

ANNUAL REPORT



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

CENTRAL / SOUTH AMERICA

June, 2001

This Annual Report is intended for reporting on the Federation's Annual Appeals only.

Appeal No. 01.52/2000

Appeal Target: CHF 4,307,000

The Context

The economic slowdown of 1998-1999 in Latin America and the Caribbean has led to increased unemployment and cuts in social programmes aimed at poor people according to a World Bank report. Even with some economic growth in 2000 deep inequalities of wealth persist in most Latin American and Caribbean countries, with 35 per cent of the region's people living in poverty.

In Mexico, the opposition presidential candidate gained a landmark victory over the long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). The dialogue with the insurgents in Chiapas province will be intensified, bringing hopes of an end to the long-running conflict. An economic treaty signed in June with Nicaragua and Costa Rica will be effective from 1 January 2001, and will be the first step towards greater integration of the region. In December, the explosive activity of the Popocatepetl volcano caused the evacuation of 41,000 persons to temporary shelters.

A new government took office in Guatemala in January after general elections that were seen as free and fair. The general security situation deteriorated further during the year and some violent protests erupted over bus fare hikes and land issues. According to the annual report of the UN Development Programme, 57 per cent of the population live in poverty, half of them in extreme poverty.

The World Bank agreed to reduce *Honduras'* debt by 900 million dollars, on the condition that the government promised to continue the structural adaptation programmes and reduce poverty. Meanwhile, levels of domestic and street violence are rising significantly.

The government of El Salvador introduced the US dollar as a formal exchange unit, functioning in parallel with the existing currency, the colon. An outbreak of dengue was finally brought under control.

According to the World Bank, Nicaragua is the second poorest country in Latin America, after Haiti, with 43 per cent of Nicaraguans living in extreme poverty. It has the highest foreign debt in the region.

In Panama, fears of a large influx of refugees from neighbouring Colombia have risen on the approval of US-backed "Plan Colombia", aimed at fighting the production and trade of illegal drugs.

The geographical coverage of the Federation's three regional delegations in the Americas was changed as part of an overall review. From August 2000, Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador have been covered by the regional delegation in Buenos Aires. The Central America region now consists of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama.

The country delegations in Nicaragua and Honduras and Guatemala, previously reporting to the Secretariat, now report directly to the regional delegation in Guatemala. A regional finance unit (RFU), was set up at the end of the year, covering both the Guatemala and Santo Domingo regional delegations and will be operational by the beginning of 2001.

As part of a pilot project aimed at improving disaster response capacity, a Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), with a permanent logistics cell in Panama, is being set up. Though PADRU is not yet fully functional, members of the unit were successfully mobilized during the hurricane in Belize in October.

Objectives, Achievements and Constraints

Disaster Response

Objective: Although the emergency phase is over in all the hurricane *Mitch*-affected countries, a large rehabilitation operation is being carried out. The regional delegation aims at providing technical support to the implementation of contingency plans and to the institutional dimension of the whole process.

Achievements

The floods and landslides in Venezuela in December 1999 led to one of the worst disasters in the continent's history. Venezuela required extensive support in the first months after the disaster. Regional intervention teams (RITs) were mobilized quickly and contributed significantly to the success of the Red Cross' operation in Venezuela (a full report is available on the Federation's web site regarding the relief phase of the Venezuela operation, Emergency Appeal no. 35/99).

In response to the floods in Mexico in October 1999, 11 communities in the state of Tabasco received hygiene kits and food supplies for 1,500 families. In the municipality of Hidalgo in Metztitan, a housing project was completed for the families affected. All 31 families received 150 square metres of land with access to potable water and electricity.

As part of this project, workshops on disaster preparedness (DP) were held for 130 participants and 1,125 people from local communities were involved in health prevention activities. These programmes had a high impact on the community. A local health committee was established and a number of young people participated in the prevention campaigns. Psychological support, part of the integrated service programme, benefited 32 families in the local community.

While the region did not experience any major disaster in 2000 (apart from Mexico), several minor events required action by national or regional delegates of the Federation. These included: the Masaya earthquake in Nicaragua in July; the dengue epidemic in El Salvador in September; and hurricane *Keith* in Belize in October. The last disaster, response to which was co-ordinated by the regional delegation in Santo Domingo, required the mobilization of a regional intervention team comprising four members and the regional disaster preparedness delegate from the regional delegation in Guatemala. A regional intervention team was also put on stand by in response to the threat from the Popocatepetl volcano in Mexico, before and after Christmas.

