

Annual report



Central America and Mexico

Appeal No. MAA43001

5 August 2010

This report covers the period 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009.

In brief

Programme purpose: Support the seven National Societies in the Central America and Mexico region, ensuring closer work with them so as to effectively implement the Inter-American Plan 2007–2011.

Programme(s) summary:

During 2009, the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico continued to prioritize supporting National Societies through capacity building activities that will contribute to reducing the impact of disasters on the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities, using knowledge-sharing, innovation and education to build an integrated culture of prevention and resilience. By prioritizing these activities, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is contributing to global and regional commitments of the International Federation Global Agenda, the 2007–2011 Inter-American Plan and the 2005–2015 Hyogo Framework for Action.

Throughout this period, the regional **Disaster Risk Reduction** programme (DRR) has supported the implementation and updating of the Well Prepared National Society (WPNS) diagnosis. Currently six National Societies have up-to-date diagnostics and the regional diagnostic also has been brought up to date.

The regional programme supported National Societies in the implementation of disaster preparedness activities which include: contingency and response plans, emergency operations centres, community-based disaster risk reduction activities (VCA), micro-projects and training of community brigades, and community-based early warning systems. Special attention was given to the promotion and advocacy of disaster risk reduction through the development of a regional communications strategy, “Building safer and more resilient communities”. Risk reduction and food security initiatives have been implemented during the rehabilitation and recovery phase within emergency response operations; these endeavours aim to address food security issues and to strengthen capacities at the community and Red Cross levels. Furthermore, the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction programme has worked towards encouraging National Societies to integrate disaster risk reduction in their programmes.

The two **Reference Centres** have begun to expand—geographically and in service provision—their scope of action. Both Reference Centres (CREPD and CREEC) trained 1,396 people in institutional preparedness for response and topics related to community education for disaster risk reduction. Of this number, 239 facilitators from the National Societies and other institutions engaged in these topics received training and supported the implementation of related actions in their respective countries. Moreover, 110 internships promoted experience exchange amongst volunteers and staff from the region and at least 15 backstopping and technical support missions were conducted.

The **Health and Care** programme's work on HIV and AIDS, conducted through the Federation's Global Alliance on HIV framework, extended its scope to reach a wider population. This programme demonstrated ample and satisfactory results in its work on the H1N1 pandemic, which will be built upon in 2010. As part of the Club 25 youth strategy during 2009, the National Societies in Central America actively promoted voluntary non-remunerated youth blood donation and participated in a continental lessons learned workshop and an external evaluation of 3 years of implementation of the initiative in the region. The new regional coordinator for the Health and Care programme, appointed in October, is supporting the National Societies' skill-building.

The **Organizational Development and Capacity-Building** programme provided focused efforts to support the restoration of integrity and governance of the Nicaraguan Red Cross and the reactivation of the regional Youth Network. This network began a new cycle in which each National Society has a dedicated focal point and holds regular regional meetings. The network began cooperative work with other programmes; joint participation with the Disaster Risk Reduction programme is underway for community micro-projects. The Youth Network aims to increase the youth sector's presence and participation in all areas of Red Cross actions in the region.

The regional **Principles and Values** programme also made progress during this period in supporting the incorporation of the Humanitarian Principles and Values (HPV) into the Honduras Red Cross' Violence Prevention Strategy. Support has also been provided to the National Societies in the region for the review of the International Federation's policies on violence prevention and migration.

Financial situation: The total 2009 budget is 3,079,991 Swiss francs (2,893,860 US dollars or 2,308,820 euro), of which 3,064,402 Swiss francs (99 per cent) was covered during the reporting period (including the opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was 2,668,863 Swiss francs (86 per cent) of the budget.

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

Number of people we have reached: The Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico focuses on building and strengthening the capacities of National Societies in the region. The direct beneficiaries of the Regional Representation's programmes are the National Societies themselves including their staff at headquarters and branch level, governance bodies and volunteers. During 2009 the regional Disaster Risk Reduction programme reached **73,594 beneficiaries**. This was possible through the implementation of different projects in the region. The following table details the amount of beneficiaries by donor:

Direct Beneficiaries	Donor
21,000 people	Finnish Red Cross
13,021 people	Regional DIPECHO VI
29,273 people	DFID IS III Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Reference Centres
5,500 people	Spanish Red Cross
4,800 people	Norwegian Red Cross

These services, indirectly reaching the millions of people living in the region, specifically focus on communities living in hazard-prone areas in conditions of vulnerability; highly vulnerable people and families as a result of extreme poverty and inequality; grassroots community organizations; educational centres and disaster risk management and response national systems.

During 2009 the three National Society members of the Global Alliance on HIV reached 143,393 people, including 109,065 people with prevention and anti stigma messages; and 1,116 people living with HIV and 170 orphans and children vulnerable to HIV with care, treatment and support services.

Our partners: The Regional Representation continues to work with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners in the region such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Finnish Red Cross, the German Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross, the Swiss Red Cross and the Red Cross / Red Crescent Climate Centre.

Partners outside the Movement have also been instrumental in supporting the region's National Societies, amongst which: Albatros Foundation, Care, Centre for the Coordination of the Prevention of Natural Disasters (CEPREDENAC), UK Department for International Development (DFID), the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and DIPECHO partners, Handicap International, Llorente y Cuenca, Lions' Club, Meteorology Service, Más Publicidad, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), Plan International, Radio Netherlands, Universidad Estatal a distancia (UNED) in Costa Rica, Universidad Salvadoreña "Alberto Masferrer" in El Salvador, UNICEF, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), Global Fund, Oxfam and Trócaire.

Context

The recent economic crisis has brought home the volatility and fragility of globalization and requires, more than ever, determined action by organizations with a global mandate, knowledge and networks. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) predicts a decrease in the remittances entering the region. Even when the total volume of remittances is substantial, their direct poverty-reducing impact is contingent on the socio-economic background of those who migrated. Within the Latin America region, a recent study found that in Mexico remittance-receiving households were primarily located at the bottom rank of the income and education distribution, whereas the opposite pattern was found Nicaragua. The restrictions impeding low-skilled workers' opportunities to move across borders generally mean that remittances tend not to flow directly to the poorest families.¹

Recent micro-analysis in ten Latin American countries found that internal migrants of indigenous origin still faced discrimination in urban areas, despite having gained greater access to services than those which they previously had in rural areas. The social and cultural effects of migration generate new challenges. For example, the deportation of youth from the United States back to Central America has been likened to the export of gangs and gang cultures. Although detailed data and analysis are not available, a recent regional report found that the distinction between home-grown gangs (*pandillas*) and those exported from the United States (*maras*) is not always clear.² In either case, programmes that target at-risk individuals and communities with a view to preventing youth and gang violence are needed, alongside intergovernmental cooperation and greater support and funding for reintegration programmes.³

¹ UNDP, (2009), *Human Development Report 2009*. Mobarak, Shyamal, and Gharad, (2009).

² UNDP, (2009), *Human Development Report 2009*. Lawyers for Human Rights, (2008).

³ UNDP, (2009), *Human Development Report 2009*. Doganis, (2002).

At the country level, Mexico faced a diversity of complex issues. State authorities continue to combat the illegal drug trade and the resulting social violence and corruption of public functionaries. The new and unknown strain of virus A (H1N1), identified in Mexico in April 2009, and the generated pandemic had devastating effects on the Mexican economy. Honduras experienced socio-political turmoil that resulted in the constitutional president being ousted by the military and the instalment of a de facto government in late June. In May, a 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck off the Caribbean coast of Honduras, which promoted the response of the Honduras Red Cross with the support of the International Federation and the ICRC. Whilst Guatemala has faced food insecurity challenges for years, this issue has been exacerbated by the diminishing purchasing power of the poor and has increased the risks for populations already extremely vulnerable.

The National Societies of the Red Cross in the region responded to the aforementioned situations in line with their auxiliary role to the respective governments and with their humanitarian mandate. The International Federation's Regional Representation has closely followed and supported each of the National Societies, stretching its human resources to the maximum possible, as available funding is increasingly limiting the percentage of funds which can be allocated to programme staff.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Risk Management

Programme purpose
Global Agenda Goal 1: Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.

The Regional Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programme has maintained an emphasis on working closely with National Societies in Central America and Mexico to create a culture of prevention at the community level, enhancing skills and systems to face disasters and reduce risks. Cooperation between the regional programme, National Societies and both Reference Centres has increased and generated the development of more disaster risk reduction activities during this period.

Strengthened National Societies are working at the community, national and regional levels to reduce risks and make communities safer and more resilient to disasters. The strategy for Central American countries is based on a comprehensive approach for community disaster risk reduction; institutional preparedness for response; and disaster risk reduction coordination and advocacy.

