

Programme Update 2007



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Pan American Disaster Response Unit

Programme Update No. 01/2007

This report covers the period of 01/01/2007 to 30/06/2007.

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.



Volunteer of Bolivian Red Cross is providing support to a girl from the Santa Cruz department in Bolivia, which was severely affected by flooding in the beginning of 2007.
Source: Bolivian Red Cross

In brief

Programme Summary: Developing countries in Central and South America and the Caribbean remain vulnerable to the impact of natural and man-made disasters. In this context, the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) has provided operational, logistics and preparedness support to the region's National Societies during the first six months of 2007 in response to five flooding emergencies, one devastating fire, a dengue outbreak and a cold wave in an effective and efficient manner according to the needs. A total of CHF 858,900 was allocated during the first six months of 2007 through the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support operations in Argentina, Brazil, Haiti, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. One emergency appeal was launched for CHF 904,100 in response to the severe flooding in Bolivia.

In addition to disaster response support to National Societies, PADRU continued to support disaster preparedness for response by organizing two RIT trainings, eight RIT deployments and 13 internships. Better-coordinated regional collaboration allowed for an increase in availability of pre-positioned stock, pre-disaster agreements and the organization of several disaster preparedness meetings - such as the pre-hurricane and shelter meetings.

During recent years PADRU has developed systems and deployed resources, both in response to emergencies and in support to capacity building initiatives in disaster preparedness for response. It has also ensured overall coordination of disaster response - both within the Movement and with non-Movement agencies - assisted in the development of disaster response policies, ensured adherence to international standards for disaster relief operations, and built and sustained operational links with key strategic partners.

Through the capacities described above, PADRU ensures continuity to disaster response in the Americas, thereby enabling the Regional Delegations, other Federation offices and National Societies to focus on their regional and local longer term programmes even in times of disaster.

Overall Programme Goal: Red Cross National Societies in the Americas are receiving significant benefits 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 4,002,242 or EUR 3,036,270); of which 68% is covered. The Appeal target for 2006 2,687,331 of which 60% was covered. The Appeal target for 2007 2,090,859 of which 74% is covered. **[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)**

No. of people we help: A total of 128,480 persons (25,651 families) were assisted through Red Cross disaster response operations supported by PADRU in the first months of 2007.

When not responding to disasters, PADRU contributes 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. Through the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU), PADRU currently has a preparedness stock level to assist 125,000 persons.

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 the emergency, such as United Nations (UN) agencies, Ericsson Response, Oxfam, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), 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

The changing climate conditions, the degradation of the environment, the rapid increase of population, immigration and disorganized urbanization are some of the problems that increasingly evidence the vulnerability of the Americas and the Caribbean to natural and man-made disasters. The resulting social problems worsen the effects of the disasters in the Americas, demanding a greater number of better quality technical, human and financial resources to adequately meet the needs of the most vulnerable.

The excessive rainfall that marked 2006 throughout the region was also seen during the first months of 2007. The resulting floods required relief operations of varying sizes in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Haiti and Uruguay. The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) responded swiftly to these disasters as well as to fires in Panama, a dengue outbreak in Paraguay and a cold wave in Peru.

PADRU's response entailed providing support, services, coordination, deployment of delegates and Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members, relief supplies and training of National Societies in the Americas. Such support has always been provided in coordination with the Panama, Port of Spain and Lima Regional Representations, strengthening and enhancing the response and rehabilitation capacities of the National Societies in the Americas. In addition, as a focal point for disaster response in the Americas, PADRU coordinates globally and constantly strives to enhance the ability of the Red Cross to respond rapidly and effectively to the disasters in the Americas, thereby contributing to a core element of the Federation's *Strategy 2010* and Global Agenda.

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.

Progress/Achievements

In the first months of 2007, PADRU supported eight emergency operations throughout the region. Of these operations five were flood-related due to heavy rainfalls in the region. In total, CHF 858,900 from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) was allocated towards emergency operations. One emergency appeal was successfully launched for a total of CHF 904,100 in response to the flood-related emergency in Bolivia.

