

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 (PADRU)

12 April 2005

In Brief

*Appeal No. 01.51/2004; http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/015104a.pdf
Appeal target: CHF 1,622,621 (USD 1,282,518 or EUR 1,046,612); Appeal coverage: 40.4%.
([click here to go directly to the attached Final Report](#)).*

This Annual Report reflects activities implemented over a one-year period; they form part of, and are based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. 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 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's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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Overall analysis of the programme

In 2004 the first major disasters since the establishment of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit hit the Americas; the 2004 Atlantic hurricane season was the worst in 10 years with four major storms, Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne, striking the region, causing significant damage and loss of life. The Unit took responsibility for coordination of the emergency operations in the field. PADRU's Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) managed the shipment of more than 350 tons of relief goods by air and sea to assist over 30,000 families in the Caribbean affected by the hurricanes. Sites for follow-up and monitoring of the hurricane response operations were created on the disaster management information system (DMIS), as well as on the PADRU and Americas web pages.

In addition to the hurricane season, PADRU responded to several medium scale disasters throughout the year. In February, an emergency operation began in Haiti to respond to the social unrest. In May, serious flooding occurred in Haiti and the Dominican Republic for which PADRU provided response. In addition, PADRU responded to flooding and an outbreak of yellow fever in Colombia. PADRU has made considerable changes in the telecommunications structure in field delegations, particularly in Haiti, as well as in PADRU premises themselves with the establishment of a new telecommunications centre. As a result of the experience gained during the hurricane season, RITs training modules have been improved and introduced during a course held in November in Argentina and December in Nicaragua. At least ten Regional Intervention Team (RITs) members were active throughout the year, and several RITs members were deployed during the hurricane season.

Programmes and projects in the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in 2004 were been seriously hampered by a lack of funding, particularly during the early part of the year. In July, an evaluation of PADRU was finalized by experienced consultants. This focus on the role PADRU has played in disaster response, emphasizing the efficient emergency response work of the Unit as a major achievement in helping the most vulnerable affected by disasters. Another focus for PADRU during the 2004 was the X Meeting of Presidents and Technical Seminars for South America, held in Montevideo, Uruguay. The meeting served to raise awareness and knowledge of the Plan of Action of the Inter American Conference which was used as the main tool in all working groups throughout the meeting.

Over the past three years since its inception, PADRU has steadily improved its disaster response mechanisms and there is an increasing confidence within the Federation in PADRU's response capacity. Partner National Societies see a big advantage in having a single source for procurement within the region, both in terms of cost-effectiveness as well as in bringing greater levels of standardisation. In addition, PADRU is increasingly seen as a reliable focal point for in-coming PNS support. It has provided an effective coordination function, both for internal Red Cross management, as well as increasingly with external humanitarian organisations and other donors

Objectives, Achievements, and Constraints

Disaster Response:

Goal: PADRU, through the regional delegations, will support the network of Red Cross Societies in the Americas to attain a level of capacity in disaster management that successfully helps people to reduce risk, respond to and recover from disasters.

Programme Objective: The National Societies and the Federation, in a coordinated manner, will respond effectively and efficiently to disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean, working within a regional network with a strategy ensuring a transition from relief to rehabilitation as part of an integrated process from vulnerability to development.

Objective 1: The Federation responds appropriately to disasters, mitigating the effects and focusing on vulnerable groups.

Progress/Achievements and impact

During the first months of 2004, PADRU followed up on the emergency operations that began in end of 2003, including the earthquake operation in Puerto Armuelles, Panama, and the floods operation in the Dominican Republic.

PADRU was able to better coordinate its work in the field, using the regional response system tools, together with global mechanisms, such as Field Assessment and Coordination Teams. This coordination was particularly successful during the response to the hurricane season as PADRU responded from the outset of the emergencies. In support of the National Societies, personnel were pre-positioned in countries where hurricane strikes were anticipated, allowing time for preparedness measures. Over a period of 7 weeks, PADRU worked in one of the most severe hurricane seasons of recent years, resulting in the implementation of 7 operations in 6 countries; in addition, assistance was provided in Nicaragua, Panama and Colombia as a result of flooding.

Floods in Dominican Republic and Haiti, early 2004 and May:

With the financial support of ECHO, PADRU provided support to the Dominican Red Cross in the relief operation for the floods that occurred in December, 2003. A member of the RITs team was in charge of the operation in the field. A total of 18,340 people were assisted as part of this relief effort. In Haiti, PADRU

provided assistance to the Haitian National Red Cross Society in the damage and needs assessment which was conducted, and in formulating a plan of action and a logistics strategy. The operation was started at the end of December, but was put on hold in March due to the social unrest and increased instability in the country. The relief goods sent by PADRU in February were stolen and vandalized while waiting to pass through customs in the port in Port-au-Prince. These supplies were part of the humanitarian relief effort financed by ECHO. At the end of May, heavy rains caused serious flooding in the border region between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, specifically in Jimaní in the Dominican Republic and in Fonds Verrettes and Mapou in Haiti. PADRU responded to the situation immediately, deploying two delegates to assist the National Societies in their relief efforts. Some 140 tons of humanitarian aid were immediately purchased and sent to the affected areas. The Federation worked in the field in coordination with the French, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies, as well as with ECHO. The operation was then focus on capacity building and rehabilitation.

