

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

DISASTER RESPONSE

22 August 2001

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.74/2001

Appeal Target: CHF 3,678,569

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

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 66.6%

Related Appeals: N/A

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,228,139

Update: The Disaster Management and Co-ordination division is now fully staffed and accountable for disaster preparedness and response. Disaster response tools have been further developed and fine tuned during the first half of 2001, and have also been field tested in a number of operations where Filed Assessment and Coordination Teams (FACT) and Emergency Response Units (ERUs) were better able to deliver emergency response and co-ordination.

The Context

A number of operations highlighted the good will among National Societies to work together while improving the visibility for host national societies role in disaster response. Further consolidation is needed in the area of advocating for small and forgotten disasters, in the transition period from emergency response to rehabilitation and in further building the regional and national capacity in disaster response.

Objective 1: The timeliness and appropriateness of Federation Disaster Response is improved.

Achievement:

In the first six months of 2001, five FACT teams were deployed in response to disasters in El Salvador, India, Mozambique, Malawi and Bosnia & Herzegovina. With an increased number of FACT deployments, the concept proved its ability to speed up the Federation response and better assist the victims of disasters. The FACT focus varied depending on the context and the nature of the disaster.

The FACT team in El Salvador focussed primarily on co-ordination through establishment of links with other organizations resulting in remarkable co-operation within and outside the Red Cross Movement. The team gave support to a strong national response by the Salvadoran Red Cross. An essential part of the FACT assignment was the preparation of the appeal which was launched on 14 January and revised on the 24 January seeking CHF 9,386,000.

The FACT team deployed for the India Earthquake was the first to arrive on site. Assessments were only carried out to a limited extent as the team supported the Indian Red Cross with co-ordination, including supporting national societies, setting up ERUs, transporting incoming goods, etc. Six ERU's were deployed:

two field hospitals combined (Finnish and Norwegian Red Cross), a specialised water unit (German Red Cross), a basic health care ERU (Spanish Red Cross), an emergency health clinic (ERU in development by the Japanese Red Cross), a logistics ERU (British and Danish Red Cross) and a telecommunications ERU (Austrian and Spanish Red Cross). The ERU deployment was co-ordinated initially by the FACT, and later by the Delegation. This high donor response is very closely related to the successful co-ordination facilitation by the FACT, including more than 140 expatriate delegates from a dozen supporting National Societies.

For the flood operations in Mozambique and Malawi two FACT were deployed with the primary objective of reinforcing the national society or Federation delegations operation. As access to remote flooded areas was difficult, the teams provided valuable support in gathering information and starting up the relief operation.

The small and relatively young national society of Bosnia & Herzegovina was overwhelmed by the needs emerging from severe flooding in the country. A FACT was requested to support them in assessing the situation and elaborating a plan of action. The FACT proved highly valuable in supporting the planning phase of the operation. In co-operation with the national societies and the Federation's Delegation, the FACT developed a plan of action resulting in an appeal seeking 475,000 CHF. Coverage of this appeal is 63%.

The generally good to overwhelming response to appeals following a FACT deployment indicates the importance of further development of the tool to act even faster and more co-ordinated. In all deployments the FACT contributed to the reduction of duplicated assessment efforts and a co-ordinated response. It gave strong support to host national societies and supported them in capacity building in disaster response. By recommending appropriate interventions the efficient use of available funds was secured.

Logistics in emergencies deals with the supply chain, mobilisation of goods, the field set up, and quick deployment of professional logisticians. To be prepared for emergencies it is important that there is a logistics preparedness capacity in terms of systems, standardisation, stocks availability, logistics mapping and training. In the various operations listed above, the logistic department has achieved the following: improvements in co-ordination of mobilization due to a tracking system, a relief table, a pipeline and reporting; establishment of logistics ERUs; frame agreements with companies. Logistics has become an integral part of the overall disaster preparedness.

Objective 2: The Federation disaster information systems, standards and protocols is further developed.

