

# 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

## PACIFIC AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

30 June 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA062; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: 01 January to 31 April, 2005; Appeal coverage: 48%; Outstanding needs: CHF 1,711,564 (USD 1,334,553 or EUR 1,106,019).

[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List \(also available on the website\).](#)

Appeal target: CHF 3,295,095 (USD 2,744,768 or EUR 2,154,360)

#### Programme summary:

The socio-political situation of the Pacific region seems to have stabilized over the past few months, although there are still slight undertones of unrest in some of the countries. Disasters nevertheless continue to strike the region. In Papua New Guinea, a Federation emergency appeal has been launched to combat the repercussions of two volcanic eruptions, one on Manam island and another on Langila. The Cook Islands were also hit by no less than four major cyclones. In both cases, Red Cross national societies and its local network of volunteers played a crucial role in providing immediate relief to the affected people. Federation-supported programmes have proceeded well, and there have been some exciting new developments, exemplified by the Papua New Guinea Red Cross' innovative youth first aid project, which reaches out to youth in squatter settlements.

#### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Fiji: Mr. Leon Prop, head of Pacific regional delegation; email: [ifrcfj01@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcfj01@ifrc.org), Suva; phone: +6793311855; fax: +679331 1406.
- In Papua New Guinea: Mr. Ervin Bulathsinghala, head of Papua New Guinea delegation, Port Moresby; email: [ifrcpg01@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcpg01@ifrc.org); phone: +6753112277; fax: +6753230731.
- In Geneva: Asia and Pacific department, Ms. Hyun Ji Lee, Pacific regional officer, email: [hj.lee@ifrc.org](mailto:hj.lee@ifrc.org); phone: +41227304260; fax: +41227330395.

This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is 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, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

### Operational developments

National societies in the Pacific region engaged in active fundraising in support of those affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami and contributed in excess of FJD 1 million (approximately CHF 762,600) to ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts. Although it was, for a majority of national societies, the first time they engaged in this

type of fundraising, per capita contributions in some countries ranked amongst the highest globally, reflecting both the strong solidarity in the region and the recognition and respect for the work of the Red Cross in general.

In February and March, the Cook Islands were hit by four major cyclones – three of which reached category-five intensity – in just four weeks. The Cook Islands Red Cross activated its volunteers and contributed to early warning and preparedness activities, responding quickly by providing relief to those affected in the weeks that followed. The Papua New Guinea Red Cross finalized relief distributions to people displaced from the island of Manam, following volcano eruptions and heavy ash fall there.

The improved law and order situation in the Solomon Islands has allowed further implementation of economic and social development programmes. The impact of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) is being reviewed formally, and there continues to be widespread popular support in general.

A new secretary-general and a director general were appointed in the Australian Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross societies respectively.

The government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) enjoyed a period of relative stability in the first quarter of 2005. Reported criminal activity in the capital, Port Moresby, has increased, despite the presence of Australian police officers deployed in PNG as part of the Enhanced Cooperation Programme (ECP). There is uncertainty about the future of the AUD800 million ECP, however, as the constitutionality of some immunity provisions was successfully challenged in court. Tribally-based violence and the proliferation of smuggled firearms continue to contribute to insecurity elsewhere in the country, particularly in Enga and Southern Highlands provinces. Disputes centre on the distribution of the proceeds of the exploitation of oil and gas reserves and demands for changes to political boundaries. In response to the ongoing insecurity, the government of PNG has set up a national committee on gun control.

The Fiji government announced plans to introduce a new “Reconciliation, Tolerance, and Unity Bill”, focusing on restorative justice to deal with the aftermath of the 2000 coup. The proposed legislation is strongly opposed by various sections of Fiji society including the army, with sections relating to the possibility of granting amnesty for coup-related offences proving particularly controversial.

## **Health and care**

### **Background**

Throughout the Pacific, national societies place considerable importance on the first aid component of health programmes. Since the addition of a first aid delegate in 2004, the regional delegation has been able to provide a higher level of support to these programmes. Both the regional health and first aid delegates have provided assistance in national societies’ efforts to strengthen the foundations of their health and care programmes and to address issues of sustainability. The expansion of the youth first aid programme into squatter settlements in PNG is a particularly exciting development, providing the national society with an entry point into communities that are considered seriously at risk.

The delegation continues to promote the mainstreaming of key HIV/AIDS messages throughout the health and care programme, and the continued presence of an Australian Red Cross (ARC) HIV/AIDS technical advisor at the delegation’s Suva office has been very valuable in this respect. In this reporting period, a second ARC HIV/AIDS technical advisor, working out of the Federation’s PNG office, has been deployed as a bilateral delegate to work with the PNG Red Cross (PNGRC). Further support was secured from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund) for work focusing on safe blood and HIV/AIDS. Some support for Pacific Red Cross HIV/AIDS programmes has also been secured from the Foundation of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation Foundation).

