forums including the Bangkok team acting as the interagency coordinator of avian influenza preparedness. Active representation of national societies and their interests occurred in such influential forums as the IASC for Asia Pacific. National societies made significant progress as key members of their respective civil societies.

Several partner national societies became integrated with the Federation at the regional level. This has resulted in integration agreements with four societies whose regional representatives are now accommodated in the Federation's Bangkok office, with one more based in Phuket focusing on the tsunami recovery programme. The scale of operation of these partners, along with the Global Road Safety-hosted programme, increased dramatically throughout 2007. By the end of 2007, the number of individuals hosted in the Bangkok office was 43.

The most critical partnership was with the 11 host national societies. This programme focuses on these specific relations, working through the national societies themselves to strengthen the myriad relations beyond those that are vital for them to be effective humanitarian players.

**Stepping forward/stepping back:** The country delegations and Bangkok team changed the nature of their focus and some of their relationships with national societies. This new way of working entailed two main elements:

- first: a 'step forward' in terms of more targeted support (i.e. provision of appropriate membership services) to the national society as well as an expansion of the 'humanitarian business environment' in the region; and
- second: a 'step back' in terms of creating the space and necessary back-up for national societies to rightfully assume a leading role within its borders and to strengthen its regional and international participation as Federation members.

Cooperation continued with ICRC as well as with key organizations outside the Movement. The major and unique role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent as a leading humanitarian player was consistently promoted to the diplomatic community, the UN and other relevant organizations including major funding/grant agencies. In particular, the specific contribution of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in the realm of HIV/AIDS – especially through prevention, anti-stigma and anti-discrimination activities – and other emerging health challenges was highlighted in international forums.

## Management and coordination

The Southeast Asian team supported the region's 11 national societies and their partners to develop and implement quality programmes against Strategy 2010/Global Agenda. These aimed for more volume and impact in services to vulnerable people, in line with one of the principal aspects of Federation of the Future: **scaling up**.

National societies, with support from their secretariat, endeavoured to ensure that their programmes and regional strategies were responsive – and useful – to evolving needs. The secretariat team continued to foster relations with each of the region's 11 national societies in support of country heads and partner national society engagement.

The series of 'retreats' - with the Philippines Red Cross, CVTL in Timor-Leste, the Lao and Cambodia Red Cross - ensured that representatives from various levels of the said national societies aired their views on the desired nature of Federation support. The planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting function – firmly established in the Southeast Asia team – continued to drive this process; ensuring that the 'Red Cross Red Crescent's humanitarian story in Southeast Asia', is better captured and told. The region has pioneered the use of the Framework for Action as an information sharing tool and a 'confidence builder' in the quest for joint planning. This is a work in progress. In 2008-2009, it is hoped that this will help build a more complete picture of where progress is being made and where gaps persist, in terms of actual programming and capacity building support.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

Under the Federation's *new operating model*, the three main roles/functions of the Southeast Asian secretariat team are: leadership and the provision of core membership services to the region's 11 national societies, facilitation and support of operational alliances, and the direction and coordination of disaster response.<sup>3</sup> This agreed strategic approach requires a consistent approach to contribute to longer term impact and sustainability. This is beginning to pay dividends in Southeast Asia with both host and partner national societies benefiting – and acknowledging – the support the regional team provided.

## Looking ahead

National societies continued to demonstrate their capability in several instances and became more specific in their demands and expectations from the regional office. This is a dynamic that has been evolving since 2006. As such, the regional office in 2008 will be even more targeted in its assistance that will very much focused on country level outcomes. This will be done through country delegations – particularly in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam – or directly with national societies where a delegation does not exist.

In terms of promoting the Federation, the regional programme now bears a significant burden with its array of representational responsibilities with other major organizations. This strategic need to maintain – and expand – these relations, particularly in terms of disaster management and health, will influence priorities for 2008.

### How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering quality and accountable 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>

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

#### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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<sup>3</sup> The 10 core membership services are to provide Federation governance support; support global and regional planning, monitoring and evaluation; coordinate and support capacity building and provide technical assistance in the four core areas of S2010; provide organisational development support to national societies; ensure direction and coordination in disaster response; ensure representation, and facilitate internal and external communications and global advocacy; support global resource mobilization; establish and nurture global and regional partnerships; facilitate networking and knowledge sharing; and enable relationship management.