

PROGRAMME UPDATE



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

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

27 July, 2001

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.75/2001

Appeal Target: CHF 743,982

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: January - 30 June, 2001

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 59.4%

Related Appeals: N/A

Outstanding needs: CHF 367,175

Summary: The Department is making steady progress in fulfilling its targets within the global programme. Partnerships with other departments, and divisions, as well as with external agencies have also continued, and have been quite useful in identifying areas of common interest, and how the lessons learnt and the results generated by these activities can be shared, and built on. The work being undertaken by the DP Delegates, and supported by the Department also serves as a catalyst in the process of developing a global DP team spirit, which augurs well for the future.

The Context

Significant strides were made in the first half of the year in a number of areas, resulting in the development of a process which should lead to the harnessing of important lessons and good practices, which can then be adapted for use in areas where similar initiatives are needed. The team was also enhanced with the recruitment of the disaster reduction programme coordinator in March, and the DP senior officer who began in May.

Efforts (particularly among the departments in the Knowledge Sharing Division) continued to further integrate the programmes and activities being undertaken in National Societies. In this spirit, support was provided to the Health Department to update the DP segment of the Community First Aid manual for African Societies. Further work was also done with the Gender Unit on case studies. Discussions were also held regarding the implementation of a pilot study on DP and gender, using the vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) tool during the autumn.

New initiatives involving donor National Societies have begun, and will be developed further during the summer and autumn. One example is the Netherlands Red Cross spearheading activities towards the establishment of a Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness Centre, and exploration of the possibility of implementing a pilot project early next year.

Key achievements during the period

Objectives 1 and 2: Good practice exploration and compilation, tool development, and advocacy.

The Global DP Delegates workshop was held in Manila in February, 2001. This provided the delegates with an opportunity to be updated on the changes which had occurred within the Secretariat, as well as to discuss issues pertinent to their work. The delegates agreed on the need to focus on 6 key areas (through working groups) in order to capture the main lessons learned from current practices, and to use the results to prepare guidelines for the future. The focal areas are: well prepared national societies, VCA's, Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP), working with governments and other agencies, indicators to measure the impact of DP programmes, and preparedness for response: disaster management and Disaster Management Information System (DMIS). At the follow-up workshop at the end of the year, the results from these Working Groups will be tabled, and guidelines developed for undertaking these initiatives in 2002 and beyond.

Objective 3: Develop knowledge about new programme approaches.

Following from the initiatives which began with the Panafrican Conference, a focus group, led by the Nairobi regional DP delegate is identifying the main lessons to be learnt from undertaking food security programmes, and will use these to build on the strategy which has already been developed. This process will be further strengthened with the recruitment of a food security officer (with initial funding from the American Red Cross) in September.

Work continued during this reporting period with the ICRC on harmonization capacity building initiatives, in disaster preparedness and conflict preparedness. A working group has been convened to develop guidelines for the field in this area, and will adopt a unique approach in using the initiatives which are underway in Budapest, Abidjan, Suva and selected countries in East Africa, and South Asia the basis for these guidelines. There is still more work to be done on the conflict preparedness module.

The report on the assessments which were undertaken in twelve countries in Eastern and Central Europe under the stability pact DPP initiative, and involving the Federation's Budapest Regional DP delegate has now been finalized. A workshop (with all major players, as well as the DP department) was held in Geneva in late June to identify the next steps in the process, and the role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in the respective countries during the next phase.

Objective 4: Develop knowledge regarding predictable disasters, and housing construction.

Work has been done towards undertaking reviews of seasonal disasters in South East Asia (Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam), the Caribbean (Belize) and Southern Africa (Mozambique). Unfortunately, the South East Asia review which was postponed twice, was not carried out during this period (re-scheduled to take place in July). The other reviews are scheduled for August and September respectively.

The first draft of the housing and construction review has been completed. The findings derived from this activity will be used as a basis for contributing to and developing good practices which exist in this area, and to use these to guide future activities.

Objective 5: Support to country and regional delegations, and increase the pool of DP Delegates.

Activities in this area centred on:

- contributing to the development of the action research team on project implementation;
- preparing a concept paper to guide discussions, and developing the mechanism for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Conference's Disaster Management Working Group;
- providing technical support to National Societies (including PNS) at the West Africa Partnership meeting in Dakar;
- providing technical/financial support for the further development of the West Africa DP programme, by undertaking the review (scheduled to be carried out late July to early August), and using the recommendations to design the next phase of the programme;
- recruiting of five DP delegates: Honduras, Almaty, Indonesia, Guinea Conakry and India;

- assisting the Americas Department in identifying the need to build on the efforts made in conducting CBDP workshops, and then moving to the next step (i.e. transforming these into more tangible outcomes). A working group (including the DP Department) will be developing this concept further during the autumn;
- Placing the first trainee delegate in Turkey for three months.

Objective 6: Use networking and other methods to encourage internal and external experts to contribute to knowledge building and use.

Work with external experts has been on-going at an informal level, and greater emphasis will be made to finalize these arrangements towards the end of the year, and into next year.

The initiative at the MENA conference is an example of the support being provided to linking regional networks. The Department has been indirectly involved in initiatives relating to the PanAmerican Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), and has assisted with the conceptualization of the Caribbean network which is being developed to complement the PADRU.

Work has begun on the updating of the web-site, and should be completed in the autumn. A revision of the newsletter to include the additional areas relating to disaster response (which is now within the purview of the Department) is being done, and an edition will be published in the autumn.

Problems encountered and steps taken

During the period the following planned DP activities were delayed or did not materialize:

- the seasonal disaster review in south east Asia (Mekong Delta) was once again re-scheduled due to the work-load of the delegations concerned. Discussions have taken place, and suggestions made in order to avoid a recurrence of situations of this nature in the future.
- The activities for the working groups did not begin immediately following the Manila meeting due to the workload in the department being borne by one officer. With the arrival of the second officer in May (who is charged with the responsibility of seeing to these groups), progress has begun.
- A significant amount of time is being spent on briefing and debriefing sessions. While the information gained during these activities is often quite useful, the opportunity cost in relation to focusing on other programme areas is quite high. A solution has been found in sharing these activities between the officers.

Lessons learned

The main lessons learned during this period were:

- the need to increase the involvement of the DP delegates in the processes of the department so that they are kept informed and can contribute effectively based on their field experience.
- the added value which can be derived from involving PNS staff in the activities of the department. This has added value, and provided opportunities to influence the bilateral programmes which are being (or will be) undertaken by these National Societies.

Outstanding needs

Further support is required to ensure that the planned activities can be implemented as foreseen.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

For further details please contact: Ewa von Oelreich, Phone: 41 22 730 4449; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: oelreich@ifr.org

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>.

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

Ewa von Oelreich
Head
Disaster Preparedness and
Response Department

Disaster Preparedness						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.75/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			26.07.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				743'982		TOTAL COVERAGE 59.4%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				242'157		
BRITISH - GOVT (DFID GRANT)				200'000	03.02.01	PARTNERSHIP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2001
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				442'157	CHF	59.4%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%