

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

SOUTH EAST ASIA: REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

27 May 2003

Appeal No. 01.65/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 2,549,593 (USD 1,868,518 or EUR 1,746,297)

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: January to March, 2003

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 49%; See attached Contributions List for details.

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,294,624 (USD 950,881 /EUR 886,729)

Programme Summary:

Due the sound financial situation at the end of 2002, support to national societies was provided as planned. Emphasis was placed on the provision of support to individual societies - integral to the implementation of regional programmes. All activities for 2003 are based on a detailed work plan. The benefits of the reorganised office procedures in the regional delegation, which were started in late 2002, are clearly apparent.

Operational developments

During the first quarter, emphasis was on developing annual work plans as well as new administrative and managerial structures, required for implementation of the Federation's 'strategy for change'. There were no sudden-onset disasters/events which required direct intervention from the regional delegation. Close cooperation with the secretaries-general forum, which demonstrated its capacity by taking over the ownership of the next regional partnership meeting, was maintained.

The first indications of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak appeared in March and almost immediately had an impact on the planning and implementation of projects and regional meetings, many of which were postponed or cancelled.

Health and Care

Goal: There is a sustainable improvement in the general health of vulnerable communities in the region.

Objective: The region's national societies deliver quality health and care programmes that address the needs of the most vulnerable communities.

Expected Results

1. There is increased capacity in the region's national societies for effective design, planning, implementation and management of relevant high quality health and care programmes. The RHU will support this capacity building process by providing technical assistance and advice to national societies in accordance with specific needs and development plans.
2. Enhanced regional networking for cross-border transfer of technology, information sharing, advocacy, and effective resource mobilisation and utilisation within the region. Underpinning the regional networks will be enhanced focus on increasing the ownership of the membership, with national societies taking on the chair/secretariat role of the networks and, importantly, becoming more committed to supporting one another. The RHU will be instrumental in assisting the networks in developing and implementing cross-border activities.
3. Improved coordination of health and care activities within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and with relevant external agencies in the region, to ensure development of sustainable national society health programmes. The RHU will act as a facilitator in the coordination of health and care activities in the region.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Health strategic plans

In January, both the Lao and Vietnam Red Cross Societies approached the regional health unit for support in the development of health strategic plans. Both national societies would benefit from a clear focus, vision and priorities towards implementing their various health programmes and activities. Several projects are guided by funding availability rather than by any decision of the national society to undertake activities in a particular area. A strategic planning process involving both national societies is now underway. The strategic planning will focus more on the process than on the actual production of a strategy document. A joint introductory workshop is scheduled for the second quarter of 2003.

Health in emergencies

In March, high-level meetings for setting up parameters to disseminate the Manila Action Plan, which mandates national societies in the region to incorporate health in emergencies into nation-level health programmes, were held. The plan is to capitalise on previous regional trainings in this area by using trained personnel to further health activities. Subsequent meetings were held with the Indonesian and Vietnamese Red Cross Societies on the development of health in emergency activities in these countries. In Vietnam, the decision is to link the activities with disaster response and first aid programmes.

Water and sanitation

The unit assisted national societies from East Timor, Indonesia, Lao PDR, China and DPR Korea in the first quarter. There has been good progress with the plans incorporating water, sanitation and hygiene into a single package. With the distribution of 3,000 household water filters, the families in Vietnam's Mekong Delta now have access to potable water. Besides instructions on using the water filters, trained Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers disseminated messages on hygiene. Work on family latrines is scheduled to begin shortly.

Following last year's CBFA/PHAST (community based first aid/participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation) training in Indonesia by the unit, the Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia/PMI) has completed the translation of the PHAST manual into Bahasa Indonesia and developed tool kits for implementation. In March, the national society conducted training at the branch level. A plan for implementing PHAST in the communities is being completed. Singapore Red Cross continues to support water supply activities in Indonesia, and discussions on support for hygiene and sanitation, as well as capacity building of the branches, are ongoing.

