

# OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## *EL SALVADOR: EARTHQUAKE*

29 July 2003

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 178 countries. For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

*Appeal No. 02/2001*

*Launched on 14 January 2001 for CHF 1,112,360 for 1 month. Revised on 24 January 2001 for CHF 5,422,147 for 154,000 beneficiaries for 14 months; budget revision to CHF 9,385,698 on 4 June and extension of the operation until 31.12.2002; further extension of the operation to 31.12.2003.*

*Beneficiaries: 154,000*

*Operations Update No. 21;*

*Period covered: 1 February 2003 - 30 April 2003*

*Last Update: 20 issued 30 January 2003*

*Next Update 22 expected August 2003*

### IN BRIEF

*Appeal coverage: 112.1%*

*Related Appeals: 01.47/2003 Pan American Disaster Response Unit; 01.50/2003 Central America*

*Outstanding needs: None*

*Summary: The time frame of the El Salvador earthquake operation has been extended until 31 December 2003 given the long term development goals of the programmes. Over the reporting period, the health and care programme saw the continued success of the Salvadorean Red Cross Society (SRC) puppet show which seeks to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS related stigma. In March, the play was presented in five schools in the*

*urban area of San Salvador where HIV/AIDS prevalence is high. The SRC continues to gain recognition for its role in the field of HIV/AIDS. A number of micro projects were developed in vulnerable communities where health posts have been set up, in order to strengthen capacities and to assist female-headed households affected by the coffee crisis. Progress was made with regard to the formation and training of community based disaster preparedness brigades and initial vulnerability and capacity assessments of 50 communities were completed. The SRC national relief plan is under revision and a final draft of an improved plan is under preparation.*

### **Operational Developments**

Given the long term development goals of the El Salvador earthquake operation, both in terms of the National Society and targeted communities, together with the balance of funding remaining at the end of December 2002, the earthquake operation has been extended until 31 December 2003. A number of projects continue to be implemented and a major focus of the programme relates to strengthening the capacities of the National Society, both at headquarters and branch level, with a view to ensuring long-term sustainability.

During the reporting period, the Federation continued to support the National Society in the drawing up of a Country Agreement Strategy (CAS) with the involvement of the Participating National Societies. Two drafts of the CAS have been reviewed.

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society presented its experiences in the fields of community health and voluntary non-remunerated blood donation during the XVII Inter American Conference held in Santiago de Chile in April.

During the period covered by the report, elections were held for mayors in the municipalities and for representatives of the National Congress. Elections proceeded normally and the majority of the mayors and National Congress representatives who were elected belong to the left wing FMLN party.

In the health sector, the ongoing crisis continues as a result of a medical union strike implemented as a protest against the privatization of the Salvadoran Institute of Social Security.

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society/Federation are successfully ensuring increased co-ordination with PNS and external partners, particularly in the field of health. An example of coordination between members of the Red Cross Movement is the development of the CAS, approval of which is expected shortly.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

#### **Objectives, activities and results**

##### **Health and Care**

The two main projects in health are to improve infrastructure for community well-being and to improve the health conditions in the target communities, whereby health includes physical, psychic and social well

being. A memorandum of understanding between the Salvadorean Red Cross Society, the Japanese Red Cross Society which provided funding for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of health infrastructure, and the Federation was signed in March 2002.

***Objective 1: To improve directly and indirectly the health care for approximately 115,000 people living in the rural areas of three departments: Sonsonate, La Libertad and Santa Ana, by constructing or rehabilitating a total of 14 health posts and one Red Cross branch clinic.***

This objective was met through the construction and rehabilitation of 14 health posts. During a symbolic inauguration, in the presence of the Vice President of the Japanese Red Cross Society, the 14 health posts and one nutritional clinic were officially opened. The Salvadorean Red Cross Society, in coordination with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and health committees, is responsible for verifying that the health posts are functioning well, in accordance with the agreement signed between the parties. Statistics to date show that over 3,338 people have received medical assistance through the curative and preventive health brigades which also undertake health promotion activities in the new health posts. In total, 57,825 people benefit directly from the health posts and almost an equal number of people benefit from these indirectly, resulting in some 115,769 beneficiaries in total.

