

# ANNUAL REPORT



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

## **PAN AMERICAN DISASTER RESPONSE UNIT**

28 May 2003

*This Annual Report is intended for reporting on the Federation's Annual Appeals only.*

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 178 countries. For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

**Appeal No. 01.18/2002; Appeal coverage: 78.6%**

**Appeal Target: CHF 1,916,067**

### **Overall analysis of the programme w**

In 2002, the overall context in the Americas was characterized by major socio-political processes which increased the vulnerability of both entire countries and their people: the crisis in Argentina, the rupture of the peace process in Colombia, internal tensions in Venezuela, are examples of the region's instability. From an economic point of view, the recession has produced a stagnation of growth and brought development of productive sectors to a halt, thereby raising the indicators of unemployment in all countries, including the United States, increasing further the levels of poverty.

From the point of view of disasters, although the region was not affected by major events in 2002, a number of small and medium disasters impacted on communities within specific regions; the most significant disasters were as a result of environmental or climatic factors, such as floods in Costa Rica, Panama, Chile and Venezuela, snowstorms in Peru and Bolivia and drought in Central America and Paraguay. In addition, hurricanes such as Isidore, Lili and Kenna particularly affected Mexico and Cuba.

As a result of these inter-related processes, the vulnerability levels of populations have increased in relation to access to health services and education; furthermore, economic straits have limited governments' capacity to improve the quality and quantity of services available.

The Federation Secretariat, through its offices in the region and based on the strategy for change aimed at improving efficiency and providing improved services to the 33 National Societies in the Americas, focused on: its strategic vision for the continent and consolidation of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU). With regard to the development of PADRU in 2002, the following were the key areas of attention:

- Consolidation of the administrative, technical, operational and logistical infrastructure.

- Implementation of the instruments and basic tools for disaster response preparedness and response to disasters,
- Provision of services to the network in the region.
- Establishment of links and relations with regional systems, the United Nations and other organizations in the region.

A status agreement was signed with the Panamanian government in November 2002, thanks to the continuous collaboration of the Red Cross Society of Panama, which facilitated relations with the government throughout the year.

PADRU's functions, organization and relationships were defined, forming a basis for the development of a flexible structure which is achieved through the interaction of local and expatriate staff working in the technical areas.

In collaboration with the regional delegations and National Societies in the Americas, PADRU ensured the design and adaptation of basic tools and instruments to improve planning and coordination for response preparedness and response itself, in the form of training guides for the regional intervention teams (RITs), activation protocols and decision making procedures, a guide for contingency planning and didactic computer material. In this process, the strategy of internships was developed, as a result of which seven National Societies provided human resources, whereby the directors of National Society relief departments worked with PADRU for a period of one or two months, enabling them to become familiar with processes and projects.

PADRU's capacities, its training processes and the availability of resources, together with dissemination of its role, enabled the unit to provide services to the regional delegations and National Societies in the Americas, as well as to PNS, to the Secretariat and other organizations. In particular, PADRU ensured:

- Follow up, advice, support and assessment in the context of 15 disaster response operations, 14 in the Americas and one in Africa, with the direct presence of PADRU staff in 10 of these.
- 42 quotations procedures and purchases for 14 "clients" (regional delegations and National Societies) which took place directly through the regional logistics unit (RLU) which carried out 37 direct purchases totalling some USD 530,000.
- Support, facilitation and organization of the vehicle leasing programme and administration of 15 vehicles under this programme.
- Participation, organization and facilitation of Red Cross and external events linked with planning and coordination, training, advice and support, facilitation or lecturing, at international, regional and national level.
- Strengthening of links and relations with other organizations, allowing the exchange of information, communication and coordination with 13 regional non governmental organizations, the drawing up



of memoranda of understanding, letters of cooperation and direct collaboration with 6 organizations, thereby further integrating the Federation's network in the regions and optimizing processes and resources.

The activities undertaken in both 2001 and 2002 within the framework of the objectives set forward, the functions of PADRU, the appeal documents and the **Inter American Regional Committee (CORI) plan of action**, made it possible to determine the added value which PADRU brings to the Federation in the Americas, as well as to define more clearly aspects requiring improvement in its programmes for disaster response preparedness and disaster response.

