

Annual report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central America and Mexico

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This report covers the period 01 January 2010 to 31 December 2010.



In June 2010 Guatemala Red Cross volunteers distributed seeds in Suiche III Community. Source: GRC

In brief

Programme purpose: Support the seven National Societies in the Central America and Mexico region, working closely together with them to effectively implement the Inter-American Plan 2007–2011.

Programme(s) summary: Technical support to the seven National Societies was provided in 2010 through close collaboration with the regional representation for Central America and Mexico technical programmes, namely disaster risk management, health and care, organizational development and humanitarian principles and values. The disaster risk reduction focused its efforts on three components: organizational preparedness, community-based disaster risk reduction and recovery. The health and care programme continue working on HIV and AIDS, public health at the community level and during emergencies. Moreover, the organizational development worked together with National Societies to strengthen National Societies' governance, management and organizational development processes, as well as volunteering and youth development. Finally, cross-cutting efforts to promote Humanitarian Principles and Values were undertaken within the different programmes in the region based on human resource capacities and available funding.

Financial situation: The total budget for 2010 was 2,004,013 Swiss francs, of which 1,930,421 Swiss francs (96 per cent) was covered during the reporting period (including the opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was 1,692,207 Swiss francs (84 per cent) of the budget.

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

No. of people we have reached: The regional representation, through the Regional Risk Reduction programme and with the support of the secretariat and actions carried out by the National Societies in Central America during 2010, was able to reach around 36,492 direct beneficiaries in at least 30 communities in Central America.

Under the framework of the Global Alliance on HIV, 116,023 people were reached with prevention messages and 1,057 people living with HIV and 629 orphans and vulnerable children were supported in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

Furthermore, the regional representation has supported the strengthening of capacities in Central America and Mexico through trainings. In 2010, National Society staff and volunteers received training on disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness tools, HIV and AIDS, community-based health and first aid (CBHFA in Action) methodology, water and sanitation programming, emergency health, leadership, volunteering and youth development, among others.

Our partners: The regional representation continues to work together with International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners in the region, including: the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Finnish Red Cross, the German Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross, the Swiss Red Cross, and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.

Partners outside the Movement have also been instrumental in supporting the region's National Societies, including: Albatros Foundation, CARE, Centre for the Coordination of the Prevention of Natural Disasters (CEPREDENAC), UK Department for International Development (DfID), European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and DIPECHO partners, Handicap International, FEMICA, Lorente y Cuenca, Lions' Club, Meteorology Service, Más Publicidad, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), Plan International, Radio Netherlands, Universidad Estatal a Distancia (UNED) in Costa Rica, , UNICEF, Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), and Global Fund.

Context

General socio-political and economic challenges in the Central American and Mexico region in 2010 include poverty, economic inequality, migration and other effects of macroeconomic policy. A growing concern in the region remains general insecurity with Honduras and El Salvador sharing the highest murder rate in the world.

Natural events of 2010 include a low pressure system which caused rain and flooding in several countries. Tropical Storm Agatha and the eruption of Pacaya volcano both affected Guatemala, resulting in concerns about food security. A disease outbreak of dengue fever was also registered in certain areas during the reporting period

While the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile occurred outside of the region, they required significant response and support from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) secretariat in the early part of 2010. Furthermore, some National Societies in the region mobilized their own resources to respond to the situation in Haiti and provided humanitarian assistance as well as staff and volunteers to support the work of the secretariat and other Partner National Societies in the region. This mobilization of resources and show of solidarity have contributed to strengthening the capacities of Red Cross societies in the region.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Risk Reduction

Programme component 1: Organizational Preparedness

Component outcome 1: The secretariat supports the seven National Societies of the region to improve skilled human resource, financial and material capacity for effective disaster management, supported by REDCAMP-DESASTRES.

Achievements:

Networking

National directors worked during 2010 to strengthen links between networks throughout the Americas, foster the exchange of experiences, information and lessons learnt, and strive towards greater harmonization, integration and collaboration across the continent in the area of disaster risk management. The regional network REDCAMP-DESASTRES promoted various measures for strengthening National Societies, including the exchange of personnel; regional training and knowledge-exchange between National Societies in various sectors; programmes in organizational development and principles and values; and technical support for training activities in knowledge management within and among National Societies.

