

# 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

## PAN AMERICAN DISASTER RESPONSE UNIT (PADRU)

30 June 2004

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 181 countries.

For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

**Appeal No. 01.51/2004; Programme Update no. 01, Period covered: 01 January to 31 May 2004; Appeal coverage: 22.4%; Outstanding needs: CHF 1,259,446 (USD 1,005,138 or EUR 826,177).**  
*(click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List (also available on the website).*

**Appeal target: CHF 1,622,161 (USD 1,282,518 or EUR 1,046,612)**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Caribbean Annual Appeal (01.52/2004), Central America Annual Appeal (01.53/2004), South America Annual Appeal (01.54/2004), Haiti Social Unrest Emergency Appeal (07/2004), Dominican Republic & Haiti Floods Emergency Appeal (13/2004).**

**Programme summary:** Programmes and projects in the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) during the first four months of the year have been seriously hampered by a lack of funding which has been extremely low during this period. This has seriously restricted PADRU's ability to run and manage disaster preparedness and response projects. An evaluation of PADRU is being carried out in late May/June, at which time the funding situation is expected to improve as many donors have chosen to await the outcome of the evaluation before making contributions; however, during the first part of 2004 activities had to be scaled back significantly.

During the first four months of the year, PADRU focused its activities on preparations for the Unit's evaluation, which will be carried out in June. The evaluation will examine the function of PADRU within the regional and global context, the perception of the Unit, its compatibility within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, and the Unit's place within the Federation's change process.

Another focus for PADRU during this period was the *X Meeting of Presidents and Technical Seminars for South America*, held in Montevideo, Uruguay. The meeting served to raise awareness and knowledge of the *Plan of Action of the Inter American Conference* which was used as the main tool in all working groups throughout the meeting. PADRU facilitated the discussion on disaster management, guided by the Americas disaster strategy, which also came out of the Inter American Conference.

In disaster response, much of the work of PADRU was centred on following up on the relief operations that were started at the end of 2003, such as the flood operations in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. In February, an emergency operation began in Haiti to respond to the social unrest in that country. In May, serious flooding occurred in Haiti and the Dominican Republic for which PADRU provided response. The

relief operations in the Dominican Republic and Haiti are ongoing. In addition, PADRU responded to flooding and an outbreak of yellow fever in Colombia during the period covered by this report.

Much attention was also focused on the five countries in the Andean region of South America where PADRU and the disaster management delegate from the Lima Regional Delegation were working with the Pan American Health Organizations (PAHO) to formulate the Andean Disaster Plan. This collaboration also included the members of the Federation's regional health team.

In telecommunications, PADRU has made considerable changes in the telecommunications structure in Haiti through activities that were developed jointly with the ICRC and the Haitian National Red Cross Society. PADRU also successfully completed a disaster simulation carried out in Colombia with the Ericsson Response programme.

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*This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). 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](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

## Operational developments

In South America, the early part of 2004 has been characterized by a general situation of instability and social tension in several parts of the region. Mass demonstrations occurred in a number of countries, such as Venezuela, which is divided among supporters of President Hugo Chavez and those who are struggling for a referendum to end his mandate. In countries such as Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, there were demonstrations by the indigenous populations and coca farmers. Many of the demonstrations ended in violent clashes between the police and civilians, causing injuries and increased insecurity among the general population.

Seasonal rains and droughts affected Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, which caused some minor emergencies that were managed by the respective National Societies. Information bulletins were issued on the Federation's webpage. In April, the rains in Colombia intensified, causing the flooding of several main rivers and resulting in emergency situations throughout the country, including in the capital city, Bogotá. Funds from the Federation's disaster response emergency (DREF) Fund were allocated for the relief operations implemented by the Colombian Red Cross Society.

