

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

PACIFIC: REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

6 February 2004

Appeal No. 01.71/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 1,353,390

Programme Update No. 2

Period covered: July to December 2003

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 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 79.8%; See attached Contributions List for details.

Outstanding needs: none

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A

Programme Summary: Capacity building programmes continued throughout the region, with clear progress being made in the areas of HIV/AIDS, blood donor recruitment, first aid and disaster management. The cyclone Ami operation in Fiji came to an end in July, with 23 water supply projects and 16 school repair projects completed as well as re-stocking of basic relief supplies. Regional priorities for the coming years were set out during a Pacific partnership meeting held in Brisbane.

Operational developments

An Australian-led regional assistance mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) was deployed on 24 July 2003 at the invitation of the government to restore law and order. The following months saw the voluntary surrender or arrest of key rebel leaders and followers, and a large number of arms were handed in under a weapons amnesty. The operation was carried out without any bloodshed, and led to significant improvements in the overall security situation, one of the main aims of the intervention. The Solomon Islands Red Cross provided humanitarian relief to those most affected, including internally displaced people in Honiara and on the Weathercoast. The operation was supported throughout by the ICRC, which re-opened its Honiara office in August.

In July, a Pacific regional partnership meeting in Brisbane provided the opportunity to discuss strategic and operational issues relevant to the region, leading to the adoption of the Pacific Action Plan for the coming years. The meeting was hosted by the Australian Red Cross and attended by representatives from all Red Cross societies of the Pacific region, as well as key partners.

The relief operation following the impact of cyclone Ami in Fiji ended in July, with all proposed school and village water supplies restored and school roof repairs completed.

Health and care

Goal: National societies in the Pacific have the necessary knowledge, information, skills and technical support to implement quality programmes in HIV/AIDS, first aid, community based self reliance and voluntary blood donor recruitment that meet the needs of the most vulnerable communities and individuals.

Objective: By the end of 2004, five national societies have the technical capacity in health and care to provide quality programmes and service delivery to the most vulnerable.

Expected result: National societies in the Pacific have access to and knowledge of HIV/AIDS resources to assist in the development and implementation of their programmes.

Progress/Achievements

The regional HIV/AIDS programme is well underway, with overall management responsibility delegated to the Australian Red Cross. Activities focused on agreed priorities including awareness, peer education and fighting discrimination and stigma. National societies organised specific HIV/AIDS activities for World AIDS Day. In addition to regular activities covering the entire region, the programme has now also entered the targeted stream phase. The technical HIV/AIDS committee received six proposals for targeted funding for programmes for 2004, three of which were selected by the committee – the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Kiribati. Representatives from these societies then attended a one week workshop and worked more closely with the facilitators on their programme. Prior to the workshop, the Pacific regional HIV/AIDS committee met to develop its terms of reference.

Following the Federation's formal acceptance into the Pacific Islands Region Country Coordinating Mechanism (PIRCCM) the regional health delegate and the Australian Red Cross project manager attended the fourth Pacific PIRCCM Global Fund meeting. The Federation has also been invited to the regional strategic group for coordinating HIV/AIDS activities in the Pacific. The group will be hosted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) as the principal recipient for the PIRCCM, with a first meeting scheduled for early 2004.

The UNAIDS office in Suva donated one hundred "Fleet of Hope" back-packs, which will be used for first aid and HIV/AIDS activities at the community level. The back-packs contain basic information and educational materials on HIV/AIDS and are a joint project by the regional delegation and UNAIDS.

Six field officers/volunteers participated in a youth peer education workshop run by the AIDS Task Force, Fiji. Puppet theatre remains a key activity for community education in the region. Samoa Red Cross volunteers developed new puppets, while the Cook Islands and Tonga Red Cross Societies facilitated training for new puppeteers. An evaluation of the puppet theatre approach will take place in 2004.

Expected result: Seven national societies' first aid programmes comply with agreed quality standards.

Progress/Achievements

The first aid quality management committee met in Melbourne to discuss progress, and agreed on key tasks for the future. Quality auditing continues and first aid technical audits have now been concluded in three countries, with four more to follow soon. The New Zealand Red Cross will fund a first aid delegate to be based in Suva for one year from early 2004, who will support the implementation of the agreed action plan.