Well-Prepared National Society (WPNS)

In 2010, five National Societies of the region received the designation of well-prepared: (name them)

National Contingency and Response Plans

During 2010, National Societies developed and updated their national contingency and response plans supported by the Centres of Reference in Disaster Preparedness. Not all National Societies in the region are at the same stage in this process, but six either completed or made substantial progress on their plans: Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Guatemala.

National Risk Reduction programmes

During 2010, the Regional Risk Reduction programme supported the creation of a framework for risk reduction in Central America, overall Movement coordination, and activities to strengthen national risk reduction programmes. REDCAMP-DESASTRES defined and revised the key issues with the aim of carrying out consultations within National Societies and with cooperating sister societies in the region.

National Intervention Team (NIT) training

The Regional Risk Reduction programme continues to support National Societies in strengthening and developing skilled human resources for effective disaster management, with NIT trainings in various subjects a crucial part of this process. During the reporting period, some 132 volunteers were qualified as NIT members in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. With financial support from the Norwegian Red Cross, the Regional Risk Reduction programme, in coordination with the regional Centres of Reference, supported two workshops in specialized NIT training in public health in emergencies and epidemic control.

Volunteer training

In support of the crucial effort by National Societies to train volunteers, who are in many cases the driving force behind the Red Cross mission, the Regional Risk Reduction programme has facilitated follow-up internships for 40 volunteers from the region's network of trainers. The internships have taken place both as course and workshop components.

Capacity Building

By the end of 2010, National Societies had trained at least 300 volunteers in various areas of risk management, community health, and principles and values, exceeding the number originally projected and creating a larger pool of trained volunteers in case of emergencies.

The Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) trained approximately 202 volunteers in 19 branches in various disaster preparedness issues. In addition, 37 volunteers trained in community shelters and 35 as VCA facilitators; 25 participated in NIT workshops on emergency report writing and 25 in workshops on Incident Command Systems; and 35 volunteers from various GRC branches underwent the basic course on light collapsed structure rescue coordinated with the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) and the support of DfID.

The Salvadoran Red Cross Society (SRCS) trained at least 80 volunteers in 2010 with financial support from DfID in workshops in communication and risk management in emergencies. In addition, 35 volunteers participated in the management of an operations centre, 20 were trained as emergency

radio operators, and 25 became volunteers on NITs. This training was supported by the Centre of Reference located in El Salvador.

The Honduran Red Cross (HRC) trained at least 150 volunteers in 15 branches in different topics. Forty four were trained as facilitators in the use of the Risk Management Manual and 18 as new facilitators in Secure Access. In 2010, six regional centres of departmental and/or municipal monitoring were provided with personnel training and equipped, and 29 volunteers were trained for NITs, all with the support of DfID.

The Red Cross Society of Panama (RCSP) supported the training of 28 volunteers in 2010 in Sphere minimum standards of humanitarian aid to strengthen response capabilities in case of disaster with support of the Regional Risk Reduction programme and participated in regional training activities organized by regional Centres of Reference.

Internships and knowledge dissemination

In early 2010, the regional DIPECHO VI project came to an end, leaving a consolidated curriculum on local risk reduction and preparedness offered by both Centres of Reference for National Societies and other DIPECHO VI partners. During 2009 and 2010, 14 internships took place in the region, organized and facilitated by the centres and covering training and fieldwork in on-going projects, elaboration of materials, and bi-directional learning processes. In 2011, internships are expected to continue through the DIPECHO VII project.

DIPECHO VII project

DIPECHO VII began in late 2010 and aims to contribute to reducing vulnerability and increasing the coping capabilities of the Central American population with an emphasis on urban communities and small towns. This includes strengthening methodologies for community education and institutional preparedness with specific approaches tailored to urban culture and following regional guidelines established in the PGCIR. A pilot programme on the Panama-Costa Rica border and three National Society projects were approved (Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua).

Preparation for Climate Change (PfCC2)

In close collaboration with the Climate Centre in The Hague, the IFRC is working with National Societies in developing countries to improve their understanding of the negative impact of climate change on their countries and programmes.

