

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central America and Mexico

Appeal No. MAA43001

17 December 2009

This report covers the period
01/January/2009 30/June/2009.



The Guatemalan Red Cross volunteers and staff promote reforestation with children through the climate change project carried out in the municipality of Chiquimula, Guatemala. **International Federation**

In brief

Programme purpose: Support the seven National Societies in the Central America and Mexico region, ensuring closer work with the National Societies, to effectively implement the Inter-American Plan 2007–2011.

Programme(s) summary: During this reporting period, the regional **Disaster Risk Reduction** programme has seen the implementation and updating of the Well Prepared National Society diagnosis, having now a total of six National Societies with current diagnostics, as well as an updated regional diagnostic. The two Centres of Reference have expanded their scope of action—both geographically as well as in the services they provide—increasing their role as facilitators of training for National Societies' staff, having trained 118 staff in the Americas for this period. Risk reduction and food security initiatives have been implemented within emergency response operations during the rehabilitation and recovery phase, with an aim to address the food security issues facing the region and to build capacities both at the community and Red Cross levels.

The **Health and Care** programme has focused on the implementation of the Global Alliance on HIV in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. The programme in Central America has not had a Health and Care focal point for most of the first six months of the year, and has had important support from the Principles and Values regional officer and the Zone Health and Care coordinator.

The **Organizational Development and Capacity-Building** programme has given particular attention to the restoration of integrity and governance of the Nicaragua Red Cross and to the re-activation of the regional Youth Network. This network has begun a new cycle where there is a

dedicated focal point in each National Society and regular meetings are held. The network has also started working together with other programmes, as in the case of Risk Reduction, with whom they are to participate in community micro-projects. The aim is to increase the presence and participation of the Youth sector in all areas of Red Cross actions in the region.

The regional **Principles and Values** programme has made progress during this period in supporting the incorporation of the Humanitarian Principles and Values (HPV) into the Honduras Red Cross' Strategy for the Prevention of Violence. Support has also been provided to the National Societies in the region for the review of the Federation's policies on Prevention of Violence and Migration.

Financial situation: The total 2009 budget is CHF 3,045,151 (USD 3,009,072 or EUR 2,018,327), of which CHF 2,547,018 (84 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 974,537 (32 per cent) of the budget.

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

No. of people we have reached: The Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico focuses on building the capacities of National Societies in the region. Consequently, direct beneficiaries of the Regional Representation's programmes are the National Societies themselves including their staff at headquarters and branch level, governance bodies and volunteers. In effect, the Regional Representation's indirect beneficiaries belong to the civil society since it is through the strengthening of the National Societies' capacities and the technical support offered, that methodologies, initiatives and activities as a whole can be carried out and implemented accordingly.

Our partners: The Regional Representation continues to work with Movement Partners in the region such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Finnish Red Cross, the German Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross.

Partners outside the Movement have also been instrumental in supporting the region's National Societies, amongst which: Albatros Foundation, DG ECHO, UK Department for International Development (DFID), CEPREDENAC (Centre for the Coordination of the Prevention of Natural Disasters), Llorente y Cuenca, Lions' Club, Más Publicidad, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), UNICEF, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), Global Fund, Oxfam, Trócaire, Care and Plan International.

Context

The Central America and Mexico region has continued to experience socio-political tensions, as well as an increase in social violence and the onset of the A(H1N1) epidemic. The international financial crisis started to affect the region's economies during the period, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) predicts a decrease in the remittances entering the region, as well as a return of some migrants to their home countries.

Mexico has been facing many issues in different fronts, as authorities continue to fight illegal drug trade and the resulting social violence and corruption of public servants. What is now the A(H1N1) pandemic started in Mexico in April 2009, and the discovery of what was then a new and unknown strain of virus had devastating effects on the Mexican economy.

Honduras experienced socio-political turmoil that resulted in the constitutional president being ousted by the military and the instalment of a de-facto government in late June. In May, a 7.3 magnitude

earthquake struck off the Caribbean coast of Honduras, which promoted the response of the Honduras Red Cross with the support of the Federation and the ICRC.

Guatemala has been facing food insecurity issues for years, which has recently been exacerbated by the diminishing purchasing power of the poor, resulting in increased vulnerability of already extremely vulnerable numerous populations.

The National Red Cross Societies in the region have been responding to the above mentioned situations in line with their auxiliary role to the government and with their humanitarian mandate. The Federation's Regional Representation has closely followed and supported each one of the Societies, stretching its human resources to the limit, as available funding is increasingly limiting the percentage that can be allocated to programme staff.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Risk Management

Programme purpose

Global Agenda Goal 1: Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
--

The floods operations for Costa Rica and Panama are now being handled by the Regional Representation, as the emergency response phase has been completed. The plans of action for the rehabilitation phase are being identified using a coordinated and holistic approach to ensure that the remaining resources will be used to gain maximum benefits for the affected communities while also building the local Red Cross capacities.

The rehabilitation phase of the Tabasco floods operation in Mexico has been closed with full success both at the community level as well as in terms of capacity-building of the National Society in Disaster Risk Reduction.

