

# 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

## Southeast Asia: Regional Programmes

Date 29 December 2003

**Appeal No. 01.65/2003**

**Appeal Target: CHF 2,549,593**

**Programme Update No. 3**

**Period covered: July to October 2003**

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

### In Brief

**Appeal coverage:** 87% ; See attached Contributions List for details.

**Outstanding needs:** CHF 345,406

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:** N/A

**Programme Summary** Through the Asian Regional Taskforce on HIV/AIDS (ART), national societies examined their capacities in HIV/AIDS-related programmes and jointly charted a strategic plan. Several societies are also responding to emergency health needs.

The disaster management unit organised the annual Regional Disaster Management Committee meeting of disaster managers, and training on the Regional Disaster Response Team - a standard Federation tool.

The information strategy for Asia Pacific was revised, with visibility and capacity building being the priorities.

Organisational development support to national societies has been needs-based. Programme planning and youth development have been key areas of intervention in organisational development.

The various components of the Movement met at the Southeast Asia Partnership meeting, and discussed possible modes of coordination in varying situations. The Manila Action Plan was revisited during the meeting.

## **Operational developments**

The region was recovering after the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak earlier in the year. The main effects were economic because travel restrictions, among other things, affected business and trade across the region. As a result of the Federation's emergency appeal on SARS prevention in April, several projects to tackle communicable diseases were launched in the region. Though the World Health Organisation (WHO) signalled global success against SARS in July, the organisation warned countries that the virus was not eradicated and remissions were possible in the winter months.

The socio-economic and political climate in individual countries affects the humanitarian situation and the Red Cross Red Crescent works with that situation in mind. Myanmar has been under US sanctions; its political isolation has made negotiations with other ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) nations difficult despite attempts to broker a roadmap to democracy. Red Cross Red Crescent is one of the few humanitarian organisations that continues to work in the country.

There has been political uncertainty too in Cambodia's post-election climate as the leading party was short of a clear majority to form a government. Meanwhile the Asian Development Bank announced that it had earmarked over USD 200 million dollars for development projects in Cambodia for 2004-2006.

The Thai government came down heavily on cross-border suspects – a key suspect to the Bali bombing was caught in Thailand – after it announced its 'war on terrorism'. The campaign follows the 'war on drugs' to wipe out all drug-related crime from the country. It also had a meeting with its neighbours, Myanmar, Laos and China, for taking joint measures to combat smuggling. The government is also keeping a close watch on moving populations and the repatriation of refugees, with cooperation from the UN High Commission for Refugees.

The Philippines faced its strongest typhoon, Imbudo, in five years which left thousands displaced on the main island of Luzon and triggered severe floods. The effects were also felt along Vietnam's northern coastline. There was a brief internal resistance from the military towards the Philippine government in July however the situation normalised soon after.

Top terror suspects of the Bali bombing went on trial in Jakarta. Though the Indonesian government called for heightened security during this period, the capital was rocked by a bomb explosion at the JW Marriott, a five star hotel. The Indonesian Red Cross was present immediately after the blast attending to the first aid needs of the injured and demonstrating once again the benefits of a trained volunteer corps.

The regional grouping of ASEAN met in Bali in October and discussed, apart from various common areas of cooperation, the concept of setting up an ASEAN economic community by 2020. Thailand was for the first time host to the meeting of APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) states.

## Health and Care

**Goal: There is a sustainable improvement in the general health of vulnerable communities in the region.**

**Objective: The region's national societies deliver quality health and care programmes that address the needs of the most vulnerable communities.**

### Expected Results

1. There is increased capacity in the region's national societies for effective design, planning, implementation and management of relevant high quality health and care programmes. The regional health unit (RHU) will support this capacity building process by providing technical assistance and advice to national societies in accordance with specific needs and development plans.
2. There is enhanced regional networking for cross-border transfer of technology, information sharing, advocacy, and effective resource mobilisation and utilisation within the region. Underpinning the regional networks will be an enhanced focus on increasing the ownership of the membership, with national societies taking on the chair/secretariat role of the networks and, importantly, becoming more committed to supporting one another. The RHU will be instrumental in assisting the networks in developing and implementing cross-border activities.
3. There is improved coordination of health and care activities within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and with relevant external agencies in the region, to ensure development of sustainable national society health programmes. The RHU will act as a facilitator in the coordination of health and care activities in the region.

### Progress/Achievements

#### *Health strategic plans*

After the planning workshop in June, the health departments of Lao and Vietnam Red Cross societies are now finalising plans and budgets for their strategic planning process.

#### *Health-in-emergencies*

The RHU is supporting projects that are now underway after the Federation appealed for the prevention of communicable diseases in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Indonesia and the Philippines. In Laos, the national society provided assistance during a dengue fever outbreak in the northern part of the country. The Philippines Red Cross is training its staff and volunteers for a programme on measles eradication with the Ministry of Health in 2004.

The RHU has also added to its capabilities in health-in-emergencies. The regional water sanitation delegate participated in the 'Health-in-Emergencies in Large Populations' (HELP) course in Hawaii in July, and the regional health delegate participated in the 'Field Assessment Coordination Team' (FACT) course in Denmark in October.

