

Annual report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

South Asia

Appeal No. MAA52001

28 April 2009

This report covers the period 1 January 2008
to 31 December 2008.



A community VCA in progress in Dhaka (Bangladesh) as part of a field testing of community based disaster risk reduction training curriculum developed by SARD.

In brief

Programme purpose: As outlined in the 2008-09 plan, the aim of the International Federation South Asia regional office is to increase the capacity of the South Asian national societies to provide services that improve the lives of vulnerable people.

Programme(s) summary: During 2008, the key areas of support provided by the International Federation to national societies in South Asia were as follows:-

- Under the regional disaster management programme – responding to the monsoon flooding in Pakistan, India and Nepal and the earthquake in Baluchistan (Pakistan); carrying out a final evaluation of the disaster risk reduction British Department for International Development (DFID) II programme; working towards community-based disaster risk reduction; strengthening the regional disaster response system; and starting a regional disaster management/disaster risk reduction review.
- Under the regional health and care programme – conducting a mid-term evaluation of the regional HIV/AIDS programme; organizing the South Asia launch of the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Alliance on HIV; and holding regional health capacity building workshops in the areas of community-based first aid and public health in emergencies as well as a regional health managers meeting.
- Under the regional organizational development programme – providing country specific tailor made support; organizing a regional organizational development meeting; strengthening internal and external communications (including launching a monthly e-newsletter from the South Asia regional office and a South Asia site on Youtube, as well as the production of high quality visibility materials); providing extensive support to countries in the region in their preparation of

International Federation Secretariat plans for 2009-10; and supporting countries in the region with their finance development work.

In addition, the regional initiative on “Building Safer Communities” in South Asia was also promoted through an integrated programming approach; a Secretary Generals’ forum was organized in Nepal in June; and the consolidation process between the South Asia regional office and the India office was completed during this period.

Financial situation: The total 2008 budget is CHF 3,826,178 (USD 3,220,006 or EUR 2,494,495), of which 65 per cent is covered. Expenditure overall was 50 per cent. Expenditure was low due to the low funding for regional programme activities, together with delayed funding confirmation.

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

No. of people we help: The South Asia regional office supports the six national societies and seven country offices of the International Federation in South Asia. During 2008, the South Asia regional office actively worked with the authorities in Bhutan in providing disaster management and risk reduction training for their leadership. The region includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, out of which the national societies exist in all except Bhutan and the Maldives, where the process of establishing a national society is underway. Please refer to the country reports for the beneficiary numbers for these countries.

Our partners: The main partners supporting the regional programmes during 2008 were the American, British, Danish, Finnish, Japanese and Swedish Red Cross Societies, along with the European Commission/ECHO, British Department for International Development (DFID) and World Bank (GFDRR). Technical partnerships/relations were also maintained with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) disaster management centre, UN/International Strategy for Disaster Response, World Bank (through the ProVention consortium), other UN organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations under the regional disaster management programme; and with the World Health Organization, networks of people living with HIV, government ministries and civil society organizations under the regional health and care programmes. The South Asia regional office also maintained strong cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and links with the World Food Programme, UNDP and USAID. Further, close cooperation was continued with international media agencies like Reuters, BBC and CNN, for efficient information flow, especially during disasters.

Context

During 2008, South Asia was fraught with internal conflict, terrorist attacks and many other challenges, which hampered the smooth implementation of activities by the Red Cross Red Crescent Societies in the region. Afghanistan faced a deteriorating security situation and increasing tension along the Pakistan-Afghan border. Pakistan was affected by political instability and the situation in Pakistan’s North West Frontier Province was volatile with Swat valley seeing a resurgence of Taliban militants. India was hit by a series of bomb blasts and militant attacks, especially on its major cities and the attack on the city of Mumbai led to a sharp rise in tensions between Pakistan and India. In Sri Lanka, the military’s advanced into Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)-controlled territory triggered a series of attacks in other parts of the island. In Nepal, however, the political and security situation improved following elections which abolished the monarchy and declared Nepal a Republic with the new government led by the former insurgent Maoists. The ninth national parliamentary election in Bangladesh brought to an end the state of emergency and saw the centre-left Awami League led ‘Grand Alliance’ being elected with a landslide victory.