First aid field officers teaching in maritime schools representing seven national societies were invited for the first time to attend the Maritime First Aid at Sea advance training conducted by SPC.

In September, World First Aid Day was marked in the region with seven national societies conducting special activities.

Expected result: In coordination with ICRC, two national societies have first aid in conflict programmes.

Progress/Achievements

The importance of developing guidelines and training modules for the provision of first aid in conflict situations was highlighted at the Brisbane partnership meeting. The head of delegation attended a workshop hosted by the ICRC in Jakarta on “safer access”, both *for* Red Cross workers and *to* people in need. The meeting was attended by national society staff from Nepal, Indonesia and three Pacific countries - Fiji, the Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea, as well as representatives from the Federation and ICRC. Further decisions on how best to incorporate first aid in conflict throughout the Pacific will be taken once the guidelines have been finalised in Geneva.

Expected result: Three national societies have the necessary expertise in vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) and community-based self reliance (CBSR) to work on small island communities.

Progress/Achievements

The Papua New Guinea and Cook Island Red Cross Societies continued community-based self reliance (CBSR) training in remote communities. A training of trainers (ToT) workshop, facilitated by the regional health and disaster management delegates as well as the secretary general of the Cook Islands Red Cross, was held for 23 participants from the Tonga Red Cross headquarters and branches in Nuku'alofa. An action plan for follow-up by three Tonga Red Cross branches was developed during the meeting.

Expected result: Five national societies have well-functioning voluntary blood donor recruitment programmes and up-to-date databases.

Progress/Achievements

A safe blood workshop was held in Kiribati for Red Cross and Ministry of Health staff, in close cooperation with and funded by World Health Organisation (WHO). The workshop was facilitated by the secretary general of the Samoa Red Cross.

Red Cross societies in Tonga, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands revised their memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Health regarding their role and legal responsibilities in blood donor recruitment. Both the Kiribati and Samoa Red Cross Societies are in the process of concluding a similar agreement. Blood donor databases have been updated in eleven national societies, and further database development will take place in 2004.

A 30-minute interview with the regional health delegate on voluntary blood donor recruitment was broadcast on television in 16 Pacific countries.

A regional workshop on safe blood and voluntary blood donor recruitment took place in early December in Suva. A total of 24 national society staff will be trained in using the Federation's “Making a Difference” manual for recruiting voluntary non-remunerated blood donors. They will also have skills to plan and implement programmes on donor recruitment in their national societies. The workshop will be co-funded by the Global Fund for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (GFATM) and the Japanese Red Cross Society.

Expected result: Five national societies have benefited from each others experiences and capitalised on opportunities offered by the Red Cross partners and external agencies.

Progress/Achievements

The review of the regional health and care programme was debated at the Brisbane partnership meeting. The main conclusions and comments were taken into consideration for the Pacific Action Plan and the annual appeal 2004.

Regional and national workshops on HIV/AIDS, safe blood and CBSR promoted the sharing of ideas and experiences by participants, and two national societies have been co-facilitating workshops for sister societies.

In general, Red Cross societies have been more involved with their respective Ministries of Health and with other partners such a WHO and the National Aids Councils. The regional delegation also continues to liaise with external partners such as SPC, UNDP, UNICEF, UNAIDS and the Pacific Island AIDS Foundation (PIAF), and

participated in meetings of the working group for health and population of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific.

Impact

During the reporting period there has been clear progress in all programme areas. First aid technical audits show improvements in both quality and coverage, and the well-established first aid working group is providing guidance and direction to national societies. Most national societies have now incorporated HIV/AIDS programming into their agendas, often integrating the issue into regular activities, and three national societies are taking part in the targeted stream. The review of the health and care programme was completed, and a final report submitted to the regional delegation and at the 11th Partnership meeting. While generally positive, it highlighted the need for communication and closer national society ownership and involvement in programme design.

Perhaps the most significant impact has been in the area of safe blood, where national societies are defining their roles and responsibilities in voluntary blood donor recruitment and stepping up involvement. The number of voluntary blood donors has increased throughout the region, and it is hoped that this positive trend will continue.