The PfCC2 programme, implemented in 2010 with financial support from the Netherland Ministry of Foreign Affairs, contains five flexible components. The IFRC and the National Societies of Chile, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Suriname will enter into cooperation agreements on programme implementation.

The Mexican Red Cross (MRC) was able to successfully complete its PfCC2 activities both within and outside the National Society with the broad participation of young people, implementing projects with Innovation Funds from the Netherlands Red Cross, which focused on raising awareness on climate change in school age children and youth. This preliminary work linked National Society actions and participation in the Conference of Parties (COP)16 organized by the UNFCCC, prompting great interest from civil society and allowing the ICRC and the MRC to gain visibility as humanitarian institutions linked to the humanitarian consequences of climate change and risk management.



As part of the 2010 activities, the Regional Risk Reduction programme, with the financial support of the Norwegian Red Cross, participated in a workshop on multi-hazard early warning systems with a focus on institutional partnerships and coordination organized by the World Meteorological Organization. The Red Cross was represented by seven National Societies from Central America and one from the

Caribbean (Belize), the Centre of Reference in community-based education, and the Zone and regional disaster risk management (DRM) programme.

Constraints or Challenges

- Due to Tropical Storm Agatha, National Societies had to focus their attention on emergency response, forcing them to postpone some planned community and institutional activities.

Programme component 2: Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction

Component outcome 1: Communities are better prepared and more organized to respond to and recover from the effects of natural hazards, recognizing potential risk reduction measures and actions to be taken.

Achievements:

Community vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA) – Community risk maps

At the end of 2010, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama implemented the methodology for analyzing vulnerabilities and capabilities, leading to the identification of vulnerabilities and capabilities of at least 40 communities in which they developed 20 community micro-projects, at least ten community response brigades, and installed early warning systems. In addition to the training, cooperation between and among local authorities and community leaders was enhanced through the participation of 20 Red Cross branches.

The Salvadoran Red Cross Society (SRCS) reached at least four communities which were organized, trained and sensitized on priority issues for the management of Disaster Risk Reduction, such as: management of radio communication systems, first aid, VCA, shelter management, and climate change in coordination with other state agencies. Nine micro-projects focused on community organization and the strengthening of communication systems as part of early warning systems at the community level through the provision of communication equipment and workshops on its use and management with the participation of all sectors of the community. 32 communities benefited from DfID funds during the 2007-2010 period.

The Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) has identified the ten communities in which it plans to carry out VCAs in August 2011, reaching approximately 4,950 families. Response organization took place through the creation and training of local groups for the reduction of disasters who worked in risk reduction through ten mitigation micro-projects. Five school response committees were created to strengthen schools in case of emergencies or disasters. In addition, a food security and livelihoods component distributed seeds to sustain family orchards in Suiche III and community kitchens were improved in San Jose Canton.

Protected School Modules

The Honduran Red Cross (HRC) conducted training for 23 primary school teachers and 22 HRC volunteers using the Protected School module. The trained members of the educational community committed to immediately applying the module in at least 15 schools, contributing substantially to risk reduction in schools and fostering a culture of prevention in at least 600 children. In addition, 15 mitigation micro-projects were identified for the reduction of vulnerabilities in schools. HRC has strengthened its capacity to monitor emergency through the creation of branch monitoring centres, helping to decentralize emergency response and strengthen the capabilities of volunteers and the monitoring system at the nationwide Emergency Operations Centre.

Innovation Funds

Innovation Funds are global funds to promote innovative community projects on climate change. The Americas region had the highest number of proposals submitted, representing 25 per cent of the contribution. The Regional Risk Reduction programme and the Finnish Red Cross supported the four approved projects in Central America to expand their activities and promote the participation of youth. In Central America, Innovation Funds reached 31,087 beneficiaries, with the direct participation of at least 50 branches and approximately 20 communities. Among the main activities of the project was raising awareness through workshops in schools using the Protected School module and climate change tools. In addition, VCA workshops were developed, early warning systems were installed, and

National Society capabilities were strengthened through workshops on climate change and the prevention of forestry accidents for volunteers.