This period also witnessed extreme cold weather conditions in Afghanistan and India, heavy monsoon flooding and landslides in Pakistan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, as well an earthquake that hit Baluchistan province in south-western Pakistan, all of which resulted in large loss of lives and property and affected millions of people. In addition, avian influenza outbreak was reported from Bangladesh and India, with the first human case of H5N1 virus infection reported from Bangladesh. The International Federation launched two emergency appeals during the year, one to support the Nepal Red Cross Society in responding to the floods in Nepal and the second to support the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in responding to the earthquake in Baluchistan. Since the national societies in all countries affected by these disasters were caught up in response efforts, implementation of some longer-term developmental activities was delayed and these have been carried forward to 2009.

The South Asia regional office experienced significant funding constraints during the year, which also affected the implementation of some planned activities. In an effort to optimise financial and human resources, the consolidation of the South Asia regional office and the India office was carried out. Despite some constraints and delays due to the security situation in most countries, and the strained funding coverage of some regional programmes, the South Asia regional office's work to build the capacity of the national societies and support the International Federation's country offices continued to make progress during this period, the details of which are outlined in this report.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

Programme Components	Outcomes
1. Community preparedness and mitigation	National society capacity to support community preparedness and mitigation is strengthened.
2. Disaster response and preparedness for response	Regional capacity and systems are improved to respond effectively and efficiently in times of disasters.
3. Coordination and cross cutting issues	South Asia disaster management programme is made more effective through coordination, collaboration, and innovative cross-cutting initiatives.

Achievements

Outcome 1: This main focus of this component was to promote the building safer communities concept in South Asia, which the South Asia regional office has been implementing since October 2007 to scale-up (quality and coverage) the disaster risk reduction approach, methodology and tools in the region. This concept was widely promoted nationally, regionally and globally and the first phase of this is at a completion stage with a final evaluation process underway and planning process for the second phase started. During 2008, as part of this process, standardized training curriculum, handbooks and information education and communication (IEC) materials on community-based disaster risk reduction were developed. In addition, approximately 120 disaster risk reduction practitioners from all South Asian national societies, partner national societies, the Bhutan government and external agencies were trained in workshops on vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) learning by doing, community-based disaster risk reduction and advocacy skills development, held during the year in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. These training programmes enhanced the competence of national society staff to scale-up community-based disaster risk reduction measures in their respective countries.

In order to make disaster risk reduction a priority in the region, the South Asia regional office developed and disseminated a disaster risk reduction advocacy package including an advocacy

guidebook, a documentary film and a series of case studies, publications and promotional materials. Further, standardized criteria for First Aid and basic search and rescue kits were developed. A regional awareness campaign on *“building safer community begins at school”* was carried out, covering more than 3,600 school children from six South Asian countries (Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan Sri Lanka and Maldives). Finally, two representatives from South Asia (regional disaster management coordinator and disaster management director from the Nepal Red Cross) provided inputs for the International Federation’s global framework for community safety and resilience at a disaster risk reduction meeting held in August 2008 in Oslo.

The reporting period saw an increased networking, knowledge sharing and partnership at regional and cross-regional levels, for instance a strengthening of the regional disaster management working group (DMWG), cross-regional disaster risk reduction knowledge sharing and DIPECHO partner’s forum. It also witnessed an increased commitment to and participation of South Asian national societies’ leadership on disaster risk reduction, for instance through the Secretary Generals’ forum.

Outcome 2: During 2008, the regional disaster management team provided back-up support to concerned national societies and country offices in responding to a number of disasters such as the monsoon flooding and landslides in Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, as well the earthquake in Baluchistan (Pakistan). The regional disaster management team also made significant efforts in strengthening the disaster response system of national societies at national and regional levels, for instance in the development of national disaster response and contingency plans and facilitating disaster response and contingency planning workshops including simulation exercises in India and Nepal (in May 2008) and in Afghanistan and Bangladesh (in June 2008). The contingency plans of the Afghan Red Crescent (Kabul earthquake and spring floods) and the Nepal Red Cross (Kathmandu earthquake) were finalized. In addition, technical support was provided to the national societies in the region for the strengthening of their National Disaster Preparedness and Response Mechanism (NDPRM), including national and state/district disaster response teams, a pool of highly skilled and trained disaster management professionals ready for deployment in the immediate aftermath of disasters. During May-June 2008, three national disaster response team (NDRT) trainings were carried out in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.

