

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

SOUTHEAST ASIA

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In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA057; Appeal target: CHF 3,362,723 (USD 2.6 million or EUR 2.2 million);
Appeal coverage: 97.8%. ([click here to go directly to the attached Annual Financial 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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Regional overview

2005 in Southeast Asia was dominated by the massive response to the tsunami in Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar and Malaysia. In addition, preparations gathered pace around the potential for a pandemic of avian flu (subtype H5N1). Vietnam and Indonesia were two of the global hotspot in terms of recorded cases and fatalities. Regional coordination has strengthened as has national level planning.

Concern over the threat of avian influenza continues to rise. In July, Indonesia reported the country's first human fatalities due to the disease, while the disease has moved across the globe infecting bird populations worldwide. According to Vietnam's health ministry, a total of 93 cases and 42 deaths have been recorded in the country (correct 4 April 2006).

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there have been 186 confirmed cases and 105 deaths worldwide (correct 4 April 2006). No human to human cases have yet been recorded. 90% of cases thus far have been recorded in Southeast and East Asia.

One of the largest contributing factors to the spread of the disease, as identified by WHO, is the reluctance of poor Asian poultry farmers to report bird flu outbreaks. A total of 150 million poultry has been culled in Asia, destroying the livelihood of many poor farmers; there is, however, insufficient capacity for surveillance of the disease in villages, while the lack of education at the community level about the disease puts farmers and market operators at risk.

At the same time, hundreds of polio cases were reported in Indonesia. It was thought that the disease had been eradicated from the country ten years ago. Response was swift, with the country targeting some 24 million children for a massive vaccination campaign. Nevertheless, WHO has expressed concern that the virus could spread to other parts of Southeast Asia and turn into an epidemic during the rainy season, which began in October.

Meanwhile, other disasters continued to strike the region, such as typhoons, and severe flooding in Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, and Myanmar, fires in Indonesia and the accompanying haze that shrouded Kuala Lumpur. All of these emergencies demanded the immediate attention of public health and disaster management agencies and organizations.

Overall analysis of the health and care programme in 2005

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

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

Southeast Asia has made considerable progress in disease prevention and control over the past decades, with a region-wide decline in communicable diseases. However, there are still large disparities in health from one country to another. Endemic diseases, such as malaria and gastrointestinal infections, stemming from lack of access to safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation, are still widespread in the region. The last few years have seen emerging diseases pose increasing threats in the region. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is a clear and present danger with the Asia Pacific region now accounting for one in every five new HIV infections worldwide. The outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 and the increasing number of cases of human infection with avian influenza (subtype H5N1) are examples of emerging health hazards. The public healthcare and social welfare system in Southeast Asian countries were put to the test after a rise in poultry and human deaths because of the avian influenza virus. As a consequence of these developments, public health in emergencies (PHiE) preparedness and response continues to be a focus. The development of guidelines for national societies is a high priority and has led to a renewed focus on strengthening national society capacity for dealing with public health in emergencies. The burden caused by re-emerging endemic diseases places an enormous challenge on the health departments of Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) societies to constantly redefine their role and adapt to the external conditions. The regional health unit seeks to support the national societies in this process in order to continue serving the most vulnerable in their communities.

The activities in the first half of 2005 were largely dictated by the disasters at the end of 2004, and many scheduled initiatives were cancelled as the regional delegation, and national societies, concentrated all efforts on supporting the tsunami recovery operation. Most notably, planned activities in water and sanitation were delayed, visits to non-affected countries were cancelled, and the regional working group on public health in emergencies suspended its activities. However the regional health unit was able to catch up on most of the delays while implementing the activities scheduled for the second half of 2005. A new programme officer joined the regional health unit in July and a new public health in emergencies delegate joined the regional health unit in September, enhancing the capacity of the unit for providing support in the area of health emergencies.

Achievements, Constraints and Lessons Learnt

Coordination and health strategies

The regional health strategic plan, developed in a regional health team workshop in October 2004, was finalized during the first quarter of 2005 in consultation with participants from national societies as well as partner national societies (PNS). The plan has been made available electronically, while the printed version was distributed to key stakeholders during the regional health team meeting in October 2005. Based on the core action areas identified in the strategic plan, the primary activity under the 2005 action plan was the mapping of national societies' health programmes, capacities and resources. The regional health mapping was initiated in June 2005 with the development of questionnaires and methodology on data collection. The pilot test was conducted in August 2005

with Cambodia Red Cross, the country report finalized in September 2005 and feedback from the national society and Federation Representative on the report content and structure was extremely positive.

The annual regional health team meeting was held in October 2005 over a three-day period to discuss regional health-related interests and concerns. The meeting brought together national societies' health directors, Federation, ICRC and bilateral health delegates working in the region. A half-day mapping orientation session was held in conjunction with the regional health team meeting in October 2005 with the identified focal persons from each national society who collectively supported the initiative and suggested follow-up country visits be added to the methodology as needed to supplement the questionnaire and help write a comprehensive report. As of December 2005, six national societies had returned the questionnaire, and tentative dates were scheduled with others for national society country visits to be commenced in the first quarter of 2006.

HIV/AIDS

Working against stigma and discrimination has been a main focus of 2005. As a joint effort, Australian Red Cross HIV/AIDS Programme (ARCAIDS), Asian Regional Task Force on HIV/AIDS (ART), Norwegian Red Cross, and Asia-Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (APN+) implemented a project contemplating developing a model for a RCRC HIV/AIDS workplace policy as well as addressing stigma and discrimination in health care settings. The project was implemented in two selected ART member national societies, Cambodia and Mongolia, as pilot sites. Based on the final project report, the HIV workplace recommendations were endorsed by Cambodia and are under process in Mongolia. Indonesia has already engaged in the process to learn from Cambodia's experience, and HIV workplace recommendations are expected to expand to other ART member national society in 2006 onward. The ART HIV discrimination project Advisory Group was established which, consists of a representative of the regional health unit, ART, APN+, ARCAIDS, Norwegian Red Cross, Cambodian Red Cross and Mongolian Red Cross. The advisory group, providing technical advice to the pilot project for the development of workplace principles and implementation of action plans, met twice in conjunction with ART annual meeting in Mongolia and one in conjunction with Australian Red Cross Asia Pacific programme on HIV/AIDS Meeting in Laos.

