

Annual report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

South Asia

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This report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2009



An Afghan Red Crescent volunteer (youth peer education) talking to fellow students at Habiba Boys Secondary School, Kabul, Afghanistan. Photo: David Orr/International Federation.

In brief

Programme purpose: As outlined in the 2009-2010 plan, the aim of the International Federation South Asia regional office is to increase the capacity of the South Asian national societies to provide services that improve the lives of vulnerable people.

Programme summary:

During 2009, the key areas of support provided by the International Federation to national societies in South Asia were as follows:

- The regional disaster management programme during the first half of 2009 saw the finalizing of some of the disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives started in 2008 with the DIPECHO funded programme, which includes the development of a standardized community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) training curriculum, facilitators' guide, participants workbook and the standard criteria for first aid kits in South Asia. The regional disaster response team (RDRT) trainings directly benefited eight South Asian countries through (i) strengthening their RDRT systems to better assist in disaster response and (ii) transferring skills from their staff who are RDRT trained to the national societies' own disaster response mechanisms.
- The regional health and care programme focused on assisting national societies in their endeavour to reduce vulnerability due to poor health by enhancing their capacity to respond to HIV and other public health issues in emergencies and in normal situations, through partnership, advocacy and resource development initiatives. Furthermore, the focus was on the scaling up of community-based health and first

aid (CBHFA) activities and rolling out the global CBHFA in action across the region.

- In 2009, country specific tailor made support under organizational development was provided mainly (i) for the harmonization plan in Afghanistan, (ii) to strengthen the organizational development capacity in Bangladesh (iii) to support the 'operational alliance on organizational development light' in Nepal, (iv) branch development in India (v) formation process of the national society in Maldives and (vi) strengthening fundraising for national societies in South Asia. Another purpose under organizational development was that communications and advocacy for the most vulnerable at national society and regional level becomes more effective. The regional communications team has a cross sectional purpose at the South Asia regional office and aims to support the different programme initiatives to achieve the four International Federation goals.

Financial situation: The total 2009 budget was CHF 2,241,787 (USD 2,244,031 or EUR 1,487,000) based on the programmes' workplan and funding situation. Coverage is 138 per cent while expenditure from January to December 2009 is 77 per cent of the total 2009 budget.

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

No. of people we help: The South Asia regional office supports the seven national societies and seven country offices of the International Federation in South Asia. The South Asia regional office is also actively working with the authorities in Bhutan providing disaster management and risk reduction training for their leadership. The region includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, out of which the national societies exist in all countries except Bhutan.

Our partners: The main partners supporting the regional programmes during 2009 were the American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Greek Red Cross, Hong Kong Red Cross, Iran Red Crescent, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Kuwait Red Crescent, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Spanish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, UAE Red Crescent along with the European Commission/ECHO, British Department for International Development (DFID) and World Bank (GFDRR).

Technical partnerships/relations were also maintained with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) disaster management centre, United Nations (UN) International Strategy for Disaster Response, World Bank (through the ProVention consortium), other UN organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations under the regional disaster management programme; and with the World Health Organization, networks of people living with HIV, government ministries and civil society organizations under the regional health and care programmes.

The South Asia regional office also maintained strong cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and links with the World Food Programme, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Agency for International Development (USAID). Furthermore, close cooperation was continued with international media agencies like Reuters, British Broadcasting Cooperation (BBC) and Cable News Network (CNN) for efficient information flow, especially during disasters.

The International Federation, on behalf of the national societies in the South Asia region, would like to thank the above mentioned partners for their generous support.

Context

During 2009, South Asia was fraught with internal conflict, militant attacks and many other challenges which hampered the smooth implementation of activities by the Red Cross Red Crescent Societies in the region. Afghanistan faced a deteriorating security situation and increasing tension along the Pakistan/Afghan border. Pakistan was also affected by political instability and the internal conflict has led to more than 2.3 million¹ persons being displaced. The International Federation launched an emergency appeal on 4 June 2009 to respond to the needs of the internally displaced people (IDP).

¹ Source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA)

In India, the general election was calm. However, towards the end of the year, the political situation remained tense as there were talks on the formation on a new state in the South of India. Tensions continue to remain between Pakistan and India. The reporting period also witnessed monsoon floods in both India and Nepal during late September and October. In India, the heaviest rains in more than a century affected parts of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on 29 September, displacing more than two million people and leaving 300 people dead. A joint assessment team which included the regional disaster management coordinator, the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) and partner national society identified emergency needs and supported the development of the plan of action and drafting of a domestic appeal for the national society. In Nepal, the late monsoon in October affected in total 14 districts in the mid- and far-west regions and claimed 61 lives and affected more than 150,000 individuals. The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) was mobilized in both instances and for the India flood response, a national appeal was launched to support the IRCS response.

In Sri Lanka, the end of the war between the government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has led to a humanitarian situation of approximately 300,000 civilians being displaced by the conflict and living in camps. In Nepal, the political and security situation is again uncertain and tense with the change in the interim government, which does not include the Maoist fractions. The Maoist faction has threatened with strikes and unrest. Load shedding remains a serious problem. Following the election in December in Bangladesh, a new government is in place and changes have happened within the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS).