Other events of lesser scope, notably limited floods in virtually all countries in the region, involved the Federation in a monitoring and support role. In all of these disasters the regional DP delegate played a central role in co-ordinating the response and particularly in mobilizing regional resources.

The extremely rapid intervention in Belize, the successful launching of an Emergency Appeal (No. 29/2000 for assistance to 9,500 affected persons for a period of four months), a short-term relief operation, and good co-ordination with other actors (notably the American Red Cross and Oxfam) all served to illustrate the viability of regional resources and the foundation of Federation response.

The RITs became an increasingly important element of the regional response capacity and steps were taken to strengthen them. The Basic Training Course (BTC) in October was attended by RIT-trained national society staff and volunteers and a regional RIT meeting was held to plan the further development of these teams. Following this, a steering committee was set up to direct the evaluation of the RITs.

A review of the large-scale operations (hurricanes *Mitch* and *George* and the floods in Venezuela) provided important recommendations for future interventions. The review was circulated and its recommendations were used in training with RITs, in promoting co-ordination with participating national societies and in the development of the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), part of a pilot project aimed at improving disaster response capacity.

As part of this unit, a permanent logistics cell will be set up in Panama. Though PADRU still does not exist as a functional unit with a given structure, individuals of the unit were successfully mobilized during the hurricane in Belize (October 2000). The regional delegation is contributing to the development of PADRU and to its co-ordination with existing regional resources and structures.

The Federation continued to provide technical support to large rehabilitation programmes in the four countries affected by hurricane *Mitch*. As bilateral participating national societies are moving towards long-term development programmes, the institutional development of the national societies in the region becomes even more important.

A regional workshop was organized in Nicaragua in April aiming at exchanging information and experiences between the Federation, the participating and operating national societies concerning water and sanitation projects in Latin America and to discuss the Federation's role. The workshop will be used as a first step towards development of a regional strategy for water and sanitation.

A relief delegate position shared between the two regional delegations (Guatemala and Santo Domingo) is currently under review in the context of disaster response unit development. The functionality of having a shared delegate needs to be reviewed in more detail.

Constraints

While the overall disaster response capacity improved, the regional delegation in Guatemala still spends a disproportionate amount of time and resources on these types of activities. This will be improved significantly when the PADRU is operational, enabling the delegation to focus on long-term development issues.

Relief interventions based on local/regional capacities are more likely to be successful. While RITs still need further training, especially on Federation systems and procedures, they contributed in a very significant way to the success of the operation in Belize.

Disaster Preparedness

Objectives: Assist the national societies in establishing national contingency plans in order to finalize the regional contingency plan; establish a regional response system based on standardized operational systems and criteria at the national level; equip national societies to enable better response at the national and community levels; and, develop a regional data base for disaster response delegates.

Achievements

Three work priorities were established for disaster preparedness in the region:

1. community based disaster preparedness (CBDP);
2. strengthening the response capacity of national societies; and,
3. co-ordination and partnership inside and outside the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The community based disaster preparedness programme was consolidated. The DIPECHO-funded programme (which ended in March 2000), covered six countries and reached a total of 444 communities. In total, 191 facilitators were trained and 978 workshops were held for 22,468 participants. In addition, a total of 177 micro-projects (including small foot bridges, construction and/or repair of walls, etc.) were implemented with the double objective of reducing vulnerability and promoting community organization. In order to improve communication, 49 of the 78 branches received radio sets.

The delegation continued implementing a regional CBDP programme sponsored by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Canadian Red Cross. Under this programme, 2,358 community members were trained in 93 communities in El Salvador, Guatemala and Costa Rica. With workshops and micro-projects in mitigation completed or underway, the vulnerability of these communities decreased and their response capacity improved. The project is entering its last year of funding in 2001 and a new proposal will be developed, based on lessons from evaluations carried out at all levels this year (national society staff, co-ordinators, community members, branch staff, volunteers and facilitators). Focus will increasingly be on facilitator training, community follow up and strengthening links with branches, and the inclusion of psycho-social support and the promotion of peace culture activities. Findings of the evaluations were shared with the national societies and will also be shared with other agencies working in CBDP at an inter-institutional forum in January 2001. The regional DP delegate supported the training and evaluations in each country and was also working with the Netherlands Red Cross to develop a project to strengthen CBDP programme delivery by implementing a greater diversity of delivery methods. The regional delegation aims at working towards a unification of standards and procedures in CBDP.