Efforts to strengthen Red Cross HIV/AIDS programmes in the Pacific continue to be greatly assisted by the placement of an ARC bilateral technical advisor at the regional delegation’s office, and the delegation has begun to assess how it will work to maintain the momentum when that position comes to an end later this year. The present funding arrangement for the PNGRC HIV/AIDS programme ends in June 2005 and an ARC-

funded HIV/AIDS technical adviser has begun a review of the programme, while assisting the PNGRC to find new funding sources.

Regional health, organizational development and disaster management delegates are providing ongoing support to the Solomon Islands and Kiribati national societies for their community-based projects, which include health-related activities. The regional health delegate also made visits to Kiribati and Papua New Guinea during this reporting period, and the regional first aid delegate visited Tonga, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, providing technical and programme management support.

At the time of writing, the health and care programme had secured approximately 60 per cent of the funds required to complete its activity plan for the year.

**Goal: Well-functioning national societies deliver effective and relevant health and care programmes, improving overall health and well-being of vulnerable communities.**

**Objective: Pacific national societies develop and deliver effective and sustainable programmes on commercial and community based first aid (including health promotion, basic emotional support and health in emergencies), HIV/AIDS and voluntary blood donor recruitment.**

### **Progress/Achievements**

**Expected result 1: National societies have increased capacity to design, implement and evaluate their respective health programmes.**

**First aid:** Work to support Pacific Red Cross first aid programmes continued strongly into the new year, with visits by the regional first aid delegate to Tonga, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu as a follow up to last year's first aid instructor courses. It was encouraging to find that in each of these national societies, almost all current first aid instructors had been active since the start of the year. This is not the case right across the region, however. The PNGRC, which has initiated a branch-level quality audit, has already identified the need to keep its instructors active as an issue requiring attention. The Kiribati Red Cross (KRC) first aid programme is facing a critical lack of qualified instructors and the Federation has assisted in the development of a plan of action and discussions are continuing regarding further support.

Guidelines and a policy on the recruitment, retention and professional development of Red Cross first aid instructors in the Pacific have been developed and were formally adopted at the 7th Pacific First Aid Quality Management Committee (PFAQMC) meeting in April. The development and dissemination of the Pacific Red Cross first aid code of practice has commenced, but further discussion will be required before the process can be completed.

New manikins funded by the New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC) have been provided to national societies in Tonga (eight manikins between two branches) and Fiji (four manikins). The NZRC has also provided technical support on a bilateral basis to the Fiji Red Cross in areas such as instructor training, marketing and database development.

**HIV/AIDS:** The regional delegation has provided support with financial administration and liaison with the main donor (Global Fund) for a project providing advanced training in peer education to be conducted in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Kiribati, in partnership with the AIDS Task Force of Fiji (ATFF), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Global Fund. The International Federation Foundation has provided interim financial support for HIV/AIDS programmes in the PNG RC, the KRC and the Micronesia Red Cross, and is providing assistance in securing future HIV/AIDS funding.

The HIV/AIDS programme officer of the PNG RC has recently resigned, so much of its HIV/AIDS activity plan to date remains to be completed. Key messages continue to be disseminated through other programmes, however, highlighting the importance of integrating HIV/AIDS issues into other programme areas. Recommendations from the October 2004 evaluation of the pilot youth peer education project have been implemented as the national society prepares to extend the project.

**Voluntary blood donor recruitment:** The regional delegation has distributed a range of new resource materials to each national society, including tools to assist in self-assessment and formulating action plans, materials for guidance in narrative and financial reporting on workshops as well as a voluntary blood donor register and database. Sample memorandum of understanding (MOU) documents and blood officer position descriptions have also been made available.

Preparations have begun for safe blood workshops in the Cook Islands and FSM. A series of cyclones struck the Cook Islands during the reporting period. The workshop originally scheduled for the Cook Islands Red Cross (CIRC) in April has been postponed until June.

**Cooperation:** Discussions have been held with the Australian Red Cross regarding the inclusion of health initiatives in the strategic engagement. Meetings of the blood and HIV/AIDS committees have been postponed to the second half of the year.

#### **Activities planned for the next reporting period**

- *First aid:* Further support for Tuvalu Red Cross, development of a model of structured career progression for first aid instructors, April meeting of the PFAQMC.
- *Voluntary blood donor recruitment:* World Blood Donor Day, safe blood workshop in the Cook Islands.
- *HIV/AIDS:* Peer educators' workshops in FSM in April and in Kiribati in May.
- *Cooperation:* Global Fund meeting in May, Pacific Health Summit in June, Pacific Red Cross partnership meeting in May, proposal for Global Fund fifth round of financing (2007-2011).

