

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

CARIBBEAN

28 May 2001

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.32/2001

Appeal Target CHF 4,447,824

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: 1 January - 31 March 2001

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 36.3%

Related Appeals: 29/00; Belize: Hurricane Keith

Outstanding needs: CHF 2,538,103

Overview: By implementing programmes within the Federation’s core sectors of Disaster Preparedness, Health and Care, Humanitarian Values, Institutional and Resource Development, Regional Cooperation, and Coordination and Management, Annual Appeal 01.32/2001 covering the Caribbean region was designed to provide support to and complement the overall priorities established by the national societies of: youth development; resource development, promotion of networking, and strategic alliances; and disaster preparedness. Despite the well-targeted nature of the programmes, funding remains limited for most of the planned activities.

Operational Developments:

The impact on the Caribbean region of the slowdown in the US economy remains unclear. Restricted tourism, rising energy costs, and a shrinking market for primary products are all potential outcomes which may develop during the coming months. Regional initiatives such as the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) which provides for the unrestricted movement of goods, services, labour, and capital within the community may mitigate these effects somewhat. It is expected that this will supplement existing arrangements relating to free trade in goods.

An unstable political environment persists in Haiti due to tension between the government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and an opposition coalition. Election-related violence occurred in Guyana, forcing the postponement of certain humanitarian programmes.

In March, Cuban Leader Fidel Castro and South African President Thabo Mbeki signed a number of bilateral agreements in Havana. Reports indicate the two leaders are discussing increased co-operation in a variety of fields, notably the economy, education and health. Cuba has also offered to provide cheap drugs to South Africa to help combat the HIV and AIDS epidemic.

Disaster Preparedness

Objective 1 To have all target national societies develop or update existing disaster plans.

In *St. Kitts and Nevis* work continued with the government and the NS to develop an agenda for implementing CBDP activities. Discussions were held with *Antigua and Barbuda* about updating the NS disaster plan, and carrying out an inventory of relief stocks. Plans were made to discuss disaster contingency planning at a meeting to be held in Trinidad in late May.

Objective 2 To have the most vulnerable 10 percent of the communities in target countries develop hazard maps and disaster plans.

Dominican Republic the Federation provided technical advice to the national society on the latest proposal to the European Union for an expanded CBDP programme involving one hundred communities in the east of the country. The delegation and the NS are also under time pressure to complete a DIPECHO-funded programme which terminates at the end of May 2001; sixteen community workshops and three micro-projects must be undertaken by that time.

St. Kitts and Nevis, work continued with the national society to finalise financial reporting on earlier programmes, and with the government to develop an agenda for implementing CBDP activities.

Guyana: tensions associated with the elections have caused CBDP programme activities to be postponed; nonetheless, the national society has been provided with a new assessment tool (as have the *Jamaica* and *Surinam* national societies).

The Regional BD/OD Delegate co-ordinated with the Regional DP Delegate regarding DP workshops planned to take place in *Bermuda* and in the *Turks and Caicos Islands* in the near future.

Objective 3 To reduce by 25 percent the damage to roofs caused by hurricanes and tropical storms in five communities in each target country.

No activity has occurred towards this objective to date due to funding constraints.

Objective 4 To create a regional response team of 20 persons who are capable of responding to disasters in any affected country and territory in the region, in co-ordination with the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU). Discussions were initiated between the Regional Delegation and PADRU, concerning support to the Caribbean region, with this task as a priority.

Objective 5 To establish an effective Red Cross radio-communications system in six countries.

Discussions continue with the *Dominican Republic Red Cross*, the *Haitian Red Cross*, and the *Montserrat* Branch of the British Red Cross on this issue. The *Grenada Red Cross* has received a donation of radio handsets from the US military to help it to prepare for the hurricane season.

Objective 6 To provide six National Societies with limited quantities of standardised basic emergency relief items in order to allow a quick and efficient release to the population most in need.

On the regional level, the Japanese Red Cross has informally committed to continuing support for the container-warehouse programme. *Grenada*, *St. Kitts and Nevis*, and the *Bahamas* will be the next three NS to benefit from this project

Humanitarian Values

Objective 1 To establish image building and dissemination plans at national and branch levels, prioritising the Cuban, Haitian and Dominican National Societies

Dominican Republic Red Cross: A national dissemination training workshop was held. A total of 35 volunteers from the national headquarters participated in a three day course which aimed to promote knowledge of the Red Cross Principles, *Strategy 2010*, and the Seville Agreement as well as to motivate the national societies information department to increase efforts to improve the Red Cross image within the country.