Preparation for ART participation in the 7th International Congress on AIDS in the Asia Pacific (ICAAP) in Kobe started as early as January 2005. It included on-going contact and coordination with Japanese Red Cross, ARCAIDS, the regional delegation in Beijing, and the health department in Geneva. Promotional materials, including 2,000 copies of the ART newsletter, were printed for distribution during the conference. Several national societies from the region, as well as ART, made poster and oral presentations. The Federation and Japanese Red Cross jointly operated an exhibition booth, which proved popular among conference participants. A Red Cross Red Crescent satellite meeting was held in conjunction with the ICAAP, hosted by Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS), as a platform for RCRC people to share and learn from each other's experiences. The lessons learned from the conference were shared with other RCRC colleagues during the 17th ART meeting, which was held in Mongolia later the same month. This meeting focused on working against stigma and discrimination, and included participation from APN+. During the meeting all national societies undertook an HIV/AIDS competency self assessment, which will be used to identify areas for improvement and as a tool for future monitoring.

ART member national societies were supported in developing/reviewing HIV/AIDS strategic plan, workplace principles, and other HIV/AIDS-related documents. The strategies are in place, as part of a health strategy or even separately as in some national societies. ART membership and partnerships were strengthened; during 2005, two more national societies in East Asia became observers to the ART network, namely Japanese Red Cross and DPRK Red Cross. To encourage greater ownership of the regional network, nine out of 13 (70%) of the member national societies contributed to the ART annual fee as of December 2005.

Regional/national campaigns against stigma and discrimination in partnership with people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) were held on World Red Cross Day and World AIDS Day. The diversity of activities was designed by national societies, and one-third of member national societies activities were funded by ART. The following promotional materials were produced: ART Strategic Plan for 2004-2008 (500 copies), ART newsletter (Work of ART) 14th and 15th edition, 2,000 copies of each edition, 700 T-shirts, 1,000 rubber wrist bands, and 500 Masumbo Fund pins (to help RCRC staff and volunteers living with HIV/AIDS).

Throughout the reporting period, the regional health unit and the ART secretariat continued its efforts at liaising and coordinating with external agencies, and participated in two coordination meetings:

- ART programme officer took part as a member of the UN Regional Task Force on Mobility and HIV Vulnerability Reduction, and attended task force meetings regularly in 2005 in Bangkok and Siem Reap.
- Participated in the UNAIDS Regional Technical Support Team meetings on information sharing among UN and INGO working in the field of HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific.
- Participated in the Regional Forum of Health Without Borders including HIV/AIDS, organized by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (UNESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Attended the 2nd ADB Situation Analysis and Steering Committee Meeting in Vientiane, Laos, which discussed the draft proposal for the Greater Mekong Sub-region Communicable Diseases Control (CDC) Project, which aims at reducing the burden of disease arising from endemic and epidemic communicable diseases in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam.
- ART chairperson and the ART project officer attended the 6th South Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (SARNHA) meeting, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The lessons learned by the ART network in the areas of developing a strategic plan, restructuring, establishing a management committee, introducing membership fees, etc., were raised and shared with the other participants.
- Attended the UNAIDS Regional Support Facility (RSF) meeting to seek collaboration with country and regional partners in the provision of high quality technical assistances required for the strategic planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of effort in support of national HIV/AIDS programmes.
- Invited as a key speaker on the theme of ‘Stigma and Discrimination toward People Living with HIV/AIDS’ at the 3rd Japanese Red Cross HIV/AIDS Symposium together with the Federation HIV/AIDS coordinator for East Asia and president of Japanese Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (JaNP+).

Integrated water sanitation/community-based first aid (CBFA)

During the first part of 2005, the regional water and sanitation (watsan) delegate was heavily involved in the tsunami emergency relief operation, and all scheduled activities, mainly country-level technical supervision and support visits, had to be cancelled. However, implementation of watsan activities in Laos, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Philippines, and Myanmar continued. The regional water and sanitation activities in the second and third quarter of 2005 focused on providing technical assistance to the programmes in Cambodia, Laos and Indonesia. Laos Red Cross recruited a water and sanitation/CBFA officer to strengthen the health department and to support the New Zealand Red Cross-sponsored watsan programme in the southern part of the country. The water projects in the northern provinces have been completed and are now providing clean drinking water to a total population of 1,840 in five villages.

In Cambodia, the Red Cross health department held the first of three watsan meetings, allowing PNS and Cambodia Red Cross (CRC) staff to share experiences and work towards a common watsan approach. As a result of these meetings a PHAST¹ training course was conducted for CRC and PNS staff in August.

In Indonesia, watsan programmes funded by different donors (Federation, Singapore Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross) were evaluated by a team from PMI (Indonesian Red Cross)/Federation and an external consultant. The evaluation showed the strengths and weaknesses of different watsan approaches, from a pure technical to a community based approach, and provided recommendations for improvements. After the review the water and sanitation programme in Banda Aceh was visited.

The regional watsan delegate participated in the 3rd Household Water Treatment and Storage Symposium and Network Meeting in Bangkok in June. During the symposium new household treatment methods and research were discussed. The Cambodian Red Cross presented the ceramic water filter production programme, which they implement with support from American Red Cross. In August the regional watsan delegate provided a training session on Water and Sanitation in Emergencies at the 3rd regional disaster response team (RDRT) training in Danang, Vietnam, for participants from national societies in Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand.