Social Unrest in Haiti:

The International Federation launched an appeal at the beginning of March to cover the humanitarian needs that arose as a result of the social unrest in Haiti. The objectives related to Haiti that had been originally established as part of the Caribbean Annual Appeal 2004 were transferred to the emergency appeal so that all activities in Haiti are being carried out under the Haiti Social Unrest Appeal (Appeal 07/2004). This appeal includes long-term development objectives, including a component relating to disaster management. PADRU has collaborated with the Haitian National Red Cross Society in the distribution, purchases and shipments of relief goods, and in strengthening the capacity of the National Society through the training of volunteers in telecommunications and the promotion of national relief teams. Together with the ICRC, the HNRCS worked on the installation of a VHF/HF network to improve communications between Movement members in the country. Communications systems were installed. PADRU dispatched a telecommunications delegate to the country who worked with two delegates from the Spanish Red Cross and technical personnel from the ICRC.

2004 Hurricane Season:

The hurricane season in 2004 was the most active for the past ten years. Preparatory measures for response facilitated the deployment of personnel in order to support the National Societies before the hurricanes struck, and resulted in a more rapid activation of the system and the implementation of response. Federation disaster response tools were coordinated by PADRU including resources such as emergency response units (ERUs), FACT and RITs, together with the disbursement of disaster relief emergency funds. PADRU contributed to the drafting of three emergency appeals and a request for assistance in the case of Cuba in response to Hurricane Charley. From the PADRU warehouse in Panama, some 350 tons of humanitarian aid were dispatched in 14 flights and several shipments were sent by sea in order to assist over 30 thousand families in the Caribbean.

Hurricane Charley:

In August 2004, Cuba was severely impacted by the passage of Hurricane Charley, which hit the south coast of the province of La Habana. The passage of the storm resulted in flooding in low lying areas. A Request for Assistance for 5,000 beneficiary families was issued in early September. PADRU is supporting the Cuban Red Cross relief department, as appropriate. All purchases for the operation were carried out by PADRU's Regional Logistics Unit. Relief items for this operation were mainly zinc sheeting and nails for the reconstruction of roofs.

Hurricane Frances:

The passage of Frances in the Caribbean affected 250 families in the Dominican Republic. On 1 September, Frances hit the Turks and Caicos Islands as a category four storm and several hundred people were evacuated. On 4 September, Frances hit the Bahamas as a category 2 storm, resulting in a total of 8,000 people affected. PADRU assisted the Bahamas Red Cross Society with a request for DREF funding of CHF 70,000 and the formulation of a plan of action to assist 4,000 families. Two disaster management delegates worked with the President and Secretary General of the National Society in the carrying out of an evaluation in the field. Both delegates were deployed to the island prior to Frances striking; some 70 Bahamas Red Cross Society volunteers worked during the emergency to distribute humanitarian assistance.

Hurricane Ivan:

Hurricane Ivan, the most powerful hurricane to hit the Caribbean in 50 years, moved across the region for several days in September, leaving death and destruction in its wake. A FACT team was deployed to Grenada, which sustained most damage from the Hurricane, supported by RITs trained members from Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Panama, Saint Kitts and Saint Lucia. A Logistics ERU was also deployed by the British Red Cross. The operation was coordinated by a PADRU disaster management delegate in the field during the initial two months and PADRU managed the procurement and shipment of relief items to Grenada. The operation focused on the distribution of emergency relief items, including food, to over 13,000 families over a four week period, covering most of the island and the needs of those most affected by the Hurricane. On 15 September, the Federation launched a revised emergency appeal for CHF 6,033,000 to assist 85,000 beneficiaries in the Cayman Islands, Cuba, Grenada and Jamaica for a six month period. Following the emergency relief phase of the operation, PADRU is involved in capacity building efforts, particularly in the organization of National Intervention Teams (NITs) training sessions.



Beneficiary selection in Jamaica; over 200,000 people benefited from Red Cross assistance during the hurricane season. The Regional Logistics Unit dispatched some 350 tonnes of aid in 14 charter planes.

Hurricane Jeanne:

Jeanne ripped through the Caribbean between 13 and 28 September, particularly affecting Puerto Rico, where two people died and 3,500 people were evacuated, whilst in the Dominican Republic, 13,216 people were affected. Tropical Storm Jeanne struck Haiti between 17 and 19 September 2004. Due to the high level of environmental degradation, rains caused severe floods and landslides throughout the northern region of the country and the town of Gonaives and its surrounding areas were the hardest hit. From the outset of the disaster, the Regional Delegation and PADRU worked closely with the Federation's delegation in Port-au-Prince. In Haiti, Jeanne left over 3,000 dead and 80,000 people affected. The Federation launched a revised emergency appeal on 5 October for a total of CHF 11,673,000 to assist 50,000 beneficiaries over a six month period. Given the gravity of the situation in Haiti, a FACT team was deployed, together with a health emergency response unit. Relief supplies and logistics support were also provided by PADRU. In order to support the operation, the American Red Cross sent a member of the international response team (IRT), particularly to assist with administrative issues. Hurricane Jeanne made landfall in the Bahamas on 25 September, damaging 75% of houses and affecting 8,000 people. A disaster management delegate from PADRU travelled to the country and conducted a preliminary

assessment and Bahamas Red Cross Society volunteers were mobilized. On 4 October, the Federation launched an emergency appeal for CHF 958,000 to provide assistance to 15,000 beneficiaries over a three month period.

