

Annual report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Pacific

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This report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2009



Children of Natutu village near the town of Ba in Fiji displaying information, education and
Photo credit: IFRC

In brief

Programme summary:

The Pacific region experienced both large and small disasters in 2009. In the first two months of the year, Pacific Red Cross national societies responded to flooding in Fiji caused by a tropical depression; flooding caused by sea swells in Papua New Guinea and Kiribati; and devastating bushfires in Australia. Later in the year, teams were mobilized to provide immediate relief and ongoing psychological support to survivors of the sinking of the Princess Ashika Ferry in Tonga. In addition, there was also active response to a triple endemic of cholera, influenza and dysentery that broke out across a number of provinces in Papua New Guinea. In late September, an earthquake measuring a magnitude of 8.3 was recorded off American Samoa, generating a tsunami that impacted American and Western Samoa and Tonga, with the Red Cross responding to support 5,000 beneficiaries. In October and November, relief was provided to communities in Vanuatu relocated as a result of the increased activity of Gaua Volcano. Finally, the year ended with a response to extensive flooding in parts of Fiji, this time caused by Cyclone Mick.

The quick response of national societies to these disasters was due to their ability to work with the support of international and local partners to mobilize people, goods and equipment. This ability was born because of an ongoing regional commitment to integrated training and capacity development across the broad range of disaster management disciplines. Pre-positioned emergency relief items in each country also meant that help was immediately at hand for affected communities. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) provided assistance to the majority of these operations by liaising with partner societies in the region in the area of mobilizing resources and supporting the national societies on reporting and information sharing with regional partners.

Promotion of legal preparedness for disasters and the effective application of existing international legal tools in disaster management were also undertaken throughout the year at both at national and regional levels through IFRC's international disaster response laws, rules and principles (IDRL) programme. Key IDRL

activities in the Pacific region in 2009 included training and capacity building of national societies and their partners, dissemination/advocacy of the IDRL guidelines and technical assistance to governments, with progress made towards establishing a technical assistance project in Vanuatu.

In health and care, the Pacific component of IFRC's Global Alliance on HIV and AIDS continued through the implementation of HIV programmes in the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Micronesia and Samoa. Technical assistance was also provided to national societies for better health programming, monitoring and evaluation. This assistance included provision of resource materials and training on planning, monitoring and evaluation, voluntary blood donation, and community-based health and first aid (CBHFA). National societies were also assisted in preparedness and planning for response to the H1N1 influenza pandemic, including access to funding for Fiji Red Cross and Tuvalu Red Cross, Humanitarian Pandemic Preparedness (H2P) projects. .

IFRC provided tailor-made organizational development support throughout 2009 to the Red Cross Societies of Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu in strategic and operational planning, volunteering development, good governance, financial management, constitutional reviews and the development of funding proposals.

No. of people we help:

The Pacific regional office covers 14 countries and provides support to 14 national societies, including two national societies still in formation; Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands (in formation), Micronesia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu (in formation), and Vanuatu.

Approximately, 16,790 people were reached by the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society in response to sea swells that caused flooding across several provinces in January. From September, 45,000 people were reached by the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society during the triple epidemic response through door-to-door dissemination, health awareness in public places, information booths and the media. In Samoa, the ongoing tsunami recovery operation is targeting 5,000 people. In Tonga, responses to the ferry sinking reached 58 people and tsunami recovery reached 330 people. In Vanuatu, relief reached 359 men, women and children affected by the volcano eruption.

IFRC supported HIV prevention and through anti-stigma activities, reached approximately 67,000 people: 17,000 in the Cook Islands; 22,000 in Kiribati; 11,000 in Micronesia and 17,000 in Samoa. During the dengue outbreak in the Cook Islands, the national society reached out to 8,000 people with prevention kits and information, education and communication (IEC) messages. Tuvalu Red Cross reached out to 3,000 youth on World AIDS day with prevention and awareness raising messages in the capital Funafuti.

Financial situation:

The total 2009 budget was CHF 2,001,504 (USD 1.82 million or EUR 1.3 million), revised down from the original budget of CHF 1,988,504 (USD 1.82 million or EUR 1.3 million) which was covered up to 102 per cent. Expenditure overall was 55 per cent.

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

Delays in the replacement of key regional office positions in 2009 (head of office, organizational development, health, and disaster management) and the diversion of resources for the management of the Samoa and Tonga Tsunami operations and the Papua New Guinea triple epidemic response has resulted in a low expenditure rate in 2009.

Our partners:

The Japanese Red Cross Society is a loyal multilateral supporter of IFRC's work in the Pacific. The Japanese Red Cross contribution in 2009 benefited a range of health, disaster management and organizational development activities. Australian Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross worked closely with the International Federation to ensure coherence in our support to the Pacific societies. Australian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross supported the IFRC's disaster management programme. IFRC collaborates closely with the International Committee of the Red Cross' (ICRC) Pacific Delegation especially on organizational development activities. The Red Cross Pacific organizational development working group, steered in 2009 by Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society, New Zealand Red Cross and Fiji Red Cross, have been key interlocutors on a number of initiatives during this period. Spanish Red Cross contributed to capacity building initiatives in eight national societies. The Red Cross Society of China is a

valued supporter to the Pacific region. The Australian, Finnish, Icelandic, New Zealand and Finnish Red Cross societies have supported delegates for IDRL, disaster management, and administration and finance activities.