The regional disaster management programme started a comprehensive project on *“Strengthening disaster response capacity in South Asia”* (May 2008-December 2009), which seeks to develop a standardized regional disaster response team (RDRT) system in the South Asia region, involving active participation and commitment from the national societies in the region. During 2008, key progress included establishment of a project management team, increased communication and coordination with the national societies in the region regarding RDRT activities, completion of three key training events (viz. an RDRT training of trainers in October in India, an RDRT specialized training in logistics in November in Nepal and an RDRT induction course in December in Sri Lanka), development of an RDRT/human resource database, preparation of a draft RDRT pre-deployment agreement document and standard operating procedures, and pre-positioning of RDRT deployment kits. The development of a handbook for field assessment and coordination team (FACT)/RDRT was initiated, together with the Asia-Pacific disaster management unit, South East Asia regional delegation and the FACT/RDRT team in Geneva.

Outcome 3: The regional disaster management programme strengthened its working relationship with external agencies such as the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) disaster management centre, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations through active advocacy, knowledge sharing and networking initiatives for building safer communities in South Asia, as well as through participation by the regional disaster management team in regional and global platforms for disaster risk reduction such as

UN/International Strategy for Disaster Response (UN/ISDR), ProVention consortium and DIPECHO partners' coordination forum.

A cross-regional disaster risk reduction lessons learning joint field workshop was organized in Kathmandu, Nepal in March 2008. The workshop was attended by 40 Movement and non-Movement participants involved in the field of disaster risk reduction, including staff from the national societies and country offices in South Asia, South East Asia and Africa, as well as the SAARC disaster management centre, ECHO, UN/ISDR, UNDP, Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre, Handicap International, DP-Net Nepal and civil society organizations. The exercise provided an opportunity for sharing of good practices in disaster risk reduction between different regions and its outcome was presented at the annual ProVention forum held in April 2008 in Panama.

The regional disaster management coordinator participated in a three-week review conducted by the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team in Bhutan in April 2008, to assess the country's disaster preparedness. Based on the outcomes of this visit, relevant civil and government authorities in Bhutan have been subsequently involved in regional disaster management and disaster risk reduction activities.

Further, the regional disaster management team organized a coordination meeting of 10 ECHO-DIPECHO partner organizations in August 2008. This meeting provided an opportunity for the head of regional delegation and the director of the SAARC disaster management centre to initiate an ongoing dialogue on potential areas for mutual cooperation and coordination. In addition, a team comprising senior management from the Sri Lankan Red Cross Society, the head of regional delegation and key disaster management/disaster risk reduction staff members participated in the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR in December 2008 in Kuala Lumpur.

Within the Movement, the working relations with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Change Centre were strengthened with the visit of a senior programme officer from the centre to the South Asia regional office during September 2008, to carry out a quick analysis of climate change risk in South Asia and identify the key Red Cross Red Crescent activities for climate change adaptation. Besides this, the regional disaster management programme conducted a regional disaster management/disaster risk reduction review, in consultation with the national societies, country offices, partner national societies, and external stakeholders like the UN, non-governmental organizations and government agencies.

Constraints or Challenges

In the early part of the year, funding limitations under the disaster response and preparedness component resulted in some delays in implementing activities. However, by the middle of the reporting period, adequate funding was received and all activities under this component were implemented as planned. Further, the recruitment of a regional disaster preparedness delegate took longer than expected which slightly delayed some of the planned activities of the RDRT project. Additionally, the hiring of a disaster management focal point for the India office took time and resulted in a delay in carrying out planned activities in India.

In addition, during the reporting period, the regional disaster management team was extensively engaged in providing back-up support to the respective national societies and country offices for the disaster response operations (in response to the monsoon floods and the Baluchistan earthquake), as well as providing continued support to the national societies in the region with ongoing response/recovery operations. This caused the implementation of some planned activities like the disaster risk reduction curriculum, disaster risk reduction advocacy handbook and production of the disaster risk reduction documentary film to be delayed and some other activities such as an RDRT specialized course in public health in emergencies, a regional DMWG meeting and a disaster risk reduction festival were postponed to 2009.

Health and care

Programme components	Outcomes
1. Regional health capacity support	National societies have improved HIV and AIDS and other public health programming.
2. Regional health partnership and resource development project	National societies have improved organizational capacity in mobilizing resources, building partnership and in advocacy for health programmes.

