

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 والقمر الأحمر

25 2004

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.47/2003; Appeal target: CHF 1,539,402; Appeal coverage: 78.3%.
([click here to go directly to the attached Financial Report](#)).

This Annual Report reflects activities implemented over a one-year period; they form part of, and are based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For further information specifically related to this Annual Appeal please contact:

- In Panama: Nelson Castaño, Head of Pan American Disaster Response Unit, email ifrcpa07@ifrc.org, phone (507) 316-1001, fax (507)316-1082
- In Geneva: Americas Department, Olaug Bergseth Regional Officer, email Olaug.Bergseth@ifrc.org, phone (41) 22 730 4535, fax (41) 22 733 0395

Overall analysis of the programme

In 2001, the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) was formally established and began providing services to National Societies, principally those affected by disasters. In a short time, PADRU developed optimal administrative processes, which allowed it to reach the degree of functionality required to initiate integrated disaster response mechanisms, to have an operational Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) and to strengthen National Societies through the training of Regional Intervention Teams (RITs). In 2002, PADRU was further strengthened, specifically in disaster response and preparedness for response. The fields of disaster management, water and sanitation, telecommunications and logistics were promoted through support activities and provision of services to National Societies. The functions and organization of PADRU were formally defined, based on the development of a flexible structure, with the objective of increasing the interaction between local and expatriate staff in specific technical areas. In collaboration with the Regional Delegations and National Societies in the Americas, PADRU ensured the design and implementation of basic tools and instruments to improve planning and coordination in disaster response and preparedness, and a training programme for RITs.

During 2003, the work of PADRU focused primarily on the following areas:

PADRU coordinated the disaster forum of the Inter American Conference in Santiago de Chile, providing support to the National Societies that participated in the conference. The disaster forum concluded the process began in

2002 though the formulation of the document, “Reducing risks and improving coordination: Towards an integrated disaster management system in the Americas,” which was approved during the Conference and is the 2003-2007 disaster management strategy. In addition, the forum provided input towards the Santiago the Chile Commitment and the Plan of Action of the Conference.

In order to determine the disaster preparedness and response capacities of the National Societies, an initial mapping of disaster preparedness was carried out in the Americas. Of the 33 National Societies consulted, 26 responded to the questionnaires drawn up. The compilation of this information was used in the report on the 2001-2003 Plan of Action of the Inter American Regional Committee (CORI).

Two sub regional events were carried out in order to strengthen the Red Cross’s disaster network in the Americas. The first was the contingency planning meeting in the Caribbean for countries affected by hurricanes, which also included National Societies from the continental countries that are considered part of the Caribbean group. The other event was the Latin American Meeting of Relief Directors, which helped to strengthen the disaster network, providing follow up to the “Reducing risks and improving coordination” document. The recommendations of this meeting helped formulate the final version of the 2003-2007 Plan of Action.

In disaster response, in 2001, PADRU provided support in eight emergency operations. In 2002, the number of emergencies requiring support from PADRU was 15. In 2003, PADRU supported the operations of 16 disasters. This indicates that, year by year, the service provided to National Societies has increased. The statistics also show that there is increased acceptance of the capacities of PADRU to support the National Societies, Regional Delegations, Partner National Societies and volunteers.



In 2003, PADRU supported 16 disaster response operations in the region.

During 2003, PADRU continued strengthening National Societies by promoting their own capacities. This was demonstrated in the water, sanitation and hygiene workshop that was held together with OXFAM. In this workshop, volunteers from six National Societies in the Americas were trained. Similarly, the border relations between the Costa Rican Red Cross and the Red Cross Society of Panama were strengthened through the workshop for contingency plans for floods.

PADRU assisted the Mexican Red Cross (MRC) in its commitment to strengthen the capacities of administrative personnel and volunteers in logistics management through the Basic Logistics Workshop. With this training, PADRU promoted the incorporation of new personnel in the Federation’s human resources network for disaster response. The training cycle continued with workshops for National Intervention Teams (NITs) in Paraguay and Argentina and a logistics workshop in Honduras. To strengthen the link between the Federation and the Ericsson Response social programme, PADRU promoted the programme in the National Societies of Cuba, Colombia and Guatemala.

Partner National Societies (PNSs) were also strengthened through the processes implemented in PADRU, specifically in support to the implementation of the Emergency Response Unit (ERU) of the American Red Cross, the ERU workshop in first aid, and the water and sanitation in emergencies workshop, which was organized by the American Red Cross.

The internship programme (pasantias) in PADRU promoted personnel from the National Societies of Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico and Venezuela, as well as personnel from Ericsson Response. This human resource, mostly members of the Regional Intervention Team, collaborated on specific tasks and benefited their own National Societies, as well as the disaster network. Sequence

Throughout the year, PADRU was constrained by financial matters as it does not receive core funding, relying instead on outside donors. Midway through the year, it was announced that an evaluation of PADRU would be

conducted and some donors decided to wait for the results of that evaluation before providing funding. Unfortunately, due to extenuating circumstances, the evaluation was delayed. In order to overcome this constraint in the future, PADRU hopes to diversify its donor base through increasing donor confidence in the unit. It is felt that this will be possible once the evaluation is carried out in 2004.