The IFRC's main external partners and donors in 2009 were the Department for International Development (DFID) United Kingdom, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), Secretariat for Pacific Communities (SPC), South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (DG ECHO), New Zealand International Aid and Development Agency (NZAID) and the Pacific Island AIDS Foundation (PIAF).

IFRC, on behalf of the national societies of the Pacific region, would like to thank partners and donors for their generous support.

Context

This was a challenging year for the Pacific Islands. In addition to a number of human-made and natural disasters, the global economic crisis reduced the region's capacity to respond to the long-term challenges of climate change and food security. The effects of the food and fuel price surges of 2008 are still being felt and the economic crisis has made it even more unlikely that the region will achieve the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs) by 2015¹. AusAID's publication 'Tracking Development and Governance in the Pacific 2009' showed that poverty is rising, growth is inadequate, not enough children complete schooling and basic health challenges are significant. The AusAID report did, however, highlight some positive news. The region is undertaking world leading work on malaria eradication and there is good progress in some countries in primary education completion rates. Most Pacific countries are investing more of their own resources in education and health.

The impact of climate change and its effects increases the occurrence of natural hazards that affect communities in the region in different ways, although this depends on their geographic, economic and social vulnerabilities. Following one of the most active cyclone seasons in history for the region, a moderate El Niño developed in the Pacific, bringing drought to areas of Fiji and the Cook Islands. The number of disasters that occurred during 2009 slowed the progress of the implementation of the regional elements of the Pacific Disaster Management Programme as resources were diverted to support national societies in response operations. In some cases, national societies were also prevented from engaging in regional activities as they were responding to disasters.

It is in this context that the UN climate negotiations in December at Copenhagen were an important event for the Pacific region, which was well represented at the summit. The South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) and other regional stakeholders were instrumental in providing training to prepare country representatives to the negotiations and ensure effective advocacy for the needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Prior to the summit the Cook Islands and Solomon Islands Red Cross Societies took part in a training session on humanitarian diplomacy as a capacity building exercise to coordinate and strengthen their relationships with stakeholders.

Another focus in 2009 was preparedness and response to the H1N1 influenza pandemic. Cook Islands, Samoa and Solomon Islands national societies integrated H1N1 pandemic community awareness and prevention activities into their community-based health and first aid programmes, while the Fiji and Tuvalu Red Cross Societies initiated short term projects to prepare communities for H1N1 prevention, with technical support from the IFRC.

In light of existing and emerging vulnerabilities within the Pacific, and in collaboration with the ICRC, the IFRC has reviewed secondary data on vulnerability and capacity across the region as the basis for dialogue with national society leaders on the relevance and responsiveness of existing programmes. This dialogue also forms the basis for further developing IFRC's Humanitarian Diplomacy agenda in the Pacific. Following a review of the IFRC Pacific strategy in 2009, there is a commitment to focusing the majority of work at country level, tailoring support to the specific needs of each national society, supporting strategic leadership and good governance, facilitating harmonized Red Cross Movement support in contexts where multiple Red Cross partners cooperate,

¹ *The Pacific Islands and the World: The Global Economic Crisis*, Conference Outcomes Report (2009), Hayward-Jones

and promoting the “sustainable programming approach”² to ensure that investment in organisational development and capacity building is driven by needs in communities.

An extensive review of administration, human resources, logistics and security systems has also provided the ground work for strengthening the administrative efficiency of IFRC in 2010. An internal audit and training in financial management for the secretariat finance team and budget holders were important milestones in the commitment to ensuring effective management of financial resources in the Pacific region.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management Outcomes/Expected results

Disaster response

- Reduction of the impact of disasters on peoples lives - through adequate and timely emergency response (life-saving assistance: shelter, water, food and basic health care) measures.

Organizational preparedness

- National societies have increased ability to react rapidly to small to medium size disasters, requiring minimal external assistance.

Disaster risk reduction

- Vulnerability of communities to disasters in disaster-prone areas has reduced.
- Networks between disaster management, health and climate change, national society units and communities are established and functioning.



The Tuvalu Red Cross Society (in-information) staging an emergency simulation teaching volunteers to use radio equipment for relay during World Volunteers Day.
Photo credit: IFRC

Achievements

Disaster response

National societies in each country played a key role in responding to the needs to those made vulnerable by disasters in the Pacific region throughout 2009. The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRCS) estimates that it reached approximately 16,790 people during its response to the sea swells in early 2009 and a further 45,000 people during the triple epidemic response later in the year through door-to-door dissemination and health awareness in public places, information booths and the media. The IFRC supported these activities in response operations by mobilizing the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for each response operation to the value of CHF 190,000 (EUD 133,114 and USD 177,371) and CHF 359,058 (EUD 251,556 and USD 335,192) respectively. The IFRC was also able to support Samoa Red Cross Society by mobilizing a field assessment coordination team (FACT) to assist with the immediate response operation and in launching an emergency appeal for CHF 2,469,054 (EUD 1,729,820 or USD 2,304,940). The ongoing tsunami recovery operation targets 5,000 people. In Tonga the response to the ferry sinking reached 58 people and the operation on the tsunami recovery reached 330 people. In Vanuatu, relief reached 359 men, women and children affected by the volcano eruption. In January 2010, the Solomon Islands provided immediate relief to 3000 people affected by a localised tsunami in the Western Provinces and a further 300 during floods in Guadalcanal.

