

Programme Update

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

South Asia

Appeal No. MAA52001

30 December 2008

This report covers the period 01 July to
31 December 2008.



Raising awareness on HIV amongst women in India, carried out by the Indian Red Cross Society and supported by the International Federation. Photo: International Federation.

In brief

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

Programme(s) summary: In the second half of 2008, one of the key areas of support provided by the International Federation to national societies was in responding to the monsoon flooding in Pakistan, India and Nepal and the earthquake in Baluchistan (Pakistan). Besides this, significant progress was made in community-based disaster risk reduction and regional disaster response team components of the disaster management programme and a regional disaster management/disaster risk reduction (DRR) review was started.

Under the health and care programme, the South Asia launch of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Global Alliance on HIV was held on 1 December 2008 to coincide with World AIDS Day. Further, regional health capacity building workshops were organized in the areas of community-based first aid and public health in emergencies and a regional health managers meeting was held in October.

Country specific tailor made support continued under the organizational development programme and a regional organizational development meeting was held in November. The regional initiative on "Building Safer Communities" in South Asia was also promoted through an integrated programming approach. The communications component of the programme provided support in bringing out the first of a series of regional case studies on HIV and AIDS. The finance development component continued to review and support this area of work in the national societies and the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting component remained involved in finalizing the country plans and logical frameworks for 2009-10. The consolidation process between the South Asia regional office and the India Office was also completed during this period.

Financial situation¹: The total (2008) budget is CHF 3,826,178 (approximately USD 3,273,036 or EUR 2,462,570), of which 71 per cent was covered. Expenditure overall was 44 per cent of the budget. Expenditure was low due to the low funding for regional programme activities, together with delayed funding confirmation.

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

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

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

Context

South Asia was fraught with internal conflict, terrorist attacks and many other challenges during this reporting period, which hampered the smooth implementation of activities by the Red Cross Red Crescent Societies in the region. Afghanistan faced a deteriorating security situation and increasing tension along the Pakistan/Afghan border. Pakistan was affected by political instability with the coalition government forcing the country's president (Pervez Musharraf) to resign through an impeachment process and Asif Ali Zardari of the Pakistan People's Party winning the presidential election. India was hit by a series of bomb blasts and terrorist attacks, especially on its major cities including Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore. The Mumbai attack at the end of November led to a sharp rise in tensions between Pakistan and India. In Sri Lanka, the military's advanced into Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)-controlled territory triggered a series of attacks in other parts of the island. In Nepal, however, the political and security situation improved following the peaceful transformation of power and electing of the Maoist leader "Prachanda" as prime minister of the country, ending the long internal armed conflict. Emergency rule was lifted in Bangladesh in a run-up to the general elections scheduled to be held in end-December 2008.

This period also witnessed heavy monsoon flooding and landslides in Pakistan, India and Nepal, resulting in large loss of lives and property and affecting millions of people. Bangladesh was less affected by any large scale flooding as compared to 2007. In addition, on 29 October 2008, an earthquake of magnitude 6.4 hit Baluchistan province in south-western Pakistan. The International Federation launched two emergency appeals, one to support the Nepal Red Cross Society in responding to the floods in Nepal and the second to support the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in responding to the earthquake in Baluchistan. Since the national societies in all countries affected by disasters in the region were caught up in response efforts, the implementation of some longer-term developmental activities got delayed and will be carried forward to 2009.

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

¹ These financial figures are until November 2008

Progress towards outcomes

Global Agenda Goal 1: Disaster management

Purpose: National societies have strengthened capacity to implement disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery programmes

Outcomes/Expected results

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

Achievements

Programme component 1: Community preparedness and mitigation

The community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) programme standardized training curriculum, as well as a participant's handbook and trainer's guide, has been developed. These activities were carried out with the active involvement of all national societies, the South East Asia regional office in Bangkok and other key stakeholders. As part of this process, three CBDRR training events were organized in Pakistan (2 to 8 August), Sri Lanka (21 to 29 September) and Bangladesh (12 to 19 October). Over 90 DRR practitioners of all South Asian national societies (except the Indian Red Cross), including partner national societies, such as the American Red Cross (Pakistan office), Danish Red Cross (Pakistan office), German Red Cross (Pakistan office), and Swedish Red Cross were part of these training events. Three representatives of the Bhutan government also participated in the training that took place in Bangladesh. These training programmes enhanced the competence of national society staff to scale-up CBDRR measures in their respective countries.

