

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

11 August 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. 1, Period covered: 1 January ó 31 March 2006; Appeal coverage in relation to 2006 target: 58.6%; Outstanding needs: CHF 1,409,856 (USD 1,135,217 or EUR 891,614). ([click here to go directly to the attached Interim Financial Report](#))

Revised Appeal target for 2006 and 2007: CHF 5,269,273 (USD 4,244,410 or EUR 3,333,155); Appeal target for 2006: CHF 3,410,594 (USD 2,747,526 or EUR 2,157,227)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Floods from Hurricane Stan (05EA021); Bahamas, Cuba & Mexico: Hurricane Wilma (05EA024); 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, in accordance with the Plan of Action of the Inter American Conference, *Strategy 2010* 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 will identify ways to respond to the Global Agenda and scale up the impact of Red Cross work in the region. This focus will be increasingly reflected throughout 2006, leading up to the next Inter American Conference in June 2007.

The Federation has substantially expanded its organizational development programme after almost exclusively focusing for two years on the Regional Organizational Development Network. Activities implemented during the reporting period have concentrated on developing a Volunteer Management Toolkit, strategic planning and the revision of Statutes.

The North Atlantic Hurricane season officially commenced on 1 June. With support from PADRU, National Societies and Overseas Branches have been able to upgrade and expand the reach of the regional HF radio communications system, improve the conditions in which pre-positioned stocks are stored and increase the technical skills of their staff and volunteers. A PADRU Disaster Management delegate is based in the Sub-Regional Office to improve coordination between the two offices and to ensure an even more efficient and speedy disaster response to National Societies and Overseas Branches. With the Caribbean's vulnerability to natural disasters, the regional risk reduction programme has worked with the two regional centres of reference for disaster preparedness in translating the National Intervention Team (NIT) training manuals.

The fight against HIV/AIDS continues to be addressed through the *Together We Can* peer education

methodology and the *Come Closer* global campaign, and the strengthening of National Society health capacities is supported through the Caribbean HIV/AIDS (CARAN) Network. Following a successful launch on World AIDS Day in December last year, the regional health programme has further disseminated the *Nobody has the Truth Written on their Face. Protect Yourself. Use a Condom* campaign. Although not originally included in the Caribbean Appeal, the regional health programme is also promoting the roll-out of the Club 25 methodology to improve recruitment and retention of blood donors, and the drafting of a Continental Psychosocial Support Strategic Plan. The overall ability of National Societies to respond to an Avian Influenza Virus threat is currently being investigated through questionnaires sent out through the health programme.

The mechanisms for promoting humanitarian principles and values concentrated on the regional website and quarterly newsletter. A consultant was hired to adapt and introduce the HIV/AIDS taxis campaign *Transporting Respect for People Living with HIV/AIDS* in the Caribbean; the campaign which promotes respect and tolerance for people living with HIV/AIDS, reached over 80,000 people within a six month period in Honduras and El Salvador in 2005.

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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

In January 2006, the new Head of the Regional Delegation for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean took over from his predecessor, making this period important for the coordination of briefings, information exchange and planning for 2006. A number of high-level meetings were held in this period, most notably the Continental Programme Meeting, held in Panama during the last two weeks of February, in which members of the Americas Department in Geneva worked with the Lima and Panama Regional Delegations, PADRU and the Sub Regional Office, taking the opportunity to discuss the *Federation of the Future* and the Federation's strategy for the Americas. Two key staff positions were filled during the reporting period with the contracting of a Disaster Management Officer for the Sub Regional Office and a Risk Reduction Delegate based in the Panama regional delegation.

A concerted effort was made to clear many outstanding balances from completed emergency operations and closed development projects. Donors were generally very receptive in approving the reallocation of funds to ongoing programmes, which allowed the Federation to implement its planned activities for the first three months of the year. The financial situation looks healthy as regards coverage of the 2006 Appeal budget; however, more than 50% of income is from balances brought forward. The Sub Regional Office will need to work with donors in the areas which are not covered, to ensure programmes can continue without interruption for the remainder of the year and beyond.

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.

Progress/Achievements:

Over the last few years, the Federation has focused on HIV/AIDS and First Aid in its overall support to the Caribbean National Societies and Overseas Branches (NS/OSB) in the area of health. From the beginning of 2006, however, additional components were added to the health programme – namely *Psychosocial Support* and *Non-remunerated Voluntary Blood Donation* (NRVBD). The threat of *Avian Influenza* has also led to a scaling up of support to the NS/OSB in their preparedness activities. Additional funding from the Norwegian Red Cross enabled the Federation to organize a two-day Psychosocial Support (PSP) workshop in Grenada to review the Red Cross Continental PSP Strategic Plan and to further develop a PSP Manual developed by the Costa Rican Red Cross for use as a Caribbean regional tool (see below). This funding also supported the participation of Caribbean National Society representatives at the 10th International Colloquium on VNRBD in Santiago de Chile in March. Participants included representatives from *Jamaica Red Cross*, *Grenada Red Cross Society* and *Guyana Red Cross Society*, as well as from the Copenhagen Centre of Reference, UNICEF and OXFAM (Guyana).

Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donation

The Federation supported the presence of five Caribbean National Societies: *Jamaica Red Cross*, *Haitian National Red Cross Society*, *Dominican Red Cross*, *Suriname Red Cross* and *Guyana Red Cross Society* at the 10th International Colloquium on VNRBD in Santiago de Chile in March 2006. All five National Societies were introduced to new tools and methodologies and in particular the “*Club 25*” methodology where the focus is on recruiting young blood donors who pledge to donate a certain quantity of blood and maintain healthy lifestyle behaviours. All five National Societies expressed interest in implementing this methodology and a follow-up meeting was planned for July in order to take the next steps towards a regional roll-out of “*Club 25*”. In order to generate donor interest in VNRBD, the Regional Health Delegate met with the advertising agency McCann Erickson and invited them to appear at the 10th Colloquium as guest speakers on “*The Marketing of VNRBD Campaigns*”. The regional health programme has also written and presented a concept paper to the Finnish Red Cross asking for financial support to launch a regional roll-out of the “*Club 25*” methodology with the goal of having six Caribbean National Societies receive support for scaling-up in this important health area in 2007-2009.

Psychosocial Support Programmes (PSP)

In early January 2006, the Panama Regional Delegation contracted a highly qualified consultant to put together a “*Continental Strategic Plan on Psychosocial Support Programmes*”. During a three month period, the consultant visited a number of key National Societies with activities and experience in PSP including visits to some key National Societies and also telephone questionnaires with the other National Societies in the region – including those with experience in the Caribbean. The draft report was circulated to key Caribbean National Societies with PSP experience including *Grenada Red Cross Society*, *Jamaica Red Cross* and *Guyana Red Cross* at a meeting in Grenada in March. The meeting was also attended by UNICEF, OXFAM and the University of St. George Grenada, which have a strategic alliance with the Grenada Red Cross Society as a result of the “*Return to Happiness*” project instituted after Hurricane Ivan in 2004. At this meeting the Regional Health Delegate presented the translated Costa Rican Red Cross / regional centre of reference in community based education for the prevention of disasters manual on “*Psychological First Aid*” as the standard resource on PSP in the region. The Jamaica Red Cross presented material on PSP facilitators and agreement was reached on the importance of putting together a Caribbean PSP methodology using the PSP Continental Strategic Plan, the adapted Costa Rican Red Cross manuals and the Jamaica Red Cross resources.

Impact:

Since the destructive 2004 hurricane season, a number of Caribbean National Societies have shown increasing interest in PSP. The *Jamaica Red Cross* and *Grenada Red Cross Society* have to a large extent led the way in terms of capacity and in the area of strategic alliances. The Federation has supported the presence of a regional resource on the International PSP Roster and there is now a greater acceptance of PSP as an integral component in regional emergency appeals as witnessed in the inclusion of a PSP component in the Guyana Floods Appeal 2005. There is a need to broaden the PSP approach to encourage PSP interventions outside of traditional post emergency interventions and this is well captured in the draft Strategic Plan which includes PSP in HIV/AIDS settings and in Community Based First Aid training.