Constraints:

During 2004 the programme in the Pan American Disaster Response Unit were affected by a serious funding shortage as the majority of the donors chose to wait for the results of PADRU's evaluation before finalizing their contributions. Programmes have also been affected by the human resource situation in PADRU which sees delegates sent to the Unit for short-term contracts and does not allow for the long-term development of projects.

The operation in response to the social unrest in Haiti presented PADRU with a challenge as the role of the Unit during times of social or political conflict remains unclear. The instability of the government in Haiti was also a constraint for PADRU, both for the social unrest and the floods operations, since many government offices are not functioning.

Objective 2: PADRU, in coordination with the regional delegations, provides effective support to the National Societies in the Americas which, in collaboration with local partners and resources, achieve improved capacity in response to disasters at national level.

Progress/Achievements and impact

Floods in Colombia, early 2004:

Due to heavy rains the rising levels of the Magdalena, Cauca and Atrato rivers during the months of November and December 2003, flooding occurred in 18 departments in the country, affected more than 4,000 people, killing 25 and destroying hundreds of homes. During early 2004 PADRU supported the Colombian Red Cross (CRC) in following up on the response to these floods. According to the contingency plan established in each of the branches of the CRC, the National Society responded to the emergency by supporting the disaster prevention plans of the National System for Disaster Prevention and Care. On 2 January an outbreak of yellow fever was confirmed in the department of Cesar and later in the departments of Magdalena and Guajira. The focal point of the epidemic was Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. The CRC immediately activated its contingency plan once again and, in coordination with the departmental Ministries of Health, carried out campaigns to vaccinate the local population.

Floods in the Dominican Republic, early 2004:

As part of strengthening the capacity of the National Society, a workshop was carried out with the local coordinators and the Presidents of the branches involved in the operation following the floods in 2003. This exercise helped PADRU to adapt the tools being used in the operation to the specific context of a relief operation in the Dominican Republic. The results of the workshop were also used to redirect the implementation of the operation to respond better to the needs of the population. The response structure of the National Society was also strengthened through five workshops addressing the selection of beneficiaries and the provision of humanitarian relief. These workshops were carried out in Montecristi, Santiago de los Caballeros, San Francisco de Macoris, Barahona and Santo Domingo. In addition, a workshop for the national intervention team (NIT) was held, which helped strengthen the disaster management capacity of the Dominican Red Cross.

Floods and Mudslides in Nicaragua:

Nicaragua was hit by a series of tropical waves in June and August which caused flooding and landslides in several areas of the country. A total of 5,751 people were affected by the disaster, including 21 killed and 7 missing. In the RAAN and RAAS, the rain caused river levels to rise, affecting several communities and causing serious damage to farmland in the area. In the department of Matagalpa, the municipality of Rio Blanco was particularly badly hit, with the heavy rains saturating the land and causing severe mudslides in the Cerro Musun, a mountainous area of natural reserve located northeast of Managua. The mudslides hit 6 communities, affected 2,414 people, cut off communications and resulted in the collapse and contamination of water systems. A decision was made to re-house the population of the Cerro Musun as the location is highly vulnerable to further, more serious mudslides. The majority of communities that were hit by the disaster remain cut off and the affected

population has been moved to temporary shelters in 14 village schools in lower risk areas. The response operation implemented by the Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC) was supported by the Italian Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) together with a significant contribution from an emergency fund of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Italian government. The Federation provided technical support throughout the period of the operation. Some 40 NRC emergency disaster response units were working in the Cerro Musun operation. The National Society developed a plan of action in order to assist 500 families in food and non-food relief, as well as with shelter. PADRU was been involved in the development of the plan of action and its implementation and deployed a water and sanitation delegate to Nicaragua.

Floods and Earthquake in Colombia, October and November:

As a result of heavy rains in Colombia, the Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS) was carried out an operation to provide assistance to 4,000 families and to strengthen local capacities. Last year the rainy season had been particularly severe, with continuous, heavy rain storms since the beginning of October causing damage in many vulnerable communities from 21 of the 32 departments in the country, especially those in the north, bringing flooding and mudslides and affecting more than 95,000 people (20,000 families). The CRCS managed two shelters in the department of Cordoba, where provided psychosocial support to evacuees in addition to other relief services. A telecommunications technician from the CRCS headquarters travelled to the affected area to deliver radio equipment and provide logistical support to volunteers. CHF 100,000 was allocated from the Federation's DREF fund to cover the immediate non-food relief needs of those affected by the floods in the departments of Cordoba and Sucre. On 5 November, the Federation launched an appeal for CHF 953,000 to assist 20,000 beneficiaries over a six month period. The Federation is supporting the plan of action developed by the CRCS in coordination with Federation representative based in Bogotá and the Lima Regional Delegation; PADRU is providing expertise through its delegates specialized in logistics, disaster management and water and sanitation.