### *Water and sanitation*

The RHU continued to assist the national societies in East Timor, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, China and DPR Korea in their water sanitation programmes. Technical support was extended to the Philippines in their bilateral programmes with the Japanese and Spanish Red Cross.

With funds secured for water sanitation projects in Laos and Vietnam, the RHU has assisted the national societies in planning for the projects. The two national societies are preparing plans of action and establishing selection criteria for beneficiaries. They are also working on mechanisms for monitoring and reporting.

In Vietnam, the national society is preparing for a water and sanitation forum for all the provinces in the Mekong Delta. The forum aims to develop a common approach – in implementation, technical design and use of human resources – for water sanitation projects in the delta area. Local health authorities, non-governmental and other organisations will be present at the meeting as observers and technical resources to the Vietnam Red Cross.

### *HIV/AIDS*

After the plans and budgets were finalised, implementation was well underway in most of the countries involved in the OPEC-funded programme. (For further details see Lao, Cambodia, Vietnam programme updates). The support from the OPEC fund has led to a scaling up of HIV/AIDS activities across the region by allowing national societies to address the issues of HIV/AIDS, and by providing greater depth and coverage to current programmes.

### *ART network*

An external evaluation of the Asian Regional Taskforce on HIV/AIDS (ART) was conducted in May. The evaluation found that national societies have increased their capacity to respond to HIV/AIDS substantially over the last five years. This is credited to both an increase in capability as well as resources for the Red Cross Red Crescent in the region. Societies have developed more comprehensive activities addressing for example prevention, stigma and discrimination, harm reduction, and providing psycho-social support and home-based care. The activities target a wider cross-section of society – commercial sex workers, police and army, youth, people living with HIV/AIDS, truck drivers, mobile workers, etc. This contrasts with mainly youth, peer education and prevention activities prior to 1998. Though these developments cannot be credited to the work of ART alone, there is no doubt that ART has been an important contributor.

The evaluation also identified some weaknesses confronting ART relating to its structure and to its operation. The lack of clear roles between the various actors – the Federation, the ART secretariat, national societies, the Australian Red Cross Mekong sub-regional HIV/AIDS network, etc, is a reason the ART network is less effective than its potential. The national society representatives lack the authority to take decisions in ART meetings, and the communication lines between the ART members and the secretariat need improvement. Other operational inefficiencies include failure to develop an effective monitoring and follow-up system, inability to identify common agendas capable of holding all national societies together, lack of focus (trying to do everything) and inability to develop networking with other relevant organisations.

The evaluation report formed the basis for the 15<sup>th</sup> ART meeting and strategic planning workshop held in Indonesia in September. The main outcome of this meeting was the development of a new strategic plan 2004-08 that attempts to reinforce the positive impacts of the ART network and address the shortcomings mentioned above. The draft strategic plan is currently being circulated for comments.

### *National society support and technical assistance*

After the Federation representative left East Timor in June, the RHU was directly involved in assisting the national society develop health programmes. The introductory community-based first aid training course, which was the first in-country training for the East Timor Red Cross staff and volunteers from different districts, was a major achievement. The RHU coordinated the training with the Indonesian Red Cross trainers who conducted the course in one of the local languages. Two East Timor Red Cross staff also attended the 15<sup>th</sup> ART meeting and workshop in Indonesia in September.

### **Impact**

There is clearly a greater understanding among national societies on the importance of undertaking strategic planning. Several national societies, in addition to Laos and Viet Nam, have now requested RHU support to conduct strategic planning in health or HIV/AIDS. It is clear that strategic planning has the potential for achieving more comprehensive and consistent health programmes, and participating national societies (PNSs) continue to support these initiatives.

The ART evaluation provided valuable input for the development of a new strategic plan 2004-08, not only by identifying achievements and impact, but also by highlighting some of the deficiencies that have to be addressed in order to ensure future efficiency and sustainability of the network. The draft strategic plan attempts to deal with these deficiencies and gives clear directions for the future work of the ART network.

### **Constraints**

Travel restrictions imposed because of SARS were lifted in June and a number of activities that were delayed have since been implemented. However it is unlikely that the RHU will be able to complete all planned activities before the end of the year and some may have to be rescheduled for early 2004.

### **Coordination**

The RHU continues to provide technical support to the disaster management unit in national society operations as well as with training components of the disaster management programme.

A Southeast Asia regional network of organisations involved in water sanitation is under establishment with UNICEF, WHO, Plan International, ICRC and the International Federation as participating members. Close coordination with the Australian Red Cross has continued and is now expanding beyond the OPEC fund to include other HIV/AIDS programmes. The unit participated in their regional meeting – ‘Australian Red Cross-supported HIV/AIDS programme in Asia’. Australian Red Cross representatives also attended the 15<sup>th</sup> ART meeting. Both occasions provided a good opportunity to review each other’s roles and share experiences from within the Movement.

The regional delegation continues to develop links with relevant regional bodies. In September the delegation participated in the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific and the UN Committee on Emerging Social Issues. Two statements - one on HIV/AIDS and the other on least developed, landlocked and island developing countries - were distributed to meeting participants.

