

Mid-Year report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Americas Zone

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This report covers the period 01 January 2010
to 30 June 2010.



Chilean Red Cross volunteers carrying out a census, led by a girl from the Illico population. Photo source: **International Federation**

In brief

Programme purpose: The Americas Zone Office is guided in its work with the 35 Red Cross Societies of the Americas by the strategic aims of *Strategy 2020* to save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises; enable healthy and safe living; and promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace. Capacity building efforts are in line with enabling action one to build strong National Red Cross Societies.

Programmes summary:

The **Disaster Risk Management** programme is focusing on sharing and implementing common tools and strategies for the harmonization of risk management and disaster risk reduction in the Americas. Programming in the Zone is guided by the Global Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Reference Framework “Building safe and resilient communities,” which is being promoted with National Societies and Partner National Societies working in the Americas. The issues of climate change and urban risk are being raised with National Societies across the Americas to further their integration within programmes and encourage National Societies to increase their advocacy efforts in order to raise the issue of vulnerability within these two concepts to their governments. Further work is focused on promoting knowledge-sharing and information management through case studies and the work of the Centres of Reference in Costa Rica and El Salvador. Furthermore, the **Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU)** has supported National Societies and Overseas Branches in the Americas in two main aspects: to conduct assessments and carry out planning, monitoring and coordination for the implementation of operations, and to build capacities in disaster preparedness. In times of disaster, PADRU coordinates and facilitates the IFRC response in the Zone. Moreover, PADRU provides services to National Societies through the Regional Logistics Unit, supplying food and non-food relief items, as well as equipment required for operations. An important change to highlight during the reporting period is that the Head of PADRU and the

Operations Coordinator positions have been merged into the position of PADRU Coordinator. In addition, the Regional Shelter Advisor is now the Shelter Coordinator for the Americas, thus shelter has a wider profile across the secretariat supported actions.

The Americas **Health and Care** programme in 2010 includes three programme components: HIV, Community Health and Emergency Health. The HIV component is implemented within the framework of the Global Alliance on HIV with a focus on continental Global Alliance coordination, tailored support to National Society Global Alliance members, small project funding for further development of HIV programming in four non-Global Alliance countries in Latin America. In addition to direct funding support to nine of the ten National Societies that are current members of the Global Alliance on HIV in the Americas: Argentina, Belize, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras and Jamaica, and to Trinidad and Tobago as an incoming member in 2010. The Community Health component focuses on the roll-out of the new Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA *in Action*) methodology, supporting the development of water, sanitation and hygiene technical units in four target National Societies, and strengthening the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation among youth through the Club 25 strategy with eight National Societies receiving targeted support in 2010. The Emergency Health component focuses on three areas: a) capacity building and awareness-raising in National Societies; b) method development and dissemination; and c) support to operations including disasters and disease outbreaks.

The implementation of the **Organizational Development** programme in the Americas, during the first six months of 2010, was focused on the following points: a) provide support to the Regional Representations to build strategic support to the National Societies in the America through accompaniment on issues of interest and organizational challenges, and support the development of country support plans; b) provide follow up to the first management course for new leaders of the National Societies in coordination with the Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey; and c) promote volunteer development and south-south cooperation through the Training Centre's between South and Central America. Moreover, two major events influenced organizational development programming: a) the earthquakes in Haiti and in Chile, and b) the decision to eliminate the zone-wide Organizational Development delegate position as part of an evolving processes of passing the responsibility of Organizational Development directly to the Regional Representations.

While the impact of some planned activities have been slightly diminished as a result of these events/decision, new key areas of knowledge development and growth have been introduced. Chief amongst these has been the inclusion of Organizational Development from the onset of a major disaster as occurred in both Haiti and Chile.

The **Principles and Values** programme made limited progress towards its planned outcomes, clearly reflecting the lack of financial and human resources at the continental level. Actions are focusing at the national and regional level principally on the issues of gender-based violence prevention and migration.

Emergency response in Haiti and Chile: The large-scale earthquakes and subsequent response operations in Haiti and Chile have showed the large response capacities founded in the combined efforts of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to reach the most vulnerable populations in the most critical situations. At the Zone level all programme areas and support services (communications, resource mobilization, Regional Logistics Unit, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Unit – PMER, finance, information and technology, and human resources) were heavily involved in supporting the emergency response in their respective areas of expertise. This included mobilizing personnel and resources to the field, providing technical advice, providing updated information to the different stakeholders, monitoring, evaluating and following up the progress against the planned objectives, and coordinating response efforts with other Movement partners and the international humanitarian community. The first months of 2010 were characterized by high deployment of secretariat personnel to Haiti and Chile, and a heavy workload centred in the operations, hindering the timely progress towards some of the projected outcomes of the Americas Zone plan and the regional plans for Central America, the Caribbean and Latin Caribbean, the Andean countries and the Southern Cone and Brazil.

During the two emergencies, there was a considerable rotation of personnel in the Pan American Disaster Response Unit due to direct intervention and response of PADRU in the disaster occurred during this reporting period. The limited resources required diverting personnel and attention to bigger emergencies while small-scale disasters were responded to with cash contributions and technical assistance to the National Societies through deployment of Regional Intervention Teams (RITs). There was also a challenge to continue with capacity building component of the original 2010–2011 work plan while supporting major emergencies.

Nonetheless, the massive efforts made by the entire secretariat team in the Americas and the support received from every secretariats' zone in the world have translated into rapid and efficient response to the needs of the most vulnerable people affected in Port-au-Prince and Leogane in Haiti, and in the regions of Maule and Bio Bio in Chile. For example, the largest deployment of Regional Disaster Response Teams members from Africa to date has been to Haiti. Please see the latest operations updates of these two operations for additional information.

Financial situation: The total revised budget for 2010 is 3,300,746 Swiss francs (3,267,078 US dollars or 2,569,301 euro), of which 2,546,757 Swiss francs (77 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was 1,217,849 Swiss francs (37 per cent) of the budget.

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

See also [Haiti: Earthquake Emergency Operation](#)
[Chile: Earthquake Emergency Operation](#)
[El Salvador: Floods Emergency Operation](#)
[Guatemala: Tropical Storm Agatha Emergency Operation](#)

No. of people we have reached: The Americas Zone worked in support of the National Societies of the continent whose services are targeted at the most vulnerable populations: communities living in hazard-prone areas in conditions of vulnerability; people and families in conditions of high vulnerability caused by extreme poverty and health inequity; grass-root community organizations; educational centres and the national systems of disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response.

During the reporting period, support was provided to more than 594,635 vulnerable people (118,927 families) in the Americas through 21 DREF operations and 3 emergency appeals.

In the Global Alliance on HIV framework, 10 National Societies reported reaching 1,539,772 people with prevention and anti-stigma messages, and care, treatment and support services to date in 2010.

Our partners: Within the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, there is close cooperation with various Partner National Societies (PNS) – the American Red Cross, the British Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Finnish Red Cross, the French Red Cross, the German Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Republic of Korea National Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the Swedish Red Cross – and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in support of National Societies throughout the Americas.

In addition, there are partnerships with many external organizations at all levels (community, regional and national) with community-based, national and international organizations such as the United Nations system, PAHO / WHO, UNICEF, OCHA, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the Water Centre for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean/International Research Institute for Climate and Society (CATHALAC/IRI), the Risk, Emergency and Disasters Task Force (REDLAC), the Andean Committee for Disaster Attention and Prevention (CAPRADE), the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters

(CEPRENAC), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency and Response Agency (CDERA), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and other developmental agencies and government bodies including the United States Agency for International Development – USAID, the United Kingdom Department for International Development – DFID, the Mexican government, the Canadian government and the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid Office – DG ECHO, the Swiss Humanitarian Foundation and Ericsson Response. Partnerships with international marketing and advertising firms such as Albatros Media, Inglefield Ogilvy and Mather, and Llorente y Cuenca have also been central to the work being carried out during 2010.

Context

In recent years, the impact of emergencies in the Americas zone has challenged the Red Cross National Societies to improve their support to the countries' capacities to prepare and respond to disasters threatening the continent. The Pacific coast is an area that has heavily seismic activity as well as the Caribbean islands; heavy rains frequently affect Brazil, Colombia and Peru; in the plains of the Atlantic coast, both floods and droughts are common. All the countries in Central America are vulnerable to hurricanes, flooding, mudslides and volcanic eruptions. For 2010 the U.S. National Hurricane Centre has forecasted a very active hurricane season. In addition, climate change has been having adverse effects on the environment and the economy; there has been an increase in droughts leading to declining agricultural yields, flooding and growing political instability, which is likely to increase illegal migration across the Mexico-US border in coming years.

In the first half of the year, Tropical Storm Agatha and Hurricane Alex affected Central American countries, volcanic eruptions occurred in Colombia, Ecuador and Guatemala, the Caribbean islands experienced drought; severe rains and flooding have affected Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Peru; while, Honduras experienced a dengue outbreak.

Urbanization is becoming a global issue of great concern, the major factors behind economic growth has led to the reduction in poverty rates. The level of urbanization (that is the proportion of people living in urban areas) is associated in some places with numerous, positive outcomes such as technological innovation, forms of creativity, economic progress, higher standards of living, enhanced democratic accountability and women's empowerment as stated in the UN Habitat State of World Cities Report 2010/2011. However, the increasing unplanned population of urban areas, limited access to basic services, poverty and precarious building techniques boost up the vulnerability in all countries. Inhabitants of heavily populated areas are also prone to disasters, whose impact was dramatic in the two major earthquakes affecting the Americas in 2010.

In the economic and political arena, the main events during the first half of 2010 included the Madrid Summit 2010, which brought together Heads of State and governments from Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe, as well as important non-state actors, resulted in a decision to re-launch negotiations for an EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement. In February, the first female president of Costa was elected. New presidents were elected in Colombia in June and in Suriname in July.

