

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

CARIBBEAN

29 November 2006

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

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. MAA49001; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: 1 April to 31 July 2006;
2006 Appeal Coverage: 66.4%; Outstanding needs for 2006: CHF 1,184,070 (USD 985,921 or EUR 745,436).

2006 and 2007 Appeal target: CHF 5,385,457 (USD 4,491,047 or EUR 3,392,536); 2006 Appeal target revised to CHF 3,526,778 (USD 2,940,856 or EUR 2,221,681)

[Click here to go to the attached Interim Financial Report](#)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Bahamas, Cuba and Mexico: Hurricane Wilma (05EA024); Suriname: Floods (MDRSR001); Haiti Appeal (MAAHT001); PADRU Appeal (MAA42001).

Programme summary: The goal of the Port of Spain Sub-Regional Office, in conjunction with the Panama Regional Delegation and the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), in 2006 continues to be to provide support to National Societies and Branches of the British, French and Netherlands overseas territories in the core programme areas. This is carried out in accordance with *Strategy 2010*, the Plan of Action of the Inter American Conference, and the Caribbean Cooperation Agreement Strategy, by building the capacities of National Societies through regional networks and external partnerships, the harmonization of regional methodologies and campaigns, and the promotion of Humanitarian Principles and Values. Following the decisions at the General Assembly in November 2005, the Caribbean National Societies and their partners are identifying ways to respond to the Global Agenda and scale up the impact of Red Cross work in the region. This focus will be increasingly reflected throughout 2006, leading up to the next Inter American Conference in June 2007.

The one-year ECHO-funded project "*Strengthening disaster management capacity in the Caribbean region*" was completed at the end of May whilst DiPECHO V continued in five countries, concentrating on national and community Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) methodology.

The Caribbean HIV/AIDS Network (CARAN) held its biennial meeting in Panama and elected a new Executive Committee. The fight against HIV/AIDS continues to be addressed through the *Together We Can* peer education methodology and the *Faces* campaign.

The mechanisms for promoting Humanitarian Principles and Values concentrated on the regional website and quarterly newsletter as well as the adaptation of the HIV/AIDS taxi campaign *Transporting Respect for People Living with HIV/AIDS* in the Caribbean.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). All international Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

Operational developments

The North Atlantic Hurricane season officially commenced on 1 June 2006. Two storms – Alberto and Beryl – formed within this reporting period but did not directly affect the Caribbean region. The annual pre-hurricane meeting took place in St Lucia on 16 - 21 May and was attended by both Central American and Caribbean National Societies/Overseas Branches. The sub-regional office provided support to PADRU in the Suriname Floods operation; a disaster management delegate was deployed to assist the Suriname Red Cross in its disaster response efforts.

HIV/AIDS and First Aid

Programme Objective: The capacity of Caribbean Red Cross National Societies and Overseas Branches is strengthened to educate, mobilize, advocate for, and deliver quality health programmes of appropriate scale and enable them to target communities to reduce vulnerability.



In an effort to get young people more involved in its HIV/AIDS programme the Guyana Red Cross has developed fun games and activities with prizes to educate young people on HIV and AIDS

Progress/Achievements:

In addition to the two objectives included in the Appeal, the health portfolio of the Red Cross in the Caribbean focused on other key health activities such as Psychosocial Support Programmes (PSP), Voluntary Non-remunerated Blood Donation (VNRBD), Avian Influenza/Pandemic Influenza awareness raising and Water and Sanitation.

Psychosocial Support Programmes

The University of St. George in Grenada indicated its interest in working with the Federation to fine tune the PSP manuals developed by the Costa Rican Red Cross. A visit by the regional health delegate to Grenada as well as to the University of the West Indies in Trinidad is scheduled in mid-August, to explore opportunities for strengthening alliances. OXFAM has also expressed interest in working with the Federation to field test the manuals.

Non-Remunerated Voluntary Blood Donation

The Deputy Director General of the Jamaica Red Cross made a presentation on *Club 25* at the 6th CARAN Meeting in April. There was significant interest in the methodology, and interest in the linkages between *Club 25* and HIV/AIDS activities. In July the Federation held the first Continental *Club 25* Workshop in Panama City with representatives from 13 National Societies including representatives from the *Dominican Red Cross*, *Jamaica Red Cross* and the *Guyana Red Cross Society* – unfortunately, as a result of visa problems, representatives of the Haitian National Red Cross Society and the Suriname Red Cross could not attend. The workshop was productive as it allowed National Societies currently using the methodology the opportunity to talk about lessons learned and assist those still to begin. The participants also worked on and produced clear regional and national *Club 25*

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implementation plans. There was clear consensus that *Club 25* be promoted as the regional methodology for voluntary non-remunerated blood donation for youth in the region. The advertising agency, McCann Erickson, has committed to support the mass media aspects of the methodology. Finally, a three-year project proposal was presented to Finnish Red Cross to support the continental scaling-up of the methodology throughout the Americas. Six Caribbean National Societies have been included in the proposal including the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Suriname and one other to be decided.

Impact:

National Societies are committed to scaling-up in this area and the *Club 25* methodology will provide them with an easily measurable indication of scaling-up.

Avian Influenza/ Pandemic Influenza

The Federation launched a global appeal for *Avian Influenza Preparedness, Mitigation and Response* in April for CHF 15,000,000. The Americas Department has requested CHF 122,000 to support a two-day continental meeting, training materials and travel assistance. In the meantime, other strategies employed to raise awareness in the Caribbean included dedicated web pages on the regional website, presentations at the CARAN biennial meeting, the pre-hurricane meeting, the Disaster Management network meeting and a meeting with Partner National Societies. Using a continental approach, the Lima Regional Delegation will develop a draft *Americas Avian Influenza Strategic Plan* (using similar plans from Africa and Asia as a guide) whilst the Panama Regional Delegation will develop Information, Education and Communication materials. A continental workshop is planned for November.

Water and Sanitation

Following the European Union call for proposals for Water Facility projects in the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions, the Federation and the French Red Cross entered into a partnership with *the Guyana Red Cross Society*.

Impact:

A three year proposal for €844,562 entitled “*Guyana hinterland, community based water and sanitation project*” was submitted to the European Union.

Constraints:

It was originally anticipated that the partnership would also include the Suriname Red Cross. Unfortunately, the assessment coincided with the floods emergency operation and it was not possible to make the necessary field visits.

Expected Result 1: The response of National Societies and Overseas Branches to the HIV/AIDS epidemic has been refined and scaled up in the areas of prevention, care and the fight against stigma and discrimination.

Progress/Achievements:

CARAN

The 6th Biennial Meeting of the Caribbean Regional HIV/AIDS Network (CARAN) took place in Panama in April. 15 National Societies and five Overseas Branches participated. Guest speakers included representatives from the University of the West Indies’ HIV/AIDS Response Programme (UWI HARP), the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP), UNICEF and the Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Network. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the American Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross. The network approved a new operational framework from 2006-2010 and new Terms of Reference (ToR). A new Executive was elected with an emphasis on better regional representation as per the new ToR.

The new CARAN Executive held its first meeting in July which was also attended by the Regional OD Officer who gave a



The Grenada Red Cross promotes its HIV/AIDS programme on the island

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presentation on Federation global and regional strategies and on volunteering. The new executive is committed to improving communication in the region and to carrying out its mandate using the new operational framework as its guide.