Also in September, the Federation and the WHO South East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) in Delhi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) promoting and encouraging closer collaboration between the two agencies throughout Southeast Asia. The MoU covers Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia and East Timor.

## **Disaster Management**

**Goal: National societies are well prepared; able to respond to disasters in a timely, efficient and coordinated manner; clearly linked to the Federation's response system; and improving the ability of communities at risk to cope with disasters.**

**Objective: The disaster preparedness and response capacity at national and regional level is substantially improved and the linkages to the Federation's global response system assured, through a comprehensive, integrated regional disaster management approach.**

### **Expected Results**

The programme is based on four inter-linked projects (components) that correspond with the tasks identified in the objectives agreed by national societies in the regional framework document and seeks to achieve the following results:

1. All national societies are systematically addressing their disaster management (DM) development needs, based on well developed plans and through strengthened regional cooperation.
2. The disaster response and response preparedness capacity within the region is further strengthened, at both individual national society and regional level, and the understanding of and linkages to the Federation's global response system are assured.
3. The linkages and mechanisms for DM information and knowledge sharing between the national, regional and global level are substantially improved.
4. The Federation's regional DM cooperation framework is further developed, maintained, and sustained.

### **Progress/Achievements**

#### ***Addressing development needs, well developed plans and strengthened regional cooperation***

##### *Contingency Planning*

The regional disaster management unit (RDMU) staff visited Indonesia, Cambodia, the Philippines, Laos, East Timor, Myanmar and Vietnam for contingency planning this quarter. The unit facilitated two-day contingency planning workshops for Myanmar and Vietnam societies, the latter now having contingency plans for all major hazards. The unit also assisted the Cambodian Red Cross draft its plans.

##### *Urban disasters study and population movement*

The regional delegation and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) – an important partner of the Federation – have agreed to undertake a joint study on urban disasters in five centres in the region, starting in November.

A discussion paper on population movement in Southeast Asia is available after the consultant hired by the unit completed his study the previous quarter. (More information contained in a separate report).

### *Staff training and development*

National society staff will receive customised support in place of a leadership/management course, which was earlier planned for with the Institute of Disaster Risk Management. A needs assessment was undertaken in September of over 40 staff to understand their individual capacity building requirements. Results were then analysed by a management consultancy company in Kuala Lumpur and a plan for each staff member is currently being developed.

The regional unit financed a Thai Red Cross staff member to attend a course on community-based disaster management in the ADPC.

### *Curriculum and material development*

Staff from five national societies worked on the content of a manual for volunteers during a three-day volunteer curriculum workshop in July. The participants have been involved in volunteer training and material development in their own countries. The draft of this manual has been shared with the societies, and it will be piloted in Vietnam and Cambodia, and probably Indonesia and Philippines.

The RDMU also supported national societies with publicity material relating to the disaster management programme, and specifically the Cambodian Red Cross for developing disaster management training material.

### ***Strengthened disaster response and response preparedness capacity and assured linkages to the Federation's global response system***

Southeast Asia's first training on the regional disaster response team (RDRT) – a Federation response system – took place in September in Indonesia. As a result, draft standard operating procedures for the RDRT developed by the RDMU and the Malaysia Red Crescent have been circulated to all societies. Thirty six participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, East Timor and Myanmar, as well as representatives from the disaster management committee in the secretariat, the country delegation in Indonesia, and the ICRC, attended the training organised by the RDMU.

The unit also supports response training at the country level, such as during the four-day 'team khusus' (national disaster response team) training organised by the Indonesian Red Cross and the Federation delegation in Indonesia.

'Safer Access' is an ICRC tool on conflict preparedness that will be widely used within the Movement. RDMU staff took part in discussions in Indonesia with the ICRC, the country delegation and PMI (Indonesian Red Cross) representatives prior to the 'Safer Access' event in Jakarta in late October.

The regional unit has been a conduit and resource of information from Southeast Asia societies for the development of the International Disaster Response Law. The most recent information was shared with all societies at the sixth regional disaster management committee meeting.

### ***Sharing disaster management information and knowledge regionally and globally***

Staff members from the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar were trained in the disaster management information system (DMIS) – a Federation internet tool for sharing information.

The unit facilitated a study tour for the Lao Red Cross to the community-based disaster management project of the Cambodian Red Cross to learn about risk reduction activities.

### ***Developing, maintaining and sustaining the regional disaster management framework***

The sixth regional disaster management committee (RDMC) meeting in August was attended by disaster managers from 10 national societies in the region and by most regional disaster management team members. The meeting included updates from each national society, and from the four working groups on progress against agreed action plans, as well as thematic discussion on key areas for the region, including urban disasters, climate change, population movement and community-based disaster management.

Members asked for improvements on information sharing on RDMC activities and progress, and in the use of the Federation tools (particularly the DMIS). A questionnaire on disaster management and knowledge sharing prepared by one of the working groups was shared at the meeting. In addition, members agreed to produce regular bulletins and an information brochure.

The ICRC will be invited to attend the next RDMC meeting and will be asked to present on conflict preparedness. A resolution adopted at the meeting added that steps towards the formation of a RDMC secretariat should be considered at the seventh meeting (February 2004).

