

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

SOUTH ASIA REGION

20/08/2001

Appeal No. 01.33/2001

Appeal Target CHF 2,414,190

Programme Update No. 1 Period covered: 1 January 2001 to 30 June 2001;

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 75.2%

Related Appeals: Annual Appeal 2001 - 01.34/01 Afghanistan; 01.35/01 Bangladesh; 01.36/01 India; 01.37/01 Nepal; 01.38/01 Pakistan; 01.39/01 Sri Lanka

Outstanding needs: CHF 599,353

Summary: The Gujarat earthquake in January dominated the humanitarian focus of the region during the first six months of the year. Aside from this disaster, one of the striking trends has been the development of human resources in the region's various National Societies. Training has created a good pool of talent but more funding is required to continue progress in institutional development.

Operational Developments:

Due to the immense humanitarian impact of the January 26 earthquake that caused widespread destruction across the Indian state of Gujarat and in villages in Pakistan, the intended objectives of the Appeal 2001 were not fully achieved by South Asia Regional Delegation (SARD) during the first six months.

The scale of the disaster and subsequent Federation operation, demanded the full technical support of delegates and national staff based at the regional delegation in New Delhi which extended through the initial relief phase until the conception of the current rehabilitation programme in April.

The regional delegation became the de facto earthquake operations centre and the newly arrived head of regional delegation was seconded as Operations Manager/Head of Earthquake delegation from 26 January up to 25 May. In effect, SARD delegates and national staff based in New Delhi, spent about 700 'work days' managing and supporting the relief operation.

Despite the postponement of the regional partnership meeting, the high profile earthquake relief operation has helped raise the image of the national societies and the Federation in India and south Asia, which has contributed to improved funding for the regional delegation.

In addition to the earthquake, the regional delegation has faced other constraints linked to other ongoing relief and rehabilitation programmes in the region: namely the emergency relief operation following the cyclone in Sri Lanka in late December 2000; the conclusion of the Orissa cyclone rehabilitation programme; the 2000 floods relief programme in north west India; and the drought relief programmes in India and Pakistan. Chronic drought in parts of India, Pakistan and Afghanistan continues to prevail and may lead to National Societies (NS) in the region recommencing drought relief activities if the current monsoon fails to relieve the situation significantly.

Disaster Preparedness:

A Regional Disaster Preparedness Delegate (RDPD) was finally appointed from 1 January 2001. This has enabled the regional disaster preparedness program to gain momentum through the second quarter of the year. Unfortunately the lack of a regional Disaster Response delegate has meant that during the first quarter of 2001, the RDPD's time was spent almost entirely on response operations, firstly for the Sri Lanka cyclone and, more significantly, for the Gujarat earthquake from the end of January until April. This has resulted in slow progress during this reporting period. Achievements against Appeal objectives are as follows :

***Objective 1 :** To develop, through regional workshops, a shared understanding among National Societies in South Asia on developing common standards and guidelines, drafting and adopting a regional disaster preparedness policy and action plan, and learning from regional case studies and evaluations.*

The draft DP policy which was discussed during the Regional DP workshop in November 2000 and by the Secretaries General during their meeting in the same month, was to be referred for further editing during a regional DP meeting in 2001. This meeting, which will also address wider DP issues, has not yet been held but is planned for the latter part of 2001. In the meantime the basic principles of the Policy have been introduced into DP program plans developed for 2001 - 2002.

Two planning meetings have been held in Pakistan and one in Nepal to assist the NS to prepare detailed plans for a DFID-funded DP programme commencing in July 2001 and ending in June 2002. Similar plans have been drawn up in India for the Indian Red Cross and for the Regional Delegation's coordination role in these programmes. This has effectively been an exercise to review and expand the core areas of the DP component of the 2001 Appeal and the Regional and Country Assistance strategies.

Structured lesson-learned exercises have been carried out in Sri Lanka and Pakistan to examine the relief operations in the cyclone and drought operations respectively. These exercises were facilitated by the RDPD with the key players in the operation from the NS and the Federation. The results have been written up, with recommendations, and circulated to interested parties. They will be used in the development of future case studies and training material as well as in future programme designs. These exercises will continue to be carried out after each smaller scale operation where there is no formal evaluation built into the programme.

Work has commenced in Delhi, on the identification of potential suppliers of relief and other goods. Prices and specifications are being collected and compared and the information will form the basis for future development of a comprehensive logistics database for India and the region.