Achievement:

The web-based Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) will enable users to access real time information on disaster trends, online internal and external resources, tools and databases. This project started in February 2001 to strengthen the emergency preparedness and response capacity of the Federation's network to disaster situations at national, regional and international levels. The four main components of DMIS include: early warning and emergency monitoring systems; online databases; tool box of disaster document templates, examples and best practice reference material; and disaster management links. The DMIS initiative aims at utilising the comparative advantage of the Federation global network by channelling methods and tools to manage information on which the foundation for more effective disaster preparedness and disaster response mechanisms can be built.

Activities for the first six months of 2001 included; consultations with Secretariat staff and delegates and national society potential users, identification and selection of appropriate tools and technologies, collection and analysis of data for the structuring of DMIS, integration of existing tools and statistics into the system. A Working Group was formed met in April to test the benefits of the proposed product.

A number of communication means have been used in order to raise DMIS awareness both internally (@ifrc.com, leaflets, meetings with staff and delegates, workshops presentations, etc.) and externally via the creation of <http://www.ifrc.org/disasters/dmis/>. Furthermore, a communication marketing strategy for DMIS is being developed by a consultant and co-ordination with the communication department. After some initial reluctance to adopt new systems, considerable enthusiasm has been created on the part of future DMIS users, especially among National Societies and delegations staff. The DMIS team sought external support from the Netherlands Red Cross which provided assistance for the URL database, the German Red Cross sponsored an

IT specialist, and the Ericsson Response Programme allocated a web designer to the project. Further prototype tests are planned for August and the official DMIS launch is planned to take place in September.

Objective 3: National Society human and material resources and expertise is efficiently and utilised in the Federation disaster response.

Achievement:

Training efforts were increased in 2001 with a focus on participants coming from the various national societies. Two FACT workshops of 12 days each were conducted in the first six months of the year. The roster now counts 125 trained FACT members from 21 national societies, the Federation Secretariat, and ICRC. As the FACT trained people are located all over the world the structures for a timely and cost effective deployment have increased further.

The commitment of national societies to the FACT concept is rising as reflected in the number of applications for workshops far exceeding the available spaces. Most of the national societies have appointed FACT focal points in their headquarters, a sign of commitment and support to the concept. A special focus is now given to FACT members coming from national societies in disaster prone regions, as regional expertise and insights is seen as a crucial point for the success of FACT.

The workshops not only included sessions on the FACT concept, but also provided an overview of existing disaster response tools throughout the region, linking FACT to national and regional capacities and initiatives. Future workshops in Asia, Africa, and the Americas will contribute to this effort.

Further efforts were put into conducting ERU training workshops both by the national societies and the Federation Secretariat. During the first 6 months of 2001, four workshops were organised with the support of the DMC division: water and sanitation ERU training by the German Red Cross, basic logistics ERU training workshop by the British and Danish Red Cross, and a water and sanitation ERU workshop by the Spanish Red Cross.

The ERU review recommendation to allow more flexibility for some units was followed up on. A technical ERU working group has modified the original water ERU and created a modular unit with four options: water treatment and supply; distribution and trucking, specialised water and sanitation; and mass sanitation. The logistics ERU also modified some equipment and personnel requirements after integrating some of the lessons learned from their first deployment in India. The ERU review recommendation of introducing the ERU concept into new geographical areas will be followed during the ERU team leader workshop which will take place in September 2001. Strengthening the links between ERUs and regional Disaster Preparedness and Response initiatives will be one of the objectives.

As recommended in the ERU review finalised in October 2000, the Standard Operating Procedures have been modified to better reflect the new Secretariat structure. Additionally, the terms of reference of the ERU Working Group have been finalised, focusing more on strategic management rather than on technical issues. The ERU Working Group has been integrated into a wider Disaster Management working group which met in April 2001 covering a wide diversity of disaster management issues such as FACT and ERU deployment lessons learned, regional resources integration, and human resources.

In order to increase the awareness of the ERU concept, the ERU web site has been refreshed in order to reflect new technical concept sheets and provide more information on training. A new ERU brochure is being produced and will be ready beginning of September 2001.

