

HEALTH AND CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

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The context

The International Federation's *Strategy 2010* defined "health and care in the community" as one of its core areas and outlined how the Federation can maximise its impact on community health and well-being. In adjusting to *Strategy 2010*, the Federation Secretariat merged, during the year 2000, what was formerly the Relief Health Service, the Community Health and Social Welfare Department and the Blood department into one Health and Care Department. While some Geneva-staff positions were lost in the process, the increased cohesion and synergy of Geneva staff, field delegates and National Society health advisors has led to many achievements that are highlighted in this report.

The Federation's work in this core area has been geared towards a) enabling communities to reduce vulnerability to disease and to care for their people and b) preparing for and responding to public health crises. Three strategic pillars were designed to achieve these objectives: 1) advocacy; 2) building capacity to bridge the gap between vulnerable individuals and formal social welfare/health systems and 3) scaling up interventions in emergencies.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

ADVOCACY

Strategy 2010 explicitly recognizes that "as much can be achieved through mobilizing people and influencing decision-makers as through delivering services." The four most important health-related advocacy initiatives of the year 2000 were:

- The *World Disasters Report 2000* (WDR): Focused on public health, particularly on infectious diseases like pneumonia, malaria, TB, and HIV/AIDS. In 1999 infectious diseases killed about 160 times more persons than disasters. The WDR was well covered by the media and contributed to raising the health profile of the Federation, particularly in relation to governments and international agencies discussing a massive effort to deal with poverty-related infectious diseases.

- Campaign with the WHO on World Health Day - "*Safe Blood Starts With Me*": joint publications, posters and stickers were produced, as well as the co-ordination of joint activities. Nearly 100 National Societies were involved in activities from donor recognition to debates, exhibitions, and blood drives to raise the profile of voluntary blood donor recruitment on that day.
- The International Federation successfully influenced the European Union to revise directives for the inclusion of mandatory first aid skills for those holding a driving licence. This will enter into force in 2002. Similar work has been carried out with UN ECOSOC, leading to the drafting of a new chapter in the UN resolutions on "assistance to road accident victims". This will likely be adopted in 2001.
- The Pan African "Ouagadougou declaration": This declaration was adopted as an official UN Document and referred to in the call for a special UNGA session on HIV/AIDS. Speeches calling for the mobilisation of and support to local capacities against HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases were made at the World Health Assembly and other UN meetings.

BUILDING CAPACITY TO BRIDGE THE GAP

There is always a gap in developing countries between vulnerable individuals/households and the formal health and social welfare system. With a network of volunteers that work from within vulnerable communities, the Red Cross and Red Crescent has put knowledge and tools in the hands of the people, facilitated and supported processes that reduce vulnerability, and contributed to building caring communities. International Federation global public health priorities were approved during 2000 by the Health and Community Services Commission; results are presented along those lines.

ARCHI 2010 •

The Vth Pan African Conference endorsed the African Regional Health Initiative 2010, which promotes better programming and implementation of health programmes. ARCHI 2010 strategy brochures (English and French), videos, and tool kits (in printing) have been developed and produced to facilitate implementation. The proposed volunteer coaching system was tested in three pilot countries.

HIV/AIDS •

- Over 60 Red Cross and Red Crescent representatives from four active Red Cross and Red Crescent HIV/AIDS networks participated at the 13th AIDS International Conference in Durban. This conference marked a turning point in our response to HIV/AIDS, laying the foundation for a double strategy which aims at scaling up and at making the Red Cross and Red Crescent a better home for people living with HIV/AIDS. A Call for Action was produced and appeals launched.
- The video, "*Living with*", was produced as part of the strategy to break the silence and to reflect the efforts make the Red Cross and Red Crescent a better home for people living with AIDS; it profiles volunteers and staff personally affected by AIDS. A youth peer education training manual on HIV/AIDS has been printed and distributed.
- The International Federation joined the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa and as a consequence has been invited to be part of the UN HIV/AIDS theme groups.
- The International Federation has become an active global collaborator in the Inter Agency Working Group to develop mechanisms for addressing HIV/AIDS in complex emergencies.

Maternal Child Health (MCH)/Reproductive Health (RH) •

Reproductive health work has focused on emergencies.

- The Federation, UNFPA, and UNHCR have created a curriculum for training of RH managers. Two courses (Nairobi and Baku) have taken place, with Red Cross and Red Crescent participants both as trainers and trainees.
- Polio eradication: The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement joined the polio eradication partnership following an invitation from WHO. The remaining polio endemic countries are among the most challenging. They present major obstacles to eradication, including weak health infrastructures, extreme poverty, civil unrest and population migration.
- With support from an international appeal launched by the International Federation, National Societies are helping to ensure all children under five receive a polio vaccine during national

immunisation days, particularly in 17 priority countries where other agencies have limited access. Some of these success stories can be found on the Federation's web site.