¹ participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation

Public health in emergencies

The activities in the first quarter of 2005 were dictated by the disasters at the end of 2004. Throughout the reporting period, the regional health unit continued assisting Philippines National Red Cross (PNRC) in its relief and rehabilitation operation after the November typhoons in the northern Philippines. In health, PNRC is undertaking rehabilitation of rural health stations, provision of medical supplies, health and hygiene education, and water testing in affected areas. Details of progress are available in the [operation updates](#)

Following the tsunami disaster on 26 December 2004, the regional health unit became heavily involved in coordinating the relief operation. The watsan delegate was based in Sri Lanka throughout January, to assist in coordinating the emergency response in water and sanitation. In Thailand, the regional health unit took part in the recovery assessment mission that visited the provinces in the south. At the regional level, the unit was actively involved in coordination and information sharing with UN bodies, INGOs and local NGOs. The unit worked closely with Thai Red Cross at developing recovery and rehabilitation plans for the affected provinces, and developed a regional recovery and rehabilitation programme in close collaboration with the other units. The regional programme provided for the recruitment of additional staff, including a regional PHiE delegate, a psychosocial support delegate, and a watsan programme officer. Details of the tsunami operation are available in the [operation updates](#)

With the threat of an emerging epidemic of avian flu, the regional health unit commenced scaling-up its activities in terms of prevention and preparedness and response. Orientation sessions on avian flu were provided to national society's disaster and information staff at regional meetings. National societies were encouraged to launch country level programmes. Direct technical assistance was provided by the regional PHiE delegate to Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR to strengthen the national society preparedness activities and develop a country action plan for future prevention and response. In Vietnam, VNRC implemented a health education programme aimed at disseminating information on avian flu across the country. In Cambodia, CRC developed a project proposal along similar lines, and in the Philippines avian flu was included as a topic under their multi-hazard health information activities. In all cases, the national societies are working in close coordination with national health authorities and with support from the regional health unit. Due to these disasters, the health-in-emergency working group, tasked with producing guidelines on preparedness and response to health emergencies and disasters, cancelled their meetings and suspended their work until the arrival of a PHiE delegate in the third quarter of 2005. Upon arrival of the PHiE delegate and following the regional conference on avian influenza in Jakarta in December 2005, the PHiE working group resumed operation in late 2005 – albeit a changed function and additional members – in reaction to a regional approach for H5N1. It is now a functioning working group on avian influenza. The goal of the working group is to facilitate national society action plans and develop a regional approach to the infectious disease. Implementation of this process was to begin early in 2006.

The regional health unit continued to monitor the disease situation in the region and support the national society, as necessary. Following a dengue outbreak in Timor-Leste, Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL) initiated dengue prevention and control activities. Responding to the resurgence of avian flu, Viet Nam Red Cross prepared for health education and dissemination activities. In both cases, the unit assisted the Federation offices and national society with technical inputs and funding support. The New Zealand Red Cross has funded the two initiatives.

In the Philippines, PNRC prepared for its measles surveillance programme in coordination with the government Department of Health and WHO. Staff members from the selected provinces were trained on managing measles surveillance programmes, and in some provinces, staff members have followed this with training community health volunteers in measles surveillance. Community survey and social preparation will be the next step in ensuring a good turnout and coverage for measles vaccination. The chapters work closely with the local government to educate communities on measles and identify children for vaccination. For prevention and response to other diseases, PNRC chapters continued health education activities, with local funds and those provided by the regional health unit.

First aid

The regional health unit represented the delegation at a workshop for developing an integrated curriculum for training of trainers (ToT) training in combined community-based disaster management (CBDM) and community -

based first aid (CBFA) in Myanmar. This initiative of the Myanmar Red Cross is in line with its strategic plan and is supported by the Federation country delegation. At the end of the workshop, volunteer trainers drew up an outline of a revised curriculum that holistically integrates different aspects of disaster management and health.

Blood donor recruitment

A meeting organized by the Global Advisory Panel (Blood, GAP) took place in Singapore, hosted by Singapore Red Cross (SRC) from 31 March to 1 April. The aim of the meeting was to obtain feedback from 14 national societies in Asia Pacific that had completed the new self-assessment tool which had been designed by GAP, as a means of assisting those national societies with the development of their blood programmes. There was unanimous support from national societies that the self-assessment tool had provided an excellent opportunity to: reflect on the effectiveness of its governance in regard to blood service delivery, identify problem areas, and discuss further within national societies and Ministries of Health (MoH), and that it provides an excellent opportunity for international benchmarking. Following the ToT training on Making a Difference in voluntary blood donor recruitment in 2004, the Regional Blood Advisory Group follow-up workshop on voluntary non-remunerated blood donor recruitment (VNBDR) was hosted by Laos Red Cross in December 2005, organized by Singapore Red Cross and funded by the regional health unit.

Impact

With the year so heavily influenced by a large-scale, multi-sector, and multi-agency emergency response, it is difficult to assess the direct outputs of the efforts of the regional health unit. There is no doubt, however, that the regional health unit has contributed to the Movement's response and coordination, at the regional level, in Thailand, in Indonesia, and in Sri Lanka. The unit has taken active part in the initial emergency response through participation in assessment and coordination teams and has contributed to the development of the Movement framework for recovery and rehabilitation.

The partnership between the Federation, ART, national societies and APN+/local organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS is gaining strength at regional as well as local levels. The closeness with which we now work and operate has led to several innovative and promising joint initiatives, including developing a model for RCRC workplace policy on HIV/AIDS, training programmes for health staff aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination in health care settings, and the development of a study that will look at how positive people in tsunami affected areas were affected by the disaster and to which degree their need for support following the disaster was met.

