

Report 2006-2007



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

THE CARIBBEAN

Appeal No. MAA49001

Launch Date: 03/04/2008

This report covers the period of 01/01/2006 to 31/12/2007 of a two-year planning and appeal process.



Jamaica Red Cross volunteers conduct assessments after the passage of Hurricane Dean. Source: Jamaica Red Cross

In brief

Goal: National Societies in the Caribbean region are implementing efficient, responsive and focused programmes that contribute to improving the lives of vulnerable people. These programmes are aligned with the International Federation's 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".

Programme Summary: The fragility of the region to natural disasters has been in evidence during these past two years, with responses to disasters requiring international assistance for floods in Suriname, Guyana and Jamaica and the 2007 hurricane season affecting the territories of Dominica, St Lucia, Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, Martinique, Belize, Bahamas, Dominican Republic and Haiti.

This has reinforced the intense need for effective Disaster Risk Reduction programme and predominantly with funding from ECHO, intensive efforts have been made to focus on community risk reduction in the region, with efforts made to increase the profile of the Red Cross in the region to alert other partners of the need for enhanced community resilience and the production of effective standardised tools the Red Cross Societies can use in this regard.

The Regional Health programme has continued to respond to the compounded traumatic effects that the HIV AIDS pandemic is having in this region, with programmes focussing on prevention and anti stigma, with the end of 2007 seeing the Caribbean embark on an intensive process of a HIVAIDS Global Alliance, with four National Societies. The regional health programme has also expanded to tackle other imminent health concerns in the region, such as the promotion of the voluntary blood non remunerated blood, with the promotion of a "Club 25" programme aimed at young people, which is vital for the response to chronic health emergencies in the region.

In order to tackle the numerous challenges faced in the region continued consideration has been given to how the Red Cross is best organised to respond, including capacity building support of NS, new inter Americas Plan and the restructuring of the Federation Secretariat.

Far greater attention has been devoted to the capacity building of NS, with an appointment in the Federation office of a staff member devoted to looking at promotion of organisational development tools as well as the capacity building elements of the programmes, to help support the many and varied needs of the NS in the region. This work has been enhanced by a successful bid to the Federation's Capacity Building Fund which will support the NS focus on volunteering and youth in the region.

The Inter American Conference in 2007, resulting in a new Plan of Action, 2007-2011, helps set the collective strategic direction for the Red Cross in the Americas over the next four years.

The Federation has undergone substantial reorganisation in order to better meet the needs of the region, with the Federation of the Future process seeing the creation of an Americas Zone in Panama as part of the decentralisation process. This has meant the change of the Caribbean Sub Regional Office, to a Caribbean Regional Representation Office with direct reporting to the Zone. Linked to this was the creation of a Federation Representative to support Dominican republic, Haiti and Cuba, working to create closer connections with these countries and the rest of the region.

Overall the 2006 -2007 Appeal received 52 percent coverage, however the majority of the funding was for Disaster management and Health programmes, whereas far greater support is needed in relation to capacity building, humanitarian principles and values and coordination activities to ensure the Federation can successfully fulfil its mandate to support to the NS and delivering the membership services.

Needs: 2006 and 2007 Appeal target: CHF 5,720,181 (USD 5,116,441 or EUR 3,466,776); (of which 52% is covered); **Click here to go directly to the attached financial reports:**

[report 2006](#)

[report 2007](#)

[report 2006/2007](#)

Related Reports:

- Report 2006
- Report 2007
- Hurricane Dean
- Hurricane Noel
- PADRU Report 2006/ 2007
- Central America Report 2006/ 2007

No. of people we help:

The Regional Representation for the Caribbean focused on building the capacities of the National Societies in the region. Therefore the direct beneficiary of the representations programmes are the National Societies – their staff at headquarters and branch level, governance bodies and volunteers. In addition, various projects and programmes carried out by the National Societies with support of this Representation, have reached the following number of population beneficiaries:

Programme	Number of People Assisted
Health	By the end of 2006 a total of 75,676 young persons had been reached by "Together we Can" HIV AIDS peer education programme since its inception in Jamaica in 1993. An additional 43,548 peers were reached by ten National Societies during 2007.
Disaster Response (through	