#### **Impact**

Importance of first aid to national societies in this region has already been noted above. Federation Secretariat support to the Vanuatu Red Cross (VRC) has therefore been crucial, as it rebuilds its first aid programme and works towards gaining national training accreditation. The Federation Secretariat has also provided vital technical and administrative support during visits to the Tonga Red Cross and the Solomon Islands Red Cross as they implement recommendations from the first-round quality audit. The first aid programme in the Solomon Islands in particular has experienced encouraging growth, financially as well as in terms of instructor capacity and the number of people being trained. There has been real commitment shown by several national societies to address issues identified by the audits, and the regional delegation expects several national societies will continue to need support as they work on audit compliance.

Several national societies in the Pacific have recognized that better financial management of their first aid programmes would help them maximize their income. Assistance in improving the financial management of first aid programmes has therefore been an important element of all country visits undertaken in this reporting period, and the audit tools have now been adapted to reflect the importance of transparent accounting practices.

The first aid programme in PNG also continues to gain strength and sustainability. Two more senior instructors are working toward national training council accreditation, and the programme's policies and procedures have been updated. The PNGRC's innovative youth first aid project is also expanding, with a focus on youth from squatter settlements, where unemployment and social problems are rife. In addition to its practical applications, the training gives participants an opportunity to contribute to their communities and a sense that they are able to make a difference in their own lives and those of others. Four national societies have reported growth in their community-based first aid (CBFA) programmes. In the Solomon Islands, for example, courses have been conducted in conjunction with the vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) pilot, while in Tonga, plans have been developed to extend CBFA to outer islands.

International Federation Foundation funding for HIV/programmes in Kiribati and FSM has meant that work has been able to continue as planned, and the peer education programmes are expanding their reach. Advanced-level peer education training being offered in partnership with ATFF, SPC and the Global Fund is therefore an important development, helping to promote consistency in the content and quality of Red Cross HIV/AIDS peer education throughout the Pacific. It is worth noting that despite the present status in HIV/AIDS programme activity in PNG, key HIV/AIDS messages have still reached a vitally important segment of the PNG population through the youth first aid programme, particularly in squatter settlements.

The collection of tools and resources available to national societies in relation to safe blood and voluntary blood donor recruitment was expanded significantly in this period. This should enable national societies to improve the quality of their programme delivery, as well as ensure a greater degree of consistency and coherence in the activities undertaken in blood programmes throughout the region.

### **Constraints**

Two country visits planned by the regional first aid delegate to the Tuvalu Red Cross (TRC) in December and January have had to be postponed. Given the need to provide support for first aid in Tuvalu, arrangements were made for one TRC instructor to work for a short time in another national society, a solution that proved mutually beneficial.

Demand presently outstrips the capacity of the PNGRC youth first aid programme. As this activity directly targets one of the most vulnerable sections of the PNG population and also provides immense positive visibility for the national society, it is important that this situation be addressed or an important opportunity may be lost.

The PNGRC presently has no designated HIV/AIDS programme officer. Recruitment of a new programme officer has begun, and the PNGRC has also undertaken a restructure that it expects will help to minimize the impact of staff turnover in the future. Several other national societies in the region have expressed a keen interest in establishing HIV/AIDS programmes, but have indicated that a lack of funds is a critical constraint preventing them from doing so at this time.

The regional delegation continues to collect blood donation statistics but challenges remain where disaggregated statistics on donors are unavailable or national societies have not provided data. The difficulty in obtaining relevant statistics makes measurement of impact problematic.

Finally, the growing number of donors contributing to health and care programmes in various countries has meant that several national societies have experienced some difficulty in planning and managing programme finances. This proliferation of funding sources is likely to continue, making Federation support for the development of good financial management practice increasingly important.

### **Expected result 2: National societies have improved their capacity to address community health needs using community health tools and activities.**

#### **Progress/Achievements**

The regional health delegate travelled to Kiribati in January (along with the regional disaster management delegate) to analyse the results of the VCA conducted by the Kiribati Red Cross and assist in the development of an action plan for projects based on the needs identified. The projects have chosen to focus on youth development and health promotion (diarrhoea prevention and care).

A new health assessment form has been developed by the regional delegation to provide guidance in needs assessments for community projects, monitoring and evaluation, and emergency responses. It will be tested during VCAs to be carried out in the Solomon Islands in April and May.



*VCA skills training is put to use in Kiribati as part of a pilot project to promote community-level activity.*

As a first step toward the introduction of a health-in-emergencies plan for the region, a questionnaire has been developed that will be used to ascertain the level of available Red Cross health expertise in the Pacific. The regional delegation has also collected a range of basic resource materials and tools dealing with provision of psychological support and health in emergencies for further discussion and planning.

The regional health delegate has also been instrumental in the production of a case study following the first major phase of the pilot of the integrated community-based approach undertaken in the Solomon Islands (see disaster management section for further details).