Cuban Red Cross: The communication department is identifying a pool of communicators at municipal level to build up national society communication networking.

Objective 2 To develop regular promotional campaigns highlighting the values and social role of the Red Cross.

Dominican Republic Red Cross: The NS developed a plan of action for the implementation of a "Stop the Ignorance" campaign about people living with HIV-AIDS, which will be launched the 8 of May (Red Cross

Day). Information material has been prepared and will be distributed to all National Societies branches and other institutional partners.

Cuban Red Cross: A poster contest was launched at national level in order to promote both Red Cross values and the NS's social role. A total of 37 designs were received and the winning poster will be used as the basic image of the 2001 CRC public campaign.

Health and Care

1. HIV/AIDS Youth Project

Objective 1 To promote youth HIV/STD peer education in the region using the adapted Jamaican Red Cross youth/AIDS model, mobilising and training 1,600 volunteers, and reaching 16,000 young people with age appropriate information.

Co-operation continued with the American Red Cross under the "Together We Can" campaign, which involves the publications by AmCross of a portfolio of Caribbean country proposals on HIV/AIDS, to be presented to its chapters for possible support.

Objective 2 To integrate five additional National Societies, and six British and Netherlands Red Cross branches into the Red Cross Caribbean AIDS Network (CARAN), building bridges and supporting co-operation between the Red Cross and the other main players within the region.

The HIV/AIDS operational strategy for the region has been revised and during the forthcoming CARAN meeting (27 April-2 May) will hopefully be completed and approved by all Caribbean national societies' and win support from donors. In addition to the Caribbean National Societies representatives, three BRCS Overseas branches will participate in this meeting and will be full members of the CARAN. Netherlands RC branches in the region will also participate.

Objective 3 To support the action of the Caribbean Red Cross in reducing the vulnerabilities of young people and supporting their personal development. Revitalise and build the sustainable capacity of the youth departments of nine National Societies and of three British Red Cross overseas branches.

The Regional Delegation has been working to assemble a group of youth volunteers from selected National Societies to work on regional youth policy issues. A *Guyana Red Cross* youth volunteer will be preparing a draft for elaboration and discussion first by Internet.

Planning is proceeding with the *Grenada Red Cross* to support youth development activities, in consultation with the Regional Delegation. Peace Corps volunteers in Grenada have expressed interest in collaborating with the NS on Youth and HIV/AIDS issues. The *St. Lucia Red Cross* has expressed strong interest in the Youth and HIV/AIDS programme, and a mission is planned by the regional delegate early in the second quarter of 2001. The Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) Regional Office in *Barbados* has seconded a volunteer to the Red Cross to work on plans for HIV/AIDS programmes. Technical support was given to the *Jamaica Red Cross* in the execution of a UNICEF-funded "Common Approach" workshop, with the objective of producing a manual on Youth Peer Education. Following fact-finding missions to *Montserrat* and the *British Virgin Islands* youth programme project proposals were elaborated for potential support by donors.

The Fifth Meeting of the UN/CARICOM Task force on HIV/AIDS was also held during this period in Trinidad. The organisation envisages the Red Cross taking a leading role in furthering Youth/HIV/AIDS issues in the region, and discussions are continuing.

Discussions have been held with the Canadian Red Cross, which is approaching CIDA for possible support for Caribbean Red Cross HIV/AIDS programming. The British Red Cross has also requested information on HIV/AIDS programming in the region

2. Social Development for Haitian Migrants

Objective 1 To improve the health status of Haitian migrants, with a special focus on children under five years old, women of child bearing age and other vulnerable migrant groups, in the Haitian and Dominican Republic border communities and in Cuba.

No substantive progress has been made on this to date.