An earthquake registering 6.7 on the Richter scale struck Colombia on 15 November 2004, causing some structural damage and injuring nine people. Although the earthquake was one of the most powerful to affect the country in a century, there were no reported deaths. The earthquake was felt in the capital city of Bogotá, where it caused electricity outages in the neighbourhoods of Bochica and Villas de Granada, but the most affected departments were Valle del Cauca and Choco, both located on the Pacific coast. Choco is the poorest department in Colombia and is prone to earthquakes. The department is also affected by the country's ongoing internal armed conflict. A disaster management delegate from PADRU was deployed to Colombia to evaluate the damage and immediate needs and, together with the Federation representative in Colombia, is coordinating activities with the CRCS. DREF funds will be used to conduct damage and needs assessments, to mobilize personnel to the affected areas and to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to affected families, including food, water and shelter, in coordination with the National Directorate for Disaster Response and Preparedness.

Floods in Panama:

PADRU provided support and technical advice to the Red Cross Society of Panama following the floods which occurred in September and October. Personnel from both the Panama Regional Delegation and PADRU helped to staff the Emergency Centre which was set up in the headquarters of the National Society in order to develop plans of action and respond to the disaster. The floods mainly affected the east of the capital city, particularly poor residential areas close to river banks and the National Society identified 1,000 families in need of assistance; in the initial response phase, containers of potable water, kitchen sets and plastic sheeting were provided with support from PADRU. The Province of the Darién on the border with Colombia was also affected by flooding and emergency response was ensured; PADRU delegates are supporting relief work in conjunction with the Red Cross Society of Panama.

Floods and Earthquake in Costa Rica:

PADRU has worked together with the Costa Rican Red Cross following two disasters which occurred in November. Flooding and landslides took place in the region of Limón on the Atlantic coast caused by the

swelling of rivers resulting from heavy rainfall. As a result, thousands of families were displaced from their homes located in high risk areas and some 1,000 people were accommodated in ten temporary shelters. The National Society plan of action includes the distribution of basic food rations for 1,000 families for one month. In addition, an earthquake of a magnitude of 6.2 on the Richter Scale hit Costa Rica on Saturday, 20 November, killing at least eight people. Hundreds of houses were damaged and major highways were cracked; the epicentre of the earthquake was located 48 kilometres southwest of the capital city of San José. The hardest-hit areas were Quepos and Parrita on the Pacific Coast and the Central Valley regions, where heavy damage to infrastructure and water systems was reported. The Costa Rican Red Cross has been actively involved with the Emergency Operations Centre since the start of the relief operation, supporting the centre in the coordination of relief activities. Local branches provided first aid and supported search and rescue activities. The Costa Rican Red Cross has been maintaining close contact with PADRU and the Panama Regional Delegation since the immediate aftermath of the earthquake and PADRU has provided support to the relief activities.



In early 2004 PADRU ensured the continuity of operations which had begun at the end of 2003, promoting regional resources in order to strengthen capacities.

Constraints:

The limited funds in response to the PADRU Annual Appeal are hampering the Unit's ability to work more closely with National Societies in the region in order to provide relief in the event of disasters. Disaster Response

Disaster Response Preparedness

Goal: PADRU, through the regional delegations, will support the network of Red Cross Societies in the Americas to attain a level of capacity in disaster management that successfully helps people to reduce risk, respond to and recover from disasters.

Programme Objective: The National Societies in the region have effective mechanisms for disaster response and preparedness (DR/DP) programmes, which contribute to reducing the impact of disaster situations vulnerable groups.

Objective 1: The regional network of the Red Cross including the Secretariat and Partner National Societies has increased its collective capacity to respond to disasters in a coordinated effort with governmental and non governmental agencies.

Progress/Achievements and impact

Evaluation:

The Secretariat has long intended to carry out an evaluation of the PADRU experience in order to learn about this approach to disaster response which is unique at a global level within the Federation. In 2003 the Secretariat commissioned a scoping study to determine the exact nature of the evaluation and the key issues to be addressed, and the evaluation was carried out in June 2004. The evaluation primarily focused on assessing the performance and achievements of PADRU over the past three to four years, with three main objectives:

- i) To review the performance of PADRU and the fulfilment of its mandate;
- ii) To provide concrete recommendations on the future scope and structure of PADRU; and
- iii) To provide general considerations and recommendations for the Federation in terms of the application of the PADRU concept in other regions.

When assessing the performance and impact of PADRU the evaluation team looked at both quantitative progress towards meeting stated targets, as well as making a qualitative appraisal of impacts and identifying constraints and key issues affecting performance. The evaluation team considers that it is in the area of disaster response that PADRU has been most effective and has had the greatest impact. Between 2001 and June 2004, PADRU responded to 28 requests for support in disaster response benefiting over 300,000 families. The findings of the evaluation were published before the hurricane season and do not take into account PADRU's major undertakings to provide relief following numerous deadly storms in 2004.