During 2009, the regional Disaster Risk Reduction programme worked in closed coordination with *REDCAMP Desastres* –the regional disaster management network– to strengthen capacities in the region's disaster risk management departments. The seven National Societies implemented DRR activities in vulnerable communities. The application of the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) tool and the development of micro-projects or early warning systems to mitigate risks have reinforced trained human resources.

In addition, efforts to strengthen institutional disaster preparedness within the National Societies increased during 2009. The results of the Well Prepared National Societies (WPNS) evaluation conducted in 2007 were employed to prepare the support plans for National Societies. The majority of National Societies are updating their disaster response and contingency plans or their operations procedures. This activity will continue during 2010 as it is a priority topic for *REDCAMP Desastres*. During this period, the regional programme also has focused on training of human resources– technical staff and volunteers– at the National Society level by increasing capacities through the training of National Intervention Teams (NIT) in specialized topics such as health in emergencies, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, as well as in general Regional Intervention Team (RIT) training. NIT

members have put their new-found skills and knowledge to use during the different emergencies in their local contexts.

The Reference Centres have played a key role in the region, as they promote the active involvement of the National Societies in the development of materials and trainings as well as experience-exchange.

The regional programme jointly with *REDCAMP Desastres* initiated an analysis of the regional actions and coordination efforts among National Societies, Participating National Societies (PNS) and the International Federation. A joint agreement was reached to develop a reference framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Central America and Mexico which allows the National Societies to be in the forefront of the regional trends and initiatives in this field. The framework will support the ongoing work to build the Central American Policy for Integrated Risk Management (*Política Centro Americana de Gestión Integral del Riesgo*– PCGIR) organized by the Central American Integration System (*Sistema de Integración Centro Americano*– SICA) and other agencies such as CEPREDENAC.

During 2009 the regional Disaster Risk Reduction programme reached **73,594 beneficiaries**.

Programme Component 1: Disaster Management Planning

Outcome 1 National Societies have improved capacities to plan for disasters at the national and local level, utilizing materials and training processes that have been harmonized with National Societies and Centres of Reference in the Central America region.

This outcome aimed to support National Societies to develop their strategic plans and national response and contingency plans using the self-diagnoses of the WPNS –conducted in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua in 2007– as a baseline. The results have served as the basis for disaster risk reduction planning and implementation in the region. The National Societies of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador additionally have incorporated the information stemming from the diagnosis as a baseline to implement DFID-funded projects as part of their respective four-year institutional strategies.

During 2009 the National Societies of Costa Rica and Panama became part of the International Federation’s Global Alliance on Disaster Risk Reduction. As a requirement of their participation, their WPNS were revised in order to integrate the needs into their Global Alliance plans. Honduras and Guatemala also reviewed their WPNS as part of the Global Alliance preparations.

A WPNS diagnosis also was conducted with the Mexican Red Cross. Although this National Society had not previously done so, it had gone ahead with the diagnosis in the 32 states within the framework of the work currently underway with the American Red Cross. Since there are **currently six WPNS diagnoses** being conducted in the region, the consolidated regional WPNS analysis will be updated to have a clearer view of the regional needs.

National Plans

The Reference Centre of Reference in El Salvador hosted and organized a regional training on the use of response and contingency guidelines in February. The focal points of all seven National Societies participated and the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) co-facilitated the training under the regional DIPECHO programme. This training has led to a regional team of facilitators who support contingency planning in their own National Societies and can provide support to other National Societies, with the technical support of the Reference Centre for Disaster Preparedness based in El Salvador.

In addition, the Reference Centre supported national trainings in El Salvador and Nicaragua and organized internships with Red Cross staff and other organization to train personnel and volunteers in the development of disaster response and contingency plans. As a result, all of the region’s National

Societies are better prepared to employ the International Federation Guidelines to prepare response and contingency plans.

The Honduran Red Cross, with DFID support under its capacity-building initiative, now has a national response plan, and a contingency plan for internal socio-political disturbances and A (H1N1). The Emergency Operation Centre of this National Society additionally received equipment to complement the plan. Given the substantial obstacles in the past, this is an important achievement; the National Society currently is working and demonstrating progress with its distinct contingency plans. The Salvadoran Red Cross Society, with DFID support, has begun a participative process to update their National Response Plan. Although the National Societies of Costa Rica and Panama have faced some challenges in their respective processes, efforts are underway to overcome these setbacks.

The National Societies of the Red Cross in the region have demonstrated positive progress to use and build upon existing capacities to develop national and contingency plans. The Reference Centre for Disaster Preparedness in El Salvador has been instrumental in this process.

Programme Component 2: Organizational Preparedness

Outcome 1 Seven National Societies and branches have trained volunteers and staff, ready to apply standard tools, using integral approaches for disaster response and disaster risk reduction at the community level, supported by *REDCAMP Desastres*.

Throughout this period, the Disaster Risk Reduction programme continued its work to develop tools, harmonize methodologies and strengthen the National Societies' capacities to apply them. The Reference Centres have facilitated these processes with the provision of materials, regional internships, technical assistance and trainings, as well as the dissemination of information and knowledge. As a result of the Centres' work, and DIPECHO VI and the Finnish Red Cross financial support, there is now a regional network of 239 trainers who work at the national level to enhance the implementation of risk reduction projects carried out by the Red Cross and other organizations. The regional trainers' network has been enhanced and developed to utilize disaster preparedness and risk reduction modules and tools in the National Societies.

The trainings established for Red Cross and DIPECHO partners conducted during the year covered the following topics: response and contingency planning, emergency operations centres, training of trainers, Protected Schools, micro-projects, basic National Intervention Teams, National Intervention Teams in water and sanitation and hygiene promotion.

The CRREC continued to give technical support on community risk reduction activities in Central American countries. Details on training towards strengthening capacities of the National Societies can be found at: <http://www.cruzroja.org/desastres/redcamp/crrec/acti09.htm>.

Supported by the Finnish Red Cross, the regional DRR programme and the Reference Centre carried out a training of trainers in the Safe Schools module of the Better Be Ready series for the Central American Youth network. This workshop, with the participation of 24 members of the region's National Societies, strengthened the network's capacities. The workshop later was replicated in their respective National Societies with an emphasis on risk reduction and climate change at schools. Furthermore, this workshop was the foundation for the implementation of three micro-projects in Costa Rica, Mexico and Panama, which focused on sensitization on climate change issues and the employment of the Safe Schools module.

The Reference Centre, thanks to Spanish Red Cross support, organized a regional VCA training with the learning-by-doing methodology in Mexico and updated the Better be Ready modules including five modules with a perspective of people with disabilities. A tool to compile the information from VCA diagnoses was created and now is used to facilitate the harmonization of VCA results between National

Societies. The tool was presented via video conference, in coordination with the *Universidad Estatal a Distancia*- UNED (Long-distance learning University) in Costa Rica, to the entire region.

The interactive CD containing the Better Be Ready series was updated and translated into English with support from the Spanish Red Cross and the International Federation's Caribbean DRM programme. In addition, an internship led to the compilation of the climate change experiences of the region's National Societies, which was distributed in CD in different forums. A compilation of DRR materials for children and colouring books on floods, protected schools, and first aid, to complement the Better be Ready series, were produced. During 2009, the modules as well as others tools available on the www.cruzroja.org web page were downloaded more than 3,000 times.

The CREPD worked in the revision of training materials and tools and harmonization of methodologies focused on disaster preparedness. Activities during 2009 included providing technical support to National Societies, training National Intervention Teams, and developing Response and Contingency plans, drills, simulations and others. All these materials are available at <http://www.cruzroja.org/desastres/redcamp/crepd.htm>.

Previous to this period, the curricula of the National Intervention Team training had been of general nature. In 2009, a curriculum for NITs in health in emergency was developed and implemented in this region and in South America. This training module was validated in the Salvadoran Red Cross Society with 23 participants representing this National Society, the Finnish Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the Salvadoran Ministry of Health and Salvadoran Civil Protection; the validation process permitted the Reference Centre in Disaster Preparedness to improve the curricula. It is important to highlight that the validated NIT health in emergencies curricula has been of great interest outside of the Central America region and tools are being shared with South America and the Latin Caribbean regions.

The Reference Centre, with Spanish Red Cross financial support and technical assistance of three internships, developed emergency assessment training materials and validated them in a regional training held in El Salvador.

The Centres have emphasized enhancing the quality of their products and services offered with the aim of sharing these with other National Societies in the Americas and relevant external partners. Agreements with the educational institutions of UNED, Universidad Salvadoreña "Alberto Masferrer" University in El Salvador, and Radio Netherlands have been made to reinforce the pedagogic approaches and techniques employed and thus mainstream procedures. The materials also have been shared with other partners such as members of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Regional Programme for the Reduction of Vulnerability and Environmental Degradation (PREVDA), the Hydraulic Resources Regional Committee (CRRH) and the Central American Educational and Cultural Coordination (CECC). Through backstopping missions, trained staff worked to disseminate materials, apply guides and methodologies in the field, and replicate training courses in order to ensure quality and maximize benefits.