In order to make DRR a priority in the region, the South Asia regional office has been developing and disseminating a varieties of advocacy tools which includes a series of case studies, publications, promotional materials, a DRR advocacy handbook and a DRR documentary film. Furthermore, a regional awareness campaign on "*building safer community begins at school*" commenced as part of the "Building Safer Community Initiative". More than 3,600 school children from six South Asian countries (Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan Sri Lanka and Maldives) participated in the poster competition on this theme. Finally, two representatives from South Asia (regional disaster management coordinator and disaster management director from the Nepal Red Cross) provided inputs for the International Federation's global framework for community safety and resilience at a DRR meeting held on 21 to 23 August in Oslo.

Programme component 2: Disaster response and preparedness for response

The regional disaster management programme significantly contributed towards strengthening the capacity of national societies in disaster response and preparedness for response activities. Technical support was provided to three national societies – the Afghan Red Crescent, Pakistan Red Crescent and Sri Lanka Red Cross to develop their national disaster response teams (NDRT). The regional disaster response team (RDRT) project also gained significant momentum during this reporting period, particularly in terms of planning and establishing a good foundation and support for RDRT in the region within the national societies. Senior management and disaster management focal persons of national societies have been sensitized to the project. Furthermore, coordination/collaboration modality with the Asia Pacific Zone disaster management team, South East Asia regional office and the global field assessment and coordination team (FACT)/RDRT programme have been set up and arrangements made for putting in place the required human resources to implement the programme.

Some of the key activities of the RDRT project were also implemented during this period. The South Asia disaster response human resource database and handbook was developed and three RDRT deployment kits were prepositioned. On the training front, one RDRT training of trainers course was conducted in New Delhi from 13 to 17 October. Altogether 10 participants representing South Asia (five persons), South East Asia (two persons), Asia Pacific disaster management unit (one person) and Pacific (two persons) regions

actively participated in the training. Another RDRT course specializing in logistics was conducted in Nepal from 8 to 14 November where a total of 17 participants from the region attended, including one participant from ICRC Nepal. Finally, a RDRT induction course was held in Sri Lanka from 8 to 16 December for 22 participants from South Asia, East Asia and South East Asia. As part of the regional cooperation in RDRT between South Asia and South East Asia, two participants from the Afghan Red Crescent and Nepal Red Cross participated in an RDRT induction course in Singapore that was organized by the South East Asia region from 19 to 28 October. The South Asia regional office further contributed to support the strengthening of human resources at country level on disaster response by sending six participants from country delegations and national societies to the regional logistics training held in Kuala Lumpur from 20 to 24 October.

In terms of contingency planning, the Afghan Red Crescent, Bangladesh Red Crescent, Indian Red Cross and Nepal Red Cross made significant progress in developing hazard specific disaster response and contingency plans. A contingency planning workshop was held in Afghanistan from 9 to 12 November where the final draft version of the spring flood contingency plan was revised and the Kabul earthquake contingency plan developed and shared with all internal and external stakeholders.

Programme component 3: Coordination and cross-cutting issues

The regional disaster management programme strengthened its working relationship with external agencies such as the SAARC disaster management centre, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations through active advocacy, knowledge sharing and networking initiatives for building safer communities in South Asia, as well as through participation by the regional disaster management team in regional and global platforms for DRR, such as UN/International Strategy for Disaster Response (UN ISDR), ProVention consortium and DIPECHO partners’ coordination forum. Further, the regional disaster management team organized a coordination meeting of 10 ECHO/DIPECHO partner organizations on 14 August. This meeting provided an opportunity for the head of regional office and the director of the SAARC disaster management centre to initiate an ongoing dialogue on potential areas for mutual cooperation and coordination. In addition, a team comprising senior management from the Sri Lankan Red Cross Society, the head of regional office and key disaster management/DRR staff members participated in the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR from 2 to 4 December in Kuala Lumpur.