The precarious situation in Haiti, which is the poorest country in the western hemisphere, degenerated significantly in February as rebel groups clashed with government supporters and the country suffered increasing degrees of violence and insecurity. By the end of February, rebel factions held large portions of the country, including the second largest town, Cap-Haitien. The crisis culminated on 29 February as President Jean-Bertrand Aristide fled the country. A transition government was formed on 17 March and, although the situation has gradually improved since then, the context remains difficult. The Federation launched an emergency appeal for the Haiti Social Unrest on 5 March (Appeal 07/04) that is attempting to address the acute needs of the population. The situation in Haiti was compounded in late May by severe flooding that affected the border region between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The flooding in Haiti and the Dominican Republic caused serious damage and heavy loss of life in both countries. Media reports from 27 May place the death toll in the two countries between 500 and 2,000 people. In the Haitian community of Mapou, 300 bodies have been counted thus far, but Haiti's Civil Protection Agency fears that that figure could be as high as 1,000. The mortality figure continues to rise as more areas are reached by assessment teams. In the Dominican Republic, the worst flooding has occurred in the south, northwest and northeast parts of the country and in districts close to the capital city of Santo Domingo. The flooding has caused hundreds of deaths and destroyed thousands of homes. In Jimaní, in the Province of Independencia, which is located on the border with Haiti, some 300 bodies have been recovered and another 361 people are still reported missing. The Federation launched an emergency appeal for the flooding in the Dominican Republic and Haiti on 28 May (Appeal 13/2004) and more information is available on the Federation's webpage ([www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)).



In the small Haitian town of Mapou, where there was once a village there is now a lake.

In May, a red alert was declared in the Caribbean region of Costa Rica due to flooding after heavy rains. The rains began on 6 May and caused flooding in Sarapiquí, Pococi, Siquirres, Matina and Limón on the Caribbean coast. Swelled river levels were also reported in Turrialba, closer inland to the capital city of San Jose. The rains caused two deaths and forced 2,056 persons out of their homes and into the 24 shelters located in the region.

## Disaster Response

**Goal: PADRU, through the regional delegations, will support the network of Red Cross Societies in the Americas to attain a level of capacity in disaster management that successfully helps people to reduce risk, respond to and recover from disasters.**

**Programme Objective: The National Societies and the Federation, in a coordinated manner, will respond effectively and efficiently to disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean, working within a regional network with a strategy ensuring a transition from relief to rehabilitation as part of an integrated process from vulnerability to development.**

**Objective 1: The Federation responds appropriately to disasters, mitigating the effects and focusing on vulnerable groups.**

### Progress/Achievements and impact

During the period covered by this report, PADRU followed up on the emergency operations that began in 2003, including the earthquake operation in Puerto Armuelles, Panama, and the floods operation in the Dominican Republic. The regional disaster response network has been active in all of the response operations; for the operations in the Dominican Republic in January, PADRU worked with a member of the regional intervention team (RIT) from the Venezuelan Red Cross. A similar situation occurred during the floods in Haiti and the Dominican Republic at the end of May as the operational coordinator of the response team is a RIT's member from the Costa Rican Red Cross. Work is ongoing for this operation in Costa Rica as PADRU is sending supplies, coordinating distributions, strengthening telecommunications and implementing water and sanitation and hygiene projects.

*Floods in the Dominican Republic:*

With the financial support of ECHO, PADRU continued to support the Dominican Red Cross in the relief operation for the floods that occurred in December, 2003. A member of the RITs team was in charge of the operation in the field. During the period covered by this report, two sets of distributions were organized in the northern region of the country, which benefited 3,666 families (18,340 people). In total, 7,322 foods kits and the same number of hygiene kits were distributed. In addition, 5,884 mosquito nets and 1,005 kitchen kits were distributed.

*Floods in Haiti:*

Initially, PADRU provided assistance to the Haitian National Red Cross Society in the damage and needs assessment which was conducted, and in formulating a plan of action and a logistics strategy. The operation was started at the end of December, but was put on hold in March due to the social unrest and increased instability in the country. The relief goods sent by PADRU in February were stolen and vandalized while waiting to pass through customs in the port in Port-au-Prince. The damaged and stolen goods included 1,500 hygiene kits, 1,500 kitchen kits, 1,500 sleeping mats, 200 plastic tents, 1,500 water cans, 50 flashlights, 150 pairs of boots, 150 plastic sheets, 50 security helmets, 100 pairs of gloves, a generator and a telefax. These supplies were part of the humanitarian relief effort financed by ECHO.



During the beginning of the year, PADRU followed up on relief operations begun in 2003 and responded to new disasters, providing beneficiaries with much-needed supplies.