- First aid: A global first aid project is being developed, aimed at promoting knowledge and use of first aid, as well as asserting Red Cross and Red Crescent leadership in this area and building new partnerships with other players and corporations. The project uses the internet to set up a database of first aid knowledge, serving individuals, communities, national societies, partners and other stakeholders.
- European First Aid Day mobilized staff and volunteers in 19 National Societies, attracting high media coverage and contributing to increasing awareness about first aid services.
- An evaluation of community based first aid implementation was conducted in West Africa.

Psychological support •

Stress-related emotions can overwhelm people's capacity to surmount significant personal grief and begin rebuilding their lives. If ignored, these psychological symptoms can progress into more severe disorders. Psychological support is increasingly becoming an accepted element in relief, care, support and first aid throughout the world.

- A new four-year MoU signed with the Copenhagen-based Reference Centre for Psychological support to guarantee increased collaboration.
- Developed / trained a roster of personnel ready for assessment and training of trainers missions to support National Societies working on psychological support on a routine and/or emergency response basis (figure 7).

Water and Sanitation •

Many relief operations required assessments to design water and sanitation response elements. Efforts have been made to :

- Strengthen and increase the network of Regional Wat-San delegates:
- Strengthen operational alliances with Oxfam UK.

Promotion of voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation •

Activities have focused on knowledge sharing for quality development, with an increased focus on the promotion of non-remunerated blood donations. *Transfusion International* has been published and distributed. In addition, a National Societies' group of experts has been established and is developing a model and distant learning tools for the promotion of blood donations, recruitment and retention.

Tuberculosis •

Pilot projects are being implemented in Russia, Belarus, Moldova, and the Ukraine. Lessons learned will feed into global policy and guidelines in 2001.

SCALING-UP IN PUBLIC HEALTH CRISES

Disasters •

Many natural disasters occurred during the year, requiring a rapid health response. Field delegates and the newly established Field Assessment and Co-ordination Teams (FACT) have been crucial in assuring a timely and appropriate response. The Health Department is focusing on learning from this experiences.

- ICRC and the Federation organised the first ever joint health review, focusing on lessons learnt during the Balkan crisis operations. The aim was to capitalise on lessons learnt and find remedies to identify major common problems that could ensure a better joint performance in future operations.

Response to epidemic outbreaks •

The International Federation responded to a number of epidemic outbreaks during the year. National Societies with international support successfully contributed to controlling meningitis, cholera, Ebola,

dengue fever and measles outbreaks. The International Federation has strengthened cooperation with other agencies through the International Coordination Group (for provision of meningococcal vaccine) and has been chairing the European International Coordination Committee for tuberculosis and immunisation.

The results highlighted above have been achieved with funds received through the health and care global programme as well as the programme support budget which have allowed for consistent support to the health and water and sanitation programmes included in the Appeal 2000–2001.

The support received in 2000 has been used to fund the activities related to exploring, compiling and promoting best practise and/or to developing surveillance, preparedness and rapid response mechanisms for dealing with infectious disease outbreaks and water and sanitation problems. Support to participate in international conferences/workshops and the development of publications and audiovisuals has been fully funded through the global programme.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head a.i.
Relationship Management Department

Alvaro Bermejo
Head
Health Department

This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>

Health and care						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.73/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED				01/16/01
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3,045,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 63.3%
Balance carried forward from 1999				531,469		
Reallocation of cash				4,244		
AMERICAN - RC		57,000	USD	101,204	09.11.00	HIV/AIDS CONFERENCE
AUSTRALIAN - RC				18,059	29.02.00	BLOOD SPECIAL PROGRAMME
AUSTRIAN - RC				10,000	27.03.00	BLOOD SPECIAL PROGRAMME
BRITISH - GOVT				290,000	19.01.2000	DFID 2.5
CANADIAN - RC				6,458	02.05.00	WORKSHOP ON CHILDREN AFFECTED BY ARMED CONFLICTS
DANISH - RC		600,000	DKK	126,360	21.07.00	
FINNISH - RC		74,003	EUR	115,487	31.05.00	GP - PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT
FINNISH - RC		30,168	EUR	45,840	15.11.00	PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT
ICELANDIC - RC		1,500,000	ISK	30,410	18.12.00	
ITALIAN - RC				30,180	20.09.00	AIDS NETWORKS
KUWAIT - RC				27,300	25.04.00	STREET CHILDREN PROJECT
LUXEMBOURG - RC				1,000	22.08.00	BLOOD GENERAL
NORWEGIAN - RC		12,500	USD	20,594	31.05.00	AIDS CONFERENCE
ORLES FOUNDATION		11,000	USD	19,509	02.10.00	NEEDY CHILDREN
EMPRESS SHOKEN FUND				14,400	20.04.00	BLOOD PROGRAMME
SPANISH - RC		4,737	USD	7,998	21.08.00	YOUTH
SWEDISH - RC		1,800,000	SEK	337,860	21.07.00	
SWEDISH - RC				668	01.09.00	AIDS GENERAL
SWISS - PRIVATE (NESTEC)				127,100	25.05.00	
SWISS - RC				60,000	28.03.00	BLOOD GENERAL
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,926,140	CHF	63.3%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
G33000,G33100,G33210,G33211,G33212,G33213,G33220,G33230,G33240,G33241,G33242,G33300,G33400,G33500						