

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

CENTRAL AMERICA

30 June 2006

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

In Brief

Appeal No. MAA43001; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: 1 January to 31 March 2006; 2006 Appeal Coverage: 46.7%%; Outstanding needs for 2006: CHF 1,631,265 (USD 1,289,489; EUR 1,024,116)

2006 - 2007 Appeal target: CHF 5,803,015; (USD 4,571,889 EUR 3,645,392) 2006 Appeal target revised to CHF 3,063,825 (USD 2,413,564 EUR 1,924,894)

[Click here to go directly to the interim finance report.](#)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: El Salvador: Floods & Volcanic Activity (05EA020); Central America, Mexico & Haiti: Floods from Hurricane Stan (05EA021); Bahamas, Cuba & Mexico: Hurricane Wilma (05EA024)

Programme summary: The goal of the regional delegation in 2006 continues to be, as in past years, to provide support to National Societies in the core programme areas, in accordance with the Plan of Action of the Inter American Conference and *Strategy 2010*, by strengthening links and building the capacities of National Societies through regional networks, the harmonization of regional methodologies and campaigns, and the promotion of humanitarian principles and values. Following the decisions at the General Assembly in November 2005, the regional delegation is now working with the National Societies of the region and their partners to identify ways to respond to the Global Agenda and scale up the impact of Red Cross work in the region. This focus will be increasingly reflected throughout 2006, leading up to the next Inter American Conference in June 2007.

The organizational development programme has maintained its focus on improving organizational capacities of National Societies by promoting the characteristics of a “well-functioning National Society”. Activities implemented during the reporting period have centred on the drafting of a Regional Volunteering Policy, the dissemination of the Federation’s Integrity Policy and the provision of support to National Societies seeking to update branch rules and regulations, electoral policies and strategic plans.

Given the region’s vulnerability to natural disasters, the regional risk reduction programme has been working closely with the two regional centres of reference for disaster preparedness, encouraging the active training of National Intervention Teams (NITs) and the dissemination of key regional documents and methodologies, which include the Better Be Ready series, and the NITs training guides. The regional delegation is also constantly improving coordination with the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) to ensure efficient and speedy disaster response.

The regional health programme has continued to disseminate and improve successful HIV/AIDS campaigns, such as the “Nobody has the Truth Written on their Face. Protect Yourself. Use a Condom” campaign, the peer to peer “Together We Can” methodology and the “Come Closer” global campaign, and will continue to strengthen National Society health capacities through the REDCAMP-SALUD regional network. The

regional health programme is also promoting the roll-out of the Club 25 methodology to improve recruitment and retention of blood donors, and hired a consultant for the drafting a Continental Psychosocial Support Strategic Plan. The overall ability of National Societies to respond to an Avian Flu Virus threat is currently being investigated through questionnaires sent out through the health programme.

The regional humanitarian principles and values coordinator is working closely with the regional health team in the HIV/AIDS taxis campaign “Transporting Respect for People Living with HIV/AIDS”, which reached over 80,000 people within a six month period in Honduras and El Salvador in 2005. This campaign, which promotes respect and tolerance for people living with HIV/AIDS, was extended to Guatemala in early 2006 and positive results have been received thus far. The regional HPV coordinator is also working to incorporate humanitarian principles and values into each core area by making HPV tools accessible to National Societies through the regional HPV website.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Panama: Leon Prop, Head of Regional Delegation, Panama; leon.prop@ifrc.org, phone (507) 317-1300, fax (507) 317-1304
- In Geneva: Luis Luna, Federation Regional Officer, Americas Department, Geneva; email: luis.luna@ifrc.org; phone (41 22) 730-4274; fax (41 22) 733-0395

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>

The aftermath of a harsh and prolonged 2005 hurricane season left a large number of peoples and communities in Central America and Mexico more vulnerable to existing conditions of malnutrition, the rising prevalence of HIV/AIDS, and high infant and maternal mortality rates, and further exacerbated the general poverty that affects the region. Although rehabilitation efforts have continued in many countries of the region throughout the first half of the year, only the Federation operation in Guatemala is being extended until December 2006, due to the severe damage caused by floods, which affected more than 500,000 people in October 2005.

Central America and Mexico also continue to face some of the same problems that have been observed in the past: high levels of poverty and inequality, drug trafficking and money laundering, rising violence levels in urban areas (due mainly to the proliferation of violent street gangs known as *maras*), and an extreme vulnerability to natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, volcanic activity and earthquakes.

Operational developments

In January 2006 the new Head of the Regional Delegation for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean took over from his predecessor, making this period important for the coordination of briefings, information exchange and planning for 2006. A number of high-level meetings were held in this period, most notably the Continental Programme Meeting, held in Panama during the last two weeks of February, in which members of the Americas Department in Geneva worked with the Lima and Panama Regional Delegations and the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office, taking the opportunity to discuss the Federation of the Future and the Federation’s strategy for the Americas.

Another important administrative change which took place during the reporting period was the contracting of a new risk reduction delegate, who began duties in mid-February, with February and March spent in briefing, both in the region and in Geneva.

Much effort was placed over the reporting period on securing pledges for the different programme areas in order to guarantee the implementation of the objectives of the 2006-2007 Appeal for Central America and Mexico. A large

amount of time was also allocated towards exploring the possibilities of alternate funding, closing old project codes and gaining authorization from donors to move funding from old projects in order to use these funds in 2006.

Certain constraints have limited the ability of the Regional Delegation to implement some of the appeal objectives during the first trimester of 2006, including: the lack of timely delivery of pledges and very few secured pledges, the lack of a water and sanitation delegate, and the lack of funds for a communications officer.

Health and care

Programme Objective: National Societies in the region are increasingly adhering to the commitments in health as set out in the *Plan of Action of the XVII Inter-American Conference*, particularly with respect to the development of their health departments, and in the areas of HIV/AIDS, health in emergencies, community health, the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD) and water and sanitation.

Expected Result 1: The capacity of National Society Health departments has been strengthened and effective partnerships have been secured in line with *Strategy 2010* and the Santiago de Chile Commitment.

Progress/Achievements



The health regional network meeting (REDMP-SALUD) held in Guatemala on January 2006.

The first meeting of regional health network, REDCAMP-SALUD, was held in Guatemala in January and was presided over by the new network coordinator from the Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC). The previous coordinator from the Red Cross Society of Panama handed over the responsibility to her counterpart in the GRC who will be responsible for running the regional network in 2006.

The meeting made decisions in a number of crucial areas. Firstly, the “Health Indicators Working Group” presented their recommendations on strengthening the health indicators linked to the Santiago de Chile Commitment. These indicators were approved by the network and shared with the health department in Geneva and the regional health delegate in Lima for comments and suggestions. In addition, decisions were taken on the importance of supporting common methodologies throughout the region, and the network approved work on the “Club 25” methodology in voluntary non-remunerated blood donation, pending a report from

the 10th Colloquium on VNRBD, which was held in Chile in March. An agreement was also reached on the importance of focusing on Avian Influenza preparedness, in coordination with regional Ministries of Health. The network plans to have one regional workshop in 2006 with a tentative theme of *Integrated Community Programming*, with a focus on promoting a number of common health methodologies. Funding for this objective is being provided by Norwegian Red Cross.