The work of PADRU was also hampered by the constant rotation of personnel in the unit, as delegates are often sent to PADRU to work on a short term basis, usually for several months only. This meant that work and projects were continually interrupted. Even though contracting decisions are dependent on the Secretariat, PADRU would like to work to ensure that in the future delegates' contracts are at least one year in length. In order to give sufficient follow up to the processes and projects in the unit, two year contracts would be preferred.

Objectives, Achievements, and Constraints

Overall Goal: The National Societies of Latin America and the Caribbean are implementing efficient, responsive and focused disaster management, contributing to saving lives and improving the life of vulnerable people.

Disaster Response

Programme objective: The National Societies and the Secretariat, as appropriate, are responding effectively and efficiently to disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean, ensuring a rapid transition from relief to rehabilitation as part of an integrated process for the development of local capacities.

PADRU supported the emergency operations carried out by the National Societies in the Americas in order to improve the humanitarian services provided to the most vulnerable members of the population. This was carried out with the support of the Federation Secretariat and through an appropriate management of resources. In 2003, PADRU provided support and coordination in the following disaster operations:

Social Crisis in Argentina:

In January, a Field Assessment and Coordination (FACT) team was deployed to the country to draw up a plan of action and to follow up on activities in response to the social crisis. PADRU assisted the Argentine Red Cross (ARC) in consolidating its humanitarian work by providing a disaster management delegate to support the FACT team. The coordination for the operation involved a team that included a disaster management delegate and a logistics delegate from PADRU. The team from PADRU helped revise the plan of action for the operation and proposed activities to respond to the crisis. After this work was completed, the operation was coordinated by a member of the ARC who had been previously trained as part of the FACT team, which illustrated the importance and success of the Federation's training programme in the region as part of strengthening local capacities.

Earthquake in Mexico:

The state of Colima, located on the Pacific coast of Mexico, was struck by an earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale in January, which affected some 400 families. The Mexican Red Cross (MRC) took charge of the response operation and the Federation, through its representative in Mexico, assisted with the management of the information required by the media and by donors. At the same time, the American Red Cross and the Federation/PADRU, with the agreement of the MRC, mobilized a disaster management delegate to support the management of resources to assist those affected. In coordination with the National Society, the delegate also participated in evaluating and formulating the plan of action for response to the disaster. Pre-positioned relief materials in PADRU warehouses provided by the American Red Cross and other suppliers allowed the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) to immediately dispatch 400 tents and 400 kitchen kits to Colima.

Floods in Santa Fé (Argentina):

In April, after several days of intense rain, the province of Santa Fé suffered a devastating flood when the Salato River broke its banks. Within just a few hours, one third of the capital city and a vast area of the province was flooded. A state of emergency was declared in 35 communities in the province. With the agreement of the Argentine Red Cross and the Lima Regional Delegation, a disaster management delegate from PADRU was

deployed to Santa Fé during the first 15 days of the emergency. The delegate assisted with the damage and needs assessment, as well as with the formulation of the plan of action and an international appeal. In order to boost the operation and provide further logistics support, two more PADRU members were also mobilized to the region. During the course of the relief effort, PADRU coordinated water and sanitation projects with OXFAM, one of the counterparts with which joint work was done to ensure a coherent response in the operations. The operation was coordinated by a RITs team member from the Ecuadorian Red Cross, once again highlighting the importance of the Federation's training programme in the region, as well as the role of the disaster network.

Floods in Peru:

The 60 thousand people affected by the floods in the Puño region of Peru which occurred in late 2002/early 2003 received timely, essential assistance through the joint work of the PADRU disaster management delegate, who at that time was assigned the duties of the regional disaster preparedness delegate in the Lima Regional Delegation, and personnel from the Peruvian Red Cross. The work of PADRU was focused on supporting the National Society in the primary damage and needs assessment. The disaster management delegate worked closely with the German and Spanish Red Cross Societies which also provided assistance.

Floods in Panama:

On 12 July 2003, intense rains combined with high tides to cause severe flooding in the district of Arraijan, located approximately 20 km west of Panama City. The water rose within minutes, forcing families to seek refuge on rooftops. Although the waters receded to normal levels within hours, a total of twelve communities were badly affected by the floods. In coordination with the Civil Defence, the Red Cross Society of Panama (PRC) immediately provided search and rescue services in the affected areas and psychological support to the victims. PADRU coordinated with the PRC and the Regional Delegation to support the National Society, supplying 300 kitchen sets and 500 hygiene kits. In addition, 6,000 bed sheets were donated by the American Red Cross. All the supplies had been pre-positioned in the PADRU warehouse in Panama City, with which the National Society was able to provide immediate response to the affected persons.