Together we Can

Throughout the region increased numbers of adolescents are being reached by the methodology, with a total of 20,801 teens exposed to-date in twenty-two Red Cross entities in five regional languages – English, Spanish, Creole, Papiamentu and Dutch.

The Federation worked closely with eleven National Societies and Overseas Branches assisting them in drawing up plans of action to scale-up the “Together we Can” methodology. The plan includes direct financial assistance to these National Societies and Overseas Branches allowing them to reach more peers by the end of the year – the average target is an additional 400 teens reached per entity.

The Education Development Council (EDC) approached the Federation with regard to a strategic alliance to scale up STI/HIV/AIDS interventions based on the “Together We Can” methodology in tertiary institutions, starting with the University of the West Indies. A pilot project was developed for the St Augustine campus in Trinidad and Tobago whereby 200 peer educators, aged 17 to 24, would reach out to 2,000 young people, using a 1:10 ratio of educators to peers. The training of 20 *Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society* national trainers and the training of peer educators are scheduled for August.

The Federation supported the *Belize Red Cross Society* in its discussions with the Belize Ministry of Education to include *Together We Can* as the standard national youth STI/HIV/AIDS peer education methodology in Belizean schools.

After a lengthy revision and validation process, the *Monitoring and Evaluation* toolkit was finalized and is currently being printed in English and Spanish. A workshop to introduce the toolkit to the *Dominican Red Cross* was held in July.

The Faces Campaign

The Federation continued to broaden its HIV/AIDS portfolio with the inclusion of “*The Faces Campaign*” promoting condom use. The *Dominica Red Cross Society* launched the campaign on 8 May as part of the Red Cross Day celebrations with a short ceremony at which television, radio and print media were in attendance. The National AIDS Programme Coordinator congratulated the Dominica Red Cross Society on taking the fight against AIDS a step further, and commended the active collaboration with the National AIDS Committee. *Swedish Red Cross* pledged CHF 35,000 which allowed the *Belize Red Cross Society*, the *Guyana Red Cross Society*, the *Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society*, the *Jamaica Red Cross* and the *Saint Lucia Red Cross* to prepare to launch the campaign in their respective countries.

Impact:

A four-year Framework for Action 2006-2010 is in place to strengthen the Red Cross capacity to play an ever more relevant role in HIV/AIDS prevention and anti-stigma projects in the Caribbean. A new CARAN Executive Committee was elected (*see left*), charged with the responsibility of ensuring the implementation of the CARAN strategy for the Caribbean over the next two years. The Executive Committee is composed of a Chair (*St Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross*), a Vice Chair (*Cayman Islands Overseas Branch*), and two members (from the *Dominican Red Cross* and the *Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society*).



Members of the Belize Red Cross show off some of the promotional items from the "Faces" campaign

Through the Together We Can methodology and the Faces Campaign, more adolescents are being reached with key messages on prevention and anti-stigma and promotion of tolerance for People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWA).



New CARAN Executive Committee

Constraints:

Outstanding financial reporting from National Societies continues to hinder the Federation from transferring new funds for “Together We Can” activities and rolling-out “The Faces Campaign”.

Expected Result 2: National Societies and Overseas Branches are the lead provider of first aid in the Caribbean.

Progress/Achievements:

The First Aid project budget - included in the 2006 Caribbean Appeal - was removed, as this project is being implemented on a bilateral basis by the British Red Cross, managed by a Project Coordinator based in the Sub-Regional Office.

A first aid instructor resource package for Basic First Aid has been agreed to and is being used in the three pilot projects under implementation in the *Belize, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Societies*. This

package is also advertised online and is available for use by other National Societies/Overseas Branches. The kit includes: Preparing for training, suggested presentation format, Powerpoint presentation slides, practical first aid scenarios, course evaluation, ‘Test Yourself’ sheets for students, minimum first aid competencies and student progress/assessment log.

Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed with schools and Community Based Organizations (CBO) depending on the focus of each National Society. The *Belize Red Cross Society* carried out considerable negotiations with the Ministry of Education so that the National Society can deliver first aid education in schools. The other National Societies use MoUs and letters of intent with the relevant communities and community-based organizations.

Thirty-one community first aid events, either certified courses or first aid education sessions with skills sign off for attendees have been held since the project began. 1,381 people have participated in these community events.

Baseline information for the project indicated (but did not confirm) that first aid income was able to sustain existing first aid projects in each National Society. Monitoring forms have been developed to record income and expenditure of first aid programming more accurately. Each National Society has been able to increase its commercial first aid income since the project began. There are very different commercial situations in each country which affect the future of first aid commercially. For example the *Belize Red Cross Society* has been able to increase its sales of first aid kits and price the products with an average 200% profit margin. However, in Trinidad and Tobago the market for first aid kits is saturated and there is potential for fewer profit gains from first aid product sales. All National Societies have utilized and agreed on a supplier for first aid products and now have products labelled with their own logo.

At the June Project Coordination meeting in Belize, all three National Societies involved in the project agreed that the most viable option for producing a manual would be to manage the project internally rather than pay an external publisher. The production of the harmonized Caribbean first aid manual is currently underway. To save costs and time, text from an existing manual will be used. The work has been divided into three sections with each National Society responsible for one section. The *Belize Red Cross Society* is responsible for designing and proof reading the manual, the *Grenada Red Cross Society* is responsible for technical input and accuracy of



The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society in an effort to get students more involved in First Aid held First Aid competitions throughout the island

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the manual and the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society is in charge of providing photographs and illustrations. Tender for printing has gone out for the manual and comparative bid analysis has been completed, identifying a printer in Trinidad to carry out the work. Tender has also gone out for design. Each National Society has submitted a work plan for its particular responsibility. This information has been uploaded to the Caribbean regional website asking other National Societies to provide input and information for the manual.

Impact:

Course evaluation forms are being used in all three National Societies involved in the project. The results of these evaluations indicate that the majority of people attending a first aid course have increased knowledge and confidence in the use of first aid techniques upon completion of the course, compared to previous to the course. Follow up interviews with participants will be carried out over the next few months to determine if first aid skills are retained and if they have used those skills since the training. There are already five reports of people trained through the project providing first aid in the community.

Belize Red Cross Society

- § Ten first aid education events held, as a result of which 377 people have gained sign off in at least one first aid skill. This includes First Aid education in schools.
- § Four certified first aid courses held, two in the community and two in schools.
- § 102 people received a basic first aid certificate through community or school First Aid.
- § The new resuscitation guidelines have been rolled out to First Aid Instructors
- § 182 people certified in First Aid through commercial training

The Grenada Red Cross Society

- § 13 community first aid courses held. These include courses in targeted communities such as Coffiebeau Hill and Darbeau Village as well as courses for existing community groups.
- § 193 people attended the community First Aid courses.
- § 16 first aid education events held at which 496 people gained sign off in at least one first aid skill.
- § Four First Aid courses were held for special groups, such as the National Agency for Disaster Management (NADMA), in which 59 people have participated.
- § 160 people certified in basic First Aid through commercial training. These figures specifically relate to the work this project has carried out and do not include existing commercial First Aid work.
- § Six new First Aid Instructors trained (four more have almost completed training).
- § Four new volunteers joined through the project.



First Aid drill carried out by GRCS

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society

- § 36 people trained and certified in basic First Aid as part of community First Aid training.
- § 18 'Together We Can' peer educators trained with a one day first aid course with the aim of them becoming First Aid peer educators.
- § 94 people learned a First Aid skill at an education event.
- § The new resuscitation guidelines rolled out to First Aid Instructors.
- § 594 basic first aid certificates have been issued through commercial training.