Impact

Six of the seven National Societies in the region are working on common methodologies and there is a real sense of “ownership” in REDCAMP-SALUD of the importance of sharing experiences and lessons learned through the network. The HIV/AIDS taxis campaign (mentioned below), an initiative which grew from ideas of the network, has given the network its first taste of success at the regional level and there is interest in replicating this success in other health programming areas.

Expected Result 2: The response of National Societies in the HIV/AIDS epidemic has been refined and scaled up in the areas of prevention, care and the fight against stigma and discrimination.

Progress/Achievements

The Red Cross Societies of Panama, Costa Rica and Honduras are all using the standard “Together we Can” (TWC) youth peer education methodology and a written request from the Salvadorean Red Cross Society in January is now being responded to. During the three month reporting period, the Red Cross Society of Panama increased impact through TWC by reaching an additional 300 peers, with 30 of these peers reached being from indigenous communities.

Central America; Appeal no. MAA43001; Programme Update no. 1

The Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC), with the possible support of the Italian Red Cross, has shown interest in implementing TWC with training workshops planned for the second quarter of 2006. Regional health staff will meet with the NRC health director and HIV/AIDS manager in April to discuss the roll-out of TWC in Nicaragua. The Guatemalan Red Cross is also interested in beginning TWC as soon as possible, and the success and experience gained from past HIV/AIDS initiatives in this country are likely to make this campaign a success in terms of impact.

The “Nobody has the Truth Written on their Face. Protect Yourself. Use a Condom” campaign has now been introduced in Panama, Guatemala and Honduras; the Salvadorean and Nicaraguan Red Cross Societies are also interested in implementing this campaign in their countries. Some 5,000 t-shirts and 10,000 posters have been printed for distribution throughout the region and regional funding to assist with the costs of this scaling-up is being sought. Members of the regional health team met with a number of potential commercial sponsors in order to secure financial support for this initiative, and efforts will continue into the second quarter.



The regional health team will continue to work closely with all National Societies in the region in anti-stigma and anti-discrimination activities promoting respect for people living with HIV/AIDS. The HIV/AIDS taxis campaign, “Transporting Respect for People Living with HIV/AIDS,” has received further funding from the Swedish Red Cross for 2006 and the campaign continues to grow in El Salvador and Honduras, with Guatemala beginning the campaign in early 2006. Over 80,000 passengers were reached in El Salvador and Honduras with key messages on anti-stigma/anti-discrimination and prevention in a six month pilot project from July to December 2005. It is expected that these numbers will grow substantially in 2006 (*For more information see Humanitarian Principles and Values section of this report*).

The “0%” campaign has been very successful in Honduras, with TV spots produced and radio announcements aired on local radio stations. The regional health programme is working closely with the regional humanitarian principles and values coordinator to assess how the campaign can be launched throughout the region. In addition, members of the Guatemalan Red Cross received training through a successful workshop for 31 newspaper journalists where the focus was HIV/AIDS and anti-stigma/anti-discrimination.

Funding for this objective is provided by the Norwegian, Swedish and Swiss Red Cross Societies.

Impact

HIV/AIDS campaigns and methodologies being implemented throughout the region have been very successful. The “Nobody has the Truth Written on their Face. Protect Yourself. Use a Condom” campaign is being adopted by most National Societies in the region, while the “Together We Can” methodology and the “Transporting Respect for People Living with HIV/AIDS” campaign continue to reach people in the region with their important HIV/AIDS prevention and anti-stigma and anti-discrimination messages.

Expected Result 3: National Societies have scaled-up integrated health interventions in the area of mother and child health, VNRBD, and health in emergencies in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Ministries of Health (MoH) and other partners (including vulnerable communities).

Progress/Achievements

The Federation funded the presence of five Central American National Societies: El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua at the 10th International Colloquium on VNRBD held in Santiago de Chile in March 2006. All five National Societies were introduced to new tools and methodologies and, in particular, the “Club 25” methodology where the focus is on recruiting young blood donors who pledge to donate a certain quantity of blood and maintain healthy lifestyle behaviours. All five National Societies expressed interest in implementing this methodology and a follow-up meeting has been scheduled for July in order to take the next steps towards a regional roll-out of “Club 25”, as part of a continental approach. In order to generate donor interest in VNRBD, the regional health delegate met with the advertising agency McCann Erickson and invited them to appear at the colloquium as guest speakers on “Marketing VNRBD Campaigns”. The regional health programme also presented a concept paper to the Finnish Red Cross requesting financial support to launch the continental roll-out of the Club 25 methodology.

In early January 2006, a consultant worked with the health team from Panama and Lima to put together a “Continental Strategic Plan on Psychosocial Support Programmes – (PSP)”. During a three month period, the consultant visited a number of key National Societies which had carried out activities and had experience in PSP, including Guatemala and Costa Rica. The consultant also filled in telephone questionnaires with the other National Societies in the region, including the Caribbean. The draft report is now being circulated to National Societies for their inputs before being printed and more widely distributed for implementation.

Six of the seven National Societies in the region responded to the Avian Influenza questionnaire. The responses indicate that most National Societies are not as yet prepared in the event of an outbreak in Central America and most are not yet coordinating activities with Ministries of Health. Information on Avian Influenza preparedness has been sent to all National Societies in the region and the regional website is regularly updated with a special section on the issue. The regional health delegate and regional risk management delegate have met with PAHO and OCHA on Avian Influenza preparedness and it is expected that this liaison will be formalized in April through the formation of an Inter-Agency Working Group on Avian Flu with PAHO, OCHA, WFP, UNICEF and other agencies in Panama.

Funding for activities in this area is provided by the Norwegian Red Cross.

Impact

It is important to be aware of the type of response capacity that can be expected from National Societies in the region to an outbreak of the Avian Influenza virus. The regional health team is currently disseminating information to National Societies regarding the potential devastating effect of an outbreak and is seeking to establish links between National Societies and Ministries of Health in their countries for a unified and efficient response to the virus.

Expected Result 4: Integrated health interventions in the area of water and sanitation in partnership with PAHO, the Ministries of Health and other partners (including vulnerable communities) are being implemented by National Societies.

Progress/Achievements

No progress has been made against this objective, as staffing and funding have not yet been obtained. Despite this, the regional programme coordinator worked with the support of the Secretariat Headquarters’ water and sanitation department to identify National Societies and Partner National Societies interested in participating in the second call for proposals for the European Commission’s Global Water Facility, and participated in discussions regarding the set up of the project for Haiti and the Dominican Republic which will start in August 2006, together with the Spanish Red Cross.

Constraints

The Regional Delegation will not be able to move forward in this objective without the funds and commitment to provide a qualified and experienced officer in water and sanitation to start work. The Regional Delegation is liaising with the water and sanitation department at the Secretariat Headquarters in order to find solutions in this area.