*Social Unrest in Haiti:*

The International Federation launched an appeal at the beginning of March to cover the humanitarian needs that arose as a result of the social unrest in Haiti. The objectives related to Haiti that had been originally established as part of the Caribbean Annual Appeal 2004 were transferred to the emergency appeal so that all activities in Haiti are being carried out under the Haiti Social Unrest Appeal (Appeal 07/2004). This appeal includes long-term development objectives, including a component relating to disaster management.

PADRU has collaborated with the Haitian National Red Cross Society in the distribution, purchases and shipments of relief goods, and in strengthening the capacity of the National Society through the training of volunteers in telecommunications and the promotion of national relief teams. Together with the ICRC, the HNRCS worked on the installation of a VHF/HF network to improve communications between Movement members in the country. Communications systems were installed in 9 of the 13 HNRCS branches and in emergency vehicles. PADRU dispatched a telecommunications delegate to the country who worked with two delegates from the Spanish Red Cross and technical personnel from the ICRC.

*Floods in Hispaniola:*

At the end of May, heavy rains caused serious flooding in the border region between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, specifically in Jimaní in the Dominican Republic and in Fonds Verrettes and Mapou in Haiti. As of the end of May, there were an estimated 2,000 dead, and thousands more injured and displaced. PADRU responded to the situation immediately, deploying two delegates to assist the National Societies in their relief efforts. From Panama, and in close coordination with personnel working in the field, a plan of action was drawn up and an emergency appeal was launched to assist 2,000 families in the two countries for three months. This figure was later increased to 5,000 families and the period of the operation was increased to six months. Some 140 tons of humanitarian aid were immediately purchased and sent to the affected areas. The Federation is currently working in the field in coordination with the French, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies, as well as with ECHO. At the time of this report, the operation was in its first phase of distributing humanitarian aid.

*Bam Earthquake:*

At the request of the American Red Cross (ARC), the ARC Emergency Response Unit (ERU) was sent to Iran following the earthquake in Bam in December. The ERU was completed last year and was sent out for the first time in December 2003 during the floods operation in the Dominican Republic.

### **Constraints**

All of the programmes being run out of PADRU have been affected by the financial situation as donors are awaiting the outcome of PADRU's evaluation before providing funds. Programmes have also been affected by the human resource situation in PADRU which sees delegates sent to the Unit for short-term contracts and does not allow for the long-term development of projects.

The operation in response to the social unrest in Haiti presented PADRU with a challenge as the role of the Unit during times of social or political conflict remains unclear. The operation is currently being managed out of the Secretariat headquarters in Geneva. The instability of the government in Haiti has also been a constraint for PADRU, both for the social unrest and the floods operations, since many government offices are not functioning. For example, sending relief goods to Haiti has been a serious challenge as goods are often held up in customs for long periods of time. In addition, several Federation vehicles in the country cannot be used because they do not have license plates, but there is currently no government office available to issue these plates.

The follow up to the relief activities in Panama after the earthquake in December has been difficult with regard to the need for a better definition of the roles and responsibilities of PADRU and the Regional Delegation, specifically in relation to financial management.

**Objective 2: PADRU, in coordination with the regional delegations, provides effective support to the National Societies in the Americas which, in collaboration with local partners and resources, achieve improved capacity in response to disasters at national level.**

### **Progress/Achievements and impact**

#### *Floods in Colombia:*

Due to heavy rains the rising levels of the Magdalena, Cauca and Atrato rivers during the months of November and December 2003, flooding occurred in 18 departments in the country, affected more than 4,000 people, killing 25 and destroying hundreds of homes. During early 2004 PADRU supported the Colombian Red Cross (CRC) in following up on the response to these floods. According to the contingency plan established in each of the branches of the CRC, the National Society responded to the emergency by supporting the disaster prevention plans of the National System for Disaster Prevention and Care. The CRC carried out search and rescue operations, distributed food and non food relief items, helped relocate displaced families and conducted a study of buildings in areas that were at risk of landslides and further flooding.

