

Programme Update



Cambodia

Appeal No. MAAKH001

11 August 2008

This report covers 1 January – 30 June 2008.



Cambodian Red Cross volunteers are regularly out among the community where humanitarian work counts most.

In brief

Programme purpose: To support Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) to realize its vision of being the country's leading humanitarian organization.

Summary: CRC continues to make significant progress in terms of its shift towards a more programmatic approach, particularly in disaster management and health. In the former, strides have been taken towards a new disaster management strategy and engagement of partners around this. The second half of 2008 will be a crucial period for this programme and indeed the national society. The International Federation is maintaining its in-country support of CRC with a focus on international resource mobilization, strengthening partnership management and organizational development/capacity building in line with the national society's strategy.

Financial situation: The total budget for 2008 is CHF 1,175,891 (USD 1.09 million or EUR 724,254), of which 45 per cent covered. Expenditure overall was 20 per cent for the same year.

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

No. of people this plan helps: Almost 600,000 overall; *see individual programme sections for breakdown.*

Partners: Through the International Federation, several Red Cross Red Crescent partners have supported CRC's progress, including the Australian, British, Danish, German, Japanese, New Zealand, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross societies, the International Federation Capacity Building Fund, and the British Government's Department for International Development (DFID). Several partners work bilaterally in Cambodia, including the American, French and Swiss Red Cross. The Finnish Red Cross is also increasingly working with the CRC.

Context

The Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) completed a mid-term review of its Strategy 2003-2010. The national society produced its three-year development plan for 2008-2010, drawing on recommendations and lengthy consultations. The development plan captures lessons learnt and intends to strengthen the implementation of Strategy 2003-2010. This secretariat support plan is aligned with the national society's development plan.

The CRC leadership had already called for the strengthening of governance and management ownership of CRC programmes at all levels and a nationwide approach to planning heralded an ongoing commitment to strengthen planning, partner management and, ultimately, programme implementation.

As a result, CRC has increased knowledge and capacity at all levels as well as integration and streamlining of programmes. The focus of this support plan was to assist CRC's strategy, which in turn is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, with an emphasis on empowering branches and volunteers. CRC's strong capacity building programme also continued at the grassroots level. This focused on key elements of the Framework for Action, in particular human resources, resource mobilization and financial management, governance and management and the ability to plan, monitor, evaluate and report.

Cambodia remains one of the 14 least developed countries in the Asia Pacific region. Despite gains, poverty remains widespread and inequality has risen with the gap between the rich and poor, urban and rural, growing. With 91 per cent of the poor living in the countryside, poverty is now an overwhelmingly rural issue. Consequently, according to the *2005 United Nations Human Development Report*, Cambodia has some of the lowest human development indicators in Southeast Asia, ranking 130 on a global index of 177 countries.

The build-up to the national elections in July 2008 was (at time of writing) relatively calm. A border dispute with Thailand over the status of a holy temple that recently received world heritage site status remained a concern. In terms of CRC, there is no doubt that the national society has progressed considerably. Understandably, such a period of transition has necessitated a reflection on partnership, relations, processes and responsibilities. How this reflection proceeds, will, in part, define the pace and direction of CRC's future progress.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

Global Agenda Goal 1: Reduced deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.

Overall Programme objective: To ensure individuals and communities affected by natural disasters have the capacity to effectively respond to and have better access to basic needs to survive. Number of beneficiaries: 424,200 villagers vulnerable to various disasters in 24 branches; 77,000 people (15,330 families) living in 92 disaster-prone villages; 246 Red Cross volunteers in 74 villages across 12 communes; 20 Red Cross leaders (two per commune); 24 branch staff; and ten staff at headquarters.

Specific objectives:

1. CRC has sufficient resources and the capacity for addressing impact of disasters through good coordination and cooperation with all stakeholders.
2. CRC builds the capacity of communities at risk to better prepare for and respond to disasters.

Overview

The disaster response preparedness (DRP) project has broadened its scope so as to deliver on the disaster management department strategic plan (DMDSP) 2008-2012. It also aligns more to the Global Agenda and links to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA priority 5). In short, DRP now adopts a stronger holistic approach more grounded in policy and community impact.