Achievements

Outcome 1: Following the signing of the Global Alliance on HIV by India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh, the Global Alliance documents of these four national societies were finalized. The aim is to double the outreach of Red Cross Red Crescent HIV programmes in South Asia by targeting more than 1.5 million people, with a focus on supporting the most vulnerable groups including young people, people living with HIV and sex workers. The launch of the Global Alliance for South Asia was held on 1 December 2008 to coincide with World AIDS Day. The event was hosted by the Indian Red Cross and attended by representatives from WHO, National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), diplomatic missions and international organizations working on HIV. Similar launches were also held in Sri Lanka and Nepal. The Pakistan Red Crescent and Afghanistan Red Crescent have expressed an interest in joining the Global Alliance.

A mid-term evaluation of the regional HIV/AIDS programme in South Asia (2005-2009) was conducted in February-March 2008 by an external public health consultant. The purpose was to assess the programme's progress (individual and collective achievements of the national societies across the region) and outline, issues, challenges, recommendations and the way forward for the programme. A detailed plan of action based on the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation was developed in consultation with all national societies and country offices in the region. It is expected that the implementation of the follow-up plan will result in improved programme implementation and strengthening of weak programme components.

In line with the International Federation's HIV workplace directives, a HIV workplace programme was initiated at the South Asia regional office. This programme is being expanded to cover all national societies and country offices in the region. Extensive discussions on the HIV workplace programme have taken place at regional forums and the countries in the region are now prepared to take the HIV workplace programme forward. This is an initial step towards activities targeted at reduction of HIV related stigma and discrimination.

During this reporting period, the regional health programme was able to promote a regional approach in health programming across the region in the areas of HIV, community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) and public health in emergencies (PHiE). Three types of first aid kits were standardized in all national societies across the region. Work on a regional water and sanitation framework and standardization of first aid training was also initiated. The regional health team was able to train and establish a regional resource pool under the disciplines of HIV care and support, CBHFA and PHiE. Trained professionals of this resource pool are supporting sister national societies in the region in training, planning and response to disasters and public health emergencies. There have also been requests from other regions for trainers from this resource pool.

Outcome 2: The regional health programme served as a growing platform for knowledge sharing, information dissemination, partnership development, resource mobilization and advocacy, during the reporting period. Special events like World First Aid Day, World Blood Donors Day and World AIDS Day were observed across the region in cooperation with all stakeholders. The regional health team also developed extensive communication material, including fact sheets for each national society member of the Global Alliance and a regional adaptation of the "Rising to the Challenge" document on the HIV Global Alliance. A case study

was prepared on Nepal Red Cross Society's HIV programme in Doti district. As part of the regional health programme's efforts to develop a distinct brand for its regional HIV initiative, a logo was developed and is in use. In continuation of its information dissemination activities, two issues of the regional health update were disseminated across the region, highlighting all significant activities during the period and serving as a forum for sharing resources, upcoming events and important dates.

The regional health managers meeting, held in October 2008 in Maldives, provided a platform for knowledge sharing, networking, information sharing and coordination. The recommendations that emerged from the meeting focussed on the way forward for the regional health programmes as well as technical support to national societies. Following regional master trainings, regional networks were established among professionals involved in HIV, CBHFA and PHiE. Following the CBHFA master facilitators training, held in October 2008 in Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bhutan joined the regional health network. The regional health team facilitated representatives from the Sri Lankan Red Cross to visit the Nepal Red Cross for sharing their knowledge and experience on first aid.

Constraints or Challenges

In spite of the scaling up its programmes at all levels, the human resource under the regional health programme continued to reduce during the reporting period, while the workload increased as a result of the support provided to the India office. This shortage of human resources was seen as potentially hampering the future pace and scale of programme interventions, especially follow-up in areas like partnership development and advocacy, as well as the support provided to other national societies in the region. In addition to the instability of human resources, an insecurity of funds at the country and regional levels was another major risk to long-term health programming. The lack of funding and staff, particularly under the community health and emergency health areas of the programme, caused delays in the implementation of activities which are essential in emergency health preparedness and response capacity building at country and regional levels.

Global Agenda Goal 3: Organizational and capacity development

Programme components	Outcomes
1. Strategic OD and CB support	National societies have policies, systems and procedures that enable better programme implementation.
2. Communications development	Communications and advocacy for the most vulnerable at national society and regional level are more effective.
3. Finance development	National societies capacity in financial accountability, reporting, management is strengthened.
4. Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting development	The capacity of national societies in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting is strengthened further.