In the context of these operations, 12 deployments of PADRU Disaster Management delegates took place and eight Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members were deployed. In addition to the regional resources deployed by PADRU, 42 National Intervention Team (NIT) members were deployed directly by their National Societies as part of in-country responses (see table 1). The response 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 Bolivia, a charter flight transporting relief items was arranged by the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) within days of the emergency. In response to the dengue outbreak in Paraguay, mosquito nets were immediately transported by plane to the National Society. Furthermore, a container with humanitarian relief items was sent to Haiti by boat, in order to replenish the Haitian National Red Cross Society relief stocks after the flooding operation.

Table 1 summarizes new PADRU-supported emergency responses between January and June 2007:

TABLE 1

Emergency	deployment	DREF/ (CHF) appeal	Total affected families/ (persons)	Federation supported response- number of beneficiaries
Argentina floods	NIT (4)	DREF: CHF 178,400	80,000 persons (16,000 families)	2,000 persons (350 families)
Bolivia floods	PADRU (3) RIT (2)	Appeal: CHF 904,100 (of which DREF: CHF 120,000)	580,385 persons (116,077 families)	50,095 persons (10,019 families)
Brazil floods	PADRU (1) RIT (1)	DREF: CHF 95,000	409,771 persons (82,000 families)	7,500 persons (1,500 families)
Haiti floods	PADRU (2) RIT (1) NIT (28)	DREF: CHF 200,000	16,115 persons (3,223 families)	5,500 persons (1,100 families)
Panama fires	PADRU (1)	DREF: CHF 7,500	725 persons (150 families)	725 persons (150 families)

Paraguay: Dengue Outbreak	PADRU (1) RIT (1) NIT (4)	DREF: CHF 50,000	100,000 persons (20,000 families)	48,775 persons (9,755 families)
Peru: Cold wave	PADRU (1) RIT (1) NIT (6)	DREF: CHF 188,000	884,572 persons (176,914 families)	10,135 persons (2,027 families)
Uruguay floods	PADRU (3) RIT (2)	DREF: 140,000	110,000 persons (22,000 families)	3,750 persons (750 families)
TOTAL	PADRU (12) RIT (8) NIT (42)	Appeal: 904,100 DREF: 858,900	2,181,468 persons (436,364 families)	128,480 persons (25,651 families)

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

Table 2 summarizes PADRU-supported emergency response operations which started in the first reporting period but were ongoing or finished between January – June 2007:

TABLE 2

Emergency	deployment	DREF/ appeal (CHF)	Total affected families/ (persons)	Federation supported response- number of beneficiaries
Haiti floods (December 2006)	RIT (2) NIT (8)	Appeal : CHF 418,500 (Of which DREF CHF 80,000	20,000 persons (4,000 families)	11,845 persons (2,369 families)
Jamaica floods (November 2006)	NIT (1)	DREF: CHF 25,000	2,000 persons (400 families)	775 persons (155 families)
Panama floods (October 2006)	PADRU (4) RIT (1) NIT (8)	DREF: CHF: 67,922	1,900 persons (380 families)	1,900 persons (380 families)
Panama floods (November 2006)	PADRU (6) NIT (12)	DREF: CHF: 69,509	5,109 persons (1,022 families)	2,750 persons (550 families)
El Salvador seismic swarm (December 2006)	NIT (5)	DREF: CHF 60,000	9,000 persons (1,800 families)	2,500 persons (500 families)
TOTAL	PADRU (10) RIT (3) NIT (34)	Appeal: CHF 418,500 DREF: CHF 222,431	38,009 persons 7,602 families	19,770 persons 3,954 families

PADRU is developing a new beneficiary input tool to support monitoring of operations and improve disaster response. Based on input from beneficiaries, timely adjustments during operations can be made and smooth transition to recovery phase activities can be established. This beneficiary input tool was first utilized during the emergency response operation in Bolivia in the beginning of this year, and consists of 25 - 30 questions regarding the Red Cross operation and is specific to the distributions, communication prior to and during the distribution phase and overall satisfaction with the operation. Through consultation with the Bolivian Red Cross staff and volunteers the surveys were narrowed down to 16 questions most appropriate for the

operation in Bolivia. Nine volunteers of the Bolivian Red Cross were then individually trained on the use of the tool and were assisted by delegates from PADRU and the Italian Red Cross during the questionnaire phase. The survey was conducted on the day of distribution on the basis of anonymity, concerning the services delivered and the quality and quantity of goods. Prior to initiating the questionnaire, all beneficiaries were explained the reason for the survey and permission was requested of each individual interviewed. The implementations of such surveys are in line with PADRU's aim to increase beneficiary participation and provide humanitarian relief according to SPHERE standards. To achieve further improvement of disaster response, PADRU is increasing the practice of beneficiary evaluations and inputs gathered during and after operations. This assesses the extent to which coordination procedures and guidelines were respected and what the level of beneficiary satisfaction with Red Cross assistance is.