Within the Movement, the working relations with the Red Cross Red Crescent climate change centre were strengthened with the visit of a senior programme officer from the centre to the South Asia regional office from 10 to 14 September to carry out a quick analysis of climate change risk in South Asia and identify the key Red Cross Red Crescent activities for climate change adaptation. Besides this, the regional disaster management programme started the process of a regional disaster management/DRR review, which is currently underway. The consultant carrying out this review visited the countries in the region and held consultations with the national societies, International Federation country offices and partner national societies, as well as external stakeholders like the UN, non-governmental organizations and government agencies.

Constraints or Challenges

During the reporting period, floods affected four countries – Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan simultaneously, and an earthquake of magnitude 6.4 hit Baluchistan province in south-western Pakistan on 29 October. As a consequence, the regional disaster management team was extensively engaged in providing back-up support to the respective country offices and national societies for the disaster response operations. Due to this, some of the planned activities such as an RDRT specialized course in public health in emergencies, a regional disaster management working group meeting and a DRR festival have been postponed to next year. This heavy backstopping also caused the implementation of some other activities like the DRR curriculum, DRR advocacy handbook and production of DRR documentary film to be delayed. Furthermore, the recruitment of the regional disaster preparedness delegate took longer than expected which slightly delayed some of the planned activities of the RDRT project.

Global Agenda Goal 2: Health and care

Purpose: National societies have increased capacity to reduce death from disease and public health emergencies

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component	Outcome
Regional health capacity support	National societies have improved HIV and AIDS and other public

	health programming
Regional health partnership and resource development project	National societies have improved organizational capacity in mobilizing resources, building partnership and in advocacy for health programmes

Achievements

Programme component 1: Regional health capacity support

The Global Alliance on HIV programme documents of the four national societies in South Asia (India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) participating in the Global Alliance on HIV has been reviewed by the International Federation Secretariat and finalized. The South Asia launch of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Global Alliance on HIV was held on 1 December to coincide with World AIDS Day. The event was hosted by the Indian Red Cross Society and attended by representatives from the World Health Organization, National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), diplomatic missions and international organizations working on HIV. A large number of information materials on Global Alliance were produced, including programme documents and country and regional fact sheets as well as an adapted version of the Global Alliance brochure titled 'Rising to the Challenge'. A simultaneous launch in Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh has also been held.

A plan of action based on the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation of the regional HIV programme has been developed and shared with country offices. It was also discussed at the regional health managers meeting held from 20 to 22 October in Male, Maldives, with the national societies health directors and International Federation focal points of the country offices and agreed upon the way forward. Furthermore, a draft monthly reporting format for the regional HIV programme has been prepared and shared among country offices for their inputs. The regional health unit intends to use this reporting format for further HIV programming.

As part of the brand building process for the Red Cross Red Crescent HIV programme for South Asia, a number of promotional materials have been produced. These include a logo, diary and planner for 2009. Following the field visit of the heads of the regional and Zonal communication department to Nepal, a case study on the Nepal Red Cross Society response to people affected by HIV due to migration related issues was prepared and printed.

Impact of ongoing activities under the voluntary non-remunerated blood donation component of the regional HIV/AIDS programme could be seen during this period. For instance, Sri Lanka Red Cross Society agreed with the National Blood Bank that their collaboration would focus on establishing blood donor recruitment registers for regional blood centres, including in the pilot areas. Sri Lanka Red Cross Society guidelines for organizing donor camps are being prepared in order to improve standards. Additionally, Nepal Red Cross Society was selected to conduct a satellite session on the topic 'Reducing vulnerability to HIV and AIDS among young people through voluntary non-remunerated blood donation' during the Third National HIV and AIDS conference held from 4 to 7 July in Nepal.

The CBFA master facilitator's workshop was held from 4 to 12 October at Brown's Beach Hotel, Negombo, Sri Lanka. The workshop included 32 participants from all eight countries in South Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). In a first of its kind, four participants from the Government of Bhutan were invited to participate in the training. As part of the International Federation's ongoing collaboration with ICRC in Afghanistan on health programmes, a representative from ICRC Afghanistan delegation participated in the training. Another unique feature was the combination of participants from the health and disaster management programmes. The basic objective of the workshop was to provide skills to participants on the learning-by-doing approach using the revised CBFA learning materials and to create a pool of resources in each country to carry forward the programme. This is the fourth such workshop held globally and the first in South Asia. CBFA action plans for each national society was developed in the course of this workshop and it is expected that the national society will carry this programme further in line with the plan.