During 2009, copyrights have been registered for the materials created by the Reference Centre on Disaster Preparedness and in Community-Based Education on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Ministry of Education in Panama including ten modules⁴ of the Better Be Ready series, three interactive CDs, seven guides and eight manuals. In addition, several Institutional Disaster preparedness guides (Emergency Operation Centres and Drills and Simulation) were translated from Spanish to English to disseminate information to English-speaking National Societies. This complemented the process already which began in 2008 with the translation of 14⁵ modules of the Better be Ready series.

⁴ The Better be Ready has 14 modules; four of these were previously registered for copyrights.

⁵ These topics are: Community First Aid, Education, Organization and Community Preparedness in Risk Reduction including Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment, Family Preparedness Plan, Safe Schools, Floods, Psychological First Aid, Early Warning System for Floods in Small River Basins, Community Maintenance of Schools, Healthy Homes, Community Dialogue on Water and Climate, Community Manual for the Prevention of Disasters on Rural Water Systems, Management of Temporary Shelters, Social Micro-Projects, and Community Disaster Risk Reduction Teams.

With Finnish Red Cross and DFID support, the Mexican Red Cross— the new regional focal point— organized the second Regional Sphere workshop in which two members from each of the region's National Societies participated. This workshop reviewed the Sphere Manual, identified the specific interventions for the development of the Sphere Strategy in Central America, and exchanged learning experiences regarding the application of the Sphere project in the field. The workshop also allowed the participants to point out opportunities to improve the use of the manual, as well as to assess the humanitarian interventions carried out by the region's National Societies.

The regional DRR programme also supported a regional meeting for volunteers (rescue workers, youth and female volunteers) during the technical seminar held in El Salvador to apply the volunteer guidelines and discuss the new trends and opportunities for volunteers in DRR. Support was also provided to the National Societies in their national training processes on the topics of advanced first aid for volunteers, NIT for the branches' leadership, standard emergency procedures and shelter.

Outcome 2 Communities are better prepared, more organized to respond/recover from the effects of natural hazards, recognizing potential risk reduction measures and action to be taken.

In 2009, 17 high risk communities benefited from community-based disaster preparedness programmes developed by the National Societies of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. Based on the results of the Vulnerability Capacity Assessment, the programme supported the identification and elaboration of 28 micro-projects in 17 communities and 15 schools within these three countries. The activities implemented covered risk mitigation, food security, water and sanitation, strengthening the telecommunications network, community early warning systems, community brigades (community disaster response teams), volunteer training in response and contingency planning, as well as the use of the "Better be ready" methodology which included the Safer School module in various schools in Central America. DFID ISIII and the Finnish Red Cross supported these activities.

The National Red Cross Societies of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua have received technical and financial support from the International Federation's secretariat (the Regional Representation and the Red Cross / Red Crescent Climate Change Centre) with an aim to increase the understanding of and preparation for climate change. These National Societies have also carried out community-level risk reduction activities. In Mexico, some of these actions took place under the framework of the Tabasco floods operation.

The support provided by the Finnish Red Cross to the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction programme has been essential to complementing specific project-oriented contributions and thus reinforcing the regional programme's efforts to harmonize National Societies' risk reduction programmes in the Central American region. Coordination with the regional Youth network has been enhanced, with technical and financial support provided by the DRR programme, with the objective of preparing for joint DRR work in which the network implements risk reduction activities with peers, climate change sensitization activities and micro-projects in the schools.

The Global Alliance on Disaster Risk Reduction (GADRR), with support from the Norwegian Red Cross, officially was launched in the Americas Zone in September 2009. The selected National Societies began to work on the development of a national baseline assessment to collect key quantitative and qualitative disaster risk reduction information and to assist in the development of a Plan of Action to scale up disaster risk reduction activities. The Global Alliance baseline also serves to establish key baseline indicators to enable the tracking of progress under this and other disaster risk reduction initiatives.

The development of the initiative began in August 2009 with the translation and preparation of key reference documents. In September, work began with the five National Societies in the Americas (Colombia, **Costa Rica**, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and **Panama**) which were selected to be

initial partners in the GADRR. These National Societies, with International Federation support, have committed to promote the GADRR framework and further its growth.

In keeping with the parameters established by potential donors, the GADRR focal National Societies prepared medium-term projects (2010–2011) to launch the initiative and implement concrete actions to support their National Strategic Plans. In November, Guatemala and Honduras joined the five previously mentioned National Societies in GADRR and participated in GADRR workshops in December.

National workshops in each of these countries, with International Federation Secretariat technical support, were organized so the National Societies could facilitate the participatory validation of the results of the mapping process, identify capacities and areas for improvement, and thus define priority action areas in disaster risk management.

Support provided by the DRR programme to the Mexican Red Cross within the framework of the Mexico Floods operation in Tabasco was finalized during the first half of 2009. This support focused on livelihood recovery (poultry farms, fishing, and an ice factory for the preservation of fish) as well as disaster preparedness activities. This International Federation experience generated a positive impact which the American Red Cross will continue under the framework of its long-term programmatic support to the Mexican Red Cross. The experience was also taken as an example to replicate in another Mexican state, Quintana Roo.

The flood relief operations in Costa Rica and Panama, a response to the November 2008 floods, were handed over to the Regional Representation. The activities to address livelihood recovery (Red Cross Society of Panama) and water and sanitation (Costa Rican Red Cross) were supported by the programme with the aim of strengthening community and Red Cross efforts on those issues. The actions under this emergency appeal will continue until 30 April 2010.

DRR Awareness-raising and Communications:

A stronger culture of prevention has been promoted through a regional disaster risk reduction communication strategy in the seven National Societies of the region (Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama and Mexico). In order to promote safer and more resilient communities, the communications strategy was updated with the support of the Communications Unit. Key messages for vulnerable communities were developed and a communications tool kit, communication materials and a radio soap opera on DRR were created. The regional Red Cross web page www.cruzroja.org consistently was updated with information on community disaster risk reduction and institutional disaster preparedness. These activities were implemented in close coordination with different partners including DIPECHO, PAHO, ISDR and CEPREDENAC.

Activities also focused on supporting and enhancing the learning platform DesAprender www.desaprender.org were launched in version II, under the modality of web 2.0, in 2009. DesAprender currently has 470 users from Red Cross and different institutions who work on DRR in the region.

The Red Cross National Societies along with other DIPECHO partners in Central America were active in the celebration of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction; national exhibitions on the issue were organized in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama. In Panama, for example, the exhibitions were accompanied by the Youth Symphony Orchestra and were attended by members of the general public as well as national and international authorities in Panama.

Constraints or Challenges:

Given the arrival of late contributions (March to August) and untimely finalization of support arrangements, some activities started with a delay. However, the programme achieved most of the proposed activities for 2009. Moreover, the A (H1N1) pandemic also caused important delays and changes in the programmed activities. As a result, some activities had to be re-scheduled for the second half of the year.

Health and Care

Programme purpose

Global Agenda Goal 2: Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies

Programme Component: HIV and AIDS

Outcome 1 National Societies have developed the Global Alliance addressing the vulnerability to HIV and its impact through prevention, care, treatment, and support reducing stigma and discrimination and strengthening their capacities.

Throughout 2009, work on HIV and AIDS in region has been carried out mostly under the framework of the International Federation's Global Alliance on HIV, which is being implemented by the National Red Cross Societies of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

The **Guatemalan Red Cross**, supported by the Norwegian Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the International Federation, reached most at risk populations including people living with HIV (PLHIV), sex workers, men who have sex with men (MSM), indigenous people, prisoners and mobile populations. A total of 29,346 direct beneficiaries and 146,730 indirect beneficiaries were reached from the Central and Southwest regions of Guatemala where highest rates of PLHIV are present. A summary of beneficiaries and activities within the HIV programme are detailed as follows:

Type of Activity	Direct Beneficiaries	Men	Women	Girls	Boys
<i>Together we Can</i>	3,644	1,599	2,045		
Information stands	4,754	1,969	2,785		
Education sessions	4,756	1968	2003	350	435
Trip "Telling the truth"	6,757	2586	2811	655	705
Home visits	1,895	887	1,008		
Moto-taxi drivers	48	44	4		
Support to PLHIV	662	233	280	64	85
Mayas Youth movement	65	16	49		
Voluntary testing and counselling	1,165	509	656		
National campaigns	5,600	2,242	2,658	290	410
Totals	29,346	12,053	14,299	1,359	1,635

Beneficiaries	Direct Beneficiaries	Indirect Beneficiaries
Women	15,934	79,670
Men	13,412	67,060
Children	2,994	
Students	7,644	
PLHIV	662	
Moto-taxi drivers	48	

Hairdresser stylists	11	
Volunteers	335	
Total	29,346	146,730

Methodologies to reach these populations have been adapted to their context, and these included: participatory talks, conferences, face-to-face approach, debates, theatre plays, case studies and testimonials.