On 12 January, an earthquake hit Haiti leaving 220,000 dead, 300,000 injured and other 1.2 million people homeless, mainly in the capital city of Port-au-Prince. This earthquake has been classified as the fourth deadliest recorded in history¹. On 23 February the fifth² largest earthquake in the world since 1900 –8.8 magnitude– struck Chile. It was followed by a tsunami and subsequent tremors that affected 1.5 million people according to official figures.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies play a vital role in the response mechanisms of their countries. Trained volunteers have been deployed to respond to the needs of the affected populations. The Movement has established effective cooperation among IFRC members as more than

¹ U.S.Geological Survey: http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/world/most_destructive.php

² U.S.Geological Survey: http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/world/10_largest_world.php

400 people from approximately 40 different National Societies and over 21 Emergency Relief Units have been deployed to assist the needs of vulnerable people during the major disasters affecting the zone. During the reporting period, the IFRC and National Societies carried out 20 operations.

The scale and magnitude of the events showed that further work has to be carried out in order to strengthen the regional capacities to respond to challenges posed by nature. Hence, the Secretariat Zone Office in the Americas continues to support the improvement of National Societies response capacities. Volunteers have been deployed to disaster areas in order to both assist the population with their needs and learn by acquaintance. Disaster situations are turned into opportunities to build on experience.

Secretariat health activities in the reporting period were overshadowed by the January earthquake in Haiti and February earthquake and tsunami in Chile. A number of National Societies experienced natural disasters and/or disease outbreaks, which significantly affected their planned health activities including Haiti, Chile, Guatemala and Honduras. In late May the Zone Emergency Health Coordinator transferred to a new post in Geneva and the incoming coordinator commenced in mid July. The position is now jointly supported by the Norwegian and Spanish Red Cross Societies.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Risk Management

The programme purpose for the 2010–2011 Disaster Risk Management programme is to **reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.**

Programme component 1: Disaster risk management planning and strategic framework

Component outcome 1: National Societies and the Federation secretariat adhere to an agreed-upon Americas wide comprehensive DRM framework and guidelines that will guide programming in the zone

During the first semester of the year, the Federation secretariat has shared and promoted the understanding of the Global Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Reference Framework “Building safe and resilient communities”. This framework not only has been promoted within the National Societies of the Americas, but it has also been gradually adopted and incorporated by several Partner National Societies in the region in their bilateral programming, particularly the Canadian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross. The Global Alliance on DRR is one of the main components of this reference framework, and its adoption has allowed to streamline terminology and gradually standardize the use of common methodologies in multilateral and bilateral programmes.

In addition, the reference framework and the Global Alliance on DRR have been promoted and shared with non-Movement partners, especially to the sub-regional emergency and disaster management agencies such as the Central American Coordination Centre for Disaster Prevention (Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de los Desastres Naturales en América Central – CEPREDENAC) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

During the reporting period, the first draft of a comprehensive strategic vision of the Risk Management programme in the Americas was prepared and disseminated within the Movement and external partners. This strategic vision for the Americas is in line with the Global DRR Reference Framework and the Global Alliance on DRR.

At the regional level, the development of risk management frameworks has progressed as follows: the Caribbean approved in 2009 a 5-year framework that has been gradually updated to incorporate components of the Global DRR Reference Framework and elements from the draft strategic vision for the Americas. This process reflects how the Caribbean the Red Cross risk management framework is

in line and contributes to the implementation of the comprehensive disaster management framework developed by CDEMA.

In Central America and Mexico, the National Societies and REDCAMP received technical and financial support to start the initial analysis, dialogue and drafting of the risk management framework for this sub-region. Furthermore, during the reporting period, three technical meetings have taken place with the region's National Societies, PNS, and CEPREDENAC's executive secretariat and technical commission. These two units within CEPRECENAC are responsible for the implementation of the Integrated Central American Policy for Risk Management (Política Centroamericana para la Gestión Integral del Riesgo - PCGIR), which was approved by the governments of the region. The dialogue with CEPREDENAC sought to ascertain the common points between the Central American Policy and the Red Cross Risk Management framework for Central American National Societies. In June, the third version of this document was shared with the National Societies for its discussion and internal analysis.

In relation to the Global Alliance on DRR, the National Societies of Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama have prepared country projects. In response, partners such as the Canadian Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross and DFID funds are contributing to the implement elements of the Global Alliance on DRR in these National Societies.

Programme component 2: Coordination and networking

Component outcome 1: DRM work in the zone is coordinated through comprehensive and effective coordination mechanisms and are, in turn, linked to other external coordination forums in the zone and internationally.

During January 2010, two continental meetings took place in a 5-day period in Panama. The first meeting brought together the persons responsible for risk management and had the participation of 33 National Societies from the continent, 6 Overseas Branches, 6 PNS, the ICRC and external agencies such as ISDR, UNICEF, OCHA, among others. This first meeting had the objective to reconnect and activate the mechanisms from the entire risk management system in the Americas for information-exchange, knowledge-sharing and coordination. A meeting with the entire system had not taken place since 2003. It is noteworthy that the head of the community preparedness and DRR department from the secretariat's office in Geneva participated and supported this meeting. In addition, a session within the meeting took place between all participants and PADRU to reinforce the message of strengthening working networks in order to build more safe and resilient communities.

The second parallel meeting focused on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in light of the selection of four National Societies from the Americas —Chile, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Suriname—to form part of the Preparedness for Climate Change programme (PfCC2). This meeting was organized in coordination with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and had the participation of National Societies involved in the PfCC2 and other National Societies working on climate change projects supported by ECHO.

During the two meetings, an exhibition presented all the materials developed by the Centres of Reference, the National Societies and other organizations such as OCHA, PAHO, and UNDP with the aim to complement topics discussed in both meetings.

At the sub-regional level, two *pre-hurricane season coordination* meetings were held in May and June: one in Mexico and one in Barbados. The former also served as a REDCAMP (Red de Desastres de Centro América, México y Panamá) meeting and the later was used to evaluate the Haiti Operation. More than 70 representatives from National Societies and Overseas Branches, PNS, regional partners, donor institutions, as well as the ICRC and the IFRC, attended the 2 meetings. Some outcomes of the meetings are:

- Improving the activation procedures for cooperation agreements.
- Promoting understanding and use of IFRC tools and standards (DMIS, DREF, Appeals, SPHERE standards).

- Strengthening the RIT system in the Americas according to international standards as the available human resource in the continent is not enough to respond in case of large-scale emergencies such as Haiti.
- Relying more on feedback provided by field operations.
- Continuing with community-based training.
- Communicating clear messages to the general public on the Red Cross policy on fund-raising (in-kind versus cash donations; national, regional and international fund-raising).

Both meetings had the participation of the DRM programmatic team and PADRU. The DRM programme also promoted two topics related to the global trends, urban risk and climate change. Furthermore, PADRU has been promoting coordination mechanisms with Movement partners and other actors such as the local governments, UN agencies, NGOs, the Risk, Emergency and Disasters Task Force (REDLAC), the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Relief (CAPRADE), the Central American Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disaster (CEPREDENAC), The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) as well as promoting joint work with National Disaster Response systems. This has been carried out at the field operational level and institutionally.

Moreover, with the aim to participate in and strengthen the dialogue and coordination processes related to early warning systems in the Caribbean and Central America, six National Societies and secretariat's staff actively participated in the meeting led by the World Meteorological Organization in Costa Rica. Participants included national meteorology departments, UN agencies, sub-regional systems, civil protection systems, partners and donors. During this meeting, Red Cross representatives promoted and advocated towards increasing linkages between early warning systems and communities. In addition, the IFRC promoted the need to integrate early warning and early action in the national and local contingency plans.

At the country level, personnel from the secretariat's office in Geneva and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre conducted a strategic working visit to the Mexican Red Cross and the Mexican government in May. This visit to both institutions focused on identifying common elements and opportunities where the National Society and the Movement could part-take in relation to the preparation and organization processes for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP16). The conference will take place in December 2010 in Cancun.

In June, the secretariat, Centres of Reference and six National Societies —Belize, Colombia, Cuba, Haiti, Mexico and Norway—had the opportunity to present and promote tools, methodologies and mechanisms developed by the Red Cross in the Americas for one day during the international risk management congress held in Cuba. The congress also allowed the Red Cross participants to share the good practices and experiences of the Haiti Earthquake operation with more than 400 delegates from 29 countries. The activity helped to position the Cuban Red Cross in its national context, and as a result the Cuban government and Civil Defence showed their interest to strengthen coordination and increase cooperation with the National Society.

Comprehensive and effective coordination also took place when ISDR organized an inter-agency mission following the request of the Dominican government and the IFRC participated jointly with ECLAC, UNESCO, UNDP, OCHA and the OAS. The mission had the objective to provide a situational analysis of risk reduction in the country. More than 70 public, private, academic and scientific institutions were interviewed. The participation of the IFRC focused in diagnostic process of priorities three and five of the Hyogo Framework for Action. One of the recommendations collected in the final document advocates that the Dominican government established a national plan and policy for risk management.

Programme component 3: Knowledge-sharing, information management, public awareness and education on DRR
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Component outcome 1: A zone-wide Red Cross system is created for knowledge and information management, education development and sharing

Under this programme component, work has been carrying out a comprehensive analysis of existing Federation educational development mechanisms to determine how to maximize their impact as part of a continental-wide system. During the reporting period, the evaluation report related to the DesAprender Learning Platform and its articulation with the Centres of Reference was completed and shared. The active participation and support provided by the Centre of Reference for Community Based Education in Disaster Preparedness (CREEC) in Costa Rica during the first semester of the year to the Haiti Earthquake operation is also noteworthy. The CREEC adapted and translated existing methodologies and tools into French and Creole, as well as conducted trainings for the Haitian Red Cross Society and PNS implemented projects towards the operation Plan of Action's Pillar 2: Disaster preparedness and DRR. This is a stepping-stone to establish a standardized and harmonious system of methodologies and learning tools within the Haitian context. Moreover, both Centres—the Centre of Reference for Disaster Preparedness (CREPD) in El Salvador and CREEC followed-up capacity building processes in the different Red Cross National Societies of the continent based on their planned support to the projects funded by ECHO, DFID, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Finnish Red Cross.

Working towards developing systems for information management at the regional and zone levels, the Shelter Coordinator for the America is compiling a database of previous and current shelter projects that have been developed. Moreover, a technical systematization of the progress in shelter activities will be conducted in the following months based on monitoring visits led by the American Red Cross in August and October in Chile.