Objective 2 : *To review and assess the existing disaster preparedness training modules in current use by all National Societies and draft, develop and implement training modules for disaster preparedness for common disasters in the region.*

Some training material has been collected however little systematic progress has been made in this area. Regional training initiatives are planned for later in the year though most of the activities associated with this objective are realistically unlikely to be achieved until next year. Case studies projects have been built into the country DP plans for India, Nepal and Pakistan and these will be completed by June 2002.

The large-scale Gujarat earthquake operation in January was an excellent opportunity for Indian Red Cross staff and volunteers to learn in an operational environment. Unfortunately however, the earthquake struck before the mechanisms had been put into place to formalise this process and although much learning occurred, it happened in a largely unstructured and uncoordinated way. In future operations, efforts will be made to address this shortcoming.

Objective 3 : *To establish regional Rapid Assessment Teams, comprising personnel trained in multi-sectoral assessments, Sphere standards and other current assessment tools and techniques, drawn from all National Societies in the region, in order to improve the timely, appropriate, and professional quality of assessment and response.*

There has been little progress on this objective during this reporting period as the training workshop was originally scheduled for later in the year. It has been noted however that although there is apparent agreement in principle amongst South Asia NS that this is a priority, practical application of the concept has not been so readily accepted. It is therefore planned to discuss this in more detail at the next regional DP meeting to examine ways that this can be taken forward practically.

Objective 4 : *To develop a regional Disaster Preparedness (DP) Network, using newsletter communications and a twice yearly meeting for representatives from each Society to share achievements and learning; develop coordinated networking strategies with other agencies having a regional presence and strategy; link up with other country level DP networks and other regions' networks for shared learning; ensure that effective disaster preparedness and management policies and practices are placed more prominently on the agendas of all responsible institutions.*

One regional meeting was held in May to discuss the planning process for the DFID DP programme. This involved participants from Nepal, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. The opportunity was also used to exchange achievements and learning though this was not the principal aim of the meeting. A regional meeting for regional RC/RC DP practitioners will take place later in the year.

The regional DP network proposed at the DP meeting in November has not operated as anticipated and this will be rejuvenated during the first part of the third quarter. Plans are also underway to launch a quarterly newsletter to share experiences. NS DP departments, once in place, will be assisted to develop Internet-based communications systems to facilitate easier information exchange.

Linkages are being developed with other agencies with an interest in disaster management. One participant each from the Bangladesh Red Crescent and India Red Cross attended a training workshop on Sphere standards. This was held in Goa and organised by the Gujarat Disaster Management Institute with whom the RD and India RC are developing a working relationship.

Objective 5 : *To improve the regional approach to communications during disasters by defining a common set of policies and practices on information flow and communications logistics as part of disaster preparedness programmes.*

There have been no formal activities associated with this objective during this reporting period.

Health and Care

Objective 1: Provide technical and financial support for strategic health capacity strengthening

The development of standardised but adaptable tools for community health assessment; health project proposal writing; report writing; monitoring and evaluation of a health programme; will form the basis for discussion at the inaugural meeting of the regional Health Forum Meeting for National Society Health Managers, to be held in Sri Lanka in mid-July. The intention is not to reinvent health management tools but rather to utilize Federation initiatives such as African Red Cross Red Crescent Health Initiative (ARCHI 2010) and the experience within the Health Forum group to pull together some standardised tools which can support the management aspects of health programming.

A brief inventory of all National Society health activities will also be undertaken at the Health Forum, when each Health Manager will be required to give a brief presentation on their National Society's health activities, and a more detailed analysis of the health management capacity of their National Society, against a set of ten key standard questions.

The in-depth assessment of the health capacities, activities and vulnerabilities of the Pakistan Red Crescent has commenced. It is planned to undertake similar assessments for Nepal and Sri Lanka in the second half of the year.

The health assessment in India now requires a different approach, following the establishment of a country delegation to support the earthquake operation. It is still necessary to gain an in-depth analysis of the health activities and capacities within the Indian Red Cross before any major health programmes can be developed with the National Society. Funds were allocated in the regional Health budget for this work to be undertaken, but unfortunately the earthquake and necessary subsequent operation intervened and plans have therefore had to be greatly modified. The regional health delegate will work closely with the incoming country delegation health coordinator to develop a joint strategy for future health support to the National Society.