Achievements

Outcome 1: The regional organizational development programme remained committed to support the South Asian national societies in the formulation and implementation of their strategic plans. During the reporting period, support was in particular provided for the development of the Indian Red Cross Society's strategic plan (2008-2011) and discussions were held around the development of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's strategic plan.

During this period, attention was given to the formation process of a national society in the Maldives, including for the revision of statutes as well as organizing a volunteer management training workshop and a session on volunteer development. Best practices on volunteering

(including policies, systems, procedures and management) were shared with the Maldives delegation and the interim planning group. The bulk of the organizational development work has now been handed over to the incoming programme coordinator in the country delegation.

The regional organizational development programme took part in two joint International Federation/ICRC missions to Afghanistan to develop harmonised Movement support to the Afghan Red Crescent Society. The first mission, in April 2008, resulted in the development of an operational plan in line with the Afghan Red Crescent Society's strategic plan, a strengthened and more transparent cooperation between Movement partners in Afghanistan and a strategy to optimise Movement support to the Afghan Red Crescent Society. The plan and movement support mechanism were later presented and discussed at the Afghan partnership meeting in June 2008 in Geneva. To review and follow-up on the implementation of the harmonized Movement support mechanisms and the Afghan Red Crescent Society's operational plan, a second mission was undertaken in November 2008. The mission reviewed the functioning of the agreed Movement coordination mechanisms at strategic and operational levels. It also suggested a draft terms of reference for those mechanisms and reviewed the extent to which the harmonized approach has been disseminated to branch level. Finally, the process by which the programmes and projects of respective partners have been finalized in the context and spirit of the harmonized Movement support plan was reviewed. The outcome and recommendations for further strengthening the harmonized support to the Afghan Red Crescent Society was shared in a report.

In addition, a two-year regional fund raising development project was developed to strengthen the capacity of national societies in the region to tap into the huge potentials of domestic fund raising. Support was also provided to India Red Cross Society's application for the capacity building fund and Empress Shoken Fund.

The regional organizational development programme was also involved in a volunteer investment and value audit (VIVA) study in Nepal. Further VIVA studies will be carried out in 2009 for the regional HIV/AIDS programme. Finally, a regional organizational development meeting was held during this period at which working modalities were discussed and a regional organizational development knowledge sharing mechanism was agreed upon.

Outcome 2: The reporting period saw the launch of "South Asia link", a monthly newsletter from the South Asia regional office as well as a South Asia site on Youtube for posting videos on the work of national societies, supported by the International Federation, in the region. Support was provided to the national societies/country offices in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, and to the country office in the Maldives, to develop short and long-term communications plans for the improvement of external communications.

The regional communications project was also heavily involved in producing and disseminating visibility material for the regional disaster risk reduction project, funded by DiPECHO and the Swedish Red Cross, including brochures, case studies, caps, t-shirts, pens, coffee mugs, pocket diaries and carry bags. In addition, a case study for the regional HIV/AIDS programme in Nepal and a climate change story from India was also produced. Support was provided for the production of press releases and news stories during the monsoon flooding in India and Nepal. Finally, an updated brochure on the South Asia regional office was also developed.

Outcome 3: During this period, the regional finance development delegate continued to review and support the finance development work of national societies in the region through country visits. This included technical support to the Afghan Red Crescent for working in the international standard financial system (double-entry system) and supporting its new finance system department in developing their accounting and financial reporting skills (in this new finance system). Support was extended to the Pakistan Red Crescent for replacing the local existing finance software with the internationally recognized Navision finance software and reviewing branch level actions required for Navision implementation. Similarly, the Indian Red Cross was

supported in re-customisation of its existing Navision finance software. In addition, regular reviewing of the Nepal Red Cross's SCALA software up-gradation was carried out and support was provided, together with the deputy head of the Asia Pacific Zone, to this national society in developing a two-year action plan for finance development during a meeting held in Nepal in August 2008.

Outcome 4: The regional planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting team was heavily involved in the 2009-10 planning process during the reporting period. A planning workshop was held in Nepal and project planning process (PPP) trainings were held in Pakistan and Nepal in preparation for the country plans. The team was also involved in the regional planning process at the regional DMWG meeting. The planning process was followed by the floods in India and Nepal, where the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting team provided support in the development of information bulletins and disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) bulletin/emergency appeals and supported the regional taskforce set up to monitor and coordinate the flood situation.