3. Community health

Objective 1 To increase the capacity of the Regional Delegation and national societies, at the regional and country levels, to implement community-based first aid (CBFA) and other health activities for vulnerable Communities. As part of the regional focus on strengthening health activities, particularly at the community level, an experienced health delegate joined the regional delegation team in February. The delegate has been involved in advising the *Dominican Republic Red Cross* on health aspects of its disaster preparedness programme at the school level. A total of around 210 schools at national level will be integrated into the NS disaster preparedness approach in close collaboration with the UNICEF country office. UNICEF has also expressed interest in collaborating in the “Stop the Ignorance” campaign concerning people living with HIV/AIDS.

Institutional and Resource Development

Objective 1 To contribute to the maintenance of the integrity and proper functioning of the Caribbean National Societies based on their national development plans.

The Regional Delegation has been involved in an inventory of the resources, capacities, and programmes of all NS in the region through a questionnaire mechanism. As of the end of March, replies had been received from 11 out of 16 national societies. The material so produced will be analysed and incorporated in a draft Regional Assistance Strategy (RAS) to be debated at the Caribbean Red Cross Biennial Meeting (CRCBM) in Trinidad at the beginning of June 2001. In the preparation and organisation of this meeting, and of the RAS, the RD has remained in close touch with the Caribbean Co-ordination of the Red Cross (CCORC)

Objective 2 To strengthen the technical capacity of National Society and overseas branches’ staff, members and volunteers.

At the end of March, representatives of all the British Red Cross overseas branches in the Caribbean gathered in a one day Training Session at the BRCS headquarters in London. They concluded the process of drafting their development plans for 2001 – 2003, and annual plans and budgets for 2001. This will provide an overall picture of the needs and capacities of these branches, and will help in targeting assistance from the BRCS and the RD. Close contact was maintained with the *Cayman Islands Red Cross* to ensure continuous work on recommendations regarding governance and management issues.

Objective 3 To increase the sustainability of services and structures within the Caribbean National Societies. The *Grenada Red Cross* has developed a marketing strategy to sell four Health and Safety advertisements which were produced locally and aired on local TV stations during prime time. It is expected that the impact of these promotional materials will encourage viewers to call the Red Cross to sign up for First Aid courses. As part of the marketing strategy, this material has been offered to the 13 English-speaking NS in the Caribbean. This marketing and distribution exercise by the Grenada Red Cross is building its capacity and leadership in the Health and Safety programme in the region. Three national societies’ have so far purchased the materials.

The Coca Cola Foundation has sponsored an intern who will take the lessons learned from the Jamaican Hotel Safety Programme, and create new marketing material in order to develop a tool kit to distribute to NS and branches in the region under the Building and Occupation Safety Programme.

Objective 4 To increase the Cuban Red Cross’ (CRC) local operational capacity to meet the needs of the most vulnerable and improve its general performance.

The Regional Delegation remains in close contact with the CRC to further the elaboration of its National Development Plan (NDP). Support has been obtained from the Capacity Building Fund and a visit to the country by the Regional Institutional Development/Organisational Development (ID/OD) Delegate is planned for May 2001.

Objective 5 To strengthen the capacity of the Haiti Red Cross (HRC) in order to improve its performance to assist vulnerable people in Haiti.

Work continues on the finalisation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Federation, the HRC, and the Netherlands Red Cross (NLRC) concerning a Consortium designed to co-ordinate assistance to the NS. A Consortium strategy framework document has been finalised and agreed. The Canadian, American, Spanish, and Italian Red Cross Societies have expressed an interest in joining the Consortium.

The HRC held its first General Assembly since 1997 on 31 March 2001, marking an important step in the OD process. The meeting was attended by the Regional ID/OD Delegate from Santo Domingo, who took the opportunity to underline the Federation's support for the proposed Consortium aimed at fostering branch development. In addition, discussions were held in order to elaborate the National Development Plan (NDP), and to provide assistance for the holding of an external audit of the NS. The General Assembly decided that work on the NDP will start during the coming quarter and a plan of action to this end is being prepared by the Regional Delegation, for submission to the HRC board by 30 April 2001.

Regional Co-operation

Objective 1 To reinforce existing Red Cross regional and sub-regional operational and collaborative Networks.

In the lead-up to the Caribbean Red Cross Biennial Meeting (CRCBM), scheduled to take place in early June 2001, two preparatory meetings were held involving the Caribbean Coordination of the Red Cross (CCORC Management Committee as representatives from the Caribbean National Societies).

