

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

CARIBBEAN

5 January 2006

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA041; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: 16 May to 31 October 2006; Appeal coverage: 86.7%, Outstanding needs: CHF 232,684 (USD 182,326 or EUR 150,614).

[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List \(also available on the website\).](#)

Appeal target: CHF 1,743,193 (USD 1,365,946 or EUR 1,128,362)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Guyana: Floods (05EA001), Caribbean: Hurricanes Dennis & Emily (05EA015), Bahamas, Cuba and Mexico: Hurricane Wilma (05EA024), Pan American Disaster Response Unit Annual Appeal (05AA040), Haiti Annual Appeal (05AA042)

Programme summary: Health activities continued to focus on the prevention of HIV/AIDS, and particularly the *Together We Can* methodology. Additional support to National Societies was provided in the form of seed money as an added impetus to the scaling up of HIV/AIDS activities. The Regional Intervention Team was increased with new training in logistics and general subjects, with the added impact of improved selection criteria for participants. The regional organizational development network, having completed its training earlier in the year, examined ways in which it could provide support to the region, focusing particularly on volunteer management.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). 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, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

The Caribbean braced itself for what was predicted to be one of the most intense hurricane seasons on record. Rather fortuitously for the Windward and Leeward islands, but less so for Central America and the United States, the hurricanes largely passed by the smaller islands, although Hurricanes Dennis, Emily and Wilma made themselves felt in Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica and the Bahamas.

Key events during the reporting period included the 8th Biennial meeting of the Caribbean Red Cross and the annual pre-Hurricane meeting.

Memoranda of Understanding were signed with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) and French Red Cross in order to enhance the regional disaster response system. The introduction of the Plateforme d'Intervention Regionale Amerique-Caraibes (PIRAC) in the French Red Cross departments of Guadeloupe, Martinique, and French Guyana, and the Haiti National Red Cross Society further strengthened the regional system.

There were challenges with staffing with the departure of key personal in the Panama Regional Delegation and Port of Spain Sub Regional Office.

Health and care

Goal: To strengthen the capacity of the Caribbean Red Cross National Societies and Overseas Branches to educate, mobilize, advocate for, and deliver quality health programmes or appropriate scale and enable them to target communities to reduce vulnerability.

Objective 1: The response of National Societies and Overseas Branches to the HIV/AIDS epidemic is refined and scaled up in the areas of prevention, care and the fight against stigma/discrimination.

Progress and Impact

The Federation facilitated a meeting of the Caribbean Regional HIV/AIDS network (CARAN) executive held a meeting to plan for CARAN 2006 and upcoming activities around World AIDS Day.

The Caribbean regional HIV/AIDS programme continues to evolve and strengthen in three critical areas:

Youth Peer Education: The cornerstone of the Federation's youth peer education continues to be the award-winning *Together We Can (TWC)* methodology, which is used throughout the Caribbean (and Central America) in five regional languages, with the direct support of the Norwegian Red Cross and the bilateral programmes of the American and Netherlands Red Cross. In July 2005, the Federation undertook an internal review of the TWC programme and revised its current approach to one in which seed money (USD 5,000 per national society) was provided directly to the Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross Societies to allow them to scale up their activities. Suriname Red Cross was later added as it has shown great initiative in translating the materials into Dutch and is moving strongly ahead with the training of peers. Bahamas Red Cross was also added as the Bahamas has one of the highest prevalence rates in the region and did not yet engage actively in TWC due to a lack of funding to support institutional capacity building.

For the most part, the decision to directly support these 12 Caribbean Red Cross Societies has paid dividends in that there has been an increase in activities in all, as well as a renewed commitment to reach as many peers as possible. At the end of the year, the impact of providing seed money will be evaluated to see if this should be repeated in 2006.

By the end of October 2005, the TWC methodology was used in 22 Caribbean Red Cross Societies and had reached over 12,000 adolescents with key prevention messages on STI/HIV/AIDS. The TWC monitoring and evaluation toolkit continued to be refined in its Spanish and English formats, and should be in print by the end of 2005 for distribution throughout the region.

Social Mobilization: The Federation supported the Caribbean Red Cross Societies to promote key STI and HIV/AIDS health messages using social mobilization interventions. Successful social mobilization campaigns included:

- Using sporting events and carnivals to promote STI and HIV/AIDS prevention
- Reaching out to other organizations such as Boy Scouts / Girl Guides
- Working specifically with high risk groups and networking with them

- Celebration of specific events and days, such as World AIDS Day.