In the area of health, the CRC developed projects with PNSs working in the country to monitor illness commonly associated with the rainy season. On 2 January an outbreak of yellow fever was confirmed in the department of Cesar and later in the departments of Magdalena and Guajira. The focal point of the epidemic was Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. The CRC immediately activated its contingency plan once again and, in coordination with the departmental Ministries of Health, carried out campaigns to vaccinate the local population. These campaigns benefited 2,929 people in Valledupar (Cesar) and Santa Marta (Magdalena). The CRC also took part in prevention activities by carrying out additional vaccination campaigns in the transport terminal, the airport and the CRC branches in Valledupar and Santa Marta.

#### *Floods in the Dominican Republic:*

As part of strengthening the capacity of the National Society, a workshop was carried out with the local coordinators and the Presidents of the branches involved in the operation following the floods in 2003. This exercise helped PADRU to adapt the tools being used in the operation to the specific context of a relief operation in the Dominican Republic. The results of the workshop were also used to redirect the implementation of the operation to respond better to the needs of the population. The response structure of the National Society was also strengthened through five workshops addressing the selection of beneficiaries and the provision of humanitarian relief. These workshops were carried out in Montecristi, Santiago de los Caballeros, San Francisco de Macoris, Barahona and Santo Domingo. In addition, a workshop for the national intervention team (NIT) was held, which helped strengthen the disaster management capacity of the Dominican Red Cross.

### Constraints

The limited funds in PADRU are hampering the Unit's ability to work more closely with National Societies in the region in order to provide relief during times of disasters. More funds are expected after the evaluation of PADRU is completed, at which time the Unit will be able to increase its activities in this area.

### Disaster Response Preparedness

**Goal:** PADRU, through the regional delegations, will support the network of Red Cross Societies in the Americas to attain a level of capacity in disaster management that successfully helps people to reduce risk, respond to and recover from disasters.

**Programme Objective:** The National Societies in the region have effective mechanisms for disaster response and preparedness (DR/DP) programmes, which contribute to reducing the impact of disaster situations vulnerable groups.

**Objective 1:** The regional network of the Red Cross including the Secretariat and Partner National Societies has increased its collective capacity to respond to disasters in a coordinated effort with governmental and non governmental agencies.

### Progress/Achievements and impact

#### *Evaluation:*

PADRU is currently involved in an evaluation process, which will conclude at the end of June. During the period covered by this report, the Unit's work has focused on facilitating this process for the evaluation team. The links with the National Societies that are participating in the evaluation, and are providing information to the evaluation team, have been a vital part of this process.

The standard procedures of the Federation require periodic internal and external evaluation of its programmes. Since its creation, PADRU has been considered as a pilot project, for which reason evaluations are of particular importance. Four fundamental aspects are being evaluated in PADRU: relevance, efficiency, sustainability and productivity. It is also important to determine the degree of compliance with the initial objectives laid out for the Unit and the impact the Unit is having on the region's capacity to respond to disasters. Other important aspects to be evaluated are the management of human and financial resources and the coordination and provision of reports. The financial sustainability of PADRU's structure within the context of the change process and the policies of the Federation is another point to be examined. Finally, the evaluation will look at how the PADRU model could be reproduced in other regions.



When not responding to a specific disaster in the region, efforts are ongoing in PADRU to increase the disaster preparedness capacities of the National Societies and Regional Delegations.

#### *Pre hurricane season meeting:*

PADRU is in the process of coordinating this year's pre hurricane season meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Miami from 12-17 July. Since 2002 an annual meeting has been held in the region so that National Societies and the Federation could come together to determine the capacity of the National Societies' network to respond to the forthcoming hurricane season. The meeting is an opportunity to update and implement the regional network, as well as to disseminate the Federation's regional and global tools, including Field Assessment and Coordination Teams (FACT), Emergency Response Units (ERU), PADRU, RITs, NITs, DREF, and DMIS. Also discussed during these meetings are the plans, programmes and response mechanisms of other organizations working in the region so that the Federation and National Societies can look at possibilities for coordination. This year, the Caribbean National Societies will present the HF telecommunication network for the region and an update will be provided on the

Ericsson Response programme. The meeting will also provide guidelines for basic logistics and relief management in small National Societies.