Regionally, the Federation is taking the initiative to establish unified standards and procedures in CBDP. Other organizations and national societies working in this area were invited to participate in project evaluations and a joint workshop will be held in the first quarter of 2001.

In El Salvador, training for a national intervention team was held in November for 30 members of the Red Cross and other organizations, including the fire department, the army and the national co-ordination committee.

In Panama, the continued presence in the Darien area of refugees from the conflict in Colombia, as well as the emergence of internally displaced people within Panama, prompted the Red Cross Society of Panama (RCSP) to request support from the Federation in planning and responding to this situation. There is also a strong interest in the contingency planning process, involving all the neighbouring countries, in anticipation of events in Colombia. The regional delegation is pursuing this in co-ordination with the national society, the regional delegation in Buenos Aires and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The regional disaster preparedness delegate visited the RCSP to discuss these and other possible projects in November.

A joint American Red Cross/Federation regional disaster preparedness conference was held in May 2000 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

The development of contingency and national emergency plans continued, particularly in El Salvador and Guatemala. These were supported by country and regional delegations and through the DP conference follow-up committee which was set up to prepare for the conference in El Salvador in May 2001. Regular meetings are drawing up shared lessons between the participants (two secretaries general, one head of relief, the regional delegation and a participating national society representative). The conference will focus on DP goals, priorities and common issues for the national societies in the region for the next five years and identification of necessary resources. Presentations such as early alert, RITs, communications and psychological support are being prepared.

Local risk and vulnerability maps continued to be produced at a local community level, as part of the ongoing regional CBDP programme. Co-ordination with CEPREDENAC (Co-ordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America) and the U.S. Geological Service served to acquire regional risk maps. Social risk and vulnerability mapping was identified as a priority area for the CBDP programme and will be further explored in early 2001.

In Honduras, a successful public education campaign on disaster prevention and family disaster plans was launched in co-ordination with the national society, the Spanish and American Red Cross Societies and other participating national societies. The regional delegation provided support and advice for this exercise, which was supported by the country delegation in Honduras.

In Nicaragua, the Federation supported the Nicaraguan Red Cross in the implementation of a major CBDP project funded by the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). The project was particularly difficult due to a very limited time frame (three to four months). Nevertheless, positive results were achieved.

A disaster preparedness delegate was provided to the Salvadorean Red Cross Society to assist with the development of a national emergency plan, finalized in December 2000, and with training to strengthen the society's response capacity.

The Federation had national DP delegates in Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua (until August 2000). In Honduras the delegate was instrumental in helping the Honduran Red Cross establish the Office for Action in Disasters (OPADE). This new structure will be central to the society's disaster capacity.

A total of 75 national society staff and volunteers from Guatemala and Venezuela were trained for their respective national intervention teams. Training topics included needs and damage assessment, policies (including SPHERE), information in disasters and reporting. A regional disaster response database is being set up, containing details of all trained staff and volunteers.

A regional disaster preparedness workshop was organized in Nicaragua in April in order to evaluate the DIPECHO programme. Some criticisms of the project were the lack of follow-up and companionship between the different levels (from the regional to the national level and from national to the community level) which made the programme co-ordinators lose the regional vision of the programme. Also, lack of unification on criteria for the execution of the project caused contradictions in the execution of the programme. As the programme was delayed there was very little time for execution, causing improvisations of workshops and loss of quality.

In November 2000, the regional disaster preparedness delegate attended the Mexican Red Cross' national convention and presented the Federation's strategies and programmes for disaster response and preparedness.

Constraints

The Federation was unsuccessful in its 2000 application to DIPECHO funds for CBDP, despite its leadership in the area. Apart from some of the mentioned constraints, problems with reporting and failure to satisfy concerns over project design contributed to this decision. The proposal will be reviewed with a view to resubmitting it for 2002. The regional disaster preparedness delegate had several discussions with the DIPECHO representative. At a regional level, efforts were made towards unification of criteria in CBDP which will make satisfactory follow-up of projects easier in the future. Also, the OFDA project in Nicaragua was particularly difficult to implement due to its very limited time frame.

Health and Care

Objectives: Assist the national societies in the development of health networks within the countries and an emergency health network at the regional level, develop plans and strategies for effective health activities, and establish health and social welfare departments in those societies where none exist. These health capacities will also become capable of responding to health needs in times of crisis.