Programme Component 1: Disaster Management Planning
--

Outcome 1 National Societies have improved capacities to plan for disasters at the national and local level, utilizing materials and training processes that have been harmonized with National Societies and Centres of Reference in the Central America region.
--

Well-Prepared National Society

The results of the Well-Prepared National Society (WPNS) diagnosis, which took place in 2007 in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua, have served as the base for disaster risk reduction planning and implementation in the region. The National Societies of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador have incorporated the information stemming from the diagnosis as a baseline for their implementation of the DFID-funded projects as part of the four-year institutional strategy. The National Societies of Costa Rica and Panama are part of the Federation's Global Alliance on Disaster Risk Reduction, and as a requirement, they need to undergo a revision of the WPNS in order to integrate the needs into their Global Alliance plans.

The Mexican Red Cross also underwent a WPNS diagnosis. This National Society had not done so thus far, but has gone ahead with the diagnosis in the 32 states under the framework of the work they are doing now with the American Red Cross.

Since there will now be six current WPNS diagnosis in the region, the consolidated regional WPNS analysis will be updated with an aim to have a clear view of the regional needs.

National plans

A regional training on the use of response and contingency guidelines took place in February, hosted and organized by the Centre of Reference in El Salvador, with the participation of the focal points of all seven National Societies, with the co-facilitation of the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and under the regional DIPECHO programme. As a result of this training there is now a regional team of facilitators that supports contingency planning in their own National Societies or can provide support to other National Societies, with the technical support of the Centre of Reference for Disaster Preparedness based in El Salvador.

The Honduras Red Cross now has a national response plan, which has been accomplished through the important support of DFID under its capacity-building initiative. This is an important achievement, as there had been major obstacles in the past, and the National Society is now working and making good progress on the various contingency plans. The Salvadoran Red Cross Society has also started to update their National Response Plan under a participative process also with the support of DFID. The National Red Cross Societies of Costa Rica and Panama have had some difficulties thus far, though efforts are ongoing to continue to further the processes.

In general, the Red Cross in the region has a good momentum going in terms of using existing capacities and building new ones for the development of national and contingency plans. The Centre of Reference for Disaster Preparedness in El Salvador has been instrumental in this process.

Programme Component 2: Organizational Preparedness

Outcome 1 Seven National Societies and branches have trained volunteers and staff, ready to apply standard tools, using integral approaches for disaster response and disaster risk reduction at community level, supported by REDCAMP DESASTRES.

The Centres of Reference have acted as facilitating agents of these processes (materials, regional internships, technical assistance and trainings, dissemination of information and facilitation of knowledge). Thanks to the work of the Centres, there is now a regional network of trainers who have worked, as detailed below, to offer courses in proven Red Cross methodologies, thereby enhancing the implementation of risk reduction projects carried out by the Red Cross and other organizations. This semester there has been increased focus on strengthening REDCAMP (the regional disasters network) through training as well as through practice. There has also been an emphasis on enhancing the quality of the products and services offered by the Centres with an aim to share these with other National Societies in the Americas, as well as with relevant external partners. This is already the case with the Regional Programme for the Reduction of Vulnerability and Environmental Degradation (PREVDA), the Hydraulic Resources Regional Committee (CRRH) and the Central American Educational and Cultural Coordination (CECC); furthermore, PREVDA has sponsored a Masters Degree which includes a component relating to the VCA methodology. Through “backstopping” missions, trained personnel support the dissemination of materials, application of guides and methodologies in the field as well as the replication of training courses in order to ensure quality and maximize benefits.

Between both Centres of Reference, 118 new facilitators have been trained during this period as follows:

Training Courses	Number of Facilitators Trained
VCA – Learning by Doing	23
Disaster Response & Contingency Plan	22
Protected School	25
Social Micro-Projects	27
Control of Emergency Operations Centres	21
Total	118

To date, the curricula of the National Intervention Team (NIT) training had been of general nature. During this semester, a curriculum for NITs in emergency health (the first of a series of specialized trainings for NITs) was developed and implemented in this region as well as in South America. This training module was validated in the Salvadoran Red Cross Society with the participation of 23 members from the Finnish Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the Salvadoran Red Cross Society, the Ministry of Health and the Salvadoran Civil Protection, which allowed the Centre of Reference in Disaster Preparedness to improve the curricula. It is important to highlight that the validated NIT health in emergencies curricula has been of great interest outside of the Central America region, and tools are being shared with other regions such as South America and the Latin Caribbean.

An interesting point to highlight in this aspect is the funding arrangements: the Norwegian Red Cross delivered the funds to the Guatemala Red Cross, who in turn established a cooperation agreement with the Salvadoran Red Cross Society for the production of the materials. This type of intra-regional cooperation is a first and worth highlighting and supporting.

Outcome 2 Communities are better prepared, more organized to respond/recover from the effects of natural hazards, recognizing potential risk reduction measures and action to be taken.

The National Red Cross Societies of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua have received technical and financial support from the Federation's secretariat (the Regional Representation and the Climate Change Centre) with an aim to increase understanding and prepare for climate change; and they have also carried out risk reduction activities with communities. In Mexico, some of these actions took place under the framework of the Tabasco floods operation. The Red Cross Society of Panama is also carrying out activities in risk reduction, with an emphasis on climate change. The process starts with the application of the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) methodology in the community. Then, with the results of this diagnosis, the National Societies will then support micro-projects as identified through the VCA. The nature of such micro-projects depends, and could include mitigation, community early warning systems, food security, community education and readiness. This process not only addresses a need in the community, but also expands knowledge and strengthens community response teams.