PADRU) Suriname Floods Guyana Floods Jamaica Floods Hurricane Dean Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,000 families / 20,000 people • 80 families / 400 people • 200 families / 1000 people • More than 6,537 families assisted in the relief response in Jamaica, Dominica, St Lucia & Haiti • 168 trained “Community Disaster Response Team” volunteers, from • 14 teams, were actively involved in Jamaica Red Cross response to hurricane Dean and continue to be engaged in the recovery phase of the operation including livelihoods support • 10,225 families/50,700 persons
Hurricane Noel Response	
Disaster Risk Reduction	DIPECHO V programme focussing on community risk reduction reached 58,231 beneficiaries
HPV	More than 75,900 visitors to the Caribbean’s regional website www.caribbeanredcross.org

Our partners: Relationships have been strengthened over these two years with key Red Cross partners working in the region, such as the French, Americans and Finnish Red Cross. Key relationships continue with the PNS with the British and Netherlands Red Cross in relation to their overseas branches in the region. A strong emphasis towards the end of 2007 has been the building of partnership with key external partners, through active participation in the East Caribbean Donor Group, (a group consisting of representatives of key intergovernmental agencies and NGOs in the region) and continuing to explore options for closer collaboration with some key partners including the Caribbean Disaster & Emergency Response Agency, (CDERA), OXFAM and UNDP. The relationship with CRN+ has also been strengthened with Federation taking a lead role in supporting the peer education among their networks of PLWHA and providing support for participation at the Annual CRN+ meeting.

Current context

The Caribbean, a region composed principally of small island states, faces unique social, economic, and environmental challenges. Socially, the region is affected by a proliferation of urban slums, a “brain drain” with the migration of educated people and the persistence of areas of entrenched poverty. A disturbing development has been the significant increase in the number of people living with HIV and AIDS, with this -region having the second highest sero-positive prevalence rate after sub Saharan Africa. The Caribbean has also seen an upsurge in negative social phenomena such as drug-use, crime and domestic violence.

Economically the region struggles with limited resource bases and stagnant economies. Communications and transportation constraints and economies heavily reliant on fragile sectors such as tourism and the production of primary products, leave the countries open to the adverse effects of global economic trends, already seen with a decrease in demand for traditional agricultural exports. Environmentally, the region remains vulnerable to a range of natural disasters including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and flooding from hurricanes and tropical storms, while climate change poses a serious threat to a region already vulnerable to meteorological extremes. The 2007 hurricane season saw the region struggle with the impact of two category five hurricanes.

The Caribbean Regional Office supports the 16 NS in the region and the overseas branches to manage these challenges with support to disaster preparedness, working closely with PADRU to the response to the disasters when they occur and a strong focus on HIVAIDS programmes.



Several communities were affected by Hurricanes Dean and Felix and the Red Cross provided both response and relief



The RIT Deployment Kits which were sent to several islands in the Caribbean to assist in their disaster response

Progress towards objectives

Health

Programme Objective: National Societies in the region have increasingly adhered to the commitments in health and care programme as set out in the Global Agenda particularly with respect to the development of their health departments, and in the areas of HIV and AIDS, health in emergencies, community health, the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD), psycho-social support (PSP) and water and sanitation.

Achievements: The overall focus in the Health and Care sector during 2006-2007 was on strengthening Red Cross entities in the Caribbean to mobilize, advocate for, and deliver quality health programmes of appropriate scale and emphasis, to reduce vulnerabilities in communities.

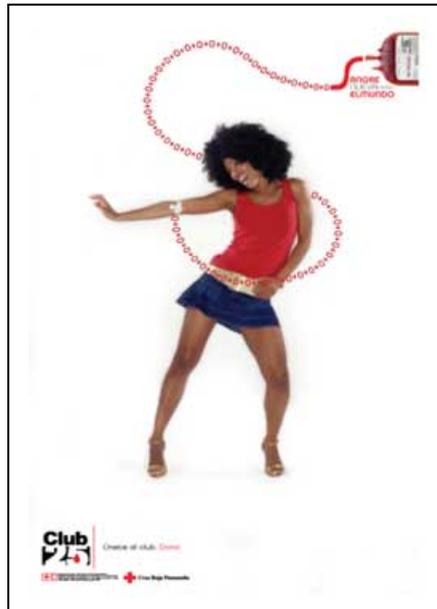
The Regional Health Programme continued to make great strides through the “Together We Can” (TWC), the regional flagship HIV and AIDS peer education programme. With the continued support of the Norwegian Red Cross, the Caribbean National Societies continued to scale-up impact in reaching more peers. By the end of 2006 a total of 75,676 young persons had been reached by the programme since its inception in Jamaica in 1993. An additional 43,548 peers were reached by ten National Societies during 2007.