Achievements

The regional health strategy remained focused on strengthening the health departments of national societies and regional co-operation. In particular, programmes focused on mother and child health, including the World Health Organization (WHO)/American Red Cross supported initiative, HIV/AIDS prevention (mainly youth peer education), basic sanitation, malaria and dengue control.

The regional health strategy was revised with support from the health department in Geneva, with a separate report due in early 2001. Final decisions on development of regional health delegates and priorities in the Americas will be based on it.

A regional "Health in Emergencies" workshop was organized by the Federation with support of the American Red Cross. In total, 70 participants from operating and participating national societies and the WHO discussed a general framework for health interventions following disasters, including water/sanitation and psychological support. The new Federation health strategy was also discussed. The regional health workshop in Bolivia, the wat/san workshop in Nicaragua, the meeting of the Sub-region I Health Network and national health planning meeting in Costa Rica and Venezuela also included the Federation's new health strategy on their agendas.

The Inter-American First Aid Guide was finalized in September and is ready for printing. A draft proposal for a regional blood donation campaign was presented for donors.

The relations with the Ministry of Health (MoH), WHO, local authorities, universities and others were further strengthened. Representatives from these organizations participated in Red Cross activities (conferences and workshops) on a regular basis.

Constraints

Shortage of funds resulted in postponements and cancellations of certain activities in the first half of the year. After the regional health delegate left for Buenos Aires in June, the health network did not have the anticipated progress. Hopefully, a new regional health delegate will soon be in place, ensuring adequate follow-up and development of new and existing programmes. The Inter-American First Aid Guide was not printed yet due to lack of funding.

The Gulf of Fonseca project

Health in the community is increasingly being promoted as a core activity which provides a solid alternative to traditional health services. The Gulf of Fonseca pilot programme was set up in 1997 (for

the geographical area that includes territory in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua) and includes community development, disaster preparedness and training in various branches, with special emphasis on health. The project was postponed because of hurricane *Mitch*, but is now finally being implemented in Nicaragua and El Salvador. In Honduras, the Swiss Red Cross is supporting a similar bilateral project.

The Federation has great expectations for this project. Firstly, this is because of its regional character. Secondly, because it would be one of the first visible indications of the capacity of the Movement and especially of the operating national societies, to implement community health care programmes, a non-traditional activity in the region. This would bring the targeted societies closer to the implementation of the four core areas specified in *Strategy 2010*. Thirdly, because it would be a demonstration of the capability of multilateral co-operation, not only concerning the bilateral collaboration between the participating and the operating national societies, but also of inter-institutional collaboration between the Movement and other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

After a feasibility study in June 2000 (conducted by the Federation/British Red Cross), the project is now underway in El Salvador and Nicaragua, targeting the inhabitants of 39 communities (25 in Nicaragua and 14 in El Salvador). The British Red Cross Society (BRCS) is currently financing the programme together with the Spanish Red Cross. In October 2000 the Federation placed a delegate from the BRCS in El Salvador as project manager.

As a part of the feasibility study, the British Red Cross' consultant and the Federation's health delegate visited the involved regions over a period of nearly a month. The visits were also utilized to contact leaders of the three national societies and present and future stakeholders, such as governmental and non-governmental organizations.

In El Salvador each of the communities in the project identified community health promoters and midwives, which will be the counterparts of the Red Cross in the project. By December 2000, the two field workers which were contracted had completed and co-ordinated 20 workshops within 10 communities. In the workshops, issues such as reproductive health, breast feeding, safe water and clean environment were raised. The workshops were facilitated by the field workers, national Red Cross staff, MoH personnel and, in the case of the first aid workshop, relief workers from Red Cross branches. In the La Union branch, funds were used to train 25 volunteers in first aid as there was a lack of trained volunteers.

By December 2000 all capital items were purchased for the project and the branches were equipped with offices, computers, projectors and motorbikes.

The content of the community workshops was prepared with the MoH at the regional level. At the community level, the project's personnel are working together with the village health committees to define public health priorities and to select persons to be trained as community health volunteers. Within each community the MoH has health promoters who participate in the workshops and organize health campaigns based on the training.

Constraints

The limited human and economic resources of the branches slowed down the first phase of the project, particularly in El Salvador. Weakness of the branches involved, few volunteers and the lack of capacity of the staff contracted were major obstacles for the development of the programme.

Another limitation was the lack of experience in community health work and lack of knowledge of basic community development concepts. This situation is improving through training and workshops.

Project co-ordinators (at the country level) were contracted with specific responsibilities to ensure planning and development at the branch level. This will lead to a more coherent programme in the future.