Communication for risk reduction and disaster preparedness

During 2010, dissemination to community members of key messages was crucial in creating a culture of risk reduction and disaster preparedness. Given this, the Regional Risk Reduction programme, in coordination with the Centres of Reference and under the DIPECHO VI and VII plan of action, supported National Societies in the region in the dissemination of key messages as part of an overall communications strategy. Communication and awareness-raising materials were developed, promoting safer and more resilient communities. In 2010, these materials reached more than 2,000 people during the risk reduction day celebrations held in at least three countries. In addition, the *World Disasters Report 2010 Focus on Urban Risk* was launched with the participation of National Societies in Latin America and the Caribbean in the presence of regional media at the continental meeting on climate change in preparation for COP16.

Constraints or Challenges

- In the case of the Salvadoran Red Cross Society, multiple difficulties arose at the beginning of the year with a vacancy in the position of Director of Risk Reduction and part of the team ending their contracts. This caused some delays in the start-up of activities.
- The confirmation of funds from donors did not occur until well into the year.

Programme component 3: Recovery

Component outcome 1: The secretariat supports the National Societies of the region in providing assistance to restore or improve pre-disaster living conditions and reduce the risk of future disasters.

Achievements

In November 2008, Panama and Costa Rica experienced unusually heavy and persistent rains, leading the governments of both countries to declare states of emergency. The Red Cross Societies of both nations responded to the situation and later requested assistance from the IFRC in the areas of relief, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion and recovery. The Regional Risk Reduction programme undertook the recovery component of the operation in June 2009. Activities conducted by the two National Societies under this phase included livelihoods rehabilitation as well as water and sanitation activities.

In 2010, the Regional Risk Reduction programme continued to support the recovery operation in Panama and Costa Rica in coordination with PADRU to reduce the vulnerability of families affected by flooding in Panama and Costa Rica in particular, which were severely affected in 2009.

Recovery plans were made by both National Societies with an emphasis on a community-based approach in providing longer-term support to the communities affected by the floods and in building the capacities of the two National Societies, mainly at the local level, to promote community resilience.

In 2010, emergency operations benefited from the technical support to staff from Central American National Societies to implement recovery activities in response to the disasters experienced in these countries. The exchange of experiences and knowledge in coordination with REDCAMP-DESASTRES was also promoted.

During 2010, the Regional Risk Reduction programme carried out several training workshops in Central America for national intervention teams with expertise in water and sanitation, health and hygiene promotion with financial support from the Norwegian Red Cross. Volunteers from seven National Societies in the region participated to increase the capabilities of National Societies and promote the exchange of experiences and good practices. NIT water and sanitation personnel in Guatemala were sent to support recovery activities in water and sanitation in Haiti. In addition, the capabilities of National Societies were strengthened in preparation for disasters through the promotion and development of food security activities.

Constraints or Challenges

The recurring emergencies in Panama and Costa Rica over the last few years have caused difficulties for both National Societies and a delay in the implementation of planned activities.

Health and Care

During 2010, regional health programming for Central America and Mexico included three programme components: HIV, community health, and emergency health.

The HIV component was implemented within the framework of the Global Alliance on HIV, with a focus on both continental and regional Global Alliance coordination, tailored support to National Society Global Alliance members (El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras) and small project funding for further development of HIV programming in countries being prepared for future incorporation into the Global Alliance on HIV (Costa Rica and Nicaragua).

The community health component focussed on the roll-out of the Federation's new community-based health and first aid (CBHFA in Action) methodology, supporting the formation of water, sanitation and hygiene technical units in four target National Societies and strengthening the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD) among youth through the Club 25 Strategy in three National Societies.

The emergency health component focused on three areas: capacity building and awareness-raising in National Societies; method development and dissemination; and support to operations including response to disasters and disease outbreaks.

Regional and Zone health coordination provided technical assistance, capacity building through training, and resource mobilization. This coordination facilitated processes and formed alliances with other active health-related organizations of the region and supported secretariat-originated processes at different levels, including baselines, funding proposals, plans of action, evaluation, surveys and mapping.

The regional health programme budget was significantly adjusted during 2010, decreasing from 2,466,809 Swiss francs to 775,674 Swiss francs to reflect actual budget coverage at the end of the reporting period.

Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS

Component outcome 1: Three National Societies: El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are supported by the secretariat to reduce vulnerability to HIV and its impact through preventing further infection, expanding care, treatment and support and reducing stigma and discrimination.

Achievements

The Global Alliance on HIV is contributing to improve the lives of men and women, boys and girls through preventing transmission of HIV, promoting and providing voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) so that people are aware of their HIV status, can prevent onward transmission, and can seek treatment and care services if they are HIV positive, promoting prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV and ensuring that most at-risk communities have access to tailored prevention education, skills building and prevention commodities such as condoms and lubricant. The National Societies provide support to people with HIV and support for orphans and children vulnerable to HIV and are actively working with other partners in country to reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination that prevents people from seeking testing and accessing prevention, treatment, care and support services.

The Guatemalan, Honduran and Salvadoran National Societies were supported by the Secretariat under its Global Alliance on HIV framework. National Societies implemented programmes to reduce vulnerability to, and the impact of, HIV. 2010 represented the third year of the current Global Alliance implementation period.

The table below outlines the number of beneficiaries reached in 2010 programming for all three Global Alliance countries:

Service rendered	Number of beneficiaries per country			Total
	Guatemala	Honduras	El Salvador	
Number of people reached with prevention messages	42,716	10,912	62,395	116,023
Number of PLHIV supported	279	384	394	1,057
Number of OVC supported	404	N/A	225	629
Total population reached & served	43,400	20,073	110,319	173,792

Human and financial resources are vital to quality service provision and programme expansion within the participating Red Cross Societies. Below are the resources committed to HIV programming within all three Global Alliance countries:

Service rendered	Data per country			Total
	Guatemala	Honduras	El Salvador	
Volunteer hours mobilized annually	234,000	13,560	171,600	419,160
Number of staff & volunteers reached through HIV workplace programmes	993	106	320	1,419
Resources mobilized for HIV programme in CHF	124,129	152,536	139,239	415,904

As part of the communications strategy, support was provided by the Llorente and Cuenca advertising agency, enabling the re-launch of the Global Alliance during 2010. Radio and television stations provided coverage for various events and Llorente and Cuenca provided a list of potential corporate donors to Global Alliance members with the aim of mobilizing resources to provide sustainability for their HIV programmes. One of the key products was a formal PowerPoint presentation adapted to each country's HIV context and its programme under the Global Alliance on HIV for use with local donors and companies.

During 2010, Central American National Societies participated in four key events:

1. All six National Societies participated in CONCASIDA, the regional AIDS conference, held in Costa Rica.
2. Seven National Society staff and volunteers from the region were trained as master facilitators in the IFRC Prevention, Care, Treatment and Support training package for community-based volunteers.
3. The region was represented at a meeting in Panama of the steering group of RCRC+, the RCRC network of staff and volunteers living with HIV, in the Americas. Six National Society PLHIV leaders worked on a draft operational plan.
4. A member of RCRC+ from Panama and the Honduran Red Cross HIV Programme Manager participated in the Global Alliance on HIV forum meeting and AIDS2010 in Vienna in July., RCRC+ leaders presented on the work of RCRC+ since its establishment in 2008 and a four-year regional plan of action developed with secretariat support.

Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC)

During 2010, the HIV Programme was implemented through the National Health Secretariat of the GRC, made possible through co-funding from the Norwegian Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross, and the IFRC Secretariat through its Global Alliance on HIV framework. Throughout the 2010 programme phase, the GRC maintained a strong strategic partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education (MoE), members of the South-West Network, government organisations and NGO representatives working on an effective response to HIV. During the reporting period, the GRC reached 42,716 direct beneficiaries: 20,911 women and 21,805 men.

The key areas of HIV programming were rolled-out through the regional implementation of various programmes including *Project Taxi* and the *Together We Can* youth peer-to-peer education methodology. 83 active GRC volunteers working with HIV were trained and materials were disseminated. In addition, 24 radio programmes focussing on STI transmission and HIV and AIDS reached an estimated 30,701 people.

The GRC HIV Programme focussed on the most-at-risk populations: youth, people living with HIV (PLHIV), men who have sex with men (MSM), female sex workers, the Trans population, housewives, taxi and moto-taxi drivers, at-risk youth, women in rural areas, indigenous Maya populations and mobile populations in four regions: El Palmar, Retalhuleu, Coatepeque and Guatemala City.