Constraints:

Additional funds to continue with the advancement of the planned Caribbean PSP methodology have not been received. To take advantage of Norwegian Red Cross funding which was to be utilized before April 2006 the regional health programme advertised a position for a short-term PSP Consultant but received few responses. A positive response was received from the

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University of St. George in Grenada which indicated interest in assisting the development of PSP, and a tentative implementation date has been set for August.

Avian Influenza (AI) Preparedness

Despite numerous reminders, very few National Societies responded to an avian influenza questionnaire, designed to contribute to a global mapping on current attitudes and level of preparedness and circulated by the Regional Delegation and Sub-Regional Office. The lack of response indicates that most NS are not as yet prepared in the event of an outbreak in the Caribbean and there are few coordinating activities with their respective Ministries of Health. The Regional Health Delegate has sent information on Avian Influenza preparedness to all National Societies in the region and has ensured that the Caribbean website is regularly updated with a special section on Avian Influenza. In the meantime, the regional health programme is using every possible opportunity to bring Avian Influenza to the attention of Caribbean Red Cross staff and volunteers by presenting the latest information on Avian Influenza at all regional meetings, workshops and other fora.

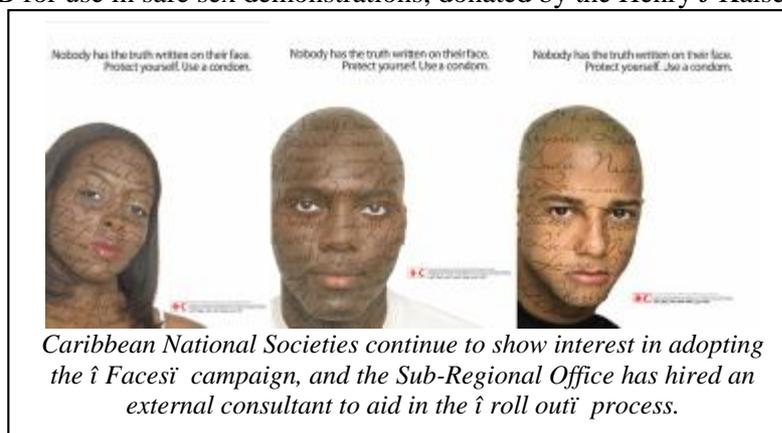
Project Objective/Expected Result 1: The response of National Societies and Overseas Branches to the HIV/AIDS epidemic has been refined and scaled up in the areas of prevention, care and the fight against stigma and discrimination.

Progress/Achievements:

The Caribbean HIV/AIDS Network is continually strengthened in order to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and reduce its impact, by designing, enhancing and implementing intervention strategies with a special focus on youth. CARAN continues to use *"Together We Can"* as its flagship methodology, and the number of people reached through peer-to-peer awareness continues to grow. CARAN member societies have also begun to implement the *"Faces"* social mobilization campaign, and external agencies have expressed interest in supporting this campaign.

Two CARAN Executive meetings were held during this reporting period, one in Panama in January and one in March in Grenada. Both meetings focused on developing a new Framework for Action in preparation for the Biennial CARAN meeting held in Panama in April 2006. The CARAN meeting's theme this year is *"Strategic Positioning for 2010"*. CARAN Executive committee members also developed draft election rules and changes were made to the Terms of Reference for the network. The CARAN chair presented these to the Caribbean Cooperation of the Red Cross (CCORC) Executive.

The Sub-Regional Office contracted an external consultant – a social marketing expert – for three months to support NS/OSBs in 'rolling out' three regional HIV/AIDS campaigns: the *Faces Campaign – Nobody has the Truth written on their face. Protect yourself. Use a condom.*, the *Taxis Campaign* – targeting taxi drivers in building awareness and the *0% Campaign*. In addition to the **Cayman Islands Overseas Branch of the British Red Cross**, which launched the Faces Campaign in December, several NS/OSB showed interest in launching it, including **Belize Red Cross**, **Jamaica Red Cross** and **Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross Society**. The Federation distributed materials to NS/OSB for use in safe sex demonstrations, donated by the Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation.



"Together We Can" continues to be the methodology of choice for most National Societies in the region and the Caribbean Red Cross are motivated to show cumulative results of their country's implementation of this methodology through the regional website: www.caribbeanredcross.org. Regional staff undertook the review of the *Together We Can* Monitoring & Evaluation toolkit in January 2006, and revisions were made to presentations and

incorporated into a new CD, which was then distributed to NS/OSB. Discussions were held with the Education Development Centre (EDC) and the University of West Indies for the expansion of *Together We Can* to tertiary institutions.

Important meetings were held to strengthen coordination with partner organizations in the fight against HIV/AIDS and stigma and discrimination. Two meetings were held with CRN+ during the reporting period and meetings with UNICEF on stigma and discrimination held in the Guyana office resulted in the admission of the *Guyana Red Cross* into the stakeholder meeting sessions. Meetings were held with UNICEF, UNDP and CARICOM in the Dominican Republic on developing an HIV/AIDS youth strategy.

Impact:

There is a growing interest by those CARAN member societies who were at first reluctant to launch campaigns based on condom advocacy to adopt the “*Faces*” campaign.

NS/OSB are now providing figures on the cumulative impact of the *Together We Can* methodology, made available through the regional website.

Constraints:

Participants in the *Together We Can* training in 2005 had not received their certificates several months later. The Sub-Regional Office was at fault for not following up the requests of the trainers. The quality of the Instructor Trainers course in Grenada, observed by members of the Regional Faculty, was found to be below minimum standards. The facilitators did not use the standard materials and, individually, had limited knowledge of some of the sessions. Because of the poor standard of training, none of the participants received a certificate. A refresher course for the facilitators was organized shortly afterwards. There were challenges around NS/OSB financial reporting for 2005 donor contributions, which could have a negative impact on future pledges.

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

Progress/Achievements:

The regional first aid project, supported bilaterally by the British Red Cross, aims to strengthen the resilience of poor communities living in vulnerable areas in Belize, Grenada and Trinidad & Tobago to both natural disasters and domestic accidents through the provision of first aid education, and has three main objectives:

1. A pilot project with three National Societies to develop an effective First Aid programme directed at vulnerable communities through the education system or through CBOs.
2. National Societies implement successful commercial first aid activities which fund non-commercial first aid activities in a sustainable manner.
3. A successful project methodology is developed which can be replicated in other Caribbean National Societies.

Belize Red Cross, *Grenada Red Cross Society* and *Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross Society* signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the British Red Cross and the Federation. During February, the three National Societies each successfully recruited a First Aid Coordinator. A two-day project management training was held for them and their line managers followed by a one-week first aid trainers workshop that included an update of first aid skills (the new resuscitation guidelines), training methodologies and discussion on the harmonization of first aid in the Caribbean.

With regard to first aid harmonization in the Caribbean, there was a strong sense of not wanting to *reinvent the wheel* with first aid materials and the concept of learning outcomes over trainer inputs was agreed to be the way forward. The British Red Cross headquarters has reviewed the European First Aid Standards and put them into a package called ‘*Learn First Aid*’. These were reviewed and it was agreed that these could be redrafted to provide first aid standards for the three target National Societies. The idea of agreeing the standards and then asking other Caribbean National Societies to sign up to them was deemed a positive one.

The *Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross Society* launched its first campaign in February just in time for carnival. An emergency first aid card was produced which includes first aid tips, a space for emergency contact information and HIV

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and AIDS messages. 40,000 of the cards were produced at very low cost and were partly sponsored by the National Aids Coordinating Committee.

The Caribbean will host the 2007 Cricket World Cup. The Federation developed a short questionnaire for the nine National Societies on islands that will host matches to determine their state of readiness for the event, and identify areas where scaling up may be required. From the information collected, a regional proposal is to be developed to present to donors.