This period also witnessed the potential threat of global H1N1 pandemic where the region's contingency plans were put on alert. In May, India had its first case of H1N1 infection. The region witnessed an early taste of the monsoon period when Cyclone Aila hit West Bengal on 25 May killing 96 persons and affecting over 1.5 million people. The global economic crisis is also affecting the region with rising prices of basic food stuff and food insecurity.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

Purpose: National societies have strengthened capacity to implement disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery programmes

Programme component	Outcome
1. Community preparedness and mitigation.	National society capacity to support community preparedness and mitigation is strengthened.
2. Disaster response and preparedness for response.	Regional capacity and systems are improved to respond effectively and efficiently in times of disasters.
3. Coordination and cross cutting issues.	South Asia disaster management programme is made more effective through coordination, collaboration, and innovative cross-cutting initiatives.

Achievements

Outcome 1: Community preparedness and mitigation

During 2009, a number of resources and tools on disaster risk reduction (DRR) were standardized as a part of regional DRR project supported by DIPECHO. The documents produced include community based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) training curriculum with facilitators' guide, participant's workbook and supplement to facilitators guide; standard criteria of first aid kits in South Asia; a practical guide to advocacy for DRR; a photo booklet on DRR success stories; a documentary film on success stories of DRR activities implemented by DIPECHO partners and Red Cross Red Crescent Societies and posters on DRR developed from the winning entries of competition for school children entitled "building safer community begins at school" organized in Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in which 2,400 students participated. Besides these documents, many initiatives were taken up for knowledge sharing which include the DRR festival in Khatmandu in February 2009 and participation in interagency meetings. Technical support to the Royal Bhutanese government in CBDRR training course was also provided.

The activities have contributed to the dissemination of knowledge and information on CBDRR processes and participatory methodologies; improving quality of first aid in South Asia in case of emergencies;

dissemination of knowledge and information on best DRR practises; and motivate school children as change agents for building safer communities. The technical support to the Royal Bhutanese government has contributed to a strengthened relationship between the government and the International Federation.

In the last quarter of 2009, phase two of the 'building safer communities' project was initiated with an aim to improve the quality and/or scale-up DRR initiatives at community level through building country level capacity. Similarly, a country DRR project supported by DIPECHO was also started in Bangladesh. The first coordination meeting of DIPECHO partners was organized by Concern Universal in August 2009 and the International Federation was selected as the facilitating agency for standardization of information, education and communication (IEC) material. Finalization of the action plan and budget in September 2009 was followed by the second DIPECHO partners' coordination meeting which was facilitated by the International Federation and BDRCS in October 2009. Monthly progress update for the period June to October 2009 has been sent to ECHO. As of 30 November, 50 cyclone shelter management committees have been formed/restructured following the guidelines.

Project orientation meetings with focal persons from the Bangladesh, India and Pakistan country offices were held and visits were made to the DIPECHO country project sites in Bangladesh. A stakeholders' meeting of DIPECHO partners was organized in India by Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Maharashtra state branch and facilitated by the International Federation's South Asia regional office. These activities provided linkages and have built momentum to the next phase of the development of 'building safer communities' with DIPECHO partners and national societies.

Outcome 2: Disaster response and preparedness for response

In 2009, the disaster management team of the South Asia regional office provided technical and surge capacities to the following major disaster response operations: (i) Bangladesh - cyclone Aila, (ii) India - floods, (iii) Nepal -acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) and floods, (iv) Pakistan – internally displaced people crisis and (v) Sri Lanka - dengue outbreak. In addition, the South Asia regional office also supported the Philippine typhoon and Samoa tsunami operations as two regional disaster response teams (RDRT) members from South Asia were deployed to those operations.

The regional disaster management programme contributed in strengthening the national societies' disaster preparedness and response mechanism. For instance, 83 per cent of national societies (except BDRCS) have already developed national disaster response teams (NDRT) and the South Asia regional office' disaster management team has provided technical support to the national societies in developing the NDRT training curriculum, materials, standard operation procedures (SOPs) and conducting refresher courses. The team also supported IRCS in facilitating the floods contingency planning workshop from 16-19 June 2009 and the key outcome of the workshop was a draft contingency plan document.

The IRCS also conducted the third batch of NDRT course from 10 - 14 December 2009 with support of the International Federation. Over 26 disaster management persons from 11 different state branches were trained. A solid ground work has been done in establishing NDRT for the BDRCS, which will be completed by the first quarter of 2010.

On the other hand, the South Asia regional office made significant progress in strengthening the regional disaster response system, particularly the RDRT programme. This programme is directly benefiting eight South Asian countries through: (a) strengthening RDRT systems to better assist in disaster response, and (b) transferring skills from their staff who are RDRT trained to the national societies' own disaster response mechanisms. The key progresses for 2009 included: (i) prepositioning of five standardized RDRT deployment kits and gears, (ii) training of more than 57 persons from six national societies and country offices, (iii) development of the RDRT/human resource database, (iv) development of South Asia RDRT SOP, (v) development of field assessment and coordination team (FACT)/ RDRT field handbook, (vi) formation of a task force to look after the technical issues of NDRT/RDRT in South Asia region, (vii) development of South Asia RDRT human resource development strategic plan for 2010-2014. In addition, progress has been made in bringing the RDRT agenda in the secretary general's forum for establishing the RDRT pre-deployment agreement. The RDRT members have also added value for their own national society's disaster management programme. For instance, according to the findings of the South Asia RDRT human resource survey, 110 RDRT trained persons have significantly contributed in domestic response in their own national society while 120 RDRT trained persons have been contributing towards strengthening the disaster management capacity of national society. A case study on "teamwork for disaster response: how regional and national disaster response training paid off in the 2008-2009

internally displaced persons crises in Pakistan” was also published illustrating the NDRT-RDRT's successes, challenges, lessons learned and recommendations.

