

# Report 2006-2007



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU)

Appeal No. MAA42001

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

**In a world of global challenges, continued poverty, inequity, and increasing vulnerability to disasters and disease, the International Federation with its global network, works to accomplish its Global Agenda, partnering with local community and civil society to prevent and alleviate human suffering from disasters, diseases and public health emergencies.**



A family affected by the flooding in Panama benefit from a kitchen set, blankets and food distributed by the Red Cross Society of Panama, with support of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU).

Source: International Federation.

## In brief

**Programme Summary:** Developing countries in Central and South America and the Caribbean remain alarmingly vulnerable to the impact of natural and man-made disasters. In this context, the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) has provided operational and logistics support to the region's National Societies in response to 13 flooding emergencies, one volcanic eruption and one seismic event in an effective and efficient manner according to the needs. A total of CHF 940,431 was allocated in 2006 through the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support operations in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, Peru and El Salvador. Also, larger response operations were supported through emergency appeals, which included a volcanic eruption in Ecuador and flooding in Haiti and Suriname. The three Emergency appeals were launched for a total of CHF 1,895,869.

PADRU focused in 2006 on training and developing Regional Intervention Teams (RIT) throughout the Americas. These specialized staff strengthens National Societies, reinforces cross regional collaboration, promotes human resources development, facilitates the sharing of best practices and increases standardization and understanding of Federation Response tools and mechanisms.

In short, 2006 was marked by a scaling-up of activities at various levels: large and smaller-scale disaster response support to National Societies increased RIT training and deployments, effective of regional collaboration, and increased availability of pre-positioned stock.

**Overall Programme Goal:** Red Cross National Societies in the Americas are receiving significant benefit through support, services, coordination, resources and training from an efficient and effective

disaster management unit that contributes to increasing the capacity to successfully help people reduce risk, respond to and recover from disasters, thus alleviating human suffering.

**Needs:** Total 2006-2007 budget: CHF 4,778,190 (USD 3,958,730 or EUR 3,005,150); of which 33.6% is covered. The budget for 2006 was: CHF 2,687,331 (USD 2,226,455 or EUR 1,690,145), of which 60% is covered. [Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

**No. of people we help:** A total of 31,166 families (approximately 153,273 persons) were assisted through Red Cross disaster response operations supported by PADRU in 2006, of which 18,363 families (approximately 91,815 persons) were assisted directly through DREF and Emergency Appeal funds.

PADRU will continue to coordinate and facilitate the international disaster response of the Red Cross in the Americas. When not responding to disasters, PADRU will continue to contribute to the strengthening of local and regional disaster response capacity of National Societies while continuously increasing the overall quality of existing tools, mechanisms and procedures. Due to the emergency related character of the services of PADRU, estimations on the quantity of people in the future who will benefit from activities of PADRU are not possible.

**Our Partners:** During emergency operations and in preparation activities such as coordination meetings and trainings, PADRU closely coordinates with governmental and/or non-governmental organizations present at the place of emergency, such as United Nations (UN) agencies, Ericsson Response, Oxfam, Partner and Operating National Societies and other humanitarian organizations. Furthermore, through regular participation in regional and international coordination meetings with international agencies, useful information, best practices and available resources are shared in order to reduce duplication of efforts and ensure effective operational inter-agency coordination during disasters.

## Current context

In line with a world-wide phenomenon which has seen a fifty percent increase in the incidence of disasters in the last two decades - and an exponential growth in the number of people affected - the Americas have experienced a significant escalation in the frequency and scale of natural disasters outstripping the coping capacity of the local and national authorities and population. After a ferocious hurricane season in 2005, which left thousands of dead and billions of dollars of damage in their wake, 2006 was marked by excessive rainfall throughout the Americas. The resulting floods required relief operations of varying sizes in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, Peru and Suriname. The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) responded swiftly to these disasters as well as to the volcanic eruption in Ecuador and the seismic swarm in El Salvador by providing operational and logistics support to National Societies in an efficient and timely manner, corresponding to the specific needs.