According to the evaluation, logistics has been the strongest element within PADRU and the Unit has developed innovative and effective approaches to preparedness such as pre-agreements with suppliers and virtual warehousing. Over the past three years PADRU has steadily improved its capacity to respond to disasters by providing timely and effective support to National Societies. However, recommendations were made for PADRU to use more local resources in its emergency response operations, which will be addressed in PADRU's 2005 Annual Appeal. Within the Red Cross there is increasing confidence in PADRU's response capacity and it is valued as an efficient provider of logistics services. The PNS see a major advantage in having a single source for procurement within the region, both in terms of cost-effectiveness as well as in bringing greater levels of standardization. In addition, PADRU has provided an effective coordination function, both for internal Red Cross management, as well as increasingly with external humanitarian organizations and other donors.

Pre hurricane season meeting:

The meeting in view of the preparation of the hurricane season which took place in July in Miami included all Anglophone Caribbean National Societies, together with the Overseas Branches of the American and British Red Cross Societies. It was agreed in 2003 that an annual workshop would be held for the Caribbean islands, whereas a biannual meeting would be organized for Central America and Mexico. This year's workshop was an opportunity for participants to build on previous experience towards consolidation and strengthening of the capacity of the Caribbean network of Red Cross Societies for response during the 2004 hurricane season. The meeting also sought to define an agreed strategy for telecommunications for the Caribbean National Societies and improve connectivity between the different National Societies in the region, particularly those most vulnerable to hurricanes. Discussions also focused on existing National Society contingency plans and the development of plans in those National Societies which do not, as yet, have such a plan. In addition, there was a presentation and discussion relating to standard frequencies and the development of radio protocols, together with the presentation of a basic logistics training course tailored to small National Societies.

Andean Disaster Plan:

Together with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and based on an agreement established in 2002, the Federation worked on the development of a strategic plan to develop the Andean Disaster Preparedness and

Response Plan, which includes the five countries in the Andean region of South America. To do this, the team looked at past experiences and challenges to identify risks, threats and vulnerabilities in the region. The National Societies involved began analyzing the resources available in the region in the areas of disaster preparedness and response and health, looking at both the private and public sectors, and reviewed strengths and weaknesses in the region. As a regional focal point for disaster preparedness, PADRU worked together with the Lima Regional Delegation to achieve regional coherence in the themes of health and disasters. This initiative is in line with the Plan of Action of the Inter American Conference 2003-2007.

Information in Disasters:

In 2004 three basic tools have been created: the protocol for monitoring disasters in the America, the protocols for managing information in disasters and the new version of the contingency plan for information in disasters. These tools were shared with information and disaster personnel in the National Societies and Regional Delegations in order to enrich the process and ensure that these tools are uniformly applied throughout the region. These tools were presented during the Inter American Communications forum in June and the pre hurricane meeting in July. With the support of the Regional Delegations in Lima and Panama, PADRU has created a model for the information plan of action for disasters, which was included in the plan of action for the floods in the Dominican Republic and Haiti in late May. This component ensures a standardized approach to information in future operations and complements the tools previously mentioned.

Training in the Dominican Republic (NITs):

In coordination with the Dominican Red Cross, PADRU held a NITs workshop in the Dominican Republic in February, following up on the strategy to strengthen disaster response in the Caribbean. A total of 20 volunteers were trained and are now part of the network of available human resources to be used in the management of disasters in the Dominican Republic.

Preparation for Conflict--Family Linking:

Together with the ICRC, PADRU followed up on the initiative taken up a year ago regarding integrated work in the theme of re-establishing family links (RFL) during emergencies. This meeting helped strengthen the tracing capacities of the National Societies in the region and served to integrate the Ericsson Response programme into the regional strategy for re-establishing family links. PADRU and the ICRC have worked closely together to look at developing RFL in natural disasters, incorporating this service with the telecommunications services used in the region during emergencies.

Exchanges and Internships:

During the emergency operations, cooperation has been strengthened with ECHO, resulting in improved communication between ECHO and the Federation. In the same way, close cooperation has taken place with organizations such as OCHA, UNICEF, the World Food Programme and the Pan American Health Organization during the implementation of emergency relief operations. PADRU's internship programme has also resulted in closer links with personnel from the National Societies of Cuba and Ecuador in the area of information, Ecuador and El Salvador in the area of disaster management and Mexico in logistics; five volunteers from the Ericsson Response programme also worked with PADRU, strengthening coordination.