A state of emergency was declared in 35 communities in Santa Fe after the Salato River broke its banks.



Some 7,500 people were affected by the floods in Panama, the worst flooding in the country in 30 years.

Earthquake in the Dominican Republic:

In September, an earthquake registering 6.5 on the Richter scale struck the Dominican Republic, causing structural damage to several buildings, including schools and state buildings. Coordination between the Dominican Red Cross, the Regional Delegation and the Federation office in Santo Domingo in response to the earthquake was immediate. From Panama, PADRU provided a disaster management delegate to support the

National Society in evaluating and drawing up the plan of action. The joint operations provided direct assistance to those affected by the earthquake.

Hurricane Season:

The preparation for the 2003 hurricane season was an integrated and coordinated task. A daily monitoring system was designed with space on the PADRU webpage and the Federation's Americas webpage. In addition, response plans and profiles of the National Societies in the Caribbean were drawn up and evaluated. This work was validated during a pre-hurricane season meeting, which included representatives of the Caribbean and Central American National Societies. The meeting created a concrete and effective response for areas affected by hurricanes. Throughout the hurricane season, the monitoring and alert system was maintained, relations with the National Societies in the Caribbean were strengthened, and a permanent communication channel was opened between PADRU and the National Societies of countries that are regularly affected by hurricanes. This relationship was further strengthened during operations in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Mexico Hurricanes:

The 2003 Atlantic hurricane season hit Mexico particularly hard, with three mid-size storms or hurricanes (Larry, Olaf and Nera) impacting both the east and west coasts of the country in the space of two months. While no single event was of catastrophic dimensions, the combined effect resulted in the worst flooding in many years over a wide swath of Mexico's states. A total of 188 municipalities in 14 states declared disaster areas. The Mexican Red Cross was responsible for managing the operation, in coordination with the Federation's Regional Delegation in Panama and PADRU. The Federation coordinated international support and a delegate was sent to the area to ensure that the operation was implemented in a timely and efficient manner. The primary responsibility for monitoring and evaluation was with the MRC, supported by the Regional Delegation, in collaboration with PADRU.

Bermuda:

PADRU monitored Hurricane Fabian as it passed over Bermuda and was in contact with the British Red Cross Society (BRC) throughout the relief operation. PADRU helped coordinate the activities carried out by the BRC through the logistics delegate in PADRU. In addition, PADRU contacted the Red Cross Society in Bermuda and the American Red Cross for planning and preparation in the event of a disaster situation.

Bahamas:

In the case of Hurricane Isabel, which affected the Bahamas, supplies were provided from the Bahamas Red Cross Society warehouse to assist affected persons. The Bahamas Red Cross contacted PADRU for support and for assistance in monitoring the storm.

Floods in Haiti (St. Marc):

PADRU played a key role in responding to the floods that struck the town of St. Marc in Haiti on 30 August. PADRU responded to the French Red Cross request to supply relief goods stored in the warehouse in Panama, providing a total of 1,200 kitchen sets and the same quantity of hygiene parcels within 48 hours. This efficient and timely response helped to further consolidate the relationship between PADRU, the French and Haitian Red Cross Societies and ECHO, the donor funding the emergency activities in that country.

Floods in Haiti (Cap-Haitien):

In the month of December, regions in the north of Haiti were affected by new flooding. PADRU deployed the head of the RLU to the area, who, together with the Haitian National Red Cross Society, participated in the evaluation and needs assessment, and the formulation of the plan of action. The operation was scheduled to continue through early 2004.

Floods in the Dominican Republic:

PADRU provided technical support from the very beginning of this operation. Two PADRU staff members were deployed shortly after the disaster occurred, a disaster management delegate and a RITs member, and began supporting efforts focused on coordination, assessments, financial accountability, information collection and dissemination, donor reporting and general operational management. The RLU supported the operation by procuring and shipping non food items that were not available in the country, including telecommunication



Extensive flooding occurred in the Cibao valley in the Dominican Republic, causing significant damage to crops as over 200,000 hectares of farmland were flooded.

equipment. Coordination of the response to those affected was carried out by Dominican Red Cross (DRC) and the Federation with ECHO and the World Food Programme (WFP).

The first-ever deployment of a Relief Emergency Response Unit (ERU) supported the DRC in the distribution of all relief items provided to the operation through the Federation. Beneficiary selection, registration, distributions and associated training were managed by the DRC, with ERU technical support. The ERU started work in-country on 26 November as an official Federation response mechanism upon the request of the DRC. The ERU module deployed consisted of three ERU delegates (one team leader and two distribution delegates) with Spanish language skills, and a modified package of equipment (radios, satellite phones, bibs, armbands, megaphones, etc.). The ERU is sponsored by the American Red Cross.