In the case of the Honduran Red Cross, its methodology is to work directly with the community population present at schools, rather than reaching schools through community work.

During the first part of the year, coordination has been enhanced with the regional Youth network with an aim to prepare the grounds for joint work in the second part of the year, where the youth network will be carrying out risk reduction activities with peers with the technical and financial support of the regional Disaster Risk Reduction programme.

In order to promote safer and more resilient communities, the communications strategy which aims to foster a culture of disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness is being updated: key messages for vulnerable communities are under development, tool kits are being



The Guatemalan Red Cross carried out a project on climate change in the municipality of Chiquimula, Guatemala. International Federation.

designed in themes such as adaptation to climate change, and the regional Red Cross web page www.cruzroja.org is being updated with information on community disaster risk reduction and institutional disaster preparedness. This work is taking place in close coordination with different partners including DIPECHO, PAHO, ISDR and CEPREDENAC, benefiting from their financial support in the case of DIPECHO and their areas of specialization.

The Federation, through the communications component, aims to strengthen key messages and actions to facilitate the consolidation of knowledge, attitudes, and practices to build safer and more resilient communities.

Support has been provided by this programme to the Mexican Red Cross in the framework of the Mexico Floods operation (in Tabasco), which was finalized during the first half of this year. The focus of this support was the recovery of livelihoods (poultry farms, fishing, and an ice factory for the preservation of fish) as well as disaster preparedness activities.

This experience had an important positive impact as evidenced by the fact that the American Red Cross is following up on it under the framework of their long-term programmatic support to the Mexican Red Cross. The experience was also taken as an example to replicate in another Mexican state (Quintana Roo).

The relief operations in Costa Rica and Panama as a result of the floods in November 2008 were handed over to the Regional Representation. The issue of livelihoods recovery and water and sanitation (in the case of Costa Rica) will be supported by the programme with an aim to strengthen community and Red Cross efforts in those issues.

Constraints

Some contributions arrived late in the year (March-July) and some arrangements were not finalized in a timely manner. This has meant delay in the start of some activities.

The A(H1N1) pandemic also caused important delays and changes in the programmed activities. As a result, some activities had to be re-scheduled for the second half of the year, which is not the ideal situation in light of the Atlantic Hurricane season and its potential effects in the region.

Bilateral support to the National Societies in the region:

The American Red Cross (AmCross) supports the National Societies of El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico and Panama. In Mexico, AmCross carried out actions on disaster planning and preparedness in the Tabasco and Quintana Roo region. The main achievements of the AmCross support are the construction of a new Disaster Operations Centre, within the MRC's headquarters, the implementation of the WPNS diagnosis, training of 41 Red Cross instructors on ODFA's teaching methodology, training of 47 Red Cross staff and volunteers in the VCA, implementation of hazard assessments in nine communities (468 families) in Tabasco and Quintana Roo as well as assisting the targeted communities in drafting their disaster plans. Also, in order to build the capacity of the MRC, AmCross has also supported mapping a strategy for a sustainable and long-term commitment of the MRC in community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP), including developing guidance tools for grass-root involvement and redefining the place of CBDP within the MRC's strategy. This strategy includes a coordinated training effort with the International Federation's Reference Centre in Costa Rica. In Panama, AmCross carried out in Bocas del Toro, a province highly affected by flooding, disaster risk reduction trainings using two modules of the "Better Be Ready" series.

The Norwegian Red Cross supported the In 12 of the 20 branches, volunteers and Director's Board members were trained how to develop Contingency Plans and how to run an Emergency Operations Centre. Contingency Plans were revised and tested through a simulation exercise of an Emergency Operations Centre.

Health and Care

Programme purpose

Global Agenda Goal 2: Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies
--

Programme Component: HIV and AIDS
--

Outcome 1 National Societies have developed the Global Alliance addressing the vulnerability to HIV and its impact through prevention, care, treatment, and support reducing stigma and discrimination and strengthening their capacities.

Work on HIV and AIDS in the region during this semester has been carried out mostly under the framework of the International Federation's Global Alliance on HIV, which is being implemented by the National Red Cross Societies of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras in this region as follows.

Guatemalan Red Cross

During the first six months of the year, the regional *Taxis* and *Together We Can* projects have continued to be implemented. Two national workshops have been implemented – one feedback workshop for volunteers supporting the HIV and AIDS Programme, and two aimed at young leaders of NGOs working in favour of sexual and reproductive health with an emphasis on HIV and AIDS prevention – in ten departments (identified as priority due to the high HIV and AIDS prevalence). This has aided in the strengthening of strategic partnerships, broadening the scope of the programme and an increase in the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries.