PADRU, as the focal point for the Red Cross disaster systems in the Americas, has concentrated efforts in three directions:

- Improving efficiency and effectiveness of the National Societies and their network, the Federation.
- Reinforcing the integration of Red Cross components in the regions.
- Enhancing the impact of humanitarian action in the event of disasters.

## **Objectives, Achievements and Constraints w**

### **Disaster Response w**

**Objective 1:** To coordinate and, as necessary, participate in rapid disaster response at the request of a National Society facing a situation beyond its capacity.

In early 2002, PADRU, through its regional logistics unit, provided support for operations which were on-going since 2001, as follows:

**Cuba: Hurricane Michelle:** given the passage of hurricane Michelle, the Cuban Red Cross, with the support of the regional delegation in Santo Domingo, requested that the regional logistics unit make the necessary purchases to complete rehabilitation work and reconstruction of housing. Purchases for a total of 29,495 sheets of zinc and 12,000 kilos of nails were therefore made.

**El Salvador: Earthquakes 2001 (Appeal 2/2001):** with the aim of concluding the construction and rehabilitation of 25 health centres financed by the Japanese Red Cross Society, technical advice was provided to the Salvadorean Red Cross Society and the Federation delegation in the identification, selection and contracting of the firms which undertook the building work.

**Belize: hurricane Iris (Appeal 33/2001):** in the context of the hurricane Iris operation, during the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, visits were made and technical support provided to the National Society with regard to the installation of 20 rain water collection systems, carried out with the support of the water and sanitation delegate through visits to the National Society.

In addition, PADRU provided support for the drought and food insecurity operation in Central America through the mobilization of a disaster management delegate.

### **Central America: Drought (Appeal 31/2001)**

In order to ensure coordination of the operation in response to drought and food insecurity, a PADRU disaster management delegate worked with the regional delegation for Central America for a two month period, May and June 2002. The programme also included a component of agricultural reactivation benefiting 10,000 subsistence farming families in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and

Nicaragua. The delegate focused on assessment and revision of the plan of action which resulted in an extension of the operation for a five month period.

*With regard to disaster events which took place in 2002, PADRU was involved in a number of operations. These are categorized by type of disaster, rather than following a chronological order.*

***Floods: Costa Rica and Panama (Appeal 36/2002)***

Costa Rica and Panama were affected by two periods during which there was heavy rainfall: the first in May and the second in November and December 2002. In the first instance, the most affected region was Bocas del Toro in Panama. PADRU assisted the Red Cross Society of Panama through the presence of a disaster management delegate and a water and sanitation delegate for a 15 day period and provided a water tanker to ensure the distribution of potable water to 22,000 families. PADRU's support was concentrated on damage assessment, the drawing up of a plan of action and the compilation of information for the publication of bulletins. DREF funds of CHF 25,000 were released for these flood operations in May 2002.

***Costa Rica:*** during the second period of heavy rains, the water and sanitation delegate travelled to Costa Rica for a ten day period and equipment was provided to ensure the cleaning of 200 hand-dug wells. In addition, a water tanker was provided for the distribution of water to 5,000 people in three communities in the department of Limón. 12 National Society volunteers were trained in well-cleaning and, in coordination with the Americas department and the regional delegation, DREF funds of USD 20,500 (CHF 30,750) were allocated for these activities.

***Panama:*** PADRU provided support through review of the plan of action and, as a result of the allocation of DREF funds of CHF 40,000, ensured the provision of relief items for 500 families who received 500 kitchen sets, 500 pieces of plastic sheeting and 170 jerry cans; a water tanker was also made available to ensure distribution of clean water. Given limited response to the appeal issued in December 2002, it was not possible to implement a number of wider objectives beyond immediate humanitarian relief, as outlined in the appeal.

***Venezuela:*** During the floods which occurred in the state of Apure in July, PADRU maintained permanent contact with the regional delegation for South America and the Venezuelan Red Cross, ensuring follow-up and support for the regional and national intervention teams (RITs/NITs). This operation provided an opportunity for members of the National Society trained in RITs methodology in Bolivia and Panama, to put their knowledge into practice.