For the second semester of the year, the Shelter Coordinator will continue with the compilation of past and current shelter projects conducted in the Americas. In coordination with the Centre of Reference in Costa Rica, materials will be identified for community-level preparedness in building back safer. In addition, an information package focused on shelter knowledge will be disseminated through the continental platforms (DesAprender, Latin American IFRC website and RIT's website).

The continental DRM programme in line with its plan has developed case studies and exchanged experiences and methodologies, paying particular attention to shelter and volunteering in emergencies. A case study was developed on a cash and voucher project that took place in Costa Rica in 2009 during the emergency response after the earthquake in January of that year. The DIPECHO project in South America focusing on volunteering in disasters has allowed the development of different case studies and guidelines to orientate and strengthen volunteering management during emergencies through the National Societies and the Civil Defence systems in the Andean countries. The National Societies participating in this project and the Civil Defence systems are all working under the Andean Risk Management Strategy promoted by CAPRADE.

The Centres of Reference together with the Regional Representations and Regional DRM/DM networks are providing continental services to National Societies with the active involvement of staff and volunteers from different Red Cross Societies. During the first six months of 2010, the **CREEC** supported workshops and meetings with the National Societies in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. Trainings have been conducted on the Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA), modules of the Better Be Ready series (Protected School, Social Micro-Projects and Community First Aid). The **CREPD** has supported National Society volunteers and staff (Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela) with trainings on basic National Intervention Team curricula and more specialized trainings in response and contingency planning, health and epidemic control, and organization and management of Emergency Operation Centres.

Programme component 4: Organizational Preparedness

Component outcome 1: The secretariat in Americas is better prepared for responding to emergencies
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PADRU improves the National Societies' and thus the IFRC's overall organizational preparedness providing training to volunteers. For instance, during the reporting period, PADRU personnel trained 24

volunteers from the Salvadoran Red Cross Society and 25 volunteers from Bolivian Red Cross in water and sanitation.

Currently, there are initiatives to integrate more the trainings carried out by PADRU, the National Societies and the IFRC Centres of Reference in Central America (Centre of Reference for Disaster Preparedness in El Salvador and the Centre of Reference for Community Based Education in Disaster Preparedness in Costa Rica). For example, the Shelter Coordinator will work jointly with the CREPD to develop a NIT's training curricula specialized in shelter.

Following this trend, special emphasis has been given to the strengthening of the Regional Intervention Teams (RITs) in the Americas. During this year the system has mobilized 58 of its members in response to the human resource needs of the operations currently being implemented: 20 general RITs were deployed, as well as a number of members with specializations in water and sanitation (16 RIT members), IT and telecommunications (5), logistics (8), reporting (3), health in emergencies (3), shelter (2) and finances (2).

The mobilizations of trained RITs and internships allow volunteers of different National Societies in the Americas to improve their capacities following the "learning-by-doing" methodology, which is an opportunity for direct knowledge of the Federation's Response System at the regional level, as well as acquiring professional skills in a specific area.

After the first months of the Haiti and Chile earthquake operations and the high demand for human resources, areas for improvement were identified in the RIT system. The Americas RIT database was one of the main challenges present during the last year 2009 and the present reporting period. To date, the database has been 80 per cent updated achieving a higher number of RITs alerted for possible missions when a disaster strikes in the region. The current operating procedures are being updated and adapted to the experiences and implementation of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) procedures from Asia Pacific and the Americas. An updated procedures manual is currently being used for the mobilizations to Haiti, Chile and other emergencies, where the International Federation provides support.

Programme component 5: Disaster Response

Component outcome 1: The National Societies are more effectively supported during disaster response phases

The continental DRM programme supported the operations in Haiti and Chile by mobilizing human resources that contributed to operation management: the DRM Coordinator for the Americas assumed the responsibility of Acting Operations Coordinator in Haiti for a period of one month, the CREPD Coordinator was deployed as Operations Coordinator in Chile for a three-month period, the DRM Manager for South America was deployed to Haiti for one month and three members of the Centres of Reference supported the Haiti operation for 2 months.

During the first semester of 2010, PADRU supported National Societies in the implementation of 21 emergency response operations, including the Haiti and Chile earthquakes, the Tropical Storm Ida in El Salvador and the effects Tropical Storm Agatha in Guatemala. Support was also provided to National Societies in response to floods and storms in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Peru. In Mexico and Honduras, PADRU supported operations in response to dengue outbreaks and further support was provided to the Caribbean region in response to the droughts that threatened the people's access to water. Seventeen of these operations were funded through DREF and three through emergency appeals. The total number of families reached summed up more than 118,927 (594,635 people).

This figure represents an average of families receiving emergency relief food and non-food items from the IFRC, about 20 per cent of population affected by disasters in the Americas zone. This support was complemented with institutional strengthening, community training in water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH) and emergency health services when appropriate. Additional support for shelter was also coordinated for larger emergencies. All assistance provided follow SPHERE standards.

PADRU facilitated the international assistance to disasters in the region, 2 first Assessment and Coordination Teams (FACTs), 21 Emergency Response Units (ERUs) and personnel from more than 40 countries -including 58 RITs- were deployed in order to face the emergencies. The PADRU IT and Telecom team has been very active during the reporting period providing services to all operations and training to incoming RITs and delegates. The Water and Sanitation team mobilized 2 water and sanitation kits for 5,000 and 2,000 people to Chile early during the emergency.

In addition, the DRM programme and PADRU participated in the initial design of the Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction Surge Project, which is the one of the bases of the Haiti Operation.

In May, the emergency operation in response to Tropical Storm Ida (El Salvador) was handed over from PADRU to the DRM programme after the close of the relief phase. This operation started in November 2009 and now focuses on shelter, psychosocial support, water and sanitation and hygiene promotion. Support to the Salvadoran Red Cross Society was ensured through an Operations Coordination in country and the DRM team in the Americas Zone office.

The communication with all donors and PNS, networks in Latin America, mass media and stakeholders during operations has been facilitated by the use of tools such DMIS and FedNet. During the early phases of the Haiti and Chile operations there was a constant flow of information through situation reports and press releases. The Movement visibility has been high during the response and the close operational coordination with Movement and non-Movement partners has allowed the humanitarian organizations to maximize use of resources and to reduce the duplication of efforts during response operations.

Programme component 6: Cross-cutting issues, monitoring and evaluation

Component outcome 1: Promote the mainstreaming of Red Cross/ Red Crescent and relevant external global DRM initiatives, systems and tools
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The Well-Prepared National Society tool continues to be a useful instrument for planning processes across the region. Eighteen National Societies from Latin America and the Caribbean have completed the questionnaire and are actively using it.

In May, a planning and follow-up meeting took place for the Institutional and Community-based Disaster Risk Management capacity building project financed by DFID. One of the most relevant outcomes of this meeting was the establishment of an ad hoc group to compile all the experiences and lessons learnt from the DFID project in the past two and a half years. This group consists of four National Societies and one coordinator of the Centre of Reference. A guide will also be developed to orientate National Societies in the Americas on the indicators themes and expected results in relation to risk management capacity building projects. This guide will allow the harmonization projects developed through the IFRC or bilateral PNS projects (for example DIPECHO projects). The first meeting of this working group took place in June in San Salvador, and the second one is scheduled for July in Paraguay. All the results will be presented in the continental meeting that will take place in August.

In relation to Climate Change and Risk Management, different coordination processes took place with the IFRC secretariat office in Geneva and the Climate Centre in The Hague. Coordination is focusing on planning and follow-up of the projects PfCC2, innovation projects and the preparation for COP16. During this period, two solid outcomes were achieved, the proposal for 2010 prepared by the National Societies in January and the work plan for PfCC2 developed in May. Both documents highlight the importance that other sectors integrate climate change within their programmes in particular the sectors working in health, water and sanitation, food security, disaster response and recovery.

Moreover, within the first semester the IFRC has strengthened its corporation with ISDR through a regional consultancy carried out on the concept of national risk management platforms in Latin America. The results of the study were accepted well globally and regionally, and the IFRC and ISDR are using it as a guideline to establish a work plan for the strengthening and promotion of national platforms. The results of the consultancy are also orientating National Societies to have a more

proactive participation in their national platforms as well as in their role as auxiliaries to their governments.

Within the framework of the Haiti Earthquake Operation, Pillar 2 was established, focusing on Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction (Surge Project). Even though its initial approach is centred in institutional and community preparedness for the Hurricane Season, this project seeks to contribute the concept of integrating DRR within other sectors of the operation –shelter, health, water and sanitation. One of the challenges of this project is to strengthen the institutional capacities of the Haitian Red Cross Society to be in a position of assuming its role and responsibility as National Society. Fully aware of this challenge, a proposal has been presented to ECHO focused on the capacity building of the Haitian Red Cross Society in the area of DRR. This proposal in coordination with UNDP will strengthen coordination between the National Office for Civil Protection and the Haitian Red Cross Society.

Within the framework of cooperation between the Norwegian Red Cross and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Disaster Risk Management programme has continued to promote the Global Alliance on DRR, within not only the programmatic sector of DRM, but as well other programmatic areas such as health and volunteering to promote the Global Reference Framework “*Building safer and resilient communities*”.

In addition, PADRU has been familiarizing the National Societies with the IFRC global initiatives through the field operations. Delegates and RIT members deployed are advised to promote the understanding and application of International Disaster Response Law and *Strategy 2020*. The deployment of RIT and delegates also aims to provide National Societies acquaintance with IFRC procedures and standards, as required by DREF or appeal funded operations accountancy.

The PADRU's Disaster Management team works hard to encourage National Societies to improve the quality of shared information showing the results of Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCA), including food security and emergency assessments. Better information renders in improved planning capacities for ongoing or future operations or projects.

It has also promoted an integrated programming approach for operations, aiming to build improved local-level response through volunteer management and branch development.