Objective 4: The safety and security of beneficiaries, volunteer and staff working in Federation operations is improved

Achievement:

In order to further improve the Federation's security management, field security assessment missions have been conducted in Guinea Conakry, Nigeria, Albania, Israel and the West Bank, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and India (Bhuj), all areas prone to security incidents. Field security missions are designed to increase the security

awareness of the Federation's staff and delegates, and recommendations are incorporated in the overall security rules and regulations of the delegations.

The Security Guidelines section of the Handbook of Delegates has been updated and will become the basic source of information for the preparation of security management training aimed at Head of Delegations, Federation Representatives and senior staff in management position. The objective for the training is to improve the security management and awareness in delegations. The first security management workshop will be conducted in November 2001.

Objective 5: Policy, framework, standards and better programming for humanitarian response are further developed.

Achievement:

For the last two years a Federation team has been involved in the development and field testing phases of the ***Local Capacities for Peace Project*** which produced a series of research findings demonstrating how international and local humanitarian organizations aid programmes may increase tensions and fuel conflict within and between communities and groups in conflict-prone areas. Aid organizations frequently bring resources to situations where conflict may have been caused by competition over resources, or where perceived partiality in the distribution of assistance may fuel tension or conflict between communities recovering from conflict. In these ways, aid may undermine recovery and reinforce barriers to reconciliation.

During 1999 and 2000, through an action research project entitled **Better Programming Initiative (BPI): options for better aid programming in post-conflict settings**, the Federation introduced these findings to a number of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies active in communities recovering from conflict. BPI seeks to raise awareness among programming staff in National Societies and Federation delegations on the impact of their aid programmes on the dynamics of conflict and on relationships within and between communities.

A training-of-trainers (ToT) workshop was held to prepare 9 national society staff and regional delegates to conduct training workshops on the BPI methodology and support a strategy to mainstream the use of the tool in national societies working in post-conflict countries. It is also planned to hold a series of regional ToT workshops during 2002 to further expand the number of trainers and disseminate more widely the findings of the project and provide training on the use of the methodology.

A trial model has been developed for an interactive programme planning and implementation CD-Rom which will be produced later in the year to provide interactive learning and support wider application of the BPI methodology by national society staff and delegates.

Having successfully completed the pilot studies with BPI the implementation of the mainstreaming strategy will be overseen by a steering group. The group consists of national society staff from the American, British, Danish, Norwegian, Spanish and Swedish Red Cross societies and the Senior Officer in Disaster Preparedness/Disaster Response.

A ***Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA)*** was conducted in Nigeria to evaluate the potential impact of the planned WatSan project for which the British and German Red Cross Societies were submitting a proposal to the European Union. A workshop was also conducted to train Federation and Nigerian Red Cross staff on the BPI concept and methodology.

A standard format has been developed for conflict briefs on countries where the Federation is supporting National Society post-conflict recovery operations. Negotiations are currently underway with the ***Transforming Civil Conflict Unit*** at the University of Netherlands to prepare initial drafts of these briefs which will be further developed in consultation with the relevant national societies and country delegations. The briefs will form part of country situation analyses, reporting and delegate briefings to provide a better, systematised context assessment for these countries.

The first draft of the ***Housing and Construction*** review has been completed. The findings which emanated from this activity will be used as a basis for contributing to and developing on the good practices which exist in this area, and to use these to guide future activities.

The theme of the ***World Disasters Report*** this year was ***recovery***. The theme reflects the need to plan recovery so as to minimise future risk. Gaps between lifesaving needs and long-term development can leave disaster-affected people stranded. Technical solutions that do not adequately take account of community's needs may mean that reconstruction does not lead to recovery. The World Disasters Report 2001 was successfully launched at the end of June. The main global launch was in New York and attracted world wide media attention. At the same time national societies and delegations in more than a hundred places in the world launched the WDR. While the number of delegations launching the report was rather constant compared with last year (around 30 delegations), the number of national societies launching the report increased from 48 in 2000 to 68 in 2001. More than 6,000 copies of the full report have been dispatched. .