So far in 2009, 13,470 people (7,098 women and 6,372 men) have been reached by the programme, of which 70 per cent are youth who attend school and the other 30 per cent is made up by people from communities identified as vulnerable as well as the general population. The approaches used have been training of peer educators—using the *Together We Can* methodology—; trainings in anti-stigma and non-discrimination; information stands; household visits; information, education and communications (IEC) campaigns in the media; and attention, care and support for people living with HIV (PLHIV).

The challenges for the coming semester are to strengthen and expand activities related to outcomes 2¹ and 4² of the Global Alliance and to approach groups strongly affected by the HIV and AIDS epidemic in Guatemala, such as men who have sex with men (MSM), female commercial sex workers (CSW), people living in prisons settings, homemakers, youths in social risk and migrant populations. This will be accomplished through Global Alliance projects such as the Taxi and Mototaxi project, participative tours, face to face approach—for MSM, CSW and migrant populations—, household visits, visits to prisons, support groups of people living with HIV or AIDS –and counselling for voluntary testing.

Honduran Red Cross

The Honduran Red Cross, through its partners, financial allies and with the active participation of the volunteer base, has been able to carry out interventions during this semester with vulnerable populations, amongst which youths from the formal and informal education systems, parents, teachers, sex workers, migrant populations and PLHIV.

In 2009, the Honduran Red Cross has strengthened and scaled up inter-institutional coordination for the development of community mobilization events in favour of PLHIV, in terms of prevention, education, support and non-discrimination.

¹ Output 2 of the Global Alliance on HIV: Expanding HIV treatment, care, and support

² Output 4 of the Global Alliance on HIV: Strengthening National Red Cross / Red Crescent Society capacities to deliver and sustain scaled-up HIV programme

The number of peer educators trained in the *Together We Can* methodology has also increased at the national level, which strengthens education processes.

Intervention has started with expecting mothers through the mother-to-child prevention programme. This has taken place mainly through supporting application of the Quick HIV Test as a complement to the integral attention provided in coordination with the Ministry of Health; the project Increasing Opportunities for Teens.

Significant leadership has been achieved in the attention to migrant populations through the increased coordination of the bi-national network (El Salvador-Honduras) of organizations working in prevention in the communities neighbouring the El Amatillo border.

Salvadoran Red Cross Society

This year, the Salvadoran Red Cross Society has received the support of the Mexican National Public Health Institute (INSP) and the Global Fund for the implementation of its Mesoamerican Project for the control and prevention of Sexual Transmitted Infections (STI)/HIV/AIDS with migrant populations. The support comes with the aim of carrying out prevention, diagnosis and education actions with the populations that transit the El Amatillo border with Honduras as well as the Puerto El Cutuco transit station. This financial and technical support strengthens the Global Alliance process and extends to December 2010.

An important strategic alliance has been established with the international communications consultancy firm Llorente y Cuenca in view of the need to promote and position the Global Alliance on HIV at the national level in each one of the participating countries, with an aim to gain national support in the private and institutional sectors.

In coordination with the Zone Communications Manager and with the Zone Health Coordinator, Llorente y Cuenca has worked with each one of the National Societies and designed a tailored marketing strategy accompanied by a communications package. Such strategy was developed and started being implemented in the first half of 2009.

<p>Outcome 1 National Societies who are not yet part of the Global Alliance on HIV see their capacities strengthened for their future incorporation into the Alliance.</p>

Nicaraguan Red Cross

The Italian Red Cross and the Federation secretariat have been the main supporters of the work being carried out by the Nicaraguan Red Cross in HIV and AIDS.

Although this National Society is not yet a member of the Global Alliance on HIV, it is taking important steps towards becoming a member, and has been implementing three important projects during this semester:

- a. The *Together We Can* methodology in the areas of prevention and education, in Rivas and Managua,
- b. The League of Knowledge on HIV and AIDS in three public high schools of the city of Managua,
- c. The Taxis project in anti-stigma and non-discrimination, in the municipality of Granada.

Constraints

Some contributions arrived late in the year (March) and some arrangements were not finalized in a timely manner. This has meant delay in the start of some activities.

The A(H1N1) pandemic also caused important delays and changes in the programmed activities. As a result, some activities had to be re-programmed for the second half of the year, which is not the ideal situation in light of the Atlantic Hurricane season and its potential effects in the region.

Bilateral support to the National Societies in the region:

In Panama, AmCross carried out community health (psychosocial support) actions in the province of Darién, targeting approximately 3,100 people. The community of Jaque in this province is characterized by being one with the highest number of refugees from the Colombian in the country. This PNS has also worked with the National Societies of El Salvador and Honduras on water and sanitation. Actions have focused on the areas of Ciudad Romero, Loma Linda and Santa Rosa (in El Salvador) and Nuevo Jerusalem, El Arenal and Los Naranjos (in Honduras) targeting approximately 5,000 people. AmCross completed the construction of 140 in 5 communities in El Salvador; and in Honduras the project was handed over to the community in Nuevo Jerusalem.

Additionally, representatives from the Red Cross National Societies of Mith affected countries (Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala) attended a participatory workshop held in March 2009 in order to discuss findings of a joint AmCross-Centre for Disease Control (CDC) evaluation and to develop a follow-up model to ensure the sustainability of regional water and sanitation interventions.