Voluntary testing with pre- and post-test counselling, a methodology implemented in 2009, was well received by the population. With support from the Norwegian Red Cross, 1,500 rapid tests were purchased and of these 1,165 were used and 9 identified positive results. The implementation of this activity is the result of a previous technical internship between the Salvadoran Red Cross Society technical team, together with volunteers working on HIV issues and the Guatemalan Red Cross's National Health Secretariat and supported financially and technically by the Norwegian Red Cross and the Federation. The following table details the results of the use of the tests:

Location	Date	Tests	Positive	Prevalence
Santa Ana de Berlin, Coatepeque military base	10 November 2009	50	1	1.78%
San Marcos village, El Palmar	11-12 November	26	1	3.84%
Health Centre, Sololá	24-25 November	60	0	0%
Plaza Argentina, Obelisco, Capital City	29 December	600	6	1%
Parque Central Capital City	1 December	60	1	1.66%
Clinics, headquarters	29 November and 11 December	20	0	0%
El Limón shanty town, Capital City	12 December	43	0	0%
TOTAL		1,165	9	0.77%

Moreover, 30,000 condoms were distributed in Coatepeque, El Palmar, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu and Peten where populations vulnerable to HIV have been identified. Distributions were complemented with sexual health education, including the prevention of mother-child transmission, and attention provided to pregnant women in 25 highly vulnerable communities.

Additional support through the Global Alliance in Guatemala was provided to the Emmanuel and Santa Maria Homeless Children Centres which received food, refrigerators, bio safety materials for the care providers, and rental payments for infrastructure. These two centres provide housing, food, spiritual, psychological and medical care to 34 PLHIV without families or homes, thus ensuring an improvement in their quality of life.

The *Taxis* and *Together We Can* projects have continued to be implemented during this period. Two national workshops were organized– one feedback workshop for volunteers supporting the HIV and AIDS programme and two aimed at young leaders of NGOs working on sexual and reproductive health issues with an emphasis on HIV and AIDS prevention – in ten departments prioritized given their high prevalence rates of HIV and AIDS. These actions have aided in the strengthening of strategic partnerships, broadening the scope of the programme and increasing the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries.

In coordination with the Ministry of Health, particularly the project Increasing Opportunity for Teens, intervention with expectant mothers in the mother-to-child prevention programme included the application of the Rapid HIV Test as a complement to the comprehensive attention provided.

In 2009, the **Honduran Red Cross**, within the framework of the Global Alliance on HIV with its partners, financial supporters and active participation of the volunteer base, has implemented interventions with vulnerable populations, particularly youth from the formal and informal education systems, parents, teachers, sex workers, migrant populations and PLHIV. The following list details the projects and their donors:

- United against stigma and discrimination project supported by Italian Red Cross
- Mesoamerican project for mobile populations supported by the Global Fund through the Mexican Institute for Public Health (IMSP in Spanish)
- Together we can project for Southern Zone development supported by Swiss Red Cross.
- Integral Health project for at risk youth (pregnant women, men who have sex with men, PLHIV) supported by the International Federation
- Taxi drivers project supported by the International Federation.

A total of 8,798 direct beneficiaries were reached in the regions of Francisco Morazán, Choluteca, Valle, Cortes and Atlántida.

With the activities mentioned above, Honduras Red Cross contributed to strengthen and scale up inter-institutional coordination to develop community mobilization events in support of PLHIV in terms of prevention, education, support and non-discrimination. Increased coordination of the bi-national network of organizations working on prevention issues with the communities on the El Amatillo border between Honduras and El Salvador generated significant progress in the attention provided to migrant populations.

Salvadoran Red Cross Society

In the framework of the Global Alliance on HIV, during 2009, the Salvadoran Red Cross received support from the Mexican National Public Health Institute (INSP) and the Global Fund to implement its Mesoamerican Project for the control and prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STI) and HIV/AIDS with migrant populations. This support aimed to implement prevention, diagnosis and education activities with the populations who transit the El Amatillo border region, as well as the Puerto El Cutuco transit station. This financial and technical support strengthens the Global Alliance process and extends through December 2010.

The following list details the projects and their donors:

- Together We Can youth peer education financed by Spanish Red Cross
- Mesoamerican project financed by the Global Fund through the Mexican National Public Health Institute (INSP)
- HIV programme funding from the International Federation

Based on information from the Salvadoran Public Health and Social Assistance Ministry, seven departments in which there is high prevalence of HIV/AIDS were prioritized. Direct beneficiaries reached by the three projects were in total 18,310 people. The following table details the population reached by these activities:

Population	Total beneficiaries	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
Orphans with HIV; girls and boys living with HIV; girls, boys and teenagers, children of PLHIV	168			80	88
Housewives	104	104			
Female sex workers (Organized and non-organized)	84		84		

PLHIV	250	100	150		
Prisoners and staff from the penitentiary centres	65	45	20		
Uniformed personnel	375	330	45		
Mobile populations	3318	2105	1213		
Postal carriers					
General population					
Gang members					
Street workers					
Merchants					
Homeless people					
Pregnant women	106		106		
Youth and teenagers	345	162	183		
Health personnel	60	24	36		
Salvadoran Red Cross personnel (staff and volunteers)	205	101	104		
PLHIV beneficiaries of micro-projects	195	77	118		
Men who have sex with men	20	20			
Together We Can	125	73	52		
Mobile populations project in Cutuco port	4053	2252	1801		
People who received condoms	2700	1700	1000		
Voluntary HIV testing and counselling	1012	480	532		
Counselling	1012	480	532		
General population reached through informationstands	4113	2075	2038		
TOTAL	18310	10128	8014	80	88

Additional support was provided to local institutions which provide services to PLHIV. The *Jardin de Amor* home, which houses 56 boys, girls and teenagers between the age of 6 and 18 years old, received 12 beds with respective bedding, two industrial washing machines and one photocopier. The "Oscar Arnulfo Romero" support group, which houses 30 PLHIV and received fully equipped office equipment to improve their administrative work. Finally, the Santa Maria de la Paz home, housing 30 people with AIDS received personal care and cleaning materials as well as concentrated food for people with special nutritional needs. This support contributed to the improvement in care and attention for this population.

During 2009, a total of 143,393 people in the three countries implementing the Global Alliance on HIV have been reached with prevention and anti stigma messages, and care, treatment and support services. Of these, 80 per cent are from populations most at risk of HIV including vulnerable youth, housewives, pregnant women, sex workers, men who have sex with men, prisoners, PLHIV and mobile populations. During 2009, the three National Societies mobilized 518,593 CHF for their HIV programmes and 326,400 volunteer hours. 301 staff and volunteers participated in HIV workplace programmes.

Key partners of the Global Alliance on HIV programmes in 2009 included the American Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross; the International Federation Secretariat; the Global Fund for HIV, TB and Malaria (GFATM); the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and USAID; UN agencies; private companies; and national Ministries of Health.

Outcome 1 National Societies who are not yet part of the Global Alliance on HIV see their capacities strengthened for their future incorporation into the Alliance.

Nicaraguan Red Cross

Although this National Society is not yet a member of the Global Alliance on HIV, it took essential steps towards becoming a member, and implemented three important projects during 2009:

- a. The *Together We Can* youth peer education programme in the cities of Rivas and Managua;
- b. The League of Knowledge on HIV and AIDS in three public high schools in the city of Managua;
- c. The Taxis project on anti-stigma and non-discrimination in the municipality of Granada.

The target population for the dissemination of messages were taxi drivers, young students, and uniformed population such as the armed forces, police, fire fighters and municipal functionaries. These messages reached at least 13,000 people.

Funds from the International Federation were used to place three billboards in public thoroughfares in the cities of Managua, Granada and Nandaime. In cooperation with the local municipalities, the International Federation "Faces" campaign was used to promote non discrimination towards PLVIH. The Italian Red Cross and the International Federation secretariat have been the main supporters of the work being carried out by the Nicaraguan Red Cross on HIV and AIDS during 2009.



In **Costa Rica**, the taxi drivers project trained 91 taxi drivers in three departments of the country where there is higher risk of HIV. HIV lifeskills workshops were organized with the taxi cooperatives' managers and executive board members. The topics covered included HIV basic concepts, stigma non-discrimination and first aid. Educational and promotional material in the form of covers for taxi seats were created so passengers could have access to Spanish-English brochures with key messages on the issue. Personal business cards also were printed with the participants' names and contact information along with messages of zero tolerance of discrimination and stigma. These 91 taxi drivers estimate that they have daily contact with approximately 910 people. The training with the taxi drivers' cooperatives has been successfully accepted and increased the project's scope.