Constraints or Challenges:

- Currently the main challenge of the DRM programme and the entire Americas Zone Office is the adoption and implementation of the management decisions agreed upon in June 2010. The challenges can be observed at different levels: restructuring the programme to be in line with the new Zone structure, a clear definition of the roles and responsibilities between the Regional Representations and the programmes. This process demands a considerable amount time to be invested in the development of internal procedures. PADRU's main components, Disaster Management Unit and the Regional Logistic Unit, are now reporting to the Zone Head of Operations and to the Head of Support Services respectively.
- Based on lessons learnt from emergency operations such as El Salvador: Tropical Storm Ida, the DRM programme team and PADRU will work together to develop a guide, presenting clear protocols in hand over operation processes from PADRU to programme areas.
- The main challenge for PADRU's activities during the reporting period has been the magnitude of the two major earthquakes affecting the Americas zone. No single international humanitarian organization or country could have single-handed the impact of the disasters. Careful internal and external coordination continues to be needed to cope with the needs of target population. This is an opportunity for the IFRC to further improve existing coordination mechanisms and joint work. Please see below the section on Haiti and Chile response for more details.
- Further, the Disaster Response and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) are currently under the lead of different coordinators. This has demanded greater coordinating efforts from the DRM and PADRU (as Disaster Response Unit) in order to supply services, incorporating a holistic approach in terms of preparedness, response, early recovery and development.

- During the restructuring of PADRU and the emergency operations, the team experienced continuous change of the unit's Head and Coordinators. This held back a clear strategy for the Disaster Response System in the Americas. Nonetheless, the new PADRU Coordinator will be selected in September.
- In addition, the Regional Shelter Advisor is now the Shelter Coordinator for the Americas, thus shelter has a larger profile across the secretariat supported actions. The compilation of technical documents for best practices on shelter projects has not been easy due to the difficulties to identify shelter focal points in each National Society. One of the most important challenges for the next half year is to try to identify shelter focal points in at least ten interested National Societies in the Zone. In addition, National Societies are not fully aware of what IFRC can offer in terms of shelter support from the Zone office currently. Thus, the identification of focal points at the national level will help to streamline information-sharing.
- The scale of both disasters is decreasing the quality of the shelter technical support that is feasible to provide from the Americas Zone Office, as there is a large amount of work in coordination to be done with other ongoing operations. The planned activities for 2010 should be carried out within the region and today there is only one technical person focused in shelter. It would be useful to have additional support from personnel with shelter expertise from other National Societies during the coming months. Internships within the RIT system is one of the initiatives proposed, but might be not enough to give the continuity needed.
- The 'Shelter Advisor' position focused on cluster issues will be vacant starting early July. A strategy is needed to keep this global commitment, as this position is currently unfunded.

International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles

During the reporting period, the International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) programme worked in three main areas: 1) collaborating with National Societies and other partners to provide technical assistance to interested governments on the implementation of the IDRL Guidelines; 2) building the capacity of National Society and humanitarian partners to understand and make use of the IDRL Guidelines and other international norms; and 3) promoting, disseminating and researching effective disaster law. These three working areas are aligned with the Global IDRL plan for 2010.

In the first programme component "Technical assistance to governments", the IDRL Coordinator supported two National Societies to provide technical support on IDRL to their governments:

- Colombia: Following the successful introductory workshop in December, the Colombian Red Cross Society in April signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Directorate for Risk Management for Disaster Prevention and Relief of the Ministry of the Colombian Interior and Justice concerning cooperation on an IDRL technical assistance project, with support from the IFRC. Recruitment is currently underway for a researcher to undertake the initial legal research.
- Peru: Building on the recommendations of the UNDAC preparedness mission in 2009, a concept paper was agreed upon with the Peruvian civil defence office (INDECI) for a technical assistance project on IDRL by the IFRC and the Peruvian Red Cross in April 2010.

Initial discussions have also taken place concerning potential projects in Haiti and El Salvador.

Moreover, the IFRC continued its cooperation with OCHA in providing support to governments on IDRL through United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) preparedness missions. It participated in mission to El Salvador, in April. The reports of the mission included substantial recommendations relating to the legal frameworks for disaster management, including rules related to international assistance. As a result, the government of El Salvador has shown interest in a technical assistance project as mentioned above.

Under the second programme component "Training and capacity building", IDRL briefing was provided at the Disaster Risk Reduction Directors Meeting in Panama in January. Moreover, in June, IFRC provided a training session on protection and human rights questions for people affected by disasters as part of a workshop on protection issues organized by the OCHA office in Peru, the National Defense Office and with the participation of the UNHCR office in Buenos Aires. Participants included

representatives from UNFPA, Save the Children, Plan International, UNICEF, INDECI, OCHA and other humanitarian actors.

Working toward programme component 3 “Dissemination, advocacy and research”, the IFRC made presentations on the IDRL Guidelines at the Organization of American States (OAS) “Working Group on Existing Mechanisms for Disaster Prevention and Response” in Washington and at an OAS regional workshop on emergency laws in the Caribbean in Saint Lucia, in April and May respectively.

In June, the IFRC made presentations on IDRL in the Americas: at the 15th meeting of CAPRADE in Lima; and at the III Regional Meeting on Enhancing International Humanitarian Partnerships, in Buenos Aires.

For more information, refer to the global International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles programme report: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual10/MAA0000410myr.pdg>

Health and Care

The programme purpose for the 2010–2011 Health and Care programme is to **reduce deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.**

The Zone Health Programme adjusted significantly the budget during 2010. The Global Alliance on HIV component budget has been reduced from 469,878 to 214,525 Swiss francs; the Community health budget from 399,427 to 24,715 Swiss francs; and the Health in Emergencies budget from 341,326 to 134,966 Swiss francs to reflect the budget coverage at the end of the reporting period.

Overall achievements of the programme up to June 2010 include:

- Three members of the Zone Health Unit were directly involved in the initial phases of the Haiti and Chile earthquake responses – Emergency Health Coordinator as a FACT Team member in Haiti and Chile; the H2P Project Coordinator co-led the Recovery Assessment Team (RAT) mission in Haiti and the Water and Sanitation Coordinator participated as a member of the Water and Sanitation RAT in Haiti and subsequently led a Water and Sanitation recovery assessment in Chile.
- Eleven National Societies trained in the Federation’s Prevention, Care, Treatment and Support training package at a workshop in Panama facilitated by the Manager of the Global AIDS programme and the HIV Home Care Coordinator from the Kenya Red Cross.
- Thirty five National Society emergency health focal points from 23 National Societies received comprehensive training in Emergency Health facilitated by focal points from the secretariat and PAHO.
- Four Central American Red Cross Presidents met to ratify Water and Sanitation national strategies and the institutionalization of technical units in their National Societies.
- Red Cross Health Network meetings were held in the Caribbean and South America during the reporting period and the Central America network REDCAMP-SALUD will meet in Managua in August. The meetings have provided an opportunity to reflect upon the previous Global Health Strategy and Inter-American Plan in light of the Federation’s new *Strategy 2020*.

The Global Alliance on HIV in the Americas has contributed to improving the lives of men and women, boys and girls through actions to prevent HIV transmission, including Voluntary Counselling and Testing promotion and services so that people are aware of their HIV status and can prevent onward transmission and seek treatment and care services if they are HIV positive, promoting prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and ensuring that most at-risk communities have access to tailored prevention education, skills building and prevention.

Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS
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Component outcome 1: National Societies in the Americas have scaled-up their HIV response through the harmonized framework of the Federation’s Global Alliance on HIV following a common platform for planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and resource mobilization.
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During the reporting period, ten National Society members of the Global Alliance on HIV have reported using the Global Alliance on HIV reporting format against indicators and they report having collectively reached 1,539,772 people with prevention and anti-stigma messages, and care, treatment and support services mobilizing a total of more than 1 million Swiss francs to date for their HIV programmes in 2010.

Activities under the HIV and AIDS component have principally focused on support for the current National Society members of the Global Alliance on HIV in the Americas. The secretariat has supported the National Societies within the Global Alliance to coordinate with partners, facilitated technical support and capacity-building, as well as provided support to resource mobilization, planning and reporting. Support is being provided during 2010 to the National Societies of Chile, Paraguay, Nicaragua and Costa Rica in order to increase their capacities in HIV programming as a prelude to their future incorporation into the Global Alliance on HIV.

The external evaluation of the Together We Can (TWC) youth peer education programmes in the Caribbean was finalized in early 2010 and provided useful recommendations on the quality, effectiveness and impact of TWC over recent years in selected National Societies. The findings and recommendations shared with the Caribbean Health network provide the basis for decisions on future peer education programming in the Caribbean and secretariat support. A similar review planned for Central America during 2010 is likely to be postponed until early 2011.

Nineteen National Society staff and volunteers and four secretariat staff were trained in the Federation's Prevention, Care, Treatment and Support training package in February to enable the roll out of support for People living with HIV (PLHIV), and orphans and children vulnerable to HIV (OVC) through Red Cross volunteers at community level. The training was conducted by the Home Care Coordinator from the Kenya Red Cross Society, the secretariat's HIV Global Programme Manager and the Americas Zone Health/HIV Coordinator. Since the Training of Trainers in February, Colombia, Argentina, Belize, and Trinidad and Tobago have started to roll-out the methodology in their countries.

Red Cross Red Crescent Plus (RCRC+) leaders from the Americas met in Panama early in 2010 to develop a regional strategy to present to the Global Alliance on HIV Forum meeting and consulted with RCRC+ globally. Ten out of 11 National Societies report support for PLHIV through Red Cross community-based support groups and support to PLHIV associations and networks through capacity building, joint advocacy and partnership activities.

Preparations are underway for the Americas participation in the AIDS2010 and Global Alliance on HIV Forum meeting in Vienna in July 2010. It is anticipated that seven National Societies will be represented, including five RCRC+ leaders, in addition to several secretariat health staff.

Several National Societies including Argentina, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago mobilized funds from non-Red Cross sources including Global Fund, REPSOL, national governments, UN and embassies. Working with bilateral Red Cross partners continues to be a high priority for Global Alliance on HIV members. In 2010, the secretariat is collaborating with American Red Cross on the roll out of the new regional HIV project in the Caribbean region to 2012, expanding the current scope of support to Guyana and Haiti to include Jamaica and a new programme in Bahamas and with a greater focus on most-at-risk populations. In Central America, the Finnish Red Cross has become a new partner this year with support for a two-year bilateral HIV project with the Honduras Red Cross within the framework of the Global Alliance on HIV.

Programme component 2: Community-based Health
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Component outcome 1: National Societies' capacity to deliver scaled-up and effective community-based health programmes is strengthened through knowledge-sharing, harmonized approaches, promotion of good practices and effective coordination.