The strategy is in line with the mission of CRC's Strategy 2003-2010: '*Contributing to poverty reduction and protection of humanitarian values of the most vulnerable*'. It also learns from past experiences in preparedness and response. In short, the disaster management department has found that relief assistance alone is not sufficient to effectively help emergency-affected populations. As such, the DRP project focuses on longer-term

and more sustainable efforts to decrease people's vulnerability and strengthen their individual and community coping capacities. Progress has been made in developing a disaster management department (DMD) programme approach, with the assistance of an external consultant and a disaster preparedness advisor from the Danish Red Cross. As a result, the DMD will look to adopt a longer-term, more programmatic approach that integrates the current project approach and makes it more effective. The second half of 2008 is crucial to embedding progress of this approach for disaster management and the national society as a whole. The strength of the accompanying monitoring and evaluation framework will be one of the main issues.

With the continual support of New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC) through the International Federation country office, the DRP project is continuing to improve coordination and cooperation with external partners, particularly the government body, national committee for disaster management (NCDM), by promoting the readiness and enhancing the proper functioning of disaster response mechanisms. This will be realized by primarily strengthening the CRC's internal capacity through departmental joint working and branch development.

Achievements

- Various guidelines – including a memorandum of understanding between NCDM and CRC, the principles and basic rules of the CRC in disaster relief, the disaster preparedness policy, the disaster response policy, the guideline for CRC in emergency relief operation and the standard operating procedures for the CRC disaster response team – have been distributed to NCDM for dissemination to its line agencies. The same guidelines were distributed to relevant governance members and some non-governmental organizations, namely CWS, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, LWF and Action Aid. This will aid the understanding of CRC's role and a more effective national approach to disasters.
- The first training curriculum for the CRC national disaster response team, provincial disaster response team and commune disaster response team was drafted for consultation. This strengthening of response per se as well as part of a more holistic approach to disaster management will benefit vulnerable communities.

Constraints

- An initiative for branches to access information released by the ministry of hydrology and river works experienced some hiccups, and needs to improve in the second half of the year.
- Some delays were faced in the national disaster response team initiative, a scheduled workshop for lesson sharing on resource mobilization, good practices and translation of key disaster risk reduction texts.

Working in Partnership

Alliance building is one of the disaster management department's strategic directions. This remains an area of relative strength. Indicators of a healthy approach in 2008 included participation in a regional workshop on the partnership for disaster reduction South East Asia (PDRSEA V) workshop under the theme of "Sustaining Partnership: Meeting the challenges of scaling-up community-based disaster reduction management (CBDRM) programmes". The workshop was co-organized by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre and UNESCAP with the funding support of DipECHO.

Looking Ahead

- Work jointly with the community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) and regional disaster response teams to develop training packages (in the local language) for emergency response and emergency management.
- Assess the availability of field workers for conducting first aid training and risk mapping exercises.
- Approach selected CRC branches for discussions on the tentative establishment of the provincial disaster response team (PDRT), drafting the clear guidance of roles and responsibilities in terms of disaster management and the initiative of forming a disaster management training unit.

Health and care

Global Agenda Goal 2: Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from disease and public health emergencies.

Objective: To provide health care and promote the well-being of vulnerable people by reducing the mortality rate of the most vulnerable in Cambodia. (No. of beneficiaries: At least 70,000 people, probably significantly more depending on evolution of health emergencies, in addition to 533 Red Cross staff and volunteers.)

The CRC mid-term review stated that 'the health department acts as a focal point to manage, oversee and coordinate all health-related projects, through financial and technical support from the International Federation, partner national societies and non-Red Cross organizations'. Therefore, the national society has chosen to develop a health strategy for the whole of the CRC, with leadership from the health department, so that regardless of how resources are channelled, the organization is working towards a shared set of goals and objectives.

CRC has fulfilled an important role in providing basic health care services to vulnerable people and communities in emergency and non-emergency situations. These services, mainly provided through the Red Cross volunteer network with support from partner national societies and the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, have included first aid, health education, water and sanitation activities; improving household hygiene and health-seeking behaviour; and controlling and reducing the impact of endemic insect-borne diseases and HIV/AIDS. Although the overall review found many constraints, weaknesses and challenges facing the CRC health programme, many successful projects are being implemented and progress in building capacity is incremental and ongoing:

In accordance with the Singapore Declaration, the health department is committed to:

- Using the Global Health and Care Strategy 2006-2010 to work with communities to promote health and reduce vulnerability;
- Developing clear guidance for effective partnership for health and care activities and guidelines for the formalization of partnerships, ensuring clarity of responsibilities of national societies in their auxiliary role, as well as in the relationships with other organizations and the private sector;
- Developing and strengthening health and care programmes that empower women and involve young volunteers.