Special support was provided to Nepal and Bangladesh through coaching them in their specific identified needs. In addition, support was given for a training of trainers workshop on PPP in Sri Lanka. Further, a regional planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting development meeting was organized in March in Kathmandu to examine the progress made in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting development across the region, review the existing regional planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting training package, and identify areas of support required by the countries in the region. The new working modalities for reporting in Asia Pacific were rolled out and have proved to be much more efficient. Finally, the ECHO expertise of the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting team was strengthened following a Zonal grants management training with special focus on ECHO.

Constraints or Challenges

Low funding coverage of the different components of the regional organizational development programme, together with delayed funding confirmation, hampered the implementation of some programme activities, for instance the peer-to-peer exchange visit under strategic organizational development and capacity building support, an annual regional communications training, a regional finance director's meeting, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting training initiatives and a joint planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting-finance development workshop. The programme tried to address this problem by seeking funding for specific interventions ('tailor-made support') and ensuring that the organizational development components are increasingly integrated and cut across all programmes.

Global Agenda Goal 4: Humanitarian values

Programme components	Outcomes
1. Understanding humanitarian values	National societies and International Federation country offices show an increased understanding of HV.
2. Promoting diversity and increasing dignity	National societies demonstrate an increased capacity to incorporate their understanding of HV in their ongoing work.

Achievements

During the reporting period, support was provided for organizing two induction courses on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement (including sessions on the Movement's Fundamental Principles and values) in March, for new staff under the Cyclone Sidr operation in Bangladesh. In addition, two workshops on the Humanitarian Charter and the Code of Conduct in Disaster Relief were conducted for staff and volunteers at the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's district branches in the nine districts affected by the cyclone. A training on the Fundamental Principles was also organized for all staff of the country office in the Maldives in January. As a result of ongoing promotion and advocacy on the principles and values, national societies supported by

country offices in the region showed an increased capacity to incorporate these in their programme plans and activities.

Constraints or Challenges

The biggest constraint during the reporting period was the lack of funding for this programme, due to which a number of planned activities under this programme could not be carried out and the existing position of a regional humanitarian values coordinator was dissolved on contract completion at the end of March. However, principles and values continued to be an important focus of the work in South Asia. There is a commitment to disseminate information on this to national societies in the region and to build their capacities to fight discrimination and promote dignity and a respect for diversity in their countries. Therefore, these interventions will be integrated in the other ongoing programmes in line with the regional integrated programming approach.

The reduced scope of this programme will result in missed opportunities to support youth camps, conduct principles and values workshops in national societies, engage with academics, civil society and the media to examine related issues and publish communication materials, such as case studies. Therefore, funding for principles and values activities will continue to be sought and the regional communications programme will give special attention to it in its work with the media.

Working in partnership

During the reporting period, the key partners supporting the regional programmes were the American, British, Danish, Finnish, Japanese and Swedish, Red Cross Societies, along with the European Commission/ECHO, DFID and World Bank (GFDRR).

In the field of disaster management, the South Asia regional office has made joint initiatives with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre and Handicap International to develop the standardized community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) curriculum package. Working relationship was strengthened with UN agencies (ISDR and UNDP), World Bank (Global Facility on disaster risk reduction) and the SAARC disaster management centre, as well as with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Change Centre. In addition, the working relationship with the Bhutanese government also grew. The regional disaster management coordinator was invited by the Bhutanese government to facilitate disaster management simulation exercises in the country in September. Additionally, as mentioned above, six senior officials from the Bhutanese government participated in the CBDRR and CBFA trainings organized by the International Federation. Further, regional cooperation and knowledge sharing amongst Movement partners in the region continued through the regional DMWG forum.

In the field of health and care, the Global Alliance on HIV has further strengthened partnerships as the framework highlights the role of partner national societies to provide resources, capacities and specific inputs to support products and services of the HIV Global Alliance and their provision to country-based programmes in accordance with the 'seven ones'. Due to strengthened partnerships, the regional health unit received funding support from the Finnish Red Cross for the regional CBFA workshop held in October. The Finnish Red Cross has shown interest in further collaboration in the coming years and is negotiating with WHO for a polio and measles programme to be implemented in India, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Improved partnerships have also contributed to funding from the Hong Kong Red Cross and USAID for Indian Red Cross Society. As part of its ongoing partnership with WHO at the regional level, representatives from the South Asia regional office, including the head of regional delegation, and the secretary general of the Indian Red Cross participated in the 61st Session of the WHO Regional Committee for SEARO in September 2008.