The final evaluation of the South Asia RDRT programme (2008-2009) was completed in November 2009. The review had clearly illustrated the successes of the programme and made 45 different recommendations for further strengthening of the programme, those recommendations have already been incorporated in the RDRT programme's plan of action for 2010.

Outcome 3: Coordination and cross cutting issues

The secretary generals were briefed on the status of the regional disaster management review in the secretary generals' forum meeting in March and were given the draft disaster management review for their respective national societies. A disaster management working group (DMWG) meeting held in Dhaka from 30 June - 3 July 2009 was represented by disaster management counterparts from national societies and country offices in South Asia, zone and regional disaster management representatives, independent consultants and representatives from the Red Cross Red Crescent climate change centre. In the meeting, the regional disaster management review, disaster management review country reports and the comparative analysis of the well prepared national society 2004 and 2007 surveys were discussed. The disaster management review process has given an overview of the disaster management status in each of the countries in South Asia which will feed into the development of the regional DRR framework. The DMWG group also discussed the monsoon/flood preparedness measures, particularly the SOPs for communication and coordination.

This meeting also touched upon on the lessons learned from the floods of 2007-2008 and the following key lessons learned were explicitly highlighted:

- ✓ The International Federation's logistics and procurement procedures need to be disseminated widely as well as simplified in order to speed up the operation.
- ✓ National societies need to have practical and detailed contingency plans for response at all levels.
- ✓ Coordination and communication at all level needs to be improved.

A South Asia NDRT/RDRT task force (technical team) comprising of three members from the DMWG forum (Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) has been formed. These members are working together on addressing issues like the NDRT/RDRT training curriculum, methodology, materials, SOPs, deployment, amongst other topics.

A regional level advocacy skill development workshop was conducted by the International Federation from 24-27 February 2009 in New Delhi. The participants were programme officers, working on advocacy for DRR with the national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, representatives from the Government of Bhutan, and representatives from Care Nepal, Handicap International and UNICEF. The aim of the four-day workshop was to explore the meaning of advocacy and the role and relevance it has for DRR activities. The working sessions enhanced the skills of participants on how to be more effective in advocacy, how to use vulnerability and capacity assessment tools and participatory methods and how to develop partnerships between DRR actors, development and humanitarian agencies in the region.

American Red Cross supported a staff on loan position for the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) and its partners' consortium in the development of a disaster management strategic framework. The work commenced on 1 November 2009. The head of the relief department of the British Red Cross visited the South Asia regional office and was involved in the evaluation of the RDRT programme. The report was also presented to the British Department for International Development (DFID) in order to develop a partnership plan for the year 2010.

Constraints or Challenges

Security concerns in the South Asia region, especially in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, have affected the progress of the implementation of disaster management activities. The branch disaster risk reduction team training, CBDRR induction and national youth camp activities were also affected in Pakistan.

The late confirmation of the second phase for the DRR funding contributed to stalling the momentum built up in 2008-09. Additionally, change of project management personnel in the South Asia regional office left gaps in implementation, monitoring and follow up of the project activities.

The security concerns in Pakistan also affected branch DRR team training in the northern areas, CBDRR induction and national youth camp activities elsewhere in the country.

Health and care

Programme components	Outcomes
Regional health capacity support.	National societies have improved HIV and AIDS and other public health programming.
Regional health partnership and resource development project.	National societies have improved organizational capacity in mobilizing resources, building partnerships and advocacy for health programmes.

Achievements

Outcome 1: Regional health capacity support

In order to scale-up the active networking and improved communication exchange among national society health managers in the region, an annual regional health meeting was organized in July in Sri Lanka. The theme of the meeting was integrated programming with health, organizational development, disaster management and principles and values. A set of recommendations and action points were agreed upon to be followed up by each national society. The International Federation's support to national societies will be based on these recommendations.

In January, the regional HIV meeting and a HIV planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) workshop was held in Nepal to align the regional HIV programme with the Global Alliance on HIV guidelines. The workshop was conducted with the support of the regional PMER team. At the end of the workshop, the national societies' finalized their logical framework matrixes, work plans, and their monitoring and evaluation plans as per global alliance on HIV formats. Following this agreed framework, there was a dramatic improvement in monitoring and reporting in the region with HIV programming.

Various advocacy initiatives against stigma and discrimination were boosted through the observance of World AIDS Day by all national societies in the region with the theme of "Universal Access and Human Rights". During the year, Nepal and Sri Lanka Red Cross Societies received support from the regional office to implement interventions working with high-risk behaviour groups in the HIV/AIDS programme. As a result, the two national societies are becoming more comfortable in implementing their targeted interventions.

The regional HIV programme cycle ended in December 2009. In order to explore funding opportunities and continuation of the programme, a new proposal (2010-2014) for seven countries (including Maldives) was prepared. This proposal highlights the growing contribution of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and partners involved in preventing further infections, while also reducing stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV and other vulnerable populations particularly affected by HIV. The proposal will be shared with donors for raising funds for continuation of the programme. The main modality of approach will be community based health and first aid (CBHFA).