Constraints:

The import of first aid equipment for the project in each country proved challenging. There are limited systems in place for each National Society to place international orders and make payments in foreign currency. The Federation does not have any 'status' in Belize or Grenada and therefore cannot procure equipment on the National Societies' behalf. There was a poor response to the Cricket World Cup first aid questionnaire sent out to National Societies of countries that will host the 2007 Cricket World Cup. Currently, there is insufficient information to prepare a regional proposal to present to donors on their behalf.

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 affected populations.

Project Objective/Expected Result 1: The disaster management capacity of National Societies and Overseas Branches is improved.

Progress/Achievements:

The Centre of Reference for Disaster Preparedness in El Salvador updated the National Intervention Team training modules in Spanish, which are to be translated into English and disseminated throughout the Caribbean. The Centre of Reference in Community-Based Education for the Prevention of Disasters in Costa Rica translated from Spanish to English three training modules: *Family Preparedness Plan*, *Education, Organization and Community Preparedness in Risk Reduction* and *Safe Schools*. These materials were edited for the Caribbean context and made ready for printing and distribution to the National Societies and Overseas Branches.

The Federation facilitated a workshop at which representatives from 14 National Societies and Overseas Branches designed a Volunteer Management toolkit. The toolkit includes a section on 'Volunteers in Emergencies'. [*Read more in the Organizational Development section.*]

The Caribbean Disaster Management network was re-activated and held two meetings during the first quarter of 2006. The network comprises representatives from *Dominica Red Cross Society* (chair), *Antigua & Barbuda Red Cross Society*, *Belize Red Cross*, *Jamaica Red Cross*, *St Lucia Red Cross* and *Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross Society* with the objective "to carry out the mandate of Strategy 2010; the Plan of Action of the Inter American Conference 2003-2007 and the Regional Cooperation Agreement Strategy; making the Movement more responsive to local vulnerability through well-functioning National Societies and Overseas Branches working effectively together, and with the Federation". A Terms of Reference and two-year Plan of Action was drafted and shared with the Caribbean Cooperation of Red Cross Management Committee for validation.

Following the launch of the audio soap opera – Rough Season – last year, the *Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross Society* has been in discussion with the Trinidad & Tobago Ministry of Information (MoI). Radio stations are mandated to give one hour of air time to the MoI for public information broadcasts. The MoI has agreed in principle to the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society using allotted airtime to broadcast the soap opera. The Trinidad & Tobago Ministry of Education's School Broadcasting System has 10 minute programmes – 7 minutes of listening and 3 minutes of brief discussion. The MoI is looking at editing each 15 minute episode of the audio soap opera into two episodes and developing an accompanying work book.

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With financial support from the American Red Cross for post-Hurricane Ivan activities, three Caribbean Red Cross Societies were able to strengthen their capacity to respond to future disasters:

| Cayman Islands Overseas Branch of the British Red Cross | Grenada Red Cross Society | Jamaica Red Cross |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Procured VHF and HF radios and satellite telephones to improve communications 2. Procured a 2.5MT truck, for the distribution of relief items, and a 16-seat bus to transport people 3. Procured stretchers and emergency vests for First Aid volunteers | 1. Constructed and stocked a new warehouse adjoining GRCS national headquarters 2. Conducted a national community-based awareness campaign | 1. Replenished warehouse stocks |

Constraints:

The lack of a Disaster Management Officer in the Sub Regional Office meant that only priority activities were conducted. Construction of the Grenada Red Cross Society warehouse was constantly delayed due to a shortage of cement and other materials on the island. The Grenada Red Cross Society also had difficulties in sourcing metal shelving and a forklift truck for the warehouse.

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

Progress/Achievements:

In addressing climate change and its impact on communities, the Federation originally planned to facilitate a regional climate change forum. This has since been amended to including a module on climate change in the VCA training, and recording video and sound interviews with community members on observed climate change followed by promoting the video and sound clips through the mass media at national and regional level.

The DiPECHO V Community Based Disaster Management project commenced on 1 January. Four national societies and one British Red Cross Overseas Branch will each focus on four communities:

| NS/OSB | Communities |
|---|---|
| Antigua & Barbuda Red Cross Society | Cashew Hill/Bath Lodge, Yorks, Pigotts, Barbuda |
| Bahamas Red Cross Society | West End (Grand Bahama), Marsh Harbour (Abaco), Gambier (New Providence), Adelaide (New Providence) |
| Cayman Islands Overseas Branch of the British Red Cross | East End, Bodden Town, Boatswain/West Bay, Washington Boulevard |
| Jamaica Red Cross | Amity Hall, Cave Valley, Mavis Bank, Bull Bay |
| St Kitts & Nevis Red Cross Society | Conaree and Molineaux (St Kitts), Gingerland and Brownhills (Nevis) |

The range of interventions in the 20 communities includes: Vulnerability & Capacity Assessment (VCA), development of community disaster response plans, establishment, equipment and training of Community Disaster Response Teams, disaster simulations, early warning/mitigation projects and awareness of climate change and its impact on vulnerable communities.



A five-day VCA Facilitators' training session was held in St Lucia in January/February. The course was a mixture of classroom learning and field experience and included a VCA conducted in the community of La Croix, Babbonneau in St Lucia and the participants were required to produce a report and present their findings back to the group. Of the 23 participants that took part, 21 passed and two were recommended to practise their delivery of the training

further. During the training, *French Red Cross* shared experience in Grenada of using the VCA methodology in 16 communities.

The *French Red Cross* ECHO-funded Disaster Preparedness project in Grenada is targeting 32 communities in Grenada. Aspects of it are very similar to the DiPECHO V project. The VCA component is used to identify houses at risk from hurricanes and linked to an ongoing house reconstruction/repair project. Using French Red Cross construction teams, one house in each community will be rebuilt, two roofs repaired and 20 houses provided with hurricane straps. Community shelters are also identified as possible venues for evacuation and micro-projects implemented, each costing a maximum of USD 2,000. It was recommended to the French Red Cross that rather than provide training courses to whole communities, which was proving expensive and difficult to organize, they concentrate on training and equipping Community Disaster Response Teams. This has worked well in Jamaica and is being replicated in the DiPECHO V target countries.

Contact was established with the *Netherlands Red Cross* Centre of Reference in The Hague on Climate Change. Using their Preparedness for Climate Change guidelines, the Sub-Regional Office plans to introduce the *seven steps towards better risk reduction* into the DiPECHO V project.

Impact:

The 12 NS/OSB that sent representatives to the VCA Facilitators' training have the technical skills and materials to manage community VCAs. The VCA allows the NS/OSB to engage with a community in a way that is beneficial to both parties. The community will be enabled to identify its hazards and its current level of resilience, whilst look at ways at increasing the latter, and the NS/OSB can generally increase its volunteer base.

Constraints:

The first three months of the DiPECHO V project were conducted without the benefit of the Project Manager, the Disaster Management Officer, as a result of difficulties in recruitment. An external consultant was employed to conduct the VCA Facilitators' training at additional cost.

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.

Project Objective/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 UN system and other relevant disaster response stakeholders.

Progress/Achievements:

Since November 2005, Guyana has been experiencing heavy rainfall along coastal areas, as well as inland, resulting in rising water levels in both reservoirs and rivers. This prolonged heavy rainfall has resulted in flooding in six regions, affecting 12,000 families (35,000 people). It is estimated that 5,000 people have been displaced and 4,900 hectares of crops lost. On 28 January, the Government of Guyana officially declared two regions as disaster areas.

PADRU deployed a Disaster Management delegate to assist with the flood emergency in early February, in support of the Guyana Red Cross Society (GRCS). Immediate needs were met by the GRCS through unsolicited donations and existing stock. The GRCS distributed 80 food hampers, 100 mosquito nets, 32 hygiene kits, and initiated preparation/training for antibiotics distribution in the treatment of Leptospirosis.

On-going activities are focusing on non-food distribution to people remaining in shelters: first-aid kits, blankets, clothes, rubber boots for children, and household clean-up kits. The GRCS is also finalizing local procurement arrangements in anticipation of the need for future supplementary food distributions, should the heavy rainfall persist. The GRCS is pursuing health awareness activities in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). No DREF funding has been requested to date.