Strong cooperation with the ICRC for optimal use of Movement resources was seen as a result of promotion, by the regional organizational development programme, of a Movement

harmonized approach to operational planning in Afghanistan by the Afghan Red Crescent, ICRC and the International Federation. The International Federation and ICRC also worked closely together for holding a partnership meeting for Afghanistan in June 2008. The secretary generals of all South Asian national societies met at the Secretary Generals' forum in Kathmandu, Nepal, in June 2008, which provided an opportunity for information exchange and the presentation of regional initiatives for approval of the Secretary Generals. The regional communications project maintained close cooperation with international media agencies like Reuters, BBC and CNN for efficient information flow, especially during disasters.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The regional disaster management programme aims at improving the quality of the national societies community-based preparedness and mitigation programming by standardizing and updating disaster risk reduction methodologies, materials and tools. A set of CBDRR training curriculum and handbooks have been developed with active participation of all South Asian national societies. These materials that mainstream disability issues and other emerging aspects of disaster risk reduction have significantly contributed to increase the quality and effectiveness of the CBDRR intervention as these materials provides proper guidance and standards. Furthermore, the South Asia regional office has published a series of case studies and promotional materials along with advocacy tools. These materials have significantly contributed to promote the South Asia "Building Safer Communities" initiative nationally, regionally and globally.

In addition, the RDRT project has contributed towards strengthening the national disaster response systems of national societies in the region. For instance, five trained RDRT and NDRT members (from the Pakistan Red Crescent and Pakistan country office) were heavily involved in the Baluchistan earthquake response, bringing to light the impact of the RDRT project. Further, four people trained at the RDRT training of trainers in October 2008 were facilitators in the RDRT induction course in Sri Lanka in December 2008, and similarly seven trained RDRT members in India (from the Indian Red Cross and India office) facilitated an NDRT refresher course in the country in February 2009, highlighting the valuable transfer of skills and knowledge at all levels within the region.

It is envisaged that the scaling-up and doubling of activities under the HIV programme in the region, in line with the Global Alliance on HIV, will contribute in mitigating the impact of HIV in the region. Further, under the Global Alliance, as reducing HIV related stigma and discrimination is one of the four programmatic outputs that need to be addressed in an effective HIV response, this forms an integral part of HIV programming in South Asia. In addition, the community-based health and first aid initiative, under the regional health and care programme, is expected to contribute towards improved health promotion and primary health care in the region.

This is also in keeping with the increasing integration of principles and values with the core programmes in the region. Another key area of integration will be between disaster management and principles and values with regard to advocacy initiatives around the "Code of Conduct of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations in Disaster Relief" and the "Sphere Project Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response".

Looking ahead

The consolidation process of the South Asia regional office and the India office was finalized, with the regional programme staff moving in with the India office. While the regional programmes will continue to support the six national societies and seven country offices in South Asia in the implementation of their programmes, this consolidating will optimise financial and human resources.

Under the regional disaster management programme, following the first step of the regional disaster management/disaster risk reduction review, wherein the consultant held consultations with Movement and non-Movement partners in six countries of the region, there will be a participatory workshop where findings and recommendations of the consultant's mission will be discussed and the regional disaster management/disaster risk reduction framework carved out. Based on that, the regional priorities and strategic directions will be clearer. The South Asia regional office has also developed the second phase of "Building Safer Communities" programme proposal and submitted it to ECHO-DIPECHO to tap the funding for this programme.

The regional health and care programme has developed a workplan based on the suggested way forward and corrective measures recommended by the mid-term evaluation of the regional HIV/AIDS programme. The next two years will also serve as a base for development of future HIV programmes in the region. Further, a series of trainings on HIV care and support, community-based health and first aid and public health in emergencies has resulted in a pool of resources in the region, which will contribute towards further capacity building of national societies in South Asia.

