

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

SOUTH ASIA

Appeal No. MAA52001
6 July 2006

The Federation's vision is to strive, through voluntary action, for a world of empowered communities, better able to address human suffering and crises with hope, respect for dignity and a concern for equity. Its 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 183 countries.

In Brief

Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: January to May 2006;

Appeal target for 2006-2007: revised from CHF 5.41 million to CHF 5.38 million (USD 4.44 million or EUR 3.45 million) due to changes in the disaster management programme.

Appeal coverage: 36%;

Outstanding needs: CHF 3.4 million (USD 2.8 million or EUR 2.2 million).

(click here for the interim financial report with the latest income and expenditure)

Related Appeals: [Tsunami Emergency and Recovery Plan of Action 28/04](#),
[Pakistan earthquake revised emergency and recovery appeal 05EA022](#)

Programme summary:

Despite some constraints and delays due to security situation in Afghanistan and Nepal, the South Asia regional delegation's work to build the capacity of national societies and support country delegations has overall progressed well between January and May, with an expansion in human resources enabling better support for regional and country programmes. Structuring the overall support for the region across three major operations (the tsunami emergency and recovery plan, Pakistan earthquake emergency appeal and the regional and country annual appeals) poses challenges to ensure cohesion and adequate coverage. The disaster management programme has been restructured and revised for this reason, to avoid overlap with tsunami programming, and also to incorporate risk reduction activities. The budget demarcated for 2006 has also been revised for this programme, revision for 2007 will be considered in next programme update.

The financial situation is positive overall with 36% appeal coverage. All programmes (except humanitarian values) are reasonably well covered at least for the 2006 demarcation of the 2006-2007 budget.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In India: Federation South Asia regional delegation, Robert McKerrow (head of regional delegation), phone +91 11 2411 1125 or mobile +91 98 1000 1534; email: bob.mckerrow@ifrc.org; fax +91 11 2411 1128.
- In Geneva: Asia Pacific department, Jagan Chapagain (regional officer,) email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org; phone: +41 22 730 4316; Fax +41 22 733 0395 or Nelly Khrabrava (senior assistant); email: nelly.khrabrava@ifrc.org; Phone: +41.22.730.4306; Fax: +41.22.733.0395

Operational developments

South Asia continues to be fraught with internal conflict, terrorist attacks and many challenges. Politically, the region remains a paradox, with overall stability and significant improvements in the economy and employment rates, in India but constantly fluctuating political unrest in all other countries. Despite the continual deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan there are glimmers of hope, with economic improvements

Nepal is experiencing a period of stability after serious pro-democracy civil protests and disturbances in April and May. The Nepal Red Cross Society played a key role in providing first aid during the unrest, and gained significant publicity. The conflict situation in Sri Lanka is of serious concern, with the fragile cease-fire between the government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) is breaking down with increasing incidents of conflict.

The opening of the border of the “silk route” between India and Tibet opened - an indication of improving relations between India and China which could lead to increased economic and political stability. Similarly, there are now two road routes between India and Pakistan re-opened after many decades. It is hoped that these improving relations and opening countries will facilitate coordination of Red Cross Red Crescent action, especially between national societies in

One of the most significant ongoing health threat in the region remains the relentless spread of HIV/AIDS. The rate of people recorded as living with HIV/AIDS has increased alarmingly, particularly in India, posing an enormous threat to the livelihoods and well being of hundreds of thousands of people across the region.

The International Federation was granted a “legal status agreement” in India on 5 April which came after our first application in late 1993. This status will provide the Federation with legal and fiscal advantages similar to the status of a diplomatic mission, which will enable SARD and the India delegation to carry out their humanitarian activities more effectively. The agreement also recognises and encourages the importance of SARD’s regional coordination role. The granting of this status was well publicised through the media. The final notification and confirmation in the Government Gazette is still pending at the time of writing.

Finance

The overall funding situation is fairly positive for the regional delegation, with the exception of humanitarian values. For the full picture the situation needs to be analyzed against demarcated budget for 2006, as well as the total two-year appeal budget for 2006/2007. Compared against the 2006 budget, overall funding is 79%, and expenditure against income received so far this year is 32% (23% of the year’s budget). Compared against the two-year 2006/2007 budget, the funding coverage is 36% and expenditure is 10% of this budget. However, as the majority of funds received are for 2006 year only (following donor’s single year-based financial system), the 2006 comparison is perhaps more instructive. The financial (and programmatic) situation is complex for SARD, given the unusual situation of most programmes operating with three budgets (annual appeal, tsunami and South Asia earthquake). Given the nature of regional work, there is almost by definition a significant amount of cost sharing on common activities of regional initiatives designed to address these three programmes.

	Health	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organizational Development	Coordination & implementation	Total
Expenditure as % of funding received	35%	21%	7%	27%	63%	32%
Funding coverage of 2006 budget	82%	124%	16%	59%	59%	79%
Expenditure as % of 2006 budget	27%	26%	1%	15%	37%	23%
Funding coverage of 2006/2007 budget	35%	64%	9%	25%	32%	36%
Expenditure as % of 2006/2007 budget	12%	13%	0.6%	5%	20%	10%

This tripartite funding and programmatic structure is also one of the reasons for the relatively low levels of expenditure in the annual appeal budget. Managing the three budgets has meant that at times some activities are covered mainly by tsunami funds (while waiting for confirmed annual appeal funding), or conversely that plans or projects funded by both tsunami funding and the annual appeal have had to be delayed due to the uncertainty of

tsunami funding. Activities planned for the rest of the year mean that programmes are on track to achieve appropriate levels of expenditure.

Health and care

Overview

The period January to May 2006 has been a time of growth and evolution for the regional health unit (RHU), with employment of highly qualified new staff: one HIV officer and one Public Health in Emergencies officer, and a Swedish Red Cross delegate working 50% for the Federation. This has facilitated the designation of one RHU member as the focal point for each country.

The growth and evolution has also allowed consolidation of approaches for coordination and integration, partnerships, resource mobilization and advocacy. The RHU strategic plan (2006-2009) was developed during the period, in conformity with Federation policy and global strategy in health, and is consistent with the priorities expressed in the Millennium Development Goals. The focus of the strategy is to address specific public health issues through volunteer mobilization, community participation and social empowerment, in partnership with government and civil society organizations, with a strong emphasis on quality and accountability.

The wider developments within the RHU have been reflected in changes in support of HIV/AIDS programming. Assigning focal persons for each country under the regional HIV/AIDS programme will allow for a more specific, tactical dialogue with individual countries.

A major event during the reporting period was the second regional health meeting in India in February 2006, with particular discussions and outputs in the fields of blood and voluntary blood donation, public health in emergencies and SARNHA.

The unit has also begun to provide more country specific support, playing an active role in the evaluation of the emergency mobile units in Afghanistan, recovery planning in Pakistan, programme support in Bangladesh and in support of in HIV/AIDS programming in all the countries.

Financially, the RHU is in robust shape, with sufficient funding for planned programming and a spending trajectory in line with available funds.

Health and Care financial summary	
Expenditure as % of total funding	35%
Expenditure as % of 2006 budget	27%
Funding coverage as % of 2006 budget	82%
Expenditure as % of 2006-2007 budget	12%
Funding coverage as % of 2006-2007 budget	35%

Overall Goal: Community vulnerabilities related to poor health in the South Asia region are reduced.

Programme Objective: national societies in South Asia have enhanced capacity to reduce vulnerability through improved public health intervention, both in normal and in emergency situations, by working with communities and civil society, and promoting health and right to access by vulnerable populations.

Progress/Achievements

Regional health and care development project

Project objective: National societies in the region deliver responsive, quality and sustainable community-based health and care programmes that empower communities to be resilient from disease risks, the impact of disasters and other public health crises.

Expected Result 1: South Asian national societies have increased technical and organizational capacity to develop health policies and strategies and manage community-based health public health programmes.