In Guatemala, the Norwegian Red Cross continues to support the HIV programme of the National Society, through trainings on the TWC methodology, development of new interactive games to be used at the information kiosks. The HIV project is being coordinated with the Spanish Red Cross to complement and scale up activities, as well as coordinated with funds from the Global Alliance. Thorough this coordination, kiosks were places in Peten, Izabal and Qutzaltenango with youth that were trained as facilitators in TWC.

The Norwegian Red Cross carried out actions on public health in emergencies. This programme is part of a larger DRR project that includes Belize and Cuba, and a regional component with the International Federation. The programme has trained NITs and community health teams in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in emergencies and carried out talks with families on WASH. Four of the NITs trained were later trained as regional instructors by the CREPD. Other activities supported by the Norwegian Red Cross were the distribution of water filter and training on their use, maintenance and other water disinfection methods.

The Norwegian Red Cross also trained volunteers and personnel of all GRC branches in the prevention and detection of A(H1N1), and were given personal safety equipment. This action was coordinated with the Guatemalan Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross.

This PNS also supported the training of volunteers in first aid/basic life support, who will then lead the community first aid training. The volunteers trained in basic life support acquired the commitment to train 50 volunteers each in Basic First Aid. The Disaster Department is monitoring these trainings at a national level. So far, 15 of the branches have given at least one First Aid course to volunteers and to public. At least 4 branches are now giving First Aid courses on their own without the need of supervision. The branches have also retained more volunteers through this First Aid training exercise.

Organizational Development/ Capacity-Building

Programme purpose
Global Agenda Goal 3: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability
Programme Component: National Societies Change Governance and Management Support
Outcome 1 Leaders of seven National Societies are promoted with a clear strategic vision to drive and lead the changes and innovations needed to put the Global Agenda into practice in five National Societies.

During this semester it has been possible to implement the electoral process in departmental and municipal branches of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, as well as assemblies to elect national volunteering directors. The national assembly for the election of national direction positions will take place in July.

The governing board members of five departmental branches of the Honduran Red Cross have received training on Statutes, planning and branch development.

Moreover, the Governance and Management manual by the Complutense University of Spain has been disseminated and distributed to all national governing boards of all National Societies in the region.

The 20th bi-annual Presidents and Technical Seminars / Programme networks meeting is being organized with an aim to assess the impact of Red Cross work at the capacity-building and community levels and to agree on the areas of action for the coming two years.

General leadership training had been planned, but has had to be put on hold due to lack of resources.

Outcome 2 Legal base/policies and Strategic plans are revised appropriately and are in application in five National Societies.

The Costa Rican Red Cross has started the process of revising its Statutes and a first draft will be submitted to the Joint Commission in Geneva. To date, it has not been possible to re-start the process in the Salvadoran Red Cross Society.

In Nicaragua, parallel to the electoral process, a first draft of the National Society strategic plan was drafted. The National Societies of Mexico and Panama are in the process of drafting their plan. Meanwhile, the National Societies of Costa Rica and Panama have received technical and financial support for the monitoring and dissemination of their strategic plans. These are important steps towards reaching a status where all National Societies in the region have updated and functional national strategic plans.

Outcome 3 Improve performance management and accountability is achieved with standard quality reports, a gradual process of accreditation, developing performance systems and shared knowledge.

The Salvadoran Red Cross Society is implementing the financial portion of the Intensified Capacity-Building (ICB) proposal through having gained access to the cash transfer mechanism.

Nevertheless, activities related to the approval and dissemination of an accountability policy and the series of standards have not been implemented due to lack of resources.

Outcome 4 More effective resource mobilization is developed and investment made in professionalizing and development of capacities

The International Federation's Resource Mobilization and Development structure is in the process of identifying interesting and apt proposals for Resource Mobilization with the Guatemalan Red Cross and the Red Cross Society of Panama.

Outcome 5 Local capacity development on Volunteering Management

The regional Youth Network has recently become more active than it had been in the past few years. A regional focal point has been assigned to oversee the network on a more regular basis, and funds have become available for other programmatic needs other than meetings and travel. Through the support of the Finnish Red Cross, there has been stronger and more active coordination on the part of the focal point, which has aided in commitment of the members of the network and furthered decision-making and coordination. This shift in focus should allow for a more active and proactive network willing and ready to address the issues faced by Red Cross Youth in the region.

A regional Youth Strategy is being developed with the support of the Zone Organizational Development Coordinator. The aim is to strengthen Youth starting at its roots—regional and local levels—in each

country, rather than at the national level. This is with the aim of guiding the work of the sector in the region and helping it eventually become a focal point for certain programmatic areas. A regional consultation has been carried out in line with these, the results of which are being tabulated and will be taken into consideration by the network for the development of the Strategy.

The volunteer management guide had not been distributed to the network so far, but it is now being disseminated to the members with an aim to generate and active discussion within and with other networks as well. In El Salvador, the guide has already been disseminated—through the ICB—to 14 branches of the Salvadoran Red Cross Society, and in Honduras, 5 branches already have the information. The guide should be discussed and adapted to the reality of each National Society.

The regional Youth Network is also working closely with the regional Disaster Risk Reduction programme. The aim is to involve Youth in the micro-projects at the community level.