PADRU's response entailed providing support, services, coordination, resources and training to the Red Cross National Societies in the Americas, always in coordination with the Panama Regional Delegation, the Lima Regional Delegation and the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office. In addition, as a focal point for disaster response in the Americas, PADRU activated and coordinated the technical response tools at global and regional levels.

The development of leadership and coordination skills in the National Societies was a priority for PADRU during the period. The focus in this regard was the deployment of RIT members, which has aided in the strengthening of cross-regional collaboration by facilitating the sharing of best practice and promoting human resource development in National Societies.

PADRU managed its response resources - disaster management delegates, RIT members, and Participating National Society Delegates – in the different emergency operations and disaster preparedness activities with an aim to ensure the availability of these resources at all times.

Furthermore, PADRU provided, through its Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) and IT and Telecom department humanitarian relief supply, logistics support and IT and Telecommunication equipment, thereby strengthening and enhancing the response and rehabilitation capacities of the National Societies in the Americas.

## Progress towards objectives

### Disaster Response

**Objective:** At the request of the regional delegations, PADRU is delivering to National Societies in times of disaster, trained human resources, essential relief supplies, professional technical and coordination services that strengthen, enhance and, if necessary, augment their own emergency response capacities and assist in the transition from relief to rehabilitation.

In 2006, PADRU supported 15 emergency operations throughout the region. Of these operations 13 were flood-related due to the heavy rainy season. In total, CHF 940,431 from the Federation’s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) was allocated to emergency operations. Three emergency appeals were successfully launched for a total of CHF 1,895,869 in response to the volcanic eruption in Ecuador and two flooding related emergencies respectively in Suriname and Haiti.

In the context of these operations, PADRU deployed 23 Disaster Management delegates and 15 RIT team members. In addition to the regional resources deployed by PADRU, 80 National Intervention Team (NIT) members were deployed directly by their National Societies as part of in-country responses (see table 1). The se operations provided the opportunity to test and evaluate management and operational disaster response mechanisms, systems, tools, procedures and effectiveness (including human resources) in deployments in addition to scaling up National Societies’ response activities.

To support the emergency relief response during the floods in Suriname, three charter flights transporting relief items were arranged within days of the emergency. In Chile, one air shipment transporting relief items was sent to support the flooding operation. In the same line, three trucks with relief goods were mobilized in Panama to support the flooding emergency and one truck with relief items arrived at El Salvador shortly after the seismic events. Relief items distributed during other emergency operations were procured locally.

Table 1 summarizes all PADRU-supported emergency responses in 2006:

**TABLE 1**

Emergency	Deployment	DREF/ Appeal (CHF)	Total affected families/ (persons)	Federation supported response- Number of beneficiaries
Argentina Floods	NIT (5)	DREF: CHF 100,000	1,000 families (5,000 persons)	300 families (1,500 persons)
Bolivia floods	PADRU (2) NIT (4)	DREF: CHF 108,000	25,215 families (126,075 persons)	2,000 families (10,000 persons)
Chile Floods	PADRU (2) RIT (1)	DREF: CHF 130,000	19,172 (95,862 persons 28,177 of them severely affected).	2,000 families (10,000 persons)