CRC is developing a strong partner base that is committed to a joint strategy and direction. The partners seek a lead from CRC in this regard, and importantly, CRC has committed to developing a 'common programme approach' in delivering community-based health projects. These projects are or will be supported by partners, are aligned to the ministries of health and rural development's policies and guidelines, and will contribute towards the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals.

CRC continues to enjoy the support of many donors including the American, Australian, British, Danish, French, Japanese, New Zealand, Swedish and Swiss Red Cross, as well as multilateral funding and technical support through the International Federation. In addition, CRC is also negotiating support from the German Red Cross for a water and sanitation project in Kampong Chhnang in 2008. The HIV project is also funded by the Asian Regional Task Force on HIV/AIDS (ART) network, Global Fund (GFATM), Family Health International and the British Government's Department for International Development (DFID) through the World Education Organization.

Achievements:

Overall

- CRC conducted a three-day health strategic plan workshop with stakeholders and partner national societies. The health strategic plan 2008-2012 has been finalized. It highlights strategic planning, strengthening of the health department structure, and improving communication and reporting systems. Additionally, the plan outlines the commitment to continue supporting currently active projects, including community-based health development (CBHD), HIV and avian influenza, and pandemic planning as well as blood donor recruitment and first aid.
- Funding from AusAID's NGO cooperation programme (ANCP) has helped the Australian Red Cross to work with the International Federation in supporting the CRC integrated water and sanitation project for at least two years (July 2007- June 2009). This project will now integrate HIV/AIDS with technical assistance from the CRC HIV/AIDS department. In addition, the name of this project will change to community-based health development (CBHD).
- In response to the planned cessation of funding from the British Red Cross Society (BRCS), which has been bilaterally supporting a primary health care (PHC) project in two provinces, meetings took place between the CRC, BRCS, Australian Red Cross and the International Federation. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss how this primary health care project can be combined with the CRC water and sanitation project to create a single CBHD project that aligns with the programme approach to health and care in the community.

- The Japanese Red Cross Society had decided to provide financial and technical support to the CRC's health department on the first aid project for three years, totalling USD300,000 (CHF314,007 or EUR 192,388).

HIV/AIDS

Challenges facing people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV) is now better understood by communities and schools. There have been encouraging signs in the reduction of stigma and a better integration of groups such as orphans.

Red Cross volunteers and their team leaders are fully involved in activities such as providing food, raising funds and referring PLHIV to access health services.

Red Cross volunteers have built on strong links with local authorities and tradition of community mobilization. Moreover, the project collaborates well with the provincial health department, provincial AIDS office, various local non-governmental organizations, the People Living with HIV/AIDS Network, and local authorities (including the district governor, commune leader and village leader). Monthly monitoring trips from the headquarters are made with branch directors to support the continuity of work at community level.

The programme has established the committee community forum in all target provinces which helps oversee progress in each of these provinces.

Currently, the majority of PLHIV in the community are reported to have improved health status. A few PLHIV have been able to start their own businesses, whilst others have found employment within the community, such as working in the paddy fields. In addition, some PLHIV have the option of working for various non-governmental organizations in their provinces or districts.

Water and sanitation

The project, funded by AusAID's NGO cooperation programme (ANCP), was due to finish 30 June 2008.

Facility provided in Kep municipality	Completed in June 2008
RWCU- household	200
Latrines	500
Hand washing facilities in schools	46
Ceramic water purifier (household)	1094

- The Red Cross volunteer team leaders and development officers were trained to collect information at the household level regarding the prevalence of diarrhoea and respiratory tract infection; the two childhood illnesses identified by the community as their major concern and confirmed by data. This information will be used to monitor the numbers of children suffering from these illnesses as many do not seek treatment, and will be shared with the health centres concerned.
- Project monitoring and support was conducted monthly through regular field visits. The project also sought the involvement of the beneficiaries in this activity through monthly community meetings.
- A recent review carried out by the University of North Carolina's School of Public Health indicated that families who contributed to the costs of their ceramic water filters (CWF) took better care of them, resulting in less breakage. These meetings are also used to explain to villagers the benefits from using household CWF. The aim is to promote families to contribute to the cost of a filter in order to build a sense of ownership. In the past, these filters were distributed free.