Impact:

The GRCS distributions assisted vulnerable families affected by the floods at the beginning of the year.

Constraints:

There is a balance of CHF 49,000 remaining 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.

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

Progress/Achievements:

The working group on response and contingency planning, which is made up of the Red Cross Societies of Guyana, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago along with the Overseas Branches of Guadeloupe and Montserrat, held a contingency planning meeting on 9-11 February in Trinidad and Tobago. The objective of the meeting was to introduce the draft Response & Contingency Planning Guidelines and gain participants' input to reflect the Caribbean context. Participants realized the need to edit the manual, as the original text was directly translated from the Spanish version. It was agreed that when the manual was translated it would be presented to the Caribbean Disaster Management Network group for verification. The revised version of the manual was made available for the Response and Contingency Planning workshop held in Belize on 2-4 May 2006.

Impact:

Once finalized, these guidelines will provide National Societies in the region with a common and standardized tool for emergency response and contingency planning. The Federation will be able to share this tool with other regions. The Belize Red Cross intends to use this tool to update its contingency plan. National Societies have participated fully in the process, and the Federation has benefited from their collective experience in disaster response.

Constraints:

The Response & Contingency Planning Guidelines were translated from a Spanish version of the manual. It was clear that a more refined translation was necessary before the document could be adapted for the Caribbean.

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

Progress/Achievements:

The Federation facilitated a five-day regional IT & Telecommunications training in Antigua & Barbuda on 23-29 January 2006. At the end of the training, the 24 participants were able to:

- Identify the Federation's response system components and understand how they work,
- Recognize Red Cross/Red Crescent standard IT and telecommunications equipment, including HF and CODAN NGT SRx, VHF radio equipment, voice and satellite data communications,
- Install and use equipment to ensure communication in disaster areas,

PADRU provided the main facilitation of the workshop and they were joined by representatives from *Ericsson Response*, *CODAN* and four Partner National Societies. The primary aims were to strengthen the response capacity of the Caribbean National Societies in IT and Telecommunications, to share knowledge, to familiarize participants with the agreement between Ericsson and the Federation (including the Ericsson Response programmes), and to create a core group of IT and Telecommunication human resources, trained and coordinated according to the Federation standards.

Recommendations from the participants included the reactivation of the Red Cross Inter-American HF network between National Societies and PADRU and for the Caribbean Red Cross National Societies to use Federation tools as a way of increasing the level of commitment of their volunteers. PADRU then invited one of the participants, a volunteer from the *Grenada Red Cross Society*, to take part in a one-month internship to support the installation of the Caribbean HF network.

PADRU undertook a mission to *St Lucia Red Cross*, *Dominica Red Cross Society* and *St Kitts & Nevis Red Cross Society* to install HF radio and Pactor modems, promote the Caribbean Communication Protocol, to assess existing computer and telecommunications equipment and to train and qualify volunteers in the use and programming of radios.

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This visit was part of the *Caribbean HF Network* project, supported by the Spanish Red Cross. Recommendations arising from the mission included:

- National Societies are to promote the Caribbean Communication Protocol throughout their respective Societies with the regular training of volunteers on radio use, maintenance and protocols
- To use the radio equipment all year round, and not just during the hurricane season

A Regional Intervention Team (RIT) Water and Sanitation workshop was held in Panama between 6 and 11 March 2006 with 27 participants from 13 National Societies. The workshop aimed to provide training in water and sanitation, and hygiene promotion in emergencies to personnel of National Societies, Overseas Branches and counterparts in the Americas. Participants were also trained in the use of Federation standard equipment. At the conclusion of the session, the RIT member from the Dominican Red Cross was immediately deployed to the emergency operations in Ecuador.

In order to ensure skills retention, it was recommended that refresher training for water and sanitation RITs be held on an annual basis.

Impact:

The RITs database has been updated and now includes a greater number of qualified IT/Telecommunications and water and sanitation personnel who can be deployed as part of a RITs team in the event of a disaster in the Caribbean. Additionally, trained personnel can install and provide general maintenance to IT and telecommunications equipment at Caribbean Red Cross National Society offices.

As a result of the RITs Water and Sanitation workshop, Regional Red Cross technical staff are better able to respond quickly to the public health engineering requirements of an emergency, through better technical know-how, preparedness and improved coordination capacity.

Constraints:

Not all Caribbean Red Cross National Societies have HF radio equipment at present. This will be addressed in the following quarter of the year when IT/Telecommunications personnel visit Caribbean Red Cross offices that require installation or maintenance of telecommunications equipment.

Project Objective/ Expected Result 4: The Pan American logistic strategy has been implemented.**Progress/Achievements:**

Funds provided by the Japanese Red Cross Society together with additional Norwegian Red Cross funds received in December 2005 enabled several National Society to retro-fit their existing containers: *Antigua & Barbuda Red Cross Society, Bahamas Red Cross, Barbados Red Cross Society, Dominica Red Cross Society, Jamaica Red Cross* and *St Lucia Red Cross*.

Impact:

Several National Society containers had been badly affected by the tropical climate in the Caribbean. The retrofitting, which includes raising the container off the ground, covering it with an angled roof and installing a simple ventilation system, will ensure the containers can be used to store pre-positioned relief items for some time to come.

Constraints:

The Norwegian Red Cross contribution stated the funds had to be utilized by the end of April 2006. Unfortunately, National Societies received the funds late which gave them a very short implementation timeframe.

Project Objective/Expected Result 5: The Federation Secretariat has closely collaborated with National Societies, Overseas Branches, the ICRC, Participating National Societies and regional and international disaster management agencies to identify available resources and reduce duplication of efforts.**Progress/Achievements:**

PADRU has continued to encourage National Society staff to carry out internships within PADRU to promote exchanges and information-sharing. Multi-lateral coordination is increasingly a feature of disaster response activities in the region. PADRU has entered into a formal agreement with the French Red Cross's Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and Caribbean (PIRAC) based in Guadeloupe, to enable joint deployments

under the Federation coordination during emergencies. This is seen as an effective way to enhance the Movement's overall response capacity and make optimum use of regional resources in a well-coordinated manner.

Through the series of meetings in which PADRU participates on a regular basis, it has been possible to link the United Nation's system with the Federation's response system in the region. This relationship is providing the Federation with access to donors, information-sharing and agreements with other organizations such as OXFAM, OCHA and Ericsson Response.

Impact:

PADRU is holding joint meetings on a regular basis with UN agencies and international organizations present in Panama to ensure that this relationship remains strong.

Constraints:

Although the contribution of the RITs is increasingly recognized, it is important to analyze how best the RITs can contribute during periods when there are no disasters and how they can best support PADRU and their own National Societies.

Project Objective/ 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 ICRC. PADRU involvement for the period has, as a result, been limited to the procurement of two Family Links kits which are ready for deployment, 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.

Impact:

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

Constraints:

Generally speaking, this is not a high priority within National Societies in the region – with only a few exceptions – and is not a service that is often called upon.

Project Objective/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:

Since the beginning of the year, PADRU has been supporting communications activities undertaken by National Societies affected by disasters in 2005. The first months of the year were taken up with the compilation of information produced during the previous 2005 hurricane season, in order to systematize this information and facilitate future presentations, such as slide shows or power point presentations. Others products developed during the reporting period include:

- An interactive CD designed in flash, based on the information produced by the National Societies during and after the hurricane season. The CD contains key statistics, facts and figures, maps, pictures and provides a good overview of the Federation and National Societies working together throughout the operations.
- A tracking map for the region, on white board, flexibly-designed, and easy to write upon and erase. This basic tool is used by the National Societies to follow the hurricanes in the Caribbean and give visibility to their work. The map has information in English and Spanish.
- The *Count on the Red Cross* Campaign: a poster-driven campaign, conveying seven key messages. The objective of this campaign is to re-position, in the community in general, the Red Cross as an organization

which provides relief and care during disasters, through its network of Branches and volunteers. The posters have been designed to visually depict Red Cross and Red Crescent response and operations.