Organizational preparedness

The annual disaster management forum covered sessions on contingency planning, shelter and recovery and contributed to furthering the learning of national societies in the region on these topics. In addition, disaster management staff from Fiji Red Cross Society and Solomon Islands Red Cross Society attended an emergency response team (ERT) training event, conducted at IFRC’s Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur. In addition, this also includes a peer exchange between the French Red Cross and the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society to facilitate logistics training. Disaster management and logistics officers from the Fiji Red Cross Society and the Vanuatu Red Cross Society also attended a training workshop conducted by the logistics training workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. These efforts contributed to national society preparedness in the region.

² Sustainable Programming Approach: an Organisational Development model developed by ten Asia Pacific National Societies in 2008

The new regional disaster management coordinator was able to make some headway during this period in gaining the provisional agreement of secretaries general in the region on the development of a new Pacific disaster management regional cooperation framework. The cooperation framework will provide formal recognition of the technical expertise and resources of national societies in the region for disaster response and preparedness. In addition, it will also provide them with a clearer vision from which they are able to offer technical expertise in various areas of disaster management. Once implemented, the framework will contribute to organizational preparedness.



Children of Yavulo village near the town of Sigatoka, Fiji displaying Red Cross IEC material. (Photo Credit: IFRC)

The IFRC facilitated container restocking in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands during this period contributing to the organizational preparedness of these two national societies.

Disaster risk reduction

The disaster risk reduction officer, with further support from the disaster management unit in Kuala Lumpur, was able to provide support to Tonga and the Cook Islands Red Cross Societies on the development of their proposals for the Global Alliance on Disaster Risk Reduction (GADRR) during this period. Further support was also provided to both of these national societies on the development of proposals for bilateral donors incorporating activities already identified in the context of GADRR.

The annual regional disaster management forum included sessions on climate change basics, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and the linkages between DRR and adaptation to climate change. Further work in this area included a sub-regional workshop in the use of participatory approaches in community-based work in health and disaster management. This workshop drew in practitioners from across the region to look at best practices in community participation tools and will result in a publication that aims to demonstrate the value of using participatory tools to look at community vulnerability in a holistic way by incorporating consideration for health, climate and disaster risks.

Disaster management officers and volunteers from the Cook Islands and Solomon Islands Red Cross received training in advocacy for climate change as well as intensive support on working with national government counterparts to release statements to the press on the urgency of addressing the humanitarian impacts of climate change in the lead up to the climate change negotiations in Copenhagen.

Constraints or challenges

One of the key challenges in this programme year was the turnover of key staff, in particular within the disaster management (DM) unit. In addition, the reduction of one international delegate position within the unit coupled with the ongoing challenge of providing support to so many national societies in many disaster response operations and capacity development initiatives limited the unit's capacity. The recruitment and retention of long term locally engaged staff to support future implementation will be crucial in 2010 to address capacity development for DM in this region.

The demands placed on national societies and IFRC to respond to an increasing array of hazards are high. The challenge over the next two years will be to ensure that capacity development initiatives provide results that are sustainable over the longer term. Training methodologies focusing on regional training have produced mixed results as demonstrated by some of the gaps emerging from response operations throughout the year. It will be important to ensure training priorities are driven by national societies and that more training is delivered at the national level to enable a greater reach through branches and to volunteers.

Limited financial resources and personnel within national societies also demand that work undertaken at the community level is undertaken in an integrated way. It is important that the DM programme work closely with the health and OD programmes in a coordinated way to offer more comprehensive cross programmatic support at the branch and headquarters level and to offer practical tools that can assist national societies in making this a reality.

The absence of a regional response capacity has limited the amount of intra-regional support that Pacific national societies were able to offer one another over the course of the year. The development of regional disaster response team (RDRT) operating procedures with the support of partners will require an ongoing commitment from, all relevant parties to maintain momentum. Selection and training of members and the support of the national societies who will contribute staff and utilize the mechanism will be key to this. The establishment of a functioning RDRT will be a priority in 2010.

Health and care

Outcomes/expected results

HIV

- National societies have contributed in preventing further HIV infection in the region
- National societies have expanded HIV care and support interventions
- National societies have contributed in reducing stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV
- National societies have contributed to blood safety in the region through recruitment of voluntary non remunerated blood donors (VNRBD)

Community-based health and first aid (CBHFA)

- Enhanced capacity of the target communities to manage common ailments, and injuries through improved quality of national societies' commercial and community-based health and first aid training and interventions
- Improved preparedness and response mechanisms in the national society and communities to better respond to public health in emergencies and epidemics (or pandemics) of infectious diseases, especially avian/pandemic influenza
- Enhanced national society profile and scaled up national society health promotion and prevention interventions in target communities

Capacity building

- Enhanced national society capacity to plan, deliver and monitor effective health interventions, raise resources and form partnerships with the ministry of health officials and other stakeholders

Achievements

HIV

The Kiribati, Cook Islands, Samoa and Federated States of Micronesia Red Cross Societies continued HIV programme implementation during 2009 as members of Pacific HIV Global Alliance and recipients of the Global Fund grant, through the IFRC and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). During the annual meeting of the Pacific Island Regional Multi Country Coordination Mechanism (PIRMCCM), IFRC received feedback from SPC that the Red Cross was one of the best performing organizations at Phase One of the programme in terms of programme activity and reporting.