A major achievement of the Regional Health Programme was its selection as a priority region for the HIV Global Alliance. The HIV Global Alliance is an enabling framework to mobilize capacities and resources to provide harmonized, effective support to National Societies for the achievement of their HIV programmes within the framework of the Federation’s Global Agenda. In the first instance, four Caribbean National Societies were chosen to participate in the rolling out of this approach – Belize, Guyana, Haiti, and Jamaica. The preparations for the implementation of the Global Alliance approach in the region began with a visit from the Federation’s Special Representative for HIV and AIDS, Dr. Mukesh Kapila to Jamaica and Haiti. This was followed by a Continental Global Alliance Workshop held in Panama in September 2007 which sought to introduce and familiarize the National Societies to this new concept and framework and to strategically plan our future work in this field. The NS then embarked on an intensive planning process, which culminated in a regional peer review meeting in Jamaica in October.

In 2006 and 2007 there was also a focus on advocacy around protection against HIV/AIDS with the “*Nobody has the Truth Written on their Face. Protect Yourself. Use a Condom*” campaign which was designed by McCann Erickson. By the end of 2006, eight National Societies and Overseas Branches (Jamaica RC, Guyana RC, Dominica RC, St. Lucia RC, Belize RC, Barbados, Curacao and Cayman Islands RC) had launched the campaign. In 2007, with the support of Norwegian Red Cross, six more Caribbean NS (Belize, Dominica, Haiti, Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago) also joined the campaign.

Major efforts have accompanied social mobilization initiatives during 2006 and 2007. Such is the case within the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation using the “Club 25” strategy, which encourages young people to give blood. A total of six Caribbean National Societies took part in the

implementation of the “Club 25” Continental Plan of Action from which three received direct financial support from the Finnish Red Cross, as part of a three year partnership commitment. Haiti, Dominican Republic and Jamaica were provided with funding in 2007 and St. Lucia, Guyana and Suriname will come on board with the funding in 2008. Additionally, a methodology for the monitoring and evaluation of the strategy has been developed. A major contribution to this campaign was the design of the promotional material by the marketing firm, McCann Erickson.



One of the posters produced by advertising agency McCann Erickson for Club 25

In the area of Psychosocial Support Programmes (PSP), significant improvement has been made. In 2006, a Jamaican Red Cross Mental Health Professional designed a Caribbean PSP methodology in December 2006, with field tests taking place during 2007 in Belize, Jamaica and Grenada. Final revisions of the manual and handbook are currently being undertaken with roll-out to six NS expected to take place in 2008.

In November 2006 the Caribbean Regional Representation Office contracted an external consultant as part of a global and regional process to support increased efforts regarding the avian influenza and pandemic human influenza. The consultancy focused on the capacity and readiness of the NS in the region for an avian/human influenza pandemic as well as on the broader national frameworks through visits to Ministries of Health and/or Agriculture. While all Countries have at least a draft of a National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan, focus now needs to be given to the development of the NS, to have their own avian influenza preparedness plan.

The health team also contributed to the development of health action plans in the Dean and Felix operations in 2007. Stemming from this, there have also been some discussions with PADRU on the development of a health action template which would act as a guide in responses to natural disasters. This template includes an assessment of Water and Sanitation needs, sensitisation on key health areas such as HIV and AIDS and other health areas such as Malaria, Dengue and TB.

