

GLOBAL PROGRAMMES: HEALTH AND CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

28 August 2000

*appeal no. 01.73/2000;
situation report no. 1
period covered: January - June 2000*

The global programmes of the Emergency Appeal 2000 have been designed to promote strategies, develop programmes and provide tools that would benefit all members of the Federation and the people they seek to help.

The context

As the learning process and the development of skills are unending, the global programme on health concentrates on applying standards and improving the quality of methodologies and tools, while also ensuring the adequate investment in improved monitoring and reporting to donors.

Through advocacy on behalf of the vulnerable we can influence decision makers in governments or international organisations, while efforts to change attitudes and behaviour in society can have a significant effect on the situation of the vulnerable.

The programme strategy :

- to improve health and care in the community by exploring, compiling and promoting best practise in the areas of first aid, community involvement in health, and care to particularly vulnerable groups.
- to improve the Federation's capacity to respond to public health crises by developing surveillance, preparedness and rapid response mechanisms for dealing with epidemic outbreaks and water and sanitation problems, and to increase the Federation's capacity to provide stress management and psychological support to people affected by disasters.

Latest events

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Latest events

The merger of different working cultures of the two former Health departments in the Federation Secretariat has meant this was a period calling for swift adaptation and flexibility. It also involved a significant cut in the number of staff working on health issues, with corresponding impact on what could be realistically achieved. The next six months will call for further adaptation as the Blood Department merges with the Health Department and the Secretariat moves to a new working structure (matrix organisation).

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

With a new Health Department recently established in Geneva, this global programme has created space and mechanisms to build a health vision, strategy and priorities that are shared by Geneva, the field and the National Societies. A retreat was held with Health Department staff and some Regional Health Delegates to build on this vision, prioritise objectives and discuss roles and responsibilities.

Improvement of health and care in the community •

In order to improve health and care in the community this global programme has worked towards developing a first aid global project to further universalise knowledge and use of first aid, as well as to assert RC/RC leadership in first aid and build new partnerships with other players and corporations. The business plan is nearly finalised, with some development still required on the financial side. The project uses the internet to its maximum capacity, with a data base/knowledge connecting and serving individuals, communities, National Societies, partners and other stakeholders.

The programme also lobbied/worked with the European Union in the revision of directives on driving licences and for the inclusion of mandatory first aid knowledge and skills in their delivery. The final text has been approved and will enter into force in 2002. Similar objective and work with UN ECOSOC. A new chapter in the UN resolutions on road traffic has been drafted in relation to "assistance to road victims". It is expected to be adopted in October 2000.

Management of health programmes with community involvement •

Two areas have been the main focus of the global programme during this period: HIV/AIDS and polio eradication. The Federation has built on NS experience, developed a manual and advocated actively at international level in ways that will contribute to greater impact of RC/RC community health programmes. More specifically:

HIV/AIDS •

The Federation has been working with the Thai Red Cross, the host of the "5th International Conference on Home and Community Care for Persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families"; for the first time ever this Conference, co-sponsored by UN agencies and the Federation will take place outside the western hemisphere. A youth peer education training manual on HIV/AIDS (English version) has been printed and distributed and the French and Spanish translations have been completed. Preparations were finalised for the participation of over 60 RC/RC representatives in the 13th AIDS International Conference in Durban. This conference marks a turning point in the RC/RC response to HIV/AIDS. Through a consultative process that included PNS, regional delegations and regional departments, a business case that captures the Federation's involvement in the fight against HIV/AIDS, in particular in Africa, has been developed. The Federation has become an active global collaborator in the development of mechanisms for addressing HIV/AIDS in complex emergencies.

Polio eradication •

With the objective of accelerating progress towards polio eradication, especially in "priority" countries, the World Health Organisation has recently invited the RC/RC Movement to join the polio eradication partnership. The remaining polio endemic countries are, in many ways, the most challenging. Many of these countries have weak health infrastructures and present formidable obstacles to polio eradication including extreme poverty, civil unrest and population migration.

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National RC/RC Societies, with their vast countrywide network of community volunteers, are in a unique position to help confront these challenges and provide a polio vaccine for all children under five years of age during the National Immunisation Days. Moreover, the RC/RC Movement can help to assure polio vaccination for children living in areas where the United Nations or even national governments have limited access.