Lao Red Cross has submitted a project proposal for support on water sanitation projects in provinces where there are no PNS activities. The national society expects that support will not only fulfil the needs of these communities but also serve as an opportunity to strengthen those branches where activities will take place. Lao Red Cross has also adopted the Federation's approach to hygiene training by adapting PHAST materials into their programme.

In China the second European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) funded project for construction of ecological latrines is underway. A Federation health delegate is supporting the hygiene component using the PHAST participatory approach. The PHAST manual has been translated into Chinese by the provincial Red Cross branch. Several participating national societies, such as Norwegian and American Red Cross Societies, have shown interest in the approach and adopted it for their bilateral programmes in other provinces.

HIV/AIDS

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) funded programme for reducing household vulnerability to HIV/AIDS in selected countries in Asia Pacific moved ahead during the review period. For two months the unit, in collaboration with the Australian Red Cross regional HIV/AIDS coordinator and the head of Cambodia delegation, worked on the development of implementation guidelines and the management structure for the programme. National societies were also provided guidance and support in developing proposals, which were nearly ready for approval by end March.

ART network

Assistance was provided to the Asian Red Cross Red Crescent task force (ART) to prepare for an external evaluation of the network's performance over the last five years (1999-2003), and the ART strategic planning workshop in July 2003. Terms of reference for the evaluation were developed in consultation with ART members and the evaluation team identified, comprising an external consultant, two national society members and a staff from the unit. The evaluation is scheduled for completion in the second quarter of 2003 and will provide inputs for the strategic planning workshop in July. Of the several issues raised during the first quarter was the management mechanism of the ART network, and ways to strengthen capacity of the ART secretariat. A consultative management style has been suggested (participatory management), allowing the ART secretariat and members more freedom to work using their existing experience and potential within the network. The Thai Red Cross completes its term of hosting the ART secretariat in 2003; it will therefore be helpful to clarify key issues before the handover of the secretariat.

Regional blood donor recruitment task force

A second meeting of the regional blood donor recruitment task force was held in February, hosted and partly funded by the Singapore Red Cross. It provided national societies with the opportunity to share and exchange experiences and expertise in the field, and to discuss future regional coordination. It was decided that a regional task force is no longer required, though the unit would continue to support opportunities for mutual learning, and link the specific needs of national societies that are less advanced with those more advanced in the field.

Impact

There is clearly a greater understanding among national societies on the importance of undertaking strategic planning, especially in the area of health. Even though the strategic planning process in Laos and Vietnam is still at the planning stage, some results are already evident, such as improved coordination within different sections of national societies. Two key health sections in Lao Red Cross – the health department and the blood transfusion service centre – are moving towards better cooperation, whereas previously they worked in isolation. Both will join the strategic planning process. Similarly within the Vietnam Red Cross, the health department and the social welfare department have started to discuss joint planning. Participating national societies (PNS) are becoming increasingly involved in supporting these initiatives, with for example the Danish Red Cross willing to support the health strategy development in both countries. Federation delegations play an important role in coordinating this support at the country level.

Constraints

Ensuring better internal coordination, such as between different departments of national societies, takes time and needs substantial support. It is especially important to get the leadership on board to ensure that the strategies are officially adopted by the national society, and not only by the department or programme.

There is a need to establish a 'seed' programme to show the visible impact of including health in emergencies activities, and thus obtain the needed mandate from governments. It is necessary, now and in the next few years, to raise PNS awareness and gain support for investment in this area.

Due to the conflict in Iraq and its aftermath, processing of the project proposal to the Austrian Red Cross, for support of water and sanitation projects in Laos and Vietnam, has been delayed. While a response is awaited, preparations for implementation continue, though actual execution will commence only after funding is secured.

Support to and communication with the different health networks has been ongoing during the period, but the water and sanitation, first aid and health in emergencies networks have not found a forum to jointly meet. One constraint is poor funding for these particular components (water and sanitation and first aid), while another is unwillingness of national societies to take the lead in maintaining and operating the networks. Regional networks require funding and administrative support, as well as long-term sustainability. Considering the still limited potential for self-funding faced of many national societies in the region, the network model has to be further discussed and determined.