Constraints or Challenges: There is a great demand to meet the health challenges in the region. While the HIV and AIDS, as well as the Club 25, programmes continue to be generously supported by Norwegian and Finnish Red Cross Societies, a number of other initiatives remain unfunded. With a number of new initiatives coming on board in 2008 serious attention must be paid to further fund raising efforts

Looking Ahead: 2008 will be a busy year for the Regional Health Programme. The Global Alliance on HIV and AIDS will be launched and rolled out among the first tier countries, while an additional five National Societies will be brought in on the second round. Also, coming out of the XVIII Inter Americas Conference in 2007, Road Safety and Harm Reduction were added as new programme areas. Once funding allows, attention will be given to focussing on road safety with some of the Caribbean NS in 2008.

Disaster Management and Community Risk Reduction

Objective: Strengthened National Societies and Overseas Branches are working to reduce risks, making communities safer and more resilient to disasters, and their capacity to respond to sudden and slow onset disasters is improved by further reinforcing the regional disaster response system.

Achievements: 2007 saw the successful completion of the ECHO funded project, "Building on Capacity: Integrated disaster preparedness for a comprehensive response in the Caribbean". The project contained a range of activities including Regional Intervention Team (RIT) trainings, RIT deployments, skills sharing, internships, the annual Pre Hurricane Meeting to mention a few.

A heavy emphasis of this programme, was training for response. In early July, three RIT activities took place in Panama. A RIT Refresher Meeting, a General RIT training and Logistics RIT training. The Federation has now pre-positioned four delegate/RIT deployment kits in the region. The kits contain the essential equipment and materials so that deployments can be more effective when they reach the disaster area.

Four members from the NS of Jamaica, Suriname, Guyana and the Cayman Island Branch of the British Red Cross, attended the Federation's Global Relief Training in Geneva during April 2007, helping to build the response capacity in the region, as these persons can not only be deployed in emergencies but also can assist with relief and DM training.

The Federation also conducted a training day on 'shelter' in Panama for the Americas at which Caribbean NSs attended. A short presentation on the shelter element of the 2006 Suriname Flood Operation was given by the PADRU DM delegate as it was the first opportunity where the Federation performed its role as shelter cluster coordinator in emergencies under the UN's 'humanitarian reform' process.

One of the last activities of 2007 was a new initiative. WatSan 'Water Testing' was conducted with three NSs, but what made this unique the facilitators were from the Suriname and Jamaica RC. The trainings were conducted in Trinidad, Belize and Antigua & Barbuda during November and December. Seven kits were purchased under the ECHO funded project and they have all been prepositioned in Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Jamaica and Belize as well as one kit in the Federation's office. All the trainings were much appreciated and the knowledge and professionalism of the facilitators made this initiative one of the major success of the ECHO project.



**Water and Sanitation (WatSan)
training being conducted for
members of the Belize Red Cross**

In preparation for what was predicted to be an above average hurricane season, a Pre Hurricane Meeting was held in Panama in May 2007 for NSs and Overseas Branches (OSBS) from Central America and the Caribbean, with participation of external partners, including donors, NGOs and UN organisations. The overall objective of the meeting was to develop a joint regional 'Contingency Plan' for the upcoming hurricane season. Resulting from the plans the NSs now have a clearer understanding of regional resources and response capacities. The exercise will also support them in developing their national contingency plans.

Indeed the 2007 annual Atlantic hurricane season, yet again saw destruction caused by hurricanes in the region, with two hurricanes, reaching catastrophic category 5. Hurricane Dean impacted the countries of Dominica, St Lucia, the Cayman Islands, Haiti, Jamaica, Belize and Mexico. While hurricane Felix spared much of the Caribbean, the NS were on standby and unfortunately Belize received some of its impact. The Caribbean Regional Representation worked closely with PADRU on supporting the response to Dean, with rapid distribution of relief supplies. Quick restocking of relief goods was also essential with Dean coming so early in the hurricane season. While the response was fast and effective, it was also encouraging to see the level of preparedness by the NS for the onslaught of Dean and the recognised value of the community disaster response teams in immediate response in some of the countries.



Relief goods being offloaded in Belize from PADRU after hurricane Dean

Following this hurricane season, the first ever post-hurricane meeting which was held in Port of Spain in December 2007. This proved to be a very useful and informative as NSs shared their experience and responses. It was also useful to encourage National Societies to work closer together before, during and after disasters and fell very much with the objective of the ECHO project.