During the reporting period, the Americas Zone Health Unit has supported the development of water and sanitation strategies and capacity building in four target National Societies in Central America

building on the post Hurricane Mitch water and sanitation projects supported by Red Cross partners. With this purpose, a workshop was developed in Guatemala in January 2010 at which participants from Health, water and sanitation departments from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua, defined their water and sanitation strategy and country plans. Prior to conducting capacity building activities, the priority is to ensure integration of technical units, which should be achieved by the third quarter of 2010. The institutionalization of the water and sanitation technical units and the support for the strategy in each country was ratified at a meeting in Honduras by the Red Cross Presidents of the four target countries committed to supporting the development of water and sanitation technical units as well as the proposed strategy in their National Societies. It is hoped that the model and methodologies to develop water and sanitation components in National Societies can be replicated in other regions building on the experience of the Central America regional pilot.

The new CBHFA in Action methodology is being promoted among National Societies in the Americas and their Red Cross partners as the capacity building framework for Red Cross volunteers working on health and first aid at community level. Building on the regional Master Facilitators workshop held in Guyana during 2009, three Caribbean National Societies (Belize, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago) are currently rolling out the methodology in their countries. CBHFA *in Action* was presented to the South American Health Network in May, and will be presented to the Central America Health network at their forthcoming meeting. The first training of Spanish speaking Master Facilitators will be held from 30 October to 5 November in Lima.

Twenty one National Societies in the Americas are actively involved in the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated youth blood donations many of them through the Club 25 strategy. In 2010, the external evaluation of the three year Finnish Red Cross supported Club 25 strategy was finalized and provided recommendations for future programming and sustainability. The secretariat will support seven National Societies to participate in year one of a five year global project to strengthen Club 25 implementation and sustainability. The target National Societies - Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Suriname, were selected based on the evaluation report findings and in 2010 will develop baseline, four year action plans and participate in a regional Club 25 and Health promotion workshop facilitated by Singapore Red Cross Society to be held from 1 to 3 September in Panama.

Programme component 3: Public Health in Emergencies
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Component outcome 1: National Societies' capacity to deliver health response in emergencies is strengthened and scaled up through knowledge sharing, promotion of good practices, effective coordination and strong strategic alliances.

Strong leadership was provided in the planning and implementation of the health response in the two major earthquake operations, Haiti and Chile, with a focus on psychosocial support, safe water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. In response to these calamitous events the International Federation, the National Societies in Chile and Haiti together with Partner National Societies launched an unprecedented health response: four Basic Health Care Units and two Surgical Units were deployed to Haiti, and one full Basic Health Care Unit, one Basic Health Care Unit with core staff, and one modified surgical unit with technical staff were deployed to Chile.

Support has been provided to the health programme in Haiti in delivering community-based health and first aid, psychosocial support and emergency health. An important element is epidemic control and stocking of pharmaceuticals and medical consumables as a preparedness measure for weather related events during the Caribbean storm season.

Thirty five National Society emergency health focal points from 23 National Societies participated in a seven-day Emergency Health Workshop in Panama in mid May. The participants were trained by experienced facilitators from the secretariat in Geneva and the Americas Zone Office, the Federation's Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support and PAHO. Themes covered were public health approach to emergencies, disasters and health, basic epidemiology, health assessment and surveillance, communicable diseases, medical care and services, health and hygiene promotion, water and sanitation, nutrition and food security, psychosocial support and reproductive health. At the end of the

training, the participants carried out a table-top simulation exercise on initial assessment, planning and coordination in public health emergencies.

Continuous support in outbreak surveillance through media monitoring has been provided to National Societies and Regional offices. Technical support was provided to a dengue outbreak in Guatemala in January 2010 and subsequently to Guatemalan Red Cross response after the tropical storm Agatha was provided directly from the Americas Zone Health Unit. "Malaria Control in the Community" manual and toolkit was translated to Spanish and will be printed and made available to National Societies later during 2010.

Continuing the roll-out of the new CBHFA *in Action* methodology in the Americas as a framework for Health in Emergencies community-based preparedness and response, the Americas Zone is supporting the training of master facilitators from National Societies in 2010 with the first Spanish speaking workshop to be facilitated by secretariat and National Society staff and volunteers trained in Kenya in 2009. By the end of 2010, at least 40 National Society staff and volunteers will be trained as CBHFA *in Action* master facilitators and will become a resource for the roll-out of the new methodology across the continent. Staff and volunteers were trained in the new methodology in Chile after the earthquake and preparations are underway to roll out the methodology in Haiti later in 2010 with an initial orientation workshop for the Haitian Red Cross Society and bilateral Red Cross partners planned for October with further roll out of the methodology during 2011.

Constraints or Challenges:

- The January earthquake in Haiti dramatically altered secretariat and Red Cross partner priorities in the Caribbean region. Plans to develop proposals within the Global Water and Sanitation Initiative framework for Haiti, Dominican Republic, Guyana and Suriname were put on hold as Red Cross partners refocused their efforts to bilateral water and sanitation programming in Haiti. It will be important to explore the options of attracting new water and sanitation partners to the region or for the Americas Zone to seek funding to work directly with National Societies.
- Late disbursement of multilateral funds has again been a constraint to National Society HIV programmes and plans will be submitted to donors in 2010 for 2011 to ensure funds are available in early 2011.
- Zone Health Unit staff resources have been challenged with the additional workload as a result of Haiti and Chile earthquake responses in the reporting period.

Organizational Development

The Americas Zone Office is coordinating and supporting the Red Cross Societies of the Americas through its Regional Representations, Federation Representation and/or Country Offices in developing key areas in accordance with the objectives established in the Inter-American Plan 2007–2011. The recommendations outlined for each of the National Societies in the Study of the Americas carried out by the Complutense Institute for International Studies and taking into account the strategic orientations of *Strategy 2020*.

The programme purpose for the 2010–2011 Organizational Development programme is to **increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.**

The implementation of the Organizational Development programme in the Americas, during the first six months of 2010 focused on the following points: a) provide support to the Regional Representations to build strategic support to the National Societies in the America through accompaniment on issues of interest and organizational challenges, and support the development of country support plans; b) provide follow up to the first management course for new leaders of the National Societies in coordination with the Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey; and b) promote volunteer development and South–South cooperation through the Training Centre's between South and Central America. Moreover, two major events influenced organizational development programming: a) the earthquakes in Haiti and in Chile, and b) the decision to eliminate the zone-wide Organizational Development

delegate position as part of an evolving processes of passing the responsibility of Organizational Development directly to the Regional Representations.

While the impact of some planned activities have been slightly diminished because of these events/decision, new key areas of knowledge development and growth have been introduced. Chief amongst these has been the inclusion of Organizational Development from the onset of a major disaster as occurred in both Haiti and Chile.

Overall achievements of the programme up to June 2010 include:

- Seventeen country support plans have been developed demonstrating an shift towards an inclusive, integrated planning and programming approach to support National Societies to provide higher quality and more responsive programming to meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations
- A concerted effort was made on the part of the zone, with support from the secretariat's office in Geneva, to address the complex issue of including Organizational Development immediately into the response and recovery operations associated with the earthquakes in both Haiti and Chile. Organizational Development was included into the Recovery Assessment Team whose report formed the basis of Pillar 3 of the Haiti Plan of Action. The same exercise was carried out after the Chile earthquake. An Organizational Development plan validated by the Chilean Red Cross was developed as part of the National Strategic Plan and Plan of Action for the operation. The plan directly reflected elements already in the National Society's National Development Plan. Including Organizational Development from the onset during disaster operations is now considered in the standard operating procedures. Appropriate guidelines will be developed.
- SOS programme with the Uruguayan Red Cross has been enhanced through a partnership with Spanish Red Cross. Significant support was provided to the Nicaraguan Red Cross in the process of finalizing the government intervention and recovering the National Society's governability.

Programme component 1: National Society Volunteering Development

Component outcome 1: Support the development of integrated, coherent and innovative volunteer development
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The initial focus, as outlined in the plan, for this programme component – National Society Volunteering Development – was on:

- *Implementing an online continental training course for Red Cross volunteers and volunteer managers to address both specialized volunteer development and effective management.*
- *Based on the findings of the Americas Volunteering Review, ensuring provision of tailored support to selected National Societies in volunteer development, in line with Federation policies and guidelines.*
- *Taking advantage of emergency operations in which PADRU supports National Societies to develop in-country volunteering in emergency management in order to focus further on volunteer management - this would not be limited to after emergencies occur, but also through RITs trained by PADRU, in times when there are no emergencies.*

The implementation of the programme is in general according to the plan with some slight changes in strategy and some delays compared to the initial plan, due to the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile. However, all the planned activities will be completed or begin by the end of 2010. The volunteer development focused has been slightly revised and now it is expressed as follows:

1. Based on the findings of the Americas volunteering review, tailored support will be provided to selected National Societies in Volunteering Development, in line with Federation policies and guidelines.
2. Developing and disseminating Volunteering Development tools for continental use. This includes developing new tools, adopting already existing tools and promoting global tools and initiatives.
3. Provide technical support to programmes and other stakeholders on volunteering development and promoting Volunteering as a cross-cutting issue.

In 2009, a Volunteer Development Coordinator was recruited with support from the Swedish Red Cross, so that the volunteer development support strategy to National Societies could be implemented.

Tailored support to selected National Societies

Tailored support plans in the area of volunteering have been developed together with the Regional Representations based on their country support plans. It has been decided for 2010 tailored support will be given in the Andean region to the Bolivia Red Cross, in the Southern Cone to the Paraguayan Red Cross, and in Central America to the Honduran Red Cross. Due to the earthquake that struck Haiti, the initial tailored support plan for the Latin Caribbean has changed, but volunteering development is included under the Organizational Development objective in the Haiti Earthquake Emergency Appeal. A tailored support initiative will be decided for the Anglophone Caribbean National Societies before the end of the year. Additional support could be provided to one or more National Societies during the year.

Developing continental volunteering development tools

The work to provide online Volunteering Development trainings for the National Societies is in progress and has been focused on outlining and providing to National Societies a holistic volunteering development training package with online modules targeting individual volunteers, volunteer managers as well as the leadership in the National Societies responsible for initiating volunteering development processes. The strategy has been to adjust online training modules to the Americas context as well as to develop new training modules. Three different online trainings are or will be available during the year: the basic Red Cross induction course (World of the Red Cross - WORC), the 4-month online Volunteer Management training and an introduction to the concept of Volunteering Development. So far:

The WORC course, which includes basic facts about the Red Cross, its Fundamental Principles, history, structure, among other topics, has been piloted in the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society and the Guyana Red Cross Society. The WORC was translated into Spanish by the Americas Zone Office and will be available for the National Societies in the Americas by the end of the year.