The Tuvalu Red Cross Society (in-formation) was provided with financial and technical assistance to celebrate World AIDS Day 2009, with HIV prevention messages reaching around 3,000 youth during this event. The Kiribati Red Cross reached 5,000 youth and community members with information on HIV prevention through its peer-to-peer approach, drama performances and condom distribution. Around 3,500 women and men were part of the dissemination and information sessions on safe sex and condom use.

While the pace of programme implementation by the Samoa Red Cross Society slowed during response to the tsunami that struck Samoa at the end of September 2009, the national society has been able to maintain minimum programme activities. Peer-to-peer HIV education, dissemination of information through CBHFA and referrals for voluntary counselling and treatment services continued with over 12,000 beneficiaries. National society staff and volunteers referred around 825 individuals for voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) services and provide support to six people living with HIV.



Community-based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) Volunteer Training at the Kiribati Red Cross Society
Photo Credit: IFRC

Following a memorandum of understanding signed in 2008, the IFRC worked closely with the Pacific Islands AIDS Foundation (PIAF), including use of IFRC office space for PIAF members to produce a radio drama on HIV-related stigma and discrimination. This production was aired throughout the region including Fiji, the Cook Islands, Samoa, Kiribati and Papua New Guinea.

Community-based health and first aid (CBHFA)

The regional health unit provided information and resource materials to the all Pacific national societies on CBHFA, Epidemic Control, VNRBD and HIV peer education standards. Micronesia Red Cross Society reached out to around 5,000 people in 2009 through CBHFA, peer-to-peer education, condom distribution and voluntary blood donation campaigns.

During a cholera epidemic in Papua New Guinea, the regional health unit provided the national society with the IFRC's "epidemic control for volunteers" manual as a resource for improved preparedness. In response to the human influenza (H1N1) pandemic, the regional health delegate provided national societies with global updates, while the Fiji Red Cross Society and the Tuvalu Red Cross Society developed short-term projects for pandemic preparedness, including IEC materials for distribution among the target population. The Solomon Island Red Cross, with bilateral support from the Australia Red Cross, is implementing "Working Together for Healthy Communities" projects in the country. This year the national society organized World AIDS Day events with around 1,000 youth participants in activities focusing on HIV prevention.



Youth Peer Education Training workshop at Cook Islands Red Cross Society
Photo Credit: IFRC

The Cook Islands Red Cross Society organized a "Safe Games" campaign during the Pacific Mini Games in October promoting safe behaviour among both athletes and spectators. During this event, national society volunteers reached around 36,000 people, directly and through television and print. This included 13,000 people reached through voluntary blood donation motivation and promotion activity. The national society reached an average of 8,700 people each month in 2009 through condom distribution, information, education and communication using a CBHFA approach. Over 300 voluntary blood donors were recruited by the national society during the year.

Capacity building

The regional health unit organized a seven-day Pacific regional training workshop on project planning, monitoring and evaluation in Suva, Fiji in February 2009. Eight national societies, including the: Cook Islands Red Cross Society, Micronesia Red Cross Society, Fiji Red Cross Society, Kiribati Red Cross Society, Samoa Red Cross Society, Solomon Islands Red Cross Society, Tonga Red Cross Society and Vanuatu Red Cross Society, sent 16 participants to this training. The IFRC Asia Pacific zone office and the SPC jointly facilitated the workshop, contributing to more effective national society programme management, monitoring and reporting.

The IFRC supported the delivery of a three-day VNRBD training workshop in Samoa for 20 participants from the Samoa Red Cross Society and the ministry of health, with a focus on Club 25: a programme for young people who make a commitment to donate blood regularly and to maintain positive, healthy lifestyles. The workshop resulted in the development of a national plan on Club 25 for Samoa, which has strengthened the national society's ability to contribute to increased voluntary blood donor recruitment in the country. The regional health unit also supported Samoa Red Cross Society to attend IFRC's global meeting on VNRBD and Club 25 held in Nairobi, Kenya in June 2009. This further strengthens the capacity in running a successful Club 25 programme through shared learning with other participants.

During an outbreak of dengue in the Cook Islands in early 2009, the IFRC supported the national society to develop a plan of action for response. IFRC allocated the amount of CHF 50,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund to support the national society in their efforts. During the outbreak, the Cook Island Red Cross reached 8,000 people with prevention messages and kits.



Human Influenza Preparedness Training session at the Fiji Red Cross Society. Photo credit: IFRC

Constraints or challenges

There were two health delegates for the Pacific in 2009, with a significant gap between the first departing in June and his replacement arriving in September. For the period April to June, the health delegate was also the acting head of country office and acting organizational development delegate, preventing his full attention on health programmes. Compounding these human resource issues, the then health delegate was required to participate in the field assessment and coordination team responding to the Samoa Tsunami soon after arriving. All of these factors contributed to reduced implementation and underspending in the health programme over the year. Reporting from national societies was often limited and affected by long delays, which also presented significant challenges to programme progress.

Limited resources, both financial and human, for CBHFA programmes have negatively influenced the IFRC's ability to provide adequate support to this approach during 2009. In collaboration with the Australian, Japanese and New Zealand Red Cross Societies, and through a peer-to-peer support model, the IFRC is aiming to scale up its support for CBHFA in 2010.

Organizational development

Outcomes/expected results

Development and capacity building

- Organizational issues have been addressed in individual national societies through tailor-made organizational development and capacity building initiatives.