Disaster Management

Programme Objective: Strengthened National Societies are working at the community, national and regional levels with better prepared communities which are less vulnerable to the impact of disaster.

Expected Result 1: The regional reference centre for education in community based disaster management based in Costa Rica is fully operational and supports peer Red Cross Societies.

Progress/Achievements

The coordinator of the regional centre of reference in community based disaster management based in the Costa Rican Red Cross attended a continental risk reduction coordination meeting in Panama during February, which included the participation of representatives of the Lima and Panama Regional Delegations, the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office and the Secretariat Headquarters disaster preparedness and response office. The centre of reference presented the most recent material, which includes an interactive CD with the first four modules of the series “Better Be Ready...” This meeting resulted in the establishment of a common approach to risk reduction in the continent through the linking of the Global Agenda with the framework for action in the Americas. The three sub-regions recognized a need to work closer together, and during March worked together to produce a continental disaster management bulletin (previously known as the South America Disaster Network Bulletin), including news for the whole continent.

There has been an increase in the number of National Societies using material produced by the centre of reference in Costa Rica, with six National Societies in Central America currently using the centre’s material and a large number of National Societies showing interest in adopting this material, including: Belize, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Mexico, as well as a number of PNSs working in the region. Currently, the centre is working on the English and French translations and revision of the first four modules of the “Better Be Ready...” series, with the support of the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office, in order to use this methodology in the Caribbean and Haiti.



The centre of reference has also approved and is in the process of printing the next three modules of the “Better Be Ready...” series. These three modules are: Healthy Home, Psychosocial First Aid and Temporary Shelter Management. The latter two modules, which have a focus on emergency situations, will enhance National Societies’ capacity to assist people affected by disasters through a more efficient implementation of psychosocial first aid and temporary shelter management.

Impact

The centre of reference now has more than 68 facilitators in the region who have reached over 500 practitioners and over 200 communities. There are plans to support peer National Societies in the region in order to increase the number of facilitators, with activities such as the VCA Training of Trainers, which will be held in Panama in April 2006.

Constraints

Funding was the major constraint during this reporting period, with funding slow to arrive. Partial funding was received from the British Red Cross, with a commitment to continue funding for a 2-3 year period, as well as to

Central America; Appeal no. MAA43001; Programme Update no. 1

support the centre in developing its strategic business plan. The centre of reference spent most of the beginning of the year establishing its plan of action based on a realistic estimation of funding that will be received. At the time of writing, the centre has about 65 percent funding and the delegation is looking for further, more sustainable funding to support its work.

Expected Result 2: The regional reference centre for disaster preparedness in El Salvador contributes to saving lives in disaster situations and is fully consolidated to offer regular peer support to sister Red Cross Societies.

Progress/Achievements

The regional centre of reference in El Salvador focused on institutional disaster preparedness became fully operational in January 2006 with an approved plan of action, and continues to be an important provider of National Intervention Team (NIT) training. The centre, with the support of the risk reduction programme, is currently working on translating material produced in 2005 into English in order to begin promoting this methodology in the Caribbean. The goal is to harmonize training material throughout the entire continent, establishing a single methodology for NITs training. With the support of PADRU, National Societies in Central America, the Caribbean and South America are also working to update and revise their contingency and response plans, and the centre of reference will develop an interactive CD guide as soon as the new material is tested and approved by an external consultant.

The centre of reference is incorporating feedback from the continental programme meeting held in February in NITs training guides and is placing all material on its website to grant National Societies immediate access. The website will be further developed to give better access and visibility to the work the Federation is carrying out in disaster preparedness and risk reduction. Access to this material will allow National Societies to more efficiently carry out NITs training and will result in overall better preparedness for disasters.

In February, the centre of reference also participated in the continental risk reduction meeting held in Panama, presenting its plan of action for 2006, the NITs Training Manual and the Safer Access Guide to members of all three sub-regions of the Americas. The centre of reference coordinator also participated in a DIPECHO V workshop "Lessons Learned and Priorities in El Salvador during Emergencies and Disasters" during March.

Impact

The harmonization of the regional NITs training methodology, through the efforts of the centre of reference, will enable National Societies to use a standardized and tested method of training, ensuring more efficient disaster response.

Constraints

Lack of immediately available funding was the major constraint during this reporting period, although partial funding for the centre was received from British Red Cross towards the end of the period, with a commitment to continue funding for a 2-3 year period. The centre of reference spent most of the beginning of the year establishing a plan of action based on likely funding.

Expected Result 3: Communities are better prepared and more organized to respond to and recover from the effects of natural hazards and have recognized potential mitigation needs and actions to take.

Progress/Achievements

During the reporting period, the focus of the risk reduction programme was on the production of materials by the centres of reference and many of the activities under this objective are planned for implementation later on in the year. However, in El Salvador 15 response plans, drafted in 30 communities in 2005, were digitalized and are now being reviewed in order to be shared with other branches of the National Society so that they can develop similar plans with vulnerable communities. These plans are expected to be analyzed by early April and dissemination will take place with four meetings scheduled in each department.

Some 15 communities in the San Vicente Department, in coordination with the local Red Cross branch, have been selected and activities are being carried out to enhance preparedness through the strengthening of the community disaster response team and the establishment of an early warning network. These community disaster response team

Central America; Appeal no. MAA43001; Programme Update no. 1

members received follow-up first aid courses during the month of March, and to date there have been a total of 9 communities with up to 270 people trained and directly benefiting from this initiative, together with a further estimated 400 indirect beneficiaries as a result of these training activities.

In addition, Integrated Risk Reduction projects funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, are being implemented in the Dominican Republic and Cuba, with the aim of providing vulnerable communities with risk reduction management tools in the form of VCA methodologies.

Impact

The dissemination of VCA methodologies in Cuba and Dominican Republic and the trainings carried out by community disaster response teams allow communities to be better prepared to respond and recover from disaster situations.

Constraints

The Regional Delegation is concerned that, to date, little funding has been received for this objective. Without sufficient funds, the support the Regional Delegation can provide to National Societies so that they can use the materials and methodologies being developed in the region will be limited.

Expected Result 4: The National Societies' capacity to undertake disaster preparedness programming and to assist and advocate on behalf of disaster-affected people is strengthened.

Progress/Achievements

Whilst most of the activities for this objective have been planned to take place later in the year, a number of important activities took place during the first three months of the year. The first NITs follow-up meeting in El Salvador was held in March, with the participation of 50 NITs members. This meeting presented recommendations related to relief distributions based on experiences in past emergencies in El Salvador. The Salvadorean Red Cross Society and the centre of reference are also providing support for the coordination of a NITs basic training in Guatemala for the first week of June, in preparation for the hurricane season.

The Honduran Red Cross carried out a number important disaster preparedness activities including the holding of a risk management workshop for 20 volunteers using the Protected School module of the "Better Be Ready..." series; in addition, risk reduction projects were developed in the El Paraíso branch of the Salvadorean Red Cross Society, reaching 17 communities with the use of Federation VCA tools. In addition, the Costa Rican Red Cross held a SPHERE project training course, which teaches basic standards for humanitarian response in disaster situations.