Colombia Floods	RIT (1)	DREF: CHF 160,000	67,976 families (339,880 persons)	10,000 families (50,000 persons) of whom 1,162 families (5,810 persons) reached with DREF
Ecuador Floods	PADRU (1) RIT (1) NIT (17)	DREF: CHF 80,000	5,734 families (25,803 persons)	1,670 families (8,350 persons)
Ecuador Volcanic Eruption	PADRU (4) RIT (1) NIT (17)	Appeal: CHF 623,064 (of which DREF, CHF 85,000)	5,000 families (15,000 persons affected directly and 300,000 indirectly)	5,517 families (25,028 persons) of whom 1,632 families (8,160 persons) supported with DREF and appeal funding
Guyana Floods	PADRU (1)	-	5,000 families (25,000 persons)	80 families (400 persons)
Haiti Floods (September)	PADRU (1) NIT (3)	DREF: CHF 90,000	3,000 families (15,000 persons)	600 families (3,000 persons)
Haiti Floods (December)	RIT (2) NIT (8)	Appeal: CHF 418,500 (of which DREF, CHF 80,000)	4,000 families (20,000 persons)	2,369 families (11,845 people)
Jamaica: Floods	NIT (1)	DREF: CHF 25,000	400 families (2,000 persons)	200 families (1,000 persons)
Panama Floods (October)	PADRU (4) RIT (1) NIT (8)	DREF: CHF 67,922	380 families (1,900 persons)	380 families (1,900 persons)
Panama Floods (November)	PADRU (6) NIT (12)	DREF: CHF 69,509	1,022 families (5,109 persons)	550 families (2,750 persons)
Peru Floods	PADRU (1) RIT (1)	DREF: CHF 50,000	2,262 families (11,310 persons)	1,000 families (5,000 persons)
El Salvador Seismic swarm	NIT (5)	DREF: CHF 60,000	1,800 families (9,000 persons)	500 families (2,500 persons)
Suriname Floods	PADRU (1) NRC (2) RIT (7) : PIRAC (4) RIT (3)	Appeal: 854,305 (of which DREF: 100,000)	5,000 families (25,000 persons)	4,000 families (20,000 persons)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>PADRU (23) RIT (15) NIT (80)</b>	<b>Appeal: CHF 1,895,869 DREF: CHF 940,431</b>	<b>146,961 families (721,939 persons)</b>	<b>Total of 31,166 families, (153,273 persons) assisted. Of which 18,363 families (91,815 persons) were assisted with DREF and appeal funding</b>

NIT = National Intervention team, (deployed by NS)  
PADRU = delegate of staff deployed from PADRU  
RIT = Regional Intervention Team deployed from by PADRU.

## Constraints

As mentioned in the period's two programme updates, PADRU is yet to receive activity-specific funding for disaster response activities. Additional non-earmarked funds would provide PADRU with the necessary flexibility to ensure better preparedness and even more effective response in the face of disasters.

Taking into consideration PADRU's aim to assist National Societies increase their capacity to successfully help reduce risk and respond to and recover from disasters, a need within the unit was identified in the area of Public Health in Emergencies. At the moment there is no early warning system in place for the detection of outbreaks within National Societies throughout the Americas. National Societies need more knowledge concerning emerging diseases such as Pandemic influenza as well as proper equipment and/or training to provide timely and effective response in Public Health in Emergencies. In short, the need exists to improve and strengthen Federation standards, global

cooperation, and preparedness for global outbreaks and large scale Public Health and Emergencies throughout the Americas, in close coordination with the Health Departments of the Regional Offices in Panama and Lima. Unfortunately, PADRU is still facing constraints concerning limited human resources for health in disaster emergency situations, as well as in the area of Water and Sanitation, which requires further development given the nature of disasters to which the Americas are prone.

### Lessons learned

The need to improve and strengthen health in emergency response capacity in PADRU was established. In order to improve this capacity, a scaling-up of key human resources within PADRU is required. The creation of a *Public Health in Emergency* position within PADRU would be in line with the Global Disaster Management strategy and with PADRU's aim to provide effective and comprehensive disaster management.

During 2006, PADRU organized operational review meetings after the emergency operations in Suriname and in Panama. The implementation of such evaluations is in line with PADRU's aim to increase beneficiary participation and provide humanitarian relief according to SPHERE standards. The evaluations also provide an element for beneficiary input to the operations. According to the

outcomes of these meetings adjustments are now being made to operational procedures, deployment mechanisms and packaging of relief items. For instance, one example of a lesson learned during these meetings is the fact that during flood operations toilet paper in paper packaging is likely to get wet and that a new way of wrapping delicate items might be necessary.