Coordination

In order to strengthen collaboration and partnership in the region, an Asia Pacific regional health team meeting was held in December 2002. Since the meeting, the unit has maintained regular contact between the Federation, ICRC, national societies, and PNS health and care delegates in the region. In one instance, a Danish Red Cross bilateral health delegate assisted the Federation to undertake a review of the DPR Korea health programme.

Close coordination has been established with the Australian Red Cross, initially in relation to the OPEC fund, also gradually expanding to other HIV/AIDS programmes. The American Red Cross HIV/AIDS coordinator has agreed to be the facilitator of the ART strategic planning workshop in July.

During the reporting period, the unit participated in a number of international and regional meetings and conferences, strengthening links with a variety of national and international organisations. Meetings included the World Water Forum in Japan, and the regional Global Fund for Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) in Myanmar, both in March 2003. The latter may lead to a joint GFATM-Federation partnership symposium during the next ICAAP (International Conference on AIDS in Asia Pacific) in Japan later this year.

Disaster Management

The regional disaster management (DM) programme continued activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of the 11 national societies in the region, in both disaster preparedness and response, at the national, regional and global level. To achieve this, the regional DM unit acted as the catalyst to drive forward activities agreed under the regional cooperation framework (endorsed by all 11 Southeast Asia national societies). The regional DM team includes two regional delegates in Bangkok, two country-based delegates (Indonesia and Myanmar), and one national programme officer (Vietnam). The national society DM managers, who chair sub-groups responsible for activities under the four projects, call on the team's support as and when necessary.

Goal: National societies are: well prepared, able to respond to disasters in a timely, efficient and coordinated manner, clearly linked to the Federation's response system and improving the ability of communities at risk to cope with disasters.

Objective: The disaster preparedness and response capacity at national and regional level is substantially improved and the linkages to the Federation's global response system assured, through a comprehensive, integrated regional DM approach.

Expected Results:

The programme is based on four inter-linked projects (components) that correspond with the tasks identified in the objectives agreed by national societies in the regional framework document and seeks to achieve the following results:

1. All national societies are systematically addressing their DM development needs, based on well-developed plans and through strengthened regional cooperation.
2. The disaster response and response preparedness capacity within the region is further strengthened, at both individual national society and regional level, and the understanding of and linkages to the Federation's global response system are assured.
3. The linkages and mechanisms for DM information and knowledge sharing between the national, regional and global level are substantially improved.
4. The Federation's regional DM cooperation framework is further developed, maintained, and sustained.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Addressing development needs, well-developed plans and strengthened regional cooperation

Programme work is divided between the two delegates into disaster response (DR) and preparedness (DP), although both provide support to national societies in all aspects of disaster management. Visits during the period included those to the Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar and East Timor Red Cross societies. The 'terms of reference' agreed on before the visits aimed to provide support to national society

disaster management staff in the implementation of the country programmes and also offered opportunities for regional exchange (information/knowledge sharing and so on).

A review of the Bali bombing in January, co-organised with the Indonesian Red Cross – Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI) - in Bali, was attended by the Indonesian country delegation, Australian Red Cross and the ICRC. Held over several days, it explored the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders in a transparent manner that was appreciated by all participants. A generic set of issues discussed during the meeting was later compiled and circulated to stakeholders for comments. It is anticipated that the document will provide PMI with some guidance in preparation for such complex disasters in the future.

Three regional DM delegates from East Asia, Pacific and South East Asia, along with DM delegates/programme officers from Indonesia, Myanmar and Vietnam met in Bangkok in February to discuss a range of community based DM (CBDM) and disaster response issues. Senior officers from the secretariat's disaster management and coordination (DMC) division were also present. Apart from being a valuable first meeting between delegates and officers in the Asia Pacific region, it was an occasion to exchange information about the different country programmes supported by country delegations, and understanding the DMC and its inter-relationship with the national society/country delegation/regional delegation.

Countries identified for high priority DP support, requiring visits each quarter, include Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Indonesia. During the reporting period, visits were made to Vietnam (twice), Cambodia, Indonesia and Laos. Support was provided in programme work, through meetings with different stakeholders, and to donors (DIPECHO), PNS and UN representatives. Activities under the framework agreement (for instance the well prepared national societies checklist completed for all 11 national societies and submitted to Geneva) as well as contingency and strategic planning were also discussed.