RDMC/RDMU members were invited to attend the third regional meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (29 - 31 October). This is a timely follow up to informal discussions between RDMC members and ASEAN at earlier meetings.

### **Impact**

Visits by RDMU staff to several national societies were appreciated; the unit now has greater understanding and can offer better support for DM programmes.

Draft contingency plans now exist for all major hazards in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. (These will be collated and submitted to the special DMIS focal page next quarter).

An initial step to developing a better understanding of population movement issues in the region was made with the production of a short discussion paper.

Cross-learning from the visit of DM staff of the Lao Red Cross to the community-based DM programme of the Cambodian Red Cross brought a much clearer understanding of the work in Cambodia and further strengthened ties between these two societies.

The ICRC fully supported the first regional RDRT training event for Red Cross and Crescent staff and volunteers from five societies.

There have been more timely entries to the DMIS and there is growing confidence amongst all national society DMIS focal persons to make submissions.

National society DM directors appreciated the information exchange and new learning during the sixth RDMC meeting. There was frank dialogue on the committee and the challenges that lay ahead.

### **Constraints**

The RDMC members need to take full ownership of the network in order to meet its strategic objectives and make the regional grouping more effective. The sustained commitment of the RDMU is necessary for this to happen, although the resources of the three-person team of the RDMU are stretched.

## **Coordination**

During the RDRT training in Indonesia the RDMU coordinated well with the ICRC and with other representatives from the Federation.

Work with PNSs operating either directly or indirectly through the Federation on programmes in the region continued. There is a need for better coordination and information sharing, both regionally and within certain countries where several PNSs operate, such as in Vietnam.

Technical collaborations between disaster management organisations, as has been the case with the ADPC, have helped mobilise resources in the region.

## **Humanitarian Values**

**Goal: The awareness and application of humanitarian values is enhanced across the region.**

**Objective: National societies in Southeast Asia are motivated and able to generate a high degree of visibility, credibility, cooperation and support for Red Cross Red Crescent activities.**

### **Expected Results**

Following a survey (see below), the programme is based on two key projects that are expected to have the following overall results:

1. Capacity: The region's national societies will have strong and well-developed communications capacity integrated into programme areas.
2. Visibility: Links with regional and international media, as well as Federation and national society outlets, will be strengthened to secure high-profile media coverage for the activities of the Federation and national societies in the region, particularly in times of emergencies. (The original five programmes are described in previous updates).

A consultant hired to survey communications in Asia Pacific presented his report and recommendations at a meeting of Asia Pacific regional information delegates and managers in Kuala Lumpur in September. The information delegates and managers, as well as heads of delegations from Asia and the Pacific, agreed that the information role should change to focus on:

1. Visibility through the use of international and regional mass media, audio-visual production, video and photography, Federation media, public advocacy on regional/sub-regional issues and global campaigns and production of marketing tools.
2. Disasters, which are often the best opportunity for Red Cross Red Crescent visibility.
3. Development of national societies, through mentoring, on-the-job training and coaching, and engaging national societies in the acquisition of visibility, rather than a culture of workshops.
4. Public advocacy (issues-based or country-specific), which requires greater attention in Asia and the Pacific.
5. Publications in conformity with Federation standards, design and corporate identity guidelines.
6. Use of the Federation public web, which provides a powerful medium with the four sub-regions setting target goals.

The sub-regional structure of information management in Asia Pacific was also reconfirmed.

A new job description was drafted at the meetings in Kuala Lumpur. This redefined the role of the regional information officer as contributing to 'positioning the Red Cross Red Crescent as the primary, credible source of information on humanitarian issues and disasters in the region'. This will entail building the organisation's image and profile at all levels by ensuring effective and timely communications on the four core areas of work detailed in *Strategy 2010* – disaster management, health and care, organisational development and humanitarian values – primarily through developing a strong media presence in the region and by generating a regular flow of publicity materials.

## **Progress/Achievements**

### ***Capacity building/on-the-job-training and coaching of national society communications staff***

The regional information officer – a staff-on-loan from the Philippines Red Cross – and the regional information delegate visited seven out of the eleven national societies covered by the region. These were Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The communications staff in these societies often joined the regional information staff in the field to cover stories. They also shared information and discussed ways of improving the flow of information through the region and internationally.

On request, the officer and delegate facilitated a one-day workshop on communication in Cambodia for the leadership and management of the Cambodian Red Cross. The aim was to emphasise the importance of integrating communications into the work of the Cambodian Red Cross. Participants agreed to set up a working group to look at ways different departments in the Cambodian Red Cross could cooperate on specific projects, such as World First Aid Day.

At the RDRT training session in Indonesia, the information delegate and the head of public relations in the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) gave a presentation on the role of communications during disasters. They focused on interview skills, photography and responding quickly to requests for information. While the regional delegate was in Indonesia, a PMI volunteer was tragically killed while trying to recover the bodies of sand miners buried in a landslide. The delegate worked with the PMI to issue a press release and a personal profile of the volunteer, both of which appeared on the ifrc.org website. Subsequent feedback has commended the PMI for paying tribute to this dedicated volunteer.