Bolivian Red Cross volunteers carrying out beneficiary surveys.
Source: Bolivian Red Cross



As demonstrated in the two tables above PADRU has contributed to the fulfilment of the first goal of the Global Agenda: to reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. In the face of disasters and emergencies in the region, PADRU has concentrated on developing existing capacities of National Societies to provide effective and timely services to communities affected by disasters in cooperation with the national civil defence systems. It has also contributed to consolidating an integral disaster management system in the Americas, coordinated by PADRU in collaboration with the UN system and other relevant regional stakeholders.

Constraints or challenges:

As mentioned in previous reports, PADRU continues to receive heavily ear-marked funding for response and preparedness 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.

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.

Progress/Achievements

PADRU continues to focus on strengthening 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. One of the key focuses of PADRU is 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 trained members. Furthermore, the exchange of knowledge, experience and skills fostered by the RIT system also strengthens 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.

RIT training

Two training sessions were undertaken for RIT members during the first months of 2007, involving 49 participants:

TABLE 3

Name training	Date	Place	Participants	National societies
RIT General training	24 Feb - 3 March	Panama	22	12 different National Societies 2 from PNS 1 from Ericsson 3 from IFRC
RIT Water and Sanitation training	26 May – 3 June	Panama	27	9 different National Societies 2 OXFAM 4 UNICEF 11 other organizations (Plan, Care, Vision Mundial)

Various subjects aimed at improving the overall quality of disaster response have been incorporated into RIT trainings, such as information on the SPHERE standards, post-disaster psychosocial support, techniques relating to beneficiary involvement and so forth.

During the first months of the 2007 eight trained RIT members were deployed to eight different emergency response operations, throughout the Americas.

Table 4 summarizes RIT deployments in 2007 so far:

TABLE 4

Deployments	Date	Task
Red Cross Society of Panama to Peru	10 Jan- 27 Jan.	Emergency response: floods
PIRAC to Haiti	18 Jan - 15 Febr.	Emergency response: floods
Costa Rican Red Cross to Brazil	25 Jan - 28 Febr.	Emergency response: floods
Colombian Red Cross Society to Paraguay	5 Feb- 4 March	Emergency response: dengue outbreak
Salvadorean Red Cross Society to Bolivia	13 Feb - 13 April	Emergency response: floods
Argentine Red Cross to Bolivia	18 Feb - 12 March	Emergency response: floods
Argentine Red Cross to Uruguay	16 May - 13 June	Emergency response: floods
Salvadorean Red Cross Society to Uruguay	24 May - 5 June	Emergency response: floods

Furthermore, PADRU has continued to coordinate RIT internships based on requests received from National Societies and available funding. The internship programme focuses on development of specific areas of expertise and strives to reinforce existing disaster management capacity, in order to provide National Societies with personnel with more hands-on experience.

Table 5 summarizes Internships during the first months of 2007:

TABLE 5

Internships	Date	Task
Colombia to Dominican Republic	30 Febr. – 30 March	IT and Telecom internship
Dominican Republic to PADRU	15 Febr. – 16 March	IT and Telecom internship
Italy to PADRU	1 March – 3 April	Water and sanitation internship
Italy to PADRU	22 Febr. – 3 April	Logistics internship
Jamaica to PADRU	11 April – 1 May	Information internship
Italy to PADRU	11 April – 9 May	Logistics internship
Italy to PADRU	11 April – 11 May	IT and Telecom internship
Barbados to PADRU	7 May - 16 June	IT and Telecom internship
Panama to PADRU	10 May – 18 May	Pre hurricane meeting.
Italy to PADRU	7 May – 4 June	Water and sanitation internship
Venezuela to PADRU	4 June – 18 July	Logistics internship
Peace Corps to PADRU	4 June – 4 September	Public health in emergency internship
Colombia to PADRU	12 June – 12 September	IT and Telecom internship

PADRU will continue to coordinate RIT internships and will raise the profile of the RIT internship program in future planning. Four RIT members from National Societies in the region attended the Federation’s Global Relief Training in Geneva during April.