How we work	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. • Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies. • Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability. • Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.
Contact information	
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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA52001 - South Asia

Annual report 2008

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
Budget Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
Appeal	MAA52001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	1,156,769	1,107,166	857,016	121,508	583,719	3,826,178
B. Opening Balance	50,371	440,453	19,439	190	3,046	513,498
Income						
Cash contributions						
American Red Cross	74,775					74,775
Australian Red Cross	0					0
British Red Cross	832					832
British Red Cross (from British Government)	332,777					332,777
British Red Cross (from DFID - British Government)	223,927					223,927
Danish Red Cross			59,668			59,668
Danish Red Cross (from Danish Government)			96,436			96,436
ECHO	292,086					292,086
Japanese Red Cross	25,000	25,001	30,000	0	10,000	90,001
New Zealand Red Cross	0					0
Other	-619	164	2		-0	-452
Swedish Red Cross	91,139					91,139
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)		182,645	113,979	17,270	17,270	331,164
C1. Cash contributions	1,039,917	207,810	300,087	17,270	27,270	1,592,353
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
British Red Cross	7,728					7,728
British Red Cross (from British Government)	-136,371					-136,371
Danish Red Cross			3,406			3,406
Danish Red Cross (from Danish Government)			48,994			48,994
ECHO	118,261					118,261
New Zealand Red Cross	-1,695					-1,695
Swedish Red Cross	19,472					19,472
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	7,396		52,400			59,796
Inkind Personnel						
Danish Red Cross			114,907			114,907
Spanish Red Cross					52,800	52,800
Swedish Red Cross		43,840			59,933	103,773
C4. Inkind Personnel		43,840	114,907		112,733	271,480
Other Income						
Services					47,320	47,320
C5. Other Income					47,320	47,320
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	1,047,312	251,650	467,394	17,270	187,323	1,970,949
D. Total Funding = B + C	1,097,683	692,103	486,833	17,460	190,368	2,484,447
Appeal Coverage	95%	63%	57%	14%	33%	65%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	50,371	440,453	19,439	190	3,046	513,498
C. Income	1,047,312	251,650	467,394	17,270	187,323	1,970,949
E. Expenditure	-978,050	-387,819	-353,062	-7,381	-175,531	-1,901,843
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	119,632	304,284	133,772	10,079	14,837	582,603

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Budget	APPEAL

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure						Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	
A		B						A - B
BUDGET (C)		1,156,769	1,107,166	857,016	121,508	583,719	3,826,178	
Supplies								
Teaching Materials	18,100							18,100
Other Supplies & Services	2,400							2,400
Total Supplies	20,500							20,500
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	48,589	53,364	3,539	1,345		314	58,561	-9,972
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.		692				-663	30	-30
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	48,589	54,056	3,539	1,345		-349	58,591	-10,002
Transport & Storage								
Storage		5					5	-5
Transport & Vehicle Costs	35,600	1,069	9,631	6,282		5,267	22,249	13,351
Total Transport & Storage	35,600	1,073	9,631	6,282		5,267	22,254	13,346
Personnel								
International Staff	1,019,680	90,247	85,706	282,383		165,540	623,876	395,804
Regionally Deployed Staff	78,805	36,512	12				36,524	42,281
National Staff	320,415	101,490	61,736	12,256	6,508	-29,454	152,536	167,879
National Society Staff	17,400	278		1,885			2,163	15,237
Consultants	284,156	160,965	31,907	248			193,119	91,037
Total Personnel	1,720,456	389,492	179,361	296,772	6,508	136,086	1,008,219	712,237
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	909,760	300,302	80,437	12,582		349	393,669	516,091
Total Workshops & Training	909,760	300,302	80,437	12,582		349	393,669	516,091
General Expenditure								
Travel	276,935	69,898	31,772	12,444	312	2,173	116,599	160,336
Information & Public Relation	262,462	39,694	3,085	1,508		1,006	45,292	217,170
Office Costs	150,975	2,267	51,685	1,558		-6,968	48,541	102,434
Communications	33,723	13,171	5,872	1,729	80	1,801	22,654	11,069
Professional Fees			48				48	-48
Financial Charges	1,200	16,274	52			30,463	46,789	-45,589
Other General Expenses	117,276	10,953	-271	3,181		1,395	15,259	102,018
Total General Expenditure	842,571	152,256	92,243	20,420	393	29,871	295,183	547,389
Programme Support								
Program Support	248,702	66,813	22,609	15,635	480	4,182	109,718	138,984
Total Programme Support	248,702	66,813	22,609	15,635	480	4,182	109,718	138,984
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		14,059		27		125	14,210	-14,210
Total Operational Provisions		14,059		27		125	14,210	-14,210
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	3,826,178	978,050	387,819	353,062	7,381	175,531	1,901,843	1,924,335
VARIANCE (C - D)		178,719	719,347	503,954	114,127	408,188	1,924,335	