The following months will be focused on starting work on a number of the activities planned for this objective, including the development of a quality standards guide for well functioning disaster management departments and the dissemination of Federation policies in disaster management. A consultant has been hired to develop a teaching guide for the disaster management policy, which will aid in the dissemination of disaster policy in the different National Societies, and strengthen capacity to assist people affected by disasters.

Impact

There has thus far been limited impact at this early stage in the year, but the focus of this objective is to strengthen the ability of communities to respond to and recover from disasters through NITs trainings and appropriate application of the disaster management policy.

Constraints

As with the previous objectives, the major constraint was lack of funding.

Expected Result 5: Disaster risk reduction information management is effectively used to increase awareness and identify hazards.

Progress/Achievements

Central America; Appeal no. MAA43001; Programme Update no. 1

There is little to report at this early stage of the year; however, a useful meeting was held in Panama in February, between Federation staff working in communications and risk reduction to discuss possible common approaches between these two areas. A key tool for the provision of risk reduction information is the website www.cruzroja.org, which is constantly being updated. The site will be upgraded in the coming months to give greater access to important information on the regional disaster preparedness network (REDCAMP-DISASTER) and new developments being undertaken by the centres of reference.

Impact

The upgraded website will prove a vital tool for providing National Societies with access to risk reduction tools.

Constraints

No funding has been received for this objective, which means that no significant progress has been made nor can be foreseen in future. The Regional Delegation is looking to find longer term support for priorities in disaster management and risk reduction but remains concerned for the remaining months of 2006.

Expected Result 6: Cross Border communities are better supported by their Branches, and are interacting and coordinating with cross border neighbour communities.

Progress/Achievements

Activities in this area are pending the identification of donors interested in supporting this objective. The Finnish Red Cross expressed its interest in supporting cross border work throughout the region during a visit to the Regional Delegation in March. The Regional Delegation will be working with the Finnish Red Cross in the coming months in order to develop a three year funding proposal.

Organizational Development

Programme Objective: The National Societies in the region are increasingly adhering to the criteria of a “Well Functioning National Society”, and are improving their capacity to work with vulnerable communities.

Expected Result 1: National Societies will have improved their capacity to organize their volunteers in programmes that assist vulnerable people, through application of the regional volunteering strategy.

Progress/Achievements

The regional volunteering strategy was developed, with the support of the U.K Department for International Development (DFID) and the Swedish Red Cross, in a workshop held in Panama between 27 and 29 March 2006, facilitated by the regional organizational development department. The volunteering strategy will improve the capacity of National Societies to assist vulnerable people by strengthening their ability to recruit, retain and train



volunteers. This strategy focuses on a number of key steps involving: advocacy, protocols, training, regulations and management. National volunteer leaders from all seven National Societies in the region participated in the event. Representatives from the Dominican and Venezuelan Red Cross Societies (thanks to the coordination and support of the Lima Regional Delegation) were also present, and the Spanish Red Cross coordinator for the regional violence prevention strategy was available via video conference. The workshop was facilitated by the national volunteering coordinator from the Mexican Red Cross, with the support of the regional humanitarian principles and values coordinator.

The regional volunteering strategy will be disseminated for approval by the National Societies in the region, in order to guarantee its implementation. The strategy will also be disseminated to PNS and to the ICRC in order to obtain support through cooperation projects managed with National Societies.

In addition to the approval of a regional volunteering strategy, the volunteering representatives' meeting held in March produced the following results:

1. A basic volunteering in emergencies protocol was developed with the support of PADRU and is being reviewed by REDCAMP-DISASTER and the regional centre of reference for disaster preparedness in El Salvador. It is expected that this protocol will be made available prior to the 2006 hurricane season.
2. The draft of the first general model of volunteer training schedules was developed and participants received training from the Spanish Red Cross on training schedule design. This material is in the process of being reviewed by the training centres in the Red Cross Societies of Mexico and Panama.
3. Volunteer leaders used educational training material on the regional volunteering policy, volunteer management and indicators for volunteer development, in order to validate the tools and methodologies produced in 2005.
4. A template for the collection of data for the regional study on volunteering was developed using as a reference the data bases established in the National Societies of Guatemala and Honduras.
5. Volunteer leaders received training on the Millennium Development Goals, the Federation of the Future, the Gender Policy and the Federation's pledge to "Fight stigma and intolerance".

Several National Societies have included indicators on volunteering in their national strategic plans, including the Red Cross Societies of Honduras and Panama (with support of the Capacity Building Fund) and Guatemala (with the support of the Norwegian Red Cross). It is also expected that the Costa Rican and Salvadorean Red Cross Societies, both of which are in the process of reviewing their strategic plans, will include volunteering indicators in this document. The core areas of the regional volunteering policy are being implemented as part of the strategic and operational planning of the Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Honduran, Mexican and Salvadorean Red Cross Societies, while the Red Cross Societies of Nicaragua and Panama are focusing on the areas of revision of statutes, training schedules, regional studies and advocacy.

The Red Cross youth network is taking an active role in the management and governing bodies of the Red Cross Societies of Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. In a meeting facilitated by the national youth director of the Red Cross Society of Panama (who is also the coordinator of the regional network), the network assessed achievements in relation to commitments for 2005 and the priorities for the regional network in 2006. Youth leaders received training on Gender Policy, the Federation of the Future, the strengthening of programmes and the Millennium Development Goals.

Impact

The regional volunteering strategy will have an important role in helping National Societies of the region in training, recruiting and retaining a solid volunteer base. National Societies are aware of the importance of volunteers, and many have included volunteering indicators in their Strategic Plans.

Constraints

There has been uncertainty in the planning process and the achievement of objectives due to the fact that the main donor, the Norwegian Red Cross, has not yet pledged its support for 2006. The organizational development programme is concerned with difficulties in implementing objectives after June, with National Societies giving priority to the hurricane season.

Expected Result 2: The integrity, institutional capacities and development of the National Societies are strengthened, in particular by utilizing the expertise of the regional organizational development network.

Progress/Achievements

The regional organizational development meeting was carried out on 27-28 March, and was facilitated by the OD coordinator of the Honduran Red Cross, with the support of the regional OD delegate. The meeting included the participation of the Red Cross Societies of Mexico and Central America, one Caribbean Red Cross Society, the Finnish Red Cross, the ICRC cooperation delegate, and the South America regional OD officer. In addition to Red Cross representatives, the coordinator of monitoring and evaluation from UNICEF was also present.



Regional organizational development meeting, held in Panama on 27- 28 March, 2006.