Besides training, internships and deployments of RIT members, PADRU has also organized and facilitated other trainings, which are summarized in Table 6:

TABLE 6

Training	Date	Participants
Ericsson training	12 to 15 June	14
Training Italian Red Cross	20 to 23 June	15 International delegates 10 relief directors from NS

The Eriksson Response Training is a valuable example of working in partnership. This joint training exercise was carried out from 12 to 15 June for Ericsson Response and Red Cross personnel. During this course Eriksson volunteers were trained in the principles, response systems and organizational structure of the Red Cross Movement.

Within the framework of the Italian Red Cross project “strengthening the Movement Response System in the Americas” several internships at PADRU with Italian Red Cross members took place. In the same context, PADRU in collaboration with Italian Red Cross developed and carried out a Disaster Management training in Italy. 15 International Delegates of the Italian Red Cross attended the training that took place from 20 to 23 June 2007. The training was facilitated by 10 relief directors from National Societies in the Americas who are RIT members, and was directed by PADRU Disaster Management delegates. The training addressed topics such as Federation disaster response, Regional response systems, Federation response tools, and working with counterparts. The training also fostered the exchange of knowledge, experience and skills between Italian Red Cross and Red Cross members from National Societies in the Americas.

Shelter meetings

PADRU, in collaboration with the shelter department from the Secretariat, organized a shelter meeting in Panama on 25 April, which was attended by 22 National Societies. The meeting aimed at disseminating information about the global shelter programme of the International Federation among the National Societies from South, Central, North America and the Caribbean. The meeting also aimed at preparing an overall Red Cross shelter strategy by reaching a common agreement about the way the International Federation will handle emergency shelter issues in relation to the Global Shelter Programme and how the International Federation will fulfil its role as “emergency shelter” coordinator in ensuring the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance for the Shelter cluster.

Within the framework of the Emergency Global Cluster Shelter, the Federation, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also organized the Emergency Shelter Coordination Training that took place from 25 until 29 June in Panama. This was the second training of this kind in the world and was attended by National Society RIT members from the Americas, PADRU delegates, UNHCR staff and staff from different UN agencies and NGO`s. It aimed at identifying and training coordinators for the emergency shelter cluster.

An additional shelter meeting is now being prepared and organized in Lima for July 2007.

Pre-hurricane meeting (Contingency Planning)

With support from the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and in conjunction with the Regional Representations in Panama and Trinidad and Tobago, and in cooperation with the Overseas Branches of the British and Netherlands Red Cross, PADRU has organized the annual pre-hurricane meeting in Panama. The meeting that took place in Panama from 14 to 17 May 2007 aimed at strengthening the Red Cross regional response network prior to the onset of the 2007 hurricane season. National Societies and Partner National Societies (PNS), from countries prone to hurricanes within the Americas participated actively in the development of a Contingency Plan for the Region. The meeting used the methodology of the contingency planning guide that was developed by PADRU over the last year. Valuable input to the Regional Contingency Plan was also provided by a range of UN and other external agencies that attended the last two days of the meeting, including Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), CARE, ECHO, Oxfam, the Federation’s Climate Change Centre, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA), OFDA, and PLAN. The development of the Regional Contingency plan helped explore disaster preparedness tools, available capacities within the region, possible response strategies and operating procedures, which provided participants with hands-on practice in case a hurricane will occur.

Please click here to see the English version of the Regional Contingency plan: <http://www.cruzroja.org/padru/contingencyEng.pdf>

Please click here to see the Spanish version of the Regional Contingency plan: <http://www.cruzroja.org/padru/contingencyEsp.pdf>

The Caribbean Disaster Management (DM) Network

The Caribbean Disaster Management (DM) Network group held meetings in March and May in Dominica and Panama respectively. They discussed various Disaster Management related issues including the DIPECHO V project, the PADRU and ECHO-funded project, Contingency Plans and Volunteer Management in Emergencies. The minutes of both meeting were circulated to all National Societies and Overseas Branches in the Caribbean. The French Red Cross (PIRAC) attended the Disaster Management Network meeting in March and gave a presentation on its activities in support of the French Overseas Territories.