In Hanoi in October, the delegate gave presentations on the new focus of communication during the secretaries general meeting and the Partnership meeting. The information officer gave a presentation on the importance of visibility in fundraising in the Philippines.

During the period, the unit coached writers in national societies including Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia and Thailand to produce website-quality stories and photos to highlight the work of each national society. Coaching included helping national societies identify suitable topics, drawing up questions to be answered, structuring stories and proofreading. Topics written about included disaster preparedness, landmines, the death of an Indonesian Red Cross volunteer and a branch survey. Some of the stories were also used in internal publications of the societies or for national media.

### ***Visibility***

In order to increase media presence, the new information delegate met many journalists and bureau chiefs from newspapers, radio and TV organisations. The delegate also attended several events and presentations at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand to cultivate contacts.

In October the unit organised a press conference for the Fund Campaign, aiming to put pressure on donor countries to fully fund the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, ahead of the Global Fund's meeting in

Chiang Mai. Speakers at the press conference included the director of the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre and a representative of the Australian Red Cross. The press conference generated stories in several outlets, including the *Bangkok Post*, *ABC News* website, *News24* website and the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Also, the BBC news website ran a story written by the unit on an HIV/AIDS peer education programme among truck and bus drivers in Myanmar during the reporting period. (For details see <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/3210520.stm>).

Stories on World First Aid Day came out in several newspapers. National societies throughout the region promoted celebrations and generated their own publicity. The unit worked with the health unit, which was also charged with publicising the work of national societies.

The unit has also been in touch with major partners, including the Japanese, Danish, British and New Zealand Red Cross, to ensure these societies have material to show their donors in their regular newsletters and websites.

After the final edition of *Asia Pacific Focus*, which was discontinued, the unit devised a new, email-based publication, *Southeast Asia Link*. A web designer at the secretariat in Geneva designed a template. National societies were asked to contribute to two editions which were published during the period. The newsletters were also faxed and printed for distribution among members of the Red Cross Red Crescent movement.

During the period, the unit produced or helped to produce 16 stories for the [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org) website on Cambodia (2), Indonesia (5), Vietnam (1), Myanmar (3), Philippines (2), Laos (2) and Thailand (1). Topics included dengue fever, street children, disaster preparedness and disaster response, HIV/AIDS and community-based first aid.

## **Impact**

The work of national societies in Southeast Asia has been more prominent on the ifrc.org website, with many more stories in this period than in the first half of 2003. The story on peer education among drivers in Myanmar reached a wider audience through the BBC news website. The unit also had positive feedback from partner national societies, who were looking for material for their donors.

Mentoring and one-on-one coaching of communications staff proved to be effective in generating stories as it was personal, targeted and informal. At this stage it seems a more productive way of generating visibility than more theoretical workshops or training seminars.

## **Constraints**

One constraint in this period had to do with the regional information delegate coming up to speed with a new position.

There was a change in focus following the information review in line with redefined and sharpened priorities, particularly relating to capacity building activities and approach.

Finally, although people responsible for disaster management in national societies often collect detailed information, such as the number of people affected, they can be slow to realise the possibilities for visibility of such information. It can also be difficult tracking down photos to go with disaster stories. Information that exists is often not shared with information managers in national societies, who are often very busy with various other tasks, sometimes including volunteer management, fundraising and speech writing.

## **Coordination**

Where appropriate, the unit has liaised with national societies, the ICRC, the media service in Geneva, the technical units in the regional delegation, country delegations, and other humanitarian organisations.

## **Organisational Development**

**Goal: A greater number of people in the region have access to humanitarian services and relief interventions through the Red Cross Red Crescent.**

**Objective: Southeast Asia national societies are aligned with the criteria defined in the ‘characteristics of a well functioning national society’ and are in a position to deliver quality humanitarian services to the most vulnerable people.**

### **Expected Results**

1. National societies in the region achieve significant improvements in regional cooperation and coordination through a strong regional network of organisational development (OD) practitioners and practical training in OD-related issues.
2. The capacity of at least two national societies in the field of human resource development is enhanced in order to ensure the engagement and retention of a sufficient number of qualified people to carry out the required programmes and activities.
3. The Malaysian Red Crescent, the Philippines Red Cross, Thai Red Cross and Cambodian Red Cross benefit through direct assistance from the regional OD unit in, respectively, programme management, resource development and mobilisation, establishment of a youth network and gender balance.

## **Progress/Achievements**

### *Regional coordination*

As part of an ongoing partnership, the fundraising staff visited its Thai counterpart in June on a staff exchange and to share ideas in various areas of fundraising. The Philippines Red Cross has started new fundraising activities with assistance from the regional OD unit.

The Cambodian Red Cross also made study visits to the Thai Red Cross and the Philippines Red Cross headquarters and chapters. Its management team has carried the lessons learned from chapter organisation into its own society.

The regional Southeast Asian youth cooperation team (SEAYC) is a new network formed to empower capacities of youth directors, managers and volunteers in leadership and volunteerism, and to promote friendship among Red Cross youth in the region. This network was approved at the secretaries general forum of Southeast Asian societies in October.

