

# PROGRAMME 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

## **HONDURAS**

5 July 2001

*This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.*

*Appeal No. 01.28/2001*

*Appeal Target: CHF 2,024,137*

*Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: January - June 2001*

### "At a Glance"

*Appeal coverage: 43.2%*

*Related Appeals: 01.26/2001 - Central America*

*Outstanding needs: CHF 1,150,245*

*Update: Considerable progress has been made during the reporting period particularly in the area of organizational development. Steps have also been taken with a view to restructuring the health department of the Honduran Red Cross to enable it to better meet the needs of vulnerable communities. Further funding, particularly for the humanitarian values and health programmes, is vital in order to allow the Honduran Red Cross, supported by the International Federation, to achieve the goals set out in the Appeal 2001-2002.*

### **Operational Developments:**

The major earthquake which hit El Salvador in mid-January 2001 also was felt in Honduras. However, no damage was incurred, neither was there any loss of life. The Honduran Red Cross (HRC) monitored the situation closely in order to activate its emergency network, should this be necessary. The Federation's delegation in Honduras assigned the disaster preparedness delegate to provide logistical support to the Salvadorean Red Cross and the Federation delegation over a two-month period. Participating national societies' staff based in Honduras were also assigned to disaster zones in El Salvador to reinforce the disaster response effort in the wake of the earthquake.

### **Disaster Response**

The HRC retains a commitment to the final stages of the hurricane *Mitch* relief and rehabilitation effort. The Honduran Red Cross aims to ensure provision of efficient and effective overall management of the activities for the communities hosted in shelters until they receive a permanent home (4,000 - 5,000 people).

More than two years after the occurrence of hurricane *Mitch*, shelters remain open and 810 families are accommodated in the shelters at present. The HRC is ensuring provision of food, primary health care and schooling for the children. It is envisaged that all families will be transferred to new houses by the end of 2001. The Honduran Red Cross is coordinating the work on shelter management with the World Food Programme, the electricity company (ENEE) and the national autonomous water and sewage system service (SANAA) together with other organizations. The draft of the macro-shelter management handbook is being tested and refined. The final version is expected to be completed by September 2001.

The Honduran Red Cross and bilateral participating national societies, as well as the Federation's delegation, were involved in housing construction projects since the hurricane *Mitch* emergency. These projects were designed to resettle affected communities on safe land, outside risk-prone areas. The housing construction projects are intended to significantly improve the quality of life of the beneficiaries by providing safe, appropriate houses with conditions which will enable beneficiaries to cope in the event of future disasters.

During the reporting period, the construction and rehabilitation of houses for vulnerable beneficiaries continued. This is coordinated with national service companies. Agreements have also been signed with the municipalities on land donation, which has been one of the major difficulties so far, delaying the start of the projects in some cases.

**Progress during the reporting period:**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Number of Houses Constructed</b>	<b>Percentage completed</b>	<b>Participation of participating national societies</b>
Olancho	96	75%	Amcross/Italian RC
El Paraiso	20	10%	Dutch Red Cross
Valle	49	10%	Swiss Red Cross
Choluteca	35	30%	Swiss Red Cross
Fro. Morazon	160	82%	Honduran Red Cross
Fro Morazan	464	55%	Spanish Red Cross
Fro Morazan	1500	5%	Spanish Red Cross
Comayagua	150	38%	Canadian Red Cross
Yoro	35	12%	Spanish Red Cross
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,509</b>		

### ***Disaster Preparedness***

**Objective 1:** To assist the HRC to increase the disaster prevention and response capacity in identified communities, through coordination and training.

#### ***Community education***

Last year, the HRC, with the support of the Federation and participating national societies, started a community education programme, which consists of projects at three levels: healthy homes, disaster preparedness and temporary shelter management. The projects aim to provide the most vulnerable communities with the necessary means to react in the event of an emergency, to identify existing threats and to work out family and community emergency plans. In total, 11,657 persons received training in healthy homes, disaster preparedness and shelter management. In total, 422 workshops were organized in 272 communities and 240 facilitators were trained.

**Objective 2:** To assist the HRC in strengthening its response capacity.

#### ***Contingency Plans***

The Federation is supporting the national society in the drawing up of contingency plans for the branches in the event of a disaster. Of the 48 branches, 41 have now drawn up such a plan, identified focal points and major risk zones, as well as defining the branch's emergency response capacity.