The Regional Delegation is working with the Netherlands Red Cross bilateral delegate into Santo Domingo to organise a meeting of the Red Cross Caribbean AIDS Network (CARAN) in the Dominican Republic in late April 2001.

Objective 2 To double the number of Caribbean branches of overseas National Societies integrated into existing regional Federation programmes.

Three BRCS Overseas branches - *Cayman Islands*, *British Virgin Islands* and *Montserrat* are now participants in the regional Youth/HIV and Aids programme and will be full members of CARAN. With *Turks and Caicos Islands* RC the start of implementation of the regional CBDP Programme was discussed and drafted into a project document; the first training is scheduled to take place in April 2001. *Montserrat* RC received advice and assistance from the Regional Delegation in obtaining new radio communication and transport facilities.

All Overseas branches in the region have been invited to attend the CRCBM, and participate fully in its deliberations.

Objective 3 To achieve closer working relationships between Federation programmes and the Caribbean Red Cross on one hand and important regional and national actors on the other hand.

The Regional Delegation replied to a questionnaire from the Secretariat designed to help map relationships with the main regional actors. Operational contacts continue with key organisations such as the regional office of UNAIDS, the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), and main donors such as ECHO and USAID. Towards the end of the quarter there were signs that the CARICOM-related Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) was interested in a more formalised working relationship with the Federation and the Red Cross in the region. This will be pursued further in the coming months.

Objective 4 To create a core group of skilled and experienced national society personnel to become delegates for regional and international Red Cross assignments.

In March 2001 a representative from the *Haitian Red Cross* attended a BTC in the UK, as a result of an offer by the BRCS - the fourth person from the region so trained since the start of the programme in early 2000. A delegate from the *Dominican Republic Red Cross*, trained through this programme, has been on mission in Belize since late last year.

Co-ordination and Management

1. Planning

Objective 1 To combine the Santo Domingo Regional Delegation's regional planning approach with more tangible country level planning.

Efforts continued to obtain answers from national societies in the region to the questionnaire on their capacities, programmes, and needs which was distributed in late 2000 as a first step in the participatory process of preparing a Regional Assistance Strategy (RAS) and - where relevant - Country Assistance Strategies (CAS) for 2002-2003. No NS submitted its response by the original deadline of 15 February, and by the end of March 5 out of the 16 NS were still outstanding. A modified version of the questionnaire has also been sent to key partners in the region including Participating National Societies (PNS) and the ICRC. A final deadline of 8 April was set for national society responses. Following this, the data will be analysed and used in the production of the draft RAS, for discussion at the next Caribbean Red Cross Biennial Meeting (CRCBM), scheduled to be held in Trinidad at the end of May 2001.

Objective 2 To continue to develop the logical framework approach as a practical and standardised planning tool for the regional programmes as well as for national society programmes.

While this continues to be an objective of the regional programme, pressure of other work has prevented systematic progress during the last quarter.

Objective 3 To introduce and gain acceptance in the Caribbean region for risk, vulnerabilities and capacities assessments as appropriate prioritisation tools.

Through American Red Cross delegates attached to the regional programme, *Jamaica*, *Suriname*, and *Guyana* have been familiarised with a new assessment tool during the last quarter.

2. Co-ordination

Objective 1 To develop further the integrated approach to capacity building by focusing on achieving the synergy among programmes necessary to improve the actions, organisation and social impact of the respective National Societies and of the Federation as a whole.

Through regular co-ordination meetings of regional delegates responsible for all sectors of the overall programme, the regional delegation strives to achieve an integrated approach to capacity building. These meetings take place twice a month for Santo Domingo-based delegates, and once every two months for all delegates in the region. Apart from this, specific operational interactions occur on a daily basis between delegates in closely related fields (for instance, Health and Disaster Preparedness). All sectoral reports are shared with all delegates to encourage multiple inputs.

Objective 2 To align the programmes of the Santo Domingo Regional Delegation more closely to the three strategic directions of *Strategy 2010*.

With the arrival of a Regional Health Delegate at the RD in March 2001 the delegation has expertise in each of the core areas of *Strategy 2010*. However, this foundation will be weakened in June 2001 with the departure of one Disaster Preparedness Delegate and the Regional Information Delegate, due to funding constraints.