Inter American Conference

Representatives from 35 National Societies in the Americas met in Guayaquil in Ecuador to review the progress made since the last conference in Chile in 2003 and to discuss the future directions of the Red Cross in the region with an emphasis on working with communities. The Inter-American plan for 2007-2011 takes into account the International Federation’s Strategy 2010, the Global Agenda and the New Operating Model and aims to improve the quality and the impact of Red Cross programmes for vulnerable people. Through all of these objectives and by continually working together for humanity, the Movement will strive to achieve the

conference's goal of "building safer and healthier communities". PADRU participated by leading a seminar about humanitarian reform, the shelter cluster approach and response in the Americas.

Pre-disaster agreements

During the first months of the year, PADRU has started the process to make several pre-disaster agreements or memoranda of understanding with National Societies in the region and Partner National Societies to define the roles and responsibilities of partners in "disaster response before response operations". This will affect the overall effectiveness of the Federation's disaster response at regional and national level and will strengthen quicker more targeted and professional service delivery to National Societies.

Constraints

PADRU is still facing constraints concerning limited human resources for the IT and Telecom department, Health in Disasters, 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.

Working in partnership

PADRU continues to collaborate with a range of Red Cross and non-Red Cross organizations and institutions in the Americas region. Besides the regular meeting with Partner National Societies and the Secretariat in Geneva, PADRU actively participates in regional and international coordination meetings with several international organizations. These meetings are aimed at sharing best practices, useful information and available resources in order to reduce duplication of efforts and ensure effective operational inter-agency coordination mechanisms during disasters.

To enhance the overall coordination 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 and NGO's continued to be held on a monthly basis.

In line with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the Federation signed with OCHA, PADRU is actively exploring 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. A shelter focal point for the Americas was assigned within PADRU in January 2007 to disseminate shelter information and organize shelter meetings, workshops and simulations.

The continuous cooperation between PADRU and the French Red Cross (PIRAC) has led to joint deployments, trainings and sharing of logistics resources during emergency operations.

PADRU, in cooperation with the Sub Regional Office in Trinidad and Tobago continues to maintain contact with the United Nations (UN) agencies in the Caribbean, particularly the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and also with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Relief Agency (CDERA). One meeting was held in Barbados with CDERA as part of their Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) initiative which the Federation is actively involved in. Unfortunately it coincided with the Federation's Pre-hurricane Meeting so there was no Federation presence at the meeting.

There is a cooperation agreement between Ericsson and the International Federation through the programme Ericsson Response which has proved to be useful in the provision of telecommunications solutions. PADRU houses a pre-positioned telecommunications system used to re-establish communications in areas affected by disaster. The cooperation also proved to be useful in joint training exercises for Ericsson Response and Red Cross personnel. The Eriksson Response Training that was carried out from 12 to 15 June is a valuable example of that. During this course Eriksson volunteers were trained in the principles, work and organizational structure of the

Red Cross Movement.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Due to the existence of a well established PADRU in the Americas a comprehensive Red Cross disaster management system has been consolidated. During recent years PADRU has developed systems and deployed resources, both in response to emergencies and in support to capacity building initiatives in disaster preparedness for response. It has also ensured overall coordination of disaster response - both within the Movement and with non-Movement agencies - assisted in the development of disaster response policies, ensured adherence to international standards for disaster relief operations, and built and sustained operational links with key strategic partners.

Through the capacities described above, PADRU ensures continuity to disaster response in the Americas, thereby enabling the Regional Delegations, other Federation offices and National Societies to focus on their regional and local longer term programmes even in times of disaster.

In short, over the last years PADRU has strengthened a well-functioning Americas disaster response system and provided support to National Societies in rendering assistance to those affected by disasters.

PADRU therefore 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.*

As 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 and health, remains limited. However, PADRU also contributes 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*, through the regularly incorporation of Water and Sanitation activities in the rehabilitation phase of the operations. Fortunately during the first months of 2007 two water and sanitation internships have strengthened the capacity of PADRU as well as the capacity of the participants, in terms of water and sanitation. As a result of organisation of the Water and Sanitation RIT training in May, eight newly trained Red Cross members further strengthened the disaster response capacity of the Federation in water and sanitation in the region.