RITS Workshops in Argentina and Nicaragua:

In order to further strengthen the disaster response network, two RITs training workshops took place. Some 50 new volunteers were trained with a view to their acquiring knowledge and skills with respect to the disaster response system and its tools in order to respond to future emergencies. The first of these workshops took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, between 22 and 26 November and the second in Managua, Nicaragua from 6 to 10 December. The workshop methodology has changed; one reason for this is the successful role played by the intervention teams during the 2004 hurricane season, as well as during the floods emergency which occurred in the Dominican Republic and Haiti in May. Some of the changes introduced include the use of interviews to assess the knowledge which the participants are gradually acquiring, the inclusion of new subjects such as negotiation, complex emergencies and the use of practical exercises and simulations so that the course takes on a less academic nature. The revision and up-dating of contents have resulted in the inclusion of safe access in

humanitarian operations and family linking in disasters, both of which are areas in which the ICRC works. Other sections of the course such as damage assessment, decision-making, coordination, health in emergencies and humanitarian cooperation were facilitated by OFDA, OCHA, PAHO and ECHO respectively. Members of RITs teams were deployed to assist in emergency response.

Meetings with the Caribbean, South America and Central America Disaster Networks:

PADRU took part in all the coordination meetings with the Americas disaster network which took place in Trinidad, Bolivia and Costa Rica to ensure coordination with the National Societies and the Regional Delegations, exchange information and facilitate the planning of objectives and priorities of the National Societies per region. This cycle of meetings has kept PADRU close to the 33 National Societies of the Americas, strengthening the response system.

Coordination of Contingency Plans with the Venezuelan Red Cross:

With the aim of improving the response capacity of the members and partners of the Federation and OXFAM and in support of the Venezuelan Red Cross, a contingency planning meeting was promoted in order to review response by both organizations in the face of possible scenarios of humanitarian crises and to ensure coordinated, rapid, effective and relevant actions. The meeting including a series of discussions with partner organizations and one of its main objectives was to raise awareness amongst governments as regards cooperation in the humanitarian sector.

Fact, Team Leader, Water and Sanitation and Telecommunications Workshops:

In 2004 much effort went into further improving the skills and capacities of human resources in the region and several RITs members were further trained through workshops in Field Assessment and Coordination, water and sanitation and team leader training. Similarly, the telecommunications team was strengthened through PADRU's participation in the Federation's standard HF equipment workshop held in Austria. PADRU's telecommunications delegate, after finishing the training, was then able to replicate the training for the Spanish Red Cross Emergency Response Units.



The response system was strengthened in 2004 with the formation of new regional intervention teams through two workshops in which each of the regions in the Americas was represented.

Constraints:

The funding situation in PADRU was difficult in 2004 for the Unit to implement disaster response preparedness projects in the region. More funds were expected after the evaluation of PADRU was completed, but were not forthcoming. In addition, the role of PADRU during social and political conflicts remains unclear, which is impeding the development of a programme focusing on family linking.

Objective 2: A logistics structure has been developed in PADRU which responds appropriately during times of disasters, provides services to National Societies: procurement, information, standardization, and is a resource for National Society training in logistics.

Progress/Achievements and impact

During the first four months of the year, the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) continued to provide services to the National Societies, PNSs, Regional Delegations in the region, as well as to other organizations working with the Red Cross Movement. Principally, the RLU worked on the relief operations for end of 2003. The RLU strengthened the cooperation process with UN agencies, Ericsson and ECHO, primarily by providing logistics services and consultancy for the projects. The vehicle leasing programme facilitated the purchase and leasing of vehicles for the National Societies in Panama and the Dominican Republic, the ICRC in Haiti, and the Federation's country office in Haiti. The RLU also moved vehicles from Guatemala to Panama, and facilitated the transfer of a vehicle from the Federation's office in El Salvador to the Spanish Red Cross's programme in that country.

The RLU shipped supplies for the earthquake operation in Puerto Armuelles, Panama, including a water tanker, supplies from the Red Cross Society of Panama that were being stored in PADRU's warehouses, and other supplies purchased by the American Red Cross. The operation also included the shipment of water and sanitation equipment and an all terrain vehicle. The RLU has also supported the Costa Rican Red Cross in the process of purchasing goods and an ambulance to respond to the flooding that occurred in the province of Limón in May. The RLU has also worked closely with National Societies in the region to increase their logistics capacities, including providing emergency goods to the Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaican Red Cross Societies, coordinated by the disaster preparedness delegate in the Sub Regional Office in Port of Spain, Trinidad. Other shipments of goods will be made to the National Societies of Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as part of the DIPECHO project that is ongoing in the Caribbean. In addition, for the first time, the RLU made a direct service agreement with a National Society, in this case the British Overseas Branch in Anguilla.

The Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) is working on the renovation of a new warehouse which will serve as a humanitarian logistics centre. This warehouse will have access to increased port facilities and customs import and export procedures will be facilitated since it is situated in the Colón Free Trade Zone. Work towards this project was started in 2002 in accordance with the focus of the logistics strategy. PADRU has signed a two-year agreement with the Free Zone in Panama to establish the warehouse in this area. The agreement was made in coordination with the Red Cross Society of Panama and will be managed by the National Society.

Work is also proceeding on the vehicle leasing programme, the transport of relief items during the hurricane season and other emergencies, and a member of staff has been assigned to work in the area of humanitarian logistics software (HLS). As regards transport and dispatch of relief materials in emergencies, the National Societies of Central America and the Caribbean, as well as a number of Overseas Branches, have benefited in particular, and assistance was also provided to the Suva Regional Delegation, Fiji. Throughout the year, and particularly during the hurricane season, the Regional Logistics Unit has continued to provide services to the National Societies, PNSs and Regional Delegations, as well as to other organizations working with the Red Cross Movement. Principally, the RLU has procured and shipped supplies for the relief operations following deadly storms and flooding in the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru.