Impact:

National Societies see information and communications as a priority during disaster response activities. Overall, Red Cross visibility and the ability of National Societies to manage media relations has increased, leading to more frequent and accurate depiction of Red Cross activities within local and regional media. National Societies have expressed the desire to further develop capacity in this area.

Constraints:

The lack of a dedicated information and communications counterpart within the Panama Regional Delegation constrains the ability to undertake longer-term activities in a coordinated manner with National Societies throughout the region.

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.

Project Objective/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 Belize Red Cross established an alliance with *Challenges Worldwide*, a British organization which is collaborating with government and NGOs in Belize. Challenges Worldwide placed three volunteers in the National Society, one of whom will support the development of a Strategic Plan. The Federation provided Organizational Development and finance tools and materials to the volunteers to enable them to better support the Belize Red Cross. *The Jamaica Red Cross* embarked on a strategic planning process to cover 2005-2009. A Jamaica Red Cross governing board member, who is also a member of the regional organizational development network (RODNET), led the process which includes both headquarters and branches. Monitoring/evaluation and reporting tools are also being developed to enhance communication between the headquarters and branches.

Impact:

The RODNET training regarding governance and strategic planning is proving effective in Belize and Jamaica.

Constraints:

The monitoring tool designed for the RODNET members is not being used consistently, thereby making it difficult to assess the impact of the training received over the last two years.

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

Progress/Achievements:

The Federation assisted *Belize Red Cross* to complete the revision of its Statutes, which were then submitted to the Joint Commission. The National Society accepted and included all of the Joint Commission's comments, and the Statutes will be presented to the next General Assembly for adoption. Separate Rules of Procedure are also being developed. *The Jamaica Red Cross* submitted its revised Statutes to the Joint Commission and is currently awaiting their comments. Rules of Procedure have been incorporated into the Statutes document. The Federation, together with the ICRC, attended three meetings with the *Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross Society* to review the latter's Statutes. The Federation also gave feedback to the *Guyana Red Cross Society* on the draft of the revision of the Statutes.

Impact:

The Belize Red Cross can now arrange a date for the holding of the General Assembly to approve the revised Statutes.

Constraints:

Seven Caribbean National Societies have Statutes which have been in force for more than 10 years. Time constraints and/or a lack of prioritization are the main reasons cited for not starting a process of review.

Project Objective/Expected Result 3: National Societies and Overseas Branches have expanded their capacity to use fundraising tools and opportunities.**Progress/Achievements:**

Most Caribbean NS/OSB rely on an array of fundraising activities to raise money to support their core budget, ranging from cake sales to commercial first aid training to annual balls. Mostly these are done with direct Federation support. In March, the Sub Regional Office Coordinator was invited to be the key-note speaker at the first Gala Fundraising Dinner organized by the *Anguilla Overseas Branch of the British Red Cross*.

The Guyana Red Cross Society submitted a successful application to the Empress Shoken Fund for the construction of a training centre for the Letham branch, a remote community largely populated by Amerindians on the Guyana/Brazilian border.

Impact:

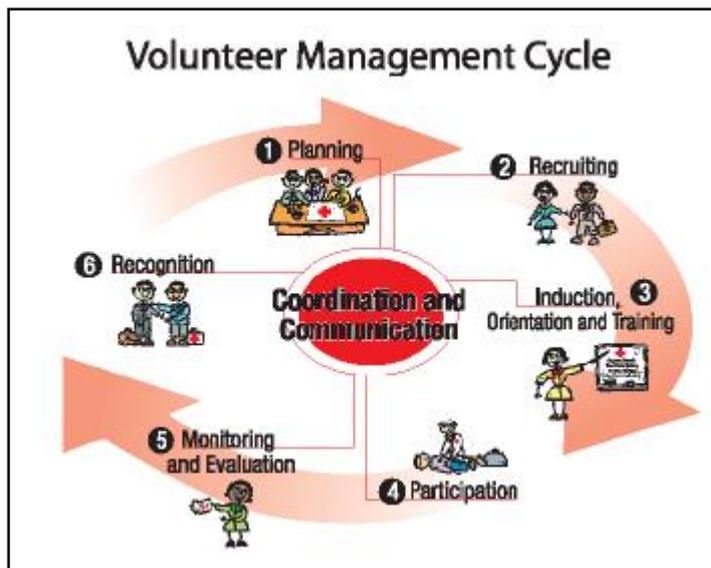
The Anguilla Overseas Branch of the British Red Cross successfully raised funds at the annual fundraising dinner. The branch now plans to make this an annual event.

Constraints:

Proposals to the Empress Shoken Fund from the Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao Overseas Branches of the Netherlands Red Cross, the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch of the British Red Cross and the St Kitts & Nevis Red Cross Society, were unsuccessful.

Project Objective/Expected Result 4: National Societies and Overseas Branches have developed volunteer management systems, which include Youth.**Progress/Achievements:**

The Federation OD team has prioritized volunteer management in 2006-2007 based on the most urgent needs of the Caribbean Red Cross Societies. A workshop to develop a *Volunteer Management Toolkit* took place in Trinidad & Tobago to which all NS/OSB were invited to send their volunteer managers; 15 participants from 14 NS/OSB took part.



Using the Volunteer Management Cycle as the basis for the toolkit, and with examples of existing documents from the region, as well as American Red Cross and British Red Cross volunteer management systems, the participants developed templates for each section of the toolkit, including a Volunteer Policy, recruitment form, handbook, guidelines on induction, orientation and training, database, evaluation form and examples of how to recognize and reward volunteers, to name but a few. The Federation later added a section on *Volunteer Management in Emergencies*.

A volunteer from the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch of the British Red Cross designed the graphics for the toolkit.

The toolkit will be produced in electronic and hard copy format and distributed to the Caribbean NS/OSB during

the second quarter 2006. It will also be posted on FedNet and shared with the Centre of Reference in Costa Rica for translation into Spanish and French.

The Dominican Red Cross participated in a workshop for the Central American National Societies in Panama on the development of a Regional Volunteering Strategy, which will improve the capacity of National Societies to assist

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vulnerable people by strengthening their ability to recruit, retain and train volunteers. This strategy focuses on a number of key steps involving: advocacy, protocols, training, regulations and management.

Impact:

The Caribbean Red Cross involved in developing the toolkit have prioritized volunteer management over the next few months. There is a sense of renewed urgency to establish good practise and to be better prepared for an influx of volunteers in times of disaster.

Constraints:

There was sufficient funding courtesy of the Norwegian Red Cross to support the workshop and development of the toolkit. However, additional funds are now required to allow the Federation to distribute and disseminate the toolkits throughout the region, particularly to those NS/OSB not represented in the workshop.

Project Objective/Expected Result 5: National Societies and Overseas Branches have a more systematic approach to leadership and staff development.**Progress/Achievements:**

Much of the Volunteer Management Toolkit can also be used in the day to day management of staff by NS/OSB. The Director General of the *Suriname Red Cross* was accepted to attend the Leadership Development course in Geneva in May/June. The *Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross Society* Director General requested support in visiting another National Society in the region that has recently been through an extensive process of renewal, in order to spend time with her counterpart and benefit from experiences and ideas regarding the management role in bringing about change in a National Society. *The Dominican Red Cross* will use the Regional Volunteering Strategy for Central America (in Spanish), in order to ensure more efficient management of staff.

Impact:

Newly appointed National Society managers have a valuable introduction to the Movement through the Leadership Development training in Geneva. In 2005, the two new Directors General from the *Belize Red Cross* and the *Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross Society* attended the training, and both continue to report on its value in preparing them for their role in the Red Cross.

Constraints:

The Federation has limited financial resources each year for 1-2 individuals from the Caribbean to attend the 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 NS/OSB to assist in introducing new Board members, staff and volunteers to the Movement.

Project Objective/Expected Result 6: National Societies and Overseas Branches have reflected diversity in their programmes, services and organizational structure.**Progress/Achievements:**

There has been no progress to date under this objective.

Project Objective/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:**

There has been no progress to date under this objective.