The meeting resulted in the following:

1. Organizational development results for 2005 were evaluated and priorities for 2006 were discussed in accordance with commitments obtained during the 2005 presidents and technical seminars meeting held in Panama.
2. A monitoring tool for the Plan of Action of the Inter American Conference was approved.
3. The Federation Integrity Policy was disseminated, along with information related to the Millennium Development Goals, the Federation of the Future, a Common Focus on Organizational Development, and other key Federation decisions related to organizational development.
4. Organizational development indicators approved by the General Assembly in Seoul were reviewed, including indicators for branches, volunteers, project planning, management, and community development.
5. The network selected one participant from the region to participate in a leadership course to be held during May in Geneva.
6. The regional organizational development website was validated and launched on www.cruzroja.org.
7. The regional volunteering strategy was disseminated to members of the regional organizational development network.

The Red Cross Societies of Panama and Nicaragua, with the support of funds from DFID and technical support from the OD programme and the focal points of the OD network, have begun the process of drafting an electoral policy and a series of branch rules and regulations, using the Guatemalan Red Cross regulations as a model, prior to National Society elections planned for later in the year.

With the support of DFID funds, the Costa Rican Red Cross is in the process of commencing an evaluation phase for updating its Strategic Plan, while the Red Cross Society of Panama, through its General Assembly, approved its National Strategic Plan, which is in accordance with Strategy 2010 and the Plan of Action of the Inter American Conference.

Impact

The regional OD network meeting was an important opportunity to provide regional network members with the know-how necessary to begin disseminating two important documents within their National Societies: the regional volunteering strategy and the integrity policy. Monitoring tools were also approved to ensure analysis of the regional network and provide an important framework for study in the next Inter American Conference, to be held in Guayaquil in 2007.

Constraints

There has been uncertainty in the planning process and the achievement of objectives due to the lack of funds.

Expected Result 3: The National Societies and their networks of branches have developed the capacity to manage integrated programmes at the community level.

Progress/Achievements

No major activities were planned for this objective during the reporting period; however, a number of useful documents and case studies already available in Spanish, produced during the continental forum on integrated community programmes in October 2005, are in the process of being translated for their launch on Fednet, and

Central America; Appeal no. MAA43001; Programme Update no. 1

several Federation documents have been translated into Spanish, including: OD Common Approach and Community Development Common Approach. In addition, four OD projects are being implemented in National Society branches in accordance with agreed methodologies and criteria, in coordination and with the participation of other programmes.

Constraints

There has been uncertainty in the planning process and the achievement of objectives due to the lack of funds.

Expected Result 4: The National Societies are communicating the messages of the Red Cross in a systematic way, projecting a coherent image and advocating in favour of vulnerable people.

To date, there is no progress to report in this area. The Regional Delegation is evaluating how best to respond to the communications needs of the region, both for the National Societies and the Regional Delegation, given the current absence of funds or potential donors for this objective.

Humanitarian Principles and Values

Programme Objective: Humanitarian principles and values are integrated in each of the core programme areas within the National Societies in the region, in accordance with Strategy 2010.

Expected Result 1: The National Societies are systematically disseminating the fundamental principles and humanitarian values, using regional tools.

Progress/Achievements

Humanitarian principles and values are being introduced into each core programme area through improved access to promotional tools and documents and the strengthening of volunteer training. All National Societies in the region have access to tools developed by the Regional Delegation for the promotion of humanitarian principles and values through their public relations coordinators, and the Red Cross Societies of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama are using these regional tools and manuals in the training of volunteers and personnel and in the drawing up of information bulletins. The HPV programme has also developed a humanitarian principles and values training programme, together with National Societies of the region, which includes a training schedule and uses HPV regional tools and methodologies to ensure that volunteers, who are key spokesmen of the Movement's mandate, are familiar with and understand the Movement's humanitarian principles and values.

The regional HPV website continues to be a vital mechanism for communicating the importance of HPV. Four National Societies: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras regularly share information on programmes and activities related to HPV, making possible the exchange of information and the sharing of initiatives and ideas throughout the region. The visibility of the HPV programme will be improved through a redesign of the website in the coming months.

Impact

All National Societies in the region have incorporated components of humanitarian principles and values into their Strategic Plans. Regional videos, radio spots and information manuals are being used by the National Societies which are showing interest in incorporating HPV into the different programme areas. An important campaign, which will develop a training programme on the code of conduct and disaster policy and will follow up on the promotion of HPV in the region through their inclusion in National Society Strategic Plans, is being coordinated with the support of the organizational development programme.

Constraints

There is little interest on the part of the National Societies in sharing experiences to be placed on the regional HPV website. In order to improve this situation, community programme representatives in each country are being directly involved in the gathering of information. In addition, although the programme only has 50 percent of the requested funds at its disposal, efforts are being coordinated with the organizational development, health and disaster preparedness programmes in order to include HPV in regional initiatives.

Expected Result 2: The National Societies are developing activities that promote tolerance, non-discrimination and respect for diversity, both within and outside the Movement.

Progress/Achievements

The Red Cross Societies of Costa Rica and Panama reached a consensus with the other National Societies in the region in order to act as hosts of the regional Red Cross youth and first aid camps, where violence prevention will be one of the key subjects discussed. In preparation for this event, to take place on 22-25 June, the Red Cross Society of Panama has trained 62 youth leaders on the subject of “violence and youth,” with the support of the Spanish Red Cross and in coordination with the Regional Delegation.

The Guatemalan, Honduran and Salvadorean Red Cross Societies shared experiences and lessons learned from the “Transporting Respect for People Living with HIV/AIDS” campaign, which uses taxi drivers as a means of promoting tolerance and respect towards people living with HIV/AIDS, during the REDCAMP-SALUD network meeting held in January in Guatemala.

The Honduran Red Cross has trained more than 50 taxi drivers, who are educating their passengers on the importance of tolerance and respect for people living with HIV/AIDS. It is estimated that in January 35,000 taxi passengers were educated on this important issue through radio messages played and bulletins handed out by the trained taxi drivers. In addition, 14 volunteers of the Honduran Red Cross have gained knowledge of human rights and anti-stigma and anti-discrimination in order to multiply the number of drivers trained in the following months.

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society trained 100 taxi drivers in the capital city of San Salvador, which have managed to reach around 84,000 passengers with important anti-stigma and anti-discrimination messages. Some 12 Salvadorean Red Cross Society volunteers were also trained as facilitators in the taxi campaign and in the “Participatory Routes in HIV/AIDS” methodology, which is being promoted by the German GTZ organization.

The Guatemalan Red Cross has included two taxi companies (Green and Yellow Taxis) in the city of Guatemala into the “Transporting Respect for People Living with HIV/AIDS”, of which 75 drivers are currently receiving training in order to carry out the anti-stigma and anti-discrimination awareness campaign. Two important organizations in Guatemala, Positive People and the temporary shelter “Friends Living with HIV/AIDS”, have joined this initiative and will be playing an important role as trainers in this campaign.

Impact

More than 100,000 taxi passengers were reached through the “Transporting Respect for People Living with HIV/AIDS” campaign in Honduras and El Salvador in January alone. It is expected that figures of people reached and exposed to the anti-discrimination and anti-stigma messages of this campaign will multiply as the Guatemalan Red Cross campaign reaches a more advanced stage of implementation.