In order to be better prepared for these disasters, the Disaster Risk Reduction programme continued to focus on strengthening the NSs and Overseas Branches in their risk reduction work at community level. This included the strengthening of the Red Cross Disaster Management Network, collaboration with the Red Cross Reference Centers in Costa Rica and El Salvador to translate and adapt training materials to the Caribbean context and further development of standard disaster management tools.

The DiPECHO V Project was launched in January 2006 and completed by March 1 2007. Through the DiPECHO V Project, 23 high-risk communities throughout Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Jamaica and St. Kitts & Nevis - participated in a process to identify and reduce risk in these communities, including use of the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA), conducting micro-mitigation activities, training and equipping Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs) and

preparation of Community Disaster Plans. Simulation exercises tested the plans and the skills of the CDRTs. Alliances with the National Disaster Offices and other partners were further strengthened by the signing of MOUs. A total of 58,231 beneficiaries were reached through the project.

In 2007, strengthened relationships with the Red Cross Climate Change Centre in the Hague were formalized through the signing of MoUs for the *'Preparedness for climate change – understanding and addressing the risks of climate change'* Programme. Ten NS have signed MoUs with the climate change centre and a MoU has also been signed with the Climate Change centre and the Federation to support the NS's work in the region. Almost all of these NS have completed their awareness workshops and are in the second stage of assessing the climate change related risk nationally in collaboration with the country focal point.

To continue the valuable efforts made in preparing NS for response to disasters, the Caribbean Regional Representation Office (CRRO) developed a new disaster risk reduction proposal, submitted to DIPECHO and subsequently successfully approved. The process for development of this DIPECHO VI proposal was done in close coordination with the Caribbean Disaster Management Network, who provided input to the criteria for selection and the final selection of the NS to implement the project.

The project began on 1 November 2007 and over 15 months will seek to improve the preparedness of Caribbean communities in the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname to respond to disasters, with at least 6,000 persons in vulnerable communities directly benefiting from this initiative. Additional support to this programme in terms of personnel and financial support from the American and Finnish Red Cross.

The first training activity of the project - the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) Refresher Training of Trainers – was also held in early December 2007. 24 NS/OSB participated in the training, which served to update their VCA knowledge and skills. The DIPECHO VI Induction Meeting was also successfully held in early December and brought together NS involved in the Federation, Norwegian and French Red Cross DIPECHO programmes.

The National Intervention Team (NIT) training material developed in Central America has now been translated into English. A consultant hired for three months and funded through the French Red Cross will complete the participants' and trainers' manuals as well as the presentations for regional validation in a pilot training to be done in partnership with the French Red Cross in February 2008.

Constraints or challenges: For DIPECHO V constraints included late start up of an activity dense project, mid-project changes of national project coordinators in three countries and the challenge of engaging communities at a time of high visibility regional events.

However, all the activities have been too heavily reliant on funding through ECHO, and there is a greater need to diversify the funding streams to continue the momentum of the Disaster management programme in the region.

Looking Ahead: The coming year will be an exciting time for the Caribbean DM with the implementation of the next DIPECHO programme. This will provide key support to the disaster preparedness capacity of three identified NS, while also importantly, supporting the entire region with the standardization of DM tools, specifically the Community and National Response teams – which will complement the development of the Regional Intervention Teams (RITs) system that PADRU has continued to strengthen.

Another important key focus will be on strengthening the coordination with the other PNS working in the DM areas to promote the common approach to the Red Cross work and strengthen our cooperation with other key actors in the region such as the Caribbean Disaster Emergency and Response Agency (CDERA) which is key to supporting the regional response and effective coordination in a region highly vulnerable to disasters.

.Organizational Development

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

Achievements: In 2006, the Caribbean Organizational Development Programme saw a significant expansion in its scope as it moved on from exclusively supporting the Regional Organizational Network (RODNET) of 15 individuals to addressing cross cutting issues affecting this highly diverse region. The programme supported strategic planning, the revision of statutes and leadership training with a special focus on volunteering.

The Belize Red Cross and the Jamaica Red Cross held General Assemblies and each adopted their revised statutes and strategic plans. Support was also given by the Federation and the ICRC to the Trinidad and Tobago and the Guyana Red Cross on the draft revision of their statutes. Guyana Red Cross submitted a successful proposal to the Empress Shôken Fund (2005-2006) for the construction of a training center for the Letham branch, a remote community largely populated by Amerindians on the Guyana/Brazilian border.