Programme integration

- Increased integration of organizational development and capacity building aspects within health and disaster management programmes.

Peer support

- Sharing of lessons learned, best practices, and skilled national society practitioners providing peer national society support in organizational development and capacity building across all Movement components in Asia Pacific.

Achievements

Development and capacity building

IFRC has provided targeted and specific organizational development support to the Red Cross Societies of Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu in 2009.

Early in the response to the earthquake and tsunami in Samoa, the Samoa Red Cross Society and IFRC identified the need to mobilize an organizational development advisor to support the said national society. The organization development advisor worked with the national society for eight weeks to scope out the capacities needed in order to leave a stronger and more effective organization after completion of the recovery programme. A capacity building plan was developed along with recommendations for organizational structure, administration, policies and rules. A participatory workshop was organized to review lessons learnt in the response, with a number of Pacific national societies being invited to create peer-to-peer learning opportunities.

The Tuvalu Red Cross Society (in-formation) received joint ICRC and IFRC support for finalization of its constitution and preparation for its General Assembly, scheduled for May 2010 in conjunction with branch training and strategy consultations. On International Volunteers Day in December, a volunteer induction programme was organized by the national society, with support from IFRC, to raise awareness about the Movement, its purpose and fundamental principles and to encourage continued commitment to the work of the National Society.



A disaster preparedness training workshop participant displaying Red Cross principles in Ba, Fiji. (Photo credit: IFRC)

IFRC provided support to the “Transformation Process” of New Zealand Red Cross. This process aims to strengthen the local level branch network including geographical coverage, an active volunteer base and member capacity, enabling the New Zealand Red Cross to meet the needs of vulnerable populations. Further support will be provided to the New Zealand Red Cross in 2010 in the area of strategic planning.

Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society initiated an exciting programme of revitalization at branch and national levels. The IFRC supported these preparations for harmonized planning with Movement partners which is planned for 2010. The national society received support to attend the IFRC General Assembly in Nairobi and the Pacific preparation meeting for the General Assembly in Auckland, as well as support for completion of its 2005 to 2008 audits.

Kiribati Red Cross received technical support from IFRC to develop an intensified capacity building (ICB) project, which has now been approved.

The Solomon Islands, Tonga and Samoa Red Cross Societies received support for the development of a two-year plan focused on improving volunteering development. The Tonga and Solomon Islands plans, when completed in early 2010, will be resourced by IFRC’s strategic organizational support (SOS) fund. In Samoa, activities have been integrated into the tsunami recovery plan. IFRC also supported the Fiji Red Cross Society’s review of volunteer policies and practices, undertaken as part of a wider strategic planning process and aimed at increasing volunteer retention.

An IFRC initiative to map and document organizational development and capacity building needs and supports across the Pacific was presented to the Secretaries General of the Pacific national societies. This exercise was a starting point for a more coordinated and programmatic approach to capacity building initiatives, which is supplemented by the cooperation of ICRC and other partners.

Strategy 2020

The leaders of the Pacific came together in Suva in August to discuss the fifth draft IFRC’s *Strategy 2020*. Participants welcomed the opportunity to provide input for the new strategy. They advocated for a greater focus on youth and volunteering; and stressed the importance of addressing gender and human rights. In particular, they welcomed the emphasis on national society auxiliary status and humanitarian diplomacy.

Peer support

The Pacific organizational development working group (PODWG) provided an excellent example in 2009 of a national society led development initiative. The working group builds the capacity of national Societies through peer-to-peer support, including exchange of people, ideas, best practices and resources. IFRC supports the working group in the preparation of meetings and agendas, provision of technical materials, and follow-up on specific tasks arising from meetings. Peer support initiatives in 2009 included strategic planning support from the Cook Islands Red Cross Society to the Kiribati Red Cross Society and from Australian Red Cross to the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society. IFRC provides additional support by way of facilitating a coaching arrangement from Australian Red Cross and Cook Islands Red Cross Society for the new Secretary General of Kiribati Red Cross. Fiji Red Cross completed a strategic planning process for 2010-14 with technical and financial support from the International Federation.

Australian Red Cross, on behalf of the Pacific National Societies, contributed best practices to five Asia Pacific-based DVDs covering topics including community and branch development; volunteers and youth participatory planning; gender and diversity; and resource mobilization. The DVDs are available to all national societies.

Constraints or challenges

Interruptions to organizational development support were caused by a gap of six months between the departure of the organizational development delegate and the arrival the replacement organizational development delegate, as well as a gap of three months between heads of regional office.

International disaster response law (IDRL)

Outcomes/expected results

Technical assistance to governments

- Cooperating with national societies to provide technical assistance to governments on implementing Guidelines, through country-level technical assistance projects and the development of a detailed handbook and model legislation;

Training and capacity building

- Building the capacity of national societies, IFRC staff members and humanitarian partners to promote and use the Guidelines and related international instruments through the finalization of an advocacy manual, training workshops and other materials; and

Dissemination, advocacy and research

- Disseminating and promoting the Guidelines and related instruments with governments, humanitarian partners, and inter-governmental organizations as well as fostering new collaborative research on domestic legislative issues in disaster management designed to strengthen the Movement's approach to disaster risk reduction in applicable laws.