Constraints:

The project took some time to begin implementation. Local coordinators began work in February; therefore March was the first month the project began collecting statistics and early in the year the National Societies were preparing to deliver services. This essentially has cut the service delivery element of a one year project down to eight months. Substantial work has been necessary to set up systems and internal capacities within the National Societies to effectively implement this project. Systems such as those to collect statistics, monitor commercial income, recruit

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and manage staff were not all in place and have had to be developed and implemented. This has increased the capacity of National Societies in these areas. The project could benefit more from the technical support and expertise that exists in the Federation structure (Secretariat and National Societies). Valuable lessons which were acquired from similar activities in other regions should be taken into consideration with an aim to strengthen the project.

Disaster Management

Disaster Preparedness

Programme Objective: The National Societies and Overseas Branches and the Federation Secretariat in the region have effective mechanisms and programmes for disaster preparedness which contribute to reducing the impact of disasters on affected populations.

Expected Result 1: The National Societies and Overseas Branches and the Federation Secretariat in the region have effective mechanisms and programmes for disaster preparedness which contribute to reducing the impact of disaster affected populations.

Progress/Achievements:

With Italian Red Cross funds remaining from the Hurricane Ivan operation, the new National Intervention Team (NIT) Training modules, updated by the Centre of Reference in El Salvador, were translated from Spanish into English.

The Caribbean Disaster Management network met prior to the annual pre-hurricane in St Lucia. The subjects covered included:

- Feedback from the Caribbean Cooperation of the Red Cross (CCORC) on the network's ToR where some minor changes were requested.
- The development of a *National Society Disaster Preparedness Plan* template.
- Supplier agreements, based on a template used by PADRU.
- Feedback on the Response and Contingency Planning meeting in Belize.
- Review of the Regional Intervention Team (RIT) manual.
- Review of Third Party MoUs.
- Update on shelter management.
- Introduction of a climate change project: *Understanding and Addressing the Risks of Climate Change*

The audio soap opera – *Rough Season* – was aired in *Trinidad and Tobago* with the support of the Canadian High Commission and Association of Caribbean States. The soap opera was heard daily at prime time on three radio stations – 90.5, 95.5 and 103.5 targeting the general East Indian public, but with an emphasis on women. *Dominica Red Cross Society* and *Turks and Caicos Overseas Branch* also arranged for local radio stations to air the drama.

Constraints:

A three-month delay in financial reporting from Grenada Red Cross Society has prevented the Federation from issuing a final report on funds received from American Red Cross last year towards the recovery from Hurricane Ivan.

Dissatisfaction was expressed by the Disaster Management Network on the latest draft of the RITs manual where they felt previous comments had not been integrated into the document. Written comments were shared with PADRU for the final draft.

Expected Result 2: Vulnerability in high-risk communities has been reduced.

Caribbean Development Bank – ProVention Consortium Regional Seminar on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into National Development Planning in the Caribbean

Held in Barbados on 26 May, the Seminar was part of a four day Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)-ProVention Consortium (PVC) Forum on Mainstreaming DRR. Attended by representatives from the Federation's Secretariat,

the Sub-Regional Office and *the Barbados Red Cross Society*, other participants included senior personnel from the public and private sector agencies and CDB's borrowing member countries, development partners actively involved in DRR in the Caribbean, PVC partners and CDB staff. The objectives were to enhance the understanding of the scope, process and net benefits of integrating DRR into national development planning and to present proposals for the development of tools for measuring and monitoring progress in mainstreaming DRR at the national level that address the specific characteristics of the Caribbean. The seminar also provided the opportunity for the region to interact with an international cadre of experts in Disaster Reduction Management, including the World Bank, the Inter American Development Bank and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and Action Aid.

Presentations by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), CDB, PVC and USAID, were divided into four sessions: (1) Mainstreaming DRR into National Development Planning, (2) Best Practices/Experiences in Mainstreaming DRR – Country Perspectives (British Virgin Islands, Jamaica, Ecuador and Asia) (3) Tools for Mainstreaming DRR and (4) Working Group Sessions to do a *SWOT Analysis* for the mainstreaming of DRR in national development planning and development projects.

The meeting also presented an opportunity for discussion with the ProVention Consortium on the ProVention Project implemented in Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras in 2004-2005. The Consortium expressed interest in supporting the printing of the English translations of the *Education, Organization and Community Preparedness for Risk Reduction* Manuals produced by the Regional Centre of Reference for Community Education in Disaster Management based in Costa Rica.

DiPECHO V Community Based Disaster Management project

The project continued to target 20 communities in Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Jamaica and St Kitts and Nevis. The Federation facilitated a coordination meeting for the five project coordinators and finance officers to review and update work plans and to share experiences, methodologies and lessons learned. In addition, a Climate Change Consultant, working in collaboration with the Netherlands Red Cross Climate Change Centre in the Hague, was invited to guide the climate change component of the project, in particular its inclusion in the VCA methodology and the production of a video highlighting climate change, as a way of stimulating discussion and raising awareness to as wide a range of vulnerabilities as possible and the link to actions in the community that perhaps could slow the progress of the changes or reduce their impact.

The respective National Societies/Overseas Branches met with stakeholders, including their National Disaster Offices, community leaders and other partners. National VCA workshops were held in the five countries; participants were invited from a range of backgrounds including Red Cross volunteers, community leaders/focal points, staff and volunteers with the national disaster offices, government departments and organizations working in community development or disaster preparedness. The *Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society* conducted a national VCA workshop at the National Office of Disasters (NODs); 15 participants - including representatives from NODS – attended, with a session on Climate Change facilitated by a senior national meteorologist. The *Bahamas Red Cross Society* (BRCS) conducted a national VCA training for 83 participants from the Bain Town Disaster Response Team, Urban Renewal Committee, New Providence Community Centre Disaster Management Team and Red Cross volunteers. The *Cayman Islands Overseas Branch of the British Red Cross* conducted a national VCA, co-facilitated by the Federation, for 27 participants. *Jamaica Red Cross* conducted a national VCA, co-facilitated by two trainers from *Saint Lucia Red Cross*, for six parishes. Three community VCAs were then completed in Cave Valley, Bull Bay and Amity Hall. The *St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society* conducted a national VCA workshop for 21 participants, including two from Nevis, and co-facilitated by a trainer from *St Lucia Red Cross*.

Impact:

Jamaica Red Cross signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) and the Social Development Commission (SDC) for the implementation of the DiPECHO V project. Two volunteers from the Urban Renewal Committee (a programme supported by the Prime Minister to provide information, training and support to disadvantaged urban and peri-urban communities) were released to work with *the Bahamas Red Cross Society* to implement the DiPECHO V project and following the National VCA training, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) requested additional VCA training.

NEMA has committed to support VCA in four additional communities in collaboration with the BRCS. A new slogan was developed for the DiPECHO V project for use in all visibility materials and media/press releases:

Our Community: Ready!Prepared!Safe!



Generic banner used by all the National Societies using the DiPECHO V project slogan. One is displayed in the National Society/Overseas Branch headquarters and one in each community.

Constraints:

The DiPECHO V project coordinators in the *Cayman Islands Overseas Branch of the British Red Cross* and *Jamaica Red Cross* resigned unexpectedly from their respective organizations. *Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society* experienced challenges in conducting community VCAs because of the country's preoccupation with Carnival.