A regional public health in emergencies workshop was held from 8 to 16 November in Islamabad, Pakistan. Twenty-five participants from the region attended the training. This training was a follow up to the regional public health in emergencies training held in April 2006. Following both trainings, the curriculum and approach were revised.

The executive director of health in Sri Lanka Red Cross Society was a staff-on-loan in the South Asia regional office to develop standardized first aid kits for three target groups (volunteer group, household use and school use) and collate samples for the same. This kit was discussed and finalized at the regional health managers meeting in Male. This activity is a prime example of programme integration and was carried out together by the health and disaster management units.

As part of the regional health unit's efforts to build capacity of national societies, the regional health unit supported a participant each from the Sri Lanka and Nepal Red Cross Societies for the field school phase 3 (FSP3) held in Cambodia from 23 November to 7 December.

Programme component 2: Regional health partnership and resource development project

As mentioned above, a regional health managers meeting was held from 20 to 22 October in Male, Maldives. Health directors from Afghan Red Crescent Society, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Nepal Red Cross Society, Pakistan Red Crescent Society and Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, along with health delegates and managers attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to share updates on the status of national society health programmes and the International Federation support to these programmes at country and regional levels since October 2007, as well as plans for 2008-09. The recommendations of the mid-term evaluation of the HIV programme and Global Alliance launch, standardization of first aid kits and integration of disaster management and health programmes as well as the revitalized approach to CBFA were also discussed. The recommendations which emerged from the meeting focussed on the way forward for the regional health programmes as well as technical support to national societies.

The fifth issue of the regional health unit update was disseminated to country offices and national societies in the region. This quarterly update highlights all significant activities and events from the region and national societies in the last quarter. It also serves as a forum for sharing resources and upcoming events and important dates.

World First Aid Day was observed across the region on 13 September, with a common theme of 'First Aid for Life'. A common reporting template was disseminated across the region to collate reports of activities conducted to observe this event.

The regional health unit provided technical support on several proposals which will be implemented by the Indian Red Cross Society. These are the humanitarian pandemic preparedness H2P proposal supported by the International Federation; tuberculosis proposal supported by USAID and proposals for HIV and public health in emergencies programmes in Andhra Pradesh, India, supported by the Hong Kong Red Cross Society. The regional health unit also raised funds and provided technical support for proposal development for the avian influenza programme in Afghanistan, humanitarian pandemic preparedness programme and social mobilization for measles immunization campaign in Nepal and scaling up of the HIV programme in Pakistan.

The regional health and care coordinator attended a meeting in Washington DC on the global measles initiative. The meeting was organized by the American Red Cross Society. In the coming years, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan are expected to conduct measles follow-up campaigns to improve the measles immunization coverage. All the national societies are expected to play a major role with social mobilization campaigns. The regional health manager attended the XVII International AIDS Conference held from 3 to 8 August in Mexico. The conference provided an opportunity to upgrade knowledge about important new scientific research and for productive, structured dialogue on the major challenges facing the global response to AIDS. The regional health manager also attended the Global Alliance on HIV forum meeting and launch of Global Alliance for the Americas and met with the team from the International Federation Secretariat to discuss the Global Alliance on HIV in South Asia.

The regional health and care coordinator and the regional health manager have enrolled for the post-graduate diploma course in disaster preparedness and rehabilitation. This course is conducted by the Indian Red Cross Society and affiliated to Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University.

Constraints or Challenges

In spite of the scaling up its programmes at all levels, the human resource at the regional health unit continues to reduce while the workload is increasing as it also supports the India office. This shortage of human resource may hamper the future pace and scale of programme interventions.