Relief assistance to isolated communities due to severe flooding in Panama. Source: International Federation.

## Disaster Preparedness for Response

**Objective:** At the request of the Panama and Lima Regional Delegations and the Port of Spain Sub-Regional Office, PADRU is contributing through technical support to the strengthening of the capacities of National Societies to reduce risk, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. Disaster preparedness for response mechanisms will be improved through systematic early warning, disaster monitoring and information sharing mechanisms.

The overall goal remains to strengthen the disaster response capacity of the Federation system in the continent by developing leadership and coordination skills in the existing members of the national, regional and international response networks. For this reason, one of the key focuses of PADRU since the beginning of 2006 was to strengthen and scale-up RITs training and deployment. In line with this, selection procedures were tightened and internships in PADRU for RIT members are taking place on a regular basis.

Experience shows that National Societies benefit from the ever-increasing pool of skilled RIT and NIT members. Furthermore, the exchange of knowledge, experience and skills fostered by the RIT system is also strengthening regional cooperation and collaboration between National Societies. In addition, there is greater understanding of international standards, tools and operational requirements, which provides for more cohesive Federation operations as a whole.

During 2006 emphasis was placed on updating the existing RIT database. New procedures and policies for RIT alert activation were developed in order to reach as many RIT members as possible at very short notice. The RIT database and alert system is now the same system used by the Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) system from the International Federation in Geneva. The standardization of the two systems enables RIT members in other regions besides the Americas to use it if needed.

### RIT training

Six training sessions were undertaken for RIT members during 2006, involving 122 participants:

**TABLE 2**

<b>Name training</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>National societies</b>
RIT IT and Telecommunications	23 - 29 January	Antigua	17 participants	13 NS/ OSB
RIT Team Leader Training	30 May – 2 June	Panama	13 participants	8 NS/ OSB
RIT Water and Sanitation	6 – 11 March	Panama	26 participants	14 NS/OSB
RIT Public Health in Emergencies	8 – 12 May	Peru	20 participants	9 NS 2 UNICEF
Logistics RIT workshop	9- 15 July	Panama	21 participants	16 NS/ OSB 2 PADRU
Procurement RIT workshop	13 - 17 November	Panama	25 participants	14 NS 2 PADRU 2 PNS

In 2006, 32 trained RIT members were deployed to 19 different activities, including response and preparedness support, throughout the Americas. Table 3 summarizes RIT deployments in 2006:

**TABLE 3**

<b>Deployment / Date</b>	<b>Task</b>
Grenada NS to Panama/ January	Assistance for RIT training IT & Telecommunications
Grenada NS to several Caribbean National Societies	Assistance in HF network installation
Dominican Republic NS to Ecuador/ February	Emergency response: floods
Honduras NS to Peru/ March	Emergency response: floods
United States NS to Panama and then to Haiti / April	NIT training
7 RITs from: 4 PIRAC: French Guyana NS, French NS, Haiti NS and Guadeloupe NS, 2 from Suriname NS and 1 from Guyana NS to Suriname/ May	Emergency response: floods,
5 RITs from: United States RC, 2 from Panama NS, Haiti NS and Dominican Republic NS to St. Lucia/	Assistance during pre-hurricane meeting.
Chile NS to Colombia / May	Emergency response: floods
2 RITs from: Italy NS and Mexico NS to Panama / May	General PADRU support/ internship.
Belize NS to Bahamas / June	Assistance in IT and Telecom
Panama NS to Mexico / July	Emergency response: floods from hurricane Stan
Argentina NS to Chile / July	Emergency response: floods
Colombia NS to Peru / July	Monitoring of emergencies and pending reports
Argentina NS to Ecuador / July	Emergency response: floods/volcanic eruption
3 RITs from: Guyana NS, Venezuela NS, Panama NS to Finland / August	3 RIT members attended TRIPLEX simulation
Panama NS to Mexico / September	Facilitated VCA workshop
El Salvador NS to Panama / October	Emergency response: floods
Venezuela NS to Panama / October	Logistics internship
Venezuela NS to Panama / November	ERU assessment