Preparations for a two-week leadership/management training course, co-facilitated with the Institute for Disaster Risk Management (IDRM) in Manila in May, included a visit to Manila for discussions with IDRM and Philippines National Red Cross (PNRC). The course will be customised for disaster management teams from all 11 national societies.

Exchange visits between Laos Red Cross to Vietnam and Cambodia were planned with the national societies and will take place in May/June.

Strengthening disaster response and response preparedness capacity and assuring understanding of the Federation's global response system

Preparations began for the regional disaster response team (RDRT) training in June near Surabaya, Indonesia. The curriculum was developed and consultations held with ICRC cooperation delegates in Indonesia and Myanmar; who will be involved in training for conflict preparedness. The RDRT standard operating procedures (SOP) and a draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) concerning the Federation response mechanisms and their application in the region were also discussed with regional DM committee (RDMC) members. The DR coordinator attended the training of trainers (TOT) in Geneva for RDRT.

Twelve FACT (field assessment and coordination teams) trained persons are present in the Southeast Asia region and discussions were held with national societies and the DMC department to try to increase this number.

Negotiations with the Singapore and Finnish Red Cross for a basic health care emergency response unit (ERU) in Singapore are underway, to provide human resources from within the region. Discussions on a telecom and logistics ERU are still ongoing with various PNS, including Japan, Australia and Singapore.

National society efforts to develop contingency plans with the RDMU are still ongoing; the unit is also drafting a contingency plan in collaboration with the Secretariat operations managers and other interested parties.

The unit contributed to response preparedness training in Indonesia and East Timor, and to a large extent in Myanmar. In Myanmar, the delegation and the national society are developing a disaster assessment response team (DART) at the headquarters level and in three provinces. The DR delegate made several visits in order to help to facilitate their training events.

Dissemination of the Federation logistics standards continued through standard documentation (logistics books/CDs etc) to several societies. Guidance was provided to three societies (Cambodian Red Cross, Malaysian Red Crescent Society and the Philippine National Red Cross) that are currently studying their logistical needs. Specific input and training was provided to national societies in Indonesia and Myanmar. PMI and its country delegation were assisted in reaching an agreement with the ICRC on a logistics MoU, which will help PMI improve capability in disaster response and allows the Federation to use the Surabaya logistics base for emergency operations and training. Assistance was provided to improve the countrywide logistic response system that aims to have regional warehouses and contingency stocks in four locations. In Myanmar, the challenge of emergency stock replenishment (for 18 empty warehouses) demanded attention, and advice on attempts to secure donor interest was provided during two visits.

The International Disaster Response Law project was closely followed by the Secretariat appointed resource/field research persons, and a regional focal person from Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University faculty of law.

Over the reporting period, the unit followed closely natural and complex disaster situations, such as: conflicts, internally displaced persons (IDP), and evacuation camps, in the Philippines; flash floods, landslides, earthquakes, IDP, in Indonesia; East Timor floods; Malaysian population movements; and Myanmar fires. To a large extent communications was through the disaster management information system (DMIS). Assistance was also provided to the media.

Sharing disaster management information and knowledge regionally and globally

The unit continued support to all 11 national society DMIS focal persons; seven provided regular inputs, of which, three directly updated the system. Their inputs were closely monitored. Further training was provided to PMI, East Timor Red Cross (CVTL) and Myanmar Red Cross, and a specific DMIS training for the PNRRC has been planned. Some societies are developing an internal DMIS, within their country.

During country visits, guidance was also provided to national societies and delegations on the Federation emergency appeal and global response systems.

Developing, maintaining and sustaining the regional disaster management framework

Recruitment of a DM programme officer, to be based in Bangkok, took place during the quarter with the formal appointment scheduled for May.

Impact

It is difficult to specify the impact of the regional DM programme in the first quarter. However, disaster management information gathering has notably improved with the success of the strategy to develop national society DMIS focal persons and in-country development of information gathering networks. There is a sense of trust and confidence among national society DM staff with their engagement within the RDMC and through the unit's enhanced support in the region.