Global Agenda Goal 3: Organizational and capacity development

Purpose: South Asian national societies have increased capacity to develop, manage and promote their programmes effectively

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component	Outcomes
Strategic organizational development and community-based support	National societies have policies, systems and procedures that enable better programme implementation
Communications development project	Communications and advocacy for the most vulnerable at national society and regional level are more effective.
Finance development	National society capacity in financial accountability, reporting, management is strengthened
PMER development	The capacity of national societies in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting is strengthened further

Achievements

Programme component 1: Strategic organizational development and community-based support

Country-specific tailor made organizational development support continues to advocate to the national society in the region on the review of their legal base to align with the International Federation's guidance for national societies' Statutes. In that connection, the regional organizational development delegate from the South Asia regional office has been providing continued support to the formation of the national society in Maldives. A nine-day mission to Maldives was made to handover the Maldives delegation organizational development file to the incoming programme coordinator. The mission facilitated discussions on the way forward in the Maldivian Red Crescent formation process and co-facilitated a volunteer development session with the volunteer coordinator from the Asia Pacific Zone office. The national society best practices on volunteering, which include policy, systems and procedures, and management, were shared with the Maldives country office and Interim Planning Group. The formation of the national society is within reach with the first general assembly potentially happening in the first part of 2009. The organizational development tasks at hand are substantial and regional support at strategic as well as practical level (general assembly) is foreseen.

Together with the regional grants and relationship manager, a two-year regional fundraising development project to support the South Asian national societies in developing their fundraising capacities has been finalized for implementation in 2009. The regional organizational development department also provided support to the Indian Red Cross Society for the development of applications for the Capacity Building Fund and Empress Shoken Fund. The project focuses on the development of an online donation feature on the Indian Red Cross Society homepage and set up a professional system for communication with donors.

The regional organizational development delegate participated in a joint ICRC/International Federation mission to Afghanistan to review and follow-up on the implementation of the harmonized movement support mechanisms and the Afghan Red Crescent Society operational plan that were initiated during the first joint Movement harmonization mission in April this year. The mission reviewed the functioning of the agreed Movement coordination mechanisms at strategic and operational levels. It also suggested drafts for the terms of references for those mechanisms and reviewed the extent to which the harmonized approach has been disseminated to branch level. Finally, the process by which the programmes and projects of respective partners have been finalized in the context and spirit of the harmonized Movement support plan was reviewed. The outcome and recommendations for the further strengthening of the harmonized support for the Afghan Red Crescent Society will be shared in a report shortly.

Nepal Red Cross has started the process of conducting its second VIVA study. The South Asia regional office organizational development team participated and provided technical support in planning and branch information gathering in December and will accompany and facilitate publication of the study in early 2009.

Under knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer support, a regional organizational development delegates/managers meeting was held in Delhi 25 to 26 November. The focus of the meeting was the

working modalities and priorities for 2009-10. It was the first meeting of this kind in several years and the meeting provided an excellent opportunity for the International Federation regional organizational team to meet, share national society organizational development challenges and develop its working modality. A regional organizational development knowledge sharing mechanism was decided upon. The progress in the national societies with regards to the integrated programming approach (IPA) implementation was discussed and a comprehensive process developing inputs for guidelines on IPA was conducted. A draft of the guideline will be finalized by regional organizational development coordinator and hereafter shared for further development with regional programme managers. The regional IPA initiative and the progress so far on this in the region were also shared with ICRC in a cooperation workshop in Nepal.

With regard to the support for the development of a national society volunteer database, a pragmatic approach has been taken on focussing on guiding the national societies in the initial steps of clarifying needs and promoting a peer-to-peer learning of the Sri Lanka database model. The regional organizational development delegate will be joined by the zonal volunteer development coordinator on a mission to Sri Lanka in January, which will enable strategizing on a wider zone approach to optimizing the current efforts across the zone on developing volunteer databases.

Programme component 2: Communications development

The main activities during this period centred on the floods in Nepal and India. Several press releases and news stories were posted on the International Federation's website. Some media interviews with global radio and television networks were also done. A video made by a British filmmaker, containing interviews with the Indian Red Cross Society secretary general on flood preparedness, was completed and distributed electronically.

Besides floods-related activities, this period also saw the launch of the World Disasters Report 2008 in Sri Lanka. The new, updated, brochure for the South Asia regional office was produced and monthly issues of the regional e-newsletter 'South Asia Link' continues to be published. A communications consultant was initiated to review the Red Cross Red Crescent communications and its gaps in South Asia. The regional communications manager, together with the communications manager from the Asia Pacific Zone, visited Nepal to provide inputs to the Nepal Red Crescent Society for improving its website and visiting the national society's HIV and AIDS project areas and participating in its measles campaign in south-western Nepal. These visits provided stories for the International Federation website, as well as the first of a series of regional case studies for the Nepal HIV and AIDS project. Besides the HIV and AIDS story from Nepal, several other stories from across the region, including a climate change story from India, were also posted on the International Federation website.