Earthquake in Panama:

On 25 December, the border region between Panama and Costa Rica was affected by an earthquake registering 6.1 on the Richter scale. More than 1,000 people were affected by this event. The Federation, through PADRU, provided support to the Red Cross Society of Panama, identifying and deploying to the area members of the NIT, RIT and FACT teams in charge of immediate response and damage and needs assessments. As a result of the operation, four tents were installed, facilitated by the American Red Cross, a water tank was dispatched to the affected area and an all-terrain vehicle was made available to the National Society. PADRU, together with the PRC participated in the distribution of 100 plastic tarpaulins, 200 water cans and 1,000 blankets. The American Red Cross helped distribute 100 sheets. The Water and Sanitation Unit worked in the region in training and installing water treatment systems, together with volunteers from the PRC who had been previously trained in the water and sanitation workshops.

Monitoring:

Throughout the year, PADRU continued to monitor developing disasters and storms, such as Hurricanes Isabel and Marty, the earthquakes in the Dominican Republic and Panama, and flooding in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The monitoring of activities and follow up in the Americas is ongoing and work is being done to improve the monitoring system, activate the information networks in the region, collaborate with the National Societies and the Regional Delegations, and follow up with the media and other agencies. In doing this, PADRU is helping to promote the goal of a stronger disaster network in the Americas as stated in the Santiago de Chile Commitment.

National Society support and coordination:

Although the PADRU appeal for 2003 was under-funded, the Unit continued to receive active support from several National Societies within and outside the region. Some National Societies actively supported the PADRU structure by seconding a staff-on-loan, as in the case of the American Red Cross, and providing delegates, as in the case of the British, Canadian, Spanish and Swedish Red Cross Societies. This human resource support enabled PADRU to manage the needs of the hurricane season in a highly efficient and effective manner. The PADRU internship programme (pasantías) also progressed well, serving as a good example of successful knowledge sharing initiatives in the region. This internship programme aims to bring RITs, volunteers and staff from National Societies in the region to work in PADRU for a limited period of time. In addition to bringing new skills into PADRU, the internship programme helps to increase familiarization on the part of National Societies of programmes and projects in the region. The programme also enables PADRU to strengthen the disaster networks in the region through low cost and high impact human resource development. The internship programme this year was strengthened with personnel from the National Societies of Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico and Venezuela.

Other initiatives that promoted National Society integration in PADRU were the storage, management and coordination of National Society relief supplies in the region, and the use of PADRU as a base for Emergency Response Unit (ERU) equipment management, training and storage, as in the case of the American Red Cross relief ERU. In addition, the Ericsson Response programme facilitated a volunteer to work with PADRU to support the telecommunications delegate. The volunteer and delegate worked together in adapting equipment, designing new telecommunications installations in PADRU and promoting projects to support National Societies.

Support to West Africa Operations:

At the request of the Disaster Management and Coordination (DMC) department, a PADRU disaster management delegate was deployed to the West Africa region to support operations. The PADRU delegate was able to help in the organization, facilitation and logistical support for the regional disaster response team (RDRT) training held in Ghana, launching the newly established RDRT programme in West Africa. The training was given to 31 members of the English-speaking West African National Societies and focused on all aspects of a relief operation, including logistics, water and sanitation and assessment methodology. The course also had a strong emphasis on relief techniques and was supported by a Senior Relief Officer from the Secretariat.

Support to other regions:

After the earthquake in Bam, Iran, in the month of December, a disaster management delegate was mobilized to form part of the team working on coordination and relief activities during the emergency. Similarly, with the aim of strengthening the Federation's humanitarian network, and in the context of the conflict in the Middle East, a disaster management delegate representing the American Red Cross was deployed from PADRU to Turkey in order to provide relief and logistics support as part of the Federation response team in the region. The principal aim was to support the Turkish Red Crescent in the administration of the refugee camps situated close to the Iraqi border.

Psychosocial support and gender in disasters:

During the year, several advances were made in the themes of gender in disasters and psychosocial support to victims of natural disasters. A long-standing volunteer of the Canadian Red Cross assessed the capacity of the Red Cross Societies in the region to address the psychological and emotional needs of the survivors of natural disasters in Central and South America. The goal of the proposed project was to investigate how vulnerable populations experience disasters from a psychological and emotional perspective, their main coping mechanisms, and their needs in the short and long term. The findings from this evaluation can be used in the future to strengthen existing assistance programmes and serve as a basis for subsequent post-trauma mitigation initiatives. The research included field visits and case studies in Colombia, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru. In the theme of gender in disasters, work was done in coordination with Pan American Health Organizations (PAHO), UNICEF, WFP and OXFAM in order to explore common issues and identify strategies for addressing them.