As part of its capacity building initiatives, the regional health team participated in the psychosocial support training held at Denmark. Three participants from the region attended this training. There is a plan to conduct regional psychosocial support training as a follow up in 2010 for national societies in South Asia.

A voluntary investment and value audit (VIVA) study was conducted in India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka with support from the regional organizational development team. The results of the study show that there is a cost benefit of running volunteer programmes; however, the ratio varies between countries but all show an added value of using volunteers. This may be a useful tool in volunteer management and planning for programmes involving volunteers.

To sensitize the South Asia regional and India offices staff members on HIV, the HIV workplace programme was held in the South Asia regional office in Delhi. This was based and designed on the basis of the results obtained from knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) survey conducted among the staff, International Federation's HIV workplace directives and International Labour Organization (ILO) workplace programme for HIV. An external facilitator from South Asia Collaborative Fund and Delhi Network of

Positive People came and participated in discussions related to stigma and discrimination attached with HIV and AIDS.

A public health in emergencies (PHiE) programming in Bangladesh and Pakistan have gained progress. As a follow up of regional PHiE training held in Pakistan last year, a national level PHiE training was held in Bangladesh in November. A follow up questionnaire has been developed and a survey is being done. This will help in planning for future PHiE trainings and programmes in region. Most of the trained participants in PHiE have been deployed in one or other public health in emergencies in the region within this year.

Proposals on preparedness with funding of CHF 50,000 have each been prepared by the national societies of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. These proposals have been approved and are implemented in the field. All national societies and country offices have health managers/officers who have committed to playing an active role in emergency preparedness and response programming and coordination.

The South Asia regional team provided support to scale up emergency water and sanitation capacities in national societies, national disaster water and sanitation response team training for IRCS and to develop emergency water and sanitation programmes in NRCS.

The regional health team supported a CBHFA in action national masters' facilitators' workshop in the NRCS national headquarters in Kathmandu. The workshop was a follow up of the regional CBHFA in action master's facilitators' workshop held in Sri Lanka in 2008. The workshop was facilitated by the regional health team. This helped in multiplying the number of trainers and implementers of CBHFA in Nepal.

The regional health coordinator attended the global road safety programme (GRSP) seminar held in Singapore. The objective of the participation was to explore possibilities and opportunities for future programming with the national societies in the region. An initial discussion was done with GRSP for future programmes in the South Asia region. Road safety programming to the national societies will be introduced in the next regional health meeting.

Outcome 2: Regional health partnership and resource development project

A detailed study was conducted to assess the impact of National Condom Day in Nepal which was initiated by NRCS 15 years ago and has now become a national event. A researcher was hired to carry out the assignment with a team of 25 data investigators from NRCS branches. The study covered five districts, namely Kathmandu (including Bakhtapur and Lalitpur), Udaypur, Parsa, Kaski and Rupendehi. A report of the study was shared with national societies in the region and other stakeholders in February 2010.

In order to highlight and promote the contribution of the Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies on HIV prevention, care, and support as well as stigma and discrimination, a short documentary film was prepared and produced with support from the regional communication team. This film covers HIV programming in six countries and will be used as an advocacy tool and will also support fundraising efforts for the Red Cross Red Crescent HIV programme of South Asia. It has also been shared with the national societies, country offices and other stakeholders. Postcards picturing different aspects of the HIV programme have been printed for promotional purposes.

The ninth International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) with a theme "empowering people and strengthening networks" was successfully completed in August in Indonesia. The regional HIV delegate, along with participants from many national societies in the region, participated. Participants from three national societies participated at the pre-ICAAP Red Cross Red Crescent meeting. Information materials like postcards, posters, pens and country fact sheets developed for the Global Alliance were disseminated in ICAAP 2009.

Guided with Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Bangladesh will have another measles follow up campaign in February 2010. The objective of this campaign will be to provide opportunity for measles vaccination to eligible children without disruption of routine expanded programme on immunization. The South Asia regional health team provided support in developing measles campaign proposal with BDRCS. This CHF 120,000 proposal has been supported by the global measles appeal. The measles campaign in Bangladesh will be held in February 2010.

An additional printing of booklet – standard criteria for first aid kits for South Asia region under the ‘building safer communities’ initiative – has been completed. Many national societies have shown interest to translate the booklet in their local language in order to disseminate further with volunteers and partners. In continuation to the booklet, three types of model kits were developed: household first aid kits, school first aid kits; and trained volunteers’ first aid kits. The approach taken in developing the model kit is a good example of an integrated programming approach through which the disaster management and health and care teams of all national societies and country offices have come together.

Changes in human resources have taken place in the region. The regional health information and programme support officer has been recruited and resumed his responsibilities in the regional health team with effect from 15 September 2009. The health delegates in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka were recruited and joined their mission.

The regular dissemination of meeting, workshops, trainings, monthly reports from regional health team and health programmes in all six national societies help in sharing information about their programmes.

Constraints or Challenges

The security situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan has hampered the implementation of the health programme. The instability of human resources and insecurity of funds at the country and regional levels were two major risks to long-term health programming during the reporting period. In an effort to reduce some of the funding gaps, the team promoted programme integration and resource sharing. Shortage of human resources at the South Asia regional health team is also an issue which hampered the regional health programme.