### *Planning*

The Cambodia Red Cross finalised their strategic plans with assistance from the country delegation.

The unit organised and facilitated two regional project planning process (PPP) workshops in July and August, in which twenty participants from ten national societies in the region participated. After receiving the regional PPP training, Vietnam and Cambodian Red Cross decided to use PPP as a basis for their project planning, translating the manual into local languages and organising country-level training in both countries. The Philippines and Thai Red Cross have requested the unit facilitate PPP workshops for their staff early next year.

### *Technical support to national societies*

The unit closely monitors the gender project in Laos. Next year the unit will also implement other organisational development activities as the Federation is closing its delegation in Laos.

In September, the regional OD delegate facilitated a governance and management workshop for the Philippines Red Cross board members, senior managers and staff.

### *Direct support to national societies*

Targeted management training support is provided to selected senior managers from the Cambodian Red Cross and the Philippines Red Cross.

Thai Red Cross staff from the fundraising bureau shared skills at a fundraising workshop organised by the secretariat.

### *Financial resource development*

The training of trainers (ToT) for staff at the national society and in the field commenced during the period. The staff at headquarters researched and revised their fundraising policy and came up with their own training modules for chapters to assist with local fundraising. Subsequently, the Philippines Red Cross board received the revised fundraising policy for approval.

### *Youth development*

The unit organised and facilitated the first regional youth directors meeting in the Philippines in September. During the meeting, the directors reviewed the youth policy and structures in their national society. The group provided feedback to the Philippines Red Cross on their activities and approach after the field trips.

The unit and Thai Red Cross youth bureau organised study visits within the region for youth, staff and volunteers. The participants reported that they gained knowledge of the national societies' programmes and services.

### **Impact**

The partnership and use of resources from within the region is strengthened through various activities organised by the unit and initiated by the national societies. The ownership of networks/groups is evident; for instance the Thai Red Cross sponsored in-country costs of participants to the youth exchange programme with the unit.

The operational planning workshop is ongoing in several national societies and will improve the effectiveness of their service delivery and project management.

### **Constraints**

The deployment of a replacement regional OD delegate has taken longer than expected, though there are hopes for an appointment in the new year. Furthermore, the departure of the acting head of delegation in Viet Nam and the difficulty in finding a replacement stretched the resources of the regional OD unit.

### **Coordination**

There has been close coordination with the heads of delegations, OD delegates and units to support some activities of the regional OD unit due to the sudden departure of the regional OD delegate. Close coordination continues with ICRC, the OD department in Geneva, country delegations and the national societies in the region in all relevant activities.

## **Federation Coordination**

**Goal: National societies in Southeast Asia have sustained and coordinated support of Red Cross Red Crescent partners for their activities.**

**Objective: The effectiveness of, and external support for, the region's national societies is strengthened by transforming existing concepts into action.**

### **Expected Results**

All components of the Movement in Southeast Asia work together effectively.

The project seeks to have the following specific results:

1. The leaderships of national societies and their PNSs come together at least once a year.
2. The South East Asia Secretaries General Forum becomes established and institutionalised.
3. By the end of 2003 a significant number of national societies in the region have begun a cooperative agreement strategy (CAS) process.

4. The Federation and the ICRC continue to enjoy harmonious and close working relations across the region.

## **Progress/Achievements**

### ***Partnership meeting***

The annual Southeast Asia Partnership meeting was co-hosted by the ICRC regional delegation and the Viet Nam Red Cross in Hanoi October. Various national societies from over 20 countries made presentations on their experience of cooperation in addition to the group discussions on this theme and on the different models of partnership.

It was the first opportunity since the Asia Pacific regional conference in Manila for societies to take stock of tasks agreed a year ago. A member of the working group that oversees the implementation of the *Manila Action Plan* (MAP) reported that the group was awaiting a set of guidelines from the Federation secretariat. National societies in the region asserted that the governance, rather than the management of the Federation, in close consultation with the societies, must draft action plans that require a region-wide intervention. The societies also felt that the MAP tasks in disaster management and health conformed to their programme activities. They also felt that population movement is a sensitive area that needs liaison with the government.

The event was an opportunity for multilateral partners to learn about activities and priorities of national societies in the region, both during the plenary and in discussions on the sidelines.

### ***Secretaries General forum***

The secretaries general forum met prior to the Southeast Asia Partnership meeting under the chairmanship of the Viet Nam Red Cross, with the Federation and ICRC as observers. Members from the various regional networks (in HIV/AIDS, youth etc.) presented their report to the leaders. The leaders felt that human resource development was a priority for the region. The agenda of the Partnership meeting was approved by the forum. The agenda of the forthcoming General Assembly and international conference was also tabled.

### ***CAS process***

In early September most partners that are signatories to the CAS in Laos signed the proposals for the CAS office. The secretary general of the Lao Red Cross was appointed chairman of the CAS committee, a multi-party body reviewing the progress and plans of the office periodically.