Three out of the four in-depth assessments are expected to be completed before the end of the year.

Objective 2: Provide technical and financial support through the Appeal for National Society health programmes, especially in the areas of health prevention/ promotion/ education and basic curative care; reproductive and child health (including HIV/AIDS); appropriate First Aid; and safe blood

The identification of priority needs within each National Society has so far been achieved for Sri Lanka and Pakistan. In Sri Lanka, the National Society is about to commence the pilot phase of a community health program, supported through the Federation by the Canadian Red Cross, who are also providing some technical support. In Pakistan, and with support from the Swedish Red Cross, the focus is on the Health Management and Promotion component. This includes the provision of a Health Officer (a new position in the Development and Cooperation Unit of the National Headquarters) and support for the Baluchistan Provincial Branch Health Officer to confirm the position within the Society, rather than linked to project funding. Support for community based first aid (CBFA) will also be a priority. Other key needs for Pakistan include support for the mobile health teams serving drought-affected communities in Baluchistan and the scaling-up of polio activities around the national immunization days, as part of the reproductive health services component of the Health and Care programme.

As indicated above, plans to address the priority health support needs for the Indian Red Cross are still to be developed. Nepal Red Cross Society has well-established health programmes and the regional health delegate will be visiting in the second half of the year.

It should be noted that Afghanistan and Bangladesh have country delegations with health delegates. They are invited to join all regional health activities and the regional health team remains available to provide additional support if required.

The process to identify possible providers of technical support from within the region is an ongoing process and is linked to the development of a database of health expertise and human resources, with a view to developing intra-regional technical support for health programmes rather than depending on the limited capacity of the regional health team or external technical assistance.

Provision of the identified and planned support is again ongoing, with the focus so far being mainly on Pakistan, which is to be expected as the regional health delegate is based there. But towards the end of the reporting period a working relationship was also being developed with Sri Lanka for the implementation of their pilot community health programme.

Funding support for health activities outlined in the Appeal 2001-2002 has been pledged and received for Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, although more is still needed for country programmes. The huge response to the Gujarat earthquake should help the wider development of health programmes in India, albeit indirectly.

Objective 3 : Develop a learning environment and facilitate the better utilisation of existing intra- and inter-Regional resources

The development of a simple database of human health resources available within the region is ongoing but will take some time to reach a sufficient number of persons who could, for example, be called upon in the event of emergencies. However, personnel with specific skills and expertise are being noted and the Regional Health Programme Officer is responsible for the development and maintenance of this database.

The first meeting of National Society health managers will be held in Sri Lanka in mid-July. This is a forum for National Headquarters-level Health Managers, Coordinators or Directors. The theme for the workshop will be "Making more of a difference in health", The main objective is to focus on health programme management issues and the additional tools or support, which is required for National Society health programmes to have more measurable impact. The second meeting will be held in early January 2002.

The first meeting of the Regional Safe Blood Working Group was held in May in Pakistan and was a success. A report from this meeting is available on request but the main focus was on recruiting and retaining voluntary non-remunerated blood donors and the whole issue of Red Cross/Red Crescent roles and responsibilities in ensuring quality blood programmes. All National Societies were represented and additional technical support was provided by the Senior Technical Adviser for Blood from the Secretariat and the Director of the South African Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service. The second meeting of this group will be held in October and Sri Lanka Red Cross have offered to be host.

The decision to provide two training workshops per annum will be decided according to needs identified by the National Society Health Managers at the forthcoming Health Forum. The two proposed exchange visits per annum will also be identified and agreed at the Health Forum. An analysis of the strengths and weakness and expertise available within the National Societies will be utilised to identify the training and exchange visits required this year.

The regional health delegate is keen to undertake one piece of research/study on the impact of CBFA, not in terms of another evaluation but rather what is actually achieved by such programmes and, more importantly, what more could be achieved using this approach. This project will be finalised and undertaken during the second half of the year.

All National Societies are being encouraged to improve and increase their contacts with other relevant organisations and partners in their own countries for improved coordination.

Additional Regional Health Activities

There are two additional regional projects which were not included in the Appeal 2001-2002. The first relates to the Federation's commitment to WHO and UNICEF to work with National Societies to scale up polio activities around the national immunisation days. Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh were identified as the priorities for this region. The country delegations in Afghanistan and Bangladesh will report on their work, but have made good progress in this regard. A consultant was recruited to undertake the assessment and planning work in Pakistan and India. But again because of demands on the Indian Red Cross after the earthquake, this work has not so far been undertaken. It is hoped that the National Society will appoint its own consultant to undertake this work later in the year. The consultant has therefore concentrated on Pakistan and an action plan for scaling-up is currently being drafted, to be operational for the next round of national immunisation days, starting in August.