The Costa Rica Red Cross' national council approved and disseminated the national volunteering policy, with which local capacities and knowledge about the volunteering cycle will be increased.

In Nicaragua, parallel to the electoral process, it has been possible to design and implement the database for the registry of volunteers.

Internships have not taken place during the reporting period due to late receipt of funds and due to the regional alert generated by the A(H1N1) virus and its consequent delays.

Programme Component: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross capacity to address urgent vulnerability.

Outcome 1 Communities and National Societies are better prepared to face food insecurity and to better identify community coping strategies.

A case study on food security has been carried out in the Nicaraguan Red Cross, with the support of a consultant. This has resulted in a tool containing all the material, methodological tools and evaluation information of the projects carried out in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua under the recovery phase of the Hurricane Felix Operation, which focused on food security. The tool is ready and will be disseminated shortly with an aim to be used in trainings by the National Societies in the region.

A proposal to seek funding for food security was developed with an aim to continue to support community micro-projects and training of the National Societies. This proposal was submitted to DG ECHO and to the Geneva secretariat, but was not approved.

Outcome 2 Volunteers of National Societies within the branches and national public authorities are committed in addressing road safety.

The National Societies of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama developed their road safety campaigns for the Easter season in the areas of volunteering, relief and Youth, as well as their pre-hospitalization mechanisms, mobilizing resources of national and private entities at national and branch levels.

Constraints

The main constrains for this programme has been the lack of funds and the delays in implementation experienced as a result of the A(H1N1) alert and subsequent pandemic.

Bilateral support to the National Societies in the region:

The American Red Cross supports the Red Cross Society of Panama to build its capacities. As such, the RCSP volunteers attended a national level training on Sphere standards and emergency driving skills. AmCross is working with the RCSP to improve inter-agency collaboration in order to boost coordination with other governmental and non-governmental organizations. In addition, AmCross is

working with the RCSP to strengthen its capacity to perform administrative and financial procedures in order to enhance its internal management systems.

The Norwegian Red Cross supported actions on volunteer management in Guatemala. The 4th National Volunteer Camp was held in Quetzaltenango. The Quetzaltenango branch was the primary organizer of the event, with support from HQ. The camp is a way to motivate volunteers, for them to get to know others in their corps and to learn some leadership skills or humanitarian values through games.

The greatest success at the moment has been that the volunteer corps of the branches have entered proposals for micro-projects. Eight micro-projects have been approved to date, including projects in the area of: food security, health and hygiene, helping PLHIV, school safety brigades and first aid, as well as the promotion of humanitarian principles and values. The projects are of short duration (three months) and of little cost and keep the volunteers active.

Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values

Programme purpose

Global Agenda Goal 4: To promote the respect of diversity and human dignity, and to reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion

Programme Component Promote fundamental principles and humanitarian values

Outcome 1 National Societies are carrying out a systematic labour in the promotion of HPV.

In the framework of the commemoration of the Battle of Solferino, which was attended by 16 members of the regional Youth network and which focused mainly on the promotion of the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values, the new training kit on HPV for youth was disseminated. It is hoped that the experience at Solferino along with the information and knowledge in the training kit, would have a cascade effect in the countries of those who attended in terms of becoming agents of change and promoting HPV.

The Honduran Red Cross has incorporated the promotion of HPV into the framework of the Strategy for the Prevention of Violence, which has led to the training of thirty volunteers in these six months. Due to the socio-political issues in Honduras, it was possible to implement four meetings during which 120 volunteers were trained. The aim is to guarantee that the services delivered by these volunteers will be in line with the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values.

In the framework of the inter-institutional strategy with DFID for capacity-building, there is an initiative to include HPV into the training of community volunteers as planned within the programme in each country.

Outcome 2 The National Societies have developed processes of internal change to face the conducts and discrimination practices and to obtain inclusive and egalitarian participation.

In Guatemala, the Red Cross has integrated an Ethics and Discipline commission. This is an important achievement for this National Society, as it shows a commitment to egalitarian treatment for all, and respect for principles and values.

The Honduran Red Cross is revising the new Gender, Volunteering and HIV policies. These have been adapted from the global secretariat policies, and the aim of this revision is to ensure egalitarian, fair and non-discriminatory treatment for all individuals.

As a result of the Latin American meeting on Gender Perspective held in Buenos Aires in 2008, the Regional Representation has followed up on the commitments acquired by the four National Societies that attended. In addition, regional contributions have been collected for the revision of the Gender Policy. The aim is to include these changes as appropriate in the new revised global Gender policy.

Outcome 3 National Societies develop communitarian actions on reduction and prevention of discrimination.

In Honduras, there have been preparatory actions (contact has been established with taxi cooperatives in San José and San Pedro Sula) in preparation for the implementation of the taxi campaign. This campaign aims to raise awareness in relation to the reduction and prevention of HIV and AIDS related discrimination.

Outcome 4 National Societies develop communitarian actions of reduction and prevention of violence.

During this reporting period, there has been increased coordination with the Salvadoran Red Cross Society in terms of supporting them to prepare volunteers in the framework of the prevention of violence.