***Chile:*** In the month of June, Chile and particularly its capital, Santiago de Chile, was affected by major floods. The Federation deployed a regional disaster preparedness delegate and PADRU maintained close liaison; the mobilization of a delegate from PADRU proved unnecessary, given the capacity of the Chilean government's national emergency office, ONEMI. DREF funds of CHF 60,000 were provided for this operation.

***Drought:***

***Paraguay: (Appeal 31/2002):*** PADRU, in response to a request from the Paraguayan Red Cross and in coordination with the regional delegation, ensured continuous support and coaching through the presence of a water and sanitation delegate and disaster management delegate in the months of October, November and December 2002. DREF funds of CHF 70,000 were released for the drought operation. Assistance to the Paraguayan Red Cross consisted of assessment of the situation, drawing up of the plan of action and input for the appeal, the objective of which is to mitigate the impact of drought in 51 communities in the province of Boquerón, benefiting 1,500 families (7,000 persons) with

food rations, distribution of potable water, promotion of hygiene and sanitation and construction of water storage and distribution systems. Advice was given in respect of the Spanish Red Cross project carried out with ECHO funds and resources were negotiated from the American Embassy in coordination with the American Red Cross. Equipment was forwarded from Panama to Paraguay including two water tankers and two 5,000 litre bladders and accessory materials.

**Bolivia:** For two years, the absence of rain has affected communities in certain regions in the departments of Santa Cruz, Chuquisaca and Tarija; the water and sanitation delegate from PADRU was deployed to these departments in order to support the Bolivian Red Cross in an assessment of the situation, with the aim of establishing the impact on the communities and of identifying activities which the Bolivian Red Cross could carry out in coordination or in support of government initiatives.

***Hurricanes:***

***Isidore and Kenna***

**Mexico:** After hurricane Isidore struck the Yucatán peninsula, a disaster management delegate travelled to the disaster zone in order to provide support to the Mexican Red Cross in coordination with the Federation's regional communications delegate in Mexico and the regional delegation for Central America. A damage and needs assessment was undertaken and a plan of action drawn up. A rehabilitation and construction proposal was developed to assist 300,000 disaster victims and a DREF allocation of CHF 88,000 was released to ensure immediate assistance to those affected.

In October, a further hurricane, Kenna, hit the Pacific coast of Mexico, particularly the areas of Nayarit and Jalisco (Puerto Vallarta). In order to support the Mexican Red Cross during the damage assessment and the distribution of relief, the head of PADRU was deployed to Mexico. With Mexican Red Cross resources, initial assistance was provided to 4,000 families with food rations, clothes and shelter.

***Cuba: Isidore and Lili (Appeal 29/2002)***

Over a period of 11 days, the island of Cuba was struck by two strong hurricanes, the cumulative effects of which led to major needs in the most impacted regions, principally in the province of Pinar del Río. Isidore hit between 17 and 19 September and Lili made landfall on 1 October. As a result, PADRU mobilized a disaster management delegate for a 20 day period who, in collaboration with the Cuban Red Cross and the Santo Domingo regional delegation, carried out a damage assessment, formulated the plan of action and an appeal seeking humanitarian assistance focusing on rehabilitation and reconstruction targeting 2,000 families.

***Food Security:***

***Southern Africa (Appeal 12/2002)***

In June which was a relatively calm month for PADRU, a disaster management delegate was requested by the Secretariat with the agreement of the American Red Cross, to participate in a three week field assessment and coordination (FACT) team. The mission focused on the needs in several Southern African countries seriously affected by drought and food insecurity.

***Snowstorms:***

**Peru and Bolivia:** PADRU provided support and follow-up for the regional delegation following snowstorms in these two countries for which DREF funds of CHF 80,000 were allocated to ensure assistance to 820 families.



### SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS IN 2002

<i>Disaster</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Human Resources PADRU</i>	<i>Equipment and Supplies PADRU-RLU</i>	<i>Beneficiaries</i>
<i>Floods</i>	<i>Costa Rica</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>5,000 people</i>
	<i>Panama (2)</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>598 families 500 families</i>
	<i>Chile</i>			
	<i>Venezuela</i>			
<i>Drought</i>	<i>Paraguay</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>1,500 families</i>
		<i>1</i>		
<i>Hurricanes</i>	<i>Mexico (2)</i>	<i>2</i>		<i>300,000 families 4,000 families</i>
	<i>Cuba</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>2,000 families</i>
	<i>Southern Africa</i>	<i>1</i>		

<i>Food Security</i>				
<i>Snowstorms</i>	<i>Peru/Bolivia</i>			<i>820 families</i>

Further information on each of these operations can be found in the appeals and reports issued on the Federation web site: [www.ifrc.org/where we work/Americas](http://www.ifrc.org/where%20we%20work/Americas).

### Constraints

As a result of activities carried out in 2002, it became clear that there is a need to address issues affecting response and the start-up of operations involving strategies and mechanisms to facilitate and speed up processes such as:

- Availability of financial resources for response to disasters for which an approval process is not required as in the case of DREF, and which therefore ensure rapid mobilization of PADRU's human resources or of RITs teams.
- Establishment of pre-agreements with National Societies which facilitate information gathering, communication and coordination in the management of operations, as well as the integration of human resource support from the Secretariat and from RITs.
- Further dissemination of the role of PADRU, its protocols and standard operational procedures, together with humanitarian standards.
- Advice and support to National Societies in customs procedures and dialogue with governments to facilitate the entry of humanitarian relief.
- Development and strengthening of mechanisms regarding availability, activation and mobilization of regional intervention teams.
- Setting up of transition processes with the regional delegation following the presence of a PADRU delegate in order to maintain a sustainable operation in which there are no operational gaps between the departure of the delegate and the designation of responsibility at the level of the regional delegation.

**Objective 2:** To consolidate, by the end of July 2002, the Pan American Disaster Response Unit and to further develop its capacity.

In November, the status agreement was signed with the Panamanian government, granting the Federation the status of an international mission; the Red Cross Society of Panama provided continuous support in order to achieve this goal. The expansion of PADRU premises did not take place, given that it was essential firstly to ensure legal status as an international mission.

Human resources were consolidated between January and September 2002; with regard to delegates, the American, British, Canadian and Spanish Red Cross designated and funded delegates as follows: disaster management (3); logistics (2); the head of PADRU and the water and sanitation delegate are funded directly through appeal resources. During this period, no recruitment took place for the position in telecommunications. With the support of the Red Cross Society of Panama, local personnel were selected and recruited in the areas of administration, finance and warehouse and transportation support; 50% of local staff members are volunteers from the National Society. In order to provide improved logistical services to the National Society and the regional delegations, and to ensure appropriate response, logistics capacity was reinforced through the regional logistics unit with the following achievements:

- Adaptation, maintenance and security of the warehousing facilities, enabling the implementation of agreements with suppliers as well as the development of the concept of a virtual warehouse. In PADRU and suppliers' warehouses, 20,000 plastic sheets, 5,610 kitchen kits, 10,000 blankets and 5,000 hygiene kits were pre-positioned.
- The vehicle leasing programme was boosted through the initial pre-positioning of 9 vehicles, of which 2 were sold to the American Red Cross, 2 were leased to the regional delegation in Panama and 1 to PADRU. Seven further vehicles were then pre-positioned. An inventory of the vehicle fleet in the Americas was established with a total of 24 vehicles and use of the transport management system (TMS) was reinforced.
- Through the technical support of the water and sanitation delegate, equipment was recovered from the operations in Venezuela and El Salvador and as a result of an agreement with OXFAM. Therefore, following revision and maintenance, it was possible to pre-position these stocks in Guatemala and El Salvador and to maintain 10 complete units for water distribution and well-cleaning in the PADRU warehouse.
- In the area of telecommunications and in the framework of the agreement with Ericsson, two containers with mobile cell phone bases, 1,200 items of telephone equipment for pre-positioning in 2003 and 3 satellite telephones were obtained; 16 technicians from Ericsson Central America were trained in order to strengthen links with the PADRU team. The Federation's satellite telephone inventory for the region was updated and with the support of the Irish government, two response kits containing computer, telephone and office equipment were provided.