Expected Result 3: At the national level, National Society leadership is promoting advocacy activities in favour of vulnerable populations, as established in the Plan of Action of the XVII Inter-American Conference.

Progress/Achievements

Some 16 volunteer representatives and 9 organizational development representatives from the National Societies in the region received orientation on the “No Discrimination” campaign during the OD and volunteering meetings held in Panama between 27 and 29 March 2006. The eight National Society health representatives also participated in the review of tools used in promoting non-discrimination and tolerance for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Impact

The Red Cross Societies of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama have incorporated advocacy within their National Strategic Plans.

Constraints

In order to develop activities related to migratory groups, it will be necessary to receive more clear inputs from the National Societies. To date, only the Mexican and Dominican Red Cross Societies are implementing activities in this area.

Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships

Programme Objective: Strengthened and improved cooperation, coordination and support mechanisms are in place, facilitating collaboration amongst Movement partners and with strategic partners.

Expected Result 1: There is regional Movement agreement on the mechanisms for building long term coordinated support to National Societies' priorities (as expressed in their National Development Plans), including a monitoring framework, building on the Federation wide global experience of Cooperation Agreement Strategies.

Progress/Achievements

Communicating the plans of the Federation and encouraging the sharing of information between National Societies is an important starting-point for building long term support for the priorities of National Societies. With most of the activities within this expected result planned for later in 2006 or 2007, this first period of the year was focused on negotiations with traditional and potential donors in order to secure pledges for the various programmes, and with National Societies to agree to programme plans during the year.

Any support provided by the Regional Delegation is complementary to the work of other Movement partners and develops the potential of working together within the region or continent; ensuring well coordinated support is central to this approach and communication is a key element in order to achieve this. Valuable strides have been made in recent years in encouraging the adoption of common methodologies and materials (in vulnerability and capacity analysis, community based disaster preparedness, peer education in HIV/AIDS, psychological first aid, community health etc). During early 2006, efforts were focused on ensuring the adoption of common methodologies in the different DIPECHO-funded Red Cross disaster preparedness projects being carried out in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and the Caribbean (five of the nine DIPECHO projects in the Caribbean are implemented by the Red Cross). During March, the Central American National Societies were consulted regarding the possibilities of presenting a coherent Red Cross approach to the forthcoming call for proposals for DIPECHO V Central America and in preparing for a series of national and regional consultation meetings being held by ECHO in April.

The Global Agenda has identified the importance of improving cooperation practice in order to scale up and achieve better programme impact, with the forming of *Operational Alliances* as a key mechanism. An important operational alliance was struck between the Federation Secretariat and the Dominican, Haitian and Spanish Red Cross Societies when the EU agreed to fund a EUR 2 million programme in Haiti and the Dominican Republic under the global water facility. Following confirmation of the success of the proposal, initial discussions started with the National Societies involved regarding implementation of the project, which will start in August 2006. At the same time negotiations were started with a number of European National Societies, particularly the French Red Cross, and Caribbean National Societies to identify interest in developing at least one proposal for the second round.

In 2005 the Spanish Red Cross facilitated the development of a regional anti-violence strategy which was adopted by the presidents of the Central American National Societies in September 2005. During the reporting period, meetings were held with the Spanish Red Cross delegate responsible for supporting the implementation of the strategy and initial steps were taken. More details are provided in the humanitarian principles and values section.

The Regional Delegation has provided on-going support to the Haiti delegation and its in-coming head of delegation. The Haitian National Red Cross Society, the Haiti delegation and the Regional Delegation will continue to provide support at a critical time following national elections, both in the various programmatic areas, as well in Movement cooperation and management support.

Impact

Central America; Appeal no. MAA43001; Programme Update no. 1

As mentioned above, most of the activities planned in this activity have been planned for later on in 2006 or 2007; therefore, there is little to concretely report at this stage. However, a number of the activities carried out demonstrate the improvements that have been achieved in terms of cooperation.

Constraints

There are few constraints at this stage since activities were not planned for this period. However, the Regional Delegation is concerned that only one donor has so far come forward to support activities in this areas. Of particular concern are the costs of the regional programme coordinator. Without broader support, it will not be possible to implement some of the significant activities leading up to Guyaquil 2007.

Expected Result 2: National Societies sustain and further develop networks and partnerships to enhance regional cooperation and peer support.**Progress/Achievements**

The regional OD network meeting focusing on volunteer management held at the end of March (mentioned in the OD section above), brought together a number of members of other networks, not only from Central America, but also from South America and the Caribbean, as well involving National Society staff and volunteers from other sectors such as disaster management and health, to move forward on addressing a critical issue in the development of National Societies. REDCAMP-SALUD, the health network, is also planning to involve members from other programme networks in the next meeting, in order to ensure complementarities between the different sectors.

During the reporting period, the Regional Delegation developed a proposal to review the experience throughout the continent of working through networks in the past few years, with a view to consolidating best practices both in the region and more generally throughout the Federation, and to presenting the findings at the next Inter American Conference. The proposal was presented to DFID and approved in March, together with a complementary proposal focused on knowledge-sharing presented by the Lima Regional Delegation. The process to identify a suitable consultant to carry out the work in the coming months has begun

Initial discussions were held with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in January regarding the possibility of collaborating in their work with CEPREDENAC in the area of community-based disaster preparedness, and particularly training. The regional health delegate and regional risk management delegate have attended meetings with PAHO and OCHA on Avian Influenza preparedness and it is expected that this liaison will be formalized in April through the formation of an Inter-Agency Working Group on Avian Flu with PAHO, OCHA, WFP, UNICEF and other agencies in Panama.

Impact

Increasing opportunities to share and learn from one another, both within the region and between regions provide exciting possibilities for the future.

Constraints

The Regional Delegation is concerned that it may be difficult to find a suitable consultant for the network learning consultancy, given the limited time available (funds need to have been spent by the end of June 2006). Discussions are ongoing with the Lima Regional Delegation to see how the two broadly related consultancies can be accomplished together.

Expected Result 3: The Regional Delegation's cooperation with the ICRC is expanded and deepened under the Strategy for the Movement, in compliance with the pledges of the International Conference.**Progress/Achievements**

The cooperation delegate from the ICRC Mexico Regional Delegation visited the Regional Delegation during the reporting period and participated in the OD meeting held in Panama on 27-29 March on volunteer management. This meeting resulted in the approval of a regional volunteering strategy.

Impact

There is little to say at this point in the year, beyond the fact that the two institutions are in regular contact, despite both having had several changes of key staff at the end of 2005.

Constraints

The plan of action anticipates a number of joint activities, including regular meetings; however, the Panama Regional Delegation has no provision in its core budget to facilitate these types of meetings, and plans may have to be curtailed. The continued lack of a communications officer means that the Regional Delegation currently does not have the capacity to follow up on the planned-for activities vis-à-vis the communications network.

Expected Result 4: National Societies and the Federation have strengthened their position, credibility and visibility through alliances and strategic partnerships which are delivering valuable services to vulnerable people.