In relation to avian flu, national societies are now rising to meet the challenge, especially through public health awareness programmes, which are crucial in preventing human infections. At the Southeast Asia leadership meeting in Manila, national societies agreed to make avian influenza the priority; making this a global, regional, and national endeavour that includes both health professionals and leadership.

Overall analysis of the disaster management programme in 2005

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

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

Achievements

Expected result 1: All national societies are systematically addressing their disaster management development needs, based on well developed plans and through strengthened regional cooperation.

In the aftermath of the 26 December 2004 Asian earthquake and tsunami the regional disaster management unit (RDMU) focused on providing support to affected countries within the Southeast Asia region. The unit facilitated field assessment and coordination teams (FACT); provided technical support to national society disaster managers; and a regional assessment recovery assessment team, whose recommendations formed the basis of country and regional strategic framework documents and subsequent programme proposals and a plan of action of the tsunami emergency appeal.

Beyond the specific support to the Asian earthquake and tsunami countries the RDMU achieved substantial progress in meeting the identified needs of other national societies within the region. In particular, countrywide, multi-hazard contingency planning was undertaken in Timor-Leste.

Expected result 2: The disaster response and response preparedness capacity within the region is further strengthened, at both individual national society and regional levels, and the understanding of and linkages to the Federation's global response system are assured.

Substantial progress was made with regard to response preparedness within the region that included regional disaster response team (RDRT) training in Vietnam for Mekong countries. This was supported by a regional review and update of RDRT and FACT resources to better prepare for response. With regard to emerging issues within the region, the unit capacity was enhanced by the arrival of: an international disaster response law delegate posted from Geneva to address legal issues of disaster response; and the appointment of a population movement coordinator to support national societies in the region.

Regional support to disaster response operations was achieved in the Philippines through the deployment of the RDMU and RDRT resources, while the success of the region's preparedness was further shown through inter-regional deployments of RDRT members to support the Pakistan earthquake operation.

Expected result 3: The linkages and mechanisms for disaster management information and knowledge sharing between the national, regional and global levels are substantially improved.

The increase in the number of entries on the Federation's disaster management information system (DMIS) by national societies demonstrated progress in awareness of the importance of disseminating and sharing information on emergencies. Further knowledge sharing was achieved through attendance of unit members at an induction course conducted by the regional organizational development unit.

Expected result 4: The Federation's regional disaster management cooperation framework is further developed, maintained and sustained.

The regional disaster management cooperation framework proved extremely successful in the immediate aftermath of the Asian earthquake and tsunami, where the unit initiated weekly inter-agency meetings for UN and INGOs with a regional remit. The ongoing interaction in regional cooperation frameworks was strengthened via the 9th regional disaster management committee (RDMC) meeting as well as participation in the disaster management review and Asia Pacific disaster management meeting. Unit members also participated in and facilitated at the world conference on disaster reduction in Kobe, Japan.

Constraints and Lessons Learnt

The need to support the response to the Asian earthquake and tsunami impacted on achievement of the overall the programme objective and goal. Activities of the unit were predominately response focused throughout the year, which impacted on the achievement of an integrated regional disaster management approach. However the intensive period of disaster response has developed the capacities and preparedness of national societies for the future.

Substantial achievement was made in linking the resources within the region to the Federation's global response system through the deployment of recovery assessment teams to the tsunami and RDRT to the Pakistan earthquake operations. Furthermore the ongoing advocacy of issues related to vulnerable populations - including gender and assessments and workshops in response to human trafficking in Cambodia within the population movement programme - is of note.

Coordination with humanitarian organisations was strengthened through inter-agency meetings for the tsunami; the RDMC; and at the national level with respective national disaster management frameworks.

The major constraint to achieving the expected results within the year was the tsunami. In addition a number of staff changes also impacted on available resources to implement all planned activities.

The RDMU was able to position itself as a key resource and actor in the tsunami response through the initiation of inter-agency meetings.

The support of the unit through the recovery assessment team deployed to southern Thailand, which formed the basis of the country and regional strategic framework, showed the value of disaster preparedness activities supported by the unit within the region. This in turn ratified the objectives of the programme and value of an integrated disaster management approach.

The disaster preparedness activities strengthened inter-regional cooperation between Southeast Asian national societies, who are working towards a common goal of improved preparedness and response to disaster management. In addition the region's capacity was also acknowledged through the deployment of human resources to support emergency operations in South Asia. Furthermore the link between the region and the Movement's global systems and structures has been taken to a new level, which will be developed in the coming years.

The value of an integrated approach to disaster management, which incorporates response and preparedness activates at all levels of the RCRC within the region, can not be understated in times of mega disasters.

Impact

Considering the challenges faced by the programme during the year the level of achievement towards developing an integrated disaster management approach has been limited. However the sustainable achievements made in disaster response far exceeded expected results and provides encouragement for the development of disaster management capacities within the region.

The unit was not able to complete all identified activities within 2005 and as such there was a net under-spend on the budget. This however does not adequately represent the extensive support provided to the countries affected by the Asian earthquake and tsunami, which was funded independently of the annual appeal.

The extensive response to the Asian earthquake and tsunami resulted in a number of key activities planned for 2005 being moved into 2006. These include supporting national societies in reviewing their disaster management strategies, developing further individual disaster management frameworks and also the support to preparedness activities.

Overall analysis of the organizational development programme in 2005

Overall Goal: There is a significant improvement in the lives of vulnerable people through the humanitarian services and intervention of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in the region.

Programme Objective: Southeast Asia national societies are organizationally strong and have the capacity to deliver relevant and effective services to the most vulnerable people.

Project One: Regional Cooperation and Coordination

Expected Result: National societies in the region achieve significant improvements in capacity building and organizational development (OD) through regional cooperation, coordination, and a strong network of OD practitioners.

The Regional OD forum continued to be a main pillar for regional cooperation and coordination of the regional OD strategy and programmes. Through the experience sharing format of the forum national societies have been inspired by ideas from other national societies' activities.