Avian influenza

- Based on lessons learnt, 960 Red Cross volunteers have started to work closely with village health volunteers and village animal health workers to formulate common monthly village action plans to conduct public awareness activities for avian human influenza preparedness. It was found that some of the project target areas should be reduced. In addition, the capacity of project staff and Red Cross volunteers needs to be strengthened as does the collaboration at the grassroots level.

Working in partnership

CRC has good relationships with the government and the NCDM, ministry of health and ministry of agriculture, fisheries and food which have provided technical assistance for the training Red Cross branch staff and volunteers. CRC also works well with the WHO, FAO and UNICEF.

CRC is an active member of the avian influenza partnership group and the working group for pandemic planning which is chaired by the NCDM led by the prime minister. As a member of this working group and in its role as auxiliary to the government, CRC has regularly attended all meetings to update information on the local/global avian influenza-pandemic influenza situation and share experiences/information. Furthermore, the CRC health and disaster management department representatives attended the “four-step provincial pandemic plan for avian human influenza” workshop in Siem Reap which focused on setting up working group sectors; prioritizing the main activities of each sector; and identifying gaps.

Challenges

- Some Red Cross branches have selected too many target districts to conduct the avian influenza programme thoroughly. This has made it difficult to monitor Red Cross volunteer activities with only one avian influenza-pandemic influenza programme officer at each Red Cross branch. Communities have had limited participation in some areas. This last issue also relates to challenges in the water and sanitation programme with Red Cross staff and volunteers having limited capacity in deploying participatory methodologies.
- Some new staff and Red Cross volunteers have limited capacities and skills in reporting, communication, organizing meetings and promotion skills in their communities/villages.
- In terms of supporting people living with HIV and AIDS, the initiative is relatively small in comparison to the need.

Organizational development

Global Agenda Goal 3: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Overview

The aim of organizational development is to enable CRC to become a well-functioning national society by 2010, through its own efforts and support from Red Cross Red Crescent partners including the International Federation, British, Danish and Swedish Red Cross, ICRC and additional support through the cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) contribution.

Since 2006, the programme was led by an internal CRC organizational development taskforce with support from the International Federation. Around July-August 2007, a newly recruited organizational development coordinator began work with the programme. During January-May 2008, the OD task force and OD coordinator developed the CRC consolidated organizational development plan for 2008. The said plan has been submitted to the relevant partner national societies for funding support.

Overall objective: A greater number of vulnerable women and men in Cambodia have access to poverty alleviation programmes and more effective humanitarian relief.

Specific objective: To enable CRC to become a well-functioning national society by 2010 in order to contribute to the reduction of vulnerability in Cambodia. (Number of beneficiaries: 24 Red Cross branches, 975 volunteers, 350 staff, members of governance and volunteers, and 19,696 Red Cross youth under the road safety programme)

Achievements

Governance and Management

The CRC organizational development coordinator and organizational development delegate (for Lao PDR and Cambodia) made a field trip to four branches, including Kampong Chhnang, Battambang, Takeo and Kampong Cham, to review branch development progress, and strengthen implementation of the branch plan. The findings will be used as references for basic topics in developing branch categorization criteria.

The same coordinator also attended an organizational development workshop in Manila to share experiences with other national societies within the Asia Pacific zone. CRC has developed a matrix to measure future progress and establish possible corrective measures to address challenges in the Cambodia context.

CRC has completed its overall organizational development plan, covering six elements, namely governance and management; branch development; resource development; administration and finance development; planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting; and human resource. It has been shared with all relevant partners.

Strengthening humanitarian cooperation with neighbouring countries, Vietnam and Lao PDR, is important to developing a relationship as well as to supporting each other in time of emergency. These three national societies met to review progress. Furthermore, several CRC branches have established cooperation agreements with Vietnam Red Cross branches along the border.