Programme component 3: Finance systems development

The regional finance development delegate continued to review and support the finance development work of the national societies in the region through country visits. Together with the deputy head of the Asia Pacific Zone, support was provided to the Nepal Red Cross Society in developing a two-year action plan for finance development during a meeting held in Nepal on 25 to 26 August. Future finance development work in the Nepal Red Cross Society (including improving audit reporting, streamlining financial approval procedures and standardizing financial systems and reporting requirements of different donors) will be done according to this plan. Additionally, regular reviewing of the Nepal Red Cross Society's SCALA software up-gradation was carried out.

Support was extended to the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in the process of replacing the local existing finance software with the internationally recognized Navision finance software and reviewing branch level actions required for Navision implementation. Similarly, the Indian Red Cross Society was supported in re-customization of its existing Navision finance software. The Afghan Red Crescent Society was assisted with the development of their finance management as well as with the terms of reference for an external audit for 2005-2008.

Programme component 4: PMER development

During the reporting period, the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting unit remained involved in finalizing the planning process documents: country plan 2009-10 and logical frameworks. Feedback was also provided to the zone planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting unit in Kuala Lumpur on the lessons learnt of the planning process to ensure it is improved next year.

In August and September, the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting unit was involved in the flooding situation in South Asia, developing information bulletins, disaster relief emergency fund

applications and updates, input on the emergency appeal for Nepal and support the regional taskforce set up to monitor and coordinate the flood situation.

The planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting unit visited Nepal to revise their appeal and support them in the development of their second programme update for 2008 and revision of their logical framework. The planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting unit also visited Bangladesh to coach them on report writing and the importance of having the right programme management tools, such as logical frameworks, work plans and budgets in place. Support was specifically given to the disaster management and organizational development department in the revision of their 2009-10 logical frameworks.

Following the Asia Pacific planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting network meeting in Kuala Lumpur in August, new and more efficient working modalities have been agreed upon. There will now only be two layers – one for composing and ensuring content of the report and one for editing and posting. The last step will be done by the Zone planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting unit. These new working modalities have been rolled out during the reporting period and will give more time for the regional planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting unit to do capacity building in the field of planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

The regional planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting delegate also participated in the Zonal grants management training in Kuala Lumpur in November which provided a good understanding of ECHO procedures. Zonal ECHO working modalities were furthermore agreed upon which should be disseminated throughout the Zone. A group of five ECHO resource persons in the Zone have been set up that can be consulted when facing problems in relation to ECHO reporting.

Constraints or Challenges

Low funding coverage of the different components of the regional organizational development programme, together with delayed funding confirmation, hampered the implementation of some programme activities, for instance the peer-to-peer exchange visit under strategic organizational development and community-based support, an annual regional communications training, a regional finance director's meeting, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting training initiatives and a joint planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting-finance development workshop. These activities are being carried forward to 2009 and the programme will try to address this problem by seeking funding for specific interventions ('tailor-made support') and ensuring that the organizational development components are increasingly integrated and cut across all programmes.

The rolling out of the new planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting modalities have been well received but there remains some resistance as some programme staff still view planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting solely as a reporting unit as it used to be. Furthermore, in times of disasters, the reporting lines and responsibilities remain unclear.

Global Agenda Goal 4: Humanitarian values

Purpose: National societies have increased capacity to promote dignity and respect for diversity and to fight discrimination and intolerance in communities.

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component	Component outcome
Understanding Humanitarian Values	National societies and International Federation country offices show an increased understanding of humanitarian values.
Promoting diversity and increasing dignity	National societies demonstrate an increased capacity to incorporate their understanding of humanitarian values in their ongoing work

Achievements

As a result of ongoing promotion and advocacy on the Movement's Fundamental Principles and values, national societies supported by country offices in the region showed an increased capacity to incorporate these in their programme plans and activities.