Impact

- It is observed that the OD and capacity building initiatives have been gradually taking good shape in the national societies in the region.
- The collection and handling of huge donations for the tsunami operation has triggered a re-think about the existing systems in place are sufficient enough to handle it efficiently and effectively in a very transparent manner to communities at large or not. There may be a need and some room for improvement of the existing systems.
- The huge tsunami operation has triggered Thai Red Cross to set up an Audit Committee at national level, ensure managing resources efficiently and effectively in a transparent manner to the people at large.
- The introduction of E-procurement and purchasing systems by Thai Red Cross to prevent corruption and use of software to monitor incoming and outgoing expenses by the Governance enable them to verify the financial situation up to date, an added value to the national society' transparency and accountability.
- Malaysia Red Crescent has established a national OD unit working closely with the OD task force and a country level OD forum to share information and work together with the branch to identify the issues and resources is big step in the national societies OD/CB.

Lessons Learnt

Sharing experiences, knowledge and skills among the national society OD focal points and delegates in the region has influenced approaches. OD focal points have chosen to take on several main issues- including monitoring and evaluation (M&E) into the 7th OD Forum. The national societies that were advanced in their approach shared their process and experience, highlighting the good and the bad, enabling fruitful discussions. It also provides national societies the opportunity to identify resources from within other national societies and the regional delegation's OD unit. The discussions from the forum provided ideas for PMI, Lao Red Cross and Myanmar Red Cross for the development of their (M&E) systems. There is a growing interest among national societies in the region to set up monitoring and evaluation mechanisms or systems and structures in their projects and programme. The regional OD unit has been working with and providing technical support to some, such as Myanmar, Laos and Indonesia.

The development of the forum has been widely discussed and at the end of 2005 it was decided that it was time for the regional OD unit to delegate/devolve the management/secretariat function of the OD forum. It was also decided that the forum be held yearly instead of twice a year. The handover of the responsibilities for the forum gradually moved towards cost sharing among all national societies, including the organising. This will increase national societies' ownership in coordination and development of regional OD strategies. A concentrated effort is also being made to invite PNS working with OD issues in the region to participate in the forum. In the future, it is expected that the regional OD unit will have a consultative role both with regards to the forum and follow-up activities.

The approach for the regional OD unit is to support process and provide assistance when requested. The regional OD unit does not consider itself the lead in this field but is monitoring the developments and contributing inputs and assistance when requested or when deemed necessary. However, there is one area where the regional OD unit has been proactive and that is in the promotion and direct support for country level youth leadership training, and in encouraging linkages and integration between the national societies' divisions, such as health and DM, a reality in several national societies in the region.

The regional OD team did not have time to perform a 'mentoring' role with OD focal points between meetings, except in a few cases due to over stretch with many other priority and planned activities. It is also noticed that OD focal points did not always share with national society personnel on return, except in a few cases. Continuity of OD focal points was not always guaranteed; the commitment of national society leadership is very important to keep the forum alive and effective. There could have been a more planned approach to developing an OD practitioners group in specific global priority areas (eg legal base, volunteers, resource mobilisation etc)

Project two: Technical skills and capacity building:

Expected Result: Enhanced planning, reporting, communications and fundraising skills and capacity in selected national societies in the region.

Strategic Planning

Strategic Plan development was a priority for 2005. At least three national societies made substantial progress in strategic planning process.

The regional OD unit provided both technical and financial support to three national societies: Laos, CVTL and Vietnam, and thus met the objective set. In line with strategic planning, a harmonization of planning approaches was encouraged in the region; its effect is visible in the fact that most national societies are using the project planning process (PPP) and logframes consistently for project and programme planning. Planning orientation modules have also been well developed and used with governance and management. In addition, new national society strategic plan guidelines have been shared with the national societies that have been engaged in the planning process.

For the upcoming year the regional OD unit will increase its efforts to promote more technical knowledge sharing among the PNS in the region, further clarifying the strategic planning approach to develop a national strategic plan into a branch level strategic plan.

It is to be noted that a revision of the regional tsunami programme resulted in some planned activities being removed, such as communication skills development (workshops and tools), volunteer management workshop, regional youth conference, fundraising skills and capacity building (regional resource mobilisation workshop) etc. Among them the cross regional RM workshop was cancelled at late notice. Reporting development initiatives could not take place due to the tsunami-related engagement of the reporting delegate and change of her mission.

Project three: Human resource development:

Expected Result: The capacity of national societies in Southeast Asia in the field of human resource development is enhanced in order to ensure the engagement and retention of a sufficient number of qualified people (volunteers, members and staff) to carry out the required programmes and activities.

Leadership and management

The planned leadership course had to be postponed because of the unavailability of required resource persons and time constraints. Opportunities for mentoring and counselling national society leadership availed; selected national society leaders attended a leadership course in Geneva. Country-level courses and the possibility to use governance development modules from other regions were not, however, furthered.

The CVTL has received two staff-on-loans, who helped the national society develop considerably. The Nepal Red Cross supplied a finance development staff, who enabled a wonderful cross-regional skills and knowledge sharing experience. Philippines National Red Cross, meanwhile, provided a person to help CVTL develop communication and reporting skills and systems.

The PNRC fund generation manager was sent to a skills-share workshop in Bangkok and Netherlands which resulted in a positive impact on the resource mobilisation capacity of the national society.

The induction course for national staff was very effective. Staff showed an interest to learn more and attend technical courses (such as first aid, PPP and basic training course, and basic training course). This indicates a willingness to develop as well as actual performance development. The Federation effective writing course improved skills of selected staff in the regional delegation.

Staff development, which is good within the Federation, needs to be extended more consistently to national society staff.