PADRU is developing a number of innovative response tools such as 'Pre-Agreements' with National Societies and external partners, Operational Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's) and beneficiary questionnaires. As demonstrated, PADRU is aiming to insert 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.

Looking Ahead

2007 is a key year for the Americas region in terms of the new planning process based on the Inter-American Conference. The Federation continues to decentralize and is currently setting up the Zone structure, to ensure that Federation support is closer and more tailored to the needs and capacities of the National Societies. While the Red Cross consolidation process will imply several changes at the continental level (setup of the Zone structure), no major changes will affect PADRU.

PADRU will support the Regional Representations in the process of the installation of the Zone, while keeping the comprehensive Red Cross disaster management system consolidated. Based on the fact that these organizational developments will take place, it was decided to postpone the revision of the logical framework revision until the launch of the new PADRU bi-annual appeal for 2008 and 2009, which is currently being compiled.

For the second half of 2007 PADRU continuously 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 will organize and facilitate the following RIT trainings in the second half of 2007:

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

PADRU will continue to work with European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and other donors in an effort to have continued funding in order to build on existing capacity both in National Societies and within the region.

During the second part of 2007, the Federation role as "emergency shelter" convenor will be further developed. PADRU, through the assigned shelter focal point, will provide internal and external shelter information, lead shelter meetings, workshops and simulations and develop a more specific shelter activity plan.

The need to improve and strengthen the health in emergencies capacity in PADRU was underlined in the Annual report 2006. In close coordination with the Health and Care Programme at the Regional Representation in Panama, PADRU is exploring how to improve and strengthen this area and has recruited specialized staff. Since the beginning of June a health specialist has been recruited for a period of three months in order to investigate how to strengthen public health in emergency.

The 'lessons learned' from previous operations are constantly being reviewed and resulting from this PADRU is in the process of establishing 'Regional Technical Units' (RTU) in the region. These RTU's, owned and managed by a National Society with support of the Federation, are meant to be deployed for specific operational tasks during emergencies. PADRU is exploring the possibilities to establish a RTU from Jamaica Red Cross that could be deployed to an emergency operation to provide psycho-social support, a RTU from Mexican Red Cross to provide relief assistance and a RTU from the Dominican Red Cross to provide support in water and sanitation.

A team of Emergency Response Unit (ERU) members has investigated the feasibility of pre-positioning, deploying, financing and training regional Emergency Response Units in the Americas. Their recommendations are now being considered and will be taken into account for the bi-annual appeal.

The International Federation is developing a Global Disaster Management Units (DMU) network in which besides PADRU, two other Disaster Management Units (DMU) will be established in the world. The development of this network will enhance the opportunity to respond rapidly and effectively to disasters through the easy mobilization of flexible and dynamic Disaster Management teams, tools and resources.

Experts at the NOAA Climate Prediction Centre are projecting a 75 percent chance that the Atlantic Hurricane Season 2007 will be above normal—showing that the ongoing active hurricane era remains strong. For the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season, NOAA scientists predict 13 to 17 named storms, with seven to ten becoming hurricanes, of which three to five could become major hurricanes of Category III strength or higher.

With the onset of the 2007 hurricane season, PADRU is making the necessary preparations and actively monitors developments throughout the region. All relevant alert systems are followed on a daily basis and PADRU remains in a state of readiness for immediate deployment. As always, close contact is maintained with National Societies for impending disasters. Furthermore, in conjunction with the Federation's Media Service in Geneva, PADRU will update the communications plan in anticipation of the 2007 hurricane season. The Federation will also continue with pre-positioning specialized personnel prior to the hurricane season, as part of the preparedness and response strategy to disasters of the International Federation.