The head of the regional delegation discussed the structure of the CAS office with the leadership of Lao Red Cross. Current Federation local staff will become part of the CAS office, and therefore the Lao Red Cross. Starting next year the office will support the Lao Red Cross in its coordination role with programmes that receive external support. Its tasks come under the broad areas of: coordination support; cooperation and partnership; facilitation; reporting; and monitoring and evaluation. Meanwhile, the Federation is making arrangements to close its office in Laos.

On the sidelines of the Partnership meeting the Vietnam Red Cross and its sister societies reviewed the parameters of support by the Federation. The support should centre on the society's organisational change process and on financial management. The Federation should also coordinate capacity building and organisational development programmes supported by sister societies. It is foreseen that the Federation office in Vietnam would relatively downsize in 2004 and further work closely with the Vietnam Red Cross towards a CAS model. More information will be available early in 2004, following the series of statutory meetings in Geneva.

### ***Federation-ICRC relations***

Throughout the quarter the Federation and the ICRC have maintained a good working relationship. The relief effort after the bombing in Jakarta attested to the coordinated effort of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in responding to victims of disasters. The Myanmar Red Cross, ICRC and Federation made a joint presentation during the Partnership meeting on how the three components were working as a Movement in difficult situations. The ICRC and the Federation in East Timor have embarked on a joint assessment and planning mission to East Timor.

### **Impact**

The Partnership meeting brought a frank dialogue between the various stakeholders within the Movement on their priorities for the region. Some new partnerships and new methods of working were also considered during the meeting.

The CAS in Laos will be operational from next year and will be the practical application of the concept agreed among partners in principle. Staff from the Federation that will become part of the Lao CAS office have the experience and institutional knowledge in fulfilling their duties.

## **Field Management**

**Goal: The Federation Secretariat's support to national societies in the region is optimised.**

**Objective: The Federation facilitates the delivery of well managed and coordinated Red Cross Red Crescent programmes across Southeast Asia.**

### **Expected results**

Effective and efficient regional field management structures and procedures are in place.

The project seeks to have the following specific results:

1. A regional management and coordination structure is maintained at a level appropriate to ensure the Federation secretariat is able effectively to fulfil its field management function.
2. Unacceptable/ unplanned financial deficits are eliminated.
3. There is increased efficiency in the use of human resources in the region.
4. All agreed donor reporting requirements are met in full.

### **Progress/Achievements**

#### ***Maintaining a regional management and coordination structure; ensuring efficient use of human resources in the region***

With the recruitment of Federation Representative beset with difficulties, the regional delegation was directly responsible for the management of the Vietnam office for much of the reporting period. A delegate with recent work experience in the region was appointed as an interim programme manager in October.

A regional trainee health delegate from Japan who started a mission out-posted in Indonesia in July also provided close programme coordination in East Timor. The regional delegation has been directly responsible for

Federation programmes in East Timor since the departure of the previous Federation representative in May. The delegation handed over this interim responsibility to a new Federation representative to East Timor in October.

Elsewhere too, Federation resources were shared well between programmes. The regional human resource officer was on a mission to Indonesia as interim OD delegate for two months till the new delegate arrived. An important achievement was progress on the review of statutes with the Indonesian Red Crescent. The delegate also organised a team building exercise for the Indonesian Red Crescent, the Federation in Indonesia and sister national societies.

Later the human resource officer also helped streamline the systems and procedures of the Federation delegation in Myanmar.

The Japanese Red Cross sent a second trainee delegate to the regional delegation in September. The delegate will focus on HIV/AIDS programmes in Myanmar. The experience will increase the society's visibility in the region and capacity in health once the delegate returns.

National society persons attended the BTC (basic training course) held in Japan. The regional delegation was responsible for recruiting candidates from Southeast Asia eligible for this course, which serves as an eligibility criterion to be a delegate. The Swedish Red Cross supported candidate expenses.

The regional management meeting in September was co-chaired by the head of the regional delegation and his deputy, a newly arrived regional programme coordinator. The team was briefed on the donor reporting targets for Asia Pacific, and also the new communications strategy for the region. Country heads and technical units briefed the team on progress and challenges in their areas. The country heads were given individual responsibilities in speciality areas of population movement, advocacy, CAS and strategy for change.

The role of the programme coordinator was also elaborated during the meeting. The coordinator will oversee and coordinate donor reporting and finance and four-year planning for Southeast Asia. This would be in addition to the coordination role for regional and country programmes.

### ***Meeting donor reporting requirements***

Preparations for the Federation appeal 2004 – an annual appeal document - have been underway since August. The technical units in the regional office were involved in drafting their document, and also provided inputs for country programmes. The regional delegation received technical support from the Geneva Secretariat and the regional reporting unit in compiling the documents. Some new features have been added to the appeal soon to be launched. The projected budgets for the sub-region in 2004 are also ready.

The reporting person in the delegation took the four-day PPP training to understand the planning of programmes and how their implementation relates to reporting.

## **Impact**

Cooperation between the regional and country delegations was considerable and in line with the 'strategy for change'. Resources from the regional structure were mobilised when the need arose.

Partners and Federation staff in Indonesia agreed they shared better understanding and trust after the team building exercise.

Regional staff better understand country programme priorities for next year due to the intensive in-house consultation in preparing the annual appeal.