Youth

The interaction between youth groups and national society youth focal points in the region has been supported through formal and informal forums. They have provided opportunities for those working with youth to communicate and coordinate youth related projects and activities. A non-formal network of Red Cross youth managers has been formed and at this year's annual youth directors' meeting discussed and developed concrete projects to be implemented jointly at regional and national level. It is also within this network, that the national societies are deciding their regional approach to youth issues and plans for sharing technical and human resources to support each other's work and the development of Red Cross youth in the region. As an indication for conveying their seriousness and commitment to highlighting and working with youth related issues national societies have requested a youth development delegate for the Asia-Pacific region. This, of course, means that communication and contact between them has increased. For example, Thai Red Cross, Cambodian Red Cross, PMI, Laos Red Cross and PNRC communicate with each other regularly on these matters. They are also putting pressure on selected national societies to develop youth structures if they are not already in place.

Lessons Learnt

National societies in the region are keen and further realised the importance of the volunteer management system to sustain the deliveries of quality services and to increase the ratio of retention of trained and qualified volunteers.

Constraints:

Continuity of youth focal points an issue where commitment of national societies' leadership is a concern. There are no follow up to see if new skills in regional meetings are shared on return. No systematic training for youth leaders and no clear support from Secretariat Youth dept in Geneva. Lack of smooth transition from youth to adult volunteer in the national societies, focus on increased youth in empowered governance roles missing (some good examples in PMI and PNRC) in most of the national societies.

Project Three: Direct support to national societies

Expected result 4: The organizational capacity of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies without a permanent Federation Secretariat coordination presence – Brunei, Malaysia, Laos, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore – is strengthened.

PNRC resource mobilization

A monthly monitoring system is in place. This enables the PNRC to link fund generation to an increase in service delivery. The resource mobilisation project, which began more than two years earlier saw the total funds raised standing at 18 million pesos in 2003; in 2004 it was 29 million and in 2005 it reached 49 million pesos. Overall, services to the community have improved and expanded 55 percent more than last year. The PNRC is working towards long-term financial sustainability by changing mindsets at headquarters and chapters towards diversification of funding sources through more varied fundraising activities.

Lao Red Cross: leadership has the skills and capacity to manage the society without a full-time, in-country Federation Secretariat presence. New statutes are in place, together with enhanced capacity in fund raising, gender awareness and information and publicity

Lao Red Cross youth: The Lao Red Cross youth project mainly related to Red Cross basic training, first aid training, a study tour and attendance at a regional youth gathering. Lao Red Cross youth volunteers provided first aid and road safety services to communities. Youth activities of LRC suffered due to the absence of a LRC youth manager on study leave.

PNRC volunteering: The Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC), volunteers provide services, namely blood banking, disaster preparedness, relief & re-habitation and community health services to different sectors of the community. To date, there are hundreds of volunteer organizations recognized by the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency which compete with the PNRC in the recruitment of volunteers, their talents and resources. The PNRC recognizes the challenge of restoring its fading lustre as a premier humanitarian organization. Through the funding support of the regional OD unit in 2004 and 2005, the PNRC was able to

conduct four training of trainers courses in the basic training course of volunteers. The PNRC is expected to retain existing volunteers and recruit 40% more skilled volunteers through this project.

Thai Red Cross: The Thai Red Cross youth volunteers came up with self sustained projects to support their communities. Youth bureau are now in the process of developing new approaches to youth volunteerism and expanding their work throughout the country especially, in the south. Youth volunteers at the Southeast Asia Youth Camp discussed the effects of the tsunami on young people and children and raised awareness around preparedness, response, first aid and the role of youth in disaster.

PNRC: The Red Cross Youth (RCY) programme is intensifying recruitment, training and engagement of qualified trainers. RCY regional trainers training on leadership and RCY programme for youth leaders and volunteers in three regions (Luzon, Visayas and Mindano) were organized. A RCY trainers manual on training on leadership was also produced for use in these trainings. This project was not in the original plan of action; it was included in 2005 because other planned OD/CB planned activities could not be initiated due to various reasons.

Constraints

There was not enough time to support country OD agendas. No clear support to improved national societies' human resources systems was provided, only to personal development plans of a few personnel. The regional OD unit not fully engaged in statutes revision (it is in the 2006 workplan). National societies' OD focal points attended an Asia Pacific OD forum on measuring impact of OD work on services but no follow-up from the regional OD team has thus far been made to implement the new approaches

Project five: Regional Finance Development

Expected Result: *Selected national societies in the SEA region improve financial regulations, skills in financial planning, budgeting and reporting, and are thereby able to provide quality and timely information and reports to management for planning and decisions.*

The finance development delegate has been working with national societies on this issue. A systematic and well designed plan has been developed on the basis of needs of selected national societies: Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Myanmar Cambodia and Indonesia. PNRC has expressed interest to initiate its own finance development processes.

Lessons Learnt

Lack of management willingness to re/solve the human resources problem in the finance department in national societies challenge for the improvement of the systems. Some national societies do not have the capacity to meet donor requirements. The enormous size of operations in Indonesia because of the tsunami and outsourcing of financial management rather than building own capacities may be a lost opportunity in the long run for the Federation and national society. Some national societies struggle to keep some of their best staff. CVTL is particularly vulnerable to this because local qualified human resources are limited. Instead of using the new draft finance procedures, developed by head of finance, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) new leadership chose to revise the 1993 procedures. Beyond finance personnel, programme teams in some cases need to strengthen their financial management.

Overall analysis of the humanitarian values programme in 2005

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

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

Achievements, Constraints, Lessons Learnt and Impact

Expected results:

1. *Expanded strategic links with local and international media will be strengthened to secure sustained and high profile media coverage for the activities of the Federation membership in the region, particularly in times of emergencies.*
2. *There will be integration of communications components into all regional/national programmes.*
3. *The capacity and communications skills in Southeast Asia national society publicity departments and the regional information unit are expanded in a sustainable manner.*

2005 was largely overshadowed by the unprecedented tsunami disaster and its aftermath. It was also a year with opportunities for the Federation, through its comprehensive and consistent action on the ground in all countries affected, to convey a message to the public not only of the need for independent and swift humanitarian action in the hour of a disaster, but also the importance of disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

This was also reflected in the massive media coverage of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement locally, nationally and internationally being depicted as a credible humanitarian actor, with a long-term commitment.