Branch Development

The German Red Cross has developed a project concept paper, and the regional representative has visited the project site. Also developed is the project agreement, concerning capacity building through community-based health care activities in the Kampong Chhnang province for 2008-2010.

The Danish Red Cross has started to support the Rattanakiri branch in a community-based health development programme.

Additionally, the characteristics of a well-functioning branch will be discussed among relevant departments and developed through consultation with the national headquarters, branches and partners. During the CRC organizational development working group meeting, it was recommended that a review of criteria for branch categorization is needed. A new set of criteria should be concrete and provide more qualitative rather than quantitative information, while a means of verification of underlying resources should be recorded. One workshop is needed to discuss the aforementioned issues among headquarters and selected branches in 2008 under the organizational development plan for 2008.

The minimum package of activities is a new concept for branch development, especially for weaker branches to choose one school or community as a model and use Red Cross volunteers and Red Cross youth to implement activities. In February 2008, the CRC central committee (governance board) allocated funding for this process in seven branches to help realize the concept of minimum package of activities. These branches were respectively one medium branch and six weaker branches: Banteay Mean Chey, Oddor Mean Chey, Preah Vihea, Kratie, Stung Treng, Mondolkiri and Rattanakiri. All branches were asked to develop their plan focusing on assistance to most vulnerable, including PLWHA, the elderly, etc; establishment of sub-branches and Red Cross groups; and, a model school and model village in which Red Cross youths and Red Cross volunteers were respectively involved. The minimum package of activities targets in this first year about 1,750 direct beneficiaries; 7,000 people indirectly benefit from the minimum package of activities projects; and about 100,000 people will be made aware of these seven branches' activities through national and local radio and television. CRC has committed funding to monitor the minimum package of activities implementation.

Resource Development

The CRC headquarters raised funds through co-organizing gala dinners with private companies, receiving donations in cash and in kind, and selling postal stamps, supported by the ministry of post and telecommunication.

Fundraising activities were carried out during World Red Cross Day in 24 provinces. However, the final report on the funds raised has not been issued yet.

Over a three-month period, a net total of 5,655 ceramic water purifiers were sold to different organizations (including World Vision, Health Unlimited, and Health Care for Children - HCC), governmental institutions, and commercial vendors. Currently, the CRC Prey Veng branch has invested funds to expand manufacturing. This product brand is well known throughout the country.

Administration and Finance Development

CRC is in the process of developing financial procedures for branches. With technical support from American Red Cross, CRC has developed a questionnaire to assess the present finance health at branch level.

CRC also did an external audit for 2007 of which the final report is ready. CRC recognized that the recommendations provide a pathway to improve financial health within CRC. Moreover, external auditing has shown credibility and transparency to all CRC stakeholders.

Human Resource Management and Development

Through the Capacity Building Fund, the volunteer and youth policy and guideline were reprinted in the form of 1,796 booklets. These will be distributed to branches, sub-branches, volunteers, youth advisors, and youth during basic, refresher and advance training sessions. The essential aspects of training include providing knowledge of volunteer and youth policies to volunteers and youth themselves. This will help them understand their roles as members and their roles in the volunteer/youth programme as a whole, particularly as the essential human resources of the CRC in delivering humanitarian services to the most vulnerable at the grass-root levels. Most important of all, the understanding of the policy and guideline at all levels within the CRC will ensure an effective implementation of volunteer and youth programmes.

Through the Capacity Building Fund, 380 hygiene kits for Red Cross volunteers were produced and distributed to four branches, including Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear, Koh Kong, and Svay Rieng. The Red Cross volunteers will use the kits to disseminate messages promoting hygienic practices to the community. Moreover, providing these hygiene kits through the volunteers help the community recognize and acknowledge the volunteers for their work at the community. Overall, any information, education and communication material, in addition to the hygiene kits, is essential for the Red Cross volunteers to perform their work as disseminators.

With Capacity Building Fund support, 164 T-shirts and caps for Red Cross volunteers and Red Cross youth were produced and will be distributed at upcoming training both at headquarters and branches. T-shirts and caps are one of the most motivational items for volunteers and youth. Furthermore, Red Cross volunteers and youth use T-shirts and caps as their Red Cross identity when doing activities, particularly when involved in distribution/dissemination activities in their community as this highlights the visibility of the Red Cross.