IDRL activities in the Pacific are carried out according to the global IDRL plan and budget (available [here](#)). A global two-year progress report on implementation of the [Guidelines](#), and latest reports and [appeals](#) are available online.

Achievements

Technical assistance to governments

The IDRL Delegate, together with interested national societies, began preliminary discussions with governments on IDRL technical assistance this year. In Vanuatu, terms of references for a modified technical assistance project have been adapted to the Vanuatu context and presented to national authorities. Implementation will start in 2010 and be done in partnership with Vanuatu Red Cross and in close collaboration with the national disaster management office, the state law office and other national stakeholders. In Kiribati, the national society and national disaster authorities have shown interest in a legal research project, pending higher level approval. In 2010 the programme will provide technical input into ongoing government Disaster Risk Management (DRM) review processes through the Pacific DRM Partnership Network.

Training and capacity building

In addition, ongoing briefing sessions for national societies and regional partners, the IDRL programme organized a two-day training workshop and a one-day consultation workshop for Pacific national red Cross societies in Suva from 17 until 19 August 2009. This was attended by 13 national societies and some international partners. The training aimed to develop a deeper understanding among the participants about legal issues and instruments applicable to international disaster relief operations. The third day was a consultative workshop for Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement members only. The aim of the consultation workshop was to build the capacity of national societies from the region by bringing them together to share perspectives, experiences and strategies on legislative advocacy with governments and other stakeholders on disaster management. Various other capacity building activities were also undertaken in the Pacific region in partnership with different organizations. In Kiribati, the team provided facilitation of a forum on disaster risk management together with SOPAC, with specific focus on legal preparedness on 29 July 2009. In Australia, the team organized an IDRL workshop during the Australasian hazard management workshop, 5-7 August last year.

Dissemination, advocacy and research

This initial year of the IDRL Pacific programme focused on advocacy and dissemination of the IDRL guidelines. National level entry points for advocacy priorities were identified with national societies, as well as partnership with various regional organizations. In the case of UN OCHA, closer links were formed through collaboration and participation in various national and regional events, and work is underway to strengthen partnership with the Pacific Applied Geosciences Commission (SOPAC). The IDRL delegate has contributed to meetings and regional events with SOPAC and the UN OCHA lead PHT, including the PHT contingency planning workshop for Samoa and Vanuatu. The IDRL delegate also participated in the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team's assessment mission to Papua New Guinea, providing inputs on IDRL matters. Furthermore, the IDRL delegate gathered national disaster management laws and plans for the IDRL database (managed in Geneva), and initiated research for technical assistance projects in the Pacific.

Constraints or challenges

The introduction of a new concept and programme has been a challenge in a region where small national societies are already juggling multiple priorities. A particular challenge has been addressing barriers to the initiation of the model country-level technical review projects. Notwithstanding, high levels of interest among national societies and governments, the process of obtaining formal agreements to these projects has not been forthcoming. This is largely due to the fact that the projects involve not only an investment of time and attention of a number of stakeholders, but also the political commitment needed to set the basis for support of any new legislation that might emerge. In an effort to address this challenge, the IDRL programme has developed a slightly modified approach to the technical assistance model, involving prior preliminary research and consultation in-country.

Most national society representatives also continue to report some trepidation in raising IDRL with their governments because of a perceived lack of technical expertise. The regional training workshop was designed to allay some of these concerns, and has had some impact. National level dissemination for disaster risk management actors is planned with interested national societies.

Another change in focus has been enhanced collaboration with regional and international organizations, in particular through including awareness raising and technical input into their programming activities.

Working in partnership

IFRC is a valued partner within the Movement and with external partners in the Pacific. As an active member of the PHT and the Pacific DRM Partnership Network, the IFRC participated in regular coordination and thematic meetings, national level contingency planning work, and a regional meeting on Information Management for disaster response. The IFRC also sits on the Pacific Emergency Management Training and Advisory Group, through which it coordinates with partners on the delivery of Disaster Management (DM) training in the region; and has been instrumental in expanding the membership of this group to include more stakeholders. In addition, the IFRC worked closely with UN OCHA and UNISDR in the Pacific to release a joint statement outlining the humanitarian impact of climate change in the lead up to Copenhagen.

IFRC also made some head way in gaining the approval and support of DM managers and Secretaries General in the region on the formation of a DM cooperation framework, which will seek to formally recognize the technical expertise of National Societies in the region. National societies will take the lead in areas such as disaster management planning, logistics, psychosocial support, water and sanitation, and IT and telecommunications, and will be able to draw on the technical expertise and resources of other national societies within the region through peer exchanges and mechanisms to develop their own capacity in DM.

During the response to the tsunami in Samoa and cyclone Mick in Fiji, IFRC worked closely with the health; and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) clusters. The regional office is actively represented in SOPAC WASH meetings. IFRC also maintains a close working partnership with the PIAF, including a memorandum defining future areas for cooperation signed with PIAF in August; and participation in the PIAF forum held in October.