Organizational development

Programme component	Outcomes
Strategic organizational development and community-based support	National societies have policies, systems and procedures that enable better programme implementation.
Communications development project	Communications and advocacy for the most vulnerable at national society and regional level are more effective.
Finance development	National society capacity in financial accountability, reporting, management is strengthened.
PMER development	The capacity of national societies in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting is strengthened further.

Achievements

Outcome 1: Strategic organizational development and community-based support

A senior management fundraising summit was held in Delhi on 25 February 2009 with participation from the secretary generals of the region, six state branch secretaries from IRCS and heads of country offices. The aim of the summit was to develop a better understanding of their role in fundraising, steps needed for the national society to conduct professional fundraising and learn from other organizations which are relevant to South Asia. The summit was followed up at the secretary generals’ forum that was held in March where the secretary generals made presentations on the challenges and next steps envisaged to strengthen fundraising in their respective national societies. A proposal from the South Asia regional office for a regional fundraising development project aiming to provide a comprehensive and tailor-made support to national societies over the next two years was presented to strengthen their national fundraising with the public. However, this proposal could not be taken forward as the organizational development delegate ended her mission.

Based on the recent monthly updates from the International Federation Afghanistan country office, the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) has appointed an external consultant who will help the national society in developing its human resource system. The consultant has submitted the human resource development proposal which is yet to be reviewed by the national society. As a new regional working modality, an email group was established and most of the national societies’ documents have been uploaded on the group. The group also serves as a virtual library in the South Asia region.

Regional support was given by providing feedback on the organizational development framework and policy to NRCS for its 'organizational operational alliance light' process continued throughout the year. Volunteer investment and value audit (VIVA), a successful initiative by regional health and organization development was conducted in India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka for the regional HIV project. The exercise could not take place this year in Afghanistan due to the security situation in the country. The report has been compiled and will be published in 2010. A volunteer from India has been identified to develop an electronic calculator application which can be used in any VIVA exercise. The regional HIV and organizational development joint presentation on these exercises was given in one of the IRCS's technical working group meeting where partner national societies (PNS) were also present. A facilitation support was provided to a capacity building and fundraising workshop organized by IRCS, Punjab state branch along with the organizational development manager of India office at the end of 2009.

A two-day South Asia regional organizational development forum was conducted on 23 - 24 November where representatives of organizational development from the regions except Nepal participated. The Asia Pacific Zone organizational development team facilitated the forum along with regional programme coordinator and regional organizational development manager. The participants used this platform to present their progress, plan for the next year and how the integrated programming approach (IPA) is working within the national societies of the region. The next organizational development forum with the national societies' organizational development practitioners was decided to be held in end of April 2010 for a common understanding and how better as an organizational development practitioner, the International Federation can provide support to the national societies service deliveries in South Asia. An IPA checklist was forwarded to the regional health and disaster management teams which was further disseminated to the regional country offices and national society programme teams. The regional health team, along with health counterparts in the region and regional organizational development team, decided to map all the integrated activities under the health programme and its impact and challenges. The exercise will start in the second week of February 2010.

Outcome 2: Communications development project

In 2009, the regional communications team focused on assessing the former South Asia regional office communications plan and evaluated the unique strengths and challenges in the region. As a result, a new strategy was prepared and implemented to position the regional office as a stronger reference when it comes to both the delivery of programmes of the highest quality to vulnerable people, and the effective advocacy on their behalf.

The strategy focuses on three key issues across the region:

1. Alignment with programmes and resource mobilization: Communications strategies and budget in each regional programme.
2. Increased regional communications capacity: Knowledge sharing, team building and capture of institutional successes across the South Asia team.
3. Emergency communications: A proactive, effective, fast and 'leaning forward' approach.

At a regional level, there has been a significant improvement in the way the various programmes and communications team have worked together. Communications is now part and parcel of each regional programme which ensures better use of resources, more efficient results, better quality products and clear messaging. The integration has also grounded at Zone and Geneva level where the communications manager actively supports various initiatives, but it is still being implemented at the country level where the challenges within the country offices and the relations with the national society vary from country to country.

In order to support the communications capacity across the region, the communications unit has developed a series of training tools; these include a more comprehensive RDRT communications module, a communications senior management training, messaging and effective communications module, a strength-weakness- opportunities-threats (SWOT) analysis applied to communications, and hosted a two-day workshop with all the communicators in the region. During this intensive two-day workshop, the regional communicators' team participated in a series of trainings aimed to level up their knowledge across the region and laid a common ground to work on. The participation was extraordinary and so was the level of interest. In addition, the communications unit is supporting the humanitarian diplomacy efforts led by the Asia Pacific Zone office in Kuala Lumpur and is currently working on crafting a series a few written tools that demonstrate humanitarian diplomacy in action, documenting best practices from work that national societies have already done on behalf of vulnerable populations. Nepal is being considered as a successful case study in the region.

Outcome 3: Finance development

The South Asia regional finance development project in 2009 has focused in developing a sound finance management for national societies which is a high priority and has been a technical support to national societies to develop their finance software, finance manual and finance procedure as per their new requirements. The finance development project for Sri Lanka was approved for two years in October 2009; therefore, the programme update budget for finance development project has increased from the original appeal budget. National societies are now in a better position to plan and manage their financial resources. Computerization of the accounting system has helped national societies to keep a close eye on the expenditure and budget which facilitates better control after replacement from local software to international software and customization according to their recent requirement. Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) is in the process to replace local software to international software (Navision). IRCS and Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) are in the process to upgrade the software this year. The national society finance department and training and regional finance directors meeting in Bangkok has provided a platform to all national societies to share their experience and learn from each other and from the other regions (South East Asia) on ways to address finance in a national society context.