*Andean Disaster Plan:*

Together with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and based on an agreement established in 2002, the Federation worked on the development of a strategic plan to develop the Andean Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan, which includes the five countries in the Andean region of South America. To do this, the team looked at past experiences and challenges to identify risks, threats and vulnerabilities in the region. The National Societies involved began analyzing the resources available in the region in the areas of disaster preparedness and response and health, looking at both the private and public sectors, and reviewed strengths and weaknesses in the region. As a regional focal point for disaster preparedness, PADRU worked together with the Lima Regional Delegation to achieve regional coherence in the themes of health and disasters. This initiative is in line with the *Plan of Action of the Inter American Conference 2003-2007*.

*Database:*

As the focal point for disaster management in the Americas, PADRU has strengthened the process of updating the database of personnel trained in disaster response in the region. This is a service offered to the National Societies and Regional Delegations in the region. This database provides important information about the human resources available in the region, helping to provide an immediate response in times of disaster. A web tool has been designed so that persons who have received training such as the regional intervention team course, training in telecommunications, water and sanitation or logistics can access the database and update information. This tool is also available to those who were trained in relief workshops in Honduras, Colombia and Guatemala, prior to the establishment of the RITs. A new version of the database has already been developed, with simple, user-friendly software, as has a users' manual. The entire database is also being translated into English. This database is an improved version of the database originally presented by PADRU to the National Societies during the Inter American Conference in Santiago de Chile.

*Information in Disasters:*

PADRU is currently in the process of strengthening the area of information management in disasters and is updating and formulating new tools. In close coordination with the Lima Regional Delegation, where the regional communications delegate is based and from where the regional webpage is managed, the information coordinator of PADRU worked for two weeks to establish tools and mechanisms to standardize and make more efficient the production of information during disasters. Three basic tools have been created: the protocol for monitoring disasters in the America, the protocols for managing information in disasters and the new version of the contingency plan for information in disasters. These tools are being shared with information and disaster personnel in the National Societies and Regional Delegations in order to enrich the process and ensure that these tools are uniformly applied throughout the region. These tools will be presented during the Inter American Communications forum in June and the pre hurricane meeting in July.

With the support of the Regional Delegations in Lima and Panama, PADRU has created a model for the information plan of action for disasters, which was included in the plan of action for the floods in the Dominican Republic and Haiti in late May. This component ensures a standardized approach to information in future operations and complements the tools previously mentioned.

*Training in the Dominican Republic (NITs):*

In coordination with the Dominican Red Cross, PADRU held a NITs workshop in the Dominican Republic in February, following up on the strategy to strengthen disaster response in the Caribbean. A total of 20 volunteers were trained and are now part of the network of available human resources to be used in the management of disasters in the Dominican Republic.

*Preparation for Conflict--Family Linking:*

Together with the ICRC, PADRU followed up on the initiative taken up a year ago regarding integrated work in the theme of re-establishing family links (RFL) during emergencies. This meeting helped strengthen the tracing capacities of the National Societies in the region and served to integrate the Ericsson Response programme into the regional strategy for re-establishing family links. Although RFL is a programme usually managed by the ICRC

during times of social or political conflict, PADRU and the ICRC have worked closely together to look at developing RFL in natural disasters, incorporating this service with the telecommunications services used in the region during emergencies. As part of this process, PADRU has created a project proposal with a planning matrix, budget, timeline of activities, terms of reference for the role of RFL in PADRU, and a draft of the operating procedures for an RFL programme.

### Constraints

The funding situation in PADRU is making it difficult for the Unit to implement disaster response preparedness programmes in the region. More funds are expected after the evaluation of PADRU is completed, at which time the unit will be able to increase its activities in this area. In addition, the role of PADRU during social and political conflicts remains unclear, which is impeding the development of an RFL programme.

**Objective 2: A logistics structure has been developed in PADRU which responds appropriately during times of disasters, provides services to National Societies: procurement, information, standardization, and is a resource for National Society training in logistics.**

### Progress/Achievements and impact

During the first four months of the year, the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) has continued to provide services to the National Societies, PNSs, Regional Delegations in the region, as well as to other organizations working with the Red Cross Movement. Principally, the RLU has been working on the relief operations following last year's flooding in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and supporting the Red Cross Society of Panama in its response to the earthquake that occurred in late December. The RLU has also been strengthening the cooperation process with UN agencies, Ericsson and ECHO, primarily by providing logistics services and consultancy for the projects being developed in the Americas. A logistics training is planned for the coming months as part of the process of strengthening the logistics capacities of the National Societies.