In addition to the coordination and cooperation efforts already discussed above, the regional health and first aid delegates have held discussions with relevant health authorities during country visits (e.g. the World Health Organization, UN agencies and national ministries of health).

#### **Activities planned for the next reporting period:**

- A field trip to Kiribati;
- preparation of health education materials for the Solomon Islands Red Cross (SIRC) and KRC community projects;
- distribution of the health expertise for the Emergency Management Core Group in the Pacific (EMCG Pacific) and Pacific Red Cross disaster managers' meetings.

#### **Impact**

One of the most positive developments from this part of the programme has been the establishment and strengthening of relationships with groups ranging from international donors to grassroots community support groups.

Through the close support and guidance provided by the Federation in the pilot projects carried out by the SIRC and KRC, staff and volunteers have greatly enhanced capacity for VCA data analysis and project design. Whether it is for the replication of the process in future projects or in responding to emergencies, these are skills that will be immensely valuable.

The survey of Pacific health expertise will provide a valuable reference when planning any emergency response or planning the provision of training. It will also allow an analysis of current capacity in health in the Pacific, including an identification of the strengths and weaknesses, and the development of a long-term plan for appropriate capacity building.

## **Organizational development**

### **Background**

National societies in the Solomon Islands and Kiribati have been the main focus of organizational development (OD) activity in this reporting period. The circulation of copies of Strategy 2010, the Federation's governance guidelines and guidance of the national society statutes at the end of 2004 meant that some very valuable tools were available for work that commenced in 2005. The key messages of Strategy 2010 have been delivered throughout all branches of the Solomon Islands Red Cross, where the governance guidelines have also been a valuable tool during governance training. In Kiribati, the guidance for national society statutes document proved very useful too, as the KRC worked through the process of reviewing its constitution.

Governance training has been central to this period's work, but there has also been some emphasis placed on promoting good practice in volunteer management. Appropriate recruitment and better retention of volunteers have been identified as needs faced by all the national societies in the region and across all programme areas.

The health, disaster management and OD delegates also continue to work as a team with the Solomon Islands and Kiribati national societies in promoting a grassroots approach to using vulnerability and capacity assessments as a basis for community-based projects. The OD delegate has also had input into the case study prepared by the regional disaster management delegate on the Solomon Islands pilot of this approach (see the disaster management section, below, for more details).

**Goal: Well-functioning national societies are able to carry out their mandate effectively and efficiently.**

**Objective: Pacific national societies have made sustainable progress towards becoming well-functioning national societies.**

## **Expected result 1: National societies' governance and management have strengthened at headquarters and branch levels.**

### **Progress/achievements**

The regional OD delegate travelled to the Solomon Islands, where the Federation delegation facilitated the second round of cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) meetings in Honiara with the Solomon Islands Red Cross.

Governance training was carried out for branch committees in three branches of the Solomon Islands Red Cross: Western province, Malaita, and Guadalcanal, providing another opportunity for the OD delegate to evaluate the Movement's leadership training materials.

In Kiribati, training was provided to the national society in use of the Federation's guidelines for statute revision. Following last year's strategic planning workshops, the Federation delegation also produced a professionally printed version of the Kiribati Red Cross Strategic Plan – the first for the national society.

The Federation delegation and NZRC have been working closely with the Fiji Red Cross, providing advice on change management as the national society works toward a restructure.

Training in volunteer management was also provided to staff of the SIRC and KRC.

### **Activities planned for the next reporting period:**

- Country visit to Vanuatu to conduct training in board- and branch-level governance, constitutional review and volunteer management;
- Country visit to Palau for governance, constitutional review, volunteer management and financial management training;
- Drafts of eight Pacific leadership training modules.
- Fiji Red Cross change process workshop (to be jointly facilitated by the NZRC and the Federation).

### **Impact**

Each of the SIRC branches that took part in governance training now has an action plan for the next six months, covering crucial activities such as creating a budget, developing activities, relating to local stakeholders, managing volunteers and formalizing membership. There was a great deal of enthusiasm shown during training, with a number of participants commenting that it helped them develop a clearer understanding of their roles. The OD delegate also observed a shift in participants' focus away from building infrastructure and towards developing activities and building membership. There was also a great deal of interest in ways in which the SIRC constitution might be amended to better support the work of branches. The OD delegate will revisit these branches in six months in an effort to ensure the momentum developed is maintained.

Materials (in draft form) for three leadership training modules with a distinctly Pacific focus have evolved out of a review and adaptation of existing materials and training conducted in the Solomon Islands.