Project Objective/Expected Result 8: National Societies and Overseas Branches have developed their capacity to manage Integrated Community Programmes.**Progress/Achievements:**

The Federation assisted the *Norwegian Red Cross* in its evaluation of support to the *Jamaica Red Cross* for the *HIV/AIDS and Branch Development* project in the branches of St Elizabeth, St Catherine, St James and Clarendon.

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Visits were carried out to the branches, with the Federation focusing on the OD components of the project. Recommendations arising from the evaluation were:

- Volunteer management:
 - Create a Volunteer Coordinator position at headquarters to support branches in their volunteer management.
 - Introduce a volunteer database to better record how many volunteers the National Society has and where.
- Put more emphasis on youth being part of the decision making process to reduce the risk of young people leaving the Red Cross.
- Use participatory assessments in communities to identify the need for Red Cross support.
- Increase branch knowledge sharing and networking.
- Continue financial support to key project positions which has shown to contribute to better project management; the Norwegian Red Cross is therefore encouraged to continue its funding support.
- Increase the Jamaica Red Cross fundraising capacity to better sustain projects.

For the benefit of the *Cuban Red Cross* and the *Dominican Red Cross*, three Federation documents with regard to integrated community programming have been translated into Spanish: OD Common Approach, Community Development, and ICP Common Approach.

Impact:

Following a successful evaluation of the Branch Development project, the *Norwegian Red Cross* will continue to provide financial support to the *Jamaica Red Cross*.

Constraints:

None to report.

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.

Project Objective/ 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:

14 of the 33 Caribbean Red Cross National Societies contributed to the January issue of the Caribbean quarterly newsletter. There were 12 contributions to the Caribbean Red Cross website www.caribbeanredcross.org, at least one new story per week. The Federation made new additions to the website making it more user friendly, including several new sections – Avian Flu, a vacancy page and a section for NS/OSB web pages. To date, only the *Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society* has started to build its own web pages within the site, but others have expressed interest. As well as web pages, the Federation offered email addresses to NS/OSB using the domain name: @caribbeanredcross.org. Again, a number of NS/OSB have expressed interest in the e-mail accounts to replace their existing “yahoo” or “msn” accounts.

The website hosted by the Sub Regional Office – www.caribbeanredcross.org – saw a 28% increase in visitors compared with previous quarters. This included more than 2,700 new visitors.

| | 2006 | 2005 | 2005 |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | Jan 1 – Mar 31 | Oct 1 – Dec 31 | July 1 – Sep 30 |
| Total Visitors | 13,149 | 10,258 | 8,158 |
| Average Visitor per | 146 | 111 | 88 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------|-------|
| day | | | |
| Total Unique IP's (Visitors) | 7,801 | 5,027 | 3953 |
| Total Page Views | 29 790 | 22, 732 | 21519 |
| Average Page View per day | 331 | 247 | 233 |
| Average Page View per visitor | 2.27 | 2.22 | 2.64 |

Following the World AIDS Day celebrations held by the *Cayman Islands Overseas Branch of the British Red Cross*, Rupee, a Barbadian soca artist, whose parents died of AIDS, recorded some audio messages and allowed the Cayman Islands Overseas Branch of the British Red Cross and CARAN to use them free of charge. The clips were promoted on the CARAN web pages.

Impact:

Information regarding the activities of the Caribbean Red Cross National Societies is being disseminated to more and more visitors through the web site hosted by the Sub Regional Office.

Constraints:

Information and communication activities have been supported by DfID funding over the last two years. It is unlikely that this will continue after June 2006. A donor is urgently required to ensure that the achievements of this programme and support to Caribbean Red Cross National Societies continue to be reinforced.

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

Progress/Achievements:

Caribbean Red Cross National Societies which now have communication focal persons, whether paid or voluntary, include the *Anguilla Overseas Branch of the British Red Cross, the Barbados Red Cross Society, Belize Red Cross, the Grenada Red Cross Society, Jamaica Red Cross, the Saba Overseas Branch of the Netherlands Red Cross* and the *Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross Society*.

Impact:

As more NS/OSB identify focal persons in the area of communication, improved dialogue is achieved between the NS/OSB and the Federation as well as between NS/OSB.

Constraints:

It is still challenging to obtain information from NS/OSB for communications tools such as the newsletter and website. Additionally, information regarding the use of materials provided by the Federation, media coverage and the number of people reached is not easily accessible. Undoubtedly, one reason is the lack of communication focal points in individual NS/OSB.

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

Progress/Achievements:

Discussions commenced with the ICRC and the *Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross Society* regarding joint activities to celebrate Red Cross Day – 8 May.

Further activities will be carried out during the second quarter of the year.

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

Progress/Achievements:

The Federation's Americas Information Team met in Panama in February to discuss key communications issues such as websites, stories, press releases and media and ways of improving its support to NS/OSB. A work plan for the year was

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developed and shared with NS/OSB as a guideline for them to develop their own information and communication work plans.

In March, a Global Information workshop was held in Geneva to look at ways of ensuring a sustainable flow of information between the field, the Secretariat headquarters and NS/OSB. The meeting also explored ways of helping NS/OSB to use existing materials more effectively. A global communications strategy was developed and shared with NS/OSB to help them better understand the Federation's focus areas in communications.

The Regional Communications Network is composed of representatives from four NS/OSBs: the *Anguilla Overseas Branch of the British Red Cross*, the *Grenada Red Cross Society*, *Jamaica Red Cross* and the *Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross Society*. The main responsibility of the network is to design and implement communication and information programmes within NS/OSB in order to increase and enhance the visibility and profile of the Caribbean Red Cross National Societies locally, regionally, and internationally.

Impact:

Three Caribbean Red Cross entities have developed information and communication work plans and shared them with the Federation.

Constraints:

Beyond June 2006, there is no funding to support the Communications Network.

Project Objective/ 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:

The *Together We Can* web forum was reactivated at the beginning of the year with a *Get in the Discussion* chatroom. Each month a new thread was started by the network administrator:

- January – “Do you think commercial sex work should be decriminalized in the Caribbean?”
- February – “Is it acceptable to discriminate against people of a different sexual orientation?”
- March – “Should there be legislation to prevent violent attacks against People living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA)s, including those of the Men who have sex with Men (MSM) community?”

The St Lucia Red Cross and the *Guyana Red Cross Society* continue to actively implement the Federation's Global anti-stigma campaign “*Come Closer*”.

Impact:

40 individuals have registered with the Together We Can forum.

Constraints:

The network administrator currently has to invite discussion on new themes on a monthly basis; the forum members need to be encouraged to take a more pro-active approach and address issues that are relevant to them.

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

Progress/Achievements:

No progress has been achieved in the reporting period under this objective.

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.

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

Progress/Achievements:

There has been no progress under this objective during the reporting period.

Project Objective/ Expected Result 2: Joint support to National Societies and Overseas Branches in the region is optimized by cooperation and coordination with the ICRC, PNS and National Societies.**Progress/Achievements:**

The newly appointed Head of the ICRC Regional Delegation in Caracas paid a courtesy visit to the Sub Regional Office. The discussion focused on the joint ICRC/Federation Leadership training for the Caribbean National Societies this year and the Federation's presence at an ICRC training on *Safer Access* for the Guyana Red Cross Society within the next few months.

The Sub Regional Office Coordinator visited the French Red Cross project office in Grenada. The components of the ECHO-funded Disaster Management project are very similar to the DiPECHO V activities. There was a discussion on how to more closely align the two projects with regard to follow-up activities to the VCA process.

The Federation received an invitation to attend the Safer Access training in Guyana. Unfortunately, no-one was available so the Director General of the Saint Lucia Red Cross kindly accepted to represent PADRU/Sub Regional Office. Subsequently, a Safer Access training course has been scheduled for St Lucia in preparation for general elections.

Impact:

The Federation is actively ensuring coordination with the ICRC and the PNS in the region.

Project Objective/ Expected Result 3: Red Cross regional networks have contributed to knowledge sharing, capacity building and general cooperation and coordination.**Progress/Achievements:**

Following instructions from the Inter American Regional Committee (CORI) to review the effectiveness of the regional networks, the Federation developed a proposal to review the experience throughout the continent, with a view to consolidating best practices and to present the findings at the next Inter American Conference.

