

Mid-Year report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)

Appeal No. MAA00014

6 August 2010



Participants from the Icelandic Red Cross at the recent PMER training in Reykjavik. IFRC

This report covers the period 1 January to 30 June 2010.

In brief

Programme outcome: To support quality service delivery and accountability in programmes.

Programme summary: In support of this long-term objective, the 2009-2010 plan covers in detail two specific initiatives for which funding is sought. Progress on these two initiatives are as follows:

Putting in place a Federation-Wide Reporting System (FWRS):

- Twenty-four pilot National Societies and FWRS focal points in each zone have been identified.
- The key FWRS resources have been tested in one National Society and the system revised according to the feedback received to be piloted over the summer.
- The development of an information technology (IT) platform that will streamline online data collection efforts in the IFRC continued.

Developing a planning, monitoring and evaluation training:

- An additional 71 people were trained, bringing the cumulative total to 156 people trained (and registered on the IFRC's online learning platform).
- By March 2010, 13 PMER training facilitators were identified and trained. However, six have since left, and one more identified.
- The resource materials on project/programme planning have been finalized, translated and disseminated. Resource materials on monitoring and evaluation (M & E) have been developed and piloted.

Financial situation: The total 2010 budget is CHF 401,507 (USD 369,974 or EUR 303,088), of which CHF 166,650 (42 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 63,932 (16 per cent) of the budget and

40 per cent of the income. Additional funding was not actively sought in the first half of the year, as human resource constraints at different levels made it apparent that the income of 164,990 would be sufficient to cover what could be reasonably spent from January to June. Expenditures are on track, and it is expected that the annual implementation rate will reach 80 per cent by the end of the year.

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

No. of people we have reached: See above for number of people trained / facilitators identified.

Context

The importance of planning, monitoring and evaluation and reporting is to ensure that high quality programming is well established throughout the IFRC, and underscored by the recently adopted Strategy 2020. The achievements outlined below constitute some of the key mechanisms through which the aspirations outlined in the new 10-year strategy will be realized.

The increasing recognition of the importance of PMER has, however, not always translated into capacities to develop systems and a culture of performance and accountability. Across the world, the organization still lacks sufficient dedicated financial and human resources to be able to make significant impact on improving the practice of PMER. These resource constraints continue to hamper the quick roll out of the various initiatives described in this report.

Progress towards outcomes

Programme purpose
Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting process and practice supports quality service delivery and accountability in programmes
Programme component 1: Coherent PMER systems
Outcome 1: Coherent PMER systems linking Federation-wide, National Societies and secretariat systems are in place
Output 1.1 (for which funding is sought): Federation-wide monitoring system is in place and used by National Societies

Achievements

Following the adoption in principle of the FWRS by the General Assembly at its November 2009 meeting in Nairobi, progress has been made in a number of different areas:

- **Identifying National Societies for piloting and secretariat focal points**

Twenty-four National Societies have agreed to pilot the system, supported by the secretariat focal point identified in each zone. Working in close collaboration with the FWRS focal person in the performance and accountability department (PAD) at the secretariat in Geneva, the zonal focal points will support the implementation of FWRS in National Societies. They will provide capacity building where necessary, and provide feedback for improvements to the FWRS.

- **Testing and refining the system**

The FWRS was tested during a site visit to the Swedish Red Cross, including meetings with key staff from the international and domestic departments, and staff from the Stockholm branch. Feedback on the FWRS methodology, resources developed, as well as practical limitations to the FWRS was instrumental in the revision of FWRS resources.

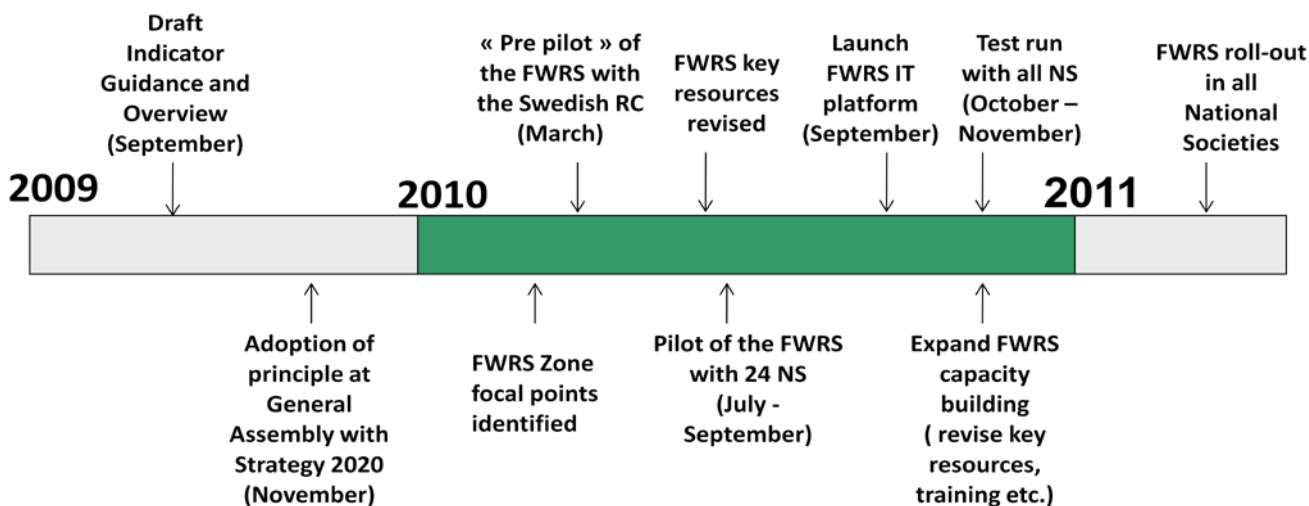
The comments received on the first draft of the FWRS key resources, led to key changes in the FWRS which features the addition of one new indicator – number of people volunteering blood – and a revised way of counting people reached, now disaggregated by service area and direct and

indirect recipients and people covered. The FWRS key resources have been revised and translated and will be piloted over the summer in those pilot National Societies.