The online Volunteer Management training has been launched in cooperation with the European Reference Centre on volunteering. The English version was first launched in the Anglophone Caribbean National Societies with participation of 21 representatives (6 men and 15 women) from 7 countries (Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago). The Volunteer Management training takes place over four months and covers every component of the volunteering management cycle. The Volunteer Management training will be offered in October for 30 participants in Latin America.

An introduction to the concept of volunteering development will be created during the year. Examples of volunteering tools besides the online trainings that are under development or are being disseminated are the following: templates for volunteering policy, volunteering accident insurance, developing good examples, guidelines to calculate volunteer value and preparing for the International Year of Volunteers 2011.

Technical support to programmes and other stakeholders

Contacts have been established with programme coordinators at both zone and regional level areas in order to promote volunteering development as a cross-cutting issue. This has been done by input to meeting agendas and carrying out presentations on volunteering in meetings and events. During meetings with the Regional Representatives, discussions focused on the coordination of funds from different programme budgets in order to reinforce the budget for volunteering development. During the year discussions have been initiated to take a programme approach to Volunteering in Emergencies that will be reflected in the coming plans.

Programme component 2: National Society Financial sustainability
Component outcome 1: Support resource mobilization and donor engagement efforts for the National Societies

The development of the **Guide to Win-win Hands-on Corporate Partnerships** (Alianzas con Empresas) in both English and Spanish, designed to assist National Societies in increasing their resource mobilization capacity are in the final stages of approval and will be ready for reproduction by the end of the September 2010. Initial dissemination of the document will be carried out to all National Societies through the Regional Representations during the remainder of 2010. This is the first step in a process of working with individual National Societies to develop, implement and monitor detailed resource mobilization plans. The responsibility for the developing and implementing follow-up activities will be taken on by resource mobilization at both the Zone and Regional Representation levels.

Programme component 3: National Society Organizational Development Process

Component outcome 1: Support National Societies to enhance their integrity and accountability

The overall development and dissemination of integrity risk management concepts and tools so that National Societies have better access to mechanisms to anticipate integrity issues that they might face has been slower than expected due to shifts in staff responsibilities. It is expected that the planned activities to meet this outcome will be adjusted to meet timelines and responsibilities.

However, the tools developed are currently being implemented in the work done in several National Societies as the Zone shifts to more tailored National Society Organizational Development strategies. This involves working with National Societies in the areas of strengthening their legal base, implementing transparent election processes and improving the division between governance and management functions including decentralized decision-making.

The Regional Representatives together with the Director of Zone will provide timely support to the National Societies affected by internal or external factors that can hinder their integrity. Timely attention to those identified factors have contributed to address issues and prevent, in the majority of the cases, that National Societies are severely affected.

Component outcome 2: Facilitate the development of local integrated service delivery approach

The focus to coordinate integrating planning support to National Societies is most evident through the concerted and comprehensive shift to basing the majority of all initiatives on country support plans. National Societies-led analysis of needs and their own National Development Plans form the bases of the secretariat support that is carried out principally through the Regional Representations. Tools and processes are being developed and refined to reflect and facilitate this process including the inclusion of National Society branches as well as Partner National Societies (working both bilaterally and multi-laterally) and the ICRC.

Complementing this is the ongoing work done by the zone to introduce global trends into the National Societies' work based on the specific issues faced (e.g. pandemics, urban risk, climate change, migration).

Other related initiatives implemented include branch development training being piloted throughout the zone, the formulation and implementation of Intensified Capacity Building proposals in an increasingly integrated manner to community programming and the promotion and implementation of the Specific Organizational Development Support Fund (SOS) as a mechanism to address crucial development needs of the National Societies.

The Youth Proposal "Promoting Generational Renewal in the Red Cross", part of an overall strategy to have youth become agents of change both in communities and in their National Societies, was modified in order to meet the new available budget. Project activities will now be concentrated in the Caribbean and Central America.

Programme component 4: National Society Leadership Development

Component outcome 1: Support the development of leadership and management capacities in National Society decision makers

The Management Course for Red Cross decision-makers, called “Diplomado para el Desarrollo del Ejecutivo Eficaz”, in alliance with the Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey, started in March, with a first group of ten National Societies’ members and will be completed by the end of August. Initial results from both students and the Institute are very favourable. Plans are now underway to support a wider base of participants from National Societies as well as to assess, with the Institute, new Red Cross specific courses that can be offered in the future including focus on management, issues specific to the Red Cross context. It should be noted that the administering of this programme, as part of the decentralising of Organizational Development functions has been passed on to the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation.

Constrains and challenges

- The impact of the earthquakes put an additional burden in the daily tasks and activities planned for 2010 under the Americas Zone plan. Personnel – from all programming areas including organizational development – were mobilized to Haiti and later to Chile in order to support the coordination and response efforts with Movement and non-Red Cross partners.
- The results of the emergencies have made visible the need for the development of a business continuity plan. Events such as Haiti can hardly be forecasted; even though it was possible to return to ‘normalcy’ quite quickly, the Americas Zone’s business continuity plan needs to be updated. The issues that surfaced were also exacerbated by the *changing together* process.

Humanitarian Principles and Values

The programme purpose for the 2010–2011 Principles and Values programme is to **increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.**

The continental Principles and Values programme’s original budget for 2010 was 182,781 Swiss francs, which was later revised to 22,454 Swiss francs. Furthermore, the programme continues to face resource constrains to finance the planned areas, as only 2 per cent (486 Swiss francs) of the revised budget has been covered up to June 2010 and there are limited human resource capacities at the continental level.

Programme component 1: Policies, strategies and standards

Component outcome 1: International Federation policies, strategies and guidelines related to humanitarian principles and values, non-violence, non-discrimination and respect for diversity are well understood and implemented by National Societies in the Americas Zone and are disseminated to relevant regional stakeholders/partners.

The secretariat is working to ensure that key decision makers from National Societies in the Americas become familiar with principles and values policies, strategies and/or guidelines, helping to increase accountability, performance and favouring South - South cooperation. This year the Americas Zone is focusing on the dissemination of *Strategy 2020*. A continental workshop for National Societies’ leadership will take place in August to disseminate *S2020* and establish common ground for its roll-out within National Societies. Further support for its dissemination will take place through a facilitators’ network from the National Societies and the secretariat, which will also provide technical support to the National Societies with the alignment of their Strategic Plans to *S2020*.

Initial steps are being made to increase the National Societies’ knowledge and skills on principles and values as they relate to challenges around violence prevention and links with current disaster risk reduction, disaster response and health in emergencies activities. For example, the Presidents and Directors General of the National Societies of Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Panama will meet in August in Panama with the support of the Federation and the ICRC, to analyze and arrange actions on the prevention of violence and security.

Progress towards the following indicators under this outcome was not possible during the first semester of the year:

- Support the development of assessments and/or baselines on the application of the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values within the National Societies and their environment. Development of quality indicators/impact indicators to measure progress of the process, project or work carried out towards improving the humanitarian situation both internally and externally.
- Enhance coverage of anti-stigma campaigns through awareness-raising initiatives, such as the dissemination of key messages through taxi drivers.
- Promote consistency in all programmes that are advocating principles and values in their activities at all levels and specifically, in places with high levels of vulnerability.

Programme component 2: Migration

Component outcome 1: National Societies have a better understanding of migration trends and the vulnerabilities of migrant populations and have analyzed the possibilities of Red Cross action in addressing such vulnerabilities.

The International Federation is committed to strengthening humanitarian activities of National Societies to assist migrant and internally displaced people in distress and promote integration of vulnerable migrants and internally displaced groups. However, limited progress has been achieved against the planned indicators for this outcome due to limited financial and human resources.

During the first half of 2010, the Red Cross advocacy role for unconditional access to immigrants, regardless of their status and to actively fight against racism, xenophobia and discrimination has been improved through the dissemination of key Federation documents with National Societies, international organizations and other stakeholders. For example, the migration section of the 2007–2011 Inter-American Plan as well as the approach of *Strategy 2020* on migration have been highlighted and disseminated with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the ICRC and the Presidents and General Directors of National Societies during a meeting held in Honduras. This space also helped to exchange information on cooperation possibilities with the UN system and discuss the lines of action in programmes and activities with migrants.

Following the first meeting in Honduras, the Regional Representative for Central America and Mexico met with the Research and Promotion Centre for Human Rights³ –a Honduras-based NGO working on the promotion of human rights and refereed by UNHCR. The meeting focused on setting the groundwork for future joint work on the issue of migration and tracking the results after the meeting with UNHCR.

Moreover, agreements have been made to organize national meetings in Guatemala and Nicaragua with national UNHCR counterparts. The meeting in Guatemala is scheduled for mid July and will focus on the work with migrants.

Maintaining and strengthening the well-established activities of National Societies in the fields of tracing, restoring family links and family reunification has been conducted especially during the two large scale disasters in Haiti and Chile, and mainly through the support of the ICRC.

Progress towards the following indicators under this outcome was not possible during the first semester of the year:

- Increase knowledge on Red Cross work with migrant populations, through a mapping exercise and a baseline survey to better understand the scope of the work of the National Societies with migrant populations.
- Support the production of case studies focusing on the humanitarian challenges when working with migrant populations.

³ El Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, CIPRODEH

- Work with National Societies in the analysis of the Federation's global policy on migration and its practical application in the Americas.
- Encourage exchanges between National Societies working in issues relating to migration and those interested in developing projects to assist vulnerable migrants.

Programme component 3: Principles and values with advocacy and communication.

Component outcome 1: Key Federation principles and values are promoted influencing internal/external practices through advocacy activities and means of communication.