Disaster Response

Programme Objective: A well functioning Americas disaster response system is supporting National Societies and Overseas Branches in the provision of assistance to those affected by disasters.

Expected Result 1: The America's disaster response system is effectively coordinated by PADRU in collaboration with the Regional Delegation and the Sub Regional Office, and in coordination with Partner National Societies, the United Nations system and other relevant disaster response stakeholders.

Progress/Achievements:

The 2006 pre-hurricane planning and coordination meeting was conducted in St. Lucia from 16-21 May 2006. This annual meeting is considered to be a crucial mechanism in enabling National Societies to build on experience and share best practice in preparation for the hurricane season. Hosted by the *Saint Lucia Red Cross* and facilitated by PADRU, the meeting was attended by 24 National Societies representing the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico, ten Overseas Branches, seven Partner National Societies, the Federation Secretariat, the Panama Regional Delegation and the Sub-Regional Office. The Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AESCI), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Climate Centre, and Ericsson Response were also in attendance.

The objectives of the meeting were to assess and identify the operational challenges for 2006, review lessons learned from 2005, scale-up disaster management capacities and analyze new challenges in the area of disaster management.

Ten National Societies that were directly impacted by storms during the heavy 2005 season shared their experiences and their lessons learned. The following positive outcomes of the 2005 season were highlighted by National Societies:

- Pre-positioning of goods and equipment.
- Pre-positioning of staff before hurricane landfall.
- Increased operational capacity within PADRU.
- Improvement in the internal relationship between National Societies, PADRU and the Port of Spain Sub-Regional Office.
- Increased capacity of Regional Intervention Teams in the region.

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- Better coordination with external partners, such as United Nations agencies, with good perspectives for future strategic alliances.

Some remaining challenges were also identified:

- Lack of coordination and clarity within the National Societies among the different departments supporting the operations.
- Lack of adequate reporting capacity within National Societies.
- Lack of adequate Disaster Preparedness training material for communities.
- Need for more equipment for Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRT)/NITs.
- Logistics mapping is incomplete and possible resources are not always well identified.
- Need for clarification of the role of the Red Cross within governments' emergency response plans.
- Need for strengthening volunteer/human resources management in disaster operations.
- Beneficiary selection: further clarity as to who the Federation assists in relief operations.
- Advocacy for the importance of planned transition from relief to recovery.
- Appropriate addressing of livelihood challenges.
- Better coordination of in-kind donations at the national level.
- Full inclusion of psycho-social support in the Plan of Action.
- Full inclusion of Restoring Family Links (RFL) in the Plan of Action.
- Need for IT and telecommunications training focusing on the use of equipment and access to more technology.

As a result, National Societies/Overseas Branches have agreed on six main areas of improvement, which they will be working towards during the 2006 hurricane season and thereafter:

- (1) Sustainability: Ensuring follow-up within the affected population for sustainable longer-term solutions once an emergency is over, taking into account the recovery of livelihoods through cash/vouchers and/or food/cash for work, and special training adapted to the needs of the local community.
- (2) Local capacity building: Scaling-up of local capacity through a number of possible measures, including: implementation of disaster funding to National Societies; clarification of local roles and mandates; sharing of experiences through the Centres of Reference; ensuring better management of the volunteer pool through programmes designed to retain and maintain quality volunteers; developing psychosocial support for beneficiaries and volunteers; using First Aid as point of entry for other programmes; strengthening National Societies' Disaster Management departments; carrying out multi-level coordination of in-kind donations; defining the role of communications and information strategies; and fully including risk reduction at the community level.
- (3) Regional Resource Development: Ensure better access to and make more use of tools, ensure the training of more NIT volunteers after careful selection, scale-up of RITs deployments and roll-out planning and response and emergency assessment guidelines.
- (4) Assessment: Improvement of response quality through the involvement of beneficiaries, monitoring of indicators, integration of the National Societies within the national disaster response plans and continued application and development of Damage and Needs Assessment (DANA) and Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment tools.
- (5) Coordination: Enhancement of awareness and engagement through the involvement of the private sector, Ericsson Response, donors, the UN cluster system and Red Cross entities (Partner National Societies, International Committee of the Red Cross).
- (6) Coordination in shelter interventions: Completion and sharing of a survey regarding shelter, enhancement of coordination capacity of the Red Cross in this regard.

As an immediate follow-up, decisions and initiatives emerging from the meeting were disseminated to each of the National Societies and Overseas Branches. Furthermore, all technical knowledge gained from the meeting has been shared with the appropriate personnel within each of the National Societies and Overseas Branches.

Impact:

Conclusions and lessons learned from the pre-hurricane preparedness meeting have fed directly into Federation programming – both regionally and within PADRU. One of the key developments has been the added emphasis on Regional Intervention Team deployments as a matter of course in the Federation’s disaster response activities in the region. These deployments have been backed-up by more frequent training – four training sessions were organized between January and May 2006 – as well as the provision of standardized kits to RIT members, and the organization of briefing and de-briefing sessions at PADRU. PADRU has also increased the frequency of RIT internships, with at least two RIT members working at any given time as part of the team. Protocols are now very clear and the scaling-up of capacity within the Federation’s Regional Logistics Unit and the DM department in PADRU have proven to be effective.

Constraints:

There still remains a balance of nearly CHF 49,000 from the 2005 Guyana Flood operation. The Guyana Red Cross Society has not yet developed a Plan of Action to use the funds so they remain frozen.

Expected Result 2: National Society and Overseas Branch response mechanisms are standardized and are in line with the Americas disaster response system.**Progress/Achievements:**

With Canadian Red Cross funds remaining from the 2004 Hurricane Jeanne emergency operation, the Federation set up an HF radio network for *the Bahamas Red Cross Society*. A team of three Red Cross IT/Telecommunications specialists, including one RIT member from *Belize Red Cross Society*, installed new equipment and repaired existing damaged equipment in the BRCS headquarters in Nassau and nine islands of Abaco, Grand Bahama, Eleuthera, Cat Island, Ragged Island, Long Island, San Salvadore, Acklins and Inagua where the Red Cross has a presence.

A workshop to finalize the *Response and Contingency Planning Guide* was held in Belize on 2-6 May with Caribbean National Societies and Overseas Branches. The participatory process, coordinated by PADRU, has involved 20 National Societies and more than 80 individuals, as well as the Caribbean DM Network.

Constraints:

The first draft of the Response and Contingency Planning Guide was a direct translation from a guide developed for Latin America. As such, the language and some of the content was not suitable for the English-speaking Caribbean.

Expected Result 3: Skilled regional human resources are ready to respond in the event of disaster, according to Federation standard procedures.**Progress/Achievements:**

In response to the Suriname floods in May 2006, PADRU deployed a Disaster Management delegate to assist the Suriname Red Cross and the National Coordination Centre for Disasters, both in the assessment and emergency relief phases of the disaster.

Strengthening and scaling-up of RIT training and deployment has been one of the key focuses of PADRU activities during the first half of 2006. The overall goal remains to strengthen the disaster response capacity of the Federation system in the American continent, by developing leadership and coordination skills in the existing members of the national, regional and international response network. Selection procedures have been tightened and internships with PADRU for RIT members are taking place on a regular basis – with at least two members integrated into the Unit at any one time. RIT deployment kits have been standardized – and include the provision of basic equipment (i.e. laptop, camera, cellular or satellite phone, vests, etc.). Furthermore, RIT member briefing and de-briefing are now standard procedure for deployments.