In 2006, Belize and Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross, along with a staff member from the Federation's Regional Office and, in 2007, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Jamaica and Belize Red Cross, sent representatives to a British Red Cross/ Federation fundraising workshop entitled, "Skillshare". Based on this experience the Belize Red Cross produced a strategic document for fund raising. A RODNET member from the Guyana Red Cross was supported financially to attend the International Fund Raising Skillshare workshop in the Netherlands in 2006. Unfortunately, a subsequent regional Resource Mobilization workshop to be facilitated by the participants, did not take place due to lack of available funding. It is hoped to hold this in 2008.

Volunteer Management was prioritized throughout 2006-2007, based on the pressing needs of the Caribbean Red Cross Societies. A Volunteer Management Toolkit was developed for the Caribbean Region which allows NS to have a more structured approach to recruiting, training and retaining volunteers both at governance and programme level as well as during emergency. Posted on FedNet and shared with the Center of Reference in Costa Rica, the toolkit was subsequently translated into Spanish and French. Although well received by the NS, more support is needed for roll out. Training on use of the toolkit was piloted in Saint Kitts & Nevis in November 2007 and will continue in 2008, starting with the countries responding to hurricane Dean, capitalizing on the opportunity to retain volunteers who worked during the emergency response. The three day training includes the *Ideals in Action* training, and focuses on the development of a NS volunteer strategy and plan of action. In 2006 the Dominican republic Red Cross participated in a workshop for the Central American National Societies in Panama on the development of a Regional Volunteering Strategy, focusing on key steps involving advocacy, protocols, training, regulations and management. The strategy will be further adapted for the Caribbean.



The Grenada Red Cross embarked on several initiatives to get more youth involved in the Red Cross

The Federation continued to provide technical and financial support to RODNET throughout 2006. RODNET terms of reference and several key training sessions were held for the members ranging from presentation of the 2006-2007 Regional Plan, branch development and integrated community development and how to carry out OD interventions. An OD intervention fact sheet template was designed, to capture experiences of RODNET members. Eleven fact sheets covered planning to volunteer and project management, conflict resolution, governing structure and human resources were completed. Through RODNET, 20 volunteer profiles and four case studies were presented at the Global Volunteer Conference held during the Federation's General Assembly in Seoul. Caribbean representation at the Global Volunteer in Emergencies Workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in April 2007, provided the opportunity to showcase the Volunteer Management Toolkit and provide Caribbean input to the recommendations for the improvements in policy and practice of volunteering in emergencies, for consideration by the Federation Governing Board, respective Federation Global Commissions and ultimately the General Assembly in November 2007. A RODNET member presented on human resources and volunteer management at the Global Human Resource Seminar held in Geneva in September 2007.

With support linked to HIV and AIDS, funded by the Norwegian Red Cross, a member of the Caribbean Regional Representational was able to focus in the latter half of 2007, on key capacity building support to the NS, with special attention to the HIVAIDS programme, but with focus on cross cutting issues, in particular, helping NS in the Caribbean meet the criteria of a *Well Functioning National Society*. An initial activity was the development of a database to establish an accurate picture of capacities within each NS and facilitate peer to peer sharing and exchange of skills. The process remains ongoing and will form the basis for the identification of areas of needed training and support and most importantly, highlight resources that exist within NSs.

A successful regional application to the Capacity Building Fund in 2007 will support capacity building in the Caribbean through 2008 and 2009. Focus will be on volunteer management and highlighting the role of volunteers through a regional visibility campaign, developing the leading role of youth and support to RODNET. One of the first roles of RODNET will be to assist CCORC in providing support to NS to align their strategic plans to the Guayaquil Inter-American Plan of Action 2007-2010.

Constraints or challenges: The monitoring tool designed for RODNET members was not used over the period, thereby making it difficult to assess the impact of the training RODNET members received in 2005. Support to all the regional networks, continues to be a challenge. Without some administrative/secretarial backup and funding for network meetings, it will be hard for the networks to be effective. Some assistance through the Capacity Building Fund will help and some funding opportunities exist for the DM Network and CARAN, but ComNet and the soon to be formed Youth Network will require considerably more support to be fully functional. Networks have been developed "as they go" on an individual basis rather than following a comprehensive approach. This has impacted coherency and consistency between them all.