The regional finance development delegate continues to support Afghanistan to develop their finance management. In Sri Lanka, support was given to the national society for developing a two-year finance development plan. NRCS has also finalized the planning for a two-year finance development plan. The main activities will be training for board members, finance staff and programme managers on how to develop finance management and financial transparency in the national society. The regional finance development delegate supported the NRCS in conducting two workshops related to sense of ownership and audit management from 15-18 December 2009. The aim of the workshops was to minimize the day-to-day work related issues of NRCS as well as improve its' audit report. Two days finance management training for board members was organized for SLRCS and NRCS. The training focused on overview of financial management, financial strategy, structure, governance, financial risk assessment and accountability in practice.

Outcome 4: Planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting (PMER) development

As a follow up to the South Asia initiative of enhancing integrated programming approach, the PMER and organizational development units developed an IPA checklist which was made into a brochure and disseminated at country level where it will be made country specific.

The PMER team has, when requested, been coaching the programme teams in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan in the revision of their logical frameworks and finalization of the annual reports and programme updates. Rather than providing training, the approach has been to learn by doing and sitting with the teams to develop their programme management tools. Much effort has gone into leading and supporting the 2010-11 planning process.

The regional planning and reporting officer went to the Asia Pacific Zone office PMER department as a staff on loan to broaden her experience in the planning process for 2010-2011 and understand as to how plans were written, edited and re-edited in consultation with different units, particularly the finance unit.

A five-day PMER workshop was organized for the South Asia PMER focal points in the Maldives from 6-10 December 2009 with objectives to:

1. Strengthen the regional PMER team.
2. Understand logical frameworks and the preparation of the same.
3. Understand monitoring and evaluation and how this is applied in programmes/projects.

Constraints or Challenges

A major challenge was overcoming the gap from the outgoing organizational development focal people and the commencement of the incoming programme coordinator and the organizational development manager. The recent organizational development forum has provided the new organizational development team of the South Asia regional office with a clear picture of the priorities of the national societies in the region.

The communication team may find it necessary to consider a five-year timeframe of communication support from the South Asia regional office and to include promotion of standardized guidelines of all aspects of human resource for communication personnel. The recognition of competing country offices'

communication needs has to be further disseminated to counterparts at the different levels of the International Federation.

The regional finance delegation still faces a challenge in the field of finance development for national societies. The challenge of changing well established practice has also been an issue.

Humanitarian values

Programme component	Outcomes
Understanding humanitarian values.	National societies and International Federation country offices show an increased understanding of humanitarian values.
Promoting diversity and increasing dignity.	National societies demonstrate an increased capacity to incorporate their understanding of humanitarian values in their ongoing work.

Achievements

All trainings in the region incorporated sections on dissemination of Red Cross Red Crescent which enhances the understanding of the persons trained of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement. A disaster management training curriculum also includes sections on the code of conduct and Sphere standards. The disaster management programme held a RDRT induction course for women to ensure a better gender balance in the RDRT in the future. The DRR curriculum and material includes special attention on people with disability. The regional HIV programme has been working towards reducing stigma and discrimination in connection with HIV/AIDS.

A two-day HIV workplace programme for the staff of the South Asia regional and India offices was jointly organized by the humanitarian values and health team on 28 and 29 July 2009. HIV-related stigma and discrimination, positive living and positive prevention experiences were shared by the President of Delhi Positive People's Network and Regional Coordinator, Collaborative Fund for HIV Treatment Preparedness - South Asia. A new regional HIV project proposal (2010-2014) under health and care, which has focus on reducing stigma and discrimination, is being developed for seven South Asia countries.

A session on humanitarian diplomacy by the external relations coordinator from the Asia Pacific zone was organized for the staff of the South Asia regional office and India office on 10 November 2009.

Instead of a regional humanitarian values workshop this year, it has been planned with the principles and values team in Geneva to send youth from the region for the international youth camp in the first quarter of 2010. Planned induction course on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in December for the International Federation's South Asia regional and India offices' new staff members was postponed to January 2010 due to unavailability of few staff members.

Regional support was provided for a five-day youth camp focusing on the Movement's principles and values organized by IRCS, Punjab state branch at the last quarter of the year where a total of 61 girl students and 12 teachers from nine colleges participated in this camp.

Constraints or Challenges

Due to lack of funding, there is no stand-alone principles and values regional programme; hence, the programme budget for 2010 has been revised. Principles and values nevertheless remains an important focus of the work in South Asia and are fully integrated into the other programmes in line with the regional integrated programming approach.

The planning and implementation of the humanitarian values programme was delayed as the regional humanitarian values manager was only appointed in July 2009.

Working in partnership

As a follow-up to continue building relations and support to Bhutan with a Movement-coordinated approach, a meeting with the ICRC and International Federation was organized on 3 November to discuss further steps and develop a common strategy. The regional disaster response team has also facilitated a

workshop and training for the Bhutanese government's disaster management managers from 21 to 26 November.

Across the region under the DIPECHO programmes, a number of relationships have been build with other DRR actors and organizations through facilitation and participation in workshops, exchange meetings and building a culture for encouraging cross sharing of knowledge and best practices.