During January – May, the regional health unit continued to provide technical and management support in public health programming to all national societies and Federation country delegations. This has been done in coordination with Federation country delegations and through regular country visits with follow up plans by the

country focal points in the RHU. Through the above arrangement, the regional health unit provided the following support to different countries:

- **Afghanistan.** Initiated dialogue with Afghan Red Crescent health department for the development of health policy and strategic plan, the sustainability of maternal and child health clinics in the light of the government's basic package for health services, and integration of community-based first aid with other health programmes.
- **Bangladesh.** Supported the national society and the country delegation in the planning, monitoring and financial support of the highly successful mobilization of volunteers for the national measles control campaign in February. SARD also assisted in the selection of the new health delegate and the BDRCS national HIV/AIDS coordinator.
- **India.** Provided on-going support to the development and implementation of avian influenza preparedness plan through representation in the India Red Cross task force. Provided inputs to the Federation country delegation in the revitalization of health programmes, specifically the "Red Cross Volunteer Project".
- **Maldives.** Explored with the country delegation the possibility of community-based first aid as a component of the disaster management programme, and discussed a needs assessment to identify vulnerability-based health interventions in order to support the national society in formation.
- **Nepal.** Provided support in the development, implementation and disseminated of action plans to put into practice the new health policy and strategy of Nepal Red Cross. NRCS will seek funds from these partners to develop quality and sustainable health programs as described in their health strategy.
- **Pakistan.** Provided on-going support to the Federation country delegation in earthquake response through the assignment of a regional health unit member; assisted in scaling down the emergency health interventions and the development of early recovery plan in health.
- **Sri Lanka.** Though the tsunami recovery programmes are line-managed from the Secretariat headquarters, the regional health unit continued to maintain working relations and a technical dialogue with the Federation country delegation. More details are available in the regional tsunami reports.

The RHU organized a 6-day training workshop on Public Health in Emergencies (PHiE) in Bangladesh during May with the objective of training health professionals from country delegations and national societies in the region to assess, develop and implement health in emergency activities.

The expansion of the RHU will allow the unit to further enhance its support to the country delegations and national societies on the basis of its strategic plan (finalised in June).

Expected Result 2: Regional knowledge sharing, mutual support mechanisms and advocacy are promoted, enhanced and expanded.

The regional health unit organised the second regional health meeting in February 2006 with participation of Federation country delegations, bilateral health delegates, health managers of all six South Asian national societies as well as senior management representatives from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka national societies. Senior health officers from the Federation Secretariat headquarters, resource persons from the Global Advisory Panel (GAP) on corporate governance and risk management for RC/RC (Australian Red Cross), German Red Cross, World Health Organization (WHO), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), and senior managers of DM, OD and HV of the regional delegation facilitated different sessions.

The meeting addressed technical issues on a range of health topics e.g. HIV/AIDS, blood services, first aid, psychosocial support, public health in emergencies, and avian influenza; also key strategic and operational issues related to regional cooperation and partnerships, volunteer management, health information system, monitoring and evaluation, and sustainability.

In the coming months, RHU will follow up recommendations from the meeting. These include: finalizing the SARNHA operational framework and the Health Information Software system, coordinating blood donor activities and avian influenza preparedness, developing a register of health experts in the region and building monitoring & evaluation capacity at country level. Regular regional health meetings will also be held; the next regional health meeting is planned in October 2006.

The RHU developed a plan of action to address avian influenza, and encouraged national societies to develop preparedness plans. The RHU has been regularly participating in discussions on the issue at the global level, and has evaluated the country situation and preparedness status of the national societies in the region. During the coming months, the RHU will coordinate further discussions, share experience from other regions on planning and volunteer mobilization, and support national societies in developing plans and programmes.

The regional health unit **also coordinated the participation of Afghan Red Crescent and India Red Cross to the second Federation global health forum in Geneva in May 2006, and supported them in promoting their community-based health programmes.**

Expected Result 3: Networking, collaboration and strategic partnerships are strengthened to enhance national societies as key civil society promoters, mobilise and optimise utilization of resources, and advocate the Movement.

During the reporting period, the regional health unit developed its strategy and action plans (finalised in early June). The strategy and plans have a clear focus on coordination and integration, partnerships, resource mobilization, and advocacy. Increased coordination with participating national societies (PNS) and collaboration with relevant organization has been emphasised, as demonstrated by the involvement of a number of PNS and organizations like WHO, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) in the regional health meeting.

Together with the health and care department at the Secretariat headquarters in Geneva, the RHU has been involved in a number of coordination teleconferences on the Southeast Asia Measles Partnership which involve WHO, UNICEF, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Federation and other organizations.

Coordination between health and disaster management in the regional delegation has substantially progressed through joint action planning, increasing involvement of health representatives in regional disaster management programmes and vice versa. Members of the health team participated in the regional disaster management workshop group, the regional disaster response team (RDRT) lessons learnt workshop and the regional DM coordinator participated in the regional health meeting and public health in emergencies workshop. In the coming months, this cooperation will be further built on through joint preparedness planning for the seasonal floods, contingency planning for avian influenza, and strengthening of regional mechanisms for emergency response.

Regional HIV/AIDS project

Project objective: National societies in the region deliver community-based HIV prevention, care and support programmes that contribute to the reduction of the burden of HIV/AIDS in the region.

The regional HIV/AIDS *programme* in South Asia comprises components at the country and regional levels. The 'regional HIV/AIDS *project*' is the regional-level component of the Regional HIV/AIDS Programme. The RHU is responsible for overall programme management and support to Country Delegations and national societies. The five-year programme has a strong element of capacity building to help enable national societies to develop, manage, implement, monitor, scale up and sustain their HIV/AIDS related activities.

Expected Result 1: National societies are supported in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS programmes of common interest.

The period January to May 2006 marked a change in approach in support of HIV/AIDS programming, with the growth and evolution of the RHU, and an increase in staffing, to include a Swedish Red Cross/Federation representative and a senior HIV/AIDS officer.

The RHU has worked hard to ensure that HIV/AIDS is high on the agenda of national societies as a prerequisite to meaningful development and implementation of activities. One of the key achievements is that national society HIV/AIDS coordinators are now in place in all countries that are part of the regional programme. This has been a first step to ensure that the regional HIV/AIDS programme is uniformly implemented in the region. Some of the key areas of support to countries were:

- **Afghanistan.** Assistance and advice on recruitment of a national society HIV/AIDS coordinator and the development of a realistic action plan on HIV/AIDS, now proceeding according to the agreed timeline.

- **Bangladesh.** Advice and input on the planning and design of the HIV/AIDS project in two districts, together with the recently recruited national society HIV/AIDS coordinator and the Federation health delegate.
- **India.** Suggestions and feedback on the planning for the development of a comprehensive plan in three states, based on the needs of the existing programme and in light of plans to scale up.
- **Nepal.** Extensive support for the development and implementation of action plans for HIV/AIDS which contributed to the finalization of NRCS's operational plan for HIV/AIDS in two selected districts for 2006. The unit also supported NRCS in the development of its 5 year HIV/AIDS strategic plan.
- **Pakistan.** Initial discussions were held with the HIV/AIDS team in Pakistan on the resumption of the development of PRCS HIV/AIDS plans as part of the regular programming following the earthquake.
- **Sri Lanka.** Support and input to the country delegation and SLRCS's planning discussions to develop an action plan, logframe, timeline and budget under the regional HIV/AIDS project, finalised at the end of May.

Expected Result 2: Regional networking, knowledge sharing and mutual support on the development of HIV response mechanism are strengthened.

Regional coordination has improved greatly, with the RHU now working well with four of the six country delegations under the regional programme. Work to improve coordination with relevant external partners (SIDA in particular) will help develop a comprehensive regional approach to HIV/AIDS through partnering with other organizations.

HIV/AIDS and blood safety were important topics during the regional health meeting in February, as an integrated part of the wider regional health agenda. One of the major outputs was a regional action plan on blood, involving the Federation and national societies, the 'Global Advisory Panel' and the WHO.

The RHU has facilitated sharing of knowledge and skills through the regional programme and the existing network mechanism – South Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (SARNHA). The success of SARNHA depends on ownership – it is a network that is intended to be led and managed by national societies. There have been discussions over the future direction of SARNHA throughout the reporting period and a SARNHA workshop was held as part of the regional health meeting in February in which the proposed SARNHA operational framework was debated. It is anticipated that the operational plan will be endorsed at the South Asia secretaries general meeting in July.

The RHU has developed and disseminated operational guidelines in several HIV/AIDS programme areas during the reporting period, principally the 'HIV/AIDS project management manual' and the guide 'Youth peer education: steps'. Further operational guidelines and tools will be developed during the remainder of the year.