Constraints:

In disaster response, the main constraint was the limited access to information from some National Societies in the region which sometimes do not provide the information PADRU needs in order to analyze an emergency situation. Some National Societies continue to consider disaster management the work of other organizations and do not effectively disseminate the disaster response work of the Red Cross. In addition, several National Societies in the region remain unclear regarding the use of DREF funds and the commitments that using DREF funds entail. In particular, National Societies are unclear about how to report on the use of these funds. PADRU hopes to minimize these problems in the future by ensuring that pre-agreements exist with each National Society regarding the use of DREF funds, and by creating a standardized system of the information that needs to be shared during times of emergency.

Disaster Response Preparedness

Programme objective: National Societies of the Americas and the Caribbean and the Federation Secretariat have improved their combined and integrated disaster response capacities and have the required systems, plans, knowledge and resource to effectively respond in the face of disasters.

Project 1 – Response Planning

Leadership in disasters and preparation for disasters:

In April, work began on the initial design of the leadership course in disaster response and disaster preparedness, promoted by PAHO and the Federation. This training responded to the need to strengthen the management of institutions that respond to disasters and ensure rehabilitation processes. The course seeks to contribute to organizational strengthening at all levels by improving knowledge and skills in planning and implementation of activities. In order to define the needs in relation to this course, a preparatory meeting was held with representatives of PAHO, the Ministry of Health in Panama, the Panamanian Civil Defence, the Red Cross Society of Panama and the Salvadorean Red Cross Society. A representative of the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) took part in the meeting as a facilitator, during which the basis for a disaster preparedness and response programme was defined.



The leadership course strengthened the management of institutions that respond to disasters.

Inter American Conference:

The National Societies in the Americas, in particular the host National Society, the Chilean Red Cross, received support and coordination from PADRU, which acted as a facilitator in the organization of the Inter American Conference. Initially, a coordination meeting of the disaster sub committee was held in Lima. This was followed by a second meeting that sought to strengthen the disaster response system in the Americas, and to develop a mechanism for improving planning and creating standards for disaster response. The regional document relating to disasters was finalized during this meeting, based upon the mapping previously carried out with National Societies. The final text of the document, entitled “Reducing risks and improving coordination: Towards an integrated system for management of disasters in America,” was distributed, together with the rest of the documents from the Inter American Conference. Coordination in this process was carried out with the support of the Secretariat and the leadership of the National Societies of Jamaica, Mexico and Peru. As a result of this analysis, the harmonization of information on the part of 26 National Societies was carried out. All details are available on a CD and have been shared with the National Societies.

Latin American Meeting of Relief Directors:

Relief directors of the National Societies of Latin America met with representatives of the Secretariat and the National Societies to ensure that, in a coordinated and orderly way, the agreements from the XXVII Inter American Conference in Santiago de Chile are applied. The Latin American Meeting of Relief Directors was a forum that allowed participants to reassess and analyze the Santiago de Chile declaration Commitment.

Preparatory Meeting for the Hurricane Season:

A meeting was held in June in Santo Domingo prior to the hurricane season to ensure contingency planning was in place in the event of hurricanes in the Caribbean region. A concept paper and an agenda were prepared beforehand. An information meeting was also held with ECHO representatives in Santo Domingo. From Panama, PADRU and the Regional Delegation worked together on the organization of the workshop, which was attended by a total of 22 National Societies. This illustrated a significant development in efforts to narrow the gap between the National Societies of Central America and the Caribbean, which are traditionally set apart by historical and cultural differences and linguistic barriers. Another positive outcome of this workshop was the active participation of external organizations, including UNICEF, PAHO, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), ECHO, the Association of Caribbean States, Ericsson and OXFAM. These organizations clearly demonstrated their interest in supporting and becoming more actively involved with the Red Cross disaster response network and discussed ways to improve inter-agency coordination mechanisms in disasters to work more effectively together.

Global disaster management regional coordinators’ meeting:

The Global Disaster Management Planning Meeting took place in Panama in October 2003. Hosted by PADRU, the meeting included disaster management coordinators and other regional disaster management professionals, together with representative participation by operations managers and disaster preparedness officers from the

Secretariat and the ICRC (in acknowledgement of the increasing incidence of conflict scenarios within which disaster management initiatives are carried out). The primary purpose of the meeting was to develop the global Disaster Management Action Plan for 2004, based on previously defined global and regional disaster management objectives. The plan also builds on the progress made in 2003 through the implementation of the Morocco Action Plan of the 2002 Global Disaster Management Coordinators' Meeting.

Project 2 – Information and Telecommunications System

Ericsson Response Coordination (PADRU, Cuba and Colombia):

The Ericsson response programme was officially launched in March 2003 in the Caribbean and Central American regions, thereby strengthening working relations with Ericsson in the framework of the global cooperation agreement between Ericsson and the Federation to offer solutions in communications during disaster situations. PADRU has two containers of Ericsson mobile network material including equipment and computer programmes which enable the simultaneous use of 12 telephone lines. In addition, 1,200 mobile telephones are available and a team of 17 people are on-call to support the programme.