Another big accomplishment of the human resource department is the establishment of the five-year human resource development strategy (2008-2012). This process was initiated at the end of 2007 when an external consultant was recruited through the International Federation to assist the human resource department in developing this strategy using a highly participatory approach. The first process is the preliminary meeting, in which the consultant focused on understanding the CRC's human resource management/development processes, human resource concerns and challenges at the present time. The second process was the stakeholder analysis, which took place in the beginning of 2008. Through the stakeholder analysis, the consultant interviewed relevant stakeholders and partners, who are currently supporting CRC's projects.

With support from the Swedish Red Cross, the road safety project implemented the 'Khmer New Year Campaign,' to raise awareness on issues of road safety during the long Cambodian New Year holiday in April. In this campaign, almost 80 youth put posters and distributed leaflets to the public at the six main bus and taxi stations in Phnom Penh. This activity took place over three consecutive days before the Cambodian New Year. A total of 2,430 posters and leaflets were distributed, and approximately 3,000 people were reached. The 80 youth who were selected to participate in this campaign were trained for half a day on road traffic laws, signs, and skills as a disseminator.

Another initiative to raise road safety awareness saw an educational banner on 80 tuk-tuks (three-wheel motorcycles), focusing on the theme, 'Wear a helmet properly, protect your life.' The 80 tuk-tuks were from four different districts with the highest numbers of accidents. This activity will end in December 2008.

An external monitoring and evaluation team was recruited to assess the impact of the road safety project, implemented over the last three years (2005-2007). The questionnaires, focused on road safety training, the use of helmets and youth clubs in the initiative. The findings will influence future approaches.

Monitoring and Evaluation

CRC contracted a consultant to facilitate a review of the monitoring and evaluation unit's terms of reference, and adjust the guidelines for monitoring and evaluation within CRC. The next step will be to consolidate with all department work on indicators initiated in the three-year development plan so that key indicators are agreed upon. These indicators will then guide data collection across CRC and will allow CRC to demonstrate increases in delivery to beneficiaries in key areas and improved capacity.

A monitoring and evaluation technical advisor has been hired to strengthen capacity. Furthermore, the technical knowledge of monitoring and evaluation staff and departmental monitoring and evaluation

coordinators has been improved through the provision of the related refresher training in April, and a field trip in May, to conduct an evaluation of disaster preparedness response.

To update knowledge of staff at both headquarters and branch levels, the monitoring and evaluation unit translated and printed the International Federation's *Monitoring and Evaluation in a Nutshell* handbook in the local language. The next monitoring and evaluation workshop will help in its dissemination.

A series of planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting field trips to seven branches in May and June oversaw progress of branch development and monitored implementation of the minimum package of activities. Questionnaires that were handed out captured all necessary information.

Challenges

- The working group and governance focal point has prioritized an organizational development master plan to aid strong coordination among departments at headquarters and branches.
- Lack of monitoring and evaluation staff and funding to support monitoring and evaluation activities. Capacity and experiences of monitoring and evaluation staff and coordinators are limited at present.
- The ongoing vacancy for the youth programme manager since 2007 at national headquarters has delayed some activities, including the road safety project.

Best practices and lessons learned

- CRC has signed the cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) with the Japanese Red Cross Society, following a project agreement to support community-based first aid in four provinces.
- It is important to note that CRC has moved one more step in developing CAS for non-Red Cross partners. Currently, there are two such partners who have signed CAS with CRC. First, Global Emergency Relief and Rescue Corps (GERRC), an organization from the Republic of Korea, has agreed to support the Siem Reap branch in disaster assistance. Second, Family Health International (FHI) has agreed to support CRC through the HIV/AIDS programme.

Working in partnership

At a glance, the following gives a flavour of the CRC approach to partnership:

- The American, British, Danish, French, German and Swiss Red Cross societies supported community-based health projects, and some have contributed to organizational development and branch development.
- During January-May, CRC organized two bi-monthly meetings to discuss the continuation of the projects/programme as well as the preparation of new proposals to be submitted to potential donors.
- CRC continues to take steps forward in facilitating a more programmatic approach.