In 2009, IFRC further defined its role in facilitating cooperation between the Red Cross components in the Pacific to include: coordinating regional and country based harmonized planning; ensuring through integrated planning that national society capacity building opportunities in DM and health-related programmes are maximized; promoting and supporting regional networks, including the DM officers network, DM forum and DM advisory group, health network and the Pacific organizational development working group; promoting and supporting peer to peer exchanges; facilitating partnerships and joint work with other regional organizations (SOPAC, South Pacific Forum, UN agencies, WHO, SPC, PIAF); maintaining a monthly roster of all travel plans

of Movement members in the region, promoting the sharing of information through a monthly email open to input from all Red Cross actors (The Pacific Monthly); and updating the FedNet Pacific website.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The PHT has introduced a regional cluster approach to disaster response. This approach encourages improved cooperation and coordination for humanitarian actors combining government, non-government and UN agencies across thematic boundaries. The IFRC, as a core member of the PHT, will ensure that future engagement and development is within the capacity of the region and national societies and that Movement neutrality and independence is maintained. The development of a Pacific regional emergency shelter strategy in the coming year in particular will articulate the role of national societies in preparedness in the region and will provide further future opportunities for advocacy and promotion of Red Cross humanitarian values and principles across a wide audience.

A lessons learned workshop based on the response operation for the Samoa earthquake and tsunami also looked at lessons learned in a wider Pacific context. The analysis arising out of the workshop will inform many capacity development opportunities to be taken up in coming years to increase the responsiveness of Red Cross in the region. The learning framework from this workshop also provides a consistent and cohesive learning tool available for use by all partners. The most effective way to solve regulatory issues in international assistance is to prepare systems – including legislation – prior to a disaster, which will continue with dissemination, advocacy and technical inputs on International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles.

The health and care programme has also aimed to contribute to the overall capacity of national societies in programme implementation, reporting and monitoring. The Samoa Red Cross Society, for example, has integrated HIV awareness and advocacy activities within its tsunami operation. CBHFA and voluntary blood donor motivation activities are integral components of HIV programmes in four national societies, namely Cook Island, Kiribati, Micronesia and Samoa. The Fiji Red Cross Society has adopted the IFRC's Global Alliance on HIV framework to build stronger partnerships with national blood services, civil society organizations and HIV-positive people organizations. The health and care programme also encourages national societies to address issues such as gender based violence, empowerment of women and communities, and respect for diversity through anti-stigma and discrimination activities. The second phase of the Global Fund supported HIV programme over the next three years will bring further aspects of sustainability to national society programme implementation, monitoring and reporting capacity.

Volunteering, branch development, strategic and operational planning, governance and finance development are seen to be the key issues in the Pacific for more focused and ongoing technical and financial support. The strong need to establish a more solid human resource base and mechanisms for effective monitoring and evaluation within national societies, will also take priority within the work of the IFRC in 2010. The PODWG will maintain a central role in national society capacity building in the region through increased peer to peer support, mentoring, and resource sharing.

Looking ahead

Ongoing commitment from partners to support Federation-led disaster management activities in 2010 has largely been secured, which will allow for the continuation of existing and important DM programming. The next 12 months, will see the revitalization of the regional RDRT with new recruitment, training and standardized operating procedures. The integration of the EMCG and the regional DM forum will occur with improved outcomes for strategic DM planning. A joint regional DM and health workshop in 2010 will help members work towards improved integration of both disciplines.

The development of the regional cluster approach to disaster response will require an evaluation of shelter capacities and additional training for the region. An innovative lessons-learned workshop in Apia will provide a learning platform for the Samoa Red Cross Society and the Movement across the region.

The regional health unit will hold a regional strategy discussion early in 2010 with key partners and representatives from Pacific national societies. This dialogue will map existing health initiatives, successes and constraints, and define the main elements of IFRC's health strategy over the next three years in accordance with Strategy 2020. The second phase of the Global Fund supported HIV programme will commence in July 2010 for a period of three years and will support health initiatives in Samoa, Kiribati, Micronesia and the Cook Islands.

The Pacific IDRL Programme has adapted its originally ambitious work plan towards a more gradual implementation, including greater engagement with regional partners.

A major initiative in 2010 will be the piloting of the *Knowing Governance, Knowing Leadership* project, which will strengthen governance and leadership in the Pacific region through peer mentoring. Other important components of the OD programme will be ongoing support to the Tuvalu Red Cross Society (in-formation) towards its recognition by 2011, more active dialogue with national society leaders on the responsiveness of programmes to local vulnerability, support to strategic planning, resource mobilization, volunteer management and finance development.

IFRC's 2010-2011 work plan will focus on:

- promoting sustainable disaster management, health and social programming approaches at community and institutional levels;
- championing community-driven and gender sensitive programming;
- supporting national societies to listen to the voice of their volunteers and vulnerable people in the design of their disaster management, health and social services, programmes and policies;
- encouraging and exemplifying strategic leadership;
- supporting national societies to become more financially independent and to more effectively manage their cooperation relations within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and external partners;
- advocating to partners of Pacific national societies to provide longer term, more sustainable, and harmonized support to the Red Cross in the Pacific; and
- expanding the humanitarian diplomacy agenda in the Pacific.