Progress/Achievements

The regional health programme continues to build on partnerships and alliances, particularly in the area of HIV/AIDS. The “faces” campaign developed by advertising company, McCann/Erickson, is now being rolled out throughout the region, while the work with taxi collectives has helped to significantly scale up activities tackling stigma and discrimination. Further alliances are being considered in the area of disaster risk reduction.

International Representation and Advocacy

Programme Objective: The Regional Delegation provides effective representation and advocacy and supports the National Societies in representing their humanitarian programmes and values, focusing on global and regional priorities, including initiatives related to the implementation of the MDG, working effectively with partners while achieving sustainability.

Expected Result 1: The Regional Delegation, in its observer status role with other international organizations, represents the Federation as a leading humanitarian organization in prioritized forums and/or supports National Societies’ efforts to influence policymaking.

Progress/Achievements

In March, the World Water Forum was held for the first time in the Americas. The Red Cross was well represented in this forum and the Federation was represented in two sessions, linking the important issues of water and the impact of disasters on water and sanitation.

The on-going issue of the legal status of the Federation when the Federation Secretariat no longer has physical presence in a country continues to be a problem, particularly for those partner National Societies which are working without formal legal status. The Regional Delegation is in active dialogue with governments of the region, and will explore how best to support PNS delegates in this regard.

Expected Result 2: The Regional Delegation assists the National Societies to convey their added value as community-based organizations, by helping them promote their branches while conveying the Red Cross’ humanitarian message and enhancing the image of the Movement.

Due to resource constraints, the Regional Delegation has not been able to fill the vacancy for a communications officer, and no specific activities were carried out under this objective.

Governance Support

Programme Objective: Effective support is provided to governance in Central America in response to requests.

Expected Result 1: Relevant and timely support is provided to the Vice President, members of the Governing Board and National Society governance in preparation for statutory meetings.

Progress/Achievements

The Regional Delegation continues to support the dissemination of decisions taken at the Federation's General Assembly held in November 2005 in Seoul, with particular emphasis on the Global Agenda and opportunities for scaling up programmes. The head of Regional Delegation attended the six-monthly meeting of the Caribbean Cooperation of the Red Cross (CCORC) in Port of Spain, where the Global Agenda and the upcoming International Conference were discussed in detail. The two topics are also always raised during visits to or by National Society leaders.

Impact

The Global Agenda and the related framework for action have not yet been disseminated widely within National Societies, and much more communication and dialogue is required at all levels. The Regional Delegation will continue to include the Global Agenda in each regional event, and will adopt and develop further tools for doing so.

Expected Result 2: CORI and the hosting National Societies are supported in the preparation for the XVIII Inter American Conference in Guayaquil in 2007.

Progress/Achievements

CORI will be meeting in June in order to start the planning for the Guayaquil conference. In the meantime, the Regional Delegation is beginning to work towards the conference, and is, for example, ensuring the updating of the monitoring tool for measuring the status of implementation of the Plan of Action of Inter American conference on the part of the National Societies.

Federation Management

Programme Objective: The Regional Delegation is working efficiently, ensuring good management of resources, and complying with Federation procedures and standards.

Expected Result 1: Human resources are in place that possess the right skills, experience and background to provide efficient and effective support to National Societies and to represent the International Federation.

Progress/Achievements

The first quarter of the year saw significant changes in key staff positions. The new head of Regional Delegation formally took up his position in mid-January, and a brief handover with the outgoing head was carried out by the end of the month. The Regional Delegation was strengthened by the arrival of a new disaster risk reduction delegate with extensive experience in the region in areas such as community risk reduction and climate change. She replaced the interim coordinator for the risk reduction programme, who will now remain based in Guatemala as the coordinator for the hurricane Stan operation until the end of the year.

An external audit was concluded in March, covering both the Regional Delegation and PADRU. One of the key recommendations highlighted the need to strengthen mechanisms for ensuring earmarked contributions are tracked more effectively throughout the chain from donor to project activity at the National Society or branch/community level. The Regional Delegation is now putting systems in place to strengthen this tracking, including more vigorous follow-up by budget holders on working advances to projects.

At its General Assembly at the end of 2005, the Federation adopted a plan and budget supporting further decentralization of management functions in certain areas. The Americas region is likely to be amongst the first regions to move ahead in this decentralization. As part of planning for this, the Regional Delegation was visited in March by the head of human resources in order to analyze the human resource support needs within the region. The next step will be to identify and hire a continental human resources manager who will be based in Panama in order to consolidate the human resource approach in the continent. Planning for further decentralization in areas such as IT, communications, legal and overall management continues.

Constraints

The Regional Delegation is concerned that three of the four programme delegates are currently largely un-funded, with traditional donors reluctant to provide full or partial funding for the key positions of organizational development, risk reduction, and programme coordination. A number of long-term project proposals have been or are being developed which aim to cover costs of the risk reduction delegate in 2007, but the problem remains as to how to cover delegate costs in 2006.

Expected Result 2: Programmes are well managed by staff who clearly understand their roles and responsibilities.

Progress/Achievements

All budget holders were trained in the new financial procedures and the new financial management web-based tools. The new project approval process was introduced and all projects were signed off by mid February. A great deal of time was dedicated to closing 2005 and ensuring correct re-allocations of funds from closed to active projects.

Work has taken place outside the reporting period covered by this document to revise the overall budget for 2006; these modifications which are not significant in nature, will be presented in the next Programme Update.

Constraints

Streamlined procedures in 2006 are helping make the programmes more efficient; however, the introduction of the new financial tools when the historical data was not yet available in the system, created problems in following up on the closure of 2005. That said, the main constraint to efficient implementation of programmes is not receiving the funds as expected, resulting in planned-for activities having to be postponed due to lack of funds.

Expected Result 3: The Regional Delegation is complying with the Federation's financial and narrative reporting standards.

Progress/Achievements

Two consecutive years of far above average hurricane activity, combined with staff turnover and human resource gaps, have contributed to a heavy back log on financial and narrative reporting across the region. In addition, the financial closing of 2005 proved far more time-consuming than anticipated and carried on well into March. The Regional Delegation and continental units are now joining forces to clear all pending reports, and to streamline systems in order to ensure that Federation reporting standards will always be met. In addition, budget holders have been instructed to ensure financial management, and reporting remains a high priority. Discussions are underway with key donors to define how they can support this through more streamlined timing and less earmarking of their contributions in certain cases.

Impact

It is hoped that donor confidence will be enhanced as the reporting backlog is cleared, and normal reporting standards are met for all ongoing projects.

Expected Result 4: Program managers are working closely together, ensuring integration of programmes and coherent support to National Societies.

Progress/Achievements

In mid February the three regions of the Americas came together with the Americas Department in order to share plans and priorities for 2006-07. This was the first time that this had happened in several years and, given the large number of changes in key staff that have recently taken place, proved to be a valuable opportunity to look for alignments between different regions. Within the region, staff are meeting on a weekly basis to review and plan together, and monthly review meetings have also been held.