### ***Easter activities***

During Easter week, Red Cross branches organized 303 first aid posts at the sites of main beaches and tourist areas in the country. In total, 1,328 volunteers participated in this initiative. In addition, taking into account the frequency of car accidents over Easter, the HRC disaster administration office (OPADE) distributed 5,500 stickers during a road campaign. Radio messages were also broadcast, encouraging people to drive carefully.

**Objective 3:** To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the national society's disaster programmes by strengthening coordination, exchange of knowledge and inter-institutional analysis.

### ***Database***

A database was set up in order to serve as a tool to quantify the human and material resources of the Honduran Red Cross, both at headquarters and at branch level. This information is helpful in determining the national society's capacity in the event of disasters. Work on the database is expected to be completed during the third quarter.

**Objective 4:** To assist the HRC to improve its management of information in disasters and to conduct disaster preparedness public awareness campaigns.

### ***Family emergency plans***

The Honduran Red Cross finalized its campaign to develop family emergency plans which was supported both by the Federation and a number of participating national societies. The campaign aimed to encourage the population to draw up emergency plans in the event of floods or mud slides; 18,000 families were approached by a total of 170 trainers. 34 branches took part in the initiative and 1,810 information and education kits including brochures and stickers were distributed. The Honduran Red Cross, supported by the Federation and several participating national societies, contracted an external evaluator who is carrying out an evaluation of the campaign's impact. The evaluation will focus on the methodology and the impact on the change of behaviour of the families. The results of the evaluation will be issued in July, thus giving time for the revision of the tools and methodology in due time for the launching of the second campaign (August 2001).

### ***Training workshop***

In March, the regional information delegate organized a training workshop for students of journalism attending the national university in Honduras, focusing on the management of information during a disaster. The course was also used to establish an agreement with the university, according to which final year students will spend 800 hours carrying out practical journalism activities with the Honduran Red Cross.

## ***Humanitarian Values***

**Objective:** To reduce violence in the community through the formation of 16 educational brigades in the capital and in seven municipalities particularly affected by social violence.

Unfortunately, to date, no contributions were received for this programme.

In the context of the international year of the volunteer, the regional information delegate held a meeting with HRC volunteers to ensure that the volunteers were familiar with the aims of the international year of the volunteer and assisting integration into national and international volunteer organizations.

## ***Health and Care***

**Objective 1:** To strengthen the health and care department of the HRC.

The Federation is supporting the national society to strengthen the new health and care department. The proposal for restructuring the health department of the HRC was presented to the executive board which granted its approval. Furthermore, profiles of key health department staff, together with a draft budget were also reviewed and approved. The American and Canadian Red Cross Societies confirmed their decision to support the financing of the department through bilateral agreements.

As part of the process, the delegation is supporting the HRC in identifying suitable candidates for three positions: national health coordinator, administrative assistant and social and welfare assistant.

**Objective 2:** To support the national society in improving the coordination among the Red Cross partners in health related issues.

In the second half of the year, the delegation will evaluate the need to employ a health officer, to complement and support the new HRC department through coordination of all health projects and the activities of different partners.

A cooperation agreement has been signed between the Honduran Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross in the field of primary health care for a duration of three years.

### ***Institutional and Resource Development***

**Objective 1:** To assist the national society in strengthening its governance and management.

The HRC governance approved the setting up of a joint HRC/Federation commission to begin a comparative study of the statutes. To date, 38 articles of the statutes were revised, using a simple matrix tool.

The Federation supported the decision of the HRC to revise its organizational structure. This is facilitated by an external consultant, in close collaboration and with the participation of members of the governing board and staff of HRC. The first draft of the consultant's report was submitted to the governing board of HRC.

**Objective 2:** To assist the national society in the process of preparation, review and implementation of its development plan.

In accordance with the institutional development programme aimed at strengthening the capacities of the Honduran Red Cross, the Federation supported a national meeting with a view to drawing up a national development plan which was organized in February. Members of governance, representatives from ten of the 48 existing branches, first aid volunteers, women and youth members attended the meeting at which representatives from the Federation and the participating national societies were also present. As a result of this meeting, the general objectives of the plan, the vision/mission and strategy were decided, as well as monitoring and evaluation systems for the plan. The results of the meeting were presented to the governing board.

Following the meeting, a commission was entrusted with compilation of the final draft of the national development plan. The commission is made up of the president, the director general, the secretary of the national council of the HRC, a representative of the Netherlands Red Cross and the organizational development delegate of the Federation.

The first 11 strategic and operational plans are ready and include the following areas: administration, dissemination, information, youth, project work, disaster administration, the ambulance service, health and first aid, the blood bank and volunteers. A consolidated report including the strategic plans was presented by the delegation to the national council of the HRC.