Project Objective/ 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 Federation is a partner in the UNDP/ECHO project in the Caribbean: Fostering Knowledge Transfer and the Replication of Best Practices in Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction within the Caribbean. The first meeting took place in January in Haiti, attended by other DiPECHO V implementing partners. [Five of the nine DiPECHO V projects in the Caribbean are being implemented by the Red Cross.]

Impact:

The project strives to acknowledge the richness of existing experience and practice, to make use of effective mechanisms for fostering the exchange and replication of successful experiences, and to support collaboration and partnerships that ultimately benefit the population most vulnerable to natural disasters in the region.

International Representation and Advocacy:

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

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

Progress/Achievements:

The Federation attended meetings of the Thematic Cooperating Group on Hazard Mapping and Vulnerability Assessment to look at Caribbean Hazard Mitigation Capacity Building Programme (CHAMP), held by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA).

USAID/OFDA held a meeting in St Lucia for the Caribbean National Disaster Offices, and co-facilitated by OFDA, CDERA and the Caribbean Development Bank, to provide a forum for discussion on disaster risk reduction and its implications for small island states. Representatives from the Federation and the *St Lucia Red Cross* participated.

Discussions continued with our partners in the fight against HIV and AIDS, notably CRN+ and Education Development Services. The Federation met with Cable & Wireless which showed an interest in supporting the Faces Campaign. Unfortunately this did not lead to any corporate sponsorship of the campaign.

Constraints:

It is not always possible to attend every meeting for which the Federation receives an invitation, there being too many meetings and not enough personnel. Added to this is the exorbitant expense of attending meetings throughout the Caribbean. Other means of communicating need to be explored, such as tele-conference calls and video links.

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

Following the Sub Regional Office move at the end of 2005, an official function to celebrate the office opening was held in January. The diplomatic corps, partners and other Movement members were invited to familiarize themselves with the new office location. The occasion was also used to introduce the 2006/2007 Caribbean Appeal. There was good media coverage of the event in the Trinidad & Tobago newspapers.

Other events reported by the media included:

- Flooding in Guyana – Activities by the *Guyana Red Cross Society* to assist those affected by major flooding in the remote areas of the country. Coverage almost every week in January by the two leading newspapers in the country – The Guyana Chronicle and the Stabroek News as well as the country's government television station
- The launch of the *Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society* annual Kiddies Carnival was covered by all leading newspapers – Newsday, Express, Guardian in Trinidad and Tobago and well as two television stations – TV6 and Gayelle
- The *Barbados Red Cross Society* held a press conference in March to hand over US\$23,895 to the United States Embassy. The money was raised through an appeal to assist victims of hurricane Katrina.
- The launch of the *Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society* Disaster Relief fund in March to assist locals who have suffered from disasters was widely publicized in Trinidad and Tobago
- The *Bahamas Red Cross Society* 34th Annual Red Cross Ball was covered and publicized by the media in the Bahamas
- Features and articles were also produced in Jamaica's media on the *Jamaica Red Cross* Safer Sex Week in February

Impact:

Invitations to the media to report on Red Cross activities generally receive a good response. The Information Officer is currently exploring the possibility of setting up a journalists' network in the Caribbean to strengthen links both nationally and regionally and to guarantee that the media report accurately on Red Cross issues.

Constraints:

Undoubtedly the Caribbean NS/OSB receive more media attention than is reported 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 to governance in the Caribbean in response to requests.

Project Objective/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:

All Caribbean Red Cross Societies received documentation related to the International Conference scheduled for June 2006 on the Third Additional Protocol and its provision for a new Emblem.

Impact:

All Caribbean National Societies confirmed that they would send representatives to the International Conference.

Constraints:

National Societies reported that because the new emblem would not directly affect their countries, it was proving difficult to engage their governments in discussions about the International Conference. It was therefore very unclear how many Caribbean governments would be represented.

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

Progress/Achievements:

| A Global Agenda for the International Federation | |
|---|---|
| 1. | Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. |
| 2. | Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies. |
| 3. | Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability. |
| 4. | Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion. |

The CCORC Management Committee met in March for one of their two annual meetings. The newly-appointed Head of the Panama Regional Delegation also attended the meeting, along with the SRO Coordinator and CCORC Administrator. The HoRD updated the Committee on the *Global Agenda* and the *Federation of the Future*, with a request that they take an active role in encouraging the Caribbean National Societies to report back on the consultation letter sent out by the Secretary General. There were also updates on the decentralization of the Americas department and the Avian Flu epidemic. The CCORC Management Committee received the CARAN Chair and a representative from the Caribbean Disaster Management Network who both shared the latest drafts of their respective network Terms of Reference.

Impact:

Discussions on the CARAN terms of reference were particularly useful as a resolution was found to avoid a contentious election process in the CARAN biennial meeting (scheduled for end April 2006).

Constraints:

Once again, a discussion around languages within the Caribbean was raised. Whilst the Caribbean is seen as a distinct sub-region within the Americas, there are pre-dominantly three languages being used – English, Spanish and French. The high cost of simultaneous translation generally means that technical meetings and workshops are held in one language. Therefore, the Cuban Red Cross and the Dominican Red Cross are often invited to attend such meetings with the Central American Red Cross National Societies, thereby limiting their contact and networking opportunities with the rest of the Caribbean. As well as the 2007 Inter American Conference in Guayaquil, the Caribbean National Societies and Overseas Branches also plan to hold their biennial meeting next year. This puts a heavy burden on the CCORC membership to source the necessary funding for the meeting.

Federation Management:

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

Project Objective/ 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:

All positions were filled during the first quarter, including the position of DM Officer. Since the previous incumbent's resignation in September 2005, it proved challenging to recruit a suitable replacement, someone with the suitable background in disaster management as well as a good knowledge of the Caribbean region. It was also critical the position be filled bearing the mind the start of the DiPECHO V contract on 1 January. After two rounds of advertising and interviews, the position was offered to the Deputy Director General of *Belize Red Cross* and she commenced work in early March.

Impact:

The SRO is fully staffed.

Constraints:

Regionally, disaster management support to the NS/OSB was limited with two open positions of Regional Risk Reduction delegate (based at the Panama Regional Delegation) and the Sub Regional Office Disaster Management Officer. This meant an additional workload for the Sub Regional Office Coordinator, the Regional Disaster Management Officer, the Sub Regional Office Branch Officer and PADRU Disaster Management Delegates.

Project Objective/ Expected Result 2: Federation programmes are well managed.

Progress/Achievements:

Two emergency operations – the Guyana Floods and Hurricanes Dennis & Emily – which came to an end in late 2004 still have outstanding balances. In the case of the Guyana Floods, the *Guyana Red Cross Society* is developing a plan of action to present to donors for the unspent CHF 48,436. For Hurricanes Dennis & Emily, the *Grenada Red Cross Society* and the *Cuban Red Cross* have outstanding working advances that need to be reported to the Federation before the operation can be officially closed.

Impact:

Following the Budget Holder course for Sub Regional Office personnel in November 2005, there has been a marked improvement in adhering to Federation financial procedures as evidenced with more timely reporting on working advances and accurate booking of expenses in line with budgets.

Constraints:

Further funds for 2006 are required to implement plans in their entirety. Of particular concern is support for Humanitarian Values and Organizational Development programmes and for the Port of Spain Sub-Regional Office.

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

Progress/Achievements:

2005 ended with zero deficits on Caribbean regional programmes. However, there were substantial balances on some 2004 projects, particularly those related to the 2004 Hurricane season. In late 2005, a plan of action had been developed for the outstanding funds of the Hurricane Ivan emergency appeal and donors given the option to have their funds returned or transferred to the 2005/2006 Annual Appeals.

Impact:

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

Constraints:

Caribbean; Appeal no. MAA49001; Programme Update no. 1

Managing the outstanding Hurricane Ivan funds proved to be a complex task. The Emergency Appeal, which was of six months duration and covered four countries, was subject to some very stringent earmarking of contributions. Consequently, some un-earmarked funds were not fully utilized within the timeframe.