RIT Training

Four training sessions were undertaken for RIT members during the reporting period, involving 83 participants from 13 National Societies:

The Caribbean; Appeal no. MAA49001; Programme Update no 2.

Team Leader Training

Recent operations have shown a need for RIT Team Leaders. A Team Leader RIT Training was held in Panama between 30 May and 2 June 2006, with 14 participants from six National Societies, as well as representatives from the Federation and the World Food Programme. The training was based on the global Red Cross training modules, adapted for a regional audience. This training session also allowed participants to participate in the United Nations Disaster and Coordination (UNDAC) team training, with joint sessions and discussions on the cluster concept, as well as in a simulation exercise.

Support to other training initiatives

PADRU is increasingly acting in a support capacity to training being provided directly by National Societies or other organizations. Since the beginning of the year, this has included the following:

Emergency Response Unit (ERU) Relief Workshop – American Red Cross

American Red Cross held a workshop for 24 participants in the region, including **Belize Red Cross Society** and **Jamaica Red Cross**, and Partner National Societies establishing Relief ERUs (Danish Red Cross, French Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross). The workshop was designed and hosted by the American Red Cross with support from PADRU, Federation Secretariat Relief and Logistics personnel, and the Spanish Red Cross. PADRU managed administrative functions, counterpart contact, simulation design and facilitation responsibilities. A half-day simulated disaster response exercise was conducted at PADRU with significant support from its staff and volunteers of the Red Cross Society of Panama.

National Intervention Team (NIT) Training in Haiti

PADRU, along with a RIT member from the American Red Cross, supported the **Haitian National Red Cross Society** in the training of 28 NIT members between 24 April and 1 May. Subjects included: Federation tools and systems of response to disasters; the Code of Conduct; SPHERE standards; and community-based needs assessment tools (DANA/VCA).

Water and Sanitation Workshop (Dominican Republic)

PADRU's Water and Sanitation officer attended a workshop organized by the **Dominican Red Cross**, in association with the Spanish Red Cross, in order to evaluate the National Society team's readiness for regional deployment and assess its equipment capacity. As a result, a protocol for Standard Operating Procedures of deployment of the 20 volunteers from the Dominican Red Cross' "*Equipos Dominicanos de Agua y Saneamiento (EDAs)*" is in the process of being finalized.

RIT Deployments

The following RIT members were deployed by PADRU:

- American Red Cross to Haiti (April 2006) – NIT training
- Belize Red Cross Society to Bahamas – HF installation
- The Guyana Red Cross Society to Suriname (May/June 2006) – Emergency Response
- Suriname Red Cross – in country (May and July 2006) – two RIT members / Emergency Response
- PIRAC (French Red Cross) to Suriname (May 2006) – four RIT members / Water and Sanitation emergency response
- Dominican Red Cross to St. Lucia (May 2006) – Assistance during pre-hurricane meeting

Expected Result 4: The Pan American logistics strategy has been implemented.

Progress/Achievements:

With funds provided by the **Norwegian Red Cross, Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society, the Bahamas Red Cross Society, the Barbados Red Cross Society, Cuban Red Cross, Dominica Red Cross Society, Jamaica Red Cross** and **Saint Lucia Red Cross** continued to retrofit their containers for their pre-positioned relief items.

Constraints:

There are delays in reporting from several National Societies on funds received from Norwegian Red Cross to retrofit containers in preparation for this year's hurricane season.

Expected Result 5: The Federation Secretariat has closely collaborated with National Societies, Overseas Branches, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Partner National Societies and regional and international disaster management agencies to identify available resources and reduce duplication of efforts.

Progress/Achievements:

Within PADRU, two RIT Disaster Management interns have been identified as focal points for the emergency shelter sector in natural disasters. Information material on emergency shelter and related issues has been received from the Federation Secretariat and UN agencies. A shelter capacity questionnaire was distributed to National Societies during the pre-hurricane meeting held in St Lucia, which provided PADRU with a first mapping of experience regarding National Society activity and experience in shelter.

The Federation facilitated the coordination of the emergency shelter sector for the first time during the Suriname floods response operation. PADRU played a lead role in co-ordinating the organizations involved in emergency shelter, ensuring that shelter activities and proposals were agreed upon and implemented in a complementary manner. These stakeholders included UN agencies and international and local NGOs, in close co-operation with government agencies. Federation personnel involved in the coordination task benefited from consultation and training which had been undertaken with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and others in Panama in the previous months.

Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Force

A PADRU Disaster Management Delegate was selected to attend the first Emergency Team Leader course organized by the IASC Task Force in Switzerland. The course was facilitated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and it aimed at responding to a need for a programme of leadership development with cross-agency participation. The focus of the programme was to foster effectiveness, efficiency and professionalism in emergency team leadership. This initiative is linked to the process of UN humanitarian reform, and the need to train resources capable of leading different *clusters*.

Expected Result 6: National Societies and Overseas Branches have utilized the Safer Access module and restored family links in natural disasters

Progress/Achievements:

Activities under this section are being carried out by the Federation Secretariat, in close association with the International Committee of the Red Cross. PADRU involvement for the period has, as a result, been limited to the procurement of two deployment-ready Family Links kits and financial support for the participation of a member from the *Saint Lucia Red Cross* in a Family Links Workshop which took place in Guyana.

PADRU entered into preliminary discussions with Ericsson Response, regarding the possibility of undertaking a pilot project of the Vestigo software programme – apparently suited to facilitate Family Links – in the region.

Impact:

There are additional resources and increased capacity within the region in support of potential Family Links interventions, as may be required during the hurricane season.

Constraints:

Generally speaking, this is not a high priority within National Societies in the region and is therefore not a service that is often called upon.

Expected Result 7: The activities of the Federation and the National Societies and Overseas Branches are promoted during emergencies, starting with an effective monitoring system, giving visibility, promoting the network role and activities, and developing tools.

Progress/Achievements:

In conjunction with the Federation's Media Service in Geneva, PADRU drafted a communications plan in anticipation of the 2006 hurricane season. The plan was officially endorsed during the pre-hurricane meeting and forms the basis for communications activities. Its main objectives are:

The Caribbean; Appeal no. MAA49001; Programme Update no 2.

- To improve internal communications between National Societies and the Federation Secretariat regarding management of information.
- To promote and disseminate Red Cross activities and response to the hurricane season.
- To increase the overall visibility of the International Federation to help scale-up Red Cross and Red Crescent programmes and enhance impact on beneficiaries.
- To make the Federation the “Reference and Preference” humanitarian organization in responding to a disaster for the media, supporters and donors.

Key target audiences have been identified as follows:

- International, regional and local media
- Donors and partners
- The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

On-going monitoring continues with the internal alert system, in support of National Societies affected by disasters, and to provide assistance in the posting of information on the Federation’s Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) intranet site. PADRU also developed an inventory of visibility-related matters, to ensure that during every operation, the Red Cross emblems, as well as the Federation logo and those of donors are appropriately reflected in the media within the community and the general public.

In coordination with other humanitarian organizations established in Panama, PADRU participates in the sub-regional information group and works to develop regional initiatives in communications, as well as in exchanging information related to emergencies.

PADRU is also supporting the Communications Forum in the organization of the next meeting of the network to be held in Guatemala on 21-25 August 2006.