A continental effort has been carried out for the promotion of tolerance, non-violence and non-discrimination campaigns with particular emphasis in the fight against HIV and AIDS, which has been channelled through the Health and Care programme under the Global Alliance on HIV framework. Social violence, particularly gender-based violence, has been addressed at the regional level under the first half of the year in Colombia. The Regional Representation for the Andean Region with support of the Swedish Red Cross assisted the Colombian Red Cross Society to implement the prevention and response to gender-based violence project. The project reached 152 people at the community level through trainings and movie forums, and 150 people working in mass communication media outlets information and awareness-raising activities to strengthen local inter-institutional capacity for the prevention, identification and opportune response to gender-based violence.

Moreover, support was provided to the Colombian Red Cross Society to carry out internal change processes to deal with discriminatory conduct and practices to prevent – on an internal basis – abuse, harassment and sexual exploitation and reduce causes of all forms of violence. The aforementioned prevention and response to gender-based violence project in Colombia reached 184 people from different sectors and branches within the National Society. In addition, the CRCS now has a national technical team focused on the issue of gender and a draft National Gender Policy was submitted for approval to the governing board of the CRCS.

The Federation representatives from the Americas Zone have participated in significant events taking place in the Americas to convey key messages and influence national, regional and international agendas relating to humanitarian issues. To illustrate, the Americas Zone office carried out a strong advocacy role with the national governments during the response to the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile to facilitate the rapid movement of humanitarian assistance and personnel.

Progress towards the following indicators under this outcome was not possible during the first semester of the year:

- Support for initiatives that fulfil the information, communication and advocacy gaps on health and disaster management issues around gender, ethnicity, migration status, stigma and discrimination, indigenous communities and the role of women in vulnerability reduction.
- Working with youth with a vision to transform mindsets and attitudes in society through the “Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change” initiative.
- Promotion of the auxiliary role of the National Society.

Constrains and challenges

- Limited financial resources
- There is no continental coordinator in place for principles and values, and there is only one focal point at the regional level to move forward the principles and values plan.

Communications

During the reporting period, the Red Cross Red Crescent profile in the Americas has been scaled-up through the development of well-organized advocacy packages addressing HIV and AIDS, volunteering, IDRL and disaster risk management needs. These materials have been distributed and promoted to all National Societies and Federation offices. For example, the America's Volunteering Analysis and complementary visual materials were disseminated across the continent. In addition, a one year communications plan with focus on external partnerships and resource mobilization for each the Red Cross Societies of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras part of the Global Alliance on HIV and completing communication materials were developed. Furthermore, an information kit for the

Hurricane Season 2010 was developed including basic communication tools for National Societies to address their communication and information needs before, during and after a disaster.

Ongoing support through emergencies related to the 2010 hurricane season have been given through information and communication work, including internal reports and monitoring, development of internal and external communication tools and development and dissemination of information for public communication, as well as attention to media requests regarding the emergencies.

In addition, extensive work has been made to renew the Latin America Federation website. Work is in progress, some activities carried out include rewriting of the main pages of the website in line with the Inter-American Plan 2007–2010, *S2020* and the International Federation's mandate, taking into account the necessities of the National Societies and of the IFRC itself.

Moreover, the communication capacity of the National Societies has been increased through training initiatives, knowledge-sharing and networking. During the first half of 2010, trainings were supported in Trinidad and Tobago (linked to the regional DIPECHO project) and in Chile, and networking and knowledge-sharing on disaster response has been promoted through Elluminate sessions with the National Societies' communicators. The workshop in Chile was an excellent exercise of South-South cooperation facilitated by the Federation.

Web Stories and Press Releases – Americas (Including Haiti and Chile)

www.cuzroja.org

Web stories – 82

Press releases – 16

www.ifrc.org

Press Releases – 23

Web stories – 69

Planning, Monitoring, Emergency and Reporting

During the first six months of 2010, the PMER Unit has been involved in the response to the major earthquakes in Haiti and Chile with regard to recruitment of dedicated PMER staff as well as the provision of support for planning and reporting on progress achieved in the operations. Both operations now benefit from a detailed Plan of Action. The PMER Unit has also been involved in the design and implementation of the Federation-Wide reporting system for the Haiti (FWR-H) operation, and an initial internal report was issued at the end of April illustrating the collective achievements made as of mid April in the key programme areas. The report from the second round of data collection is due in late September.

The PMER Unit has also been involved in the piloting of the global Federation-Wide Reporting System (FWRS) through seven key proxy indicators, and has been in close liaison with the Costa Rican Red Cross, the Paraguayan Red Cross and the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, which have been selected to conduct data-collection for the pilot round. Information is expected by mid September and both this and the findings and recommendations from the pilot National Societies will be taken into account for the global roll-out of the FWRS to take place in 2011.

Constant work on the part of the Zone Finance Unit, PMER and the involved budget holders has resulted in an overall reduction of the number of reports due, although further progress is needed to ensure timely reporting.

In May, an external evaluation of the implementation of the Federation Secretariat's 2008 and 2009 plan was concluded and recommendations highlighted during a meeting gathering the Senior Management Team, the Regional Representatives, Zone Coordinators and managers of Service Units.

As can be observed from the developed country support plans which have been developed, there is an increased interest on the part of National Societies in the Americas for support in the area of PMER. As a result, in March the planning officer participated in meetings convened by the Trinidad and Tobago

Red Cross Society with the aim of working on plans in the area of disaster management. Similarly, the planning officer has continued to provide support to the National Societies, which are implementing risk reduction projects with DFID funding, particularly with regard to monitoring and follow-up.

Human Resources

In the first semester of 2010, the Human Resources Department in the Americas has conducted various activities. The Human Resources team has been a crucial partner of the Haiti and Chile operation since the very beginning, working together to find and deploy delegates and staff for the operation. The department's capacity has been resourced from two to five staff to be able to meet the demands and the needs of the regional and emergency operations. In the region, the following have been achieved: A new life insurance provider has been contracted for national staff which gives better benefits, Code of Conduct and Induction trainings have been conducted, internship agreements with universities have been agreed upon, support on the development of a competency framework for recruitment and selections as well as support on development of human resource systems, processes and procedures has been developed for two National Societies. A job review to classify jobs in accordance with more accurate descriptions of the positions was undertaken for the Haiti operation for delegates as well as a human resources mapping exercise with emphasis of the needs ahead of time for programme managers. In addition, two stress counsellors are available for Federation staff, not only for debriefing sessions, but also for other psychological support needs of the staff.

Finance

During the reporting period, relevant technical support was provided to the emergency response operations for Haiti and Chile based on identified and expressed needs. Members of the Americas Zone Finance Unit (ZFU) were deployed to Haiti and Chile to support in the finance and accounting area.

Two finance trainings were carried out in Haiti. The first one trained all the finance staff within the operation and members of the Haitian Red Cross Society (nine persons in total). The second training was directed to 14 coordinators and project managers within the operation. These training aimed at increasing knowledge and skills of the finance staff and project managers through the understanding of the IFRC finance procedures and available tools. Both trainings were facilitated by ZFU staff.

The Zone Finance Unit had the opportunity and responsibility to conduct the exercise regarding the coordination, analysis, consolidation and presentation of the financial data submitted by the members and the secretariat for the FWR-H. The users of the financial information were very satisfied with the final product and therefore there was a clear request to continue providing such relevant information. A second exercise was done a couple of months later in order to capture the financial data regarding to expenditures with similar positive results. The next round is schedule to include the financial data from January to September 2010 and it is expected to be ready by early December 2010.

In 2009, a finance training to certify RIT members in finance was conducted. During the emergency response in Haiti, two trained RIT members (Honduras Red Cross and Nicaraguan Red Cross) provided support. The finance RIT member from the Honduras Red Cross worked in the Zone Finance Unit during a period of time replacing one of our staff who was deployed to the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation to support the demand of finance services as a result of the Haiti Earthquake Operation. The other RIT member from the Nicaraguan Red Cross supported PADRU and was deployed to Latin Caribbean Regional Representation office to provide finance services in this office as well. These experiences promote the use of regional human resources and at the same time enhance their capacities, refresh and share knowledge with them. Now these RIT members can bring these experiences and knowledge back to their National Societies.

There has not been yet enough room to work on the assessment and training with some National Societies to move from the Working Advances System into the Cash Transfer System so far. In line with the management decisions taken by the Americas Zone the Regional Representatives will take the direct role in the development or enhancement of capacities of the National Societies. The ZFU will provide technical support to materialize this objective.

Working in partnership

The Americas Zone has continued to invest efforts in nurturing and establishing partnerships at the continental, regional and national levels. Coordination continues to take place with UN agencies, OAS, PNS, ICRC, governments and international organizations in order to promote common approaches and knowledge-sharing across the zone.

Dialogue with governments and inter-governmental organizations is becoming a regular activity carried out by the different teams of the Americas Zone. One of the coordination and cooperation achievements of this period is the progress made with the governments of Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico and Brazil in relation to IDRL. This progress is also linked to the ongoing coordination that takes place with the OAS and other key stakeholders in the humanitarian and development agenda, such as OCHA, the Economic System for Latin America and the Caribbean (Sistema Económico Latinoamericano y del Caribe – SELA) and others.

The IFRC's role in joint assessments with the UN system in response to governments' request is helping the Red Cross to position itself in a role of adviser to the governments.

Increased efforts are conducted on strategic and technical networks, making an emphasis on knowledge-sharing initiatives. In 2010, the leadership of the National Societies, represented by CORI, have met at least on three occasions to discuss more effective ways of working together. These initiatives have also led to the creation of the *Latin-American group of National Societies*.

The disasters in Haiti and Chile have also proved a test for coordination, cooperation and partnerships, with different stakeholders, including private sector. This includes also international networks of sports agencies that have collaborated with the Red Cross National Societies to support the Haiti response operation.

PADRU established an agreement with the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States of America (USAID) allowing a common framework for assistance to promote efficient, appropriate and timely response in the event of a disaster in the Americas. The agreement focuses on prepositioning of relief stocks and the mobilization and deployment of 3 RIT members and 14 internships to train RIT members, thereby strengthening the disaster response capacity of the Regional Response System. The internships will start in the next reporting period with the methodology of learning-by-doing, providing support in to the current operations, knowledge-sharing, aiming the future better response in their National Societies. Partnerships are also been established with Ericsson Response.