To maintain this high profile, dissemination of the Red Cross Red Crescent work and an ongoing public dialogue on humanitarian values related to the tsunami crisis were critical; as for example the risk of tsunami compassion killing other aid or the challenges of the reconstruction work, topics which do have a bearing on humanitarian work as such. Are we as an organization truly living our values and in that commitment making a difference to the people affected? And what are the lessons learnt and how are we able to draw on that experience in building disaster preparedness for the future?

These were issues raised in many of the articles, altogether more than 60 from the region, which were posted on the Federation website. Representatives from national societies and the regional delegation have also, through participation in workshops, seminars and conferences, contributed to raising awareness and sharing best practices in this broad area, including components such as water and sanitation, and health in emergencies.

Overall, however, the work of the Federation's regional information unit continued to be guided by the recommendations reflected in the 2003 review of the Asia Pacific communications strategy. Key activities/achievements during 2005 were:

High level of service to the media:

- Around the clock assistance to journalists for tsunami-related interviews and other inquiries plus guidance in the field.
- Written contributions and assistance, especially to field trips, in the production of the Federation tsunami book. Valuable experience was drawn from this project as to humanitarian values, i.e the respect for human beings and how not to victimize people when depicting them in hours of disaster. A much appreciated lecture on this subject was also given at the "Emergency Media Workshop I" by the Federation-contracted photographer.
- Film contribution to Federation six months tsunami commemoration video.
- Opinion Article, the Nation, six months tsunami commemoration.

High level of service to the national societies and Federation as to visibility:

- Profiles (web articles in connection with fieldtrips) to promote tsunami relief work of the national societies such as Myanmar Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross.
- Profiles (web articles in connection with fieldtrips) to promote relief work, disaster preparedness, water and sanitation, basic community health, and HIV/AIDS of national societies, such Viet Nam Red Cross Society, Philippines National Red Cross, Cruz Vermelha Timor-Leste, and the Japanese and Austrian Red Cross.

- Three-week field trip to Banda Aceh, Meulaboh and Nias in relation to the one-year-commemoration to report on ongoing challenges of the tsunami reconstruction.
- Communications support to the Swedish Red Cross mission in Phuket throughout the year, including assistance at press conferences and press room (Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs) during the tsunami one-year-commemoration and the weekend of All Saints.
- Coverage of the 7th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and Pacific 2005 (ICAAP) in Kobe, Japan.

Capacity building in the national societies:

- Holding of Emergency Media Workshop I and II whereof the second took place in the field, namely the landslide-stricken area of the province of Quezon of the Philippines. The one-year-commemoration of this disaster was highlighted on the Federation web through articles written by participants.
- Conducting media training sessions at disaster management courses in Bangkok and Vietnam, and two Basic Training Courses (BTC) for Tsunami delegates in Medan and Singapore.
- The establishment of a Southeast Asian Communications Network composed of representatives from the national societies and the regional information unit.

Dissemination and advocacy of the Federation:

- Presentation of the Federation's disaster preparedness project in Vietnam at a UN Workshop on Public Awareness, Preparedness and Response in Bangkok.
- "Media Sensitivities in the Coverage of Disasters", presentation at the conference "In the Tsunami's Wake: Media and the Coverage of Disasters in Asia", organized by the Southeast Asian Press Alliance.
- Participation in the Asia Media Summit 2005
- Launch of the World Disasters Report 2005 at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand, Bangkok.
- Contacts with media organizations across the region.

Visibility was and remained the main tool to strengthen the position of the Red Cross / Red Crescent not only as a service, but also a voice for the most vulnerable. In addition, needs as to an upgrading of technical equipment within the national societies have been identified. As the importance of footage and pictures of the Movement at work when a disasters strikes continues to grows, an upgrading of the audiovisual and computer equipment in the national societies most in need was proven necessary. Subsequently, Emergency Media Kits – video camera, digital camera and a computer – are to be handed over 2006. As the information and audiovisual officers in the national societies continually have submitted material, this good effort is to be supported and uphold.

The unit will continue to produce a steady flow of written and audio-visual material for donors, national societies, the Federation secretariat and international media. However, more emphasis will be put on development issues and enhancement of programme activities on humanitarian values as to awareness raising and advocacy around racism, discrimination, for peace, tolerance and for diversity. However, given the limited capacity of the information unit, this approach surely has to be integrated in other programmes.

Lastly, ongoing efforts to assure and promote the presence of the Federation in the media arena, namely through networking and using media conferences to disseminate and place humanitarian issues on the agenda, will continue. In addition, media training as to public health disasters, such as avian influenza, will be taken on.

Coordination and Implementation

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

Federation Secretariat support for Southeast Asia is promulgated on the basis of the considerable humanitarian needs in the region, the development requirements of national societies, and the comparative advantages of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, including the Federation membership and the strong external support already being provided on a bilateral basis. The delegation continued to focus its attention on the strengthening the capacity of the region's national societies to deliver integrated and effective programmes to the neediest.

Specific recent examples of this includes work by the Federation with CVTL to gain formal recognition of the national society in the Movement, work with PMI in Indonesia on strengthening the society's volunteer network, working with the Myanmar Red Cross to help revitalize the national society, human resource and finance development in Cambodia, and the formation of RDRTs.