Constraints or Challenges

The biggest constraint during the reporting period was the lack of funding for this programme, due to which a number of planned activities under this programme could not be carried out. However, principles and values continues to be an important focus of the work in South Asia. There is a commitment to

disseminate information on this to national societies in the region and to build their capacities to fight discrimination and promote dignity and a respect for diversity in their countries. Therefore, these interventions will be integrated in the other ongoing programmes in line with the regional integrated programming approach.

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

Working in partnership

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

In the field of disaster management, the South Asia regional office has made joint initiatives with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre and Handicap International to develop the standardized CBDRR curriculum package. Working relationship was further strengthened with UN agencies (ISDR and UNDP) and the SAARC disaster management centre. The working relationship with the Bhutanese government is also growing. The regional disaster management coordinator was invited by the Bhutanese government to facilitate disaster management simulation exercises in the country in September. Additionally, as mentioned above, six senior officials from the Bhutanese government participated in the CBDRR and CBFA trainings organized by the International Federation.

In the field of health and care, the regional health unit received funding support from the Finnish Red Cross Society for the regional CBFA workshop held in October. The Finnish Red Cross has shown interest in further collaboration in the coming years and is negotiating with the World Health Organization for a polio and measles programme to be implemented in India, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Talks are also ongoing with the Academy for Educational Development to develop communication material on humanitarian pandemic preparedness.

The Indian Red Cross Society secretary general, head of regional office and regional health manager participated in the 61st Session of the World Health Organization Regional Committee for SEARO from 8-11 September. On this occasion, the Indian Red Cross Society secretary general gave a statement on behalf of the International Federation and highlighted the partnership between the two organizations.

Strong cooperation with the ICRC for optimal use of Movement resources was seen as a result of promotion, by the regional organizational development programme, of a Movement-harmonized approach to operational planning in Afghanistan by the Afghan Red Crescent Society, ICRC and the International Federation. The communications development programme component maintained close cooperation with international media agencies like Reuters, BBC and CNN for efficient information flow especially during disasters.

Contributing to longer-term impact

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

With the launch of the Global Alliance on HIV, in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal, the HIV programme is expected to expand and double its reach by 2010. The regional CBFA master facilitators workshop and the public health in emergencies training will contribute to create a pool of resources in the region who will act as facilitators in their country and expand this resource pool and continue reaching and serving vulnerable communities.

This is also in keeping with the increasing integration of principles and values with the core programmes in the region. Another key area of integration will be between disaster management and principles and

values with regard to advocacy initiatives around the “Code of Conduct of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations in Disaster Relief” and the “Sphere Project Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response”.

Looking ahead

The consolidation process of the South Asia regional office and the India office that started at the beginning of the year has now been finalized and the regional programme staff has moved in with the India office. The aim is to return to the pre-Gujarat earthquake model where one office serves as both India country office and regional delegation. This consolidating will optimise financial and human resources. The regional programmes will continue to support the six national societies and seven country offices in the region in the implementation of their programmes.

Following the first step of the regional disaster management/DRR review, wherein the consultant held consultations with Movement and non-Movement partners in six countries of the region, there will be a participatory workshop where findings and recommendations of the consultant’s mission will be discussed and the regional disaster management/DRR framework carved out. Based on that, the regional priorities and strategic directions will be clearer.

The regional health unit is looking towards providing direction and guidance to the national societies to scale up their programmes and fund raise. A five-year extension of the regional HIV programme has been proposed where one year, 2010, will serve as a bridge year to be used to develop the programme through a participatory approach. The regional health unit will also provide support to expand the polio and measles programmes in the region.

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"> • International Federation regional office in India: Al Panico (head of regional office); phone: +91.11.2411.1125; fax: +91.11.2411.1128; email: al.panico@ifrc.org; • International Federation Zone office in Kuala Lumpur: Alistair Henley (head of zone office); phone: +60.12.203.8254; email: alistair.henley@ifrc.org • Federation zone office in Kuala Lumpur: Jagan Chapagain (deputy head of zone); phone: +603 9207 5702; email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org; • Penny Elghady (resource mobilization and PMER coordinator); phone: +603 9207 5775; email: penny.elghady@ifrc.org or zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org 	