Due to some very strong winds which occurred in February, the health centres in Cusamaluco, Loma Larga and El Centenario were reported to have been damaged. The head of the Federation delegation and the health assistant visited the centres and witnessed damage to the ceilings and roofs. The construction company was contacted and started immediate repairs under a one year guarantee of the construction work. At the end of April the Ministry of Health confirmed that all damage had been repaired.

***Objective 2: To improve the well being of the most vulnerable population of the country through the establishment and strengthening of the Salvadorean Red Cross Society community health office at national level in accordance with a five year plan and five year theoretical framework 2002 - 2006.***

The SRC, the American Red Cross and the Federation negotiated an agreement for the creation of a community health office (CHO) which became fully operational in April 2002. The two major objectives of this CHO are to define a national health strategy to be implemented by National Society branches and PNS and to create strategic alliances with the Ministry of Health, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and other major health players. The community health office continues its coordinating role as regards community health projects carried out by Participating National Societies.

***HIV/AIDS programme:*** 23 SRC volunteers from the youth department, under the supervision of the national HIV/AIDS coordinator, are carrying out the HIV/AIDS campaign in three departments: San Salvador, La Libertad and Sonsonate. To date, 3,500 young people in these departments have taken part in activities focusing on the prevention of HIV/AIDS financed by the Federation and the Italian Red Cross.

The Canadian Red Cross has confirmed its support to extend this project to the western part of the country through the two branches in Juayua and Nahuizalco in the department of Sonsonate. This is thought to be essential given that the incidence of HIV/AIDS, associated with urban areas, is now spreading in rural areas.

With the help of the Federation, the presentation of the puppet play “Although you are seropositive, you are still my friend” has continued. This method of education through entertainment seeks to contribute to the HIV/AIDS prevention project and sensitize the population view a view to reducing stigmatization. With the puppet play, the Salvadorean Red Cross has reached new groups of youngsters and children. In March, the play was seen by more than 120 orphans and abandoned children in the orphanage “The Garden of Love” in Zacatecoluca. Of these 120 children, 28 of the children under 9 years of age are seropositive, one of which is only one month old.

The Federation, together with the SRC, validated the play as a useful methodology to be used to prevent the spread of the HIV infection and reduce stigmatization and discrimination. The play was presented to representatives of the PNS, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, UNAIDS, UNICEF and UNDP in February with the aim of promoting constructive feedback.

In March, after coordination with the national network for the fight against AIDS, UNAIDS and the Ministry of Education, the play was presented in five schools in the urban area of San Salvador, where the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is high according to the Ministry of Health.

The work of the SRC, with the support of the Federation, in the field of HIV/AIDS has been recognized by other institutions. The Ministry of Health has requested the help of the National Society to produce and edit a brochure with the title ‘**Help to stop HIV/AIDS**’. A group of children and youngsters between 8 and 14 years of age from the community, including SRC volunteers, designed and validated the brochure through which awareness-raising on the prevention of HIV/AIDS will continue.

***Coordination and Monitoring of health Activities:*** The SRC community health office developed its work plan 2003, based on the community health strategy. Additionally, the office provided support in the integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI) at community level for social volunteers within the health project financed by the French Red Cross and the Golfo de Fonseca project supported through the Federation. Within the frame of the Golfo de Fonseca project, at the end of March a course was given in IMCI to 24 social volunteers from three branches: La Unión, Santa Rosa de Lima and Intipuca, all in the east of the country. The community health office also prepared a course in the IMCI strategy for the other health projects, implemented at a national level by the PNSs.



*The social volunteers participate in the IMCI course in order to replicate the course within their own communities.*

Advice has been given by the community health office to the Spanish Red Cross, achieving the inclusion of a nutritional promotion and education component in a project seeking to convey key messages in water and

sanitation, to avoid diarrhoeal diseases, to undertake vector control strategies and to carry out mother and child health initiatives. The project is to be carried out by SRC social volunteers in 2003 - 2004 under the supervision and technical monitoring of the SRC community health office.

To strengthen integrated community development, the community health office is giving a series of training sessions in community health including modules on health promotion, community organization and social participation, mother and child care, community health (which includes vector-transmitted diseases) and sexually transmitted diseases. Each one of these modules have been validated by the community, the MoH and the SRC. Coordination has been established with PAHO and UNICEF for the final validation and design of the modules. The module on health promotion has been finished and is being printed.