To enable strong participation of the branches a considerable number of volunteers need to be recruited. For the time being, the number of volunteers at the branch level is insufficient for the implementation of a project of this size. With this in mind, the Golf of Fonseca project invested in basic training for volunteers aiming to increase the capacity of existing volunteers and recruiting new ones.

Close monitoring of the development of the project will be a priority in the time to come in order to ensure its satisfactory implementation. There is also an urgent need to go on with the training of the Red Cross volunteers which will participate in the project.

Humanitarian Values

Objectives: In this core area of the Federation's *Strategy 2010*, the youth, traditionally strong in the region, will take the lead. The Federation will provide technical assistance to help national societies in strengthening their youth networks through national youth leadership training, school recruitment programmes for community service activities and youth fund-raising activities, and will assist them in providing ongoing support to regional youth core areas which include promotion of the fundamental principles and the humanitarian values (rights of the child, non-violence), education in HIV/AIDS prevention and disaster preparedness.

Technical support will be needed by the national societies for better organizing information and communication activities. In this field, close collaboration with ICRC will continue.

Achievements

The campaign "Goodbye to Violence" was launched in Guatemala in June 2000, with support from the UN and technical support from the Federation. In the autumn of 2000, three workshops in different parts of the country were held in order to introduce the subject of "peace culture" and the "Goodbye to Violence" campaign to the local branches. The branches were invited to define projects in their local communities and two of them are now defining local projects in their communities.

Under the Department for International Development (DFID)-supported youth programme, a regional youth advisor was appointed from the Honduran Red Cross. A regional plan of action for the youth network was established and the network relations were improved. A first regional training workshop for youth leaders was held in Guatemala. The national societies' youth directors as well as the communication directors had regular virtual meetings through the regional delegation's online chat facility.

At the Presidents and Technical Seminars meeting for the national societies in South America, held in Paraguay in July, agreement on key activities for communication in the region was established: disaster communication, disaster dissemination and internal communication. A guide on internal communications and a functional contingency plan for communications were also agreed upon. These plans will be presented to the Communications Forum in Panama in February 2001 for final approval.

The education in distance programme (LDEP) is continuously developing in four countries (Nicaragua, Panama, El Salvador and Costa Rica) and four different education models were provided to the national societies focusing on: general communication; communication and fund-raising; communication and development; and disaster communication. From July, 318 students followed the long distance education programme in youth and communication. Though the number of pupils actively participating lowered significantly during the year, the 180 students still attending in December formed a stable, active and

hardworking group. The drop-off rate was within the expectations for a long-distance learning course. Two information bulletins on the LDEP were produced. As a result of the course, presidents and senior managers are more interested in communications and there are now staff/volunteers in the branches able to collaborate with the communications departments in the headquarters. Branches also started to produce their own materials and, in some cases, develop Internet sites.

In December the communication capacity building project was approved for funding by the Secretariat's Capacity Building Fund. In this project, support will be given to institutional development of the communication offices in four national societies (in Nicaragua, Panama, El Salvador and Costa Rica). Support will be targeted at the communication offices at the headquarters level, which will then support the development of communication capacities in three of their local branches.

A draft document on the use of the Red Cross emblem in fund-raising was presented at the Communications Forum and approved by the Inter-American Regional Committee for further review. The working group on disaster information also produced a draft document for information workshops.

Training workshops for communication directors and publication of information materials more than doubled in occurrence. A review of these efforts was initiated with the aim of improving quality, cost effectiveness and impact.

The web site of the regional delegation in Guatemala is now fully operational and updated on an almost daily basis. The regional delegation's virtual library containing policies, manuals, guidelines and other relevant information is also fully operational and accessible on-line at www.cruzrojahumanidad.org. The web page was visited 10,000 times in the period from April to December 2000. During the last months work was done on new presentations with interactive pages and different areas of specialities where a section dedicated to children and childhood is included, for example. The amount of information on the page was also extended considerably and detailed news on Red Cross action is posted on web site within 12 hours.

Constraints

The communication network had various degrees of success. The network was successful in Nicaragua where the national society was very committed to the programme, but basically did not function in El Salvador where there was less commitment. It was not introduced in Guatemala yet, as the Red Cross is still in a period of restructuring following the tripartite change process. Learning from the experiences in El Salvador, the Guatemalan Red Cross will not participate in the programme until it has the human resources and commitment required for successful implementation.