Based on the agreement signed between the Federation and Ericsson, and in order to strengthen the programme being developed at the global level, it was agreed during a coordination meeting held in Panama in August to expand the Ericsson Response programme to Cuba and Colombia. Activities included the training of Ericsson response volunteers in disaster management and the positioning of cellular telephone equipment in those countries. The Federation provided support to Ericsson, and coordinated with the National Societies that have shown interest in the programme. With Ericsson, the Federation is able to use the Movement's experience in working with volunteers to help consolidate the company's volunteering programme. Currently, work is ongoing on the production of a CD that includes specific information about both agencies, the joint work being done and the future perspectives for the programme.



The launch of the Ericsson response programme improved the visibility of disaster response and highlighted relations between the corporate sector and National Societies in the Americas. To strengthen information management and its flow, particularly during disasters, the possibility of broadening lines of communication, including internet connections, is currently being analyzed, with a view to optimizing information tools on the web.

The Ericsson Response programme, which provides telecommunication support during disasters, has improved the visibility of disaster response and highlighted relations between the Red Cross and the corporate sector.

Organization of the Telecommunications Unit:

The area of telecommunications was strengthened during the last months of the year with the arrival of a telecommunications delegate. By the end of the year, PADRU was working closely with the National Societies and Regional Delegations in the areas of information technology and telecommunications. PADRU's IT unit has been reorganized and more updated work plans were created. The telecommunications unit carried out the revision and adaptation of equipment, trained personnel in the operation of equipment and, in particular, worked to update and improve the database of trained human resources in the region. Plans are to include in the area of telecommunications the ongoing work with Ericsson Response, the project for strengthening the IT and telecommunications network of the National Societies in the Caribbean, and the project for re-establishing family links during natural disasters.

Development of Internship Programme:

During the month of November, PADRU coordinated with the volunteering unit of Ericsson Response Spain as part of the internship programme, allowing Ericsson personnel to gain a deeper understanding of the work developed by the Federation in disaster response and preparedness.

Response to National Societies:

In response to the flooding in the Dominican Republic, satellite and cellular phones were dispatched to the country to strengthen communications in the affected area. In addition, the Mexican Red Cross was supported in the design of a project to create an emergency operations centre.

Simulation exercise with Ericsson Response in Colombia:

With a view to developing a practice exercise and testing the telephone equipment of the Ericsson Response programme, PADRU coordinated with the Colombian Red Cross and Ericsson to carry out a large scale simulation. The simulation consisted of moving and activating a 20-foot container as a communications base that was equipped with the necessary technology to re-establish communication in affected communities. The simulation was carried out in the Colombian city of Manizales. In order to strengthen local capacities, a telecommunications workshop was designed, which was scheduled for January 2004.

World Disaster Report:

As part of the activities carried out during the Latin American Meeting of Relief Directors, the World Disaster Report 2003 was launched in August. For the second consecutive year, the document was presented to authorities and members of the diplomatic corps, volunteers and the press. The Red Cross Society of Panama was in charge of organizing the event, with the support of PADRU. The event was attended by seven members of the diplomatic corps in Panama, representatives of seven governmental authorities and two international organizations in Panama.

Project 3 – Logistics Services and Systems

Throughout the year, the 35 National Societies in the Americas worked in coordination with the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU). In line with the logistic strategy for the Americas, the RLU seeks to build capacities in the National Societies by helping them to put in place tools facilitating adequate logistics support to regular programmes and in the event of emergency response. The services of the RLU were also provided to other regions, benefiting the National Societies of Fiji, France (supporting work in Haiti), the Netherlands and Zambia, among others.

The RLU consolidated its services by mobilizing resources and ensuring fluidity in the supply chain (from its origin to the final beneficiaries). In this way, the RLU was able to optimize processes and assure promptness and flexibility, in order to reduce costs. In addition, the RLU achieved a significant saving in the management of the container project in the Caribbean, which allowed the RLU to include the Suriname Red Cross in the project. The RLU also consolidated its relations with a strong team of external partners, including suppliers, logistics agents, maritime and air services.



The Regional Logistics Unit coordinates the delivery of goods, such as tents, boats, kitchen sets, vehicles and radios, as part of disaster response and disaster preparedness programmes.