In the two year period only one application to the Empress Shôken Fund was been successful.

Some NSs have Statutes which have been in force for more than 10 years. Time constraints and or lack of prioritization have been the main reasons cited for not starting or completing the process of review.

The Federation's Annual Appeal 2006 – 2007, did not receive the support necessary to provide the necessary OD support, vital for this region. The challenge will be to ensure that community and NS capacity development is planned into all programming and incorporated into all emergency response plans from the outset.

Looking ahead: Although RODNET as a network has not been meeting or functional as a body over the last 2 years, individual members have been providing ongoing technical OD support to the region. Interest and commitment from the members warrants the reinvigoration of RODNET. The DM Network

revitalized in 2006 has also been active in dissemination of information to the Caribbean, the development of DIPECHO VI and their representational role. However, all Networks do need to finalize their TORs and prepare plans of action in line with the Guayaquil Plan of Action 2007-2011.

Use of the Volunteer Management Toolkit will provide NS with the key tools necessary to develop their volunteer programmes. These tools, from developing a NS Volunteering Policy to recognition of volunteers will be further developed in 2008 and 2009, using regional Capacity Building Funds. A visibility campaign in areas of high population movement will highlight the importance and added value of volunteers in the Caribbean. Strengthening the engagement of youth, from NS governance to community work, is also a focus for the next two years and a planned Youth Forum is hoped to lead to the development of the Caribbean Youth Network - a strong request from youth coming out of the Guayaquil Inter-American Meeting in 2007.

Humanitarian Principles and Values (HPV)

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.

Achievements: As Red Cross entities in the Caribbean increasingly recognise the importance of clear communications strategies to improve and enhance their profiles locally, regionally and internationally, the CRRO has continued to develop regional tools such as the Caribbean Red Cross website and electronic newsletter “Caribbean News” and encouraged the recruitment of dedicated communications staff by NS.

Efforts were focussed on promoting the work of Caribbean NS and OSB and building their information and communications capacities, while working closely with all other programmes in the region in an effort to ensure that Humanitarian Principles and Values is incorporated into each core programme particularly HIV and AIDS and Disaster Management.

Strong emphasis was placed on the promotion and maintenance of communications tools such as the Caribbean website www.caribbeanredcross.org and the electronic newsletter “Caribbean News.” Five NS websites including Bahamas, Grenada, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Belize were developed and continue to be maintained by the CRRO. St Lucia and Guyana websites are currently under development. The newsletter which was only produced in hard copy was transformed into an electronic version due to lack of funding for printing. It now has a subscription base of well over 4,000 persons around the world, with constantly increasing figures. The CRRO also provide e-mail address to at least five NS under the Caribbean website.



Caribbean Red Cross website
www.caribbeanredcross.org



Caribbean Red Cross E-Newsletter

As well as the stories generated by the Federation for the website, in 2006, 89 stories were provided by NS and OSB, while in 2007, 126 stories and articles were posted. Several special pages were added to the website, including a section for the Hurricane Season, DIPECHO V Climate Change videos, World AIDS Day, World Red Cross Day, the 18th Inter-American Conference and World First Aid Day among others. The website also showed significant improvements in visitors during the last two years.

Website Statistics 2006-2007:

	January - May	May - December
2006	50,886	47,063
2007	50,789	75,917

Work continued on strengthening the communications network (ComNet) in the region. There were eight meetings (via skype) – four in 2006 and four in 2007. During these meetings the core groups discussed a number of issues including the the Terms of Reference (ToR), recruitment of communications focal points in NS and OSBs, joint network meetings and promoting greater use of communications tools like the website among others. The ToR was finalised in 2007 and is currently being reviewed by the CCORC.

The Regional Journalist Network lost some momentum because of the lack of funding to conduct trainings and meetings. However, efforts will be made in 2008 to revamp the network to ensure that our profile in the media is maintained.