The ***Sphere Project*** was launched in 1997 by an umbrella group of the world's leading humanitarian agencies including the Federation, and is now entering its third and last phase. The main goals of this phase is continued training, incorporation of Sphere into UN agencies and academic institutions, and a growing use of the Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards. Other significant goals for Phase III are the publication of a second, updated edition of the handbook and a comprehensive evaluation of the project and the effect it has had.

The Federation trainer participated in the annual meeting of the 19 Sphere pilot agencies, in which lessons from past year were compiled for distribution. The Federation trainer participated in the Interagency Sphere workshop in Khartoum in January, and supported the food security assessment in Sudan to ensure Sphere minimum standards and key indicators in the assessment. In June a regional Sphere workshop was held in El Salvador, and three other workshops are in their planning phase. Around 20 delegates have been briefed on the Sphere standards and Sphere training was included in the FACT training as well as in BTCs and Induction courses for delegates during the spring.

Six people (DP delegates, and National Society staff) have been mentored on Sphere to be able to act as facilitators and trainers and will be coached during the whole year. The concept of "Field school" already tested in Zambia and Namibia had a very positive result in central America as well. This concept allows participants to relate to day to day work on the Sphere humanitarian charter, standards and indicators. A regional network has been established with four topical groups to share experiences and ideas for the promotion of Sphere.

Objective 6: Undertake field studies and research to improve programming and mitigate the worst effects of disasters and better prepare for them.

Following the consultation with national societies referred to in last years report, a final draft of a ***Policy on Refugees and Displaced*** was presented to the Disaster Relief Commission for their consideration. Certain amendments have been suggested and the policy has once again been submitted to a group of 20 national societies for their final comments before laying the policy before the General assembly of the Federation in November 2001

The Federation, in partnership with several other humanitarian agencies including the Swedish Red Cross, has formulated the ***Reach Out Project*** whose objective is to increase awareness and develop skills in the area of refugee protection through a series of training and training of trainer events to be held over a period of three years. The principle indicator of this project is the development of protection actions at a programming level.

Two senior consultants have been identified and are currently gathering data for inclusion in the updated ***Working with Refugees and Asylum Seekers*** in order to update and widen the scope of this, the Federation base text on refugees. A workshop is planned for the autumn of 2001 in order to consult with national societies and peer organisations.

For further details please contact: Andrée Houle, Phone: 41 22 730.4316; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: houle@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

Jean Ayoub
Director
Disaster Management & Coordination Division

Disaster Response						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.74/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			24.08.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3'678'569		TOTAL COVERAGE 66.6%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				756'079		
BRITISH - RC		10'000	GBP	25'300	20.12.00	RELIEF ITEM RC CATALOGUE
BRITISH - GOVT (DFID GRANT)				1'250'000	03.02.01	PARTNERSHIP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2001
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				142'296	21.03.2001	DISASTER MGT INFORMATION SYSTEMS
DANISH - RC				24'000	02.03.01	FACT DELEGATE FOR 2 MONTHS
DANISH - RC		50'000	DKK	10'180	18.04.01	RELIEF ITEM CATALOGUE
FINNISH - RC		50'000	EUR	76'920	28.02.01	GLOBAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT COORDINATION
GERMAN - RC				30'000	22.02.01	RELIEF ITEM CATALOGUE
NETHERLANDS - RC		50'000	NLG	34'295	31.07.2001	FACT, DISASTER MANAGEMENT
SWEDISH - RC		100'000	SEK	16'850	28.02.2001	IMPROVING LOGISTICS SYSTEMS
SWEDISH - RC		200'000	SEK	33'980	28.02.2001	DISASTER RESPONSE, REFUGEE & IDP WORK
SWEDISH - GOVT		200'000	SEK	33'980	28.02.2001	DISASTER RESPONSE, REFUGEE & IDP WORK
SWEDISH - GOVT		100'000	SEK	16'550	20.06.2001	IMPROVING LOGISTICS SYSTEMS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2 450'430	CHF	66.6%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%