Constraints

Disaster managers in national societies continue to prioritise country programmes at the expense of regional activities, which were driven in the first quarter largely by the regional DM team. It is essential managers come to terms with the need to take on greater responsibility and recognise the type of support available from the regional DM team.

Coordination

Regionally, the unit continued to support the Humanitarian Forum (an INGO network of organisations based in Bangkok with a regional remit) and furthermore held several meetings with Oxfam GB to jointly plan activities for working with the media, and advocacy workshops. Joint activities also continued with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre and the Institute for Disaster Risk Management regarding their CBDM training course and urban disaster mitigation project. In Vietnam, the unit facilitated a disaster management information-sharing meeting between PNS, national society and Federation delegation, while in Cambodia it supported work to forge agreement between the Mekong River Commission/American Red Cross/USAID and the national society. The unit also networked with the ICRC and the UNICEF COBRA project for response preparedness.

Humanitarian Values

Goal: The awareness and application of humanitarian values is enhanced across the region.

Objective: National societies in SE Asia are motivated and able to generate a high degree of visibility, credibility, cooperation and support for Red Cross Red Crescent activities.

Expected Results:

The programme is based on five key programmes that will have the following overall results:

1. The region's national societies will have strong and well-developed communications capacity.
2. Expanded strategic links with local and international media will be further strengthened to secure sustained and high profile media coverage for the activities of the Federation and national societies in the region, particularly in times of emergencies.
3. Heightened awareness of Red Cross Red Crescent activities and humanitarian values will be encouraged among key external stakeholders, including diplomatic missions, the corporate sector, civil authorities, NGOs, INGOs and civil society.
4. There will be integration of communications components into all regional/national programmes.
5. Regional networking will be further strengthened and fostered as the catalyst for regular knowledge-sharing between Red Cross Red Crescent communications officers, the Federation Secretariat, PNS partners and other stakeholders.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Communications capacity

Regional communications network meeting

Planning and preparation for the third regional communications network meeting in Bangkok, at the end of May, has begun (subsequently postponed due to the SARS outbreak). Participants will be communications officers of national societies in East and South East Asia. In February, the network's working group drafted the meeting agenda. The meeting theme 'From strategy to action - communicating for human dignity' is in line with the Manila Action Plan, and the theme of the 2003 International Conference in Geneva.

8 May celebrations

Materials related to the upcoming World Red Cross Red Crescent Day celebrations have been shared with national societies in the region. CDs with the Federation's 'Stamps Campaign' materials, which are to be the next 'chapter' in the global campaign against HIV-related stigma and discrimination, have been produced.

Visit to Japanese Red Cross

Extensive consultations were held with the national society communications staff and managers during a visit to Tokyo in mid-February, as well as discussions on their continued support to the regional communications programme. A separate report on the visit has been shared with stakeholders.

Regional internship programme

The regional internship programme is on hold pending clarification of funding and staffing issues.

Media relations

Harm reduction conference

Plans were being laid, in cooperation with the media service in Geneva and the Secretariat's HIV unit, for media work during the fourteenth International Conference on the Reduction of Drug-related Harm in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in early April. Background materials were being produced and contacts made with local and international media.

8 May press kit

During the quarter, a press kit for 8 May celebrations, along with other materials, was being produced for distribution to national societies in the region.

Raising awareness of humanitarian values

Asia Pacific FOCUS

The final issue of the *Asia Pacific FOCUS* in its hardcopy format was going into print at the end of the reporting period. It focuses on the Manila Action Plan and the issues debated at the Manila conference, in addition to regular coverage of various Red Cross Red Crescent issues and activities in the region. The print run of 7,000 copies in English, has been distributed to national societies across Asia Pacific, PNS, media, foreign missions, international organizations, NGOs, the corporate sector and others. The title has now ceased publication in its current 'ink-on-paper' format and a more cost effective approach is sought to deliver/expand the content to a wider audience using modern technology.