Constraints:

The pace of projects to increase the logistics capacities of the National Societies in the Americas has slowed because of lack of funding. In addition, as delegates are often made available to the RLU for a few months only, it is difficult to carry out long-term logistics programming.

Objective 3: National Societies have defined and developed priority programming for public health in disasters, based on and linked to their longer term public health strategic planning.

Progress/Achievements and impact

Haiti Social Unrest:

PADRU supported the water and sanitation and hygiene activities in Haiti, in coordination with the public health activities carried out by OXFAM and Caritas.

Dominican Republic Floods:

The health and hygiene strategy adopted by the DRC and partners following the flooding in 2003 has greatly reduced the number of deaths from waterborne disease. A good specific indicator of this is the number of cases of dengue, which decreased dramatically between November 2003 and February 2004. As part of the strategy and with the support of PADRU, the DRC distributed different items, such as hygiene and kitchen kits, and information about vector control.

Panama Earthquake:

As a result of the damage caused by the earthquake in Puerto Armuelles last December, a water and sanitation team was sent to the area, along with four volunteers from the National Society headquarters and five volunteers from the Puerto Armuelles branch, to clean wells in the area. A water and sanitation basic training course was also carried out for volunteers. After the evaluations were carried out in the community of Olivos, seven wells and nine latrines were reconstructed. Another 48 wells were cleaned and three drainage pipes were constructed.

Objective 4: National Societies integrate and use new technology applied to information in disasters.
Progress/Achievements and impact

Ericsson Response Programme:

The final paper work for the Ericsson Response programme was completed at the beginning of the year. Equipment was pre positioned in PADRU and was used during a disaster simulation in Manizales, Colombia. The coordination process with the Dominican Red Cross for the implementation of the Ericsson Response programme concluded with the signing of the agreement between the National Society and Ericsson in May. The Dominican Red Cross became the first Caribbean country to join the regional cooperation programme with Ericsson Response with the signing of a letter of cooperation, which stipulates the joint work of all the partners to provide humanitarian assistance, principally in communications, preparation and response during natural disasters and emergencies. In December, a cooperation agreement was signed between the Ericsson Response Programme and the Red Cross Society of Panama, based on already existing agreements, which seeks to strengthen that National Society's disaster response capacity.

A Telecommunications Centre was created to coordinate with the field, test technology equipment and train people in the region. The family linking project in natural disasters is also linked to telecommunications capacities and PADRU has worked with the ICRC in order to incorporate family linking activities in all phases of disaster response. There has been progress in the distribution of equipment in the region and the signing of more country agreements; however, following the hurricane season PADRU has major commitment from Ericsson Response which led to the presence of volunteers in PADRU to ensure improved organization of the projects being implemented in the region

Telecommunications Programme in Haiti:

In telecommunications, the Caribbean telecommunications network has been strengthened; in Haiti, in particular, in coordination with the ICRC and humanitarian partners, a radio communications network has been re-established facilitating liaison between the Haitian National Red Cross Society, Partner National Societies and humanitarian agencies working in the country. Radio communication is now ensured between PADRU and the Caribbean from the new PADRU telecommunications centre set up with the support of Ericsson Response.

Database:

As the focal point for disaster management in the Americas, PADRU has strengthened the process of updating the database of personnel trained in disaster response in the region. This database provides vital information about the human resources available in the region, helping to provide an immediate response in times of disaster. A new version of the database has already been developed, with simple, user-friendly software, and a users' manual is available. The entire database is also has been translated into English. This database is an improved version of that originally presented by PADRU to the National Societies during the Inter American Conference in Santiago de Chile. With these new systems in place, members of the PADRU team began working to update and standardize the database.

Disaster response:

PADRU supported IT and telecommunications in the Hurricane Ivan operation carried out in Grenada. Two wireless networks were installed, one with a satellite 'phone and one with ADSL when telephone communications were re-established. PADRU also provided IT support to all computer users in the operation, installed a VHF repeater, and HF and VHF radio stations. Taking advantage of its presence in the region, PADRU also provided support to the Port of Spain sub-regional office. The Hurricane Jeanne appeal for the Bahamas also includes a telecommunications component relating to the identification, purchase and installation of HF radio communications equipment for Red Cross branches on Grand Bahama and Abaco islands. PADRU intends to implement technical training sessions in telecommunications for the Grenada Red Cross Society headquarters, and refresher training courses in Jamaica Red Cross branches and headquarters and Cuban Red Cross branches in areas affected by hurricanes Charley and Ivan.