Mass Media Campaigns: Most National Societies and Overseas Branches have put together innovative mass media campaigns to get key messages out to a wider audience. Examples of successful mass media campaigns have included:

- Production of material and advertisement of key health messages on billboards, at bus stands, T-shirts, in newspapers and magazines etc.
- Radio spots and television advertisements.
- Production and playing on the radio of songs and “jingles” with a STI/HIV/AIDS theme.
- Radio novellas with a STI/HIV/AIDS theme.
- Radio talkback shows on STIs/HIV/AIDS.
- Interviews on STIs/HIV/AIDS on radio / television.



The Federation also worked with the advertising agency, McCann Erickson, on a new advertising campaign – “*Nobody has the Truth Written on Their Face. Protect Yourself. Use a Condom*”. The campaign was first introduced by the Red Cross Society of Panama and is now being adapted for use in the Caribbean.

Many excellent examples of innovative social mobilization and mass media campaigns can be found at www.caribbeanredcross.org/caran

The Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross HIV/AIDS coordinator submitted her resignation from the National Society and was replaced in September. During the interim, the Federation provided additional support to the National Society, during which time additional funding was obtained for its HIV/AIDS programme.

The Federation took part in a technical review of a collaborative project between UNFPA and Family Care International – a Peer Education manual. The manual entitled “*You, Your Life and Your Dreams*” will be available to all organizations interested in providing information on issues affecting young people.

The Federation was invited to participate in the *CARICOM 5th Directors of Youth* meeting and the *13th Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD)* for the first time. Both meetings were crucial for the design and implementation of the Regional Strategic Plan for Youth Development.

The Federation provided technical support to the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP) Mini-Grant programme, funded by the World Bank and Global Funds. The Caribbean Red Cross Societies are able to take advantage of these funds through this relationship because they are recognized as an essential partner for local CYA (CARICOM Youth Ambassadors). Eight pilot countries were provided with around USD 10,000 for youth HIV/AIDS activities. To date, only St. Lucia Red Cross has been successful in accessing the funds.

The Federation attended PANCAP’s Annual General Meeting in October in Trinidad. The Federation, along with UNICEF, plays the role of lead agency for this priority that looks at the prevention of HIV/AIDS amongst young people.

The Federation started to promote the *NGO Code of Practice* by providing a link on the regional website at <http://www.caribbeanredcross.org/caran/resources.htm>.

Constraints

For more than one year, the Federation has been in negotiation with UNICEF regarding their financial support to a scaling up of the TWC programme in 10 Caribbean Red Cross Societies. Unfortunately, there are some outstanding financial issues between the two organizations dating back to 1999. These are being addressed with the assistance of the Federation’s Regional Finance Unit.

The recent departure of the UNAIDS Resident Representative for the Caribbean has stalled discussions on the adoption of the self assessment tool for the *NGO Code of Practice*.

Many of the Caribbean Red Cross Societies find it difficult to recruit and retain youth peer educators. This is recognized as being a global problem and a key limiting factor in the implementation of high quality youth peer education programmes.

Some Caribbean Red Cross Societies also have difficulty in developing high quality project proposals and reports, thereby limiting their ability to access regional funds. This is being addressed by the Federation's organizational development personnel and RODNET.

Objective 2: The National Societies and Overseas Branches of the Caribbean are supported in their unique role as the leading national providers of First Aid training.

Progress and Impact

The Federation translated the Costa Rica Red Cross manual on *Psychological First Aid* from Spanish to English. This will be field-tested before the end of the year and printed in early 2006 for use as the standard Caribbean resource for psychosocial support programmes (PSP).

Constraints

To date, no donors have contributed technical or financial support for first aid. However, the British Red Cross plans to commence bilateral support in the fourth quarter 2005.

Disaster Management

Goal: The National Societies and Overseas Branches and the Federation Secretariat in the region have effective mechanisms and programmes for response and disaster preparedness which contribute to reducing the impact of disasters on affected populations.

Objective 1: Well-functioning disaster response mechanisms strengthen the Secretariat's capacity to support the National Societies and Overseas Branches in the provision of assistance to those affected by disasters.

Progress and Impact

The Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) successfully applied for thematic funding for strengthening the humanitarian response to natural disasters from the European Commission Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) for a project entitled "*Strengthening disaster management capacity in the Caribbean region*". The one-year, EUR 500,000 project commenced on 1 June 2005 and seeks to enhance and expand disaster response and preparedness for response for the Caribbean Red Cross with a particular focus on the Antigua & Barbuda Red Cross, Belize Red Cross, Dominica Red Cross, St Lucia Red Cross and Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross.