Production of Manila Action Plan publication

A brochure on the Manila Action Plan (an outcome of the regional Red Cross Red Crescent conference in Manila in November 2002) was produced and distributed to regional national societies, delegations, media and other stakeholders during the reporting period.

Regional profile

Production of an updated regional profile was underway towards the end of the reporting period. The 24-page publication on the Red Cross Red Crescent in South East Asia focuses on work of national societies and the Federation and its delegations, as well as a work profile of the ICRC in the region. The publication will be finalised during the second quarter.

Federation's website

National society communications officers are continually encouraged to provide input to the Federation website with stories and news items about their work and operations. Several stories from the region were found on the website during the reporting period.

'Changing Attitudes' video

Production of the HIV video was nearing completion at the end of the reporting period.

Networking

- The unit helped edit, design and prepare the ART network's newsletter.
- Support was given to the regional organisational development (OD) unit to produce a simple brochure on its programme and OD issues in the region.
- Regular and frequent consultation was carried out with the regional information delegate in Beijing, the communications manager in Delhi, as well as with delegations around the region.

Impact

Nearly half the national societies in East and South East Asia are using the regional communications strategy for their own planning in this field. It demonstrates an increased understanding of the need for planned and sustained communications work.

Constraints

The decrease in staffing of the unit in 2002, due to a funding shortfall, has led to a significant decrease in output. Efforts are being made to recruit a staff-on-loan from a national society in the region.

Organisational Development

Goal: A greater number of people in the region have access to humanitarian services and relief interventions through the Red Cross Red Crescent.

Objective: Southeast Asia national societies are aligned with the criteria defined in the 'characteristics of a well functioning national society' and are in a position to deliver quality humanitarian services to the most vulnerable people.

Expected Results:

1. National societies in the region achieve significant improvements in regional cooperation and coordination through a strong regional network of organizational development (OD) practitioners and practical training in OD related issues.
2. The capacity of at least two national societies in the field of human resource development is enhanced in order to ensure the engagement and retention of a sufficient number of qualified people to carry out the required programmes and activities.
3. The Malaysian Red Crescent, Philippine National Red Cross, Thai Red Cross and Cambodian Red Cross benefit through direct assistance from the regional OD unit in, respectively, programme management, resource development and mobilisation, establishment of a youth network and gender balance.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Regional coordination

Two working groups, created at the regional OD forum last year, have continued to focus on developing mechanisms to institutionalise the forum and branch development, respectively. Discussions on their progress and adoption of their recommendations will be the agenda of the next forum meeting.

Technical support to national societies

A visit to Lao Red Cross included discussions on the implementation of the cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) process and follow up on the recommendations that emerged from the 'well functioning national society' self assessment. These recommendations will be incorporated into the regular national society planning process. Discussions were held with the Vietnam Red Cross on future OD support, in view of the impending change in the delegation set-up in Vietnam. The unit also coordinated a visit from the Lao Red Cross to the national society in Thailand to discuss, among other issues, support by the Thai Red Cross to their northern counterpart.

Planning

Following the regional strategic planning workshop in 2002, some national societies have embarked upon a strategic planning process. The Myanmar Red Cross has started a solid process with support of the country delegation and technical input from the regional OD unit. Vietnam Red Cross has decided to begin this process in the second quarter.

Following the first project planning process (PPP) workshop in Bangkok, the unit provided technical support for a similar workshop in South Asia. Steps have been taken to develop PPP facilitators in the region; by the end of the next quarter - between New Delhi and Bangkok - adequate facilitators should be in place to meet the ever-growing demand of PPP in these two sub-regions.

To help harmonise the strategic planning process, national societies in the region have expressed the need for strategic planning guidelines; work to develop such guidelines has commenced and the first draft expected to be ready by the third quarter of the year.

Financial resource development

The PNRC is planning a comprehensive resource-development training programme to bring in new techniques and management of financial resource development in the country. Funding for this has been secured and discussions are under way to finalise a mechanism to manage this training programme with PNRC. Programme implementation should start in the second quarter of 2003.

OD brochure

The final draft of the OD brochure has been circulated to all the OD practitioners in the region for their comments. The brochure will be printed for use by the end of second quarter.