The Global Alliance on HIV in the Americas is supported by multi-lateral partners including the Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies and through bilateral partnerships with the American, French, Italian, Netherlands, Norwegian and Spanish Red Cross Societies. National Societies report partnerships in 2010 with national and regional PLHIV networks, community-based associations and NGOs, Ministries of Health, Education and Social Services, UN agencies and international NGOs. National Societies are continuing to expand their HIV work in partnership with PLHIV networks, and community organizations and associations representing key populations at heightened risk of HIV. Club 25 programmes mobilizing voluntary non-remunerated youth blood donors work in partnership with Red Cross and government blood services.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Special attention has been given by the CORI to the enhancement of dialogue, coordination and understanding at the highest level of decision-making of the National Societies as well as to the development of a common agenda for the future. This agenda is part of the preparatory work for the next Inter-American Conference.

Identifying and addressing the most relevant issues for the future of the Red Cross in the Americas will require a balanced approach between what is reflected in the country support plans and the external trends and challenges that also need to be addressed. The dialogues with the leadership of the National Societies on this approach will be therefore reflected in the outcomes of the work towards the XIX Inter-American Conference.

The Disaster Risk Management programme and PADRU have responded quickly and efficiently to disasters, thus contributing to the fulfilment of the first goal of the Global Agenda: to reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. It has also contributed to the development of existing capacities of National Societies to provide effective and timely services to communities affected by disasters in collaboration with the UN system and other relevant regional stakeholders.

National Societies have benefited from the increasing pool of skilled RIT trained members. Furthermore, the exchange of knowledge, experience and skills fostered by the RIT system has strengthened regional cooperation and collaboration between National Societies. In addition, there is greater understanding of international standards, tools and operational requirements, which leads the way to more cohesive Federation operations as a whole.

In line with the orientations of *Strategy 2020*, the pilot round of the FWRS and the second round of programmatic data for the FWRS – Haiti will take place in September, and the third round in November.

The Federation's Gender Policy recognizes that the integration of a gender perspective into Red Cross and Red Crescent actions is an important strategy towards the fulfilment of the Federation's humanitarian mandate to improve the lives of the most vulnerable.

The Americas Zone office continues its approach of sharing lessons learnt, best practices and quality standards through the existing mechanism such as the DesAprender Learning platform, case studies, evaluations, continental and regional meetings on climate change, HIV and AIDS, emergency health, non-remunerated blood donations, RIT system, disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction, which include a space to discuss lessons learnt from past experiences. In addition, a database collecting past evaluations is being periodically updated and it is available through FedNet.

Two external evaluations (Club 25 and TWC Caribbean) undertaken in 2009 were finalized in early 2010 and will contribute to ensuring better management, learning and improvement in the HIV and blood donor recruitment programmes.

The Emergency Health programme component seeks to ensure longer-term impact through a few focused measures: a) having global tools as a starting point for capacity building and consistently promoting the use thereof; b) local and regional validation of any new methodology; and c) awareness-raising towards National Societies, donors and partners highlighting the inter-linkage of different tools.

Looking ahead

The involvement of all the programme and support services in the three mayor operations of Chile, Haiti and the Tropical Storm Agatha in Central America have affected the implementation of activities planned for the first six months of the year at different degrees. Furthermore, the humanitarian needs in Haiti and Chile are still vast and support from all the areas will continue in coordination with Movement partners and other stakeholders for second semester of the year.

The forecast for this hurricane season is over the average of the past 10 years according to the U.S. National Hurricane Centre. PADRU's warehouse is being restocked with various kits; while the Regional Logistics Unit is replenishing all the stock sent to Haiti and Chile. The project to strengthen the regional response capacity started during the reporting period has positive outcomes. Further training for Red Cross members are expected in the second half of 2010.

In Health and Care, after the formation of Water and Sanitation technical units in the four target National Societies, in the second semester activities will be focused on capacity building and the development of small, medium and large scale proposals to ensure their sustainability. Moreover, National Societies will develop Global Alliance proposals for 2011–2013 and an external evaluation of three years of the Global Alliance on HIV in the Americas will be undertaken. The CBHFA *in Action* roll-out will commence in Latin America with the first training for national facilitators and continue in the Caribbean with national roll-out processes in at least five target countries. In addition, a psychosocial support in emergencies module will be developed collaboratively between National Society focal points, CREPD and Zone Health Unit hosted by the Chilean Red Cross. Furthermore, the programme will work towards the systematic development and implementation of a health strategy to minimize vulnerability to disaster risks in communities through prevention and preparedness, and effective response and recovery in the broader context of sustainable development.

The adjustment of the Americas Zone structure for the best possible implementation of the *Strategy 2020* is expected to be completed by the end of 2010. The adjustments are in line with the objective of working more centred in the critical needs of the National Societies. Key global events, such as the International Conference of Climate Change that will take place in Cancun, Mexico, will also require special support from the Americas Zone.

The Americas Zone will focus its support on working closer with National Societies through country support plans and on moving forward together in line with *Strategy 2020* to do more, do better, and reach further.

How we work

All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to:

Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by *Strategy 2020* which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA42003 - Americas Zone

Mid Year Report 2010

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/01-2010/06
Budget Timeframe	2010/01-2010/12
Appeal	MAA42003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	1,764,409	692,693	619,552	22,454	201,638	3,300,746
B. Opening Balance	36,349	69,670	49,143	486	969	156,617
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross	69,477					69,477
Canadian Red Cross	13,674					13,674
Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)	128,680					128,680
DFID Partnership grant	163,415		27,514		21,678	212,606
Finnish Red Cross	5,108	0				5,108
Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)	28,944	0				28,944
Mexican Government	105,506					105,506
Norwegian Red Cross		12,940	2,488			15,428
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)	134,203	116,459	22,396			273,058
Other	25					25
PAHO (Pan American Health Organisation)		29,070				29,070
Spanish Red Cross	14,990					14,990
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	34,231					34,231
C1. Cash contributions	698,252	158,469	52,398		21,678	930,797
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
American Red Cross	13,596					13,596
DFID Partnership grant	160,682		27,054		21,315	209,051
European Commission - DG ECHO		-4,707				-4,707
Finnish Red Cross	3,180					3,180
Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)	18,017					18,017
Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)	-732					-732
Norwegian Red Cross		12,171	2,341			14,511
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)	201,703	109,537	21,065			332,305
PAHO (Pan American Health Organisation)		-24,937				-24,937
Swedish Red Cross		30,942				30,942
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	210,970		196,906			407,876
United States Government - USAID		270,938				270,938
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	607,416	393,943	247,365		21,315	1,270,039
<u>Income reserved for future periods</u>						
European Commission - DG ECHO		3,702				3,702
United States Government - USAID		-109,747				-109,747
C3. Income reserved for future periods		-106,045				-106,045
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
American Red Cross	37,200					37,200
Canadian Red Cross	6,200					6,200
Norwegian Red Cross		31,000				31,000
Spanish Red Cross	74,400		37,200		37,200	148,800
Swedish Red Cross			37,200			37,200
C5. Inkind Personnel	117,800	31,000	74,400		37,200	260,400
<u>Other Income</u>						
Services					34,949	34,949
C6. Other Income					34,949	34,949
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	1,423,469	477,367	374,163	0	115,141	2,390,140

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D. Total Funding = B +C	1,459,818	547,037	423,306	486	116,110	2,546,757
Appeal Coverage	83%	79%	68%	2%	58%	77%

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	36,349	69,670	49,143	486	969	156,617
C. Income	1,423,469	477,367	374,163	0	115,141	2,390,140
E. Expenditure	-534,617	-458,606	-154,915		-69,711	-1,217,849
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	925,200	88,431	268,391	486	46,399	1,328,907

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Budget	APPEAL

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		1,764,409	692,693	619,552	22,454	201,638	3,300,746	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	55,000							55,000
Water & Sanitation	11,354							11,354
Utensils & Tools	27,500							27,500
Other Supplies & Services	59,368		10,530				10,530	48,838
Total Supplies	153,222		10,530				10,530	142,692
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	13,200	6,585	62				6,648	6,552
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	4,000	85	1,986				2,071	1,929
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	17,200	6,670	2,049				8,719	8,481
Transport & Storage								
Storage	514	77	2,687				2,764	-2,250
Transport & Vehicle Costs	25,146	10,768	493				11,261	13,885
Total Transport & Storage	25,660	10,845	3,180				14,025	11,635
Personnel								
International Staff	831,422	168,441	141,139	97,703		37,200	444,483	386,939
Regionally Deployed Staff	79,000	23,670					23,670	55,330
National Staff	298,298	27,004	45,114	1,248		11,406	84,771	213,526
National Society Staff	70,300	20,516	15,957				36,473	33,827
Consultants	139,114	19,717	12,765	4,241			36,723	102,391
Total Personnel	1,418,133	259,347	214,975	103,192		48,606	626,120	792,013
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	685,431	60,926	128,432	3,030		8,886	201,274	484,158
Total Workshops & Training	685,431	60,926	128,432	3,030		8,886	201,274	484,158
General Expenditure								
Travel	345,411	36,891	34,388	14,924		306	86,509	258,902
Information & Public Relation	156,172	709	17,909	4,369			22,988	133,184
Office Costs	31,187	8,755	1,986	244		748	11,733	19,454
Communications	32,634	13,888	4,790	3,250			21,928	10,706
Professional Fees	33,693	3,828	1,476				5,303	28,390
Financial Charges	38,600	7,494	-169	473		-17,817	-10,020	48,620
Other General Expenses	97,723	4,058	-82				3,976	93,748
Total General Expenditure	735,421	75,623	60,297	23,260		-16,763	142,417	593,004
Programme Support								
Program Support	206,461	28,029	27,905	5,432		2,150	63,517	142,944
Total Programme Support	206,461	28,029	27,905	5,432		2,150	63,517	142,944
Services								
Services & Recoveries	5,000	6,819					6,819	-1,819
Shared Services	54,216	6,866	19,543	14,935		29,491	70,835	-16,619
Total Services	59,216	13,685	19,543	14,935		29,491	77,654	-18,438
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions	2	79,492	-8,306	5,066		-2,659	73,593	-73,591
Total Operational Provisions	2	79,492	-8,306	5,066		-2,659	73,593	-73,591
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	3,300,746	534,617	458,606	154,915		69,711	1,217,849	2,082,896
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,229,792	234,087	464,638	22,454	131,926	2,082,896	