The Federation facilitated a *General Regional Intervention Team* (RIT) training in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago from 10-15 October 2005 for 24 Caribbean Red Cross participants, including two bilateral French Red Cross delegates based in Grenada. The training was conducted according to the standard global Federation Regional Intervention Team syllabus and included:

- The Federation's global response system
- The Federation's regional response system for the Caribbean
- The Federation's standard logistics systems and procedures
- Sphere project
- Public Health in Emergencies
- Water & Sanitation

- The Pan American Disaster Response Units (PADRU) ‘Activation Protocols’
- Working with counterparts, including government departments, the UN and NGOs
- Security matters related to field deployment
- Telecommunications
- Assessment techniques, including Vulnerability & Capacity Assessment (VCA) and Damage & Needs Assessment (DANA)
- Developing a Plan of Action with a supporting budget
- Information and Monitoring
- Finance accountability and reporting

External presentations were given by Trinidad & Tobago’s national disaster office, the Organization for Disaster Preparedness Management (ODPM).

The Federation also facilitated a ***Logistics Regional Intervention Team*** training in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago from 17-21 October 2005 for 24 Caribbean Red Cross participants, again including two more bilateral French Red Cross delegates based in Grenada. The Federation has standardized its global logistics systems and procedures which allows logisticians in the field to deliver goods and services in an effective and timely manner, and in the most cost effective way. The Federation has also standardized its logistics training modules covering procurement, warehousing, transportation and fleet management, resource mobilization and reporting. The standardized training module was augmented by:

- a visit to the Port Authority, Port of Spain,
- a visit to a commercial warehousing facility,
- a visit to Airport Cargo & Customs Facilities in Port of Spain, and
- a presentation by Head of Training, Customs & Excise, Trinidad & Tobago

The facilitators were more than satisfied with the standard of participants during the course of the workshop. There was an optimum balance of experienced Red Cross staff, Red Cross volunteers and persons with medical and water and sanitation technical expertise. The final course evaluation from the participants reflected their satisfaction with the course content and detail. The facilitators identified five participants who are potential candidates for inclusion in Logistics Team Leader training, and for immediate deployment in the event of an emergency in the region.

In the week after the logistics workshop, Hurricane Wilma hit the Gulf of Mexico and passed over the Bahamas Islands of Grand Bahama and Bimini. The Bahamas Red Cross requested the deployment of a PADRU delegate to Grand Bahama to support the emergency relief operation (*see Bahamas, Cuba and Mexico: Hurricane Wilma (05EA024)* http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA024b.pdf). The participant from the Bahamas Red Cross to the logistics workshop was appointed as the coordinator of the operation and was therefore able to apply the skills and procedures attained on the workshop. The coordinator was supported by two Red Cross volunteers who had completed the National Intervention Team training (NIT) facilitated earlier in the year by the Federation.

In October, the Federation officially launched the *2005 World Disasters Report* in Jamaica. The Jamaica Red Cross hosted the event, and it was well attended by the diplomatic corps, NGOs based in Jamaica and the media.

Objective 2: Skilled human resources and effective planning enhance the preparedness of National Societies and Overseas Branches.

Progress and Impact

The Federation organized the annual “***Pre-Hurricane Meeting***” on 5-9 June in Panama. The meeting was attended by 24 National Societies from the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico, 10 Overseas Branches, 6 Participating National Societies, the Federation Secretariat, Panama Regional Delegation and the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office, ECHO, UN Agencies, OXFAM and Eriksson. The objectives of the meeting were:

1. Consolidate and strengthen the capacity of the “Caribbean Basin” network of National Societies of the Red Cross and the Federation Secretariat for response during the 2005 hurricane season, based on the 2004 experience.
2. Bring together national and regional systems

3. Consolidate a common response strategy within the Movement for the “Caribbean basin”.
4. Enhance knowledge and coordination with significant external stakeholders (donors, UN system, NGOs).

Overall, the meeting was considered a success by the facilitators and participants. Conclusions from the meeting included:

- ✚ PADRU’s function within the regional response system was clarified and accepted by the participants. It was acknowledged that within the regional response system there was the need to strengthen capacities, and that this process was the responsibility of all components of the Movement in the region.
- ✚ Local tools: National Intervention Teams (NITs) were examined, their role in assessment and the link to regional tools such as RITs established and recognized. National Societies that have not undergone NITs training requested that this be made available to them as soon as possible.
- ✚ Regional tools: The RITs Terms of Reference were developed; reporting lines and team integration were explicitly defined to reflect the link between RITs and FACT.
- ✚ International tools: DREF, FACT, ERU and DMIS were explored. Ambiguity and some skepticism regarding DREF was voiced, particularly regarding the length of time emergency funds sometimes took to be realized by National Societies. It was agreed that the Secretariat should make DREF more readily available, perhaps by pre-positioning funds within the region.
- ✚ Assessment methodology: During the 2004 hurricane season, this varied from National Society to National Society and was largely considered inadequate to provide data quickly and accurately in order to identify local, regional and/or international interventions; a simple damage and needs assessment form was introduced, reviewed and revised. The meeting agreed to use this form during the 2005 hurricane season and revert to the regional disaster preparedness delegate with comments and recommendations at the end of the season.
- ✚ Activation protocols for regional and international response tools were formally presented and discussed. Adherence to these protocols was considered to be a safeguard against further confusion in future disasters.
- ✚ A generic Memorandum of Understanding between the Federation and National Societies was further developed, defining the roles and responsibilities of both in response to emergencies.
- ✚ Increased regional IT/Telecoms capacity was highlighted, and plans for further expansion discussed.
- ✚ The French Red Cross presented *PIRAC* (Plateforme d’Intervention Regionale Amerique-Caraibes). It was widely accepted as a valuable new asset to the region, and as an effective means of facilitating further integration of the French Departments of Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guyana into the regional disaster response system.