Constraints

Effective communication within and between national societies remains an important challenge. There is often poor access to internet and e-mail, and information does not always reach those intended. Narrative reporting also continues to be relatively weak, and certainly needs to be improved further.

As described above, most national societies in the Pacific have limited human and financial resources to carry out their work. Volunteer development is a major challenge for the future and will be crucial to the effectiveness of community programmes and branch development alike.

Disaster Management

Following the initial response to cyclone Ami in Fiji earlier in 2003, the Federation supported the Fiji Red Cross in rehabilitation and reconstruction projects throughout the most affected areas of Vanua Levu and Taveuni. With funding made available through a separate emergency appeal, village water supplies were restored in 23 communities, while roof repairs were carried out in 16 schools. In addition, essential relief items such as blankets, tarpaulins, jerry cans and kitchen sets were re-stocked, and a basic radio-communication network was set up.

Goal: National societies have the capacity and resources to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable in times of emergency.

Objective: By the end of 2004, three national societies have the technical capacity to provide quality services to the most vulnerable in times of emergencies.

Expected result: Four national societies have workable disaster management plans in place.

Progress/Achievements

The Palau Red Cross hosted its first disaster management planning workshop in early November as part of an initiative to develop its national disaster plan. Board members, emergency response team leaders and government representatives participated, and the Red Cross' role in emergencies identified and discussed.

The Micronesia Red Cross hosted a national disaster management planning workshop from 11 to 14 November, with continued support from Japanese Red Cross Society's Kanagawa chapter. The workshop followed on from the completion of state workshops and drafting of action plans in four states (Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap and Chuuk). The national society's staff and volunteers from these four state chapters, as well as representatives from their state governments, attended and discussed the society's roles and responsibilities in times of emergencies. The disaster management plan developed in January 2002 was also reviewed.

Expected result: Disaster preparedness (DP) container projects in six national societies in the Pacific are managed in a sustainable manner

Progress/Achievements

Additional DP containers were procured in Fiji, while those in the Solomon Islands and Tonga were replenished earlier in the year. The Samoa Red Cross relocated four DP containers in Apia to its new Red Cross compound, and moved a further DP container on the island of Savai'i to a safer location. The national society's volunteers also built proper foundations as well as a roof for the DP containers in Apia.

Expected result: The regional emergency management core group is functioning and is an advisory body to the national societies.

Progress/Achievements

The second emergency management core group meeting was held in Tonga in the last week of October during which core members of Pacific national societies and participants from the Australian and New Zealand Red Cross Societies further discussed key activities of the Pacific Action Plan. The Pacific contingency plan 2003-2004 was also drafted as a guideline for national societies before and during the upcoming cyclone season. The contingency plan has been circulated to all national societies for comments and appropriate actions.

The core group also produced a tailored CD-ROM with relevant disaster management information for the Pacific. The provision of such information was in response to societies' information needs, where internet access is often limited due to high cost or technical constraints. The InfoWeb CD-ROM provides necessary information and tools, and is intended to help strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of Pacific national societies in disaster management.

Expected result: Targeted communities in three national societies have identified their vulnerabilities and capacities; three national societies have necessary expertise in vulnerability and capacity assessment and community-based self reliance to work with small remote island communities.

Progress/Achievements

In collaboration with the regional delegation, the Samoa Red Cross hosted a community disaster management planning workshop from 23-24 July attended by community leaders. Focus of the workshop was on the Red Cross' role in disasters, vulnerability and capacity assessment, community-based disaster management planning and possible climate change adaptation projects.

The regional health and disaster management delegates facilitated a joint community-based self reliance ToT course in Tonga from 27 to 31 October, attended by 23 Tonga Red Cross staff, volunteers and branch officers. The secretary general of the Cook Islands Red Cross facilitated and shared technical experiences and skills with participants. Following the workshop participants identified needs and designed a project, currently under review for potential support by the Federation delegation.

Expected result: National societies have benefited from each other's experiences and capitalised on opportunities offered by Red Cross partners and external agencies.

Progress/Achievements

Disaster management featured prominently on the agenda of the Brisbane partnership meeting and all partners agreed on the broad outline of the Pacific Action Plan.