Through the development of disaster preparedness and response plans and the increased standardization and widespread understanding of Federation response tools and mechanisms, the disaster response capacity is strengthened both regionally and within National Societies. This means that the Red Cross is better prepared to tailor its response to the size and nature of a disaster – making more effective use of the variety of resources at its disposition. This in turn leads to a better overall coordination and an increased collaboration within the Movement and with external partners. The more frequent deployment of RIT members throughout the Americas is a clear example of how local, regional and international Red Cross expertise is brought to bear in responding to disasters rapidly and efficiently. All this helps build National Societies' capacity, strengthens cross regional collaboration, facilitates sharing of best practices and promotes human resource development, particularly by ensuring that RIT members work closely with NIT members.

In order to reduce duplication of efforts and ensure effective operational inter-agency coordination during disasters, useful information, best practices and available resources were shared, through PADRU's active participation in regional and international coordination meetings with several international agencies. Therefore, internal and external planning and coordination mechanisms are established and utilized by PADRU in coordination with other international organizations.

With the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) *Programmatic Funding*, the Contingency Planning Guide was produced especially for the National Societies in the Caribbean, based on material initially developed for Latin America, which was updated and adapted to regional needs in coordination with National Societies. This guide was disseminated to all National Societies in the region, and was complemented by relevant tools and training to facilitate implementation. Moreover, ECHO *Thematic Funding* has enabled PADRU to increase the relief stock and telecommunications equipment.

The 2006 annual Pre-Hurricane Meeting took place in Saint Lucia on 16-21 May 2006 and aimed at strengthening the Red Cross regional network prior to the onset of the 2006 hurricane season. Hosted by the Saint Lucia Red Cross and facilitated by PADRU, the meeting was attended by 24 National Societies representing the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico, ten Overseas Branches, seven Partner National Societies, Federation Secretariat, Panama Regional Delegation and Port of Spain Sub-Regional Office representatives. The Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Netherlands Red Cross Climate Centre and Ericsson Response were also present.

With its supply management system and Vehicle Rental Programme (VRP), the Regional Logistics Unit continues to support Federation and National Society activities in the region. During 2006, PADRU, through the Regional Logistic Unit (RLU) has increased its existing capacity to deliver relief goods to 25,000 families should the need arise. This goal was reached thanks to the cash and in-kind collaboration of a number of Partner National Societies such as the American, British and Netherlands Red Cross Societies and ECHO.

RLU has increased storage capacity through the use of Tropical Mobile Storage Units (TMSU) and canopies for VRP's vehicle park. At least 80 percent of TMSUs are fully assembled and in use. Two TMSUs were mobilized to the Costa Rican Red Cross.

The Federation's VRP has now been decentralized and operates out of three regional centres: Dubai (Europe, Africa, Middle East and North Africa- MENA), Kuala Lumpur (Asia Pacific) and Panama (Americas). For the Americas, a new VRP Office was established within the RLU, staffed by a Regional Fleet Coordinator since May, and a Fleet Assistant.

### **Constraints**

Due to funding constraints, PADRU was not able to fully accomplish its goal to further strengthen the disaster response capacity of the Federation system in the Americas through the development of

leadership, coordination and technical skills in the national, regional and international response network. The key focus to scale-up RIT trainings could not be fully accomplished and several planned workshops had to be postponed due to lack of funding.

In the same line, PADRU faced constraints in the development of several IT and Telecommunications activities due to limited human resources in that area since the mission of the IT and Telecommunications delegate came to an end in August.