Response preparedness:

The pre-hurricane meeting in Miami with English speaking Caribbean National Societies which took place in July 2004 was important in view of the intense nature of the hurricane season; the Caribbean National Societies which were affected by hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne applied their technical knowledge when the islands were affected. A refresher course for the Spanish Red Cross telecommunications ERU took place in September 2004; the telecommunications delegate participated in this workshop as a facilitator for the programming and operation of HF CODAN NGT equipment, following the training which the delegate received a few days earlier in Vienna. Since November 2003 PADRU has been working on a proposal for the implementation of a project focusing on family linking in natural disasters, promoted by the ICRC. It is the first time that such a proposal has been presented at the regional level, and if the standard operating procedures are defined, the Federation could replicate this in other regions.

Web:

In order to strengthen the communications and coordination between PADRU and the Lima Regional Delegation, which manages the regional webpage, the information coordinator in PADRU worked closely with the Federation's regional communications delegate. As part of this joint work, they were able to update, create and implement tools to be used in managing information during disasters. In addition, PADRU's communications strategy has been reformulated and now includes a new webpage design. The PADRU webpage would be integrated into the Federation's Latin American webpage (www.cruzroja.org) and Caribbean webpage (www.caribbeanredcross.org). This page will be the disaster response site of the Red Cross in the region, acting as a monitoring and alert tool.

Information in Disasters:

For the hurricane season, up-dated sites were created for follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of the hurricane operations, both on the PADRU web site www.padru.cruzroja.org and the Americas web site www.cruzroja.org. In addition, under DMIS a space was allocated to the technical and operational aspects of the hurricane season. Together, the Americas information team and the Media Service at the Secretariat ensured coverage by over 100 media during the hurricane season. More than 15 press releases were distributed and some 50 reports were produced on DMIS. The information team provided support for the launch of appeals and requests for assistance; four information specialists were deployed to the Caribbean at the outset of the emergency response.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

01.51/2004 PAN AMERICAN DISASTER RES

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2004/1-2004/12
Appeal	M04AA051
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
Budget (A)					1,622,621	1,622,621
Opening Balance (B)					-58,344	-58,344
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross					35,072	35,072
British Red Cross					103,620	103,620
Canadian Red Cross Society					57,283	57,283
Ericsson					32,118	32,118
Norwegian Red Cross					41,738	41,738
Spanish Red Cross					8,691	8,691
Swedish Red Cross					224,826	224,826
Cash contributions (C1)					503,347	503,347
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
DREF					40,000	40,000
Swedish Red Cross					0	0
Reallocations (C2)					40,000	40,000
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
Canadian Red Cross Society					14,673	14,673
Spanish Red Cross					133,507	133,507
Swedish Red Cross					31,000	31,000
Inkind Personnel (C4)					179,180	179,180
<u>Other Income</u>						
Miscellaneous Income					1,393	1,393
Service Agreements					2,334	2,334
Other Income (C5)					3,727	3,727
Total Income (C) = SUM(C1..C5)					726,254	726,254
Total Funding (B + C)					667,910	667,910

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
Opening Balance (B)					-58,344	-58,344
Income (C)					726,254	726,254
Expenditure (D)					-726,668	-726,668
Closing Balance (B + C + D)					-58,758	-58,758

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2004/1-2004/12
Appeal	M04AA051
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)						1,622,621	1,622,621	
Supplies								
Shelter						158	158	-158
Construction						9,400	9,400	-9,400
Clothing & textiles						2,062	2,062	-2,062
Total Supplies						11,620	11,620	-11,620
Capital Expenditure								
Land & Buildings	14,000							14,000
Computers & Telecom	30,000					16,290	16,290	13,710
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.						-185	-185	185
Others Machinery & Equipment	3,000							3,000
Total Capital Expenditure	47,000					16,105	16,105	30,895
Transport & Storage								
Storage	4,920					4,122	4,122	798
Distribution & Monitoring						1,051	1,051	-1,051
Transport & Vehicle Costs	39,000					26,729	26,729	12,271
Total Transport & Storage	43,920					31,901	31,901	12,019
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	705,150					70,727	70,727	634,423
Delegate Benefits						312,243	312,243	-312,243
Regionally Deployed Staff	151,803					7,622	7,622	144,181
Staff-on-Loan						1,320	1,320	-1,320
National & National Society Staff						24,964	24,964	-24,964
Consultants						36,275	36,275	-36,275
Total Personnel Expenditures	856,953					453,151	453,151	403,802
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	272,300					21,324	21,324	250,976
Total Workshops & Training	272,300					21,324	21,324	250,976
General Expenditure								
Travel	133,656					69,240	69,240	64,416
Information & Public Relation	16,322					2,425	2,425	13,897
Office Costs	43,800					30,113	30,113	13,687
Communications	68,400					52,805	52,805	15,595
Professional Fees	5,760					1,149	1,149	4,611
Financial Charges	29,040					-2,593	-2,593	31,633
Other General Expenses						1,305	1,305	-1,305
Total General Expenditure	296,978					154,443	154,443	142,535
Program Support								
Program Support	105,470					46,476	46,476	58,994
Total Program Support	105,470					46,476	46,476	58,994
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions						-8,354	-8,354	8,354
Total Operational Provisions						-8,354	-8,354	8,354
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1,622,621					726,668	726,668	895,953
VARIANCE (C - D)						895,953	895,953	