All supplies and equipment managed by PADRU are in conformity with the global standards of the Federation and the ICRC and humanitarian relief items are in accordance with the SPHERE standards. Logistics catalogues and CDs have been distributed from the Secretariat; contents were disseminated at the logistics workshop and can be consulted on the DMIS web site.

An agreement was made with the American Red Cross for the pre-positioning of relief supplies as listed below. In addition, the American Red Cross, through an agreement with the Secretariat, pre-positioned its emergency response unit in PADRU for which PADRU provided support in respect of purchasing. Monitoring of the German Red Cross inventory took place in agreement with the Red Cross Society of Panama.

**SUMMARY OF SUPPLY MANAGEMENT**

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Observations</i>
<b>American Red Cross</b>	2	<i>Vehicles</i>	
	689	<i>Tents</i>	
	2,225	<i>Plastic sheets</i>	
	2,780	<i>Hygiene kits</i>	
	12,600	<i>Sheets</i>	
	5,100	<i>Jerry cans</i>	
	5,490	<i>Blankets</i>	
	48	<i>Shelves</i>	
	1	<i>Emergency Response Unit</i>	
	2,496	<i>Flash lights</i>	
	25,200	<i>Body soap</i>	
	5,000	<i>Soap for washing clothes</i>	
<b>German Red Cross</b>			
	236 boxes	<i>Hygiene material</i>	
	119	<i>Bedframes</i>	
	2,288	<i>Blankets</i>	
	1,040	<i>Blankets</i>	
<b>Federation/PADRU</b>			
	5,610	<i>Kitchen sets</i>	<i>Supplier</i>
	10,000	<i>Blankets</i>	<i>Supplier</i>
	5,000	<i>Hygiene Kits</i>	<i>Supplier</i>
	20,000	<i>Plastic sheets</i>	<i>Supplier</i>
	24	<i>Vehicles</i>	<i>Vehicle leasing programme</i>
	10	<i>Water distribution units</i>	
	2	<i>Delegate kits</i>	
<b>Ericsson</b>	2	<i>Mobile cell phone bases</i>	
	1,200	<i>Telephones</i>	
	2	<i>Satellite telephones</i>	

Delegates and local staff took part in training courses at international and regional level, such as FACT, RITs leadership, regional disaster response team and ERU training.

In 2002, PADRU consolidated relations with UNICEF through the signature of a letter of cooperation in December, strengthened links with Ericsson and contributed to the implementation of the memorandum of understanding with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). In addition, cooperation with the following organizations was secured through dialogue and meetings: WFP, OXFAM, the disaster prevention coordinating body for Central America (CEPRENAC), OCHA-UNDAC, ECHO, and the Inter American Defence School. In order to ensure use of the existing computerized tools, PADRU received support from the Secretariat and a disaster management delegate to create a section on PADRU in the main Federation web page “www.ifrc.org”. In addition, with the support of the regional delegation in Guatemala, it developed its own web page in Spanish “www.padru.cruzroja.org” in order to develop information systems and communication proper to the Unit. As a result of an agreement with the Red Cross Society of Panama, the National Society’s information and communications officer provides technical assistance to PADRU two days each week.

### **Constraints**

- The lack of a standard, global guide in which services and tariffs are specified with average costs complicate decision-making in the area of logistics.
- It is necessary to disseminate the deliberations and minutes of meetings held in respect of SUMA as well as to obtain guidelines from the Secretariat regarding SUMA and the Federation's logistics system.
- The National Societies would benefit from further information regarding Federation policies and relief standards and the Seville Agreement which would facilitate the negotiation and implementation of pre agreements and relief agreements.

### **Disaster Response Preparedness w**

Objective 1: To develop and deliver a comprehensive disaster response training and capacity building service so that National Society disaster response potential is maximized.