Impact

The regional OD forum has increased interaction among OD practitioners in various countries and regional knowledge sharing. This process should further enhance regional cooperation among national societies. The high level visit from Laos to Thai Red Cross is expected to initiate cooperation between the two national societies, initially in the field of fund raising, expanding to other areas in the future. It will serve as an example of partnership and use of resources from within the region. The enhanced planning and appeal process should result in a better quality product this year, given the additional 15 people who have been trained in PPP. The OD brochure will help disseminate information about the programme to important stakeholders and increase their understanding of OD issues.

Constraints

Due to the SARS outbreak in the region, the planned OD forum meeting was postponed; it cannot be rescheduled until the situation clears up. The regional OD office was under-staffed up until late February, creating difficulties in following up on various aspects of the programme. The addition of a locally employed OD officer has greatly improved the situation. Although preparatory work for the Cambodian Red Cross gender mainstreaming pilot project was completed in 2002, and the project ready to be launched, it has now been postponed to after the national elections in July.

Coordination

Close coordination continues between the ICRC, Geneva OD department, country delegations and national societies in the region in relevant activities.

Federation Coordination

Goal: National societies in Southeast Asia have sustained and coordinated support of Red Cross Red Crescent partners for their activities.

Objective: The effectiveness of, and external support for, the region's national societies is strengthened by transforming existing concepts into action.

Expected Results

All components of the Movement in South East Asia work together effectively.

The project seeks to have the following specific results:

- The leaderships of national societies and their PNS partners come together at least once a year.
- The Southeast Asia secretaries-general forum becomes established and institutionalised.
- By the end of 2003 a significant number of national societies in the region have begun a CAS process.
- The Federation and ICRC continue to enjoy harmonious and close working relations across the region.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

In February 2003, a working group appointed by the secretaries-general forum, met in Bangkok to prepare for the Southeast Asian partnership meeting (subsequently postponed until later in the year due to the SARS outbreak). The main objectives were to review previous resolutions of the forum and agree on an agenda and direction of the meeting. It further emphasised strengthening regional cooperation through various national society networks, by ensuring these networks play significant roles in the partnership meeting. Besides taking stock of regional cooperation, the secretaries-general reaffirmed their commitment to the forum's new rules and procedures (adopted in September 2002) and agreed it should be sustained as an institution. The forum's chairmanship also pledged to remain active in between meetings. The next forum meeting will be held in Vietnam co-organised by VNRC and regional delegation.

Various partners and stakeholders signed the Laos CAS agreement in September 2002, and in February 2003 a follow-up meeting took place. The regional delegation, in close cooperation with Federation country delegations and offices, will continue to promote the concept of CAS across the region and facilitate knowledge sharing between those societies which have already completed the process.

The heads of regional delegations of the ICRC and the Federation meet at least once a month in Bangkok. It should, however, be borne in mind that Federation and ICRC regions of operation are not identical. Within Southeast Asia there are five ICRC delegations (Bangkok, Manila, Jakarta – including East Timor - Kuala Lumpur and Myanmar). Relations and cooperation between the Movement components are good and are maintained by the Federation country delegations and regional delegation. The Federation and ICRC jointly funded the preparatory meeting for the partnership meeting, with ICRC a full participating member.

Impact

For the first time, the secretaries-general forum constituted a working group to prepare for the partnership meeting. It is expected that national society ownership of the meeting will be further strengthened through this process. All three components of the Movement working closely together will further strengthen regional cooperation.

Field Management

Overall Goal: The Federation Secretariat's support to national societies in the region is optimised.

Objective: The Federation facilitates the delivery of well managed and coordinated Red Cross Red Crescent programmes across Southeast Asia.

Expected results:

Effective and efficient regional field management structures and procedures are in place.