In October, the Federation facilitated a *National Intervention Team* (NIT) course for Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross. 29 board members, staff and volunteers from headquarters and the three branches took part in the training. This was the first time the National Society, as a whole, had undertaken training. As such, it was very successful in introducing the individual headquarters and branch representatives to each other and allowed them to lay the foundations for establishing a national disaster response system.

Constraints

The pre-hurricane meeting was felt to be too biased towards the Caribbean Red Cross, with little attention given to Central America. There was also a heavy emphasis on presentations, with a recommendation that future meetings include more discussion and a *table-top* disaster simulation. The presence of CDERA and CEPREDNAC would have been valuable.

Objective 3: Vulnerability in high risk communities is reduced through an integrated community based disaster management approach that incorporates the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment methodology.

Progress and Impact

No progress was made towards this objective during the reporting period as DIPECHO-funded CBDM project, which was supposed to start in mid-October, was delayed until 1 January 2006. In addition, the Sub Regional Office disaster management officer resigned her position at the end of October.

Objective 4: Disaster management and emergency management structures of the Jamaica Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters are improved.

Progress and Impact

Support to Jamaica Red Cross continued through the DfID partnership via the Federation.

Jamaica Red Cross personnel took part in workshops on damage and needs assessments (DANA), training for instructors (TFI) and initial damage assessments (IDA), facilitated by the U.S. Office of Foreign and Disaster Aid (OFDA) and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM). Branches were asked to submit updated volunteer information and highlight areas in which volunteers have recently received training. This process is to identify gaps and recommend/implement activities for improvement. A Leadership Seminar for Branch Leaders was held in October where the focus was on capacity building and organizational development.

A Refresher Course for First Aid Instructors was held in July. The course allowed the Instructors to be upgraded to instruct on CPR as well. A First Aid meeting was held in July to evaluate the current programme and discuss ideas for improvement.

The National Intervention Team was mobilized and some members assisted in relief efforts for Hurricanes Dennis & Emily. NIT members were guided by the Terms of Reference that were circulated 48 hours prior to both events. The Plans of Action developed by NIT members was re-circulated to the attention of branch leaders to facilitate monitoring of the NIT development. NIT and other branch personnel should be able to provide feedback on the progress of these plans. NIT members seemed to integrate well with other branch disaster management personnel and were able to provide services in assessment, logistics and reporting. One team member from the parish of Trelawny provided information that was critical to the relief operation in that area to both Red Cross and other agencies.

The Jamaica Red Cross Disaster Plan is currently under revision. Two branches – Hanover and St. Elizabeth – submitted their branch plans and gave feedback for improvement. A template of a branch/community disaster plan was supplied to branches to help in the revision and improvement and, in the case of some branches, development of their plans.

Constraints

Due to the passage of Hurricanes Dennis and Emily, most of the First Aid and CPR courses for branch leaders and volunteers had to be rescheduled.

Objective 5: Risks in vulnerable communities in Dominican Republic and Cuba are reduced through measurable integrated disaster management initiatives.

Progress and Impact

The Federation signed an agreement with the Cuban Red Cross for the *Madruga project*, to increase food supplies and mitigate the effects of disaster situations using the VCA methodology. The project aims to provide support to the community of Villena in the production and consumption of fruits and vegetables in intensive vegetable gardens (known in Cuba as organoponicos), and aid in the facilitation of VCA workshops. The project has entered its initial phase and will benefit members of the Villena community and the Cuban Red Cross branch as well as other institutions, such as schools and hospitals.

A Strategic Plan was drafted and distributed to all parties involved and two CRC facilitators have volunteered to give the first two workshops. The intensive vegetable gardens are being relocated to cultivation areas and training in crop cultivation will begin once the classroom is ready for use. All the participants of the Villena Popular Council have shown a high level of commitment to this project. This project will allow the Villena community to improve its quality of life and will provide it with new dietary options.

Constraints

The impact of Hurricanes Dennis and Wilma in the region has delayed work in the field and the paperwork necessary to begin the intense vegetable garden is still in the process of being completed.

Humanitarian Values

Overall Goal: National Societies and Overseas Branches have an increasing understanding of the principles and values of the Red Cross Movement and are better able to promote these in their own work and externally.