Promotion of voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation •

The International Federation was the main partner of WHO in the "Safe Blood Starts With Me" global campaign. One issue of *Transfusion International* was published and distributed and an experts working group on voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation has been established to develop a model and tools for promotion of blood donation, recruitment and retention. The material is being developed in a distance learning format with the assistance of the Open Learning Institute.

Psychological support •

To improve the Federation's capacity to respond to public health crises this programme aims to: develop RC/RC knowledge and training tools regarding stress management and psychological support. A volunteer psychologist has been recruited recently to work on this issue. Emphasis was also placed on building operational links with the Reference Centre for Psychological Support in Copenhagen. Support to psychological support programmes also needs to be strengthened to fully implement the planned activities.

Epidemic outbreaks, environment, water and sanitation •

The objective is to develop international preparedness and fast response mechanisms for dealing with epidemic outbreaks and relief health. The progress has been made in getting the Field Assessment and Co-ordination Team (FACT) concept into an operational stage. A PNS meeting was held in Copenhagen where the basic design and operational modalities were discussed and agreed upon, followed by a recent FACT training workshop. The first ever Relief Health training workshop was held in Guatemala, attended by nearly 50 professionals. At the same time, a workshop was held in Harare, looking into establishing a Regional Disaster Response Team.

With UNFPA, Reproductive Health (RH) kits used in Afghanistan and Tanzania were evaluated and the contents have now been revised, accordingly. The Federation/UNFPA/UNHCR have created a curriculum for training of RH managers, especially those from National Societies. Three courses are planned and the first one will take place in East Africa in October.

In early July, the ICRC and the Federation organised the first ever joint health review, focusing on lessons learnt during the Balkan crisis operations. Approximately 40 professionals were invited, representing all three ONSs, the PNSs of the Stockholm group and facilitators from the Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO) and WHO. The aim was to capitalise on lessons learnt and find remedies to identify major common problems that could ensure a better joint performance in similar future operations.

Water and Sanitation •

A regional Wat-San Disaster Response Team (human resources and equipment) for Southern Africa Region has been established. The Federation has been actively networking with international NGOs/GOs in the wat-san sector. The standards and best practice (Wat-San part of SPHERE, PHAST - Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation) have been promoted.

Outstanding needs

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Outstanding needs

There is a need to fill the vacant position of a Senior Officer, Social Welfare to ensure continuity in this area. The psychological support programmes also need to be strengthened in order to fully implement the planned activities.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The International Federation was the main partner to promote safe blood globally. This partnership included the production of a joint publication, posters and stickers, as well as the co-ordination of joint activities all over the world where over 50 per cent of National Societies were involved in activities, from donor recognition to debates, exhibitions, blood drives, cricket tournaments, etc. A joint campaign with the WHO was undertaken on the World Health Day with the slogan "Safe Blood Starts With Me."

The Federation is also working towards a more formal partnership with WHO on Roll Back Malaria and Stop TB initiative.

The Federation has become a member of the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa; undertaken a mission to World Bank to discuss collaboration on HIV/AIDS and collaborated with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on reproductive health in refugee situations, planning three training courses for this year to increase NS capacity building to respond to displaced and refugee population movement.

The World Disasters Report (WDR) focused on public health in "silent disasters" with high mortality like pneumonia in children, malaria, TB, HIV/AIDS etc, killing about 160 times more people than disasters.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Director
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Alvaro Bermejo
Director
Health Department

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Health and care						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.73/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED			01/09/00	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3,045,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 47.7%
Balance carried forward from 1999				512,470		
BRITISH - GOVT				290,000	19.01.2000	DFID 2.5
DANISH - RC		600,000	DKK	126,360	21.07.00	
FINNISH - RC		99,231	EUR	156,041	31.05.00	GP - PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT
NORWEGIAN - RC		12,500	USD	20,594	31.05.00	AIDS CONFERENCE
SPANISH - RC		4,737	USD	7,998	21.08.00	YOUTH
SWEDISH - RC		1,800,000	SEK	337,860	21.07.00	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,451,323	CHF	47.7%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
G33000,G33100,G33210,G33211,G33212,G33213,G33220,G33230,G33240,G33241,G33242,G33300,G33400,G33500						

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SWEDISH - RC		1,800,000	SEK	337,860	21.07.00	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,451,323	CHF	47.7%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
G33000,G33100,G33210,G33211,G33212,G33213,G33220,G33230,G33240,G33241,G33242,G33300,G33340,G33500						