Support was also provided to the **Red Cross Society of Panama (RCSP)** to enable the participation of the focal point for the Federation's RCRC+ network of staff and volunteers living with HIV in the UNESCO workshop "Preventing HIV/AIDS through popular artistic expressions" held in Cuba. The

RCSP presented its 2009 work to train 200 trainers in HIV/AIDS prevention through the use of artistic and cultural mediums like music, regional dances and the creation of artistic characters. This international meeting demonstrated those cultural mediums are effective to disseminate information on HIV/AIDS and facilitate comfortable interactions with the general public.

Whilst every country has not yet implemented the regional psychosocial support methodology, the roll-out of common training modules and tools for Health in Emergencies interventions are under way and are being disseminated to National Societies. They include the new International Federation Epidemic Control for Volunteers manual and the psychosocial support "Helping to Heal" methodology. The National Societies of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua have exchanged experiences in this field. A common strategy is expected to be developed in 2010.

The H2P project which united all countries in the region is expected to continue in 2010. Whilst this strategy was created at the Central America level, every National Society implemented it based on their own cultural characteristics and demography to ensure that the key messages reached the target populations. Although the figures on the reduction of new infections are not yet available, transmission levels are expected to be substantially reduced.

The incorporation of a Health Regional Coordinator at the Zone Regional Unit in October fomented closer sharing, monitoring and support to the region's National Societies, including the support for the National Societies of Guatemala and Honduras which participate in the Global Alliance. The newly appointed coordinator also ensured participation at the technical seminars held in El Salvador where approximately 90 people, including National Societies' health directors and focal points from Central America, Mexico and Panama, had the chance to share achievements, progress, plans and challenges whilst receiving technical support from the International Federation. The seminar led to the production of two key documents; one describes the achievements and agreements reached in 2009 based on shared experiences and needs and the other outlines requirements to boost each National Society's work and contains six core actions to be taken.

Constraints

- Due to delays in disbursement of funds, the implementation time was limited. Notwithstanding the productive results, an increased amount of time would have improved the numbers of people reached and quality of activities undertaken.
- Some activities required internal policy changes at National Society level which at times required long processes. In other cases, the already existing policies, for example gender policies, remain to be implemented.
- Given volunteers' other commitments (work and/or studies), the time devoted to National Society' activities sometimes caused implementation delays.
- The A-H1N1 pandemic generated delays and changes in the programmed activities. As a result, some activities had to be reprogrammed for the second half of the year.

Good practices

- Building and jointly working in alliances with other organizations and in networks is fruitful.
- Working with volunteers studying social work or related disciplines at the university level contributes to the National Society's time and knowledge, as well as provides these volunteers with practical experiences which they can apply to their professional studies.
- Adapting models to the reality of each country is crucial.
- Employing games and recreational methodologies with sex workers guarantees better results.
- Conducting the groundwork for rapid HIV tests includes approaching participants in the mother – child programme before offering the tests.
- Involving volunteer staff (executive, administrative and volunteers) in activities contributes to an increased commitment level.

Organizational Development/ Capacity-Building

Programme purpose

Global Agenda Goal 3: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability

Programme Component: National Societies Change Governance and Management Support

Outcome 1 Leaders of seven National Societies are promoted with a clear strategic vision to drive and lead the changes and innovations needed to put the Global Agenda into practice in five National Societies.

This outcome aimed to support and provide guidance to the National Societies in developing governance and management capacities in order to protect the integrity of National Societies. Specific support was provided to the Nicaraguan Red Cross.

By the end of 2009, the Nicaraguan Red Cross recovered its governance and management integrity. Within the context that ended the Nicaraguan government's intervention of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, the General Assembly established the statutory provisions and electoral rules which established that directors of the National Society's National Council were elected and the auditor of the Executive Committee transferred the financial and technical information to the National Society's Executive Committee. The direct beneficiaries of these efforts were the National Society's volunteer base and staff located in 42 branches and at the national headquarters.

The important results of the process and created added values include:

1. Updating the members and volunteer registry in a specialized database as well as providing identification to members and volunteers
2. Updating the election rules and drafting a code of ethics
3. Sponsoring elections at departmental branches (87%) and municipal branches (71%)
4. Organizing assemblies at national headquarters and in the branches for the election of volunteer managers
5. Recovering the National Board's official meeting minutes records.
6. Creating a real estate inventory and recovering approximately 75 property certifications.
7. Establishing diagnosis of the administrative and financial situation with internal and external control measures to reorganize and substantially reduce in the National Society's debt and deficit.

Additionally, leadership and management training was provided to the National Societies' governing board members, volunteers and community leaders at national and local levels. For example, the governing board members of five departmental branches of the Honduran Red Cross received training on Statutes, planning and branch development. Moreover, the Governance and Management manual, written by the *Universidad Complutense* of Spain, was disseminated and distributed to all National Societies national-level governing boards in the region.

Outcome 2 Legal base/policies and Strategic plans are revised appropriately and are application in five National Societies.

The **Costa Rican** National Society has now 117 people in charge of disseminating and actively implementing its strategic development plan (SDP). Their primary mission is to train volunteers and staff in 121 branches within their respective regions and monitor compliance with the SPD and annual operational plans. Moreover 20 members of the National Society, within the project "Strengthening the Network of the National Society", also were trained in the identification and formulation of social micro-projects, criteria established in the manual "Well prepared branches" and the "Build your branch" teaching tool. This project aims to contribute to the development of Costa Rican Red Cross through improved planning processes and branch organization.

A total of 137 staff and volunteers were direct beneficiaries. At least 5,000 volunteers and 700 National Society staff were indirect beneficiaries.

In **Honduras**, 105 executives from 31 branches involved in the monitoring of the National Society development plan were trained in the use of the "develop your branch" teaching tool. The indirect beneficiaries include 2,500 volunteers and 111 staff.

The National Society of **Panama** developed its branch management manual with participation from 22 branches. The General Assembly later improved the manual. Seventy staff members and 1,250 volunteers were indirect beneficiaries.

Parallel to the election process in **Nicaragua**, a first draft of the National Society strategic plan was created. The National Society of **Mexico** is in the process of drafting its own plan. This important progress contributes to the regional goal of having all National Societies update and employ functional national strategic plans.

Outcome 3 Improved performance management and accountability is achieved with standard quality reports, a gradual process of accreditation, developing performance systems and shared knowledge.

The Salvadoran Red Cross Society implemented the financial portion of the Intensified Capacity-Building (ICB) proposal by having gained access to the cash transfer mechanism. However the activities related to the approval and dissemination of an accountability policy and the series of established standards have not been implemented due to lack of resources.

Outcome 4 More effective resource mobilization is developed and investment made in professionalizing and development of capacities.

The internship at the Ecuadorian Red Cross training institute has allowed the Panamanian Red Cross and the Guatemalan Red Cross to increase their training centres' capacities. Their respective directors and administrators exchanged experiences and knowledge on management training centres, marketing products and services and curricula. This exchange will continue in 2010 with the direct assistance from the Ecuadorian Red Cross training institute through site visits to the training centres. Future actions will support the design of a functional structure for the centres and the establishment of nationwide marketing plans.

Additionally, the National Societies were able to acquire new specialized equipment for first aid courses and audiovisual materials for classrooms.

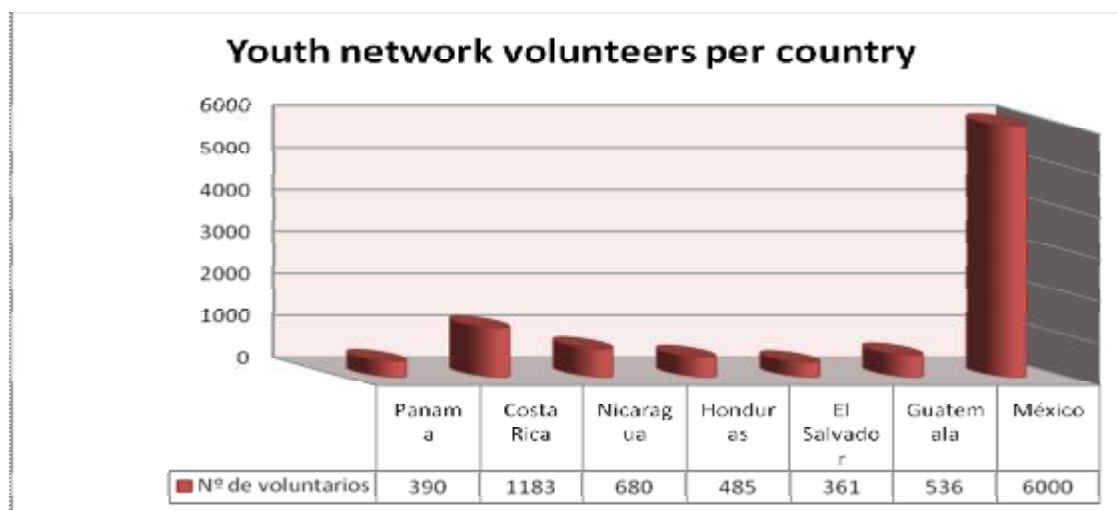
Direct beneficiaries in Panama at the internal level included 4 staff persons, 30 instructors and 550 volunteers. At the external level, there were 1, 200 direct beneficiaries at the community level who received training.