Flooding in the interior of Suriname along the larger rivers affected up to 25,000 people. Source: International Federation.

### **Lessons learned**

One of the major successes of the RIT programme is that most National Societies now consider PADRU as key resource in the region for response support and response preparedness and are more committed to the concept and the strengthening of RITs. The more frequent deployment of RIT members throughout the Americas clearly demonstrates how local, regional and international Red Cross expertise is brought to bear in responding to disasters rapidly and efficiently. All this helps build National Societies' capacity, strengthens cross-regional collaboration, facilitates sharing of best practices and promotes human resource development, particularly by ensuring that RIT

members work closely with NIT members. This can be seen more clearly when we compare numbers of RIT deployments, either for operations, internships or training courses: between 1999 and 2003 statistics indicate a total of 17 missions, whereas in 2006 alone 31 RIT members were deployed to 19 missions.

Furthermore, major improvement was achieved during 2006 in the preparation of a RIT mission. When possible, RITs visited PADRU before going to the operation, which enabled them to have a briefing with each department involved in that specific operation (disaster management, logistics, finance, information and reporting) while it simultaneously provided them with the necessary equipment. All RIT missions are now concluded with a full debriefing and evaluation. Improvement has also been reached through a fairly considerable database of RIT deployments and members evaluations, which will be used in future deployment selection.

In short, 2006 was marked by a scaling-up of activities at various levels: large and smaller-scale disaster response support to National Societies, increased RIT training and deployments, effective of regional collaboration, and increased availability of pre-positioned stock.

## Working in partnership



PADRU spends considerable time and efforts participating in both internal and external coordination meetings. Besides the regular meetings with Partner National Societies and the Secretariat in Geneva, PADRU actively participates in regional and international coordination meetings with several international organizations. Through these meetings useful information, best practices and available resources are shared in order to reduce duplication of efforts and ensure effective operational inter-agency coordination during disasters. Therefore, internal and external planning and coordination mechanisms are established and utilized by PADRU in coordination with other international organizations.

To enhance the overall coordination of all entities involved in large-scale disaster response, PADRU took part in two international disaster simulations during 2006. Furthermore, regional meetings with United Nations (UN) agencies such as the Risk, Emergency and Disaster Task Force (REDLAC), the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other international agencies continued to be held on a monthly basis.

Effective operational inter-agency coordination is one of the key aspects during an emergency. PADRU therefore closely coordinates with governmental and /or non-governmental organizations present at the place of emergency, such as UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations. Furthermore, PADRU has signed a cooperation agreement with the French Red Cross (PIRAC) which has led to joint deployments, trainings and sharing of logistics resources in operations.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

As becomes clear from the overall goal and achievements reached in disaster response, PADRU actively contributes to the first and the third goal of the International Federation's Global Agenda: *reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters and increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.*

Health promotion, mainly done through Water and Sanitation activities are regularly incorporated in the rehabilitation phase of the operations, thus contributing to the second goal of the International Federation's Global Agenda; *scaling up our actions with vulnerable communities in health promotion, disease prevention and disaster risk reduction.* Due to the fact that PADRU is still facing constraints concerning limited human resources for health in disaster emergency situations further development particularly in the area of Water and Sanitation, is required.

The more frequent deployment of RITs throughout the Americas demonstrates how local, regional and international Red Cross expertise is disseminated. The deployment of the RIT volunteer from the Dominican Republic to the emergency in Ecuador is a great example of longer term impact. After the successful mission to the flooding operation in Ecuador the RIT participated in an internship at PADRU. When he returned to his National Society he was promoted and became relief director, thereby disseminating the knowledge and experience of disaster preparedness and response plans and the Federation response tools and mechanisms, within his National Society.

Furthermore, regional collaboration was strengthened, namely with PIRAC (French Red Cross) and through the management of pre-positioned stock on behalf of Participating National Societies, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of relief efforts.