The regional health programme will continue to establish collaborative efforts in HIV prevention and in preparedness to health emergencies with Movement partners, United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organizations, networks of people living with HIV, government ministries and National AIDS control programmes. There is a need for collaboration with the global network of people living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+) and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) organizations.

The Nepal International Federation country representative, NRCS health director and regional health coordinator attended the World Health Organization (WHO) regional committee meetings in September. The focus was on climate change impacts on health and Red Cross Red Crescent's contribution on measles elimination.

The regional health coordinator and regional senior health manager participated in a partnership meeting, coordinated by UNICEF India office which was attended by various agencies like WHO India, WHO South-East Asia regional office, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDMT), USAID and Sphere.

The regional health programme continued to focus on strengthening existing partnerships. The International Federation and WHO regional offices held meetings for the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding. The discussions focussed on strengthening partnerships between the two organizations. The key potentials areas where WHO and International Federation can work together are H1N1, tuberculosis, HIV, road safety, climate change, water and sanitation, measles, polio, and emergency health preparedness. In order to make it more active at the country level, a detailed work plan will be discussed jointly by WHO and the International Federation. Besides strengthening existing partnerships, the programmes will continue to forge, nurture and develop new partnerships. Finance development project got support from Danish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Under the regional disaster programme, the DRR curriculum and handbooks will serve to improve and sustain the quality of DRR training. The advocacy training will also have a longer term perspective and the advocacy handbook for DRR practitioners, which is the first of its kind, will serve national society and International Federation staff widely in the year to come. In an effort to enhance gender balance in the RDRT system, an RDRT induction course for women was held. Regular coordination done through knowledge and information sharing with all Movement partners and non-partners will promote regional cooperation, sharing knowledge and build capacity through peer-learning, learning from other best practices and lessons learned from relevant experiences. The RDRT training as well as the contingency planning will contribute to strengthen the regional and national response mechanism.

The human resource development plan that has been developed based on the human resource survey would identify the skills of the RDRT trained personnel and support them in developing their skills which would in future ensure sustainability of the RDRT members. The NDRT/RDRT database that has been developed will not only support the regional office but also the national societies in timely mobilization of the RDRT/NDRT teams and other resources.

Continuous efforts are still being made to involve women in the project as well as in the training selection criteria. Furthermore, the RDRT training curriculum includes sessions on quality standards like the Code of Conduct for the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and the Sphere standards

According to the finding of the RDRT human resource survey, 110 RDRT trained persons are active in domestic response in their own national society while 120 RDRT trained persons have been contributing for strengthening disaster management capacity of national society. In addition, the newly formed NDRT/RDRT task force team in South Asia will also support the regional disaster management team in addressing the NDRT/RDRT issues and work together in improving the response system in South Asia

Two RDRT members from South Asia were deployed for the Philippines and Samoa operations. This step was not only a good example of working together in responding to disasters but also sharing the experiences and knowledge between South Asia and other regions.

The regional support in health and care is responsive to the needs of national societies and is in line with the Global Agenda goals and priorities and aligned with the International Federation's global health and care strategy. Furthermore, the focus will be on scaling up of community-based health and first aid activities and rolling out the global CBHFA in action across the region. The health programme is also committed to the integrated programming.

The regional humanitarian values plan will focus on better integration within all programmes in the region. It will also encourage 'Youth as a Behaviour Change' initiative from the Principles and Values unit in Geneva and Asia Pacific Zone. The focus also will be to work more closely with communication programme.

Looking ahead

The coming period will see the follow up and finalizing of the disaster management review and developing the regional DRR framework. The implementation of the DiPECHO II project will have high priority as well as strengthening the RDRT project.

To further strengthen the RDRT programme, a detailed plan of action has been developed for 2010. The planned activities will be implemented in two phases: (i) consolidation phase which would be from January to March 2010 and (ii) operational/maintenance phase which would be from April to December 2010. One of the top priority activities in the plan of action is to establish the RDRT pre-deployment agreement with the national societies in the region.

The regional health team is looking towards providing direction and guidance to the national societies in order to scale up their programmes and fund raise. A five-year extension of the regional HIV programme has been proposed. The trained pool of resources at regional level will act as facilitators in their country as well as in other countries for reaching and serving vulnerable communities.

The regional organizational development approach will be more integrated with the regional programmes. Producing evidence of benefits and importance of the volunteers in the programmes supported by the partners will be one of the priorities during 2010. A regional organizational development forum is planned for the last week of April 2010 in Nepal.

How we work	
<p>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".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number 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	
<p>For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azmat Ulla (Head of regional office); phone:+91.11.2411 1125; fax: +91.11.2411 1128; email: azmat.ulla@ifrc.org • Michael Higginson (Regional programme coordinator); phone: +91.11.2411 1125; email: michael.higginson@ifrc.org <p>International Federation Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alistair Henley (Head of zone); phone: +601 2203 8245; email: alistair.henley@ifrc.org • Jagan Chapagain (Deputy head of zone); phone: +603 9207 5702; email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org • Penny Elghady (Resource mobilization and PMER coordinator); phone: +603 9207 5775; email: penny.elghady@ifrc.org • Please send all funding pledges to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org 	