Organizational Development

Programme Objective: National Societies and Overseas Branches are enabled to demonstrate more of the characteristics of well functioning National Societies, thereby providing a more effective service to vulnerable communities.

Expected Result 1: National Societies have strategic plans, annual operational plans and budgets, in line with the Plan of Action of the XVII Inter-American Conference 2003-2007.

Progress/Achievements

The Federation supported *Belize Red Cross Society* in the printing of the strategic plan in time for the National Society’s General Assembly.

Expected Result 2: National Societies have Statutes, revised within the last ten years, which include the recommendations of the Joint Commission.

Progress/Achievements:

Nil to report.

Expected Result 3: National Societies and Overseas Branches have expanded their capacity to use fundraising tools and opportunities.

Progress/Achievements:

Four Caribbean National Societies applied to attend Skillshare 2006 this year in London. Applicants from *the Belize Red Cross Society, the Guyana Red Cross Society* and *the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society* were successful.

Expected Result 4: National Societies and Overseas Branches have developed volunteer management systems, which include Youth.

Progress/Achievements:

The Volunteer Management toolkit, anticipated to be finalized during this reporting period, was not quite ready. The final version was completed and submitted to the printers in early July, to be produced in electronic format (CD-Rom) and hard copy.

The *Dominican Red Cross* participated in a Presidents' meeting held in Panama on 25 July which led to the approval of the Regional Volunteering Strategy. This strategy is divided into seven key components: management cycle, volunteering in emergency protocol, bylaws, management cycle, policy, sub-regional study and training schedule and aims to bring about a more effective way of recruiting, managing, and retaining volunteers. Each component of the strategy works towards improving National Society capacities to organize volunteers, and each component is being implemented within the strategy. The Regional Volunteering Strategy is in the process of being translated into English in order to be included in the Volunteer Management Toolkit.

Constraints:

It is taking longer than expected for the printer to complete the printing of the Volunteer Management toolkit.

Expected Result 5: National Societies and Overseas Branches have a more systematic approach to leadership and staff development.

Progress/Achievements:

The Federation and the ICRC conducted joint leadership training for Board members and Directors General from *the Bahamas Red Cross Society, Belize Red Cross Society, the Guyana Red Cross Society, Jamaica Red Cross, Suriname Red Cross* and *the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society* in Port of Spain. Local organizational development consultants facilitated a generic leadership session on "Managers versus Leaders" which complemented a session on Red Cross leadership. Federation of the Future, the Third Additional Protocol and the new emblem were also discussed.

The Director General of *Suriname Red Cross* attended the Leadership Development course in Geneva.

The Director General of *the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society* was received by the Ecuadorian Red Cross in a visit to benefit from the experiences and ideas regarding the management role in bringing about change in a National Society. As the Ecuadorian Red Cross has recently been through an extensive process of renewal, it provided the opportunity to gain a better understanding of what constitutes a Well Functioning National Society that can be applied to *the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society*. The key areas of interest during the visit were:

- Leadership – the division of roles and responsibilities between governance and management
- Headquarters/Branch Relationship – how to manage effectively
- Planning process – strategic planning and annual planning
- Volunteer Management System



The Jamaica Red Cross held a lap-a-thon as part of its fundraising efforts.

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- Income Generation/Fundraising – to support both overheads and projects

Constraints:

The Federation has limited financial resources each year for 1-2 individuals from the Caribbean to attend the Geneva Leadership Development training and for only one representative from each National Society to attend annual regional leadership training. It is anticipated that the induction and training modules contained in the Volunteer Management toolkit can be developed by National Societies/Overseas Branches to introduce more effectively new Board members, staff and volunteers to the Movement.

Expected Result 6: National Societies and Overseas Branches have reflected diversity in their programmes, services and organizational structure.

Progress/Achievements:

Nil to report

Expected Result 7: The capacity of the National Societies and Overseas Branches in the area of communication and advocacy has increased and in line with the Plan of Action of the Inter American Conference 2003-2007, strengthening the Red Cross image.

Progress/Achievements:

Nil to report.

Expected Result 8: National Societies and Overseas Branches have developed their capacity to manage Integrated Community Programmes.

Progress/Achievements:

The *Cuban Red Cross* continues to implement the *Madruga Project* which consists of developing intensive vegetable gardens and facilitating VCA workshops. This project includes both organizational development and risk reduction components, and the gardens are fully functional. With the support of the Federation, the *Cuban Red Cross* has established a small office to oversee the project, and has begun to carry out VCA workshops.

Humanitarian Principles and Values

Programme Objective: National Societies and Overseas Branches have an increased understanding of the Principles and Values of the Red Cross Movement and are better able to promote these in their own work, both internally and externally.

Expected Result 1: National Societies and Overseas Branches have improved communication with the general public in order to convey common humanitarian messages and enhance the image of the Movement.

Progress/Achievements:

There was a decline in the number of visitors to the website for the period under review but this is largely explained by the lack of major disasters or emergencies during the reporting period.

	2006	2006	2005
	1 April – 30 June	1 January – 31 March	1 October – 31 December
Total Visitors	11,055	13,149	10,258
Average Visitor per day	121	146	111
Total Unique IPs (Visitors)	5,881	7,801	5,027
Total Page Views	23,061	29,790	22,732

Average Page View per day	253	331	247
Average Page View per visitor	2.09	2.27	2.22

Work continued on the development of websites for *Belize Red Cross Society*, the *Bahamas Red Cross Society* and the *Grenada Red Cross Society*. E-mail accounts were set up under the “caribbeanredcross.org” domain name for the *Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society*, *Aruba Overseas Branch*, *Curacao Overseas Branch* and *Bonaire Overseas Branch of the Netherlands Red Cross*.

Several new sections were also added to the website to make the information more relevant. These included the DiPECHO V project page, a Health section comprising links to the CARAN pages, International *Club 25* page; Caribbean First Aid Project section and Avian Influenza page, World Red Cross Red Crescent Day page, Caribbean volunteers section and Hurricane 2006 page. Twenty-four new stories from National Societies/Overseas Branches promoting their activities were posted on the website.

There were contributions from 21 National Societies/Overseas Branches for the July issue of the Caribbean Red Cross newsletter. This was a significant increase from the April issue, which only received contributions from 14 National Societies/Overseas Branches.

Impact:

There has been an increase in contributions from National Societies/Overseas Branches for the website and the newsletter and an increase in the number of National Societies/Overseas Branches using “caribbeanredcross.org” e-mail accounts.

Constraints:

There is still some difficulty in obtaining information from National Societies/Overseas Branches in a timely manner. A general lack of funding for communications has led to a number of activities being scaled down. The newsletter will no longer be available in hard copy as it is too expensive to print, as a result, in future this will be available online as an e-newsletter.

Expected Result 2: National Societies and Overseas Branches have enhanced the capacity of their communication departments.

Progress/Achievements:

The Caribbean Communications Network (ComNet), represented by the *Grenada Red Cross Society*, *Jamaica Red Cross* and the *Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society* met to further develop Terms of Reference and a work plan.

Constraints:

Limited funding means it is doubtful that ComNet will meet again in 2006. As with all Network Terms of Reference and work plans, it would prudent to await the recommendations of the Network Consultancy by International NGO Research and Training Centre (INTRAC) – *see below in Cooperation, Coordination and Strategic Partnerships*.

Expected Result 3: Cooperation and coordination has been strengthened with the ICRC.