PADRU purchased numerous items during the course of the year, including tents, boats, plastic sheeting, kitchen sets, zinc sheeting, vehicles, vehicle spare parts, bladders, radios - VHF and Codan -, fire extinguishers, blankets,

boxes and computers. This process necessitated a reorganization of the warehouse space to accommodate goods from UNICEF as part of the cooperation agreement with the Federation. The RLU also handled procurement of equipment and supplies in support of PNS bilateral activities in Latin America and the Caribbean, including support to the American Red Cross in the maintenance of pre-positioned relief stocks stored in the PADRU warehouse, procurement of supplies on behalf of the British Red Cross for the Society's activities in Anguilla, and supplying the French Red Cross with basic relief goods. The latter enabled the French Red Cross to carry out its ECHO-funded relief activities in response to the flooding in Haiti in August 2003 in a timely and efficient manner. Together with the American Red Cross, the RLU also completed purchases for the ERU based in PADRU. Other actors that maintained supplies in the PADRU warehouses were Ericsson Response and the Red Cross Society of Panama.

Another important development was the consolidation of the vehicle leasing programme. Efforts are now focusing mostly on the dissemination and marketing of the available leasing options, targeting initially the Red Cross Movement but with the ambition to expand the service to external organizations, using this service to strengthen strategic alliances with key partners in the region. Currently, there are 13 vehicles available in PADRU from the leasing programme. The programme has moved leased vehicles to Santo Domingo, Trinidad and Panama.

Project 4 – Water and Sanitation

Water and sanitation response equipment and teams were mobilized to provide support in different response operations during the year. Human resources were strengthened through training sessions and National Societies increased their capacities in water, health and hygiene. In addition, links with partner organizations improved.

The water and sanitation delegate carried out an evaluation of water and hygiene projects in Paraguay, focusing on a needs assessment and the drawing up of a plan of action. In addition, monitoring of the construction of rain water collection tanks in the same number of communities was ensured. In order to celebrate World Water Day, and also to strengthen capacities in the Paraguayan Red Cross, a press conference was held emphasizing the importance of the event and presenting the work of the National Society through an operations update on the drought operation.

PADRU provided expertise in support of the Red Cross Society of Panama to assist various rural communities in the "dry belt", supplying them with potable water through the use of a water tanker.

Following up on the recommendation from the Santiago de Chile Commitment for increased involvement from PADRU in public health interventions in emergencies, PADRU and the Panama Regional Delegation started to explore areas for widening their cooperation in this crucial area of Red Cross assistance.

The PADRU water and sanitation delegate attended the Conference of the International Rainwater Catchment Systems Association, held in Mexico City in August 2003. The conference included over 600 participants from more than 70 countries to review and exchange experience and information on enhancing collection and effective use of rainwater for domestic, agricultural, industrial, fresh water ecology and environmental purposes. The relevant conclusions from this conference that can be applied in the context of the Red Cross will now be taken into consideration for the strategic planning of water and sanitation programmes throughout the Americas.

During the month of September, the water and sanitation delegate supported the Lima Regional Delegation in the evaluation of the Federation's Amazon Basin project, focusing primarily on ongoing water and sanitation projects in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. The objective of this evaluation included the identification of opportunities to integrate new water and sanitation activities with community-based programmes currently underway in the region.

Towards the end of the year, two water and sanitation projects were started, both with the Red Cross Society of Panama and the Panama Regional Delegation. The first project consisted of the construction of rural water systems to provide potable water to indigenous communities in the Darién province, located on the Colombian border. The other project was part of the response to the earthquake in Puerto Armuelles, where part of the urban

water system collapsed. This project included four volunteers from the National Society who were previously trained in water, sanitation and hygiene workshops.

Project 5 – Disaster Response Training

Paraguayan Red Cross:

The Americas benefits from a pool of trained human resource experts who are available to respond in a disaster situation, and the training cycle promoted by PADRU is continuous, ensuring preparedness for response. During the year, particular emphasis was made on strengthening the Paraguayan Red Cross in the formation of national intervention teams (NITs). A NITs training session was carried out in the Paraguayan Red Cross to strengthen capacities in disaster preparedness, with the participation of 20 volunteers and staff members from the National Society.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (with the support of OXFAM):

PADRU worked throughout the year with partners to provide training in water, sanitation and hygiene. In May, a “Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion in Emergencies” workshop was held jointly with OXFAM. The workshop provided training in disaster response preparedness in the area of water and sanitation and was attended by 26 participants from the Red Cross and OXFAM.

ERU training:

The American Red Cross held a relief ERU training course in Panama between 14 and 18 June 2003, organized and delivered in close cooperation with PADRU. Besides assisting with logistical support, PADRU and the Federation Secretariat jointly facilitated the training sessions and provided technical support, mainly in the areas of equipment management and telecommunications. This training course marked the effective launch of the first relief ERU in the world. A team consisting of 25 American Red Cross and Federation Secretariat ERU team members is now fully trained and ready to deploy the new relief ERU whenever and wherever needed in the future.

Argentine Red Cross:

A NITs training course was held in Argentina at the end of July 2003 for a total of 30 participants from different branches of the Argentine Red Cross. The main objectives of the course were to increase the National Society’s capacity in disaster preparedness and response and to strengthen national disaster response networks. This training, with a similar curriculum to that of the RITs programme, was delivered in the context of ongoing emergency relief operations underway in Argentina, in order to bring the same positive impact that the trained teams had so far in other regions of the Americas.