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA52001 - South Asia region

Annual Report 2009

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Appeal	MAA52001
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	908,404	647,446	542,440	13,422	130,075	2,241,787
B. Opening Balance	119,632	304,284	133,772	10,079	14,837	582,603
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross	0					0
British Red Cross	335,490					335,490
Danish Red Cross	28,203		157,401			185,604
Danish Red Cross (from Danish Government)			48,994			48,994
ECHO	692,356					692,356
Japanese Red Cross	23,593	23,593	32,921		18,655	98,763
Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)	20,498					20,498
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)	58,998					58,998
Sweden Red Cross	18,872					18,872
Sweden Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	61,056	418,818	169,266	28,211	38,610	715,962
C1. Cash contributions	1,239,067	442,412	408,582	28,211	57,265	2,175,538
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
British Red Cross	-7,728					-7,728
Danish Red Cross			30,102			30,102
Danish Red Cross (from Danish Government)			-48,994			-48,994
ECHO	120,216					120,216
Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)	20,458					20,458
Sweden Red Cross	-19,472					-19,472
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	113,474		-18,893			94,582
<u>Income reserved for future periods</u>						
Sweden Red Cross (from Swedish Government)		-23,274				-23,274
C3. Income reserved for future periods		-23,274				-23,274
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
Danish Red Cross			77,293			77,293
Irish Red Cross	31,000					31,000
Spanish Red Cross					30,800	30,800
Sweden Red Cross		52,800				52,800
C5. Inkind Personnel	31,000	52,800	77,293		30,800	191,893
<u>Other Income</u>						
Services					67,071	67,071
C6. Other Income					67,071	67,071
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	1,383,541	471,938	466,983	28,211	155,136	2,505,809
D. Total Funding = B + C	1,503,174	776,221	600,754	38,290	169,973	3,088,412
Appeal Coverage	165%	120%	111%	285%	131%	138%

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA52001 - South Asia region

Annual Report 2009

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Appeal	MAA52001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	119,632	304,284	133,772	10,079	14,837	582,603
C. Income	1,383,541	471,938	466,983	28,211	155,136	2,505,809
E. Expenditure	-648,518	-613,020	-370,818	-13,013	-89,984	-1,735,353
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	854,656	163,201	229,936	25,276	79,990	1,353,059

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA52001 - South Asia region

Annual Report 2009

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Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Appeal	MAA52001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

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)		908,404	647,446	542,440	13,422	130,075	2,241,787		
Supplies									
Construction - Housing			227				227	-227	
Teaching Materials	7,714		997				997	6,716	
Other Supplies & Services	1,026	6,852	4,908				11,759	-10,733	
Total Supplies	8,740	6,852	6,132				12,984	-4,243	
Land, vehicles & equipment									
Land & Buildings	3,111							3,111	
Vehicles	10,310		7,303				7,303	3,007	
Computers & Telecom	97,964	14,981	2,829	16,354		-2,453	31,711	66,252	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	1,610	84	368			104	555	1,055	
Others Machinery & Equipment	1,026		4,674				4,674	-3,648	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	114,021	15,065	15,173	16,354		-2,349	44,243	69,778	
Transport & Storage									
Storage	758	621	568				1,189	-430	
Distribution & Monitoring	2,930	2,107	199				2,306	624	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	41,845	4,756	21,909	4,865		7,018	38,548	3,297	
Total Transport & Storage	45,534	7,484	22,676	4,865		7,018	42,043	3,491	
Personnel									
International Staff	515,217	161,094	104,792	207,590		32,210	505,686	9,531	
Regionally Deployed Staff	570	2,714					2,714	-2,144	
National Staff	193,358	42,448	44,211	17,122	9,186	19,356	132,324	61,034	
National Society Staff	62,911		67,927	1,091			69,018	-6,107	
Consultants	231,763	100,206	40,732	17,338		7,660	165,936	65,827	
Total Personnel	1,003,820	306,463	257,662	243,141	9,186	59,226	875,678	128,142	
Workshops & Training									
Workshops & Training	488,767	174,576	101,981	54,792		11,576	342,925	145,842	
Total Workshops & Training	488,767	174,576	101,981	54,792		11,576	342,925	145,842	
General Expenditure									
Travel	117,085	31,274	50,113	15,625	46	2,367	99,426	17,659	
Information & Public Relation	164,413	40,250	26,995	876	2,859	1,618	72,598	91,815	
Office Costs	57,816	4,798	4,777	1,586		832	11,994	45,822	
Communications	40,163	17,183	9,345	2,855	64	2,509	31,957	8,206	
Professional Fees	4,550		322				322	4,228	
Financial Charges	13,686	-4,441	-328	-6		3,193	-1,582	15,268	
Other General Expenses	37,477	19,273	9,965	90	13	206	29,547	7,930	
Total General Expenditure	435,189	108,338	101,188	21,027	2,981	10,726	244,261	190,929	
Programme Support									
Program Support	145,716	43,671	38,199	20,110	846	3,913	106,739	38,977	
Total Programme Support	145,716	43,671	38,199	20,110	846	3,913	106,739	38,977	
Services									
Services & Recoveries		128					128	-128	
Total Services		128					128	-128	
Operational Provisions									
Operational Provisions		-14,059	70,008	10,529		-125	66,354	-66,354	
Total Operational Provisions		-14,059	70,008	10,529		-125	66,354	-66,354	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	2,241,787	648,518	613,020	370,818	13,013	89,984	1,735,353	506,434	
VARIANCE (C - D)		259,886	34,426	171,622	409	40,091	506,434		