Much of the efforts of the RLU have focused on providing relief goods for the ongoing operations in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The vehicle leasing programme has facilitated the purchase and leasing of vehicles for the National Societies in Panama and the Dominican Republic, the ICRC in Haiti, and the Federation's country office in Haiti. The RLU also moved vehicles from Guatemala to Panama, and facilitated the transfer of a vehicle from the Federation's office in El Salvador to the Spanish Red Cross's programme in that country.

The RLU shipped supplies for the earthquake operation in Puerto Armuelles, Panama, including a water tanker, supplies from the Red Cross Society of Panama that were being stored in PADRU's warehouses, and other supplies purchased by the American Red Cross. The operation also included the shipment of water and sanitation equipment and an all terrain vehicle. The RLU has also supported the Costa Rican Red Cross in the process of purchasing goods and an ambulance to respond to the flooding that occurred in the province of Limón in May.

During the relief operation following the flooding that occurred in Haiti in 2003, PADRU shipped several containers of relief goods, which were part of the financial assistance provided by ECHO. Three of the containers were looted during the social unrest that escalated in the country in February and March. Another container was held in Jamaica, which allowed PADRU to avoid this loss of cargo. The supplies that were able to reach the country were first aid kits, overalls, helmets and tents. Other supplies such as first aid kits were also sent later for the social unrest operation.

The RLU has also worked closely with National Societies in the region to increase their logistics capacities, including providing emergency goods to the Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaican Red Cross Societies, coordinated by the disaster preparedness delegate in the Sub Regional Office in Port of Spain, Trinidad. Other shipments of goods will be made to the National Societies of Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as part of the DIPECHO project that is ongoing in the Caribbean. In addition, for the first time, the RLU

made a direct service agreement with a National Society, in this case the British Overseas Branch in Anguilla. It is hoped that the RLU can continue with this system and expand it to other National Societies, PNSs and organizations in the Americas.

PADRU has signed a two-year agreement with the Free Zone in Panama to establish a warehouse in that area. The agreement was made in coordination with the Red Cross Society of Panama and will be managed by the National Society. Having a warehouse in the Free Zone will greatly facilitate the processes of sending relief goods to emergency areas, increasing the speed with which goods are sent, and decreasing costs.

### **Constraints**

Projects to increase the logistics capacities of the National Societies in the Americas have been slowed because of lack of funding. In addition, as delegates are often sent to the Unit for only a few months, it is difficult to ensure long-term logistics programming.

### **Objective 3: National Societies have defined and developed priority programming for public health in disasters, based on and linked to their longer term public health strategic planning.**

#### **Progress/Achievements and impact**

##### *Haiti Social Unrest:*

PADRU supported the water and sanitation and hygiene activities in Haiti, in coordination with the public health activities carried out by OXFAM and Caritas.

##### *Dominican Republic Floods:*

The health and hygiene strategy adopted by the DRC and partners following the flooding in 2003 has greatly reduced the number of deaths from waterborne disease. A good specific indicator of this is the number of cases of dengue, which decreased dramatically between November 2003 and February 2004. As part of the strategy and with the support of PADRU, the DRC distributed different items, such as hygiene and kitchen kits, and information about vector control.

##### *Panama Earthquake:*

As a result of the damage caused by the earthquake in Puerto Armuelles last December, a water and sanitation team was sent to the area, along with four volunteers from the National Society headquarters and five volunteers from the Puerto Armuelles branch, to clean wells in the area. A water and sanitation basic training course was also carried out for volunteers. After the evaluations were carried out in the community of Olivos, seven wells and nine latrines were reconstructed. Another 48 wells were cleaned and three drainage pipes were constructed.