In 2002, PADRU concentrated on the coordination and standardization of the methodology, curricula, material and presentations for the training programme for the regional intervention teams (RITs). The following was achieved:

- Planning and coordination with the regional delegations of three workshops held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia), in Spanish, Antigua and Barbuda in English and a RITs refresher course held in Panama in Spanish and English.
- The three workshops took place with participation, as follows:

<b>Workshop</b>	<b>No of Participants</b>	<b>No of National Societies represented</b>	<b>Other organizations</b>
Bolivia	29	18	5
Antigua and Barbuda	28	12	3
Panama (refresher)	28	18	3
<b>Total</b>	85		11

These figures do not include members of PADRU staff, organizers or facilitators

These training sessions provided an opportunity to validate the content, methodology and materials of the courses compiled on CD rom and distributed in both languages to the National Societies and to PAHO, UNICEF, OCHA, CEPREDENAC, the Honduran national emergency body, COPECO, and Ericsson, taking part in the workshops as facilitators and organizers. In addition to the contents of these workshops, the importance of the SPHERE project and the issue of gender and disasters was highlighted.

PADRU organized and implemented a workshop for national intervention teams, together with the regional delegation and the Red Cross Society of Panama. This took place with the participation of 20 members of the Red Cross Society of Panama and representatives of the National Societies of Chile, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru. In December, the water and sanitation delegate was a facilitator and provided support for the NITs workshop in Costa Rica attended by 28 members of the National Society.

Through the regional logistics unit, a logistics workshop for National Societies was planned and staged in Panama; this took place in English and Spanish and was attended by 24 members of 16 National Societies, the ICRC and five international organizations: OXFAM, the World Food Programme (WFP),

UNCEF and FUNDESUMA. The objective was the dissemination and adaptation of the Federation's standards and procedures to the National Societies and revision of their correlation with other systems.

With the aim of increasing the sense of ownership of all activities, PADRU involved and committed the National Societies in the planning, organization and implementation of all training programmes. Through a strategy of internships, the National Societies of El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Panama and the USA designated their directors of relief departments who, through prior meetings and technical committees, took responsibility for the process with the support of the PADRU team; in addition, the regional delegation for South America nominated two people for a 60 day period who helped to structure and standardize RITs procedures.

Another significant achievement over this period was the consolidation of a guide for the formulation of contingency plans. Feedback was provided by the National Societies and regional delegations in the pre-hurricane meeting in Antigua and Barbuda and the contingency planning workshop in the context of the El Niño phenomenon held in Lima, Peru with the participation of the National Societies in the Andean region: the Bolivian, Colombian, Ecuadorian, Peruvian and Venezuelan Red Cross Societies, together with the German and Spanish Red Cross Societies. The region therefore has a parallel reference to contingency planning for hurricanes, with the contingency plans formulated by the Andean National Societies.

In the area of water and sanitation, the application of the participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) methodology was disseminated and boosted through training provided in workshops held in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Paraguay. With the support of the Netherlands Red Cross, PHAST methodology has been translated into Spanish and work in water and sanitation was reinforced through dedicated teams in El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay and Panama (PADRU). Over a 30 day period, a member of the Austrian Red Cross emergency response unit (ERU) for water and sanitation, provided technical support in the review and stocking of equipment in PADRU.

As regards telecommunications, training was carried out jointly by Ericsson and the Federation of 16 volunteers from Ericsson Central America during a workshop which set out and disseminated standards and procedures for working together.

In order to support decision-making and coordination in times of disaster, initial protocols and a guide for the activation and mobilization of RITs were drawn up; these tools will be updated on a yearly basis.

PADRU also provided advice and support during a 15 day induction in Panama of the Guatemalan Red Cross' new relief director and also worked directly with the relief teams from the headquarters and branches of the Mexican and Brazilian Red Cross Societies during three day information and training meetings.

PADRU organized and provided logistical facilitation for the Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) workshop carried out at international level in September in which 10 members of National Societies took part, as well as members of regional delegations, four members of RITs teams, regional disaster response teams (RDRT) and FACT members.

Overall numbers of personnel trained in 2002 have been recorded in a data base compiled by PADRU.