The working group on the Prevention of Violence in Geneva has sent the policy for comments by National Societies. The Regional Representation has shared the information with the National Societies, followed up, monitored and ensured that the observations made are duly received by the thematic group in Geneva. The aim is that these observations will be included as appropriate in the Global Strategy on the Prevention of Violence.

Outcome 5 National Societies of the region fortify their humanitarian actions in favour of migrants.

The working group on migration in the secretariat in Geneva has sent their Migration Policy for comments by the National Societies. The Regional Representation has shared the information with the National Societies, followed up, monitored and ensured that the observations made are duly received by the thematic group based in Geneva.

Under the framework of Movement Cooperation, support has been provided to the Red Cross Society of Panama in the dissemination of information about the activities and achievements of their project, which works with migrants and displaced persons by the conflict in Colombia. This programme is carried out jointly with the ICRC.

An important achievement in terms of disseminating the work carried out in principles and values in the region has been the publishing of relevant news in the global Youth newsletter and the global principles and values newsletter. This had not happened before, and it constitutes an important platform for disseminating the region's work in principles and values, as each edition includes related news from the region.

In the framework of the "Our World, Your Move" campaign, the Federation has coordinated with the regional communications team, the launch of the global campaign has been promoted and supported in coordination with the focal points for dissemination, youth and volunteering of each National Society.

Constraints

There has been lack of funding for the programme, which has been partly solved by sharing resources with other programs.

The A(H1N1) virus and the socio-political crisis in Honduras have slowed down activities in the region.

The regional Principles and Values coordinator, who is based in Honduras, has also acquired other administrative functions relating to representing the Federation in that country.

Bilateral support to the National Societies in the region:

A Norwegian Red Cross delegate carried out a Gender workshop for all GRC personnel in three departments, including the Director General. The delegate supported the development of a Gender Policy, which was reviewed and approved by the President of the National Society, but which now needs to be taken to other levels for approval.

Working in partnership

The seven National Red Cross Societies of the region have an extensive history of responding to the regional challenges outlined above with the assistance of Federation, the ICRC and Partner National Societies (PNS).

Several Movement partners are actively present in the region and work closely with the National Societies. The following table illustrates those Movement partners with representations in each one of the Central American countries.

Country	Partners
Costa Rica	Finnish Red Cross - German Red Cross
El Salvador	Spanish Red Cross - Swiss Red Cross
Guatemala	Spanish Red Cross - Netherlands Red Cross - Norwegian Red Cross - ICRC
Honduras	Canadian Red Cross - Italian Red Cross - Netherlands Red Cross - Spanish Red Cross - Swiss Red Cross
Nicaragua	Canadian Red Cross - Italian Red Cross - Netherlands Red Cross - Spanish Red Cross - ICRC
Panama	American Red Cross – Finnish Red Cross - Norwegian Red Cross - Spanish Red Cross - ICRC

In addition to the Movement Partners, several other relevant partners are working with the Regional Representation and with the National Societies in the region, such as: Albatros Foundation, DG ECHO, CEPREDENAC, Llorente y Cuenca, ISDR, UNICEF, PAHO, Global Fund, Oxfam, Trocaire, Care, Plan and Oikos.

The firm Llorente y Cuenca continues to support the National Societies of the Global Alliance on HIV (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras) in developing national communications strategies to help them promote and market the Alliance in their countries.

The Honduras Red Cross established a cooperation agreement with Más Publicidad, an advertising agency, with an aim to gain support in managing the dissemination of its humanitarian actions, in light of the socio-political crisis.

The Albatros Foundation has supported the dissemination of the results of the food security proposal in Nicaragua. A documentary was produced to this effect which is being broadcast in 53 communications media in Latin America, amongst which CNN en Español.

A partnership was established between the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico, UNICEF, ISDR, Plan and PAHO to celebrate the World Risk Reduction day and the global campaign on risk reduction.

The Regional Representation has promoted a first approach between the Lions Club in Panama and the Red Cross Society of Panama.

Contributing to longer-term impact

In line with the New Operating Model, the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico has set out to improve Movement Coordination at the regional and national level. It has supported the efforts of the Nicaraguan Red Cross as it plans to carry out a General Assembly in July with an aim to solve its integrity issues thus ending the government intervention that took place in March 2008. The possibility of a tri-partite agreement with the ICRC will be explored with the new directors of the National Council to be elected by the General Assembly in July.

In this same line, the Guatemalan Red Cross is exploring the possibility of a tri-partite agreement, and the Red Cross Society of Panama is in the process of drafting such an agreement, which is hoped to be signed in the second semester.

The proposals for the Global Alliance on Disaster Risk Reduction are in the process of being defined and drafted by the Costa Rica and Panama Red Cross Societies. It is possible that two more National Societies will be included in the second semester.

Looking ahead

Under the framework of and in line with the New Operating Model, the possibility of moving the Regional Representation Office from Panama to Costa Rica is being studied with the Head of Zone, the authorities of the Costa Rica Red Cross and the government of Costa Rica. This move would de-concentrate of Red Cross resources in one country, given that the Americas Zone Office is located in Panama, and it would also allow the establishment of a more flexible and mobile Federation secretariat structure, closer to the region's National Societies.