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA52001 - South Asia

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2008/11
Budget Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
Appeal	MAA52001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	1,156,769	1,107,166	857,016	121,508	583,719	3,826,178
B. Opening Balance	50,371	440,453	19,439	190	3,046	513,498
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross	74,775					74,775
Australian Red Cross	0					0
British Red Cross (from British Government)	332,990					332,990
Danish Red Cross			59,668			59,668
Danish Red Cross (from Danish Government)			96,436			96,436
ECHO	491,434					491,434
Japanese Red Cross	25,000	25,000	30,000	0	10,000	90,000
New Zealand Red Cross	0					0
Swedish Red Cross	91,139					91,139
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)		182,810	113,982	17,270	17,270	331,332
C1. Cash contributions	1,015,338	207,810	300,087	17,270	27,270	1,567,775
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
British Red Cross (from British Government)	-136,371					-136,371
British Red Cross (from DFID - British Government)	265,159					265,159
Danish Red Cross			3,406			3,406
Danish Red Cross (from Danish Government)			48,994			48,994
ECHO	122,294					122,294
New Zealand Red Cross	-1,695					-1,695
Swedish Red Cross	21,458					21,458
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	270,845		52,400			323,245
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
Danish Red Cross			102,507			102,507
Spanish Red Cross					48,400	48,400
Swedish Red Cross		43,400			59,933	103,333
C4. Inkind Personnel		43,400	102,507		108,333	254,240
<u>Other Income</u>						
Services					42,707	42,707
C5. Other Income					42,707	42,707
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	1,286,183	251,210	454,994	17,270	178,310	2,187,966
D. Total Funding = B + C	1,336,553	691,663	474,433	17,460	181,355	2,701,464
Appeal Coverage	116%	62%	55%	14%	31%	71%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	50,371	440,453	19,439	190	3,046	513,498
C. Income	1,286,183	251,210	454,994	17,270	178,310	2,187,966
E. Expenditure	-761,671	-360,031	-350,103	-7,381	-189,216	-1,668,401
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	574,883	331,632	124,330	10,079	-7,861	1,033,063

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Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure						Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	
A		B						A - B
BUDGET (C)		1,156,769	1,107,166	857,016	121,508	583,719	3,826,178	
Supplies								
Teaching Materials	18,100							18,100
Other Supplies & Services	2,400							2,400
Total Supplies	20,500							20,500
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	48,589	27,760	3,539	1,345			32,643	15,946
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.						-663	-663	663
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	48,589	27,760	3,539	1,345		-663	31,981	16,608
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	35,600	768	9,279	5,572		4,883	20,502	15,098
Total Transport & Storage	35,600	768	9,279	5,572		4,883	20,502	15,098
Personnel								
International Staff	1,019,680	75,935	79,574	252,209		158,528	566,247	453,433
Regionally Deployed Staff	78,805	37,122	12				37,134	41,671
National Staff	320,415	93,302	63,523	24,855	6,508	19,937	208,125	112,290
National Society Staff	17,400	278		1,885			2,163	15,237
Consultants	284,156	89,830	24,407				114,236	169,920
Total Personnel	1,720,456	296,467	167,516	278,949	6,508	178,465	927,906	792,550
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	909,760	272,118	73,835	7,812		349	354,113	555,647
Total Workshops & Training	909,760	272,118	73,835	7,812		349	354,113	555,647
General Expenditure								
Travel	276,935	61,591	29,175	12,089	312	2,173	105,340	171,595
Information & Public Relation	262,462	25,986	288	1,508		987	28,768	233,694
Office Costs	150,975	2,179	50,937	21,536		-6,983	67,669	83,306
Communications	33,723	12,834	3,699	1,678	80	1,654	19,945	13,778
Professional Fees			23				23	-23
Financial Charges	1,200	307	85			1	393	807
Other General Expenses	117,276	8,964		3,045		2,951	14,960	102,317
Total General Expenditure	842,571	111,861	84,206	39,856	393	783	237,099	605,473
Programme Support								
Program Support	248,702	51,006	20,581	16,151	480	5,257	93,475	155,226
Total Programme Support	248,702	51,006	20,581	16,151	480	5,257	93,475	155,226
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		1,691	1,075	419		141	3,326	-3,326
Total Operational Provisions		1,691	1,075	419		141	3,326	-3,326
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	3,826,178	761,671	360,031	350,103	7,381	189,216	1,668,401	2,157,777
VARIANCE (C - D)		395,098	747,135	506,913	114,127	394,503	2,157,777	