***XVII Inter American Conference:*** During the Conference, the SRC gave a presentation on experiences gained in the area of community health. The results achieved were shared together with the strategy used to approach this part of health care, which includes the recruitment of youth and voluntary blood donors in the communities.

***Objective 3: To improve the health conditions of more than 4,000 people (692 families) of the vulnerable population in two departments: Sonsonate and La Libertad through the development and implementation of community based primary health care.***

This objective is being met by two projects supported by Japanese Red Cross Society funding: post-earthquake community based primary health care and strengthening of Salvadorean Red Cross Society branches and communities in disaster preparedness (DP) and risk mitigation (please see objective 2 under disaster preparedness for the latter).

The project is targeting beneficiaries living in the same communities where community health posts were rehabilitated or constructed.

With the help of the Federation, the weekly action plan for the integrated health project was developed in the branch of Juayua after the branch had completed the formulation of its strategic plan at the end of January.

During this period four micro projects were developed:

- One of the micro projects is focused on improving the services provided by the health post of Cusamaluco.
- Another micro project helps the 385 families living in Cusamaluco to construct a water distribution network through the provision of tools.
- The last two micro projects intend to strengthen local economic capacities by providing technical training. Between January and March, a group of 20 women were trained in dressmaking and in April the course on the production of piñatas (a suspended doll full of sweets which blindfolded children try to break with a stick at parties) started. The participating women are mothers of malnourished children and heads of families. The aim is to increase the capacity of these women to generate income and thereby to reduce food insecurity which has resulted from the coffee crisis.



20 women participated in training in dressmaking.

SRC volunteers from the Juayua branch assisted the community health office in the production of material for a health promotion training module. In addition, technical assistance was provided by the volunteers for the participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) training held in the communities of Cusamaluco and Monterrey.

Within the integrated health project, the branch of Juayua is being assisted in organizational development through financing of the construction of a warehouse, rehabilitation of the garage and the office for the women volunteers. Work has been completed.

In coordination with the MoH, the volunteers of the branch in Juayua implemented the following community health activities.

Activity	Number of beneficiaries	Community
Malaria test	22 women	Monterrey
	36 women	Cusamaluco
Anti dengue campaign	121 families	Monterrey
	345 families	Cusamaluco
Education campaign: use and maintenance of latrines	98 families	Monterrey
	180 families	Cusamaluco
Education campaign: Child nutrition and growth monitoring	101 children	Monterrey
	79 children	Cusamaluco
Medical brigade	200 patients	Cusamaluco
Clean up campaign	125 families	Monterrey

***Objective 4: To improve the quality of life of vulnerable earthquake stricken communities through projects including provision of clean water, promotion of hygiene practices and sanitation.***

A workshop introducing the participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation methodology was held in the communities of Monterrey and Cusamaluco; 35 volunteers and community health promoters took part. In the same communities frequent campaigns to clean the latrines and ensure water chlorination are implemented.

## **Disaster Preparedness**

The two objectives under this area aim to reduce the vulnerability of the population when faced with adverse events that affect these communities by updating the Salvadorean Red Cross relief department plan and disseminating it at all levels, as well as strengthening the capacities of at least four branches in disaster response.

***Objective 1: To strengthen the capacity of the SRC relief department in the areas of disaster preparedness, disaster mitigation and disaster response.***

In February, steps were taken to recruit an external consultant to review the national relief plan, together with the relief plans of four departmental branches. In March, the consultant was hired. At the same time, mechanisms were identified to consolidate the relief committee and the multidisciplinary support group which assists in the development of the plan and gives follow up to its implementation. This team is analyzing the legal aspects of the national relief plan. Information is being collected in order to finalize the drafting of the revised plan. A comparative theoretical framework is being made; to date, the models of the Mexican and Ecuadorian Red Cross Societies have been reviewed and the Colombian Red Cross will also forward material.