The CAS meeting in the Solomon Islands was a critical development for that national society. The national society developed a new mission statement and a strategic plan through a participatory process involving board members, staff and volunteers. Participants included representatives of the Federation, ICRC, ARC and NZRC, who identified areas in which they could provide support to the SIRC's emerging strategic plan. One of the key aims of the process was to ensure that a true sense of ownership of the final products was achieved, a goal that was greatly assisted by conducting much of the meeting in the Pidgin language, particularly the discussions relating to the new SIRC mission statement.

Despite being attended by a relatively small group, the constitution workshop in Kiribati represented a significant development in a process that had previously been moving slowly. The KRC statutes revision committee has now been provided with copies of the guidance for national society statutes tool, but it is anticipated that further support from the Federation Secretariat will be needed as the review continues.

Volunteer management workshops in both the Solomon Islands and Kiribati have laid important foundations that should help remedy problems of volunteer retention. The concept of volunteer role descriptions and the importance of role clarity for volunteers was emphasised, and the KRC now has a draft volunteer management policy.

### **Constraints**

At the time of the OD delegate's mission to Kiribati the KRC did not have a secretary-general. There seemed to be some lack of motivation among staff as a result.

### **Expected result 2: Pacific national societies have developed sustainable models for local branch development which engage local communities.**

#### **Progress/Achievements**

The Federation has assisted the KRC to analyse the data collected in last year's VCA and to design project proposals based on the findings. The resulting health education and youth development proposals are currently being discussed with the communities involved.

In the Solomon Islands, the OD delegate accompanied the SIRC on monitoring visits to the communities that undertook VCA-related projects in 2004. The data collected has been assessed and the findings included in the case study mentioned above.

#### **Activities planned for the next reporting period**

Further documentation of pilot projects, in preparation for the 12th Pacific Partnership Meeting.

#### **Impact**

As has been noted in the 2004 programme updates, the pilot phase of the community approach to VCA has required a high level of support from the Federation delegation. The fruits of that support are now being evidently reflected in the sustained enthusiasm in both the Solomon Islands and Kiribati for the process and the interest in the Red Cross generated at community level.

### **Expected result 3: Communication, knowledge sharing and learning between and within national societies have improved.**

#### **Progress/Achievements**

Following the Federation's Asia Pacific OD forum (December 2004), the OD delegate has produced a paper on how to identify ways in which OD interventions can contribute to reducing vulnerability. Another output from the forum is a case study produced in collaboration with staff of the PNGRC, featuring OD projects carried out by that national society. Both papers will be distributed to each of the 15 national societies that took part in the forum.

Volunteer agreements and role descriptions that were developed in collaboration with the KRC have been used as models in volunteer management workshops conducted in the Solomon Islands.

#### **Activities planned for the next reporting period:**

- Production of case studies on the SIRC constitution review;
- SIRC branch governance training;
- Vanuatu volunteer management training and
- the VCA and community-based projects piloted in Kiribati. Production of *Pacific Link* newsletter.

#### **Impact**

Many national societies at the Asia Pacific OD forum reported that they had great difficulty in seeing any link between OD interventions and the reduction of vulnerability. The model – known as the “impact spider” - presented at the forum by the regional OD delegate received an extremely positive response, and the paper mentioned above therefore represents an important resource that should help national societies plan and evaluate effective OD programmes.

The introduction of volunteer agreements and role descriptions represents an important step toward good volunteer management. Greater clarity of understanding of roles and responsibilities helps to ensure that volunteers are utilised effectively and are more likely to find their volunteering experience a satisfying one.

## **Organizational development in Papua New Guinea**

### **Background**

In addition to providing technical advice and guidance, the Federation's PNG country delegation also directly funds two OD-related positions within the PNGRC – those of the branch development officer and the youth programme officer. Work in this reporting period for organizational development has centred on the constitutional review, steps towards establishing a number of new branches and developing branch infrastructure, and the consolidation of the extended youth programme.

The youth first aid component has already been discussed in the health and care section, above, however it is worth noting here that the new component of the youth programme is particularly innovative, targeting youth at risk and providing them with training that immediately and directly reduces their vulnerability. The relevance of this programme is amply demonstrated by the overwhelming interest in activities provided to date, which presently outstrips the national society's capacity to meet the demand.

**Goal: Well-functioning national societies are able to carry out their mandate effectively and efficiently.**

**Objective: Pacific national societies have made sustainable progress towards being well-functioning national societies.**

**Expected result 1: National societies' governance and management have been strengthened at headquarters and branch levels.**

### **Progress/achievements**

The PNGRC is in the process of reviewing and developing effective policies and procedures. At the 2005 annual general meeting (AGM) in March, policies on development cooperation and fundraising were ratified. A volunteer and membership policy has also been endorsed by the national council, which is now providing feedback on the related procedures. The policies endorsed at the 2005 AGM will be added to the resource manual and circulated throughout the national society. Drafts of several other policies have been submitted to the national council for feedback.

