

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

MONITORING AND EVALUATION: IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS

9 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 181 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal no. 05AA092; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: July – December, 2005; Appeal target: CHF 664,813 (USD 570,081 or EUR 437,634); Appeal coverage: 30%; [click here to view the contributions list](#)

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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. 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>

Introduction

The evaluation function is first and foremost an important management tool, enabling the International Federation to review its performance, to take decisions, learn from experience, and account for its actions, thereby improving its ability to deliver results. During the reporting period the Evaluation Department has managed to carry out the activities listed below and has strived to ensure the proper dissemination of the findings and the recommendations of the different exercises.

Evaluation of the Programmes, Projects and Processes

Overall Goal: The evaluation function primarily exists of making a significant contribution to the achievement of the Federation's goals and objectives through organizational shared learning. There are many different lessons and recommendations emerging from the evaluations. Consistent among these is the need for more responsive and focused interventions and an improved management of interventions particularly in the area of planning, monitoring, gathering of baseline data and reporting.

Activities

During the reporting period the following activities were executed:

- Continued and active participation in the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP).
- Continued support to regional/technical departments, Regional Delegations, and national societies through an active help desk facility.

Please note that all evaluation reports can be made available upon request.

The Monitoring and Evaluation team has been very active in updating procedural guidelines for the better functioning of the department.

Tsunami Evaluation

Overall Goal: to assist the Movement in ensuring high standards of accountability and good practices in the Tsunami operation, and to enable it to continuously improve the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of its work.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Department has developed a systematic process of real time evaluations for the Asia Earthquake and Tsunami operation¹. The system was designed within a week of the disaster, and the first round of real time evaluations was conducted in February 2005, concentrating on Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and the Geneva side of the operations. The evaluation has concluded that while the overall performance of the Federation's operations compare reasonably well with that of other organizations, there are aspects of the operation management and leadership within the organization that need to be improved.

The second round of evaluations is planned to commence in mid-July, and focus on the perspectives of the beneficiaries and affected populations, delivery, and quality/standards, while addressing the issues of how the management of the operation is organized to ensure that the needs of beneficiaries are met and their concerns taken into account. The evaluation round will consist of four country or multi-country evaluations, and three sectoral reviews of finance, human resources, and external relations/advocacy. The evaluation will attempt to bring all members of the International Federation participating in the Tsunami operation under a common purview of accountability and evaluations.

The proposal for monitoring progress and impact assessment system, designed and currently in the process of development by the Department, has been accepted by the Global Consortium for Tsunami-Affected Countries (2nd meeting of the Working Group United Nations, New York, June 16, 2005). The project has also been accepted as one of the six themes of the Tsunami Evaluation Coalition. The system would consist of two complementary processes-periodic surveys measuring impact, and a monitoring system within which agencies report on their activities. Besides promising to enhance the effectiveness of the different country recovery programmes, the initiative has the added value of promoting the visibility and building the capacities of important national institutions in the affected countries. It also contributes to a common information management framework that reflects the technical expertise of all concerned agencies and best practices in different sectors.

National Society Self-Assessment

Overall Goal: To contribute to building a Federation that is made up of Well-Functioning National Societies with capacity to improve the lives of the most vulnerable, as called for in Strategy 2010.

The Secretariat was directed by the Federation Governing Board to implement the system to all the Federation members.

Objectives of the Self-Assessment:

- Support the Federation Governance in policy making by providing the means to review the members' performance against the *Characteristics of a Well-Functioning National Society*.
- Assist individual Societies to identify their strengths and weaknesses towards achieving the *Characteristics of a Well-Functioning National Society*.
- Contribute to organizational learning by highlighting and sharing best practices from national societies.

¹ See Asia Earthquake and Tsunami Evaluation Framework

Monitoring and Evaluation: Impact and Effectiveness; Appeal no. 05AA092; Programme Update no. 2

One hundred and eighty-six national societies were invited to participate in the Self-Assessment process since the beginning of the programme in 2000 with coverage rate of above 90% in response. This proved the utility, value and acceptance of the process. Completion of the first cycle set the baseline for beginning of the time-trend analysis in the next cycle. This will enable the Federation to monitor the changes within the network. Most of the national societies demonstrated the usefulness and relevance of the Self-Assessment process. Phased over the three-year period it has been incrementally strengthened and its application deepened.

The second round of the Self-Assessment process started in September 2004 and 50 national societies have been invited to participate. As of end of November 2005, about 50% of the national societies have answered and returned their answers to the questionnaire. The 59 national societies that participated to the 2002 Self-Assessment round have been invited to participate in 2005; the questionnaires have been sent to those national societies in April. To date, more than one third of these Societies have answered and returned their answers, the coverage rate is expected to increase as some national societies have indicated that they should still send their answers. The 2006 questionnaire has been sent to the 71 National Societies that participated in 2003, thereby concluding the second round of the Self-Assessment process.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Department has provided Self-Assessment Findings to all national societies which participated to the 2004 and 2005 Self-Assessment round. The preliminary findings, prepared individually for each national society, are based on the Self-Assessment questionnaire response and additional documentation sent in by the Society, and contains indicators on the nature and adequacy of national society functioning in various areas. The purpose of the individual findings is to acknowledge the information received from the national societies, ask for clarifications if needed, and recommend action following Federation policies.

Based on the analysis of the responses by the national societies that completed the Self-Assessment Questionnaire, a 2005 global report has been prepared and has been presented to the Federation Governing Board and the General Assembly; it has also been sent to all the National Societies. Its objective is to inform the Governing Board and Federation members about the status of the member Societies, to provide means to review the members' performance against the *Characteristics of a Well Functioning National Society*, to identify strengths and weaknesses through a synthesis of findings of Self-Assessment, to compare the results, and to track progress achieved by the national societies since their first participation in the Self-Assessment process. The 2005 report included for the first time a historical analysis of global trends, assessing progress made with regards to selected recommendations of the *Characteristics of a Well Functioning National Society* and by comparing thematic "Self-Assessment indicators".

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

National Society Self-Assessment

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05AA092

PLEDGES RECEIVED

09/01/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				664,813		30.1%
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT				200,000	01.01.05	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				200,000	CHF	30.1%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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