Having qualified BTC-trained national society candidates is a step closer to finding and efficiently using resources from within the region.

## **Constraints**

There have been some gaps after delegates left the region and before a replacement could start their mission. Resources within the team were mobilised, and at times stretched, to meet the commitments in the region. A new regional OD delegate should be deployed early in the new year.

## **International Representation**

**Goal: The Red Cross Red Crescent is widely regarded as a major humanitarian organisation in the region.**

**Objective: The Red Cross Red Crescent's position in Southeast Asia is strengthened to support the most vulnerable.**

## **Expected Results**

The Federation is positioned to effectively influence the humanitarian agenda in Southeast Asia, to advocate in favour of the most vulnerable, to mobilise resources within the region and to establish operational partnerships.

The project seeks to have the following specific results:

1. There is increased awareness among the international community of the Federation's global activities and key messages and also the work of the region's national societies.
2. A foundation for cooperation with major disaster management organisations in the region, including the ADPC, is laid to reach shared goals.
3. ESCAP and UNAIDS have developed enhanced knowledge on Federation activities and its potential to intervene for people living with HIV/AIDS.
4. There is augmented donor support from the region, including initiatives with the private sector.

## **Progress/Achievements**

- The Federation was represented along with members from the Thai and Indian Red Cross during the 59<sup>th</sup> session of UN ESCAP. (For more details see the Health and Care section).
- The Federation delegation in Southeast Asia regularly attends the United Nations-hosted monthly meetings. The meetings are a place to network with other organisations. Programme managers in areas of disaster

management, humanitarian values and health also maintain relations with UN and other international/ non-governmental organisations.

- The regional delegation was involved in preparing for the visit of the vice president of the Federation to Vietnam. The head of the regional delegation joined his meeting with the Vietnam Red Cross on, among various matters, the legal status of the Federation in Vietnam. The vice president also met with leaders of state on this matter.
- The Red Cross Red Crescent was represented at the fifth meeting of member states to the Ottawa convention on de-mining. Thailand, Cambodia, the Philippines and Malaysia have ratified the convention.
- The Thai Red Cross was an important participant at the ninth national conference against HIV/AIDS. The local media carried an article quoting the director of the HIV/AIDS research centre, and the Thai Red Cross, on the challenges in HIV/AIDS for Thailand.

### **Impact**

The UN ESCAP ministerial meeting was a good opportunity for the Federation's representation in discussions on HIV/AIDS. The delegation has maintained, and in few cases improved, Red Cross Red Crescent relations with international organisations. The local media highlighted Red Cross Red Crescent action during important events this quarter.

### **Constraints**

Time constraints and shortage of human resources has at times limited the regional delegation's interaction with the international and diplomatic community. Therefore partnerships with private or non-governmental parties outside the Movement are still limited from the regional office. Some national societies have independently established alliances, which are working well. A good example is the Singapore Red Cross drive of 'partners in action'.

### ***For further information please contact:***

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*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

# South East Asia regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.65/2003

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

17/12/2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,549,593	TOTAL COVERAGE 86.5%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				326,168		
AUSTRIAN - RC		70,000	EUR	108,430	30.06.03	HEALTH & CARE
BRITISH - RC		10,000	GBP	22,425	12.02.03	PPP TRAINING COURSE
BRITISH - RC		10,000	GBP	22,425	12.02.03	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID(04)				30,000	24.02.03	DEVELOPMENT
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID(04)				63,500	24.02.03	HEALTH & CARE
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID(04)				98,000	24.02.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID(04)				108,000	24.02.03	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)				35,000	24.02.03	INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION
BRITISH - RC		7,000	GBP	15,425	08.08.03	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
GERMAN - RC				60,000	20.06.03	REGIONAL PROGRAMME COORDINATOR
JAPANESE - RC		58,227	USD	74,967	20.06.03	HUMANITARIAN VALUE
JAPANESE - RC		73,184	USD	94,224	20.06.03	HEALTH AND CARE
JAPANESE - RC		34,951	USD	44,999	26.06.03	TRAINEE DELEGATE
JAPANESE - RC		24,772	USD	35,028	03.09.03	HEALTH AND CARE
NETHERLANDS - GOVT		100,000	EUR	154,300	21.07.03	
NEW ZEALAND - RC				60,000	08.08.03	REG. COMMUNICATIONS DELEGATE
NEW ZEALAND - RC		100,000	NZD	80,850	19.09.03	WATSAN
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		600,000	NOK	113,250	26.02.03	ART NETWORK
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		100,000	NOK	18,850	21.10.03	ART
SWEDISH - GOVT		2,000,000	SEK	320,000	31.03.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, OD DELEGATE, DISASTER MANAGEMENT, HUMANITARIAN VALUES
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND ALLOCATION				52,720	07/04/2003	P51905
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,938,561	CHF	76.0%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATE(S)			59,959		
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			59,959		
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			59,959		
GERMANY	DELEGATE(S)			22,505		

# South East Asia regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.65/2003

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

17/12/2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
ICELAND	DELEGATE(S)			34,825		
NEW ZEALAND	DELEGATE(S)			28,419		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				265,626	CHF	10.4%

## ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	