Impact and progress towards programme objectives

Through regular visits and regional health meetings, RHU has established better understanding amongst the country delegations and national societies of the unit's role, and its strategy and approach to health in the region. Particularly in HIV/AIDS, countries are aligning their HIV/AIDS program objectives to those of regional project. The national societies of Bangladesh and Afghanistan will have appropriate systems in place to implement the activities under regional HIV project by the end of the year.

The regional health unit's efforts have significantly contributed to national societies taking the issue of avian influenza seriously as described above, particularly in India and Nepal

The recruitment of additional local staff has had a positive impact on the HIV programs in Afghanistan and Bangladesh as mentioned above. Region-wide tools and guidelines for peer education are being developed and shall be available by the end of the year. Monitoring and evaluation guidelines based on a set of outcome indicators for HIV/AIDS programmes have been finalized, and will be shared with all the NS during the coming months. They consist of short term indicators which are monitored annually and longer term indicators which are measured after 5 years, to facilitate making links between shorter and longer term developments. These guidelines aim to facilitate demonstration of regional impact in HIV in terms of knowledge, attitude and behaviour change.

Constraints

A number of issues in the early part of 2006 meant that regional HIV project could not start off as planned. The unstable security situation in Nepal delayed holding the meeting of the HIV advisory committee, finalization of

outcome indicators, training of peer educators and the finalization of the health strategic plan. Things are back on track since May and most of these activities have now been completed.

The RHU's regular support to Pakistan has understandably been hampered by the October 8th 2005 earthquake and subsequent shift in PRCS's priorities. However, the RHU has been an integral part of the Federation's emergency health response in Pakistan. The unit shall seek to define a clearer role for itself during the second half of the year in consultations with the country delegations and national societies, especially in the regional HIV project.

In Afghanistan, an under-resourced health department in ARCS and competing priorities for the Federation health delegate (whose mission ended in March) meant that progress could not be made in the early part of the year. With an ARCS HIV/AIDS coordinator and new delegate now in place, programme activities are expected to scale up in the next reporting period. In Bangladesh also there was no health delegate and no HIV/AIDS coordinator in the early part of the year, delaying the start of the programme. With these two positions now filled, the draft of the operational plan for HIV/AIDS has now been developed and activities will be carried out in the next reporting period.

A strong relationship still remains to be built with the health team in Sri Lanka. RHU is currently working closely with the Sri Lanka delegation on developing a better understanding of how best to work together, and it is expected that an HIV activity plan shall be developed by June.

Disaster Management

[< click here for the revised logframe >](#)

Overview

The regional disaster management (DM) programme had undergone revision in this reporting period. The overall budget for 2006 has been reduced by 7% (from CHF 464,216 to CHF 432,513) with nearly 50% increase to the disaster preparedness budget but 80% decrease to the disaster response budget.

The main reason for the significant increase in the disaster preparedness budget was to incorporate the regional risk reduction programme (funded by the UK government's department for international development (DFID) in collaboration with the British Red Cross) into the annual appeal. The inclusion of the risk reduction represents a large amount of activities, accompanied by a substantial budget of CHF 214,171, based on the three-year plan of the risk reduction programme.

Furthermore there was a carry over of funds from 2005 of CHF 86,301 for disaster risk reduction, as the funds were only transferred in December 2005. The planned activities of this risk reduction programme are designed to follow three of the five themes of the Hyogo Framework for Action¹ (HFA) – namely community resilience, knowledge sharing and preparedness for response – which the Federation strongly endorses. This is also in line with the Federation's Global Agenda, intended to scale up contribution to the HFA.

For the disaster response project, the majority of activities have been incorporate into the regional tsunami programme, to avoid duplication with many similar activities. The revision was also necessary as the coverage of the original budget for this appeal was less than 20%. This combination and reprioritization of activities is also intended to make more effective and efficient use of financial resources. As a result of this adjustment of the budget and programme structure, both projects are financially in a good shape, and all activities of the regional DM programme (including those under the tsunami) have sufficient funding to be carried out as planned.

Disaster Management revision and financial overview	
Original DM Budget 2006	464,216
Disaster preparedness	261,221
Disaster response	202,995
Revised DM budget 2006	432,513
Disaster preparedness revised	390,802
Disaster response revised	41,711
Expenditure as % of total funding	21%
Expenditure as % of 2006 budget	26%
Funding coverage of 2006 budget	124%
Expenditure as % of 2006-2007 budget	13%
Funding coverage of 2006-2007 budget	64%
Funding coverage as % of revised 2006 budget	133%

¹ An outcome of the World Disaster Reduction Conference in January 2005

During the reporting period, the activities of the regional DM programme focused on improving national societies capacity to achieve the first and third goals of the Global Agenda, through technical training courses such as the orientation for newly recruited branch DM coordinators in Sri Lanka, and the vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) courses in Nepal and Bangladesh.

Effective coordination and learning from experience was emphasized through the regional disaster response team (RDRT) lessons learned workshop in Sri Lanka, capturing best practices and lessons from the Pakistan earthquake operations. Effective coordination was improved by establishing a regional DM working group – a forum for DM practitioners from national societies to discuss technical issues.

The existing human resource capacity of the regional DM programme has significantly strengthened, with the arrival of an experienced disaster response coordinator, and second regional officer, a specialist on geographic information systems (GIS) and databases and a advocacy consultant. The consultant will focus on issues such as population movement and community development, and how these can be better linked with the promotion of humanitarian values and dealing with gender issues, particularly among the internally displaced persons (IDPs). The regional DM programme is now well balanced to meet the objectives of the annual appeal but also to deliver other required support and technical services to national societies of the region.

Overall Goal: Reduced impact of disasters on vulnerable populations throughout South Asia, as indicated by reduction in the number of deaths and the amount of damage sustained during disasters, and increased capacity of the population to respond and recover

Programme Objective: Improved response by South Asia RC/RC national societies to the needs of the most vulnerable disaster-prone populations, before, during and following disasters.

Progress/Achievements

Project 1: Disaster Preparedness Project:

Project objective: South Asia national societies are better organized to manage the impact of disasters on the most vulnerable communities through an integrated risk management approach and higher level of coordination with other disaster management stakeholders.

Expected Result 1: Higher co-operation amongst South Asia national societies in reaching characteristics of ‘well prepared national societies’, as reflected in their disaster management policy, strategy, plans and operations.

During January and February, the regional DM programme mainly concentrated on building momentum in the risk reduction programme of three targeted national countries (Bangladesh, India and Nepal) since the implementation of this programme had been slow, and there were large carry-forward amounts from last year in two countries. In early February, for instance, the regional DM programme organized a consultative meeting to encourage the national societies to work according to their respective plans of action.

Vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) training courses were conducted in Bangladesh and Nepal in March, after which the Nepal Red Cross in particular has incorporated methodologies to draft baseline information for the risk reduction programme, the outcomes of which were shared with Bangladesh and India national societies. These VCA training courses provided both national societies with a way to connect to the branches and beneficiaries.

The regional DM officer made several monitoring visits to India, Bangladesh and Nepal, to help orientate branch staff and volunteers on risk reduction and in the drafting of realistic action plans. As a result, India Red Cross has already started putting risk reduction guidelines together. Nepal Red Cross has carried out several activities including the development of programme implementation guidelines, formation of community-level DM units, stakeholders’ orientation and the development of information and communication material on disaster preparedness. Bangladesh Red Crescent undertook the process of establishing volunteer “squads” for earthquake preparedness and response in the city of Dhaka along with orientation and first aid training in the communities.

Case studies on women, particularly in their roles in mitigation activities, and climate change are planned to be carried out in the coming months, preparations have already begun. Collecting baseline information using the well-prepared national society’s questionnaire will also be scheduled.

Expected Result 2: Better gender balance is achieved among DM staff and volunteers in South Asia.

Original expected result: Better gender balance is achieved, through training and missions, meant to address the knowledge and skill needs of staff and volunteers to develop adequate number of trained and competent staff.