Direct beneficiaries in Guatemala at the internal level included 2 staff persons, 20 instructors and 300 volunteers. At the external level, there were 730 direct beneficiaries at the community level who received training.

Outcome 5 Local capacity development on Volunteering Management

The regional Youth Network has continued to increase its activities during this reporting period. A regional focal point has been named to provide regular oversight for the network and funds have become available for programmatic needs other than meetings and travel. Support from the Finnish Red Cross has contributed to stronger and more active coordination within the network, thus

strengthening members' commitments to the network and facilitating decision-making and coordination processes. This shift in focus will allow for a more active and proactive network able and prepared to address the issues faced by the region's Red Cross youth.



Red Cross Youth Activities							
Activities	Panama	Costa Rica	Nicaragua	Honduras	El Salvador	Guatemala	Mexico
Health	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Environment	X	X	X				X
Educational brigades	X	X	X	X		X	X
Risk reduction	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Principles and Values	X		X	X	X	X	X
Sports, recreational and coexistence activities	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
ERPv	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Work at social well-being centres	X	X		X	X		X
Relief	X	X		X	X		
Financial empowerment	X	X	X	X			X
Awareness	X	X	X	X			X
Local development	X	X	X	X	X		X
Volunteer recruiting	X	X	X	X	X		X
Other National Society projects and activities	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Registered and active youth network branches							
Panama	Costa Rica	Nicaragua	Honduras	El Salvador	Guatemala	Mexico	Regional Total
17 groups	90 groups	22 groups	30 groups	38 groups	21 groups	182 groups	400 groups
Red Cross Youth Programme Coverage (in percentage)							
Panama	Costa Rica	Nicaragua	Honduras	El Salvador	Guatemala	Mexico	Regional Total
77.27%	73.77%	64.71%	60.00%	86.46%	105%	37.44%	51.15%

The main actions carried out in 2009 included the Red Cross Youth World meeting in which 16 representatives from the Youth Regional Network, representing the seven countries of the Sub-Region 1-America, participated. The following table details the participants' origin and funding sources:

National Society	Volunteers	Financing
Mexico	3	1 National Society, 2 volunteers' own resources
Guatemala	1	IFRC sponsorship
El Salvador	2	2 IFRC sponsorship
Honduras	3	2 IFRC sponsorship, 1 volunteer own resources
Panama	4	2 National Society resources, 2 volunteers' own resources
Costa Rica	2	2 volunteers' own resources
Nicaragua	1	IFRC sponsorship

The following table detail other Red Cross Youth network activities:

Regional Training Workshop	Direct Beneficiaries	Support	Primary Achievements
Water Education for Teachers (WET)	5 volunteers	Hydraulic Resources Regional Centre (CRRH)	5 regional facilitators trained in the WET methodology
Safe School	18 in the region	DFID Finnish Red Cross CREC International Federation	Community analysis of 5 schools.

During 2009 colleagues within the Youth Sub-Region 2 network have shared documents, drafts and consolidated work to strengthen members' qualifications. The Iberian-American Youth Area aims to implement actions to foment participation, promote youth associations, respect human rights, stimulate social inclusion and recognition of minorities, and influence the development of public policies related to youth. To date, Red Cross Youth has participated in the development of two statements which were signed at the Presidents' Summit (the Guatemala Declaration from 8 August 2008 and the Santo Domingo Declaration from 9 August 2009). The network also participated in the First International Forum on Youth and Gender Violence, in addition to the Mesoamerican Meeting on Youth.

The following table details the beneficiaries reached by activities within the framework of Red Cross youth action in the region:

Country	Focal Point hired	Micro projects (Direct beneficiaries)	Micro Projects (Indirect beneficiaries)	Internships (Direct Beneficiaries)	Internships (Indirect Beneficiaries)	World meeting
Honduras	The newly contracted focal point provided	30 volunteers	260 volunteers	2 direct volunteers	38 volunteers trained as social facilitators	3 volunteers

	guidance and follow-up to the National Societies' work.				350 community members	
Mexico		64 Youth volunteers 6 leaders	Approximately 18,000 National Society volunteers and 20,000 students	1 volunteer	16 volunteers trained in skills development and leadership	3 volunteers
Costa Rica		298 volunteers 16 Youth groups registered	600 volunteers	1 volunteer	30 Youth volunteers from the Regional Strategy on Violence Prevention	2 volunteers
El Salvador		190 volunteers	110 volunteers	9 volunteers	350 volunteers	2 Volunteers
Nicaragua		15 volunteers	Population from temporary shelter	–	–	1 volunteer
Guatemala		–	–	–	–	1 volunteer
Panamá		3 volunteers per committee	3 groups per each trained volunteer	1 volunteers	–	4 volunteers
Regional		6 National Societies	–	2 volunteers	–	–

The network of Spain, Portugal and America Sub-Region 1 currently are more involved in the strengthening process and are committed to furthering the network in the Caribbean and Sub-Region 2 so as to ensure its members' superior skills and commitment. Execution of this project has reached **135.7%**.

A regional Youth Strategy was developed with the support of the Zone Organizational Development Coordinator. The strategy has the aim of strengthening youth at the regional and local levels in each country, in addition to actions taken at the national level.

The regional Youth Network also is working closely with the regional Disaster Risk Reduction programme with the objective of involving youth in community-level micro-projects.

The Costa Rica Red Cross' national council approved and disseminated its national volunteering policy, with which local capacities and knowledge about the volunteering cycle will be increased.

In Nicaragua, parallel to the electoral process, a database for volunteer registry has been designed and implemented.

During 2009, the Youth Regional Network worked on various lines of action whilst ensuring the development of national-level programmes and promoting the development of regional structures. The network structure has been consolidated and strengthened. The following data provides the relevant data on youth activities:

Volunteer training

Within the framework of technical seminars for region I of the Americas, 23 representatives from the National Societies of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama were trained on volunteering management focused on Principles and Values. The International Federation supported this regional workshop in which 17 men and 5 women participated.

Mexico	Guatemala	El Salvador	Honduras	Nicaragua	Costa Rica	Panama
3 volunteers	3 volunteers	6 volunteers	2 volunteers	3 volunteers	4 volunteers	2 volunteers
3 men 0 women	2 men 1 woman	5 men 1 woman	2 men 0 women	3 men 0 women	2 men 2 women	1 man 1 woman

This workshop has provided the necessary tools so that these volunteers are able to initiate internal training within their respective National Societies. These future trainings have the goal of increasing the number of volunteers to implement the Youth Volunteering Regional Strategy and strengthen their National Societies' organization and volunteer human resource management. The Honduran Red Cross created and facilitated a replica of the workshop for 25 relief leaders during their National Relief meeting.

Programme Component: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross capacity to address urgent vulnerability.

Outcome 1 Communities and National Societies are better prepared to face food insecurity and to better identify community coping strategies.

The Nicaraguan Red Cross, with the support of a consultant, carried out a case study on food security. The final text, created as a learning tool, contains all the material, methodological tools and evaluation information of the food security projects carried out in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua during the recovery phase of the Hurricane Felix Operation. Now completed, this useful tool is being disseminated for use in trainings sponsored by the region's National Societies.

Outcome 2 Volunteers of National Societies within the branches and national public authorities are committed in addressing road safety.

The National Societies of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama developed road safety campaigns that were used during the Holy Week and Easter holidays. These campaigns focused on the areas of volunteering, relief and youth, as well as pre-hospitalization mechanisms, national and branch level resource mobilization from public and private entities.

Constraints

This programme's main constraint has been the lack of funds. Additionally the A (H1N1) alert and subsequent pandemic caused delays in implementation.

Bilateral support to the National Societies in the region

Various bilateral partnerships have promoted the strengthening and growth of the region's National Societies. The American Red Cross supports capacity building for the Red Cross Society of Panama (RCSP). RCSP volunteers attended a national level training on Sphere standards and emergency driving skills. The American Red Cross is working with the RCSP to improve inter-agency collaboration with an aim to boost cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations. This process has permitted RCSP to strengthen its administrative and financial procedures and skills, thus enhancing its internal management systems.

The Norwegian Red Cross supported volunteer management activities by the Guatemalan Red Cross. The Fourth National Volunteer Camp, organized by the Quetzaltenango branch with assistance from national headquarters, provided an opportunity to motivate volunteers, foment connections between volunteers from different branches, and strengthen their skills in leadership and humanitarian values. Branch volunteers' presentation of micro-project proposals is among the most noteworthy progress during this period. Eight micro-projects have received approval. These projects cover the issues of: food security, health and hygiene, PLHIV, school safety brigades and first aid, as well as the promotion

of humanitarian principles and values. The low-cost projects have a three-month duration and maintain volunteers' actions and contribute to their ongoing commitment.

Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values

Programme purpose
Global Agenda Goal 4: To promote the respect of diversity and human dignity, and to reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion

Programme Component: Promote fundamental principles and humanitarian values
Outcome 1 National Societies are carrying out a systematic labour in the promotion of HPV.

The new Humanitarian Principles and Values (HPV) training kit for youth was distributed during the commemoration of the Battle of Solferino. Sixteen members of the regional youth network attended this event. Combined with the experience at Solferino, the training kit's information and knowledge has the ability to produce a cascade effect, expanding the quantity of agents of change and increasing the promotion of HPV.

Following the socio-political crisis in Honduras, which began on 28 June 2009, the International Federation together with the ICRC and the Partner National Societies from Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland supported the Honduran Red Cross' emergency response. This response at all times was based on the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values and proper use of the emblem.

In order to strengthen institutional response, a series of meetings and trainings were created for board members, staff and volunteers on issues of safe access, correct use of the emblem and humanitarian principles and values. More than 750 members of the National Society were trained in following activities:

- Three workshops to improve knowledge of the International Movement's Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values and the implementation of the Code of Conduct
- Two workshops on safe access in relief operations and pre-hospital care
- Four regional guidance meetings for proper use of emblem
- Two meetings with board members for guidance
- Two workshops for technical staff.
- In preparation for the upcoming Presidential elections, the National Society mobilized 757 volunteers, divided into 46 branches, 69 ambulances and 27 additional vehicles to support the operation.

The following table provides a summary of the participants in the Safe Access Trainings which focused on Humanitarian Principles and Values:

Workshop 1: safe access	28 participants: 16 men and 12 women
Workshop 2: safe access	22 participants: 18 men and 04 women
Total	50 Participants: 34 men and 16 women

The capacity building actions, supported by DFID, will incorporate the HPV strategy in the training of community volunteers in each country.

Outcome 2 The National Societies have developed processes of internal change to face the conduct and discrimination practices and to obtain inclusive and egalitarian participation.

The Guatemalan Red Cross has established an ethics and discipline commission. This important achievement demonstrates this National Society's commitment to equal treatment for all people and the respect for Humanitarian Principles and Values.

The Honduran Red Cross revised its policies on gender, volunteering and HIV. These have been adapted from the Secretariat policies with the aim of ensuring equal, fair and non-discriminatory treatment for all people. As part of its monitoring process of its gender policy, the HRC, with Canadian Red Cross funding, is implementing the Community Health Network project which includes gender as one of the main topics. Five branches in the western region are participating in this project. The International Federation is part of the content committee for the project's implementation.

As a result of the Latin American meeting on gender perspective held in Buenos Aires in 2008, the Regional Representation has followed up on the commitments acquired by the four National Societies from the region that participated. In addition, regional contributions have been collected for the revision of the Gender Policy. As appropriate, these suggested changes contribute to the new revised global Gender policy currently being created.

In response to its commitments acquired at this meeting, the Nicaraguan Red Cross implemented a national process of gender mainstreaming throughout the National Society. This has included a review of the implementation in the community programmes and the creation of its gender policy which is scheduled to be approved in 2010. The National Society's Department of Health, with the participation of representatives from the areas of government, volunteering and the National Society programmes, has assumed the coordination of this effort.

The following table details the current status of the gender mainstreaming actions:

Analysis process (8 branches)	84 men	32 women
Basic training on gender	68 men	38 women
Facilitators training	08 men	-
Total	160 men	70 women

Outcome 3 National Societies develop communitarian actions on reduction and prevention discrimination.

The National Societies of Central America have established widespread and committed work to fight against discrimination associated with HIV and AIDS. These National Societies have developed creative ideas in order to reach the majority of the population with their message of respect for individual rights and the rejection of discrimination for people living with HIV and AIDS. Preparatory campaign activities were implemented to raise awareness, reduce and prevent HIV and AIDS-related discrimination. These include the project "Conveying respect and solidarity through taxi service".

The Costa Rican Red Cross, through Red Cross Youth, developed the project "Anti-stigma and discrimination associated with HIV and AIDS" in the cities of Cartago and Puntarenas. The table below provides a summary of the beneficiaries:

Location	Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries by Gender
Cartago	11	5 men and 6 women
Puntarenas	70	66 men and 4 women

The Honduran Red Cross developed a similar project with a total of 135 direct beneficiaries. The table below provides a summary of the beneficiaries:

Location	Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries by Gender
San Pedro Sula	60	60 men and 00 women
San Pedro Nacoame (Southern region)	75	70 men and 5 women

The Guatemalan Red Cross developed anti-stigma project with moto-taxis in the city of El Petén. The table below provides a summary of the beneficiaries:

Location	Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries by Gender
El Petén	48	44 men and 04 women

Outcome 4 National Societies develop communitarian actions of reduction and prevention violence.

The Violence Prevention working group from the Secretariat has solicited National Societies' comments on its draft policy. The Regional Representation has been responsible for sharing the draft with the National Societies, follow-up actions, monitoring and ensuring that the observations offered are duly received by the thematic group in the Secretariat. As appropriate, these suggested observations will be included as appropriate in the Global Violence Prevention Strategy.

Coordination with the Salvadoran Red Cross Society has increased during this reporting period. Emphasis has been given to support volunteer training on violence prevention.

The Honduran Red Cross has received technical support from the International Federation and the Spanish Red Cross to create a strategy against violence. This support included the training for volunteers and technical staff who are responsible for implementing violence prevention projects in the cities of Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula and La Ceiba. The training, which focused on volunteer management and Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values, had the objective of incorporating new volunteers through community interventions and improving volunteer management in the branches involved in projects focused on humanitarian values. The table below provides a summary of the beneficiaries:

Location	Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries by Gender
Tegucigalpa	28	16 men and 12 women
San Pedro Sula	29	14 men and 15 women

Additionally, the Honduran Red Cross, via its National Society Red Cross Youth, developed two volunteer training workshops on Humanitarian Principles and Values, employing the global campaign "Our world, your move" in the towns of Pimienta and Cortes in northern Honduras. This campaign was created to celebrate the joint anniversaries that marked the 150 years of the idea of the Red Cross, 90 years of the International Federation and the 60 years of the Geneva Conventions.

In different cities, the Honduran Red Cross presented a mobile exhibit at a community-level to promote awareness of the organization, its main actions, and the International Movement's Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values. The exhibit was held at the French Embassy exhibition centre, the National Autonomous University, the Technological University of Honduras, the Honduran Red Cross headquarters and at the Central Bank of Honduras exhibition centre in the city of La Ceiba in the Atlantida department. Printed material on Humanitarian Values and Fundamental Principles was distributed. Approximately 15,000 people visited the different locations in Tegucigalpa and La Ceiba, where the exhibit was presented. Twenty-five volunteers and two staff members supported the entire process. Additionally, a media campaign, with support from television stations, broadcast messages against racial discrimination; this campaign reached a large portion of the viewing public.

Outcome 5 National Societies of the region fortify their humanitarian actions in favour of migrants.

The migration working group from the Secretariat has solicited National Societies' comments on its draft policy. The Regional Representation has been responsible for sharing the draft with the National

Societies, follow-up actions, monitoring and ensuring that the observations offered are duly received by the thematic group in the Secretariat. As appropriate, these suggested observations will be included as appropriate in the global migration strategy.

Within the framework of Movement Cooperation, support was provided to the Red Cross Society of Panama to disseminate information about their achievements in their activities and project focused on migrants and displaced persons by the Colombian conflict. This programme was carried out jointly with the ICRC.

The publishing of relevant regional news in the global youth newsletter and in the global principles and values newsletter are noteworthy achievements during this period. As this has not occurred in the past, both newsletters are important platforms to disseminate the region's National Societies' work in favour of humanitarian principles and values. Each edition includes related news from the region.

The International Federation coordinated with the regional communications team to launch the global campaign "Our World, Your Move". This campaign was promoted and supported in coordination with the focal points for dissemination, youth and volunteering of each National Society.

Constraints

The programme lacks adequate funding. This has been partially resolved by resource sharing with other programmes.

The A (H1N1) virus and the socio-political crisis in Honduras have delayed the implementation of projected activities in the region.

The regional Principles and Values coordinator, based in Honduras, now has other administrative and representational functions for International Federation in that country.

Bilateral support to the National Societies in the region:

A Norwegian Red Cross delegate carried out a Gender workshop for all Guatemalan Red Cross staff in three departments, including the Director General. The delegate supported the development of a Gender Policy, which was reviewed and approved by the President of the National Society. This policy is pending approval from other levels.