Institutional and Resource Development

Objectives: The regional delegation will continue to provide technical support to the national societies in order for them to: update their statutes; update and implement national development plans; promote better understanding of the distinct roles and responsibilities between governance and management; adopt human resources training and policy development; promote financial sustainability through diversification of resource bases; define regional fund-raising strategies which clearly incorporate image promotion; and, strengthen communication strategies of national societies. The delegation will also play a supporting and monitoring role with respect to integrity issues within the region.

Achievements

The Federation received an increased number of requests from national societies for support of governance and management change processes and national development plans in Colombia, Ecuador, Costa Rica and El Salvador. Country Assistance Strategies were reviewed and/or revised in Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador.

Information sessions on the inclusive Regional and Country Assistance Strategy (RAS/CAS) processes were organized in Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador, with the active participation of the participating national societies. A separate session was organized at ICRC's planning meeting for the Americas. The work with each country will continue during 2001 and it is planned that each national society will have a final CAS based on its existing national development plan before July 2001.

A regional institutional development programme was prepared in order to strengthen the national societies' capacities in governance, management, strategic planning, human resources and programme development. Special attention will be placed on monitoring and compliance.

Governance training was conducted in collaboration with the ICRC in Panama, Nicaragua and Honduras. Joint workshops included topics such as the fundamental principles, Red Cross/Red Crescent history, the emblem, International Humanitarian Law, the Seville Agreement, *Strategy 2010*, guidelines for governance and characteristics for a well functioning society.

A joint ICRC/Federation workshop for directors of communication/information and dissemination departments was conducted with full participation of the national societies from the region.

An analysis and evaluation of governance and management roles and responsibilities was conducted by Price Waterhouse within the Guatemala Red Cross' change process. Results are being shared across the region.

In September, the regional delegation organized a regional BTC in Spanish, held in Mexico, in collaboration with the ICRC and the Mexican Red Cross Society, with the American and the Swedish Red Cross Societies participating as facilitators.

The first workshop in disaster preparedness communication for over 70 journalists was held in El Salvador in November. The workshop focused on issues such as how to deal with the flow of information in a disaster situation, how to define and select information in a disaster and how to improve communication during a disaster.

The regional recruitment of delegates remains an important feature and delegates from the region continued to play a major role in relief and development.

Constraints

While some efforts were made to strengthen the national societies' fund raising capacities, financial sustainability still remains far away for most of the societies in the region. Progress in resource development was very limited due to the absence of a delegate. This will be on the agenda for the next forum on communication and development.

Regional Co-operation

Achievements

Relations with institutional partners such as the UN Development Programme, WHO, the Regional Disaster Information Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean (CRID) and the Co-ordination for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central (CEPRENAC) were strengthened, especially in the areas of health and disaster preparedness. Strategic alliances are being discussed with the private sector, including Copa Airlines, the Weather Channel and Ericsson. The alliances are intended to go beyond fund-raising, to include in-kind support, technical co-operation, training and publicity.

The *World Disasters Report* was launched in Guatemala in July. The regional delegation also invited the diplomatic community to present the *World Disaster Report* in September. Together with the report a summary of the regional delegation's programmes was presented as well as the RAS and the CAS. There were regular contacts with the UN agencies in order to plan the celebration of the International Year of the Volunteer.

The Federation encouraged initiatives and alliances with the private sector. In the future the regional delegation will continue organizing events targeted towards the diplomatic community and the public in general. Public events and strategic alliances enabled the Federation to gain a higher profile and raise public awareness about its work in the region.

Co-ordination and Management

Achievements

There are now three "shared" delegates (Guatemala - head of delegation/Spanish Red Cross team leader, Honduras - head of delegation/Italian Red Cross regional representative, regional DP delegate/Canadian Red Cross). These delegates share responsibilities between the Federation and a participating national society, greatly facilitating co-ordination and joint planning. Sharing of delegates was useful in attracting quality delegates, increasing donor involvement and ensuring effective co-ordination.

While early indications are very positive this new model of working together will be formally evaluated. There is a need to look at the workload of the positions, taking into account the size of the operational projects of the participating national societies involved. If the evaluation (due to be held in 2001) is positive, shared delegates could be a working model enabling better co-ordination and information flow between the Federation and the participating national societies.

As bilateral programmes of the participating national societies in the four *Mitch*-affected countries (Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador) are increasingly focusing on long-term development, the profile of their delegates also changed accordingly and the co-ordination between all partners became more effective.