Project Objective/ Expected Result 4: Federation managers work closely together, ensuring the integration of programmes and coherent support to National Societies and Overseas Branches.**Progress/Achievements:**

In February, the Americas department held a continental planning meeting in Panama to examine how to align the work in support to the 35 National Societies of the continent in achieving the goals of the *Global Agenda* and the objectives of the *Plan of Action of the Inter American Conference*, scaling up the overall humanitarian impact.

A Calendar of Events section was included on the regional website, to better inform the NS/OSB of planned Federation meetings, trainings and workshops.

Impact:

The importance of a common approach to baseline information (both for technical programmes and OD) to be able to measure impact is better recognized. In addition, planning as a Movement needs to align the different planning processes in order to make sure that measurement of impact is possible.

Constraints:

While there is agreement that support for the work of the membership in health and disaster management is consistent, it was acknowledged that more must be done in the area of Humanitarian Principles and Values.

[Interim Financial Report 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 | 2006/1-2006/3 |
| 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 | 2'799'413 | 179'187 | 375'743 | 662'235 | 5'269'273 |
| B. Opening Balance | 93'838 | 1'419'877 | 0 | 108'649 | 60'826 | 1'683'190 |
| Income | | | | | | |
| Cash contributions | | | | | | |
| British Red Cross | | | | 22'741 | 45'112 | 67'853 |
| DFID Partnership | 25'944 | 19'956 | 17'462 | | 7'484 | 70'846 |
| ECHO | | 638'405 | | | | 638'405 |
| Luxembourg Red Cross | | | | | 8'589 | 8'589 |
| C1. Cash contributions | 25'944 | 658'361 | 17'462 | 22'741 | 61'186 | 785'694 |
| Outstanding pledges (Revalued) | | | | | | |
| ECHO | | -636'200 | | | | -636'200 |
| Netherlands Red Cross | | | | | 4 | 4 |
| Norwegian Red Cross | 138'670 | | | | | 138'670 |
| C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued) | 138'670 | -636'200 | | | 4 | -497'526 |
| Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal) | | | | | | |
| British Red Cross | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Canadian Red Cross Society | | | 5'201 | | -5'201 | 0 |
| DFID - British Government | | | | | 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) | | 10'771 | 5'201 | | -5'201 | 10'771 |
| Inkind Personnel | | | | | | |
| British Red Cross | | | | | 18'600 | 18'600 |
| C5. Inkind Personnel | | | | | 18'600 | 18'600 |
| C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6) | 164'614 | 32'932 | 22'663 | 22'741 | 74'588 | 317'538 |
| D. Total Funding = B + C | 258'452 | 1'452'809 | 22'663 | 131'390 | 135'415 | 2'000'729 |

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 | 164'614 | 32'932 | 22'663 | 22'741 | 74'588 | 317'538 |
| E. Expenditure | -149'406 | -335'823 | -19'166 | -24'642 | -67'574 | -596'612 |
| F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E) | 109'046 | 1'116'986 | 3'497 | 106'748 | 67'840 | 1'404'117 |

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA49001 - THE CARIBBEAN

Interim financial report

| Selected Parameters | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Reporting Timeframe | 2006/1-2006/3 |
| 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 | 2'799'413 | 179'187 | 375'743 | 662'235 | 5'269'273 | |
| Supplies | | | | | | | | |
| Shelter - Relief | 37'620 | | 22'635 | | | | 22'635 | 14'985 |
| Construction Materials | 268'600 | | | | | | | 268'600 |
| Clothing & textiles | 189'974 | | 20'304 | | | | 20'304 | 169'669 |
| Food | 1'279 | | | | | | | 1'279 |
| Medical & First Aid | 20'150 | | | | | | | 20'150 |
| Teaching Materials | 5'000 | 14'114 | | | | | 14'114 | -9'114 |
| Utensils & Tools | 47'849 | | 21'185 | | | | 21'185 | 26'664 |
| Other Supplies & Services | 27'738 | | 15'928 | | | | 15'928 | 11'810 |
| Total Supplies | 598'210 | 14'114 | 80'052 | | | | 94'166 | 504'044 |
| Land, vehicles & equipment | | | | | | | | |
| Vehicles | 52'000 | | | | | | | 52'000 |
| Computers & Telecom | 80'630 | 5'006 | 9'590 | | | | 14'596 | 66'034 |
| Total Land, vehicles & equipment | 132'630 | 5'006 | 9'590 | | | | 14'596 | 118'034 |
| Transport & Storage | | | | | | | | |
| Storage | 56'670 | | 895 | | | | 895 | 55'775 |
| Distribution & Monitoring | 56'881 | | 3'983 | | | | 3'983 | 52'898 |
| Transport & Vehicle Costs | 43'927 | | 619 | | | 1'434 | 2'053 | 41'874 |
| Total Transport & Storage | 157'478 | | 5'496 | | | 1'434 | 6'931 | 150'547 |
| Personnel Expenditures | | | | | | | | |
| Delegates Payroll | 475'315 | | 47 | | | 84 | 131 | 475'184 |
| Delegate Benefits | 149'850 | 91 | 4'922 | 23 | | 30'641 | 35'676 | 114'174 |
| Regionally Deployed Staff | 17'700 | | | | 73 | 73 | 145 | 17'555 |
| National Staff | 457'491 | 9'799 | 10'925 | 6'670 | 6'209 | 12'386 | 45'989 | 411'502 |
| National Society Staff | 17'242 | 1'132 | | | | | 1'132 | 16'110 |
| Consultants | 162'830 | 5'903 | 1'928 | | | | 7'831 | 154'999 |
| Total Personnel Expenditures | 1'280'428 | 16'925 | 17'822 | 6'693 | 6'282 | 43'184 | 90'905 | 1'189'523 |
| Workshops & Training | | | | | | | | |
| Workshops & Training | 1'726'835 | 40'574 | 28'548 | 3'122 | 14'445 | 4'680 | 91'369 | 1'635'466 |
| Total Workshops & Training | 1'726'835 | 40'574 | 28'548 | 3'122 | 14'445 | 4'680 | 91'369 | 1'635'466 |
| General Expenditure | | | | | | | | |
| Travel | 410'275 | 10'312 | 13'479 | 4'593 | 5'355 | 3'422 | 37'161 | 373'114 |
| Information & Public Relation | 302'640 | 11'028 | 1'466 | 751 | | 1'698 | 14'943 | 287'697 |
| Office Costs | 225'800 | 731 | 5'239 | 433 | 19 | 8'663 | 15'085 | 210'715 |
| Communications | 75'275 | 7'352 | 4'644 | 329 | | 2'250 | 14'575 | 60'700 |
| Professional Fees | 7'000 | | 264 | | | | 264 | 6'736 |
| Financial Charges | 5'600 | 3'930 | 619 | 2'000 | 7'309 | -2'572 | 11'287 | -5'687 |
| Other General Expenses | 4'600 | -3'882 | 95 | | | 793 | -2'994 | 7'594 |
| Total General Expenditure | 1'031'190 | 29'472 | 25'806 | 8'106 | 12'683 | 14'255 | 90'321 | 940'869 |
| Program Support | | | | | | | | |
| Program Support | 342'503 | 9'711 | 21'828 | 1'246 | 1'602 | 4'301 | 38'689 | 303'814 |
| Total Program Support | 342'503 | 9'711 | 21'828 | 1'246 | 1'602 | 4'301 | 38'689 | 303'814 |
| Operational Provisions | | | | | | | | |
| Operational Provisions | | 33'604 | 146'681 | | -10'370 | -280 | 169'635 | -169'635 |
| Total Operational Provisions | | 33'604 | 146'681 | | -10'370 | -280 | 169'635 | -169'635 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D) | 5'269'273 | 149'406 | 335'823 | 19'166 | 24'642 | 67'574 | 596'612 | 4'672'662 |
| VARIANCE (C - D) | | 1'103'289 | 2'463'590 | 160'021 | 351'101 | 594'661 | 4'672'662 | |