**Constraints:**

PADRU faces the following challenges in the training, promotion and development of human resources:

- Participation of women stands at approximately 20 per cent; dissemination and awareness-raising in respect of gender requires the formulation of strategies aimed at encouraging equity in gender.
- The SPHERE project and the code of conduct require dissemination not only at headquarters level of the National Society and knowledge should be channeled and flow down to branch level.
- Dialogue and agreements with the ICRC should include the issue of disaster response training and protocols for family reunification in disaster response.
- The formation of RITs teams represents a link in the chain of human resource training in the region which is affected by different levels of training in disasters in the National Societies which, for the most part, are not standardized, resulting in varying levels of knowledge and differences in concepts.
- Financial difficulties in the National Societies have limited the development of human resources.
- NITs and RITs processes suffer from a low degree of ownership in the National Societies; it is essential to disseminate and raise awareness of the value added which these trained human resources bring to relief structures through the formulation of a proposal for the management of human resources in disasters.

As a result of the above two difficulties, the mobilization of RITs in operations during 2002 was limited.

**Objective 2:** To contribute to and develop improved early warning systems and communications within and between regional delegations/National Societies, and to promote knowledge-sharing to foster institutional learning.

PADRU provided training and encouraged the use of the disaster management information system (DMIS) at all levels, maximizing the application of this tool by the National Societies and regional delegations. Furthermore, with the support of the Secretariat, a section for PADRU was included on the DMIS; therefore, the DMIS and PADRU pages “[www.padru.cruzroja.org](http://www.padru.cruzroja.org)”, are promoting exchange of information.

With the support of the relief director of the Salvadorean Red Cross Society, an initial project was set up aimed at the application in PADRU of geographical information systems, and consolidation of digital information was begun by country, in parallel with the monitoring of the risk of natural disaster and of National Society profiles. Together with the regional delegation for the Caribbean, PADRU took part in the virtual simulation of hurricanes organized by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), in which 25 organizations participated. To facilitate appropriate and efficient communication in times of disaster, two kits with satellite communications and global positioning systems (GPS) were obtained.

The work of the information officer from the Red Cross Society of Panama in support of PADRU has resulted in a permanent link with the information network and the communicators in the Americas. PADRU initiated the launch of the world disaster report in Panama with the participation of representatives of the diplomatic corps, national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations and the media.

Participation in more than ten national, regional and international fora has resulted in incorporating new concepts and methodologies in PADRU’s processes and procedures, as well as influencing and including the conceptual humanitarian thinking of the Federation in other organizations.

**Constraints:**

- The 90% rate of inoccupancy of the area in which PADRU has its offices has limited the possibility of accessing more advanced technological services in internet which has also reduced rapid connectivity with networks and other users.
- The training in computer technology within National Societies is insufficient and it is necessary to raise awareness of the need to invest in this area.

**Conclusion w**

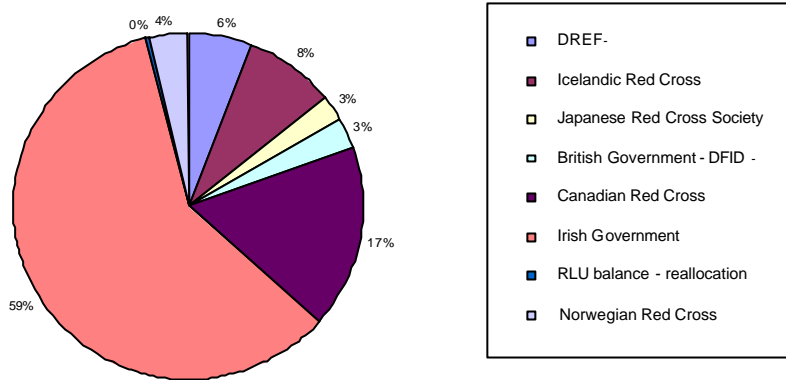
PADRU has ensured continuous dialogue with the regional delegations with a view to planning and coordination. Four meetings took place during the year with each of the regional delegations, and two planning and coordination meetings took place with the regional disaster preparedness delegates. In addition, PADRU took part in several meetings which focused on the Federation's regional coordination in the Americas. Over the year, PADRU has consolidated agreements with UNICEF, PAHO and Ericsson and has initiated discussions in view of potential agreements with WFP, OXFAM and OCHA-UNDAC. PADRU also maintains active dialogue with ACNUR and Médicos sin Fronteras.

The consolidation of PADRU and the activities promoted and developed by the Unit in 2002 demonstrate the importance of this concept which, in its role as a focal point, lends synergy to disaster response preparedness and disaster response in the Americas. The sense of ownership on the part of the National Societies demonstrates that PADRU is a tool resulting from and in promotion of the strengthening of the existing system and which has been integrated in other processes.