Conclusions

Experiences during the year confirmed that relief interventions firmly based in local/regional capacities are more likely to be successful. While regional intervention teams still need more training, especially on Federation systems and procedures, they contributed in a very significant way to the success of the Venezuela operation.

Increasing standardization across the region facilitates the work of the Federation. The standardization of the youth networks in the regional delegations in Guatemala and Buenos Aires is one example. During the first part of 2001, a full standardization of the CBDP programmes will be ready, facilitating not only the implementation of the programmes but also reporting to donors.

Funding from DFID for regional management, ID, regional delegation and disaster preparedness allowed the Federation to strengthen regional co-operation, to promote the implementation of *Strategy 2010*, especially in DP and health, to improve disaster response capacities both at the national and regional levels and to improve communication and information across the region.

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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Annual Financial Reports 2000

- Explanatory Note -

1. Consolidated Response to the Appeal

- This report provides a global picture on the funding situation of a specific appeal at a specific time.
- The cash column indicates all cash contributions channelled through the Federation, together with the balance carried forward from the previous year. Financial statements in support of the reported income are available upon request.
- The in-kind contributions (goods and services provided in response to the appeal objectives) are registered in a stand-alone system, based on the information provided by the respective donor. The values of these donations are based on information received from donors, and will be reported as such in the income and expenditure part of the consolidated report.
- Direct cash or in kind contributions made to Operating National Societies or in kind donations made to the Federation Delegations in response to the appeal are recorded as in-kind contributions in the report.

2. Balance of Funds - Cash Only

This report is a summary cash statement, providing the information on the balance carried forward from the previous year, cash income (including reallocations), cash expenditure (including reallocations - ref. part III of the consolidated report), and the closing balance at the end of the year.

3. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditures

This section of the report provides a comparative analysis of the total expenditures (cash and in-kind) versus the last approved budget of the appeal.

- The cash column reports on all expenditures booked against the Federation projects and cost centres . It relates only to the use of cash contributions received by the Secretariat for the specific appeal. Financial statements in support of the reported expenditure are available upon request.
- The in-kind columns (goods/services and personnel) report on the in-kind contributions donated in response to appeals, as per the information received from donors. This information is shown both as contribution and as expenditure against the specific appeal, and is consolidated, together with the cash expenses, against the appeal budget. As financial information is not always available from PNS, and for consistency reasons, a flat rate is applied for the calculation of personnel costs.
- The consumption rate represents the level of total expenditures (cash and in-kind) compared to the total income available (opening balance, cash and in-kind contributions),

4. Pledges vs. Contributions

Attached to this financial report is the list of pledges against the respective appeal.

- The comparative analysis of the list of pledges and the list of actual contributions provides a clear insight into any outstanding pledges in response to the appeal.
- Any differences in values between the two reports are due to fluctuations in exchange rates at the time of booking and the time of reception of the contribution.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES					
				Interim report	
				Annual report	
				Final report	
Appeal No & title: 01.52/2000 Central / South America					
Period: year 2000					
Project(s): P43010, 43015, 43160, 43161, 43900, 43901, 43903, 43905, 43906, 43925					
Currency: CHF					
I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL					
FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL
	Contributions	Reallocations	Goods/Services	Personnel	INCOME
Appeal budget	4'306'969				
less					
Cash brought forward	-100'876				
TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT	4'407'845				
Contributions from Donors					
American RC (DNUS)	42'500				42'500
American RC (DNUS)	4'163				4'163
Canadian RC (DNCA)	17'160				17'160
Canadian RC (DNCA)	28'086				28'086
Canadian RC (DNCA)	5'575				5'575
DFID - British Govt (DFID)	220'000				220'000
German RC (DNDE)	10'000				10'000
Honduran RC (DNHN)	821				821
Honduran RC (DNHN)	850				850
Italian RC (DNIT)	22'969				22'969
Norwegian RC (DNNO)	42'863				42'863
Salvadorean RC (DNSV)	797				797
Spanish RC (DNES)	4'099				4'099
Swedish Govt. via RC (DGN)	148'513				148'513
British RC (DNGB)		10'621			10'621
DFID - British Govt (DFID)		75'000			75'000
Japanese RC (DNJP)		8'000			8'000
Japanese RC (DNJP)		26'000			26'000
Spanish Govt. via RC (DGNES)		-49'070			-49'070
Spanish Govt. via RC (DGNES)		98'140			98'140
Swedish RC (DNSE)		-2'308			-2'308
Spain				40'082	40'082
Canada				60'123	60'123
Netherlands				60'123	60'123
TOTAL	548'394	166'382		160'328	875'104
Coverage	12.4%	3.8%		3.6%	19.9%
II - Balance of funds					
				Opening balance	-100'876
				CASH INCOME Rcv'd	714'776
				CASH EXPENDITURE	-1'250'737