An assessment of the possible future Red Cross role in climate change mitigation and adaptation was carried out by a South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) climate change adaptation officer and an independent consultant, with a view to developing a concrete programme proposal. The assessment was funded and carried out in collaboration with the Netherlands Red Cross Centre for Climate Change. The team met with all national societies in Brisbane, carried out field trips to the Cook Islands and Samoa, and met with other agencies such as the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The finalised proposal has been incorporated into the Federation's 2004 annual appeal.

The regional disaster management delegate participated in the Federation's global disaster management coordinators/delegates meeting in Panama in October, where participants exchanged knowledge and skills and discussed key issues in disaster management. The Federation also participated in the United Nations Disaster

Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Pacific development meeting hosted by UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). It was noted that the challenges of deployment following disasters echoed Federation experiences with its field assessment and coordination team (FACT) system.

Impact

National level disaster management planning workshops have increased the understanding of national society staff and volunteers in relation to Federation disaster mechanisms and tools such as disaster relief emergency fund (DREF), disaster management information system (DMIS) and vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA). These workshops also initiated information sharing between societies.

Emergency Core Group in the Pacific (EMCG) activities have greatly improved communication and information sharing in technical disaster management issues. The sharing of information has been enhanced between the regional delegation and national societies as well as among national societies themselves.

National societies have gradually started playing an active role in the entire disaster management cycle. They are therefore able to contribute not only in emergency response but also in preparedness, prevention and mitigation. For instance, several national societies including the Samoa, Cook Islands, Palau, and Micronesia Red Cross Societies were involved in various disaster prevention measures and discussions with their government partners in bio-terrorism initiatives and climate change adaptation projects.

Constraints:

Most national societies have a limited human resource base. They have few office staff, each of whom are assigned to multiple tasks and responsibilities and therefore have heavy work loads. As a result progress can be slow and there are delays in reporting, including regular stock reports and national society well-preparedness self-assessment questionnaires.

Due to these limited human resources, pre-arrangements for the upcoming cyclone season have also been difficult to finalise within relatively short periods of time. It is therefore still necessary for the regional delegation to assist a number of national societies with the pre-arrangements. To ensure national society self-sufficiency a solution to improve human resource capacity in disaster management needs to be found.

Organisational Development

Goal: National societies in the Pacific have the organisational and technical capacity to provide quality programmes that focus on the needs of the most vulnerable.

Objective: To have five functioning national societies with an organisational management capacity that enables them to provide quality programmes and services by the end of 2004.

Expected results:

1. Coordination and networks between Red Cross Red Crescent partners and relevant agencies have assisted in the development of specific regional resources and strategic alliances.
2. Five national societies have the technical skills to plan, implement, monitor, evaluate their programmes and have the financial structures and systems to support their programmes and service delivery.
3. Three national societies have sufficient numbers of skilled volunteers to carry out their programme activities. Effective volunteer management is operational in five national societies for their health and disaster management programmes.
4. Leadership in five national societies is adequate whereby ensuring organisational change has commenced, which has resulted in improved programme and service delivery and effective governance and management practices.

Progress/Achievements

Following a final revision and adoption of its new constitution, the Micronesia Red Cross was recognised officially by the ICRC in November 2003. Together with the Cook Islands Red Cross, which gained recognition in 2002, it was admitted as a member of the International Federation in November. This formal recognition and admission is a tribute to the dedication and commitment of board members, staff and volunteers sustained over many years during which the societies in formation carried out their humanitarian role.

The capacity building programme in the Solomon Islands, supported by the Australian Red Cross, was delayed as the national society resumed a strong operational role providing humanitarian relief to people affected by the conflict. At the same time, the society saw a change of leadership, with the new secretary general taking up position formally at the end of the year. With the RAMSI operation progressing well, it is hoped that planned activities can resume in early 2004. The regional delegation hosted the Australian Red Cross technical adviser for the Solomon Islands capacity building project during the last quarter of the year, providing a solid basis for continued cooperation in 2004.

Organisational development priorities agreed during a joint ICRC/Federation mission to Vanuatu in early 2003 were discussed with all main partners during a side-meeting in Brisbane. The delegation's finance officer visited the Vanuatu Red Cross to review financial systems, and to provide support for planning, budgeting and reporting. Capacity building efforts will be stepped up during 2004, including further training of board members, staff and volunteers.