The constitution of the PNGRC is currently under review, and several meetings were held with staff and volunteers. The national council's constitution review committee held a one-day workshop, and a constitution review workshop for branches is scheduled for April.

The PNGRCS strategic development plan 2004-2008 was also passed at the AGM. The national society's management structure has been revised and the new structure has been sent to the national council for endorsement in April. A new programme coordinator's position has been created in each of three areas: organisational development and emergency management; dissemination and information; and health and care.

A finance workshop was held in February for staff of the Secretariat. It was the first in a series of workshops to be conducted, with the aim of improving and standardising financial management practices throughout all levels of the national society.

### **Activities planned for the next reporting period**

- Finance workshop for branch treasurers; planning meeting; and
- feedback from branches on constitutional review.

### **Impact**

Changes in the national society's management structure should help to counter the high turnover of staff and the resultant disruption caused to programmes. The newly approved structure also enhances programme stability by allowing longer-term development and funding.

National headquarters staff has developed greater understanding on financial and management procedures surrounding their various roles and responsibilities. Financial procedures were revised and standardized at the workshop. Plans are underway to conduct a similar workshop for branch treasurers by the end of May 2005.

The review of policies and procedures in general is expected to make them more relevant and workable, and therefore more user-friendly. The drafting of the new volunteer and membership policy has also been noteworthy in that the process has been more broadly consultative and inclusive than in the past.

**Constraints:** no constraints were encountered.

**Expected result 2: Pacific national societies have developed sustainable models for local branch development which engage local communities.**

### Progress/achievements

Two working committees have been established as a first step toward the formation of new branches in the West New Britain and East Sepik provinces. One (West New Britain) has been recognized by the national council, and planning has begun for a public meeting to gain support for the establishment of a new branch. The PNGRC is also investigating the feasibility of establishing branches in the Oro and Western provinces, and steps have been taken to establish working committees there. Construction of the New Ireland branch office has finished following a PGK 30,000 (CHF 13,000) grant from the Federation Secretariat, and the office was officially opened in February. Communication between the national headquarters and the working committee on the island of Bougainville has recently been re-initiated, and plans are being developed to re-establish Red Cross representation there.

The youth programme was extended to two more branches in this reporting period, with youth leadership training provided for 36 participants. The Morobe branch has already registered its first school for the programme. The pilot project targeting youth out of school provided first aid training to 104 participants from settlements in Port Moresby. Fifteen of those participants have since become full members of the national capital district/central branch. Three youth first aid courses have been held this reporting period.

Youth members from East New Britain branch – including young people both within and outside the school system – represented their branch, including three HIV/AIDS peer educators.

### Activities planned for the next reporting period:

- Public meetings and dissemination sessions to generate support for proposed new branches;
- Two youth leadership workshops;
- An evaluation of the HIV/AIDS youth peer education programme in East New Britain branch;
- Four youth first aid courses.

### Impact

Establishment of new branches in order to extend the national society's reach throughout Papua New Guinea is a key element of the PNGRC strategic plan.

Completion of the branch office in New Ireland province provides a focal point for the branch activities. Experience has shown that having such a focal point promotes better coordination of branch activities and communication with volunteers, members and the national society Secretariat.

<b>Branch</b>	<b>Number of schools</b>
East New Britain	3
Morobe	1
NCD/C	5
Western Highlands	3
Madang	5
Milne Bay	9
Manus	5
Sandaun	3
New Ireland	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>

The youth program now operates in nine of the PNGRC's 11 branches. Its extension into Port Moresby's squatter settlements provides participants with valuable skills that help to meet very real needs, and also gives the national society an entry point to extremely vulnerable communities.

Four branches now provide youth first aid courses, and the volunteers trained go on to play an active and visible role in their communities and at public events under the banner of the PNGRC. There evidently is a growing recognition within branches of the valuable role youth members and volunteers can play in the visibility and long-term sustainability of branch-level programmes, but a greater sense of ownership of the programme at branch level is still desirable.

**Constraints:** no constraints were encountered.

**Expected result 3: Communication, knowledge sharing and learning between and within national societies has improved.**

#### **Progress/achievements**

Three youth dissemination programmes were conducted in this reporting period, involving more than 140 people, all members of the PNGNS national capital district provincial youth council.

#### **Impact**

The national society has adopted a more inclusive, participatory approach to planning, allowing greater involvement by branches. This has extended to the policy and procedure review too. The collaborative manner in which the volunteer and membership policy and procedures have been developed is expected to result in greater understanding and ownership of the policy at branch level and therefore a higher level of compliance.

Participants in youth leadership workshops go on to use the skills acquired to implement the youth programme at branch level. The national society's increased profile as a result of youth activities has been noted in previous programme updates, and continues to grow.