***Objective 2: To reinforce the capacity of at least 5 branches: Morazán, San Miguel, La Libertad, Santa Ana and Sonsonate and 50 communities with a view to reducing vulnerability and exposure to hazards through community disaster preparedness projects.***

The aim is for communities to be in a position to identify risks and implement preventive and mitigation plans in order to reduce their effects. In addition, branches will be strengthened with human and material resources so as to implement the national relief response plan, thereby decentralizing the management of relief operations.

Ten communities (692 families) are targeted in the departments of Sonsonate and La Libertad and strengthening of three Red Cross branches in the area is envisaged with support from the Canadian Red Cross, the French Red Cross and the Federation.

The SRC has worked to set up community brigades based on a standard model; the French and Italian Red Cross Societies also took part in this process. The aim is to diminish and control the risk of hazards in communities, improving response to disaster situations through the planning and organization of activities at three levels: in the home, in the community and in school.

With the aim of identifying capacities and the level of vulnerability of communities, 30 volunteers were selected from the branches of San Vicente, Guazapa, Ahuchapan and Juayua to be trained in the use of evaluative and diagnostic tools. The American Red Cross provided support for the training sessions. During the workshop, the effectiveness of the tools was discussed.

In April the initial assessment of 50 communities was completed with the help of 35 Salvadorean Red Cross volunteers from the branches in Ahuhachapan, Ciudad Arce, Tamanique, San Salvador, Guazapa and San Vicente. The assessment was also carried out with the assistance of 300 community leaders and 450 randomly selected community members.

To date, 12 of the 26 trained facilitators have started to organize the training of brigades in 23 of the 40 selected communities located in the departments of San Vicente, Sonsonate and Ahuachapan. In order to increase community capacity to identify threats and the vulnerability of the community to disasters and increase their response capacity after a disaster, the training will include the three modules relating to community based disaster preparedness: “Better be Prepared”. Communities will be trained in community organization, temporary shelter, healthy homes and community first aid.

In May, a course will be held to train 30 trainers of community first aid among the volunteers of the branches in Ahuhachapan, Ciudad Arce, San Vicente, Guazapa and Tamanique. The aim of the community first aid training is to strengthen the community brigades to be in a position to provide initial response in case of a disaster. Each brigade will be equipped with a first aid kit and basic equipment such as a stretcher, splints, aprons, gloves, megaphone, radio and helmets.

The community brigade coordinator participated in the meeting in which the existing CBDP material (“Es mejor prevenir”) was revised. The meeting was held in Guatemala with participants from Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, together with the regional disaster preparedness delegate.

In collaboration with the organization World Vision, the disaster preparedness material for school brigades was revised and partially restructured.

In coordination with the National System for Territorial Studies, an inter institutional meeting will be organized in July with the participation of the SRC, CARE, World Vision, PAHO and USAID and other organizations working in the field of disaster preparedness.

## **Organizational Development**

***Objective 1: To promote the practice of planning within the Salvadorean Red Cross Society by reactivating the national development office, providing technical support and promoting the use of planning tools.***

Within the SRC, the national development plan (NDP) has been disseminated at both headquarters and branch level.

The NDP needs to be updated and the strategic elements separated from the development section. In order to do so, a workshop has been planned for May facilitated by the regional organizational development delegate.

In order to make the implementation of the NDP sustainable, the Federation is motivating the SRC to continue working on the details of the national fundraising plan and the revision of the organizational structure.

***Organizational structure study:*** Presentations were made by PricewaterhouseCoopers to the National Executive Board, PNS, the Federation and SRC staff. Depending on the decision of the Board, the next step of the study will be determined.

***Objective 2: To strengthen the capacity of 6 departmental branches and the 17 local branches covered by the branches of Morazán, San Miguel, La Libertad and Santa Ana, as well as to implement a pilot project focusing on organizational and community development.***

The promoters focus their work mainly on strengthening the areas of financial management and administration, volunteer recruitment, improvement of the quality of service and the promotion of the concept, within the executive boards, of the formation of three commissions in the areas of principles and values, health and relief and finance.

The branches involved in the project have formulated their annual operational plans and defined objectives and evaluation mechanisms in accordance with capacities and needs. However, the operational plans and budgets of the four departmental branches need revision.

The Presidents of the departmental branches, together with their technical teams, were trained in fund raising strategies, with financial and technical support of the Federation. As a result of the training the Presidents have organized themselves in order to develop an operational plan for resource development, recognizing the need for this tool to sustain their branches.