A three-day strategic planning workshop was held in Kiribati in November. A draft development plan will now be shared for further consultation with external partners' formal adoption in early 2004.

Constraints

The regional OD programme was carried out without a full-time delegate for most 2003, even though the programme is seen as a cornerstone to further capacity building efforts in all programme areas. The position was re-opened and subsequently filled in November, supported by the New Zealand Red Cross. It is expected that concrete organisational development support to national societies can now be stepped up significantly.

Regional Cooperation

The Pacific Action Plan was formally adopted at the 11th Pacific partnership meeting in Brisbane, in July. The meeting was hosted by the Australian Red Cross Queensland state branch and funded by AusAID, with further contributions from the New Zealand and Japanese Red Cross Societies. Follow-up will include the preparation of a concrete implementation plan, which was discussed with all partners in December. Meanwhile the cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) process for Papua New Guinea (PNG) was set in motion with a first meeting held in July, where the PNG Red Cross outlined its priorities for the next years. It is expected that the CAS process in the Solomon Islands will be initiated during 2004.

Representatives from almost all Pacific national societies attended the Movement's statutory meetings in Geneva, providing a forum for dialogue consultation on key humanitarian challenges both at a global and regional level.

Coordination and Management

Coordination and planning were key issues discussed in general at the Brisbane partnership meeting. The Movement's approach to the evolving situation in the Solomon Islands was discussed at a separate side-meeting, and again at a follow-up meeting hosted by the ICRC in Sydney. *Ad-hoc* coordination meetings are also added on to already scheduled events where feasible, such as the one following the Movement's basic training course in Wellington, New Zealand.

The basic infrastructure of the regional delegation was reviewed and discussed with all partners. As stated earlier, a regional organisational development delegate joined the team in November. With the support of the Asia Pacific regional reporting unit, an internship position for reporting was developed and an officer took up the position, also in November. It is expected that this position will be maintained on a revolving six-monthly basis, whereby the focus would shift gradually from meeting Federation needs and standards to directly supporting national societies. Following the revision of the Asia Pacific communications strategy it was decided that information and

communication needs should be addressed through a part-time delegate/consultant based in New Zealand, providing tailored support as and when required. It is foreseen that a local information officer will be recruited in Suva sometime during 2004.

Consolidation of the regional team - including PNG - will hopefully allow for closer integration of health, DM and OD programmes, and further development of appropriate tools and methodologies in support of Pacific national societies.

Priorities for the coming year will focus on the country-tailored implementation of the Pacific action plan, and the negotiation of multi-year support from new and existing donors and partners in support of this. New donors to the region include the Chinese government through the Chinese Red Cross who contributed to health programmes and regional coordination, and the GFATM through the secretariat of the Pacific community, who contributed to the safe blood workshop.

For further information please contact:

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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 (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,353,390	TOTAL COVERAGE 79.8%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				290,924		
AMERICAN - R C		28,739	FJD	19,410	24/01/2003	EMERGENCY MGT TRAINING COURSE
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		33,000	EUR	48,692	17.03.03	HEALTH & CARE
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		9,000	EUR	13,937	09.12.03	HEALTH & CARE
JAPANESE - RC		166,362	USD	214,191	13.06.03	HEALTH & CARE, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, COORDINATION, INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION
JAPANESE - RC		135,647	USD	183,259	26.06.03	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
NEW ZEALAND - RC		3,125	NZD	2,356	15.05.03	
NEW ZEALAND - RC		75,000	NZD	56,550	15.05.03	TRAINING FOR INSTRUCTORS FIRST AID
NEW ZEALAND - RC		10,000	NZD	7,505	01.06.03	PARTNERSHIP MEETING
NEW ZEALAND - GOVT/NZAID		100,000	NZD	78,300	03.07.03	CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME
NEW ZEALAND - RC		76,553	NZD	60,171	15.10.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DELEGATE
SPC/GFATM		25,000	USD	33,050	08.10.03	WORKSHOP VOLUNTARY BLOOD DONATION
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,008,345	CHF	74.5%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			59,959		
NEW ZEALAND	DELEGATE(S)			11,335		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				71,294	CHF	5.3%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	