Many activities in the original appeal have been redefined as they were found to be not directly relevant to achieving this expected result. The wording of the expected result has also been modified to give a clearer emphasis on ensuring gender balance among staff and volunteers. The activities removed have been replaced with activities related to gender analysis within around the well-prepared national society (WPNS) questionnaire, and ensuring gender representation in DM events including the RDRT and other training courses. Meanwhile, during the reporting period, regional DM department provided inputs on the practical application of the gender framework that was proposed by the regional organizational development department following its gender study in South Asia.

The regional advocacy consultant who recently joined in the regional DM department to work on the population movement issues in the region. Her responsibility also includes capturing and promoting best practices and areas of improvement in the gender sensitivity and gender representation in all programme areas. She will promote the gender aspects throughout the year in her advocacy role. In addition, a gender study in disaster mitigation is planned in 2006 under the risk reduction programme, preferably in Bangladesh, where the national society DM strategy direction focuses particularly on the vulnerability of women.

Expected result 3: South Asian national societies & delegations use appropriate IT, management tools for effective, efficient programme implementation and resource utilization.

Many activities under this expected result were modified in the reporting period while keeping the essence of improving management skills of the DM staff and volunteers. One of key activities was an induction course in May for newly recruited staff and delegates. In the meeting, the importance of DM framework such as the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, Strategy 2010, Global Agenda and the Manila Action Plan 2002 was highlighted along with the pragmatic solutions (draft contingency plan, standard operational procedures, etc.) towards effective response and service delivery in times of disasters.

Expected result 4: Coordination amongst movement and non-movement stakeholders and partners before and after disasters is improved, for better knowledge sharing & service delivery.

Improving coordination with and between national societies

The preliminary regional DM working group meeting took place in Nepal in April, where national societies and country delegations gathered to discuss DM technical issues. This working group is a step towards creating a forum for discussion among national societies in the region, with the aim of developing regional DM strategy that reflects the commonalities of national societies. In the meeting, participants explored regional commonalities and the possibility of integrating public health in emergencies into disaster management. The new well-prepared national societies (WPNS) questionnaire and the latest developments in contingency planning were introduced by the regional DR coordinator, following from the regional DM coordinators' meeting held in Geneva in March. It is expected that this regional DM working group will get support from national societies' leadership in the region, and that this group will be launched officially in the second half of 2006.

The regional DM programme staff conducted a workshop to provide extensive briefing for branch secretaries and 26 newly recruited DM coordinators from branches of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS). The overall policy framework and disaster response tools of Federation disaster management were introduced. Participants then discussed the DM context and activities in Sri Lanka. The orientation was also joined by DM coordinators from the American, Canadian, Danish, Hong Kong, Spanish Red Cross societies and by the ICRC corporation coordinator.

Knowledge sharing and Federation/external coordination

The programme has endeavoured to cultivate active knowledge sharing and exchanges, through actively promoting the concept of participatory community projects, and through sharing case studies and best practices from other regions. The Solomon Islands VCA case study was distributed to Bangladesh and Nepal (during the VCA training courses), Sri Lanka and Maldives.

Integration with other programme areas was strongly promoted in this reporting period. In addition to a series of meetings between the two departments the regional DM programme contributed to the regional health meeting in

February and also co-facilitated a regional public health in emergency (PHiE) workshop in April. The DM department also jointly facilitated a VCA training course with the regional humanitarian values coordinator in Nepal. The DM department also worked closely with the regional information and reporting delegates for the development and production of the publicity material related to the RDRT workshop. Lastly, DM staff supported the World Disasters Report (WDR) editor to collect evidence of the value of community disaster preparedness activities in the earthquake affected areas in Pakistan for the WDR 2006, due later this year.

Networking with external stakeholders will require more focus in the coming months, the constraints are detailed in the programme constraints section below.

RDRT lessons learned workshop

The regional DM programme organized a workshop in Colombo, Sri Lanka on lessons learned on regional disaster response team (RDRT) deployments, especially in Pakistan. One aim of holding the workshop in Colombo was to incorporate learning from the RDRT experience in Pakistan into the ongoing tsunami operation. 35 RDRT members who had been in Pakistan were invited along with donors, and regional/global DM specialists. The workshop identified pragmatic issues and identified practical areas for improvement, including harmonizing RDRT tools with other regions as well as with other global disaster response tools.

A set of recommendations was agreed upon to improve the RDRT system, focusing on issues around making pre-agreements, insurance and procedures. Participants also tried to clarify roles and responsibilities with other response tools such as the emergency response units (ERU) and the field assessment and coordination team (FACT).



Group work at the RDRT lessons learned workshop in Sri Lanka

The overall conclusion was that RDRT is a useful regional tool which can be mobilized in large emergency settings adding extra value in the Federation's emergency operations, while maintaining the ownership by the national societies in the region. Full details of all the outcomes of the workshop will be circulated in a brochure soon to be published.

Project 2: Disaster Response Project

Project objective: South Asia national societies are better organized to manage the impact of disasters on the most vulnerable communities through an integrated risk management approach and higher level of coordination with other disaster management stakeholders.

Expected Result 1: Regional disaster response capacity is improved through development and implementation of training that promotes minimum standards in disaster response at national, regional and international levels.

Note: previous expected results:

1. Regional disaster response team (RDRT) further equipped and strengthened, linking and supporting national response mechanisms (i.e. national and state disaster response teams) as well as international response tools such as emergency response units (ERUs) and Field Assessment and Coordination Teams (FACTs)
2. Networks are established and fostered between national societies and their partners.
3. Regional disaster response training curriculum is available linking the national curriculum to FACT and ICRC training activities which further facilitate development of a regional movement approach and minimum standards in disaster response (including population movement) at national, regional and international levels.

As was mentioned briefly in the overview, it became increasingly apparent in 2006 that there was a real risk of overlap and potential duplication of efforts between the DM programme within the tsunami operation and within the annual appeal. To properly address this issue, with a view to improve the combined effectiveness and efficiency of these two programmes, a major revision of the disaster response project has been undertaken. This revision also means that which activities are carried out and funded by either tsunami funds or annual appeal funds

is much clearer, allowing for more accurate monitoring of each programme. Another contributory factor was that the project had received only 20% appeal coverage by May. For all these reasons, the expected results for this project have been reduced from three to one – the new single expected result focuses on development and implementation of training that promotes minimum standards in disaster response (see [revised logframe](#) for more details).

It is important to note that the practically all activities under the original expected results have been reallocated under the tsunami emergency appeal. However, two major activities remain under this expected result. One is the Nepal Red Cross logistic training course which will take place in coming month, and the other is the DM training in Pakistan in July. The DM training in Pakistan will focus on developing national disaster response teams.

The main activity carried out in contribution to the expected result was the RDRT workshop mentioned in the disaster preparedness project. Although funded by different sources, improving the RDRT mechanism is a crucial part of disaster response, as being part of an integrated approach to disaster management.

Impact and progress towards programme objectives

Most significant contribution that the regional DM programme has made in this reporting period is to build confidence and momentum of national societies to carry out on-going programmes. The risk reduction programme is gaining pace in all three countries (Nepal, Bangladesh and India). For example, the vulnerability and capacity assessment courses carried out in Bangladesh and Nepal led to some targeted communities developing baseline information.

In addition, the regional DM programme has invested efforts to improve response capacities at the regional level as well as at the national level. Hiring two new disaster response people (one delegate and one local staff) increases the capacity of the regional delegation to provide support in disaster response. The regional DM programme also supported several national societies to develop plans on contingency planning for disaster.

A key impact on disaster response in the region which is being built on is an increased awareness and appreciation of the regional disaster response team (RDRT). The RDRT deployment to Pakistan was both innovative and successful, and the regional DM programme is leading several initiatives including the lessons learned from this deployment. The DM team are actively working with the regional delegations of Southeast Asia and East Asia regional delegation to promote the RDRT concept further.

Constraints on the programme

In recent years, country delegations in South Asia have made it clear they required more support in disaster management at the regional level. The tsunami and Pakistan earthquake operations further highlighted the need for extensive regional support in very large scale disasters. To address this issue, the first five months of 2006 have been a period of scaling up the regional DM programme and consequently also scaling up the regional DM department. Therefore the implementation was somewhat slow early 2006. However, it is gaining the momentum to catch up and implement the activities as per annual plan.