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 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	
<p>For further information specifically related to this appeal, please contact:</p> <p>IFRC in Suva: Pacific regional office, phone: +679 3311855; fax: +679 331 1406</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aurélia Balpe, head of regional office for the Pacific; email: aurelia.balpe@ifrc.org • Mukesh Singh, regional programme coordinator for the Pacific; email: mukesh.singh@ifrc.org • Ruth Lane, regional disaster management coordinator; email: ruth.lane@ifrc.org • Muhammad Khalid, regional health delegate; email: muhammad.khalid@ifrc.org • Helga-Bara Bragadottir, regional IDRL delegate, email: helgabara.bragadottir@ifrc.org <p>IFRC in Kuala Lumpur: Asia Pacific zone office, phone: +603 9207 5700; fax +603 2161 0670</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jagan Chapagain, head of operations; email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org • Penny Elghady, resource mobilization and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting coordinator; email: penny.elghady@ifrc.org <p>For pledges of funding, please email: zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org</p>	

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA55001 - Pacific region

Annual Report 2009

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Appeal	MAA55001
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	860,856	608,342	234,546	0	297,760	2,001,504
B. Opening Balance	136,324	96,761	76,024	0	121,749	430,858
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
Australian Red Cross	177,500					177,500
Australian Red Cross (from Australian Government)	125,359				5,878	131,237
Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)	1,715					1,715
Capacity Building Fund			0			0
China Red Cross (from Chinese Government)			77,354		10,871	88,225
DFID - British Government		25,800				25,800
Finnish Red Cross					975	975
Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)					5,525	5,525
Global Fund (ATM) (from Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC))		534,266				534,266
ICRC					0	0
Japanese Red Cross	230,448	56,457	53,442		153,632	493,978
Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)	29,815					29,815
New York Office (from Israel Govt)	834					834
New Zealand Government					73,160	73,160
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)	77,862					77,862
Other	-95	-162				-257
Spanish Red Cross			157,928			157,928
C1. Cash contributions	643,437	616,361	288,724		250,041	1,798,563
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
Australian Red Cross (from Australian Government)	-138,323					-138,323
Global Fund (ATM) (from Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC))		133,473				133,473
Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)	29,757					29,757
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	-108,565	133,473				24,908
<u>Income reserved for future periods</u>						
DFID - British Government		-6,573				-6,573
Global Fund (ATM) (from Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC))		-334,637				-334,637
C3. Income reserved for future periods		-341,211				-341,211
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
Australian Red Cross	111,393					111,393
Finnish Red Cross					9,240	9,240
C5. Inkind Personnel	111,393				9,240	120,633
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	646,265	408,623	288,724	0	259,281	1,602,893
D. Total Funding = B + C	782,589	505,384	364,748	0	381,030	2,033,751
Appeal Coverage	91%	83%	156%	#DIV/0	128%	102%

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA55001 - Pacific region

Annual Report 2009

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Appeal	MAA55001
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	136,324	96,761	76,024	0	121,749	430,858
C. Income	646,265	408,623	288,724	0	259,281	1,602,893
E. Expenditure	-373,132	-401,142	-175,530		-144,476	-1,094,280
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	409,457	104,242	189,218	0	236,554	939,471

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA55001 - Pacific region

Annual Report 2009

Selected Parameters	
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Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Appeal	MAA55001
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)		860,856	608,342	234,546	0	297,760	2,001,504	
Supplies								
Construction - Housing		0					0	0
Construction Materials	68,612							68,612
Medical & First Aid			838			67	905	-905
Utensils & Tools	35,000							35,000
Other Supplies & Services		139					139	-139
Total Supplies	103,612	139	838			67	1,044	102,568
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	29,000	1,398				1,736	3,134	25,866
Others Machinery & Equipment	2,000							2,000
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	31,000	1,398				1,736	3,134	27,866
Transport & Storage								
Storage	10,000	2,113	95				2,208	7,792
Distribution & Monitoring	10,000	2,388					2,388	7,612
Transport & Vehicle Costs	6,330	565	997	188		758	2,507	3,823
Total Transport & Storage	26,330	5,066	1,092	188		758	7,104	19,226
Personnel								
International Staff	477,364	144,521	110,925	52,410		38,665	346,522	130,842
Regionally Deployed Staff		823					823	-823
National Staff	43,182	72	4,078			2,221	6,370	36,812
National Society Staff	6,000	-4,356	25,461	2,910			24,015	-18,015
Consultants	26,500	2,475	2,475	3,189			8,139	18,361
Total Personnel	553,046	143,535	142,939	58,509		40,886	385,870	167,177
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	580,445	45,605	149,462	11,990		-5,196	201,862	378,583
Total Workshops & Training	580,445	45,605	149,462	11,990		-5,196	201,862	378,583
General Expenditure								
Travel	132,930	66,385	86,338	21,927		22,120	196,770	-63,840
Information & Public Relation	36,654	7,704	7,692			2,431	17,827	18,828
Office Costs	185,794	6,377	8,964	1,016		4,006	20,363	165,430
Communications	16,918	4,466	8,419	1,935		7,135	21,955	-5,037
Professional Fees	8,000	1,774	30			1,920	3,724	4,276
Financial Charges		252	491	101		298	1,142	-1,142
Other General Expenses	12,155	1,857	22	5		539	2,423	9,732
Total General Expenditure	392,450	88,814	111,957	24,986		38,448	264,204	128,246
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies	184,123							184,123
Total Contributions & Transfers	184,123							184,123
Programme Support								
Program Support	130,498	20,313	30,049	11,948		9,777	72,087	58,411
Total Programme Support	130,498	20,313	30,049	11,948		9,777	72,087	58,411
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		68,261	-35,195	67,910		57,999	158,975	-158,975
Total Operational Provisions		68,261	-35,195	67,910		57,999	158,975	-158,975
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	2,001,504	373,132	401,142	175,530		144,476	1,094,280	907,225
VARIANCE (C - D)		487,723	207,200	59,017		153,284	907,225	