Working in partnership

The seven National Societies of the Red Cross in the region, with support from the ICRC, Partner National Societies and the International Federation, have an extensive history of responding efficiently and effectively to regional, national and local-level challenges. Several Movement partners, actively present in the region, work closely with the National Societies. The following table illustrates those Movement partners with representations in each one of the Central American countries:

Country	Partners
Costa Rica	Finnish Red Cross - German Red Cross
El Salvador	Spanish Red Cross - Swiss Red Cross
Guatemala	Spanish Red Cross - Netherlands Red Cross - Norwegian Red Cross - ICRC
Honduras	Canadian Red Cross - Italian Red Cross - Netherlands Red Cross - Spanish Red Cross - Swiss Red Cross
Nicaragua	Canadian Red Cross - Italian Red Cross - Netherlands Red Cross - Spanish Red Cross - ICRC
Panama	American Red Cross - Finnish Red Cross - Norwegian Red Cross - Spanish Red Cross - ICRC

In addition to the Movement partners, the Regional Representation and the National Societies in the region have established partnerships with the Albatros Foundation, DG ECHO, CEPREDENAC, Llorente y Cuenca, ISDR, UNICEF, PAHO, Global Fund, Oxfam, Trocaire, Care, Plan and Oikos.

The firm Llorente y Cuenca continues to support the National Societies of the Global Alliance on HIV (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras) in developing national communications strategies to help them promote and market the Alliance in their countries.

The Honduras Red Cross established a cooperation agreement with Más Publicidad, an advertising agency, to better disseminate its humanitarian actions during the socio-political crisis.

The Albatros Foundation has supported the dissemination of the results of the food security proposal in Nicaragua. A documentary film was produced and is being broadcast in 53 communications media in Latin America, including CNN en Español.

The Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico established a partnership with UNICEF, ISDR, Plan and PAHO to celebrate the World Risk Reduction day and the global campaign on risk reduction.

The Regional Representation has supported the initial meetings between the Lions Club in Panama and the Red Cross Society of Panama.

Contributing to longer-term impact

In line with the New Operating Model, the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico is actively committed to improving Movement Coordination at the regional and national levels.

It has supported the efforts of the Nicaraguan Red Cross to organize a General Assembly in July with the objective of resolving its integrity issues and thus, putting an end to the government intervention which began in March 2008. The ICRC and the International Federation will explore the possibility of a tri-partite agreement with the new directors of the National Council, scheduled to be elected by the General Assembly in July.

The Guatemalan Red Cross also is exploring the possibility of a tri-partite agreement whilst the Red Cross Society of Panama is currently drafting such an agreement, which is foreseen to be signed by all parties in the second semester of 2010.

The National Societies of Costa Rica and Panama are in the process of defining and drafting the proposals for the Global Alliance on Disaster Risk Reduction. It is possible that two more National Societies will be included in this process in the second semester of 2010.

Looking ahead

Under the framework of, and in keeping with, the New Operating Model, the Head of Zone, the authorities of the Costa Rican Red Cross and the government of Costa Rica have started discussions to examine the possibility of moving the Regional Representation Office from Panama to Costa Rica. Given that the Americas Zone Office is located in Panama, this move would decentralise Red Cross resources. Additionally, it would allow the establishment of a more flexible and mobile International Federation Secretariat structure and permit closer contact with the National Societies in the region.

How we work

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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA43001 - Central America and Mexico

Annual Report 2009

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Appeal	MAA43001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	2,008,667	663,394	405,791	2,139	0	3,079,991
B. Opening Balance	4,423	139,516	202,124	1,811	0	347,874
Income						
Cash contributions						
American Red Cross			0			0
Australian Government			4,669			4,669
British Red Cross	0	0				0
Canadian Red Cross			40,529			40,529
Capacity Building Fund	0					0
Danish Red Cross			1,035			1,035
DFID Partnership grant	639,142					639,142
ECHO	704,529	144,928				849,457
Finnish Red Cross	26,715	4,527	5,437			36,679
Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)	151,386	25,654	30,810			207,850
Japanese Red Cross			8,940			8,940
Monaco Red Cross			1,945			1,945
Netherlands Red Cross	24,293					24,293
Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)	18,634					18,634
Norwegian Red Cross	110,134	36,914	3,404			150,452
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)	99,565	332,225	30,632			462,422
On Line donations			2,484			2,484
Other		123				123
ProVenton	0					0
Spanish Red Cross	239,202		-1,627		853	238,427
Sweden Red Cross (from Swedish Government)		0	0			-0
Unidentified donor		-2,277				-2,277
C1. Cash contributions	2,013,601	542,094	128,257		853	2,684,805
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
ECHO	-80,143	35,709				-44,434
Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)	18,598					18,598
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	-61,544	35,709				-25,835
Income reserved for future periods						
ECHO		-20,862				-20,862
C3. Income reserved for future periods		-20,862				-20,862
Inkind Personnel						
Spanish Red Cross			74,400			74,400
C5. Inkind Personnel			74,400			74,400
Other Income						
Miscellaneous Income	4,020					4,020
C6. Other Income	4,020					4,020
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	1,956,076	556,941	202,657	0	853	2,716,528
D. Total Funding = B + C	1,960,499	696,457	404,781	1,811	853	3,064,402
Appeal Coverage	98%	105%	100%	85%	#DIV/0	99%

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II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	4,423	139,516	202,124	1,811	0	347,874
C. Income	1,956,076	556,941	202,657	0	853	2,716,528
E. Expenditure	-1,757,255	-549,435	-359,767	-1,553	-853	-2,668,863
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	203,244	147,023	45,014	258	0	395,538

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		2,008,667	663,394	405,791	2,139	0	3,079,991	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief		3,434	3,434	-3,434			3,434	-3,434
Construction Materials	100,000	40,445		145			40,590	59,410
Clothing & textiles	25,720		31,326	34			31,360	-5,640
Food		1,167	1,747				2,914	-2,914
Seeds,Plants		2,431					2,431	-2,431
Water & Sanitation	3,060		262				262	2,798
Medical & First Aid		7,762	11,407				19,169	-19,169
Teaching Materials		31,865	2,456	1,033			35,355	-35,355
Utensils & Tools		840	992				1,831	-1,831
Other Supplies & Services	13,530	1,971	9,694				11,665	1,865
Total Supplies	142,310	89,915	61,318	-2,222			149,010	-6,701
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles			37				37	-37
Computers & Telecom	2,896	23,827	2,157	2,989			28,973	-26,077
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.		1,386					1,386	-1,386
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	2,896	25,213	2,194	2,989			30,397	-27,500
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	129	32		129			161	-32
Transport & Vehicle Costs	68,459	10,126	8,438	27,312			45,876	22,583
Total Transport & Storage	68,588	10,158	8,438	27,441			46,037	22,551
Personnel								
International Staff	217,233	101,481		91,954		-19,308	174,127	43,106
Regionally Deployed Staff	18,300	16,078	2,569				18,647	-347
National Staff	207,739	84,566	53,777	20,446	1,224	1,101	161,113	46,626
National Society Staff	300,572	215,725	60,963	18,311		4,629	299,627	946
Consultants	53,400	43,009	8,165	-654	654		51,174	2,226
Total Personnel	797,245	460,859	125,473	130,057	1,877	-13,579	704,688	92,557
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1,271,375	620,685	109,107	79,339		13,412	822,543	448,832
Total Workshops & Training	1,271,375	620,685	109,107	79,339		13,412	822,543	448,832
General Expenditure								
Travel	98,771	44,309	10,390	16,799			71,498	27,272
Information & Public Relation	353,850	177,742	79,457	17,486			274,685	79,166
Office Costs	56,972	48,959	22,599	20,332		964	92,854	-35,882
Communications	15,054	23,929	15,046	3,248			42,223	-27,169
Professional Fees	7,989	13,060	12,994	4,597			30,650	-22,661
Financial Charges	1,247	41,634	2,042	4,194	37		47,908	-46,661
Other General Expenses	60,995	4,867	6,979	3,303			15,148	45,846
Total General Expenditure	594,878	354,501	149,506	69,958	37	964	574,966	19,911
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers Others		-5,210					-5,210	5,210
Total Contributions & Transfers		-5,210					-5,210	5,210
Programme Support								
Program Support	200,199	118,190	39,660	19,245	101	55	177,252	22,947
Total Programme Support	200,199	118,190	39,660	19,245	101	55	177,252	22,947
Services								
Services & Recoveries	2,500							2,500
Shared Services		33,648		5,484			39,132	-39,132
Total Services	2,500	33,648		5,484			39,132	-36,632

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Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		2,008,667	663,394	405,791	2,139	0	3,079,991	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		49,297	53,739	27,475	-462		130,049	-130,049
Total Operational Provisions		49,297	53,739	27,475	-462		130,049	-130,049
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	3,079,991	1,757,255	549,435	359,767	1,553	853	2,668,863	411,128
VARIANCE (C - D)		251,412	113,959	46,024	586	-853	411,128	