#### **Constraints**

The operating budget of the PNGRC organizational development programme has been reviewed in line with the funding availability to date. Alternative funding sources are being investigated in the hope that the original workplan can be reinstated.

The tsunami national appeal and Manam operation, both of which were concluded during this reporting period, put additional pressure on resources that would normally have been devoted to organizational development. The impact of such unforeseen events can never be entirely eliminated, but should be significantly reduced in future as a result of the new management structure.

Communication with branches remains an issue, hampering programme officers' ability to monitor and respond to programme needs.

## **Disaster Management**

### **Background**

In February and March, the Cook Islands were hit by four major cyclones (three of which reached category-five intensity) in just four weeks. The Cook Islands Red Cross activated its volunteers and contributed to early warning and preparedness activities, and responded quickly by providing relief to those affected in the weeks that followed. A New Zealand Red Cross relief delegate was deployed for a short period to assist in the needs assessment and the organization of relief activities. The Samoa Red Cross also provided assistance, with its volunteers transporting pre-positioned relief items, including some food, to the island of Pukapuka (which is actually closer to Samoa than to Rarotonga).

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross finalized its distribution of non-food items (jerry-cans, tarpaulins, and some mosquito nets) to people displaced from the island of Manam following volcano eruptions and heavy ash-fall

there. There has since been a review of the operation, which is discussed in greater detail below. It is now expected that internally displaced people (IDP) will remain in three care centres on the mainland for the foreseeable future, and the PNGRC is contemplating any future role in rehabilitation and longer-term development programmes. Some Manam volunteers, previously trained by the Red Cross in community-based self-reliance, are actively taking part in health awareness activities and organizing distributions.

Activities planned for the regional DM programme in 2005 remain strongly oriented towards the strategic directions set out at the 2003 Pacific Action Plan, namely that National Societies are able to carry out their mandate in emergency management and to conduct programmes that reduce risk in the community. There is a stronger emphasis this year on training for disaster response – emergency response team (ERT) training disaster management courses – and the integrated community-based approach to vulnerability and capability assessment (VCA). The latter is an approach that avoids the often artificial distinction between disaster management, health and care, and organisational development by initiating community-based projects as a direct result of a VCA. Several potential sources of multi-year funding have been identified for DM-related activities. This would allow better and more effective long-term planning, but also requires careful coordination with all actors involved. There are presently two Federation delegates with disaster management expertise in the region – the regional DM delegate based in Suva, and the head of office of the Federation's PNG country delegation. Staff turn-over continues to be a challenge, and DM officers from two National Societies (SIRC and PNGRC) resigned during this reporting period to take up positions elsewhere.

**Goal: Communities are better prepared and more resilient to national disasters and emergencies.**

**Objective: To better prepare national societies to conduct effective emergency response and community risk reduction.**

**Expected result 1: National societies are better prepared to respond effectively in times of disasters.**

#### **Progress/achievements**

The CIRC provided tarpaulins, ropes, lanterns and blankets to people affected by the cyclones mentioned above. The Pacific regional delegation provided financial support for volunteer mobilisation, transport and the procurement of additional relief items. In addition, the regional delegation coordinated and facilitated logistical operations after Cyclone Percy.

The South Pacific Applied Geo-science Commission (SOPAC) is coordinating the development of a ten-year Pacific disaster management framework, in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-15 produced at the 2004 World Conference on Disaster Reduction. The Red Cross input to this process has been coordinated by the Federation's Pacific regional delegation. Representatives of the Pacific national societies have discussed their positions relating to the initiative at a series of meetings including the Emergency Management Core Group Pacific meeting and the regional Red Cross DM officers' meeting in Fiji in April.

A memorandum of understanding has been signed between the regional delegation and the Asia Foundation (TAF), formalizing a partnership with national societies in the provision of disaster management training in the Pacific. The first course to be held under the partnership is tentatively scheduled for the Cook Islands in July 2005.

In PNG, the DM officer position is directly funded by the Federation Secretariat. Following the conclusion of its Manam volcano operation, the PNGRC formally reviewed the effectiveness of its current disaster preparedness and response plan, which was originally produced in 2001. The review has highlighted a number of ways in which the plan could be made easier to implement. A draft of the plan has been completed and once the update is finished, there will be a corresponding review of disaster-related volunteer training, to ensure that volunteers are equipped with the skills required to implement the new plan. A stock-take of the PNG RC disaster preparedness containers after the Manam operation has also commenced, with a view to full replenishment.

#### **Activities planned for the next reporting period**

Regional Red Cross disaster management officers' meeting in Fiji.

## **Expected result 2: National societies carry out effective programmes that reduce community risk.**

The Federation regional delegation sponsored the participation of DM officers from the Fiji Red Cross and the Vanuatu Red Cross in a pilot community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) course jointly conducted by the Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) and SOPAC in February.