Principles and Values

Global Agenda Goal 4: Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Overview

Promotion of humanitarian values has been a core area for CRC for many years. Cambodia has experienced extreme brutality and conflict in the relatively recent past and the wounds of division are still apparent in many segments of society. The healing message of tolerance and inclusion is still very apt for Cambodia. It is within this realm that the Red Cross has a potentially significantly bigger role, building on past success.

Overall objective: Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

Specific objective: There is a greater awareness, respect for, and application of humanitarian values in Cambodia. (Number of beneficiaries: 70,000)

Achievements

The programme has focused on strengthening understanding of the Movement's Fundamental Principles as well as its principles and values among a larger proportion of the Cambodian population. This in turn was intended to influence behavioural change in communities particularly around tolerance, acceptance and inclusion. The 8 May celebrations were of particular note.

The findings of a major public image survey have pointed the way forward – as well as the prospective challenges – for CRC in terms of strengthening its position in Cambodia and the way it needs to advocate on issues of vulnerability. However, some gaps have been identified such as a limited understanding of CRC's auxiliary role to the government and a perception of CRC as a state institution. There is a need to enhance the national society profile among key people, include existing and future CRC members and volunteers.

Weekly broadcast of CRC activities through all television channels continued. Information and coverage from branches was often still small because of insufficient resources and communication capacity within the national society needs to be strengthened.

CRC's three-year development plan 2008-2010 set a target of reaching one to two per cent of the total population in terms of national society membership. In 2008, membership increased to almost 150,000 members. One key element to successful recruitment is better awareness and a commitment to principles and values, including a stronger appreciation of international humanitarian law.

Dissemination sessions to universities, provincial authorities, uniformed personnel, first aid officers and villagers also continued. A workshop with high level staff of ministry of justice was organized in February 2008 on the general implementation of international humanitarian law.

Challenges

Confidence in understanding and applying core values and principles (a challenge common to the work of the International Federation at large) still needs to be strengthened. Securing adequate and timely funding is also needed.

Contributing to longer term impact

a) Technical programme support

The country office continued supporting CRC's focus on a programmatic approach. CRC has indicated that support in international resource mobilization, partnership management, and organizational development and capacity building are the key areas where the International Federation adds value. Through integration and support service agreements, the country office has provided logistic, administrative, information technology and personnel services, as well as support in reducing transaction costs and for various Red Cross partners, in providing various representational and coordination support.

b) Partnership development and coordination

The country office supported CRC in its development of relationships with international non-governmental organizations, the UN, government agencies and civil society. A clear element of CRC's direction is to engage more with communities so that they participate in their own development and long-term change. CRC is committed to doing this through the programmes outlined, and through branch capacity building.

The CAS process functioned well and provided a platform to significantly increase alignment and to reinforce the coordination within CRC itself.

The country office will support CRC in partnership management until the national society no longer needs such support. This will include providing services to in-country partner national societies and visiting partners, encouraging information sharing on programme proposal development, sharing of key programme documents, including evaluations of Red Cross partners' projects, and the coordination of European Union (EU) proposal initiatives.

There is a need to ensure the CAS process strengthens programme coordination and to encourage partners outside of the Red Cross to align with the process as well. In 2009-2010, the CAS process will need to be renewed and will continue focus on programme level alignment with attention on alliances to support CRC's programme development.

c) Representation and Advocacy

A public image survey of CRC revealed the strength of its profile domestically with a majority of the population regarding it as the country's leading humanitarian organization. While CRC is strong in representing itself domestically (though there remain areas for improvement), it requires the support of the International Federation on the global stage in terms of representation and advocacy, including in resource mobilization. The International Federation regional office will also support this. Areas of focus will include avian/pandemic influenza and key areas of vulnerability identified in international conference resolutions, including migration and climate change.

The International Federation country office continued to work closely with CRC and partner national societies and ICRC to forecast potential risks. Avian/pandemic influenza remains a concern. A 'service continuation plan' was drafted but further information sharing and consultation is required. General security regulations have been updated for all partners.

CRC has expressed an interest in having the support of the International Federation office until the end of 2010. The main roles will be to support international representation, domestic coordination and the national society's organizational development plan. Ongoing discussions will continue around this.

How we work	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.
Contact information	
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