Programme Objective 1: The information and communications capacities of Caribbean National Societies and Overseas Branches are strengthened.

Progress and Impact

The Caribbean Red Cross website www.caribbeanredcross.org attracted 388 new visitors, with the *News* page having the highest number of hits. A web forum discussion feature was introduced to encourage more focused discussions throughout the Caribbean Red Cross Societies on different issues such as HIV/AIDS and disaster preparedness. The Caribbean Red Cross Societies continued to add stories to highlight their activities, with special links for World First Aid Day and the launch of the 2005 World Disasters Report. A glossary of Red Cross terms and acronyms was also added as was a hurricane season link so that visitors could track and monitor storms in the region.

General Statistics for www.caribbeanredcross.org:

	2005	2005	2005
	Jul 1 – Sep 30	Apr 1 – Jun 30	Jan 1 - March 31
Total Visitors	8158	7856	7584
Average Visitor per day	88	86	84
Total Unique IP's (Visitors)	3953	3429	3871
Total Page Views	21519	23808	24400
Average Page View per day	233	261	271
Average Page View per visitor	2.64	3.03	3.22

The Federation encouraged National Societies to identify more communication focal points; the Barbados Red Cross and the Belize Red Cross have now done so and their officers were briefed on the role of a Red Cross communicator. They will join the fledgling communications network, which includes the implementation of the regional communications strategy and the update and utilization of the regional mass media database.

The Federation and CARAN launched a HIV/AIDS Youth Essay Competition in September to attract more youth to the website. The competition was open to Red Cross youth volunteers and students across the Caribbean in two age group categories: 10 – 13 years and 14 – 19 years. The theme of the essay was adopted from the 2004-2005 universal HIV/AIDS theme “Women, Girls and HIV/AIDS.” The final date for submissions is World AIDS Day (1 December 2005) and winners will be announced soon after.

The Federation produced two issues of the Caribbean Red Cross newsletter, *Caribbean News*, in July and October in full colour to make it more attractive and user friendly. Both issues saw first time contributions from the Curaçao and Aruba Overseas Branches and the Haitian National Red Cross Society. Other contributors included the National Societies and Overseas Branches of Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin

Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saba, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Turks & Caicos.

Constraints

New stories need to be submitted to the website on a more regular basis to maintain visitor interest. However, some National Societies and Overseas Branches do not have reliable access to the internet, which lessens the priority for them to highlight their activities using this media. Similarly, it is generally the same National Societies and Overseas Branches that regularly contribute to the regional newsletter.

More information and communications officers are still needed throughout the region to increase the capacity of the National Societies and Overseas Branches to properly implement the regional communications strategy, and to promote humanitarian values. Often, this is left to directors general, who are often too busy on other issues to prioritize this.

Programme Objective 2: Caribbean National Societies and Overseas Branches are a recognized part of a worldwide campaign against the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS.

Progress and Impact

The Federation introduced the new anti-stigma campaign “*Come Closer ...*” to the Caribbean Red Cross Societies. This replaces the previous campaign “*Pass it on...*” which proved very popular in the region. Caribbean Red Cross Societies and Overseas Branches - including Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname – have teamed up with their local People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) organizations to promote the new campaign.

Constraints

Quite often new global campaigns are launched when the Caribbean Red Cross Societies have only just started promoting the previous one. It takes a while for these smaller National Societies and Overseas Branches to mobilize themselves to introduce new campaigns, largely because of a lack of human and financial resources.

Programme Objective 3: The Cuban Red Cross and the Dominican Red Cross implement strengthened projects in dissemination, advocacy and humanitarian values through new educational materials.

No progress has been made towards this objective because of a lack of funding. With only 45 percent of the requested funding received, the programme was forced to reduce its staffing to one person, which clearly limits the impact of the programme. At times the capacity of the coordinator has also been stretched since, as well as managing the humanitarian principles and values programme, he also acts as the focal point for Federation involvement in Honduras.

Organizational development

Overall Goal: National Societies and Overseas Branches are enabled to demonstrate more of the characteristics of well-functioning National Societies thereby providing a more effective service to vulnerable communities.

Programme Objective 1: Through peer support mechanisms the Regional Organizational Development Network is addressing some of the most common development challenges faced by Caribbean Red Cross Societies.

Impact and Progress

The Federation continued to provide technical and financial support to the regional organizational development network (RODNET). The fourth meeting of the network took place at the end of October in Trinidad & Tobago during which several themes discussed in the first three meetings were revisited. These included:



- RODNET Terms of Reference: A final version was discussed and approved. The document will be presented to the Caribbean Cooperation of Red Cross (CCORC) for final approval.
- The Federation's 2006-2007 Plan was presented and RODNET's commitment towards implementation of the organizational development programme was discussed.
- Branch development and Integrated Community Programming.
- Logical Framework methodology: A session was facilitated by the RODNET member from Suriname Red Cross.
- How to carry out organizational development interventions.