Throughout the year, PADRU worked with National Societies to improve their disaster preparedness and response capacities.

American Red Cross:

As part of support to PNSs, PADRU supported the American Red Cross in the organization and implementation of a water and sanitation workshop that dealt specifically with emergencies. The workshop participants were trained in themes of intervention, water supplies, evacuation of water technicians in emergencies, SPHERE guidelines and the construction of a programme to provide water and sanitation services during emergencies.

Mexican Red Cross:

In order to strengthen the Mexican Red Cross in aspects of technical logistics, the first Basic Logistics Workshop was held in the National Society. In this way, 30 new specialists were included in the network of trained human resources for disaster response in the Americas. Through this training, the MRC was made aware of the policies, principles, norms and agreements that govern the logistics operations of the Federation and is in a position to apply these. In addition, the Mexican Red Cross was made familiar with the technical standards necessary to

develop an appropriate logistics operation and the standards necessary to connect the response systems with other systems of the Federation and with other programmes developed by the Movement.

Other regions:

PADRU also provided disaster response training support to other regions. The Ghana Red Cross was strengthened with the coordination and implementation of activities related to the training of the special regional relief team for English-speaking countries.

Constraints:

In disaster preparedness, constraints were centred on the lack of a common criterion for disaster preparedness, as there is a need for further consensus in the region regarding standard approaches to disaster preparedness and planning for disaster response. Another constraint is poor feedback from National Societies. Lessons learned are not duplicated in the National Societies and decisions made during meetings are not widely shared. However, trainings and programmes are continuing, and these constraints are noticeably diminishing as the plan of action from the Inter American Conference is made operational.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

Interim report	
Annual report	X
Final report	

Appeal No & title: 01.47/2003 Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU)

Period: year 2003

Project(s): P42503

Currency: CHF

I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Comments	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget	1,539,402				
less					
Cash brought forward	203,929				
TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT	1,335,473				
<u>Contributions from Donors</u>					
American Red Cross (DNUS)	98,895				98,895
British Red Cross (DNGB)	49,220				49,220
Canadian Red Cross (DNCA)	27,315				27,315
DFID 4- British Government (DFID04)	32,921				32,921
Donor - Unidentified (D000)	30,405				30,405
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Red Cro (DGNNO)	252,225				252,225
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO)	28,025				28,025
OXFAM (DM02)	38,152				38,152
Swedish Govt.via Swedish Red Cross (DGNSE)	64,760				64,760
Swedish Red Cross (DNSE)	43,000				43,000
AMERICAN - RC		BILATERAL		140,000	140,000
CANADA				98,400	98,400
SPAIN				57,000	57,000
GREAT BRITAIN				81,600	81,600
SWEDEN				39,400	39,400
TOTAL	664,917			416,400	1,081,317

II - Balance of funds

OPENING	203,929
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	664,917
CASH EXPENDITURE	-927,190

CASH BALANCE	-58,344

Appeal No & title: 01.47/2003 Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU)

Period: year 2003

Project(s): P42503

Currency: CHF

III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures

Description	APPEAL Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
SUPPLIES						
Shelter Construction						
Clothing Tiles						
Food Seeds						
Water sanitation		2,848			2,848	-2,848
Medical First Aid		3			3	-3
Teaching materials	19,000					19,000
Utensils Tools		6,253			6,253	-6,253
Other relief supplies						
Sub-Total	19,000	9,104			9,104	9,996
CAPITAL EXPENSES						
Land Buildings	45,000					45,000
ehicles						
Computers Telecom equip.	27,000	-802			-802	27,802
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures	7,500	21,653			21,653	-14,153
Sub-Total	79,500	20,851			20,851	58,649
TRANSPORT STORAGE						
Warehouse distribution	16,200	26,483			26,483	-10,283
Transport vehicles	27,360	31,406			31,406	-4,046
Sub-Total	43,560	57,889			57,889	-14,329
PERSONNEL TRAINING						
Personnel (delegates)	720,000	305,229		416,400	721,629	-1,629
Personnel (regional, national staff)	124,650	122,062			122,062	2,588
Consultants	14,940	16,475			16,475	-1,535
Workshops training	187,500	74,544			74,544	112,956
Sub-Total	1,047,090	513,309		416,400	934,709	112,381
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION						
Travel related expenses	90,000	95,733			95,733	-5,733
Information expenses	8,640	13,432			13,432	-4,792
Admin. general expenses	151,551	125,413			125,413	26,138
Sub-Total	250,191	234,578			234,578	15,613
PROGRAMME SUPPORT						
	100,061	77,467			77,467	22,594
Operational provisions		,993			,993	-8,993
Transfers contributions						
TOTAL BUDGET	1,539,402	927,190		416,400	1,343,590	195,812