- **Developing IT system support**

The FWRS IT platform, which features a National Society data management space and a FWRS reporting platform, and sets the basis for other online National Society data collection and reporting efforts in the IFRC, has continued. The National Society data management space which will allow National Societies to enter and update data and documents has been set up, and is now being modified to reflect the changes in the FWRS. The development of the FWRS reporting page has been impacted by the delays in the web renewal project, and an alternative IT platform is being developed and is planned to be launched in September.

- **Timescale of the FWRS roll-out**



Constraints or Challenges

The development of IFRC’s new intranet (FedNet) has experienced numerous delays, which has in turn impacted the development of the FWRS reporting page which could not be initiated. Given the uncertainty in the launch date of FedNet, it was decided that the FWRS reporting page should be developed on an alternative site to be later transferred to the FedNet.

Programme component 2: Building a PMER culture
Component outcome: A PMER culture is supported and nurtured.
Output 2.1 (for which funding is sought): Technical knowledge and skills, quality and coherence of PMER in the IFRC is improved.

Achievements

The [annual report for 2009](#) detailed the development of guidance and training materials on project/programme planning, using the logical framework approach, and the workshops that were run based on these materials. The following progress has been made this year:

- **Finalization, translation and dissemination of planning resource materials**

In the first months of 2010, all these materials were finalized, translated into IFRC’s four working languages (and Russian), were printed and sent (or will be sent) to the zones for further targeted distribution to country offices and National Societies.

Training workshops continue to be held, or are planned to be held around the world. However, limitations in human and financial resources have restricted the amount of new trainings that were held so far this year.

- **Development on monitoring and evaluation and reporting resource materials**

A significant development is that the first guidance materials on monitoring and evaluation (which follow on from the project/planning materials) have now been drafted and disseminated for review. Related training modules on M&E and reporting have also been developed, and were piloted during the workshop held in Iceland (mentioned below), where they were evaluated very positively by the participants. All the training materials will be consolidated and made available for a more comprehensive set of sessions from which different workshops can be developed based on different needs.

- **Trainings held and people trained**

Three trainings have been held so far this year, two less than was intended, due to issues of funding and competing priorities in the zones. The trainings that were held were at the secretariat in Geneva (17 secretariat staff), in Suva (25 participants from National Societies, secretariat and external organizations) and in Iceland (27 participants from Nordic National Societies plus 2 external participants). The 71 people trained this year brings the cumulative total since the development of the materials to 156 people who have received a complete version of the project/planning training. Further shorter sessions and trainings have also been held around the world using the materials, but not comprising a full training.

An online forum was created on the IFRC's new Learning Platform (www.ifrc.org/learning) and all those people who have attended a "full" training have been added to this platform, where they can also access key resources related to the training.

- **Facilitators identified and trained**

A target of 10 "recognized" facilitators was set for 2010, in order to be able to roll out the training further. By March 2010, 13 facilitators had been identified, 11 secretariat staff (five in Geneva, two in the Europe zone, two in Asia Pacific and one in Africa) and two National Society staff. Unfortunately, six of these 13 have since left their position, and may no longer be available as facilitators. One additional facilitator has since been identified, but clearly more facilitators will be required across the world to support training, coaching and other technical assistance and capacity building on PMER skills.

Constraints or Challenges

Some planned workshops could not be held due to lack of funding in the zones. This was also made difficult by the lack of qualified facilitators in each zone and the lack of facilitators proficient in all of the IFRC's working languages. Further facilitators are being identified and additional funds sought to address this issue. In some cases, holding a training is also a low priority, which needs to be addressed at the management level. The online training component has also been delayed so far this year due to competing priorities in the secretariat workload.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Both initiatives described here represent a considerable investment by PMER with high potential for longer-term impact. Internationally, there is increasing emphasis on accountability. Training in improved project planning, monitoring evaluation and reporting skills, together with the FWRS, are key to improving the quality of the programmes delivered to people around the world, by improving the way in which they are managed.

Looking ahead

The FWRS will be piloted in about 20 National Societies over the summer, to get a better understanding of systems in place in National Societies. This pilot exercise is planned to be followed by a "test run" in autumn 2010 in which all the National Societies will be asked to report on the FWRS indicators, and to use the FWRS IT platform.

In order to build a PMER culture, M & E guidance manuals will be finalized over the coming months, and the corresponding training materials will be refined and consolidated with the finalized

materials on planning. Discussions are ongoing regarding further training workshops to be held around the world based on different requests. In addition, the feasibility of developing an online training component will be looked at again.

How we work	
<p><i>All 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 assistance to the most vulnerable.</i></p>	
<p>The IFRC's vision is to:</p> <p>Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.</p>	<p>The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises. 2. Enable healthy and safe living. 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
Contact information	
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