An *organizational development intervention fact sheet* template was designed to capture experiences from the RODNET members, to allow these to be shared and reported to donors. To date, eleven fact sheets were received from Anguilla, the Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Jamaica and Suriname. Interventions covered planning, volunteer management, project management, conflict resolution, financial management, legal advice, governing structure and human resources. These were national interventions where the RODNET member had an impact within their own National Societies and Overseas Branches. There was also an overseas intervention, when the Dominica Red Cross assisted the Guyana Red Cross in a lessons learned workshop at the end of the Guyana flood emergency operation.

The Federation collected 20 volunteer profiles and 4 case studies through RODNET members for the global volunteer conference, taking place during the Federation's General Assembly in Seoul in November.

In October, the RODNET member from Guyana Red Cross received financial support from the Federation to attend the *International Fundraising Skillshare* workshop in the Netherlands. The aim of the workshop was to improve capacity of accessing major funding sources, strengthen emergency fundraising capacity, work towards building a Global Resource Mobilization and Communications Strategy and to look at income targets and preliminary plans for national society fundraising in 2006 and beyond.

In order to create more opportunities for organizational development knowledge sharing within the Caribbean, the Federation started development of organizational development webpages within www.caribbeanredcross.org. The website includes sections on volunteering, governance and management, branch & community development, financial resources development, organizational development mapping, library, RODNET and frequently asked questions. The pages will serve as institutional memory and there is special emphasis on strategic and national development plans, statutes, self-assessments¹, plans of action, contacts lists and organization charts.



In preparation for an expanded organizational development programme in 2006, the Federation commenced an *organizational development mapping* exercise of the Caribbean. The first country visited was Jamaica where the National Society is undergoing a strategic planning process, facilitated by the RODNET member from Jamaica. The Federation visited the Jamaica Red Cross headquarters and the Kingston & St Andrew's branch. Organizational development visits to St. Kitts & Nevis, Antigua & Barbuda and Montserrat were planned for November.

Constraints

The support to all regional networks continues to be a challenge. Networks are being developed "as they go" on an individual basis rather than following a comprehensive approach. It is advisable that a generic Terms of Reference template is formulated for regional networks to provide a coherency and consistency between them all.

¹ The self-Assessment document is confidential, therefore it will be password protected.

This year's hurricane season again disrupted planned activities, particularly within the countries most affected – Cuba, Grenada, Haiti and Jamaica.

Programme Objective 2: The Cuban Red Cross and Dominican Republic Red Cross have strengthened their capacities in organizational development.

Progress and Impact

The Panama Regional Delegation supported the Dominican Republic Red Cross in revising its Strategic Plan. The plan was drafted in accordance to the objectives set in the Plan of Action of the XVII Inter-American Conference and approved by the National Council, volunteer representatives, the management team and national programme coordinators. The Dominican Republic National Council also revised and approved its Statutes in accordance with the Joint Commission.

Other advances in organizational development included the strengthening of the intranet and the Dominican Republic Red Cross website.

The Cuban Red Cross has signed an agreement with the Federation for the financing of the *Madruga project*, which will increase food supplies and mitigate the effects of disaster situations using VCA methodology. This Community Integrated Programme project, which includes elements of organizational development and disaster preparedness, aims to provide support to the community of Villena in the production and consumption of fruits and vegetables in intensive vegetable gardens, and aid in the facilitation of VCA workshops. The project has entered its initial phase and will benefit members of the Villena community and the National Society branch, as well as other institutions, such as schools and hospitals.

Constraints

The onset of the hurricane season has limited organizational development efforts in these countries. Hurricane Dennis and Wilma delayed work in the field in Cuba and have slowed down the development of the *Madruga project*.

Coordination, Cooperation, Representation and Strategic Partnerships

Overall Goal: The different components of the Movement with a presence in the Caribbean work together effectively and promote the Red Cross both internally and externally.

Programme Objective 1: The CCORC is a credible counterpart for all partners wishing to work with the Red Cross in the Caribbean.