During his visit to Honduras, the director of planning of the Spanish Red Cross helped to revise several of the strategic plans. The mission also involved the training of 11 branch presidents and the coordination team at

headquarters in management of human resources and volunteers, as well as in monitoring and evaluation of plans.

**Objective 3:** To promote human resource development and volunteering.

With financial support from the Federation, an organizational development coordinator was recruited by the Honduran Red Cross. Additionally, a national coordinator of volunteering was contracted to deal with the issues of volunteer recruitment and retention and new approaches to volunteering.

The Federation supported the HRC in the development of the action plan of two of the three voluntary bodies (first aid and youth).

**Objective 4:** To strengthen the financial system and fund raising of the HRC.

An internal auditor was contracted by the HRC with financial support from the Federation, to begin the process of improvement of quality control of the administrative and financial processes of the HRC. The national society developed a manual of procedures for purchases, as well as one for financial authority.

The HRC also employed a member of staff to take responsibility for the development of financial resources and concrete quantified objectives were set for fundraising.

The Federation supported a consultancy for the revision of the accounting and budgeting of the HRC. The results of the consultancy, expected by late September, will help to clearly define an overall financial management system of the national society, which is perceived as a top priority in view of the new challenges posed by the strategic plans.

**Objective 5:** To strengthen the public image and internal and external communication of the HRC.

Since December last year, the post of communication and information coordinator has been vacant. The Federation is providing support and guidance to the national society in identifying possible suitable candidates. In the meantime, the Federation information officer intensified support to the national society.

The Federation is also supporting the Honduran Red Cross in the creation and use of a web site. The page exists, although work is still in progress and is part of the regional Red Cross web site, [www.cruzroja.org](http://www.cruzroja.org). Furthermore, the regional information delegate assisted HRC staff with technical training in web page design.

**Objective 6:** As part of a pilot project, to contribute to the strengthening of four branches.

Four branches of the Honduran Red Cross (Marcála, Camasca, Santa Rosa de Copán and Copán Ruinas) are working on capacity building initiatives with funding support received by the Japanese Red Cross Society in 2000, through the Federation's delegation.

The branches involved in the project are in the south east of Honduras - one of the poorest areas of the country. Two national project coordinators, one for Copan department and one for Marcála and Intibuca, were nominated and will focus on needs assessment, strategic planning and small community projects. The Federation worked in consultation with the American Red Cross in order to ensure the best use of resources in the areas of Márcala and Camasca, aiming to ensure efficiency and maximum impact of the project. So far, Amcross representatives have been taking part in the planning sessions at branch level in order to ensure that future projects at community level are in line with priorities.

## ***Coordination and Management***

**Objective 1:** Establish and apply criteria for efficient (cost-benefit) and effective (objectives-results) use of resources made available through the Federation for the implementation of programmes, in line with the priorities of *Strategy 2010* and applying Federation procedures and guidelines.

The Regional Finance Unit (RFU) in Guatemala has begun operating and members of its staff took the opportunity to visit the Honduras delegation to review financial and administrative procedures.

**Objective 2:** Promote coordination between the Honduran Red Cross, the participating national societies, the ICRC and the Secretariat, as well as with external partners, in line with the rehabilitation and development plans of the HRC and the Federation's Country Assistance Strategy (CAS).

The Honduran Red Cross, together with the country delegation and the regional delegation in Guatemala, invited the national societies of the region to attend a regional meeting in Tegucigalpa between 20-23 September. The meeting will focus on regional processes to increase capacity to respond to disasters and will identify regional priorities to be included in a participative regional assistance strategy (RAS). Several mixed working groups have been working on the preparation of this meeting.

The head of delegation held regular meetings over the reporting period with the president of the Honduran Red Cross. Furthermore, monthly meetings were held by the head of delegation (HoD) with participating national societies' representatives and the president of the HRC. The president of the HRC and the HoD of the Honduras delegation participated in the regional meeting which focused on the reconstruction of El Salvador in April. Six participating national societies have a total of 30 delegates in Honduras. The presence of large delegations is a result of the finalization of the reconstruction projects (*Mitch* projects); it is foreseen that most of these projects will be completed by mid-2002.

### ***Outstanding needs***

Additional funding is required to support the humanitarian values and health and care programmes.

*For further details please contact: Olaug Bergseth, Phone : 41 22 730 45 35 Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: bergseth@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.*

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

Peter Rees-Gildea  
Head a.i.  
Relationship Management Department

Santiago Gil  
Head  
Americas Department