The second issue relates to the establishment of a South Asia Regional HIV/AIDS Task Force (SART). Some National Societies in the region are still members of ART, but since South Asia became a separate region a couple of years ago there is a feeling that a separate group should be formed. This will be discussed at the Health Forum in order to assess the real level of commitment within the region. It would require a full-time project coordinator to establish the Task Force and additional funding.

The polio work and possible SART project are extra to the Appeal for 2001, but will be included in next year's appeal. The Secretariat will assist with some funds for scaling-up polio activities in Pakistan, but additional funds will certainly be required if a SART is to be established and maintained.

Institutional and Resource Development

Objective 1: To develop and implement common standards regarding measurable progress towards the "Characteristics of a Well-functioning NS", particularly beginning with a regional approach to reviewing all NS Constitutions and Legal Bases

The first Regional Constitution Review workshop for senior governance (Chairmen, Secretary Generals, and Legal Advisors to each NS Board) took place in June with facilitation shared between the Regional ID Delegate and ICRC Cooperation Delegates, and legal expertise from ICRC's Policy Advisor from Geneva. The outcome was a plan of action for each NS to institute a review and revision of both its Statutes, Legal Base, and Laws protecting the RC/RC Movement in country.

The methodology of the workshop included critical self-analysis by NS representatives of their existing Statutes and Laws against the models advocated by the Movement, and the chance to learn from each other examples of successful change management processes conducted across the Region while action planning.

Objective 2 : To build strategic management capacity in all NS by implementing a Regional approach to management development programmes

The Regional ID Delegate has made visits to all NS to support the follow up to implementation of the strategic plans developed in all NS in 2000. Measurable progress against the "Characteristics of a well-functioning NS" is the framework for discussions and review workshops held in each NS.

Several NSs report that progress has been made in specific areas such as: increased investment in human resource development and training; the setting of more measurable and consistent indicators in programmes; more programmes to raise locally generated funds which have in some cases reduced calls for international Appeals; increased planning capacity in programmes and laterally across Departments in NS.

Objective 3 : To build a Regional approach to human resource development and maximising internal capacities in all NS

The follow-up to the Regional HRD workshop held in December 2000 has been: to see NS prioritising the need to develop and adopt Volunteer Policies as per the Federation's model; the beginning of decisions to set up more focused HRD Division and Departments in NS to develop better staff and volunteer management; an interest in undergoing a Regional sharing and training in management development and change management skills training (planned for December 2001) for senior Directors and SGs in each NS.

Finance Development

Due to the lack of a Regional Head of Delegation the Regional Finance Development Delegate was diverted from her role in covering as HoRD and thus the Finance Development programme suffered from a lack of human resources at Delegate level. This situation prevailed until and after the FD Delegate left her post in April 2001 and a new arrangement has been agreed with the appointment of a Regional Finance Manager from July 2001 onwards

Objective 1 : *To provide appropriate technical support to NS to implement Finance Development programmes, ensuring shared learning and the development of broadly consistent approaches*

Objective 2 : *To ensure Finance Development objectives are integrated into relief and development programme planning at Branch and NHQ levels*

At an institutional level within SARD, the Delhi finance unit has continued to play a vital role in consolidating finance development work, and achievements over the past six months have included: the improved budget monitoring and management in several NS due to the collective support offered by the Delhi and country delegation teams; the preparation of the extra budgets from DFID for Regional DP work which require consistent monitoring systems across the 3 NSs in Pakistan, India and Nepal; the support given to the Indian Red Cross to monitor and spend the enormous relief funds generated for the Gujarat earthquake relief and response programme; and support for the Nepal Red Cross with an extra large grant received for ID programme work from the Swiss Government.

Although the technical finance development support work suffered due to the reasons given above, the regional finance manager plans to make urgent visits to Pakistan and Sri Lanka to support the NS to implement their finance development programmes for the rest of 2001. The Indian Red Cross finance director visited the Nepal Red Cross Society with the regional finance manager for one week in May to help the IRCS develop their planning for effective finance development work.