### **Objective 4: National Societies integrate and use new technology applied to information in disasters.**

#### **Progress/Achievements and impact**

##### *Ericsson Response Programme Simulation (Colombia):*

The ongoing Ericsson Response programme was successfully put to the test during a disaster simulation exercise carried out in Manizales, Colombia. Work on the simulation exercise began in December, requiring the reprogramming of 95 cellular phones, as well as the transport and installation of telecommunications equipment. With the simulation, the Ericsson Response programme was launched in Colombia before the media and local authorities, and an agreement was signed between Ericsson Colombia and the Colombian Red Cross. Volunteers from the Colombian Red Cross and the Civil Defense were trained in aspects of telecommunications and operating the Ericsson Response equipment to ensure that the equipment will be continue to be used correctly in the future.

Parallel to the launch of the Ericsson Response programme in Colombia, a meeting was held between PADRU and Ericsson to discuss issues such as the distribution of cellular phones in the region, the revision of the programme's agreement, the programme's work plan, financing for the simulation and a donation from Ericsson to PADRU for the creation of a telecommunication centre. As a product of this meeting, a procedures manual was designed for the use of the equipment. It was also decided that a technical manual and a users' manual would be created, based on the experience in Colombia, in order to facilitate the management of the equipment in disaster situations. Work on these manuals has begun.

*Ericsson Response Agreement (Dominican Republic):*

The coordination process with the Dominican Red Cross for the implementation of the Ericsson Response programme concluded with the signing of the agreement between the National Society and Ericsson in May. The Dominican Red Cross became the first Caribbean country to join the regional cooperation programme with Ericsson Response with the signing of a letter of cooperation, which stipulates the joint work of all the partners to provide humanitarian assistance, principally in communications, preparation and response during natural disasters and emergencies.



The Ericsson Response programme provides telecommunications support during times of disaster. A simulation exercise to test the programme was carried out in Colombia, and the programme has been successfully implemented during emergencies in the region.

*Telecommunications Programme in Haiti and support to the Dominican Republic:*

Initially, an evaluation was carried out of the telecommunications situation in Haiti and a communications radio was installed in a vehicle that was sent from PADRU for the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS). In response to the social unrest, the telecommunications delegate from PADRU was sent to the field to provide support to the Federation's office in Haiti and to the French and Netherlands Red Cross Societies working in the country. For the coordination and the follow up to the operation, Ericsson Response cellular phones were activated and distributed. Together with the ICRC an immediate plan of action was drawn up to re-establish telecommunication in the HNRCS. The HNRCS now has a radio communications system in 9 of its 13 branches. Antennas and telecommunications equipment were also installed in the National Society's ambulances. Meanwhile, in the Dominican Republic a work plan was drawn up to reactivate the VHF network in the National Society.

*Web*

In order to strengthen the communications and coordination between PADRU and the Lima Regional Delegation, which manages the regional webpage, the information coordinator in PADRU worked closely with the Federation's regional communications delegate. As part of this joint work, they were able to update, create and implement tools to be used in managing information during disasters. In addition, PADRU's communications strategy has been reformulated and now includes a new webpage design. After analyzing the statistics of visits to PADRU's webpage (12,000 in the first four months of the year), it was decided that the PADRU webpage would be integrated into the Federation's Latin American webpage ([www.cruzroja.org](http://www.cruzroja.org)) and Caribbean webpage ([www.caribbeanredcross.org](http://www.caribbeanredcross.org)). This page will be the disaster response site of the Red Cross in the region, acting as a monitoring and alert tool. All the information which is internal to the Movement will be moved to FedNet and DMIS, for which purpose a meeting is being planned with the Federation's FedNet officer in June.

**[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)**

# Pan American Disaster Response Unit

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.51/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

30/06/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

					<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>1,622,621</b>		<b>22.4%</b>
AMERICAN - RC				35,072	11.05.04	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004				35,000	29.01.04	
CANADIAN - RC				11,708	25.03.04	LOGISTICS DELEGATE
CANADIAN - RC		20,148	CAD	18,949	07.05.04	EVALUATION
ERICSSON		25,539	USD	31,898	25.01.04	SHIPMENT COSTS PANAMA, TRANSPORT COSTS COLOMBIA, SERVICES & LOGISTICS
NORWEGIAN - RC		150,000	NOK	27,788	26.04.04	SALARY HOD
SWEDISH - RC		500,000	SEK	84,500	30.05.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				244,915	CHF	15.1%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SPAIN	DELEGATES			117,800		
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				117,800	CHF	7.3%

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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