Progress/Achievements:

The Federation and the ICRC jointly facilitated a regional Leadership meeting for six Caribbean National Societies. The Federation, the ICRC and the *Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society* celebrated Red Cross Day on 12 May with a cocktail party to which the diplomatic community and Red Cross partners were invited.

The Federation and the ICRC sub-regional offices in Port of Spain discussed their respective plans for 2007. Mutual support will continue along the same lines as in previous years with joint regional leadership training and the celebration of key dates. The ICRC was asked to consider financial support to the Inter American Conference in Guayaquil and the Caribbean biennial meeting next year.

Expected Result 4: A regional communications strategy has been developed in accordance with the Plan of Action of the Inter- American Conference.

Progress/Achievements:

Nil to report.

Expected Result 5: Initiatives on tolerance, non-violence and non-discrimination, with a special focus on HIV/AIDS related stigma, have been implemented regionally.

Progress/Achievements:

Discussions in the Together We Can web forum included:

- April – “Should HIV/AIDS testing be mandatory?”
- May – “What can be done to get more Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Red Cross HIV/AIDS programmes in the Caribbean?”
- June – “What do you think about falling in love with someone who is HIV+? Will you do it?”

Impact:

Some 40 individuals are registered on the forum.

Expected Result 6: Specific programmes have been developed for Red Cross Youth involvement.

Progress/Achievements:

The Federation, the ICRC, the Belgian Red Cross, the French Red Cross and the World Organization of the Scout Movement have developed a game for youth called *Raid Cross*, a role play that heightens adolescents’ awareness of the principles of international humanitarian law. Eight Caribbean National Societies – *The Barbados Red Cross Society, Belize Red Cross Society, Dominican Red Cross, the Guyana Red Cross Society, Haitian National Red Cross Society, Jamaica Red Cross, St Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society* and *Suriname Red Cross* – were invited to take part in a Training of Trainers to learn more about the game as well as other modules on youth violence.

Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships

Programme Objective: Strengthened, improved cooperation, coordination and support mechanisms are facilitating collaboration amongst Red Cross Movement members and strategic partners.

Expected Result 1: Cooperation among National Societies and Overseas Branches in the region has worked effectively through an empowered CCORC.

Progress/Achievements:

Nil to report.

Expected Result 2: Joint support to National Societies and Overseas Branches in the region is optimized by cooperation and coordination with the ICRC, Partner National Societies and National Societies.

Progress/Achievements:

The invitation to take part in the *Raid Cross* Training of Trainers was also extended to the French Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the ICRC.

The Federation and the French Red Cross entered into a partnership with *the Guyana Red Cross Society* to develop a three year proposal entitled “*Guyana hinterland, community based water and sanitation project*”.

Expected Result 3: Red Cross regional networks have contributed to knowledge sharing, capacity building and general cooperation and coordination.

Progress/Achievements:

The Federation facilitated meetings of CARAN, the DM Network and the Communication Networks during this reporting period.

The International NGO Research and Training Centre (INTRAC) was identified to carry out a review of the effectiveness of regional networks. The objective of the consultancy is “to review the range of experiences of working together through technical networks in the Americas region, with particular reference to Central America and the Caribbean. The review seeks to make practical recommendations regarding the way forward for the various networks in the Americas region as well as more general recommendations that can feed into the global debate regarding how to most effectively work through networks”. One of the INTRAC consultants attended the pre-hurricane meeting in Saintt Lucia in order to meet with the Federation and several network members as well as attend a one-day meeting of the Central America Disaster Management network.

Impact:

The Netherlands Red Cross Programme Manager, based in Curaçao, is a member of the Regional Organizational Development Network (RODNET). The impact of her attendance at RODNET workshops includes:

- Development of a mission statement for Aruba Overseas Branch
- Development of a five-year strategic plan for Curaçao Overseas Branch
- Development of Statutes for Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao Overseas Branches
- Induction session for newly-elected Aruba Overseas Branch board members
- Establishment of a public relations committee for Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao Overseas Branches
- Replication of Aruba Overseas Branch successful membership system to Curaçao Overseas Branch.

Constraints:

Caribbean network meetings are ‘on hold’ until the results of the network’s consultancy are known.

Expected Result 4: The Federation, National Societies and Overseas Branches are respected partners of choice for key humanitarian actors and organizations with a presence in the region.

Progress/Achievements:

The Education Development Centre approached the Federation to develop a strategic alliance for the introduction of the *Together We Can* methodology in universities.

International Representation and Advocacy

Programme Objective: The Sub Regional Office is providing effective representation and advocacy.

Expected Result 1: The Federation has prioritized the Caribbean in regional and international forums and supported National Societies and Overseas Branches to do the same.

Progress/Achievements:

The Federation continued to be an active member of a number of disaster-related regional forums, including:

- The East Caribbean Donor Group chaired by UNDP
- Thematic Cooperation Group on Community-Based Disaster Management chaired by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA)
- Special Committee on Natural Disasters hosted by the Association of Caribbean States

Constraints:

It is not possible to attend every meeting in which the Federation is asked to participate, as there are too many meetings and not enough personnel. Added to this is the cost effectiveness of attending throughout the Caribbean. Other means of communicating need to be explored, such as tele-conference calls and video links.

Expected Result 2: The Federation has enhanced the image of the Movement.**Progress/Achievements:**

Red Cross Day was celebrated jointly by the Federation, the ICRC and *The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society* with a cocktail reception at a hotel in Port of Spain. The diplomatic community, partners and friends of the Red Cross were invited under the theme “Universal Assistance through Volunteering”. Also present were the Directors General of *the Bahamas Red Cross Society*, *the Guyana Red Cross Society*, *Jamaica Red Cross* and *Suriname Red Cross* and a *Belize Red Cross* Board member who were on-island attending a leadership meeting. To encourage invitees to become First Aid volunteers, they each received a pocket-sized First Aid kit. The event received good coverage in the local media.

Earlier in the day, the Federation provided financial support for *the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross* to hold an Open Day for the general public on Brian Lara Promenade. Booths were set up to highlight programmes and raise awareness on disaster preparedness, HIV/AIDS/STIs and First Aid.

Impact:

During *the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross* Open Day, 127 visitors signed up for a First Aid course, while eight people filled out the form to join as volunteers.

Constraints:

The Caribbean National Societies/Overseas Branches receive significantly more media attention than is possible to report here. It is constantly a challenge to receive updates from them in order to monitor the effectiveness of the overall Red Cross visibility and image in the region.

Governance Support

Programme Objective: Effective support is provided governance in the Caribbean response to requests.

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

Progress/Achievements:

Federation of the Future was disseminated to all Caribbean National Societies both through written correspondence and taking advantage of regional meetings, including the joint ICRC/Federation leadership training in Trinidad and Tobago and the pre-hurricane meeting in St Lucia.

Impact:

All Caribbean National Societies were represented at the International Conference held in June.

Project Objective Expected Result 2: CCORC members are supported in their preparations for the XVIII Inter-American Conference in Ecuador in 2007.

Progress/Achievements:

The Red Cross Societies of the Caribbean were officially advised that the next Inter-American Conference will take place on 5-9 June 2007 in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Federation Management

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

Expected Result 1: Human resources with the right skills, experience and background are in place to provide support to National Societies and Overseas Branches and represent the Federation in the Caribbean.

Progress/Achievements:

In April, the HIV/AIDS and CCORC Administrator resigned her position and the Finance/Administration Officer's contract was terminated. Annual performance appraisals were conducted for four SRO staff.