The Regional Delegation has introduced voice-over-internet technology (VoIP) enabling free chat and telephone functions. Monthly telephone costs have been reduced considerably as a result. National Societies and PNS are also being encouraged to use this technology.

Impact

Following the meeting, a number of continental initiatives have been launched, such as the continental-wide approach to avian flu, the first version of the Latin American disaster management bulletin and the involvement of the Lima Regional Delegation in the volunteer management workshop in Central America. The health delegate and OD officer travelled to a number of Caribbean Red Cross Societies in order to support health programming and a number of other joint missions are being planned for coming months.

Constraints

Finding meaningful ways to involve the Haiti and Port of Spain offices into the regular meetings continues to be a challenge; however, the introduction of VoIP has helped ensure more regular one-on-one contact.

Expected Result 5: The Regional Delegation provides administrative and financial services to the Regional Finance Unit (RFU), the Regional Reporting Unit (RRU) and the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) (continental units).

Progress/Achievements

Given the recommendation to decentralize, the Regional Delegation, together with the Head of the Americas Department, is starting to investigate the administrative, organizational and financial implications of this decentralization. One consequence will be the need for further office space to accommodate the Federation presence in Panama, and alternatives within the Ciudad de Saber are being investigated.

A review of the financial support needs of PADRU has been carried out and recommendations have been made to ensure that PADRU receives the support it requires in order to function effectively, given its emergency mandate. These recommendations are now being implemented.

Conclusion

The first quarter of 2006 has brought significant changes in staff, and a renewed commitment to implementing planned programmes while adapting to a changing context. Preparations will continue for further decentralization of Federation management, and it is hoped that implementation can start soon after the membership consultation process has been concluded in June. Meanwhile, further streamlining of internal finance and management processes should lead to stronger performance on project management and reporting.

Funding for the regional programmes is falling short of target, and a number of planned activities have not been carried out as a result. It is hoped that additional resources can be identified, and donors are encouraged to provide further support as early in the year as possible to ensure clear results and impact.

The Regional Delegation has taken up the challenge posed by the Federation's Global Agenda, and will aim to support National Societies as they scale up their work in the four core areas. Opportunities for a significant increase in activities have been identified in areas such as HIV/AIDS and disaster risk reduction, and the next quarter will be used to further develop and implement this. Particular efforts will also be made to get buy-in from partners for adopting joint approaches and common methodologies, and building effective alliances.

[Click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA43001 - CENTRAL AMERICA

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/5
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA43001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	2'593'145	1'407'166	279'209	1'051'333	472'163	5'803'015
B. Opening Balance	168'865	123'973	31	159'678	51'027	503'574
Income						
Cash contributions						
British Red Cross	95'615	114'750				210'365
Capacity Building Fund		46'720				46'720
DFID Partnership	12'972	19'208	17'462	60'120	17'462	127'224
Norwegian Red Cross	-10'798			-15'689		-26'486
Swedish Red Cross	95'623		21'031	42'063		158'717
C1. Cash contributions	193'413	180'678	38'493	86'494	17'462	516'540
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
Canadian Red Cross Society	-738					-738
Norwegian Red Cross	147'875					147'875
Swedish Red Cross	66'545		21'655	42'498		130'698
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	213'682		21'655	42'498		277'835
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
American Red Cross				0		0
Australian Red Cross				6'015	-6'015	0
British Red Cross					0	0
Capacity Building Fund				-0		-0
DFID - British Government	-14'624			-0		-14'624
DFID Partnership					40'000	40'000
Irish Red Cross Society	0					0
Italian DREF		2'641				2'641
Netherlands Red Cross		40'000		20'000	15'594	75'594
Swedish Red Cross	0			0		0
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)	-14'624	42'641		26'015	49'579	103'611
Inkind Personnel						
British Red Cross					31'000	31'000
C5. Inkind Personnel					31'000	31'000
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	392'471	223'319	60'148	155'006	98'041	928'986
D. Total Funding = B + C	561'336	347'293	60'179	314'684	149'068	1'432'560

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	168'865	123'973	31	159'678	51'027	503'574
C. Income	392'471	223'319	60'148	155'006	98'041	928'986
E. Expenditure	-207'545	-209'287	-23'726	-184'241	-62'632	-687'431
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	353'791	138'006	36'453	130'443	86'435	745'129

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA43001 - CENTRAL AMERICA

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/5
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA43001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		2'593'145	1'407'166	279'209	1'051'333	472'163	5'803'015	
Supplies								
Shelter	46'000							46'000
Construction	28'000		54				54	27'946
Clothing & textiles	14'000							14'000
Teaching Materials	60'000		3'214				3'214	56'786
Utensils & Tools	77'000		42				42	76'958
Total Supplies	225'000		3'309				3'309	221'691
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	15'000				1'113		1'113	13'887
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	15'000				1'113		1'113	13'887
Transport & Storage								
Storage		235					235	-235
Transport & Vehicle Costs	21'320	3'401	225	49	823	53	4'550	16'770
Total Transport & Storage	21'320	3'636	225	49	823	53	4'785	16'535
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	1'048'340	38'927	18'577		27'463	6'956	91'923	956'417
Delegate Benefits	340'372	22'624	12'995		14'835	45'196	95'650	244'722
Regionally Deployed Staff	235'485	214	7'938			214	8'365	227'120
National Staff	210'396	10'892	15'974	779	869	4'586	33'101	177'295
National Society Staff	241'060	16'597	20'945	7'745	5'646		50'933	190'127
Consultants	226'338	3'097	638		1'844		5'578	220'760
Total Personnel Expenditures	2'301'991	92'350	77'067	8'523	50'658	56'952	285'550	2'016'441
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	2'117'483	57'166	17'605	483	49'648	2'215	127'119	1'990'364
Total Workshops & Training	2'117'483	57'166	17'605	483	49'648	2'215	127'119	1'990'364
General Expenditure								
Travel	331'416	12'390	16'922	1'983	11'472	7'545	50'312	281'105
Information & Public Relation	312'069	8'608	7'212	66	593	441	16'920	295'149
Office Costs	51'260	3'809	3'072	15	942	472	8'310	42'950
Communications	41'280	5'169	4'467	1'003	3'636	1'320	15'595	25'685
Professional Fees	8'000	1'347	393		1'378		3'118	4'882
Financial Charges		4'561	8'402	400	5'049	-4'792	13'621	-13'621
Other General Expenses	1'000	214	208		287	111	821	179
Total General Expenditure	745'025	36'099	40'677	3'467	23'358	5'097	108'698	636'328
Program Support								
Program Support	377'196	13'490	13'604	1'542	11'976	3'940	44'552	332'644
Total Program Support	377'196	13'490	13'604	1'542	11'976	3'940	44'552	332'644
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		4'803	56'800	9'661	46'666	-5'624	112'306	-112'306
Total Operational Provisions		4'803	56'800	9'661	46'666	-5'624	112'306	-112'306
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	5'803'015	207'545	209'287	23'726	184'241	62'632	687'431	5'115'584
VARIANCE (C - D)		2'385'600	1'197'879	255'483	867'092	409'530	5'115'584	