The project seeks to have the following specific results:

- A regional management and coordination structure is maintained at a level appropriate to ensure the Federation secretariat is able effectively to fulfil its field management function.
- Unacceptable/unplanned financial deficits are eliminated.
- There is increased efficiency in the use of human resources in the region.
- All agreed donor reporting requirements are met in full

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Heads of delegation meeting

Meetings of the heads of delegation in the region and all staff of the regional delegation are organised every quarter. Heads of delegations met individually with the head of regional delegation in February and March to discuss a number of special issues in the region and, in particular, the effects of the Federation's change process. These meetings were seen by all concerned as a useful arrangement and it is planned that the individual meetings are incorporated as a standard procedure, to further improve the close coordination between country delegation technical delegates and their respective regional technical units.

Managing delegates and local staff

Weekly meetings at the regional office create a forum for sharing information. Two new local staff were recruited to assist with OD activities and to ensure the flow of information within the region. The regional delegate from the Austrian Red Cross, based in Bangkok since August 2002, left in January.

Strategic planning

An action plan for the Southeast Asia region has been established. This plan focuses more on facilitating the national societies and delegations with a corresponding reduction in regional delegation driven regional programmes.

A joint meeting between CVTL and PMI in Jakarta and their respective country delegations facilitated closer cooperation and promised economically viable activities in the future. The secretaries-general of PMI and CVTL, the cooperation delegate of the ICRC regional delegation in Jakarta, as well as delegates assigned to these two societies and the head of regional delegation were among the participants. A closer follow up to define a detailed work plan is scheduled for the second quarter.

Impact

The close cooperation between the regional and country delegations contribute considerably towards working as a regional team, in line with the 'strategy for change'.

The restructuring of administrative procedures and responsibilities in the regional delegation, undertaken by the Austrian Red Cross sponsored regional delegate, who completed her mission in January, are showing positive effects.

International Representation

Goal: The Red Cross Red Crescent is widely regarded as a major humanitarian organization in the region.

Objective: The Red Cross Red Crescent's position in South East Asia is strengthened to support the most vulnerable.

Expected Results

The Federation is positioned effectively to influence the humanitarian agenda in Southeast Asia, to advocate in favour of the most vulnerable, to mobilize resources within the region and to establish operational partnerships.

The project seeks to have the following specific results:

- There is increased awareness among the international community of the Federation's global activities and key messages and also the work of the region's national societies.
- A foundation for cooperation with major disaster management organizations in the region, including ADPC, is laid to reach shared goals.
- ESCAP and UNAIDS have developed enhanced knowledge on Federation activities and its potential to intervene for people living with HIV/AIDS.
- There is an augmented donor support from the region, including initiatives with the private sector.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The regional delegation was represented at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) World Water Day conference, and addressed the group on the importance of water for the future of the Asia Pacific region. Various experts, from UN agencies, international aid agencies, universities, non-governmental organisations and youth and religious groups attended the conference. Meetings held with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre were targeted to strengthen relations and promote the joint cooperation on disaster management in the region.

The Federation's presence in the eighth Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Malaysia was important, for learning about the global issues of concern in developing countries.

There is an increased awareness of the Federation's global issues due to efforts such as networking with Swiss and Bangladesh consular offices, and participation in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) development cooperation meeting. The regional delegation is now on the permanent list of UNDP development cooperation. The Australian agency for international development (AusAID) has approached the Federation about the possibility of funding regional DM programmes.

Impact

With the programme in its early stages, any objective assessment in this area would be too soon.

For further information please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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

South East Asia regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.65/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

27.05.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'549'593		49.2%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				326'168		
BRITISH - RC		10'000	GBP	22'425	12.02.03	PPP TRAINING COURSE
BRITISH - RC		10'000	GBP	22'425	12.02.03	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID(04)				63'500	24.02.03	HEALTH & CARE
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID(04)				98'000	24.02.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID(04)				108'000	24.02.03	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)				35'000	24.02.03	INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		600'000	NOK	113'250	26.02.03	ART NETWORK
SWEDISH - GOVT		2'000'000	SEK	320'000	31.03.03	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, OD DELEGATE, DISASTER MANAGEMENT, HUMANITARIAN VALUES
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'108'768	CHF	43.5%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATE(S)			29'733		
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			59'959		
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			21'684		
ICELAND	DELEGATE(S)			34'825		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				146'201	CHF	5.7%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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