In addition, the public awareness and advocacy resources of the CRRO were deployed in the context of the HIV and AIDS pandemic, replicating innovative pilot projects already pioneered in Central America such as the “Faces” and “Zero Percent” campaigns, and building on the anti-stigma campaigning experience of the Red Cross in the Caribbean

Challenges or Constraints: The HPV programme in the Caribbean has received no funding for its activities. The absence of funds has made it quite difficult to achieve some if not all of the objectives in the programme. There is a need to have greater fundraising efforts and/or secured funding for this programme area.

Looking Ahead: The HPV programme in the Caribbean has tried to facilitate the raising of awareness within the public and private sector domains to influence behaviour at the community level through its work with all programme areas such as HIV and AIDS and Disaster Management in order to renew our advocacy on priority humanitarian issues, especially fighting intolerance, stigma and discrimination. This is in keeping with Objective 4 of the Global Agenda which is to “Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.”

Despite the serious lack of funds for support to this programme, good progress has still been possible on the communications side using tools such as the newsletter and the website. However, resources are needed in this area to support the NS in the region to tackle some key social issues in their countries, including issues around youth, violence and migration. Programme support will be further investigated in these areas in 2008 and 2009.

Working in partnership

Partnerships with the Red Cross Movement have continued to be developed. The Caribbean’s Federation office and the Sub Regional office of the International Committee of the Red Cross have held four joint workshops for Caribbean National Societies in Trinidad over the last two years. These workshops focused on:

- the Seville Agreement and the Supplementary Measures;

- Communications - with the aim of harmonising all three components' activities to present a common image of the Movement and contribute to a greater understanding of the Red Cross by the public;
- Leadership and Governance, and;
- International Humanitarian Law.
- Communications workshop for regional journalist so that they have a better understanding of the Movement and its activities in the region.

Internally within the Red Cross Movement, strengthened relations with American and Finnish Red Cross have taken place through the development of the new 2007 - 2008 DIPECHO proposal. French Red Cross remain an important partner, with joint collaboration on the adaptation and roll out of the NITs manual and the development of an ECHO funded Water and Sanitation programme in Guyana that will start on 1 November

Outside of the Red Cross Movement the development and further progressing of partnerships has been a key focus. The Federation is continuing to develop strong partnerships with key organizations in the Caribbean. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the Federation participated in the ASC High Level conference on disaster risk reduction, working with the government in the region to promote their attention to disaster risk reduction measures. Time has been invested in developing the relationship with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) demonstrated by signed Memorandum of Understanding in 2006 and actively participating in a 2006 civil society sector consultation as part of a review of the Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategic Framework. The Federation is also privileged to have observer status on its steering group of CDERA institutional Strengthening Programme.

The Federation, together with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), partnered with the Canadian High Commission in Trinidad and Tobago to air the audio soap opera "*Rough Season*" in preparation for the 2006 hurricane season, which was again aired during 2007.

In the health programme, in the area of social mobilization, the McCann Erickson advertising agency continues the tremendous pro bono work they started with the Faces campaign. This time, they are lending their creative support to the development of the visibility campaign for the Voluntary Non-remunerated Blood Donor programme, Club 25. Also in the health programme, vital links are being made with other organizations. Time has been given to developing the partnership with CRN+ further. This has been formulated with an agreement that the Federation will work with CRN+ in support of their Global Fund programme, supporting peer education work with their networks of PLWHA.

Establishing the Red Cross as a valued partner in the region will be a priority of the coming year, to ensure that the Red Cross Movement is seen as a key player in tackling the specific vulnerabilities in the region, through active participation in regional fora as well as promotion of standardised tools for programmes.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The Caribbean Regional Representation worked to improve the regional capacity to respond to disasters through the scaling up of actions with vulnerable communities in disaster risk reduction. It has also significantly promoted respect for human dignity through tolerance, anti-stigma and non-discrimination messages in terms of HIV and AIDS advocacy and planning, contributing to the Federation's goals of the Global Agenda.

Concerning gender and diversity, all programmes aim towards ensuring a balance in numbers of women and men attending workshops and having access to training and development opportunities. However, this has not always been an easy approach since many of the NS have found difficulty in getting male participants. This is an area that will require greater effort in the future.

How we work

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 \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering quality and accountable 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>

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".

Global Agenda Goals:

- 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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To support or find out more about the Federation's programmes or operations, click on www.ifrc.org