The viability of PADRU as a model for the decentralization of disaster management, the transfer of experience at international level and sustainability are issues which continue to be explored.

Financial resources in response to the 2002 - 2003 appeal were provided by the Irish government, the Canadian Red Cross, the Icelandic Red Cross, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the British government, DfID and the Secretariat's disaster management and coordination division. In addition, the American Red Cross, the British Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross provided funding for delegates.

### Contributions by donor - year 2002



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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 website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.*

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES**

Interim report	
Annual report	X
Final report	

**Appeal No & title: 01.18/2002 Pan American Disaster Response Unit**  
**Period: year 2002**  
**Project(s): P42503, 42504**  
**Currency: CHF**

**I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL**

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Comments	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget	1,916,067				
less Cash brought forward	314,990				
<b>TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT</b>	<b>1,601,078</b>				
<u>Contributions from Donors</u>					
Canadian Red Cross (DNCA)	147,285				147,285
DFID - British Government (DFID)	42,500				42,500
DFID 3- British Government (DFID03)	12,102				12,102
Donor - Disaster Relief Emergency Fu (DREF)	50,000				50,000
Icelandic Red Cross (DNIS)	71,902				71,902
Irish Government (DGIE)	515,375				515,375
Japanese Red Cross (DNJP)	22,887				22,887
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO)	30,375				30,375
Amcross				120,000	120,000
Canada				50,759	50,759
Great Britain				88,541	88,541
Spain				45,174	45,174
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>892,427</b>			<b>304,474</b>	<b>1,196,901</b>

**II - Balance of funds**

OPENING	314,990
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	892,427
CASH EXPENDITURE	-1,003,487
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<b>CASH BALANCE</b>	<b>203,929</b>

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**III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures**

Description	APPEAL Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
<u>SUPPLIES</u>						
Shelter & Construction		9,171			9,171	-9,171
Clothing & Textiles		3,439			3,439	-3,439
Food & Seeds						
Water & sanitation	12,500	709			709	11,791
Medical & First Aid		1,696			1,696	-1,696
Teaching materials	50,000					50,000
Utensils & Tools		428			428	-428
Other relief supplies	166,500					166,500
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>229,000</b>	<b>15,443</b>			<b>15,443</b>	<b>213,557</b>
<u>CAPITAL EXPENSES</u>						
Land & Buildings	60,000					60,000
Vehicles	54,100					54,100
Computers & Telecom equip.	11,000	37,024			37,024	-26,024
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures	61,900	18,865			18,865	43,035
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>187,000</b>	<b>55,888</b>			<b>55,888</b>	<b>131,112</b>
<u>TRANSPORT &amp; STORAGE</u>	70,000	56,013			56,013	13,987
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>56,013</b>			<b>56,013</b>	<b>13,987</b>
<u>PERSONNEL</u>						
Personnel (delegates)	424,800	325,456		304,474	629,930	-205,130
Personnel (national staff)	67,600	167,809			167,809	-100,209
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>492,400</b>	<b>493,266</b>		<b>304,474</b>	<b>797,740</b>	<b>-305,340</b>
<u>GENERAL &amp; ADMINISTRATION</u>						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts	8,000	5,612			5,612	2,388
Travel & related expenses	70,000	108,390			108,390	-38,390
Information expenses		17,825			17,825	-17,825
Admin./general expenses	68,900	141,528			141,528	-72,628
External workshops & Seminars	580,000	-878			-878	580,878
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>726,900</b>	<b>272,476</b>			<b>272,476</b>	<b>454,424</b>
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>						
Programme management	129,200	67,667			67,667	61,534
Technical services	38,676	20,260			20,260	18,416
Professional services	42,891	22,474			22,474	20,417
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>210,767</b>	<b>110,401</b>			<b>110,401</b>	<b>100,367</b>
Operational provisions						
Transfers to National Societies						
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>1,916,067</b>	<b>1,003,487</b>		<b>304,474</b>	<b>1,307,961</b>	<b>608,106</b>