One constraint (under expected result 4 of the disaster preparedness project) is a lack of broader networking with other external partners. Although some contacts were made with the Kyoto University, the Indira Gandhi Open University and donor agencies such as DFID and ECHO, the regional DM programme could not make systematic networking efforts due to the limited opportunities and available time. Especially with the UN system, the regional DM programme will have to make some extra efforts to build a bridge. It is expected, however, the relationship will be improved as the regional DM programme started communicating particularly with UNDP and UN/ISDR.

Organizational Development

[<click here for the revised logframe of the information development project under the OD programme>](#)

Overall Goal: Well-functioning national societies deliver effective and relevant service to vulnerable people and communities

Programme Objective: National societies have improved foundation and increased capacity in resource mobilization, volunteer base and management and branch network for better service delivery and self-sustainability

Programme overview

Because the four projects within this programme objective are relatively independent (and managed by different delegates) the overview, impact and constraints sections for this programme are reported by project rather than for the overall programme. The financial situation is reasonably positive, with nearly 60% funding coverage of the 2006 appeal budget. Expenditure is low, but is on track to pick up during the rest of the year. New staff, planned events and activities will all scale up during the rest of the year, except for of the strategic planning project, as the OD delegate position which manages this project has been vacant since April. There are minor revisions to activities in the information development project that is part of the OD logframe. Further detail is given in the project sections below.

Organizational development financial overview	
Expenditure as % of total funding	27%
Expenditure as % of 06 budget	15%
Funding coverage of 2006 budget	59%
Expenditure as % of 06 07 budget	5%
Funding coverage of 2006/2007 budget	25%

Project 1: Strategic planning and management development

Project Objective: National societies have improved foundation and increased capacity in resource mobilization, volunteer base and management and branch network for better service delivery and self-sustainability

Project overview

The implementation of strategic planning and management development was on the right track for the first quarter. It should be highlighted that the implementation will suffer from the regional OD position lying vacant since April.

There have been three major achievements. Firstly, six national societies in South Asia now actively use an external consultant to help them set up a strategic income generating program. Secondly, the gender study has been approved by the regional Gender Committee (with representatives from Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) and all national societies. The study resulted in a very practical model on how women can be recruited, managed and retained in RC programs.

Thirdly the Volunteer Investment and Value Audit (VIVA) study from Nepal has been circulated both regionally and globally. The response has been very positive and it is expected that other National Societies will use VIVA studies to improve their use of both financial and human resources.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: National societies have increased their income generation from fundraising.

A fundraising consultant is now working with all of the national societies (except India Red Cross) to improve their fundraising capacity. As previously reported, the consultant has together with the national societies identified methods, possibilities and challenges in their specific context. At a regional forum in December 2005 all national societies reviewed their approach and identified new ways forward in relation to fundraising for relief after disaster. There is renewed commitment from the national societies to work with the consultant to implement these new plans.

Expected Result 2: National societies have an increased ability to integrate OD and programme development and measure progress in capacity building.

Sri Lanka Red Cross, Bangladesh Red Crescent, Nepal Red Cross have all started to use indicators based on either the regionally developed simplified OD capacity assessment tool or the global Federation CAPI (Capacity Assessment and Performance Indicators) tool. The regional OD Program has also helped facilitate the use of an human resources development consultant in both Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

It is expected that the planned joined workshop between OD, Health and DM will postponed due to the lack of an OD regional delegate.

Expected result 3: National societies have redesigned activities to include and empower more women and youth.

In the first quarter the study of women as volunteers in South Asia was published after approval of the regional gender committee and the National Societies. The model of how to improve recruitment of women volunteers, which outlines 15 simple steps to incorporating women volunteers in programme planning has been particularly well received. The regional information and reporting delegates provided editorial and marketing assistance for the development of this report, funded by the Finnish Red Cross.

Bangladesh Red Crescent has agreed to host a youth visit based on the experiences from the first youth visit in Nepal in 2005. One of the lessons from 2005 was to invest more energy in preparing the young visitors before the visit.

Expected result 4: National societies have developed their legal base.

In Afghanistan the new Afghan Red Crescent constitution has been placed before the new parliament and in Maldives a working group is finalising the draft constitution and the Government of Maldives is reviewing the draft decree which will formally recognize the new national society.

Expected result 5: National societies have developed their volunteer management systems.

As a follow up of the activities in 2005 the regional OD delegate and the Asia Pacific volunteering development officer (based in Kuala Lumpur) visited Sri Lanka Red Cross to help them set up a new volunteer management system. Discussions were held with Sri Lanka Red Cross on how to develop a volunteer policy should as the first step in a volunteer management system, how best to record volunteer data. It has been agreed with Pakistan Red Crescent and Nepal Red Cross that the volunteer expert will assist the national societies in the second quarter of 2006.

Expected result 6. Systematic branch development taking place in national societies.

Advice and guidance was given by the regional OS delegate to the country delegations of for this process which is ongoing in Nepal, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. In Nepal, the branch development issue is linked to the volunteer management system development, and advice has been given as described above. In Bangladesh, the new approach to Branch development is part of a wider focus on integrated programming, to which the regional reporting development programme has contributed as described below.

Constraints on strategic planning and management development project

The biggest constraint for the regional OD program has been the security situation in especially Nepal, Afghanistan and Pakistan, latter two due to the nationality of the regional OD delegate. The major constraint for May and for the coming months is that as new delegate has not been found.

Project 2: Information development project

Project Objective: Effective communications, advocacy and networking at national society and regional level is promoted to deliver enhanced services to the most vulnerable

(Certain activities directly involving tsunami-affected countries in the region (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka) are covered under the Tsunami Emergency and Recovery plan of action 28/04)

Project Overview

The regional information delegate position was finally filled in December 2005 after a gap of nearly eight months. Two new information positions were also created, in response to increased media attention following the 2004 tsunami and 2005 South Asian earthquake, an information/reporting delegate in the Maldives, and a communications coordinator in Pakistan. Plans for the coming months include hiring a regional information officer and carrying out consultation to develop a regional communications strategy, aligned with the Federation's developing global communications strategy. A key event planned for the coming months is a regional communications workshop is planned for autumn 2006.

The information development project has focused on enhancing technical skills in national societies and country delegations, and on developing knowledge sharing and mutual support between national societies. Using communications to be accountable to both beneficiaries and donors has also been highlighted during this period,

with efforts made to establish and promote good relationships with donors (including ECHO and DFID and Swedish Red Cross).

SARD has also reinforced links with the ICRC communications counterparts in the region. Collaboration with the UN and “participating” national societies has been particularly successful in the Maldives where there is no national society and few humanitarian organizations operating (see tsunami operation updates).

There have been some minor changes to the activities in the project logframe, with one activity added on publicizing through events and media networking, and the omitting of media monitoring.

Expected Result 1: National societies have an enhanced capacity to conduct effective information/advocacy strategies.

Country delegations and national societies received guidance and direction on information and communications through presentations in Nepal for NRCS program managers, in Pakistan for PRCS regarding revised earthquake appeal, and Bangladesh for the regional Public Health in Emergencies workshop.

Assessing specific areas for support in communications is ongoing in Nepal, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Reviews and discussion on information strategies with national society and delegation counterparts has taken place and will continue with each visit. The key support activities between January and May were:

Afghanistan: Assistance in recruitment of information officer, publicizing ARCS activities and consultation on story/publicity ideas. A development visit has been rescheduled twice due to security constraints, and now planned for July.

Bangladesh: In an initial meeting with the communications director of BDRCS, the communication needs and activities of the national society were discussed, and what kind of support is needed from SARD.

India: Support to the India delegation includes advice and guidance on the draft communications strategy of the India Red Cross Society. Regular guidance has been given to the information department in the India delegation, in areas such as written communications and promoting Red Cross activities in India.

Maldives: In January, the Maldives delegation was supported for the tsunami one year anniversary, and the new information/reporting delegate was briefed. SARD supported and funded Federation/UN tsunami recovery photo exhibition in March (see www.ifrc.org/tsunami/photos for images from the exhibition)

Nepal: During a visit to Nepal, the regional information delegate worked closely with the information officer on how to market and promote NRCS's and Movement activities for World Red Cross Day, including how to deal with issues related to Movement coordination in the media. SARD is also funding the salary of the information officer at the Nepal Red Cross

Pakistan: The PRCS media team received guidance and advice on publicizing the earthquake response projects and on the development of a new publication on fundraising, an area of increasing importance to the PRCS.