Progress and Impact

The Federation facilitated a one day meeting of the CCORC membership on 17 May, followed by the Caribbean Red Cross 8th Biennial Meeting on 18-20 May in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago. All 16 National Societies and 9 (of 17) branches of the British, French and Netherlands Overseas Territories participated, as did representatives from the Federation Secretariat, Panama Regional Delegation, PADRU, Port of Spain Sub Regional Office, ICRC, and the American, British, Canadian, French and Spanish Red Cross Societies. The theme of the 8th Biennial Meeting was *'Development through Cooperation'* and covered the following subjects:

- Main achievements in 2003-2005
- Review of the Regional Cooperation Agreement Strategy
- Volunteer Management
- Regional networks
- Federation of the Future
- Overview of Federation's Regional Capacity

- Regional Disaster Response Operations
- Movement Cooperation

The main outcomes of the meeting were:

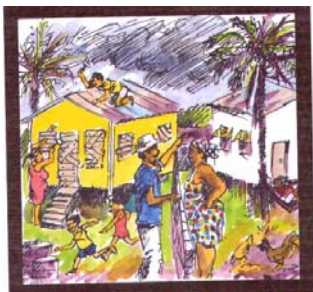
- Regional priorities were identified for inclusion in the Federations 2006-2007 Caribbean Appeal.
- There needs to be a definition of what constitutes a regional network, and common standards developed for, and applied to, all networks in the Caribbean region.
- Caribbean Red Cross Societies should be more involved in the Federation of the Future process.

The Federation facilitated the second meeting in 2005 of the CCORC management committee on 25th September in Port of Spain. Items on the agenda included:

- General Assembly 2005 in Seoul:
- Federation's draft planning document for the Caribbean Appeal 2007-2007
- Follow up to Biennial Meeting: Federation of the Future, Regional Cooperation Agreement Strategy and Regional networks
- Update on 2005 Hurricane season – Hurricanes Dennis, Emily and Katrina
- Update on issues related to the Dominican Republic Red Cross and CARAN

Programme Objective 2: The Federation is a respected partner of choice for key humanitarian actors and regional organizations with a presence in the region.

Progress and Impact



In August, the Federation, together with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the United Nations International Strategy for Risk Reduction officially launched '**Rough Season**' an audio soap opera consisting of ten 15-minute episodes, to be broadcast on the radio. The story begins with its main characters in denial but gradually, on the advice of a neighbour, they start to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season. The drama and story-line of a soap opera is interspersed with safety messages played out in conversations among the characters, including hurricane preparedness, health safety, building codes and the value of community response groups.

The regional health delegate and sub regional HIV/AIDS youth officer met with Population Services International (PSI) to discuss collaboration in the area of HIV/AIDS. Among the topics discussed were the Federation's youth peer education programme and working with "high risk groups". Also discussed were possibilities in working together in social mobilization programmes such as the taxis campaign and "The Faces Campaign" - see above. Discussions with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), regarding their support of the Federation's community based disaster management programme, were re-activated after several months of silence. The CDB looked to support 6 communities in 3 countries over an 18 month period.

A Memorandum of Understanding with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) was extended in October (<http://www.caribbeanredcross.org/news/2005/cderamou.htm>). The MoU aimed to strengthen the framework for collaboration towards achieving Strategy 2010 and the Comprehensive Disaster management Strategy in the Caribbean. The two organizations will work together in the areas of community based disaster management, disaster response and coordination.

In September, the Federation signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the French Red Cross in Guadeloupe (<http://www.caribbeanredcross.org/news/2005/piracmou.htm>). The MoU sets out the roles and responsibilities of the two organizations in respect of the provision of support to the Caribbean National Societies and to the French Red Cross overseas branches in the region. The MoU compliments the *Pointe à Pitre Agreement* between the Haitian National Red Cross Society and the French Red Cross department delegations of Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guyana, which aims to strengthen and develop local and national response capacities. That agreement

outlines the framework under which the *Plateforme d'Intervention Regionale Amerique-Caraibes* (PIRAC) will operate to address the vulnerability of populations prone to disasters in the region. The signing of the MoU in Guadeloupe coincided with the training of nearly 90 personnel from the Haitian National Red Cross Society and the three French territories in the regional disaster response system, facilitated jointly by the French Red Cross and PADRU.

Constraints

Rough Season was launched too late in the 2005 hurricane season to have any real impact. There were also difficulties in getting it played by radio stations. Generally the only air-time offered free was in the early hours of the morning, with peak time rates too expensive to be considered. In time for the 2006 hurricane season, and together with partners, the Federation will lobby for insurance companies and banks, which have a vested interest in better prepared communities, to cover the costs of playing the soap opera at peak times.

Unfortunately, the discussions with CDB still show little sign of being translated into concrete financial support. It has since been learned that the availability of funds thought to be allocated to the Federation will end in September 2006, leaving insufficient time for the 18 month timeframe.

Management and Implementation

Overall Goal: The Federation Secretariat is able to support the Red Cross entities of the Caribbean efficiently and effectively.

Programme Objective: The Sub Regional Office is working efficiently, ensuring effective management of human resources, financial control, quality reporting and administration.

Progress and Impact

A regional finance delegate was appointed to work on outstanding issues from the 2004 hurricane emergency operations in July. Most outstanding financial reports were completed and a plan was finalized for the reallocation of remaining funds to regional appeals.