An important dimension of the regional finance work is that the regional finance unit in Delhi continues to be staffed with personnel on loan and secondments from NS in the region. It is planned to allow for further staff on loan positions from NS within the Region to continue to build this capacity as mutually beneficial to both SARD and the NS seconding their colleague.

Resource Development

Objective 1 : *To build a regional forum between National Societies for common sharing of experiences and learning in resource diversification efforts*

In further discussion with the SGs of the NS in the region, and with the organisational development department's expert on local resource mobilisation in Geneva, the regional delegate has concluded that rather than convene a regional local resource mobilisation workshop in 2001, it would be more strategic to document some clear case studies on existing good practices and successes from NS across the region, and then to develop a regional workshop to plan for more focused experience sharing in early 2002.

The case studies are now being developed and will focus on the following different themes and areas of competence in each of the following NS: community mobilised disaster funds and management of these

funds in Nepal Red Cross (linking local resource mobilisation to sustainable local programme development); First Aid training run on a commercial basis for income generation from the corporate sector and general public courses in Sri Lanka Red Cross; fundraising from Educational Institutions (yet to be finalised) with Pakistan Red Crescent Society, leading to integrated dissemination of the RC/RC Movement in the school curriculum; and Property and Asset Management, mobilising rental income from property management in Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

It is hoped that these case studies can also be shared with the RC/RC Movement globally as guidelines for successful resource mobilisation schemes.

Information Development / Humanitarian Values

Despite the demands placed on the SARD information office during the initial months following the earthquake, some of the Appeal objectives have been successfully achieved. Due to the need for significant communications support to the earthquake operation, the regional information delegate and regional information officer were working almost full time on the operation during February and April, only able to address other regional priorities in the latter part of April.

However, the high profile and visibility that the Federation generated during this period contributed substantially to achieving certain of the Appeal objectives, most notably with regard to developing and expanding links with the international media.

Objective 1 : To develop and strengthen the information and public relations capacities of NS in the region through technical support and training

Through the information development program, SARD continues to fund the salaries of two information officer posts of the Sri Lanka Red Cross and the Pakistan Red Crescent. In addition, limited financial support has been provided to the information department of the Sri Lanka Red Cross for the purchase of a computer and to initiate the production of a regular newsletter. Visits by the regional information delegate to Pakistan and Bangladesh have enabled direct support to information officers in both countries as well as direct contact with NS senior management to review the progress of their respective information programmes.

Marked improvements in the professionalism of the information departments of most NS in the region have been evident, particularly in the area of media relations and the quality of publications. NS such as the Sri Lanka Red Cross have attracted a consistently high level of media coverage for their activities having adopted a well focused and proactive strategy with the media. Regrettably, little progress has been achieved with the Indian Red Cross, due to the resignation of the NHQ information officer shortly after the earthquake and the lack of any replacement.

A 10-day regional Dissemination and Information Workshop organised jointly by the South Asia regional delegations of the ICRC and the Federation, was held in April. The workshop was attended by all NS information officers from the region (with the exception of Afghanistan). Five days of the workshop were devoted to information which was structured around a combination of presentations, group work and field trips all of which were aimed at developing the professional skills of each participant in various aspects of communications. External facilitators included the deputy bureau chief of AFP who gave a presentation on feature writing, the Photo Editor of AP who provided some practical instruction in photography, a Delhi based printer who came to explain some of the technical aspects of the trade, and editors from an online media organisation who highlighted the opportunities provided by the Internet. Other presentations included managing communications in emergency situations and considerable time was given over to strategic planning, enabling NS information officers to improve upon their respective communication strategies.

In May the regional information delegate organised a three day information and reporting workshop for members of the Bangladesh Red Crescent. Participants were drawn from staff and volunteers from NHQ and district branches particularly prone to disasters. The workshop was intended to impart some

basic skills that will enable participants to establish relations with the media whilst also recognising the importance of accurate and timely information, particularly following disasters.

The Regional Information Officer has assisted in building the capacity of the Indian Red Cross to improve their relations with the media during disasters. A visit was made to Guwahati (Assam) in March to help in consolidating existing contact with the region's media, mostly among the younger reporters of the main English and local language newspapers. At the end of two meetings, there was a mutual appreciation and understanding of the roles that both the Red Cross and the local media could play in future emergencies.

The information office has had input into the development of the updated version of the RC communicators guide. This resource will shortly be available online and has been designed to serve as a training module for NS in various aspects of communications.