Expected Result 2: National society and regional delegation programs are promoted and advocated for at a regional level and regional strategy developed and implemented.

Based on extensive consultation with journalists, ICRC, ECHO, UN and other organizations, a strategy has been developed to initiate a regional media network of international and local journalists, with the goal of publicizing RC/RC throughout South Asia. This “media bridge” strategy will be finalized in June.

In the absence of an information focal point in the Federation Pakistan delegation, the regional information delegate accepted two requests to assist with information needs. These included preparing journalists visits, hosting a donor visit, assisting in drafting information plan for the revised appeal, capturing video footage for six month anniversary of the earthquake and collaborating with PRCS on developing a fundraising brochure. One significant event was support to the high profile visit to the affected area of the chief executive officer of the British Red Cross. The regional information delegate accompanied Sir Nicholas, and coordinated with local and international media and the Pakistan delegation.



Sir Nicholas Young's visit to the Pakistan earthquake affected area, for which media coverage was supported by SARD. Sir Nicholas commented: *“From my own observations, from the expressed views of the British High Commissioner, DFID, Movement colleagues and every beneficiary I was able to talk to, the emergency relief operation has been remarkably effective given the particularly remote and rugged nature of the terrain, the ongoing dispute over the area between Pakistan and India and the timing of the earthquake just before the winter snows.”*

Ongoing activity to raise the visibility of the Red Cross Red Crescent in South Asia have included collaboration with SARD disaster management coordinator on a RDRT brochure, planned to be published in July. Many web stories have been sent by national societies and country delegations (with the exception of Maldives and Sri Lanka) for review, edit and to forward to Secretariat Media Services.

The main activities planned for the coming months an event using the newly developed “media bridge” to publicize the recent confirmation of the Federation’s legal status agreement in India. A new Federation South Asia program information booklet will be developed and will be printed by September 2006

Impact and progress towards project objectives

The information development project has experienced growth and success over the past five months. Ongoing support to each of the seven countries included visits to all countries (except Afghanistan), where meetings were held with the relevant counterparts and information was gathered on mapping the communications needs of the national societies and delegations for South Asia. Feedback from country information focal points indicate that the ongoing interaction and field visits described above have proven mutually beneficial for the national societies and country delegations, especially Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Pakistan. This regular interaction provides SARD with continually updated information on the needs in the region, enabled targeted and specific assistance.

Strategic alliances for fundraising and public relations are under discussion. The head of South Asia regional delegation (HoRD) has discussed such opportunities with potential corporate and individual sponsors. Country-level and regional marketing materials are in production, which will boost the profile of the Federation and national societies in the region.

Constraints

Despite substantial progress, the need remains to build further the capacity of information professionals in national societies. The main constraints have been related to competing priorities and security risks. Major disaster recovery programming has meant more attention paid to tsunami countries and Pakistan in the aftermath of the earthquake. However, a shift to focus to the less resourced countries such as Afghanistan is planned for the future. Due to security risks and coordinating schedules of ARCS leadership and regional information delegate, an initial visit has been postponed twice, lastly to the end of July. During the demonstrations in Nepal, a visit had to be postponed for a week, but the initial objectives were still achieved, a week after the unrest subsided.

The one year funded post for a SARD information officer was changed to six months due to insufficient funding. Funding for an information officer will be available after June 2006. In the meantime, an intern has provided tremendous help and talent to help with information and WDR projects.

Project 3: Finance Development

Project Objective: National societies have strengthened finance accountability, reporting and management capacity, in support of management decision making with a resultant improvement in quality and timeliness of reports and a gradual reduction in dependency on donors and Federation.

Project Overview

Due to the greatly increased financial workload related to tsunami and South Asia earthquake, the regional delegation has decided to recruit a finance development delegate to replace the regional finance development manager, which was not planned for under the appeal. This in effect meant that the position was upgraded from a manager position to a delegate position since April 2006.

Expected result 1: National societies conduct proper financial planning, budgeting, efficient control systems and transparent financial reporting in a timely manner to donors.

The finance development delegate visited Afghanistan, and recommended that as a necessary prerequisite to starting finance development work at ARCS, a consultant should be appointed as early as possible (preferably by June 2006) to carry out a needs assessment of the development of financial management system. Once the consultant's report has been submitted and approved by the ARCS management finance development work will be being in earnest, heavily supported by the Regional Delegation. A consultant was recommended to benefit from an external viewpoint.

The regional delegation assisted the Bangladesh country delegation with the development of the job description and recruitment of a Finance Development Manager for BDRCS, for which the regional delegation will provide salary support. The overall aim of this recruitment is to enable the BDRCS to have a transparent system of accounting, with appropriate internal controls, which is able to produce timely, accurate and transparent financial reporting for Federation, external donors and internal management purposes. The Finance Development Manager will advise, train and support the National Society staff, in coordination with the Federation Delegation, in order to improve and develop the financial structures and procedures of the National Society

In order to further build the capacity and strength of the Nepal Red Cross internal audit section, which is not yet fully functioning, a detailed proposal for support has been finalized. The key recommendation is recruiting an additional chartered accountant or equivalently qualified person. The job description for this position, along with advice and advice on the profile required was developed by SARD. Nepal Red Cross is currently discussing the proposal, and the follow up will be carried out in July 2006.

In addition to following up on the above activities where necessary, the main activities for the rest of the year will include conducting finance software refresher course for Pakistan Red Crescent finance staff, (scheduled for August), organize finance management training for one national society (scheduled for September for Pakistan Red Crescent) and organizing SCALA (accounting software) refresher training for Nepal Red Cross (scheduled for June).

Impact and progress towards project objective

The supporting for the recruitment of additional staff in Nepal and Bangladesh is going well and these new positions are expected to have positive impact in the long run. The first steps towards better finance in Afghanistan through an external consultant are also looking positive.

Constraints to finance development project

The major constraint to the finance development project remains that the time consuming day to day financial management of the regional delegation and short term support to country delegations prevent the finance development delegate from having sufficient and continuous amount of time to spend on longer-term capacity development of national societies.

While funding coverage is high (90%) for this project, this reflects the CHF 60,000 allocated by Swedish Red

Cross, to cover the upgraded finance development delegate position. Further funds would be required in order to carry out all activities in the project such as the planned finance management workshops in Afghanistan, Nepal, and Pakistan for district branches. New funding sources will be investigated and the budget revised accordingly if funding sources are found.

Project 4: Planning and Reporting Development

Project Objective: National societies meet minimum Federation required reporting standards and utilize reporting as an effective planning tool to deliver better humanitarian services.

(Note: tsunami-affected countries Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka are also covered under various activities in the Tsunami Emergency and Recovery plan of action 28/4)

Project Overview

The reporting situation in South Asia remains positive overall, although issues of quality remain significant. Delegations generally have sufficient reporting human resources, less so in the national societies.

While good progress has been made to improve integration of reporting with planning (especially in Nepal and Bangladesh) much work remains to be done in this area, and even more so in regard to integration of monitoring and evaluation with planning and reporting.

Expected result 1: National societies (via country delegations) achieve minimum Federation reporting standards and exhibit improved planning.

The regional reporting development workshop held by the regional reporting unit (RRU) in Kuala Lumpur in April provided a boost to reporting development in the region. Representatives from all South Asian countries shared best practices, such as the detailed and structured monthly reporting system in Sri Lanka, progress on integration of reporting with the entire project cycle management process in Bangladesh and the development of a planning and reporting unit in Nepal. SARD chaired a brief South Asian sub-meeting where specific strengths, weaknesses and needs in planning and reporting across the region were analysed. The outcomes, along with all other inputs during the workshop are being used as a basis for reporting development activities since then, and will be used to feed into further reporting development plans and activities.

The outcomes of this workshop were also used to inform the development of training exercises on reporting and planning skills. These exercises have been used during reporting development visits, with planning, monitoring and evaluation components in Nepal (mainly for the national society), Bangladesh (both Federation and national society staff) and India delegations (Federation staff only).