A regional reporting officer was recruited for the Caribbean, based in the Panama Regional Delegation in July. Unfortunately, she resigned some three months later. The position was re-advertised and will be filled in November.

The regional disaster preparedness delegate left the Panama Regional Delegation and moved to the Federation Secretariat in Geneva. A short-term replacement was appointed for three months, later extended to six months. It is anticipated that a long-term appointment will be made in the New Year.

The Port of Spain Sub Regional Office capacity was significantly strengthened with the appointment of a PADRU disaster management delegate in September and a logistics officer in October. The disaster management delegate is responsible for any PADRU deployments to the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean in the event of disasters. The disaster management delegate was, in fact, deployed to the Bahamas for the Hurricane Wilma operation at the end of October. The logistics officer, based in Jamaica, will concentrate on a logistics mapping of the Caribbean Red Cross.

The HIV/AIDS youth officer took an extended holiday for his wedding and honeymoon. He was replaced for six weeks by a representative from the Cayman Islands branch of the British Red Cross, who provided excellent support to the Caribbean HIV/AIDS programme.

Following the end of the Guyana Floods Operation (05EA001), the operations manager completed her mission at the end of October.

Two members of the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office – the finance and administration officer and the disaster management officer – resigned; the former to immigrate to Canada with her family and the latter to take a sabbatical. A new finance and administration officer and a finance assistant were recruited and will commence work in November. A new disaster management officer will be appointed in the New Year.

The National Societies and Overseas Branches of the region received visits from members of the Regional Delegation, the Sub Regional Office and the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU). Some of these visits included:

National Society / Overseas Branch	Purpose
Bahamas RC	PADRU deployment for Hurricane Wilma response
Grenada RC	Identify best use of post-Ivan recovery funds
Guyana RC	Flood operation – Lessons learned
Jamaica RC	Launch of 2005 World Disasters Report Organizational development visit
Trinidad & Tobago RC Introduce PADRU DM Delegate	NITs training
Antigua & Barbuda	HIV/AIDS Programme Visit.
St. Kitts & Nevis	HIV/AIDS Programme Visit
Dominica	HIV/AIDS Programme Visit
Montserrat	HIV/AIDS Programme Visit
Trinidad & Tobago	HIV/AIDS Programme Visit
Barbados	Hurricane Emily Operation
Cayman Islands	HIV/AIDS Programme Visit
Dominican Republic	HIV/AIDS Programme Visit
Grenada RC	PADRU deployment for Hurricane Emily
French RC (Guadeloupe branch)	PADRU DM: facilitation of the EIRAC training

Constraints

The departure of two senior members of the Sub Regional Office put a huge strain on the delivery of services to the Red Cross membership. It was also a slow process to recruit replacements, particularly when successful candidates generally are required to give one month's notice to current employers.

The Port of Spain Sub Regional Office, consisting largely of Trinibago nationals, does not properly reflect the Caribbean region. Whilst vacant positions are advertised throughout the region, funding restrictions generally do not allow the Federation to support regional contracts. More effort will be made to identify funds that will allow personnel from the region to be recruited.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

Caribbean Sub Regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05AA041

PLEDGES RECEIVED

28/12/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,743,193	TOTAL COVERAGE	
					86.7%	
OPENING BALANCE				165,741		
BRITISH - RC		25,000	GBP	54,525	20.04.05	OSB BRANCH SUPPORT OFFICER
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT				162,000	01.01.05	HEALTH, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HUMANITARIAN VALUE, INTERNATION REPRESENTATION
BRITISH - RC		5,348	GBP	12,086	06.05.05	8TH BIENNIAL MEETING
BRITISH - RC		10,000	GBP	22,600	14.07.05	SUB-REGIONAL OFFICE
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				58,680	24.01.05	REGIONAL OD NETWORK
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/HAPS		287,100	CAD	269,874	12.04.05	
ICRC		6,299	TTD	1,282	01.04.05	WORLD RED CROSS DAY
ICRC		3,875	USD	5,014	05.06.05	CCORC BIENNIAL MEETING
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1,100,000	NOK	207,900	16.03.05	HIV/AIDS, CARAN
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		450,000	NOK	88,200	16.03.05	HIV/AIDS, CARAN
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		450,000	NOK	88,875	28.10.05	HIV/AIDS, CARAN
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1,500,000	NOK	291,600	12.12.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH & CARE, DISASTER MANAGEMENT, GENERAL MANAGEMENT
SPANISH - RC		4,000	EUR	6,228	05.06.05	CCORC ACTIVITIES
SURINAME - RC		1,185	USD	1,533	05.06.05	CCORC STAFF
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO - CCORC		2,385	USD	2,971	21.07.05	ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,439,109	CHF	82.6%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			71,400		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				71,400	CHF	4.1%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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