In-house training was provided to the Sub Regional Office staff, including *Living with HIV and AIDS*,

Impact:

The performance appraisals were all positive, though recommendations for improvement and development were included.

Constraints:

The termination of the Finance/Administration Officer's contract increased the already heavy workloads of the Finance Assistant/Accountant and Sub Regional Office Coordinator.

Expected Result 2: Federation programmes are well managed.

Progress/Achievements:

The reporting period ended with the 2006 Appeal coverage at 66 percent. The *Hurricanes Dennis and Emily Operation* was finalized with regard to activities in Grenada.

Constraints:

There still remains concern that several Caribbean programmes are under-funded: Humanitarian Principles and Values, Organizational Development, Disaster Preparedness, Regional Coordination and the budget relating to the Sub Regional Office.

Expected Result 3: The Federation is complying with financial and reporting standards.

Progress/Achievements:

A plan of action to settle the balance of funds from the Hurricane Jeanne Emergency Operation was developed with the *Bahamas Red Cross Society* with the installation of an HF radio network.

Impact:

The balances of closed emergency operations have been substantially reduced and the reporting has been finalized, albeit slower than expected.

Constraints:

The delay in *Grenada Red Cross Society* reporting on a working advance for the post-Hurricane Ivan funds has meant a subsequent delay in issuing the narrative and financial report. A plan of action to use the balance of funds for the Guyana Flood operation is still awaited from the *Guyana Red Cross Society*.

Expected Result 4: Federation managers work closely together, ensuring the integration of programmes and a coherent support to National Societies and Overseas Branches.

Progress/Achievements:

There is regular communication between the Sub-Regional Office, the Panama Regional Delegation and PADRU on programme/project activities.

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

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA49001 - THE CARIBBEAN

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/7
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA49001
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	1'252'695	2'821'193	179'187	375'743	756'639	5'385'457
B. Opening Balance	93'838	1'419'877	0	108'649	60'826	1'683'190
Income						
Cash contributions						
American Red Cross		0				0
Andorra Red Cross		7'890				7'890
British Red Cross	0	0		22'741	47'127	69'868
Canadian Red Cross Society		8'552	0		0	8'552
DFID Partnership	25'944	19'956	17'462		7'484	70'846
ECHO		638'405				638'405
ICRC					1'307	1'307
Luxembourg Red Cross					8'589	8'589
Netherlands Red Cross					274	274
Norwegian Red Cross	0					0
Suriname Red Cross	1'696					1'696
Trinidad & Tobago - Private Do					0	0
C1. Cash contributions	27'640	674'803	17'462	22'741	64'782	807'428
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
ECHO		-636'713				-636'713
Netherlands Red Cross					-271	-271
Norwegian Red Cross	373'065					373'065
Swedish Red Cross	51'150					51'150
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	424'215	-636'713			-271	-212'769
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
British Red Cross		22'372			-22'372	0
Canadian Red Cross Society			5'201		-5'201	0
Capacity Building Fund				0		0
DFID - British Government					0	0
European Commission		0				0
ICRC					4'392	4'392
Italian DREF		10'771				10'771
Norwegian Red Cross					0	0
Suriname Red Cross					-1'505	-1'505
Trinidad & Tobago - Private Do					-2'887	-2'887
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)		33'143	5'201	0	-27'573	10'771
Inkind Personnel						
British Red Cross					43'400	43'400
C5. Inkind Personnel					43'400	43'400
Other Income						
Service Agreements					10'687	10'687
C6. Other Income					10'687	10'687
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	451'855	71'233	22'663	22'741	91'025	659'517
D. Total Funding = B + C	545'693	1'491'110	22'663	131'390	151'851	2'342'708

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA49001 - THE CARIBBEAN

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/7
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA49001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	93'838	1'419'877	0	108'649	60'826	1'683'190
C. Income	451'855	71'233	22'663	22'741	91'025	659'517
E. Expenditure	-368'966	-776'001	-33'858	-68'203	-199'830	-1'446'858
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	176'727	715'109	-11'195	63'186	-47'978	895'849

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA49001 - THE CARIBBEAN

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/7
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA49001
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)		1'252'695	2'821'193	179'187	375'743	756'639	5'385'457	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	37'620		43'273				43'273	-5'653
Construction Materials	268'600		4'470				4'470	264'130
Clothing & textiles	189'014	92	40'905				40'997	148'016
Food	1'279							1'279
Medical & First Aid	20'150		1'494				1'494	18'656
Teaching Materials	5'000	14'114					14'114	-9'114
Utensils & Tools	47'849		42'063				42'063	5'786
Other Supplies & Services	27'738	229	30'415				30'644	-2'906
Total Supplies	597'250	14'435	162'620				177'055	420'195
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Land & Buildings			97'566				97'566	-97'566
Vehicles	52'000		75'707				75'707	-23'707
Computers & Telecom	85'290	5'006	47'985				52'991	32'299
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	5'100					7'923	7'923	-2'823
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	142'390	5'006	221'259			7'923	234'188	-91'798
Transport & Storage								
Storage	57'995		2'895			272	3'166	54'829
Distribution & Monitoring	56'881		14'776			256	15'032	41'849
Transport & Vehicle Costs	44'817		1'304			4'518	5'822	38'995
Total Transport & Storage	159'693		18'975			5'045	24'021	135'672
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	509'262		47			84	131	509'131
Delegate Benefits	158'100	91	11'490	23		72'390	83'994	74'106
Regionally Deployed Staff	17'700	771	25'786		144	144	26'846	-9'146
National Staff	488'331	21'056	32'037	13'097	14'564	34'822	115'575	372'756
National Society Staff	29'242	1'132	15'504				16'636	12'606
Consultants	162'830	26'584	2'840				29'424	133'406
Total Personnel Expenditures	1'365'465	49'634	87'703	13'119	14'708	107'441	272'605	1'092'860
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1'720'835	176'806	111'918	7'693	23'930	6'764	327'112	1'393'723
Total Workshops & Training	1'720'835	176'806	111'918	7'693	23'930	6'764	327'112	1'393'723
General Expenditure								
Travel	415'075	26'517	13'640	4'772	8'024	8'970	61'922	353'153
Information & Public Relation	305'390	35'934	32'562	1'593	19'120	6'699	95'909	209'481
Office Costs	236'200	1'006	13'726	678	19	22'794	38'224	197'976
Communications	75'725	10'776	11'694	536	13	8'677	31'697	44'028
Professional Fees	7'300	416	264				680	6'620
Financial Charges	5'720	3'088	35'089	3'266	8'306	12'934	62'682	-56'962
Other General Expenses	4'360	-3'882	150			1'090	-2'642	7'002
Total General Expenditure	1'049'770	73'855	107'125	10'845	35'482	61'164	288'472	761'298
Program Support								
Program Support	350'055	23'983	50'440	2'201	4'433	12'806	93'862	256'192
Total Program Support	350'055	23'983	50'440	2'201	4'433	12'806	93'862	256'192
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		25'248	15'960		-10'350	-1'313	29'544	-29'544
Total Operational Provisions		25'248	15'960		-10'350	-1'313	29'544	-29'544
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	5'385'457	368'966	776'001	33'858	68'203	199'830	1'446'858	3'938'599
VARIANCE (C - D)		883'729	2'045'193	145'329	307'540	556'809	3'938'599	