An integrated approach for the updating of the national development plan and the leadership development process was developed. Together with the Director General and staff a three month activity calendar for this process was designed.

Two field visits were conducted to make presentations to departmental branch leadership on community based planning.

**Ahuachapan:** A meeting was held with the desk officer for Central America of the Spanish Red Cross. During the meeting the departmental branch in Ahuachapan requested to be included in the branch development project. An answer is expected in the coming months. The Spanish Red Cross took the opportunity to request the support of the Federation for the inclusion of the organizational development component in the branch development project in Usulután.

At the same time, in order to maintain the clinic services, the Ahuachapa branch continues to visit local donors on a monthly basis. The branch trained 50 youngsters on how to measure weight and height in order to provide support to the future child growth monitoring activities in the clinic.

**Sonsonate :** The branch development project was presented to the branch board in Sonsonate. The project was presented to the board by a member of the national board, the organizational development coordinator of the SRC and the HoD of the Federation. The project will start in April in Sonsonate with the collaboration of the Federation and Canadian Red Cross.

**Santa Ana:** The branch finished its operational plan 2003. Lectures were given on the topic of humanitarian principles and values. In order to increase sustainability a portfolio of local donors was established.

**San Miguel:** The board of the branch was reformed, recruiting four new members. At the same time 14 social volunteers were recruited to help with the activities of the branch. In order to raise funds for the

branch, monthly donors were visited and an increased amount was raised by this activity. The branch developed an operational plan to set up first aid posts during the Easter holidays.

**Morazán:** In order to stimulate the development of the branch and the services towards the community, a water project was formulated which will benefit 40 families. In order to finance the branch activities, the branch is drawing up a list of donors within their community.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and Initiatives**

- Emphasis is placed on the fundamental principles and humanitarian values in the work carried out in the area of branch strengthening.
- Salvadorean Red Cross Society programmes and projects strive to take into account the particular needs of vulnerable groups.
- A major component of the community health programmes is the on-going HIV/AIDS project which is working in the prevention of HIV/AIDS and the reduction of HIV/AIDS related stigma. An innovative approach to raise awareness and reduce stigma was developed through the successful SRC puppet show.

### **National Society Capacity Building**

Strengthening of the Salvadorean Red Cross Society continues to take place at all levels, headquarters and branches, not only through the organizational development programme, but also through the Federation supported health, communications and disaster preparedness programmes. Each area continues to be strengthened, firstly at headquarters and thereafter in the branches, as initiatives are expanded.

Four project planning process (PPP) courses organized in El Salvador trained SRC local staff, members of the PNS and of National Societies in the region. Details of participation are as follows:

Furthermore, two local PPP facilitators were trained in the methodology: the Honduran Red Cross organizational development coordinator and the Golfo de Fonseca project coordinator in El Salvador.



National Societies in the region have started the implementation of PPP.

## **Federation Delegation**

The Federation delegation in El Salvador continues to be down-sized as SRC offices are strengthened to continue the ongoing plans and activities. The delegation now consists of a head of delegation, a health delegate, a health officer, an information and reporting officer, a finance officer and an administration officer. Support to the SRC is also provided through the regional delegation in Panama.

## **Advocacy/Public Information**

The contract of the SRC coordinator of public relations communications ended in the month of February. The Federation, through its information officer, therefore increased its support and coaching of this department. The department finalized its operational plan for the Federation-funded project to strengthen capacities in communication.

The SRC was assisted with the organization of the 118 anniversary of its foundation on 13t March. On this occasion the Federation video “where the streets have no name” was presented in three youth programme on different television channels as a way of promoting the humanitarian work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Red Cross youth volunteers presented the video to the media and communicated the importance of this day for the National Society.

Support was provided to the SRC communications department in the design of an action plan to disseminate the results of the XVII Inter American Conference as part of the communication network in the Americas. This commitment resulted from the 1st Inter American Forum of Communicators held in Cartagena.

*For further details please contact: Luis Luna, Federation Regional Officer, Phone : 41 22 730 42 74; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: luis.luna@ifrc.org*

*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation’s web site.*

*For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation web site at <http://www.ifrc.org>.*