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	
<p>For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Panama: Fabricio López, Regional Representative for Central America, Mexico and Panama; email: fabricio.lopez@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304. • In the Americas Zone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Xavier Castellanos, Head of Zone; email: xavier.castellanos@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304. - María Alcázar; Resource Mobilization Coordinator; email: marial.alcazar@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304. 	

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA43001 - Central America and Mexico

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/1-2009/6
Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Appeal	MAA43001
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	1,974,388	662,833	405,791	2,139	0	3,045,151
B. Opening Balance	4,423	139,516	202,124	1,811	0	347,874
Income						
Cash contributions						
Australian Government			4,669			4,669
British Red Cross	0	0				0
Canadian Red Cross			40,529			40,529
Danish Red Cross			1,035			1,035
DFID Partnership grant	318,316					318,316
ECHO	656,854					656,854
Finnish Red Cross	18,102		3,397			21,500
Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)	102,580		19,251			121,831
Japanese Red Cross			8,940			8,940
Monaco Red Cross			1,945			1,945
Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)	0					0
Norwegian Red Cross		7,255	639			7,894
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)	40,000	65,293	5,753			111,047
On Line donations			2,484			2,484
ProVention	0					0
Spanish Red Cross	208,839		-774			208,064
Sweden Red Cross (from Swedish Government)			0			0
Unidentified donor		-2,277				-2,277
C1. Cash contributions	1,344,690	70,272	87,867			1,502,829
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
DFID Partnership grant	339,982					339,982
ECHO	-88,949					-88,949
Finnish Red Cross	8,684		2,057			10,740
Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)	49,208		11,654			60,862
Norwegian Red Cross		30,308	3,340			33,648
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)		272,771	30,060			302,831
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	308,924	303,079	47,111			659,114
Inkind Personnel						
Spanish Red Cross			37,200			37,200
C4. Inkind Personnel			37,200			37,200
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	1,653,615	373,350	172,179	0	0	2,199,144
D. Total Funding = B + C	1,658,038	512,867	374,302	1,811	0	2,547,018
Appeal Coverage	84%	77%	92%	85%	#DIV/0	84%

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	4,423	139,516	202,124	1,811	0	347,874
C. Income	1,653,615	373,350	172,179	0	0	2,199,144
E. Expenditure	-718,058	-36,747	-219,104	-628		-974,537
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	939,980	476,120	155,199	1,183	0	1,572,481

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA43001 - Central America and Mexico

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/1-2009/6
Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Appeal	MAA43001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		1,974,388	662,833	405,791	2,139	0	3,045,151	
Supplies								
Construction Materials	15,428	15,428		22			15,451	-22
Clothing & textiles	25,720			34			34	25,686
Water & Sanitation	3,060							3,060
Teaching Materials	51,588	19,608					19,608	31,980
Other Supplies & Services	47,570							47,570
Total Supplies	143,366	35,036		56			35,092	108,274
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	9,896			1,496			1,496	8,400
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	9,896			1,496			1,496	8,400
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	161	32					32	129
Transport & Vehicle Costs	68,600	42		15,615			15,657	52,943
Total Transport & Storage	68,761	74		15,615			15,689	53,071
Personnel								
International Staff	225,522	55,996		46,941			102,937	122,585
Regionally Deployed Staff	18,300	2,237					2,237	16,063
National Staff	201,361	47,057	2,042	26,414			75,512	125,849
National Society Staff	308,943	48,628	-1,975	7,833			54,487	254,456
Consultants	49,291	688	4,573	1,959			7,220	42,071
Total Personnel	803,416	154,605	4,640	83,147			242,392	561,024
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1,081,377	168,253	2,272	34,534			205,059	876,319
Total Workshops & Training	1,081,377	168,253	2,272	34,534			205,059	876,319
General Expenditure								
Travel	118,232	7,506	156	9,109			16,771	101,461
Information & Public Relation	304,803	-10,371	16,092	9,890			15,611	289,192
Office Costs	60,017	3,986	385	1,970			6,341	53,675
Communications	18,437	4,650	2,120	2,701			9,470	8,967
Professional Fees	6,639	-600	-7,797	14,235			5,838	800
Financial Charges	22,270	21,056	-3,354	1,415	6		19,123	3,147
Other General Expenses	80,272	137	3	1,002			1,142	79,130
Total General Expenditure	610,669	26,364	7,605	40,322	6		74,297	536,372
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers Others	-5,210	-5,210					-5,210	0
Total Contributions & Transfers	-5,210	-5,210					-5,210	0
Programme Support								
Program Support	197,935	46,914	2,706	11,934	41		61,594	136,340
Total Programme Support	197,935	46,914	2,706	11,934	41		61,594	136,340
Services								
Services & Recoveries	2,500							2,500
Shared Services		16,440	10,956	5,484			32,880	-32,880
Total Services	2,500	16,440	10,956	5,484			32,880	-30,380
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions	132,440	275,581	8,569	26,516	582		311,247	-178,807
Total Operational Provisions	132,440	275,581	8,569	26,516	582		311,247	-178,807
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	3,045,151	718,058	36,747	219,104	628		974,537	2,070,614
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,256,330	626,086	186,687	1,511		2,070,614	