Objective 3 To build on the existing team-spirit and teamwork to achieve full commitment to shared objectives, the integrated programme approach and *Strategy 2010*.

A new head of regional delegation (HoRD) arrived in late March 2001, and immediately began work to acquaint himself more closely with the challenges and potentials of the region and the Federation programme. He is committed to a team-work approach, a concentration on the most vulnerable in the region, a participatory approach to Federation planning, and a strict adherence to *Strategy 2010*.

3. Management

Objective 1 To ensure cost-efficiency and cost-effectiveness of Regional Delegation activities, services and programmes, particularly through the sharing of services with the Guatemala Regional Delegation.

The Regional Finance Unit (RFU) in Guatemala is now up and running and providing services to the Federation delegations in the Caribbean and Central America. During this period, the RFU has been working with the Regional Delegation to resolve some outstanding finance issues, including a deficit, and numerous and sizeable working advances. Some progress was made in developing a definite plan to deal with the working advance issue. Other financial issues dealt with during a visit of the Guatemala head of the RFU related to the closing of the February and March accounts and the submission of cash requests for March and April; the further training of regional delegation staff in Federation financial procedures; and the initiation of the Transport Management System (TMS) in the regional delegation. The regional delegation finance unit will be reinforced on a short-term basis to help it cope with its task.

Objective 2 To develop further the technical delegates' and society/branch counterparts' skills in fund-raising and in efficient and effective budget control of programme expenditures.

See reporting above under the sections dealing with Institutional and Resource Development. Specific work, as described there, was undertaken with the *Grenada Red Cross* on fund-raising, and with the *Haiti Red Cross* on financial management (through support for an audit).

Objective 3 To ensure full compliance of Regional Delegation's and societies'/branches' activities with Federation policies, guidelines and procedures.

All activities undertaken by the Regional Delegation are judged against the standard of Federation policies and guidelines, and any apparent anomaly is reported by the relevant delegate to the Head of Regional Delegation for appropriate action.

Objective 4 To improve the reporting systems of the Caribbean Red Cross.

The Regional Delegation continues to work closely with Caribbean national societies' in order to enhance their reporting capacities. A first priority in this connection is the completion of adequate reporting on previous operations (see above, objective 1 under this section).

Outstanding needs

The regional programme remains short of funding for most activities. One vital core area of *Strategy 2010*, the Promotion of Humanitarian Values, has not attracted support, and funding also needs to be identified for a more extensive disaster preparedness effort. In the health sector, which is crucial in a region with a major HIV/AIDS epidemic, it is hoped that the elaboration of a regional strategy will encourage major donor support and inputs. Overall, the Regional Delegation remains hampered in its operations by serious funding constraints.

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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>.

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Caribbean Regional Programmes						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.32/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			15.05.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3'985'408		TOTAL COVERAGE 36.3%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AMERICAN - RC		15'000	USD	25'698	23.04.01	CARIBBEAN RC BIENNIAL MEETING
AMERICAN - RC		10'000	USD	17'132	26.04.01	CARIBBEAN RC BIENNIAL MEETING
BRITISH - GOVT (DFID GRANT)				1'000'000	03.02.01	PARTNERSHIP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2001
BRITISH - RC				162'016	05.02.01	DELEGATE'S COSTS
BRITISH - RC		5'000	USD	8'140	08.03.01	DELEGATE'S COSTS
BRITISH - RC		6'000	USD	9'768	08.03.01	ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL OFFICE EXPENSES
BRITISH - RC		5'000	GBP	12'300	20.04.01	CARIBBEAN RC BIENNIAL MEETING
CANADIAN - RC		1'500	USD	2'570	23.04.01	CARIBBEAN RC BIENNIAL MEETING
JAPANESE - RC				10'000	11.05.2001	CARIBBEAN RC BIENNIAL MEETING
NETHERLANDS - RC		15'000	NLG	10'339	26.04.01	CARIBBEAN RC BIENNIAL MEETING
NORWEGIAN - RC		100'000	NOK	18'830	09.05.2001	CARIBBEAN RC BIENNIAL MEETING
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'276'793	CHF	32.0%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Netherlands	Delegate(s)			29'733		
Norway	Delegate(s)			29'733		
Great Britain	Delegate(s)			59'958		
USA	Delegate(s)			51'088		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				170'512	CHF	4.3%
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:						