The two national societies that took part in the pilot of the community-based VCA project continue to receive support from the regional delegation as they review and replicate their initial projects. In this reporting period the regional disaster management and health and care delegates jointly facilitated a meeting of volunteers from the Kiribati Red Cross to analyse VCA data design appropriate projects. The DM delegate also travelled to the Solomon Islands to advise SIRC branch officers on documenting their 2004 projects. The pilot project and lessons learned have been captured in a case study, which will be presented at the Pacific partnership meeting in Samoa in May. It is expected that the case study will provide valuable guidance for national societies throughout the region as they begin to implement similar projects.

In addition, the regional disaster management delegate carried out an assessment in Malu'u, Malaita where the SIRC health awareness project will take place from May 2005. The project will include VCA to collect baseline data and identify key messages during the awareness campaign.

### **Activities planned for the next reporting period**

- Publish and present the Solomon Islands case study at the Pacific partnership meeting in Samoa and regional DM managers' meeting in PNG;
- community risk assessment workshop in South Africa; produce a case study on the Kiribati VCA pilot, also to be presented at the partnership meeting in Samoa;
- national-level VCA skills training (tentative, depending on interest); recruitment of one climate change officer for the regional delegation, and one for the Tuvalu Red Cross; and
- Red Cross conference on climate change and disaster risk reduction, The Netherlands.

### **Impact**

The regional contingency plan was used for the first time in the lead-up to the 2004-2005 cyclone season. The fact that it prompted a number of cyclone-prone national societies to undertake appropriate preparations was particularly encouraging

Two disaster management officers from two key national societies are trained in community-based disaster risk management. It is expected that their new skills will be used to establish community-level projects and will also be transferred to personnel throughout their national societies.

The SIRC pilot case study has been finalized, and is to be published in Geneva in April. It will provide valuable guidance for national societies throughout the region as they begin to implement similar projects using the same approach.

The Manam volcano operation and the national appeal in response to the Asia tsunami have helped to foster a closer working relationship between the PNGRC and the national disaster management office (NDMO). The national society is now working towards establishing a formal arrangement between the two organizations.

### **Constraints**

A review of operational DM procedures had originally been planned for Vanuatu, but the disaster management officer of the Vanuatu Red Cross requested more time for consultation with stakeholders, so it has been postponed.

In PNG, the DM training programme has been put on hold in response to the review of the national society's DM plan and the resignation of the DM officer. The SIRC has an interim DM officer, with branch-level responsibilities, the national DM workplan is thus being viewed as tentative only.

## **Implementation and Management**

Long-term programming in the areas of disaster management and capacity building has been greatly enhanced through a five-year strategic engagement between AUSAID and the Australian Red Cross working in partnership with the Federation Secretariat. The cooperation is valued at over CHF 800,000 per annum, and includes support for country-level programming in PNG and the Pacific, as well as strong support for Federation technical delegates and coordination. While implementation of first year activities is already ongoing, the design of future programme activities will be further developed in the second quarter of the year. The regional programme also continues to enjoy the support of key partners such as the Red Cross societies of China, Finland, Japan, Korea and New Zealand, as well as the Global Fund and NZAID. There were no staff changes in the first quarter of the year, and no changes are foreseen for the second quarter.

This is the first time the Federation's PNG appeal has been integrated into a regional programme covering the Pacific region. An initially slow response especially to funding needs for PNG programmes and core costs has meant that operational budgets had to be revised down, by as much as 50 percent in some programmes. More active fundraising – including maximizing opportunities within the country itself – will be a high priority for the next months. Meanwhile, some activities foreseen under the yearly plan have had to be postponed.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Pacific partnership meeting will take place in Samoa from 24-27 May, focusing on follow up of the Pacific Action Plan as well as general discussion on the *Federation of the Future* process in preparation for statutory meetings later this year. Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) meetings are scheduled for the third quarter in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, while the possibility of initiating a CAS process in Vanuatu is being explored.

**[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)**

# Pacific Regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05AA062

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

28/06/2005

### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	3,295,095			TOTAL COVERAGE 48.0%	
OPENING BALANCE	571,192				
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND	95,115	18.01.05		FIJI: ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND	51,065	18.01.05		PAPUA NEW GUINEA: BRANCH NETWORK	
AUSTRALIAN - RC	26,158	AUD	24,615	22.06.05	12TH PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP MEETING
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/HAPS	524,700	CAD	493,218	12.04.05	
FINNISH - GOVT/RC	77,000	EUR	118,541	16.03.05	HEALTH AND CARE
GFTAM	41,111	USD	46,538	30.03.05	HIV PROGRAMME
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH			1,400,284	CHF	42.5%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATE(S)			49,000		
NEW ZEALAND	DELEGATE(S)			132,400		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				181,400	CHF	5.5%

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	