Short term secondments of NS information staff to the SARD regional information office will commence in the second half of 2001.

Objective 2 : To develop a closer degree of collaboration on strategic communications issues and specific communications activities with information counterparts in south east Asia and Geneva

There has been a marked increase in the levels of interaction on a range of communications issues between the SARD information office and information counterparts in S.E Asia and Geneva. The good working relationship with counterparts in the Geneva media service in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake highlighted the importance of well refined communications procedures. The establishment of regular teleconferences between Geneva, Bangkok and Delhi has proved to be a useful knowledge sharing initiative.

The final draft of the Asia Pacific communications strategy was completed in June. This strategy is part of an on-going process to develop a common approach to marketing and communications for the Federation across the entire Asia Pacific region. In June, the regional information delegate travelled to Bangkok to meet with the S.E Asia regional information delegate in order to complete the final draft.

Through increased information and resource sharing between the regions, a more complimentary approach towards developing a common framework for training NS information staff has been achieved and in April the regional information officer from Bangkok (on secondment from the Singapore RC) was able to travel to Delhi to participate as a facilitator at the regional information and dissemination workshop.

Collaboration has increased on the production of Asia Pacific FOCUS magazine. In the two editions of FOCUS produced this year there has been a marked increase in the quantity and quality of editorial coverage of SARD and NS activities across South Asia which has contributed to the magazine becoming a truly regional marketing tool.

The demise of the Asia Pacific web site has led to a revaluation of how the AP site can be hosted on the Federation's main web site ifrc.org. This process is currently under discussion. The development of an on-line information / documentation centre has not been initiated as this activity will duplicate the anticipated development of an Intranet service, that has been proposed by the strategic communications department in Geneva.

Objective 3 : To develop and expand upon strategic links with local and international media to secure sustained and high profile media coverage for the activities of the Federation and NS in the region, particularly in times of emergencies

The earthquake in Gujarat undoubtedly served as an excellent opportunity to highlight the role and activities of the Red Cross movement. Interviews and media coverage of the Red Cross operation

appeared in the international and local media on an almost daily basis in the first month following the disaster. The immediate deployment of the regional information delegate to the earthquake zone, and subsequent visits by the regional information officer who liaised primarily with the local media, ensured that visibility for the Federation, PNS and the Indian Red Cross was high from the outset.

The credibility that the Federation has established in the region can be measured by the number of local and international media who directly contacted SARD for information during this period. During the relief operation the information office had contact with the majority of international correspondents based in South Asia and also made a number of valuable contacts among Pan-Asian media.

The earthquake operation and subsequent media interest, also served as a valuable advocacy opportunity, enabling the Federation to promote the importance of disaster preparedness in the region. Partly as a consequence, the Federation was invited to participate in a High Powered Committee established by the Government of India to draw up a national disaster management plan for the country.

The regional information office was also able to facilitate or organise the logistics for a number of successful press trips and VIP visits to the earthquake zone which had been organised by various participating National Societies (PNS).

A media launch of the World Disasters Report was scheduled to take place in Orissa, however this was cancelled at short notice by the Indian Red Cross. A successful regional launch did however take place in Islamabad, hosted by the Pakistan Red Crescent, which attracted widespread local media coverage. Participating in the launch was the Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism, together with the Chairman and Secretary General of the PRCS, HoRD and the regional health delegate.

In June the regional information officer visited Kozhikode District of the State of Kerala in South India. The visit was undertaken in the light of a major train accident in the District. Working together with colleagues from the State branch a meeting was organised with six reporters (including one television journalist) to explain to them the various activities about the Red Cross. This contact with the local media in Kerala resulted in some good reports about the work of the Red Cross volunteers following the train accident.

Objective 4 : To continue to promote Red Cross principles and humanitarian values among key target audiences through the mass media

SARD has increased considerably the number of regular contributions of editorial material for Federation publicity outlets such as Federation News and the news section of the Federation's web site. A special supplement of FOCUS magazine was produced by the regional information office to mark the first month of the earthquake relief operation which was distributed to media and key partners in the Indian Government and INGOs. Video footage, feature stories and photographs were also distributed during this period to international and local news agencies.