				CASH BALANCE	-636'837

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III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures						
Description	Appeal Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel	Expenditures	
SUPPLIES						
Shelter & Construction		418			418	-418
Clothing & Textiles		1'552			1'552	-1'552
Food/Seeds						
Water						
Medical & First Aid		2'011			2'011	-2'011
Teaching materials	810					810
Utensils & Tools		3'333			3'333	-3'333
Other relief supplies	368'335	393'681			393'681	-25'346
Sub-Total	369'145	400'996			400'996	-31'851
CAPITAL EXPENSES						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles						
Computers & Telecom equip.	162'675	31'573			31'573	131'102
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures	93'000	1'798			1'798	91'202
Sub-Total	255'675	33'371			33'371	222'304
TRANSPORT & STORAGE						
	10'770	1'530			1'530	9'240
Sub-Total	10'770	1'530			1'530	9'240
PERSONNEL						
Personnel (delegates)	790'060	365'073		160'328	525'401	264'659
Personnel (local staff)	1'670'377	300'128			300'128	1'370'249
Training						
Sub-Total	2'460'437	665'201		160'328	825'529	1'634'908
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts		15'540			15'540	-15'540
Travel & related expenses	214'925	161'660			161'660	53'265
Information expenses	249'645	51'462			51'462	198'183
Administrative expenses	272'605	57'642			57'642	214'963
External workshops & Seminars						
Sub-Total	737'175	286'305			286'305	450'870
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	473'767	114'652			114'652	359'114
OPERATIONAL PROVISIONS						
Transfer to National Societies		-251'319			-251'319	251'319
TOTAL BUDGET	4'306'969	1'250'737		160'328	1'411'065	2'895'904
Consumption rate:	Expenditures versus income		161%			
	Expenditures versus budget		33%			

Central / South America						ANNEX 1	
APPEAL No. 01.52/2000						PLEDGES RECEIVED	18.06.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	
CASH							
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				4'307'000		TOTAL COVERAGE	
Balance carried forward from 1999				-100'876		22.9%	
FEDERATION BUDGET				157'955	01.01.2000		
BRITISH - GOVT				425'000	19.01.00	DFID 1.6.2, 1.6.3	
CANADIAN - RC				5'000	30.05.00	BTC, MEXICO, SEPT. 2000	
CANADIAN - RC		17'844	USD	28'086	29.02.00	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS	
CANADIAN - RC		10'163	USD	17'160	02.08.00	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - RC		500	USD	796	26.01.00		
GERMAN - RC				10'000	30.05.00	BTC, MEXICO, SEPT. 2000	
HONDURAS - RC		500	USD	821	13.03.00	BLOOD PROGRAMME	
HONDURAS - RC		500	USD	850	12.07.00	BLOOD PROGRAMME	
ICRC				10'000	30.05.00	BTC, MEXICO, SEPT. 2000	
ITALIAN - RC		15'000	USD	25'500	19.06.00	REGIONAL CAMPAIGN BLOOD VOL.	
NORWEGIAN - RC		330'000	NOK	62'435	30.08.00	ADMINISTRATION COSTS, DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION/ COMMUNICATION, YOUTH, DPP	
SALVADOREAN - RC		500	USD	797	31.01.00	BLOOD PROGRAMME	
SWEDISH GOVT/RC		500'000	SEK	94'150	03.07.00	COMMUNITY HEALTH	
SWEDISH GOVT/RC		200'000	SEK	37'420	18.09.00	DEVELOPMENT	
UNITED STATES - RC		2'500	USD	4'119	01.04.2000	REGIONAL HEALTH WORKSHOP	
UNITED STATES - RC		25'000	USD	42'500	23.05.00	REGIONAL HEALTH WORKSHOP	
UNITED STATES - RC		2'500	USD	4'221	13.07.00	COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMME	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				825'934	CHF	19.2%	
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)							
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	
Spain	Delegate(s)			40'082			
Canada	Delegate(s)			60'123			
Netherlands	Delegate(s)			60'123			
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				160'328	CHF	3.7%	
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET							
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF		
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:							
P43010, P43015, P43160, P43161, P43900, P43901, P43903, P43905, P43906, P43925							