## Looking Ahead

Planning exercises are presently taking place in order to finalize the plans for Disaster Response in 2007. Based on these planning exercises and the lessons learned, it was decided to revise the appeal

for 2007 in order to give a better reflection of the reality at PADRU. Given PADRU's role as a service unit for the Regional Delegations and all National Societies in the Americas, its goal, objectives and expected results regarding Disaster Management (Disaster Response and Disaster Preparedness for Response) were formerly reflected in the logical frameworks pertaining to the regional plans for the Caribbean, Central America, Haiti and South America. For 2007 an independent logical framework for PADRU will be developed to reflect its specific mandate. While the revision of the logframe and the appeal based on these planning exercises is currently taking place, the following paragraph outlines the basic planning for 2007 and will be further specified in following reports.

PADRU aims to increase the number of available and qualified RIT members for emergency operations by organizing several RIT trainings. Depending on funding and available human resources PADRU is planning to organize and facilitate the following RIT trainings in 2007:

- 2 General RIT trainings
- 1 refreshment RIT training
- 1 RIT Coordination in shelter training
- 1 RIT Team leader training
- 1 RIT Water and Sanitation training

Various subjects aimed at improving the overall quality of disaster response will be incorporated into RIT trainings, such as information on the SPHERE standards, post-disaster psychosocial support, techniques relating to beneficiary involvement and so forth. Furthermore, PADRU will continue to coordinate RIT internships based on requests received from National Societies to develop specific areas of expertise and to reinforce existing disaster management capacity and in order to provide National Societies personnel with more hands-on experience.

As mentioned before, the need to improve and strengthen the health in emergency capacity in PADRU was underlined. In close coordination with the Health Department at the Regional Delegation in Panama, PADRU is currently exploring how to improve and strengthen this area, along with starting the process of recruiting specialized staff.

In 2007 PADRU aims to explore the latest disaster response techniques and approaches for emergency operations - such as livelihood interventions, gender analysis, beneficiary participation and cash programmes to achieve longer term, more sustainable impact.

To achieve further improvement of disaster response PADRU will explore the possibility of increasing the practice of beneficiary evaluations and inputs gathered during and after operations. This to be able to assess the extent to which coordination procedures and guidelines were respected and what the level of beneficiary satisfaction with Red Cross assistance is.

The SPHERE project, which aims at improving the quality of assistance to people affected by a disaster, emphasizes the importance of the involvement of the beneficiaries. Therefore, trainings on SPHERE standards will be organized in 2007 for Disaster Management delegates. As mentioned before, SPHERE methods will also be incorporated into RIT trainings.

The annual pre-hurricane meeting will be held from 14 to 17 May 2007 in Panama with the participation of external partners and National Societies from the Americas. It aims at strengthening the Red Cross regional network prior to the onset of the 2007 season. A joint simulation exercise will be organized during this meeting to test disaster preparedness tools and operating procedures and provide participants with hands-on practice of concepts disseminated through RIT trainings. Regional meetings with UN agencies such as REDLAC, OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP and other international agencies will continue to be held on a monthly basis. PADRU will also continue to participate in relevant inter-agency coordination meetings and joint simulation exercises.

The Federation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with OCHA which states that the

Red Cross is willing to take full responsibility for ensuring the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance or the Shelter cluster. PADRU will continue to explore how to fulfil its role as “emergency shelter” coordinator and to take full responsibility for ensuring the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance for the Shelter cluster. It is likely that PADRU in 2007 will assign a Shelter focal point for the Americas within PADRU, disseminate shelter information and organize shelter workshops and simulations.

The possibility of pre-positioning, deploying, financing and training regional Emergency Response Units (ERU) in the Americas will continue to be assessed. A team of ERUs is currently investigating the feasibility of this and will complete findings in 2007.