SARD has actively encouraged all NS in the region to participate in the International Year of Volunteers campaign with varying degrees of success. Due to limited capacity, most NS did use the theme to mark World Red Cross Day. Volunteer profiles have been gathered from NS and included in the Federation's publicity materials. In addition stories on the theme produced by SARD have been posted on the Federation's web site. Due to a lack of capacity, no campaign has been initiated on the Emblem although some NS have made efforts in this direction.

The regional information delegate visited Afghanistan in order to initiate some communications activities in light of the worsening humanitarian situation there. During the visit a number of stories and photographs were produced which were used on the Federation's web site and in FOCUS magazine. The visit also enabled the regional information. Delegate to establish a basis for an improved working relationship with the ICRC's communications delegate which will hopefully serve to maximise

the possibilities for more consistent and increased media coverage of Red Cross operations in the country.

Due to limited program funding, no journalistic assignments by regional correspondents to cover RC activities in the region have been supported to date.

A photo archive is now well established in SARD. All archived photographs have been scanned and saved electronically and country specific CDs will soon be produced.

The regional brochure on the activities of SARD and NS in the region will be updated and published in the next quarter.

Regional Cooperation

Objective 1 : To provide a regional forum for stakeholder participation and strengthen relationships between the stakeholders.

A regional partnership meeting was planned for April 2001 in southern India but with the earthquake in Gujarat on 26 January, the partnership meeting was delayed until early in 2002. An India earthquake partnership meeting was held between 21 to 23 March which attracted 20 donors, 18 of them up until the earthquake, were not supporting the Appeal 2001 for India. Although the PNS representatives came primarily for the earthquake meeting, the regional delegation and regional programmes benefited from funds pledged towards supporting the strengthening of the regional delegation. Positive feedback was received from the PNS's for the role the regional delegation played in the relief phase of the operation.

A further partnership meeting for the India earthquake is likely to be held in the last quarter of the year so it is tentatively planned to add an extra day for a mini-South Asia partnership meeting as many of the PNS desk officers, heads of international departments, have south Asian responsibilities.

The results of networking and partnership building over the past years have resulted in new funding partners in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India and Nepal during the past six months.

The regional constitutional review workshop brought together senior governance and management from all NS in South Asia: Presidents, Chairpersons, Secretary Generals and legal advisers where they identified many commonalities. It is likely to lead to an improved collective approach to inter-society mutual support initiatives in the area of governance and management.

A draft Regional Assistance Strategy is in preparation based on the various Country Assistance Strategies (CAS) and participatory meetings held to date. It will be presented in draft at the Secretary Generals meeting in October.

Objective 2 : To widen the pool of talented potential delegates in South Asia and to increase regional exchanges of qualified human resources between the National Societies of the region.

One regional delegation national staff member spent 3 weeks in June making preparations for the basic training course (BTC) held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, between 1- 6 July. This course, which will be reported on in the next reporting period, was successful. Two people from Bangladesh attended a BTC in Japan in January.

The earthquake in Gujarat was a chance for the Indian Red Cross to expose a number of its headquarters, branch staff and volunteers to work alongside and learn from the international FACT teams and ERUs. One staff member of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society assisted the Indian Red Cross Society in the transition phase of the operation.

The regional delegation now has one national staff member who is coordinating regional human resources and has commenced a Personnel Roster for the region and is coordinating the process of proposing suitable candidates for open positions and has identified counterparts in each NS.

The Nepal and Sri Lanka Red Cross societies hosted familiarisation visits from senior officials from the Afghan Red Crescent Society.

The recently appointed Director of Finance at the Indian Red Cross Society, visited Nepal Red Cross for one week, accompanied by the regional finance development management, to learn from the Nepal Red Cross financial management systems.

Regional Coordination and Management

Objective 1 : *To act as the regional focal point of National Societies in the region and to help build sustainable processes of mutual capacity building and common programming*

Increasing feedback from national societies in the region clearly shows that through consistent communications, knowledge sharing, technical support, advice and encouragement, the regional delegation is acknowledged as the Federation's focal point in the region.

A Secretary Generals meeting is planned for early October in Kabul, Afghanistan. At the constitutional review workshop in Sri Lanka, the Secretary General of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, with the input of other secretary generals, drew up an agenda for the next meeting.

Follow up on strategic planning processes continues by all regional delegates in their work with individual NS. The Head of Regional Delegation (HoRD) visited Pakistan in late June and was extremely pleased to see significant improvements to the capacity of the National Society brought about by a tripartite agreement signed between the ICRC, Federation and PRCS in early 2000. This agreement resulted in the a Development Cooperation Unit which implements and monitors major components of the appeal process and the CAS, Strategy 2010 and other key strategic initiatives.