In Nepal, detailed advice and guidance was given to the delegation and national society on the development of a planning and reporting unit (a “task force” allocating reporting tasks to current staff members in the NRCS). Similarly, advice and guidance on the project to integrate reporting and planning cycle management was discussed at length with the Bangladesh country delegation and with the Swiss Red Cross Bangladesh office which is supporting this initiative.

Further planning, monitoring & evaluation and reporting development visits are planned for the coming months, including Afghanistan, the Maldives and possibly Sri Lanka in June, with tentative plans scheduled for Pakistan later in the year and follow up visits to Afghanistan, Nepal and Bangladesh. A regional reporting workshop to consolidate the outcome of these visits will be scheduled towards the end of the year.

Initial discussions have been held with country delegations to use local training institutes (such as the British Council) to develop a more continuous and sustainable method of reporting training. Another technique for the same aim is the development of monthly reporting formats, based on expected results and indicators, currently being piloted in Bangladesh, India and Afghanistan. Where possible (give time constraints), the processing of reports has also been used as a development technique, with detailed feedback and advice sent to country delegations on each report received by SARD.

SARD has also continued to cooperate with the RRU and other regional reporting delegates in the region to ensure that the reporting and planning needs and priorities of South Asia delegations and national societies are represented in the development of global reporting and planning guidelines being developed.

Impact and progress towards project objectives

The main indicator of impact of efforts in this area over the past years, including this reporting period is the fact that reporting development, and integration with planning is being taken more seriously and some resources are being allocated for this, especially in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal, with smaller scale efforts taking place Afghanistan and India.

The reporting development visits, continual remote support, coaching of country reporting focal points and establishment of monthly reporting are all reinforcing this momentum, and having some limited impact on the quality of reports received at the regional level. However, the situation remains unstable wide-ranging improvements in the quality of planning and reporting remain some way off, and needs to be seen as a long term goal.

Constraints

Combining the time-consuming function of report processing with the longer-term aims of reporting and planning development in the region has remained problematic. The recruitment in June of a regional reporting officer, made possible by the Swedish Red Cross allocation of funds will hopefully allow for more intensive reporting, planning, monitoring and evaluation development in the coming months.

Funding coverage for this project is currently at 45% (of the 2006 budget). As further funding is not expected, some activities may have to be cut or modified later in the year.

Humanitarian Values

Overview

Activities which stand out during this reporting period include the development of a pilot project in Bangladesh to advocate against domestic violence as part of the national society's ongoing community empowerment project (CEP). Collaboration between SARD, the Sri Lanka Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross resulted in the development of detailed four year plan of action to promote humanitarian values. Coordinating with local NGOs has also increased, especially for the upcoming Sphere workshop in India. The work of the Nepal Red Cross Society to promote humanitarian values during political tensions and protests was also of particular interest.

Issues of quality and accountability were also a major focus of regional support during this period, and gender and ethnic balance has increased overall in the workshops in the region.

The financial situation of the programme has not been very good during the reporting period. Significant time has been spent in seeking extra funding on this, and support from the Finnish Red Cross has now come at the end of May. Furthermore, many activities have been covered by tsunami funding where the activities are contributing towards both tsunami and annual appeal programmes.

Humanitarian values financial overview	
Expenditure as % of total funding	7%
Expenditure as % of 06 budget	1%
Funding coverage of 2006 budget	16%
Expenditure as % of 06 07 budget	0.6%
Funding coverage of 2006/2007 budget	9%

Programme Objective: The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is a strong advocate for promoting respect for diversity and fighting discrimination and intolerance through its various programmes.

Project 1: Understanding Humanitarian Values

Project Objective: To coordinate and facilitate the process of national societies understanding of humanitarian values and assist them in evolving long-term strategies to reduce discrimination and intolerance in the communities in which they operate.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: National societies achieve an understanding of HV which is reflected in advocacy against various forms of discrimination

In Bangladesh, a humanitarian values workshop focused on legal instruments that address issues of discrimination

and protecting human dignity, and how to ensure integration between HV and other programmes. The main outcome of the workshop was a pilot project to reduce domestic violence as part of the community empowerment project (CEP). A project team together with academicians from the Dhaka University will undertake a baseline survey, ensuring appropriate dialogue with beneficiaries on this very sensitive issue.

In India, advocacy against discrimination is still in its early stages and is limited to an induction training for staff of the Indian Red Cross headquarters, and for Federation and bilateral delegations in Delhi.

In Sri Lanka, the SARD HV coordinator ensured integration with other programmes by participating in the meeting to frame the DM policy and the strategic planning committee meeting.

The holding of a humanitarian values workshop and youth camp in Nepal had to be postponed due to the conflict situation in the country. We are hopeful that the programme will catch up now that the conflict has subsided. These activities, along with induction training and qualitative survey of understanding of humanitarian values in Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh will be reported in the coming reporting period.

Expected Result 2: National societies have documented how existing programmes have brought about positive changes in behaviour of people.

The work of the Nepal Red Cross Society to translate humanitarian values and the Fundamental Principles into action in the midst of the conflict and political tensions was noteworthy, and well publicized. This action will be documented in a fact sheet in collaboration with the Asia Pacific service centre in Kuala Lumpur.

Project 2: Reducing Discrimination

Project Objective: National Societies advocate for reducing discrimination through integrated programming and collaboration with the core programmes of disaster management and health.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: The global agenda against discrimination is promoted through effective communication and advocacy with internal stakeholders; the media and civil society; and national society to reduce discrimination in communities.

The work of the regional HV coordinator with the regional DM team is reflected in the strategy and the process in which an understanding of the Sphere project (especially the Humanitarian Charter) and the Code of Conduct in disaster relief is being pursued.



Consulting with local children during the VCA workshop in Nepal

The regional delegation facilitated sessions on these issues as part of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) national disaster response team (NDRT) training. A follow-up workshop on Sphere and related issues is planned during the later part of the year, mainly for the IRCS, with observers from other national societies in the region. Emphasis has been placed on ensuring a good gender and ethnic balance of the participants.

The regional HV coordinator was involved in the planning of the disaster risk reduction programme (DRR) in South Asia. The VCA workshop organized in Nepal was a good opportunity to drive home how discrimination (based on caste in particular) can be addressed by the national societies through the DRR project, and the DM programmes.

In March 2006, a half-day session on humanitarian values in a youth training camp in Bangladesh showed how young people participating at the camp were being influenced to change their behaviour. Young male Red Crescent school-goers were able to relate and reflect on how their sisters back home were discriminated against and how they were more privileged as boys. These young Red Crescent members resolved that they would no longer contribute to furthering such discrimination in their homes.

Expected Result 2: National societies design and implement specific projects to address and advocate against discrimination-based vulnerabilities in coordination with the core programmes of DM and health.

As this aim of this expected result is integration with the activities of disaster management and health, the activities carried out are funded by those programmes, and have been already mentioned under those sections of this update.

The project mentioned earlier to address gender-based discrimination in Nepal and Bangladesh (specifically domestic violence) needs more attention, but lack of funding for the reporting period made it difficult to undertake any project in Nepal.

Impact

National Societies increasingly realize the importance of integrating the humanitarian values programme with the core areas of DM and health. This integration is being furthered by discussions and debates in the national societies in the region. For example, in Bangladesh, the debate has moved from uncertainty on the legitimacy of DM involvement to a strong feeling of the necessity of integrating this aspect into the CEP programme. Defining the vulnerabilities of women exposed to domestic violence as equally important as other vulnerabilities related to DM and health demonstrate real progress in the understanding what is meant by humanitarian values.

Progress in achieving this objective is also evident from the development of alliances between national societies and local NGOs in the area of HIVAIDS, especially in Nepal and Bangladesh (see the Health section of the programme update for more information). Cooperation between national societies has also developed, with Sri Lanka Red Cross visiting to the water and sanitation programmes in Nepal and Bangladesh to learn how to include aspects of Humanitarian Values at the planning stage of such activities.

The increasing inclusion of women in workshops and the inclusion of all sections of the community in project committees (in the Community Development Programme in Nepal) illustrates progress towards integrating the themes of reducing discrimination and respecting diversity into all aspects of programming as a whole.

Constraints

The programme has built on its strengths, and best practices in Nepal, which has led to more commitment to HV, especially in Bangladesh. However, for this programme to be able to spread to other countries in South Asia, more funding is required. This constraint has been partly (and momentarily) offset with help from the Finnish Red Cross.