In summary, 2006 was marked by a scaling up of activities at various levels; therefore the emphasis in 2007 will be placed on continuing to improve existing tools and response mechanisms.

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**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MAA42001 - PAN AMERICAN DISASTER RESPONSE UNIT

Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/12
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA42001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure**

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance	
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation			
A							B	A - B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>4,394,333</b>					<b>383,858</b>	<b>4,778,190</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>									
Shelter - Relief			-7,140			7,140	0	0	
Clothing & textiles			4,642				4,642	-4,642	
Water & Sanitation			1,050				1,050	-1,050	
Teaching Materials			-102				-102	102	
Utensils & Tools			145				145	-145	
Other Supplies & Services	174,072		-14,512			15,208	696	173,376	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>174,072</b>		<b>-15,917</b>			<b>22,348</b>	<b>6,431</b>	<b>167,641</b>	
<b>Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>									
Land & Buildings			-3,924				-3,924	3,924	
Vehicles			13,133				13,133	-13,133	
Computers & Telecom	320,842		46,514				46,514	274,328	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.			-1,744			2,922	1,178	-1,178	
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>320,842</b>		<b>53,979</b>			<b>2,922</b>	<b>56,901</b>	<b>263,941</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>									
Storage	115,635		15,702			1,151	16,853	98,782	
Distribution & Monitoring	26,400		3,118			262	3,380	23,020	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	20,898		32,034			1,166	33,200	-12,302	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>162,933</b>		<b>50,853</b>			<b>2,579</b>	<b>53,432</b>	<b>109,501</b>	
<b>Personnel Expenditures</b>									
Delegates Payroll	952,800		153,996			8,387	162,383	790,417	
Delegate Benefits	977,900		406,251			123,955	530,207	447,693	
Regionally Deployed Staff	229,865		30,772				30,772	199,093	
National Staff	59,530		77,875			12,216	90,091	-30,561	
National Society Staff	24,000		17,597			5,891	23,488	512	
Consultants	43,164		13,766				13,766	29,398	
<b>Total Personnel Expenditures</b>	<b>2,287,259</b>		<b>700,258</b>			<b>150,449</b>	<b>850,707</b>	<b>1,436,552</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>									
Workshops & Training	875,797		437,831			72	437,903	437,895	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>875,797</b>		<b>437,831</b>			<b>72</b>	<b>437,903</b>	<b>437,895</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>									
Travel	195,755		15,088			647	15,735	180,020	
Information & Public Relation	222,004		41,235			4,305	45,540	176,464	
Office Costs	141,095		39,046			3,601	42,648	98,447	
Communications	11,113		65,834			292	66,126	-55,013	
Professional Fees	754		1,468			803	2,272	-1,518	
Financial Charges	1,219		11,647			4,682	16,329	-15,110	
Other General Expenses			3,935			670	4,605	-4,605	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>571,940</b>		<b>178,255</b>			<b>15,000</b>	<b>193,255</b>	<b>378,685</b>	
<b>Depreciation</b>									
Depreciation	74,765		14,113				14,113	60,651	
<b>Total Depreciation</b>	<b>74,765</b>		<b>14,113</b>				<b>14,113</b>	<b>60,651</b>	
<b>Program Support</b>									
Program Support	310,582		96,245			12,742	108,987	201,595	
<b>Total Program Support</b>	<b>310,582</b>		<b>96,245</b>			<b>12,742</b>	<b>108,987</b>	<b>201,595</b>	
<b>Operational Provisions</b>									
Operational Provisions			-20,528			-5,248	-25,776	25,776	
<b>Total Operational Provisions</b>			<b>-20,528</b>			<b>-5,248</b>	<b>-25,776</b>	<b>25,776</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>4,778,190</b>		<b>1,495,089</b>			<b>200,864</b>	<b>1,695,953</b>	<b>3,082,237</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>2,899,244</b>			<b>182,993</b>	<b>3,082,237</b>		