Objective 2 : *To represent the Federation and build good relations with the national authorities, international and national organisations, donor Government, international and national media, and the ICRC*

The earthquake in Gujarat, which also affected Pakistan, received huge international, national and regional publicity which did a lot to promote and reinforce the key emergency response role played by national societies and their Federation in the time of major disasters.

Strengthening the partnership with DFID, our major funding partner, continued with two visits from the Head, Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs Department in London, to the regional delegation in February and June, where discussions were held about regional disaster preparedness, regional capacity building, as well as the Gujarat earthquake.

Regular contacts have been maintained with European Union Ambassadors and the ECHO representatives having responsibilities for Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan; and Afghanistan. Diplomatic missions in each country have been visited in a systematic manner and publications, situation reports, updates and appeals sent on a regular basis.

The strong partnership continues with ICRC throughout the region with many joint workshops and seminars, co-funded training courses and joint planning meetings..

Visits by the President of the Federation to Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka during this reporting period were used to raise the profile of each NS by meetings with key Government officials and holding

functions which were attended by members of Government, national and international organisations, diplomats and the media.

During the visit by the Secretary General of the Federation to India in February, meetings were held with the President of the country and Minister of Health. A press conference was held, together with the Secretary General of the Indian Red Cross Society, for international and national media as well as a function to which members of the diplomatic community were invited. At meetings with the President and Minister of Health, the Secretary General stressed the importance of the regional delegation getting their legal status agreement application approved quickly. Considerable dialogue has been had with the Government to ensure eventual approval of the LSA. In Pakistan and Sri Lanka efforts are being made to get legal status agreements approved.

In the past six months the regional delegation has collectively noticed an increase in the number of inquiries from diplomatic missions, NGOs, UN and the media as SARD becomes a reliable source of information.

Objective 3 : To ensure the implementation of Federation activities in the region, according to approved plans and budgets

The standardised approach within the region to the CAS process has provided a common framework and understanding for all NS to move at their own pace, according to their capacity, in line with Strategy 2010, steadily towards acquiring the Characteristics of a Well Functioning Societies.

The outposting of regional ID and health delegates to Sri Lanka and Pakistan respectively, is, according to feedback from the two respective NS, progressing very well. It also ensures more exacting implementation, monitoring and reporting of Federation-supported programmes in these countries. The added value of outposted delegates was noted during the India earthquake relief operation when all regional delegates and national staff based in New Delhi were totally involved in the operation, while the two outposted delegates carried on their regional work as normal.

Contact has been maintained with the Red Crescent working group in the Maldives and a follow-up strategy, in consultation with the ICRC, put in place to ensure the momentum is maintained. A joint IFRC/ICRC visit is planned for the second half of the year.

Outstanding needs

Further funding is required for institutional development/organisational development and regional cooperation.

This is required to develop the most important asset in South Asia, the growing group of NS human resources, both full time and volunteers. During the past three years, this pool of talent has slowly increased and a number have been trained for national and international work. Additional funding is required for exchanges of qualified people between NS in the region, staff on loan positions to SARD, human resource director workshops and Secretary Generals meetings where joint visions and blueprints for regional cooperation through the Regional Assistance Strategy, can be developed further and formalised.

For further details please contact: Martin de Vries, Phone : 41 22 730 4320; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: devries@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 website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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

Hiroshi Higashiura
Head
Asia Pacific Department

South Asia Regional Programmes						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.33/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				20.08.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'414'190		TOTAL COVERAGE 75.2%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
SECRETARIAT PROG SUPPORT				341'632		
BRITISH - GOVT (DFID GRANT)				795'000	03.02.01	PARTNERSHIP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2001
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				250'000	30.04.2001	DPP
NETHERLANDS - RC				40'000	04.04.01	REGIONAL BTC JULY 2001
SWEDISH - RC		375'000	SEK	63'188	28.02.2001	ID, INFORMATION, HEALTH, COOPERATION
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'125'000	SEK	191'138	21.05.2001	ID, INFORMATION, HEALTH, COOPERATION
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'680'958	CHF	69.6%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
New Zealand	Delegate(s)			29'732		
Great Britain	Delegate(s)			104'147		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				133'879	CHF	5.5%