Even where funding is not an issue, the perennial constraint remains that humanitarian values is a low priority, especially during huge disaster operations like in Sri Lanka and Pakistan. More work is required to drive home the message that including humanitarian values in such operations is an integral component of successful disaster response.

A third constraint is little knowledge of the various statutory resolutions and pledges related to discrimination to which the national societies have made commitments at the global level, and lack of any national society strategy for disseminating them.

Commitment to integrating HV with other programmes needs to be extended beyond senior management in the national societies. Ensuring that “integration” is not misunderstood as only encouraging participation by youth and volunteers also needs to be addressed in the coming months.

Implementation and coordination

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

Building on the continual reinforcing of the importance of the Federation of the Future process, staff in delegations and national societies in South Asia have had training detailed sessions on the different components of Federation of the Future, the staff Code of Conduct and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The secretary general of Nepal Red Cross arrived in SARD in May as staff on loan, to help national society management and governance to take Federation of the Future seriously and better align their work with the MDGs. Building on good practices of regional cooperation through the expertise and peer leadership of a secretary general will firmly establish a sustainable understanding of the importance of the Federation of the Future for the region.

The earthquake operation partnership meeting (attended by 25 PNS and ICRC) held in Pakistan on January 25th demonstrated the good work done by the national society, Pakistan delegation, and the added value of SARD

support to operation. The HoRD ensured that the need for support to neighbouring countries, such as Afghanistan was also emphasized. The HoRD made two visits to Sri Lanka to participate in PNS coordination meeting on Tsunami, and followed up closely on the recommendation of High-level Working Group.

Regular meetings with the ICRC regional delegation continues, and an agreement has been renegotiated to jointly fund the next South Asia secretaries generals meeting in the Maldives from 11 to 13 July. A visit by the ICRC global director of communications was an opportunity to discuss our work in South Asia and how we can harmonize communications in line with the Strategy for the Movement.

International representation and advocacy

In an effort to bolster the disaster management team and improve integration with other programme areas, a regional advocacy consultant was recruited, funded by the New Zealand Red Cross. This new function, along with SARD's programmes in humanitarian values, HIVAIDS and information will provide further support national societies and country delegations to address issues related to discrimination.

The regional delegation responded to a number of enquiries from the international media related to the tsunami and Pakistan earthquake operations.

International disaster response

January to May was a busy period supporting huge relief and recovery operations in Sri Lanka, Maldives and Pakistan, as described in the programme sections below, and in the updates on the tsunami operation.

The Pakistan earthquake partnership meeting reinforced the regional delegation's role in setting up major disaster relief operations. The regional delegates in disaster management, disaster response and information all visited Pakistan to assist with specific tasks. On the recommendation of the regional DM coordinator, RDRT team members and the regional DR delegate spent a number of weeks supporting the country delegation and national society in the complex final stages of the relief operation. The regional DM officer also supported the India Red Cross during the second tsunami recovery assessment mission to Kerala.

Preliminary discussions have been held with the National Institute of Disaster Management New Delhi for a two day South Asia Policy Dialogue on Regional Disaster Risk Reduction on 21-22 August 2006. This is a major regional DM conference to follow up on the Hyogo declaration, in collaboration with in collaboration with UNDP, on the Federation and South Asian national societies.

Federation governance support

HoRD has had regular contact with the chairman of the relief commission (national secretary of SLRCS) providing advice and guidance on relief issues and the need for strong Federation governance support.

Management of the delegation

Greater emphasis has been placed on integration between programmes with lively and regular interaction between programmes in a number of areas. Improvement in simple tools such as monthly reporting, better coordination of delegates presence in the delegation and cost-cutting using new technology have all contributed to more efficient running of the delegation.

There have been significant increases and improvements to the human resource capacity of the delegation, especially in DM, health, admin and human resources. Gender balance and diversity has also increased in the human resource expansion. Human resource systems have been formalized for SARD and the region, and the increased DM & health capacity allowed greater support to the country delegations.

However, an ongoing constraint to the management of the delegation is the gaps in human resources in many delegations in the region, leading to many SARD delegates having to spend sometimes extended periods in country delegation in the region. While part of the role of SARD should be to provide support when unexpected staffing gaps arise, frequent and longer-term displacement of delegates is damaging for the continuity of the regional delegation.

[Interim financial report below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- *Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.*
- *Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.*
- *Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.*
- *Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.*

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering quality and accountable 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>

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA52001 - SOUTH ASIA

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/5
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA52001
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	2'376'119	897'821	207'722	1'315'529	585'532	5'382'723
B. Opening Balance	698'849	155'821	4'032	102'057	115'318	1'076'078
Income						
Cash contributions						
DFID Partnership	32'180	53'383		69'848	24'946	180'357
Swedish Red Cross	97'313	16'812	7'642	96'543	7'897	226'206
C1. Cash contributions	129'493	70'195	7'642	166'391	32'843	406'563
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
British Red Cross		331'284				331'284
Finnish Red Cross			-285			-285
Swedish Red Cross	8'589	16'674	7'579	35'116	7'832	75'789
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	8'589	347'958	7'294	35'116	7'832	406'788
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
German Red Cross		0				0
Swedish Red Cross		0				0
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)		0				0
Inkind Personnel						
Danish Red Cross				21'080		21'080
Swedish Red Cross					31'000	31'000
C5. Inkind Personnel				21'080	31'000	52'080
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	138'082	418'153	14'936	222'586	71'674	865'431
D. Total Funding = B + C	836'931	573'974	18'968	324'644	186'992	1'941'509

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	698'849	155'821	4'032	102'057	115'318	1'076'078
C. Income	138'082	418'153	14'936	222'586	71'674	865'431
E. Expenditure	-290'855	-126'966	-1'327	-86'033	-117'218	-622'399
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	546'076	447'008	17'641	238'611	69'774	1'319'110

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA52001 - SOUTH ASIA

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/5
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA52001
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)		2'376'119	897'821	207'722	1'315'529	585'532	5'382'723	
Supplies								
Medical & First Aid	8'500							8'500
Teaching Materials	5'700							5'700
Total Supplies	14'200							14'200
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	17'000	4'710	2'357				7'066	9'934
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	17'000	4'710	2'357				7'066	9'934
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	50'288	12'423	658		704		13'785	36'503
Total Transport & Storage	50'288	12'423	658		704		13'785	36'503
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	1'060'800	34'810	30'542		11'533		76'885	983'915
Delegate Benefits	459'600	50'510	1'320		37'797	45'332	134'958	324'642
Regionally Deployed Staff	138'000		17'414				17'414	120'586
National Staff	382'764	31'966	4'564		2'915		39'446	343'318
National Society Staff	220'254	3'559			1'025		4'585	215'669
Consultants	398'155	2'137			13'985	7'753	23'875	374'280
Total Personnel Expenditures	2'659'573	122'983	53'839		67'255	53'085	297'162	2'362'411
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1'266'986	61'958	29'208	1'008	1'772		93'945	1'173'041
Total Workshops & Training	1'266'986	61'958	29'208	1'008	1'772		93'945	1'173'041
General Expenditure								
Travel	466'430	26'893	14'468	233	6'948	1'193	49'736	416'694
Information & Public Relation	149'052	4'577	200		1'073		5'849	143'203
Office Costs	281'949	31'207	15'598		365	54'253	101'423	180'526
Communications	74'988	4'746	1'740		2'376	65	8'926	66'062
Professional Fees	15'000							15'000
Financial Charges	2'400		10		37		46	2'354
Other General Expenses	34'980	3	3				6	34'974
Total General Expenditure	1'024'799	67'425	32'019	233	10'798	55'512	165'987	858'812
Depreciation								
Depreciation						357	357	-357
Total Depreciation						357	357	-357
Program Support								
Program Support	349'877	18'906	8'253	86	5'503	7'488	40'236	309'641
Total Program Support	349'877	18'906	8'253	86	5'503	7'488	40'236	309'641
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		2'451	633			776	3'861	-3'861
Total Operational Provisions		2'451	633			776	3'861	-3'861
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	5'382'723	290'855	126'966	1'327	86'033	117'218	622'399	4'760'324
VARIANCE (C - D)		2'085'264	770'855	206'395	1'229'497	468'314	4'760'324	