To reinforce the relevance of Red Cross and Red Crescent services, and the sufficiency of Federation support to have a significant impact on vulnerability in Southeast Asia, the regional delegation will complete a regional review before the first quarter of 2006. The management team of the regional delegation has begun travelling to each of the region's 11 national societies for intensive two-day meetings with both headquarters and branch leadership, and management counterparts at each national society in order to understand, given the changes in their countries, the direction they wished to follow and how they saw themselves changing over the next few years.

The regional delegation also continues to provide technical support to ongoing tsunami recovery activities in Malaysia and Thailand, where the Federation has established an operations centre in Phuket.

[The annual financial report is below; click here to return to title page and contact information.](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

SOUTH EAST ASIA REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2005/1-2005/12
Appeal	M05AA057
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
A. Budget	1'312'845	518'043	336'219	825'009	370'607	3'362'723
B. Opening Balance	454'709	14'393	27'018	182'431	-8'522	670'029
Income						
Cash contributions						
British Red Cross	63'106	161'730		208'698	34'783	468'317
Danish Red Cross	4'836					4'836
German Red Cross					81'686	81'686
Japanese Red Cross Society	59'079	87'212	39'386		39'386	225'063
Netherlands Red Cross	3'197					3'197
New Zealand Red Cross	129'601				10'626	140'226
Norwegian Red Cross	66'800					66'800
Other		4'337				4'337
Spanish Red Cross	1'209					1'209
Swedish Red Cross		99'660	62'036	244'099	114'700	520'495
C1. Cash contributions	327'828	352'939	101'422	452'797	281'181	1'516'167
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
Australian Red Cross					13'120	13'120
New Zealand Red Cross	134'475				85'168	219'643
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	134'475				98'288	232'763
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
British Red Cross		196'906		0		196'906
Canadian Red Cross Society		2'148				2'148
Danish Red Cross	2'851	-2'851				0
Japanese Red Cross Society		205'684	-15'000			190'684
Norwegian Red Cross					30'000	30'000
OPEC Fund For International C	-1'326					-1'326
Swedish Red Cross		38'199				38'199
Swiss Red Cross		6'952				6'952
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)	1'525	447'039	-15'000	0	30'000	463'563
Inkind Personnel						
Danish Red Cross	74'400					74'400
German Red Cross					46'707	46'707
Netherlands Red Cross	68'200					68'200
Other		53'113				53'113
Swedish Red Cross			74'400	74'400		148'800
C5. Inkind Personnel	142'600	53'113	74'400	74'400	46'707	391'220
Other Income						
Service Agreements					14'290	14'290
C6. Other Income					14'290	14'290
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	606'428	853'091	160'822	527'197	470'465	2'618'003
D. Total Funding = B + C	1'061'137	867'484	187'841	709'629	461'943	3'288'033

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	454'709	14'393	27'018	182'431	-8'522	670'029
C. Income	606'428	853'091	160'822	527'197	470'465	2'618'003
E. Expenditure	-600'391	-273'913	-166'966	-627'431	-197'550	-1'866'251
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	460'746	593'571	20'874	82'198	264'392	1'421'781

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2005/1-2005/12
Appeal	M05AA057
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)		1'312'845	518'043	336'219	825'009	370'607	3'362'723	
Supplies								
Construction		9'109					9'109	-9'109
Water & Sanitation	75'000	37'368					37'368	37'632
Medical & First Aid	45'000	2'886					2'886	42'114
Total Supplies	120'000	49'362					49'362	70'638
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles		24'906					24'906	-24'906
Computers & Telecom	1'670	10'618	2'129		11'200	3'301	27'249	-25'579
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	1'670	35'524	2'129		11'200	3'301	52'155	-50'485
Transport & Storage								
Storage				87	199		286	-286
Transport & Vehicle Costs		4'733	13'924	361	888	186	20'093	-20'093
Total Transport & Storage		4'733	13'924	449	1'087	186	20'378	-20'378
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	1'163'796		8	1'339	106'401	33'874	141'622	1'022'174
Delegate Benefits		193'206	74'942	110'982	151'546	94'977	625'653	-625'653
Regionally Deployed Staff	430'720	20'961	27'745	18'424			67'131	363'589
National Staff		10'287	31'038		35'627	392	77'343	-77'343
National Society Staff		5'327	525		7'343		13'195	-13'195
Consultants	90'500	29'439	15'868	1'799	41'251	6'204	94'560	-4'060
Total Personnel Expenditures	1'685'016	259'220	150'126	132'543	342'169	135'447	1'019'505	665'511
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	734'799	211'456	53'949	1'320	132'228	4'972	403'925	330'874
Total Workshops & Training	734'799	211'456	53'949	1'320	132'228	4'972	403'925	330'874
General Expenditure								
Travel	337'615	35'731	31'150	14'655	50'716	34'095	166'347	171'268
Information & Public Relation	119'500	21'455	353	696	9'877	421	32'801	86'699
Office Costs	122'546	1'034	1'782	708	5'925	1'063	10'512	112'034
Communications	8'000	12'633	4'091	5'657	9'082	3'632	35'095	-27'095
Professional Fees	15'000	64				95	159	14'841
Financial Charges		1'599	732	166	3'129	205	5'831	-5'831
Other General Expenses		1'792	50	236	540	-2'641	-23	23
Total General Expenditure	602'661	74'309	38'158	22'116	79'269	36'870	250'723	351'938
Program Support								
Program Support	218'577	38'423	17'580	10'538	40'469	12'643	119'653	98'924
Total Program Support	218'577	38'423	17'580	10'538	40'469	12'643	119'653	98'924
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		-72'637	-1'954		21'009	4'131	-49'451	49'451
Total Operational Provisions		-72'637	-1'954		21'009	4'131	-49'451	49'451
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	3'362'723	600'391	273'913	166'966	627'431	197'550	1'866'251	1'496'472
VARIANCE (C - D)		712'454	244'130	169'253	197'578	173'057	1'496'472	