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA42001 - PAN AMERICAN DISASTER RESPONSE UNIT

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/6
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA42001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		4,394,333			383,858	4,778,190
B. Opening Balance		500,019			19,071	519,090
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross		658,145				658,145
British Red Cross		-1,209			0	-1,209
Canadian Red Cross					4,836	4,836
DFID Partnership		17,804				17,804
ECHO		692,362				692,362
Ericsson		0				0
Icelandic Red Cross		9,898				9,898
Italian Red Cross		33,000				33,000
Norwegian Red Cross		37,085				37,085
Other		1,384				1,384
OXFAM		9,280				9,280
Spanish Red Cross		82,121				82,121
Swedish Red Cross		282,273				282,273
C1. Cash contributions		1,822,141			4,836	1,826,977
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
Austrian Red Cross		36,000				36,000
ECHO		129,684				129,684
Ericsson		-36,417				-36,417
Italian Red Cross		115,990				115,990
New Zealand Red Cross		20,900				20,900
Spanish Red Cross		-68,894				-68,894
Swedish Red Cross		89,700				89,700
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		286,963				286,963
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
American Red Cross		0				0
British Red Cross		-23,498			23,498	0
Canadian Red Cross		27,228				27,228
DFID Partnership		17,462				17,462
Japanese Red Cross		25,288				25,288
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or		46,480			23,498	69,978
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
Canadian Red Cross					74,400	74,400
Norwegian Red Cross		121,107				121,107
Other		43,193				43,193
Spanish Red Cross		198,653				198,653
C5. Inkind Personnel		362,953			74,400	437,353
<u>Other Income</u>						
Miscellaneous Income		15,054				15,054
Services & Recoveries		18,229			75,530	93,758
C6. Other Income		33,283			75,530	108,813
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		2,551,821			178,263	2,730,084
D. Total Funding = B + C		3,051,840			197,334	3,249,174

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA42001 - PAN AMERICAN DISASTER RESPONSE UNIT

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/6
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA42001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		500,019			19,071	519,090
C. Income		2,551,821			178,263	2,730,084
E. Expenditure		-2,209,926			-200,864	-2,410,790
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		841,914			-3,530	838,384

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA42001 - PAN AMERICAN DISASTER RESPONSE UNIT

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/6
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 A - B
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		4,394,333					383,858	4,778,190
Supplies								
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			1,224				1,224	-1,224
Other Supplies & Services	174,072		-13,138			15,208	2,070	172,002
Total Supplies	174,072		-13,463			22,348	8,884	165,188
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Land & Buildings			-3,924				-3,924	3,924
Vehicles			13,133				13,133	-13,133
Computers & Telecom	320,842		46,817				46,817	274,025
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.			-574			2,922	2,349	-2,349
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	320,842		55,452			2,922	58,374	262,468
Transport & Storage								
Storage	115,635		16,505			1,151	17,655	97,980
Distribution & Monitoring	26,400		4,814			262	5,076	21,324
Transport & Vehicle Costs	20,898		48,737			1,166	49,903	-29,005
Total Transport & Storage	162,933		70,055			2,579	72,635	90,298
Personnel Expenditures								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	952,800		829,243			132,342	961,585	-8,785
Delegate Benefits	977,900							977,900
Regionally Deployed Staff	229,865		30,212				30,212	199,653
National Staff	59,530		169,224			12,216	181,439	-121,909
National Society Staff	24,000		29,618			5,891	35,510	-11,510
Consultants	43,164		19,756				19,756	23,408
Total Personnel Expenditures	2,287,259		1,078,053			150,449	1,228,502	1,058,757
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	875,797		604,183			72	604,255	271,543
Total Workshops & Training	875,797		604,183			72	604,255	271,543
General Expenditure								
Travel	195,755		62,515			647	63,162	132,593
Information & Public Relation	222,004		45,954			4,305	50,259	171,745
Office Costs	141,095		58,772			3,601	62,374	78,722
Communications	11,113		84,454			292	84,746	-73,633
Professional Fees	754		5,078			803	5,881	-5,127
Financial Charges	1,219		9,815			4,682	14,497	-13,278
Other General Expenses			5,075			670	5,745	-5,745
Total General Expenditure	571,940		271,663			15,000	286,663	285,277
Depreciation								
Depreciation	74,765		15,119				15,119	59,646
Total Depreciation	74,765		15,119				15,119	59,646
Program Support								
Program Support	310,582		142,112			12,742	154,854	155,729
Total Program Support	310,582		142,112			12,742	154,854	155,729
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			-13,247			-5,248	-18,495	18,495
Total Operational Provisions			-13,247			-5,248	-18,495	18,495
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	4,778,190		2,209,926			200,864	2,410,790	2,367,400
VARIANCE (C - D)			2,184,407			182,993	2,367,400	