Prevention of transmission from mother to child (PMTCT) was successfully targeted through the provision of free, confidential testing, referral for anti-retroviral therapy (ART) upon receipt of a positive test, and a vertical transmission prevention programme for pregnant women and women living with HIV. It is reported that 7,787 men women and children directly and indirectly benefited from these programmes. 3,235 tests were provided during 2010 and the GRC was identified as a reference for rapid testing and HIV screening during the national *Know Your Status* campaign coordinated by the National HIV and AIDS department. Rapid testing and screening focused on groups considered highly vulnerable.

Health education materials on STIs, HIV and AIDS, and sexual and reproductive rights were disseminated appropriately in each target population. Maternal health was improved through the participation of volunteer mothers at the community level, providing information on STIs, HIV, methods of contraception and unplanned pregnancies. This information was also provided to female prisoners, women in uniform, female sex workers and women living with HIV.

During 2010, micro-projects aimed at promoting community self-sustainability specifically targeting members of PLHIV self-support groups were developed in two regions: Retalhuleu and El Palmar.

To further develop HIV programming in Guatemala, during 2010, the GRC participated in and supported the first national study of attitudes and practices towards the Trans population and facilitated a day of VCT to members of the Trans population.

Honduran Red Cross (HRC)

The HRC HIV programme was made possible through the co-funding of the Swiss Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, the IFRC secretariat through its Global Alliance on HIV framework and the Global Fund through the National Institute of Public Health of Mexico. During the reporting period, the HRC reached an estimated 15,073 beneficiaries through their HIV programme, consisting of those people considered most at-risk: mobile populations, sex workers, men who have sex with men (MSM), taxi drivers and out of school youth. Programmes addressing STI prevention were implemented on the border with El Salvador and Nicaragua in coordination with the Ministry of Health.

Work has continued with youth-oriented prevention activities in education centres in the southern part of Honduras with support from the Swiss Red Cross. The Meso-American project, funded by the Global Fund and providing holistic support to mobile populations, has continued in the border region with El Salvador, focusing in particular on sex workers and the prevention of HIV and STI. Secretariat support has enabled the continuation of peer education, PMTCT, and VCT activities.

During 2010, the HRC continued to expand its HIV Peer Educators Programme. The programme was implemented using two methodologies: *Together We Can* and participatory workshops. During 2010, the programme extended its coverage to schools and centres for at-risk youth. To increase the capacity of the National Society to implement and sustain HIV programmes at the community level, the HRC conducted a training workshop for national facilitators of the *Together We Can* youth peer education methodology, inviting young people already working with the methodology to participate. A database using the statistical programme EPI was created to map National Society capacities for peer educators and facilitators of the *Together We Can* methodology. Vertical prevention was strengthened by expanding care for pregnant women to rural areas. This included the dissemination of prevention

education and providing access to HIV rapid testing. Coverage of national level interventions was increased to include rural areas and six regions previously not working on HIV prevention.

During 2010, the HRC enabled the strengthening of six support groups which benefited a total of 384 PLHIV. At the national level, the HRC provided support to 18 PLHIV by providing care through a recently established emergency support fund. 2010 saw the HRC incorporation of a new programme utilizing the Federation's HIV Prevention, Care, Treatment and Support training package (PCTS) for community based volunteers. Training was provided to 17 community volunteers and PLHIV who went on to conduct home visits to provide direct care to PLHIV and support for families. The HRC established an emergency support fund which provided support for persons requiring medical attention and food supplies.

Peer education programmes and community based support implemented by the HRC reached a reported 3,777 people. The programmes aimed to combat stigma and discrimination through reaching users of taxi services. It enabled drivers to address issues of stigma and discrimination with passengers, benefiting 82 drivers and an average of 5,000 taxi users. The HRC also conducted nationwide campaigns to reduce stigma, working closely with PLHIV.

During 2010, the HRC worked towards strengthening its regional and national capacities to implement and sustain scaled-up HIV programmes. Work on sustainable training of staff and volunteers in HIV, incorporating the issues of HIV in emergencies, permanent systems of monitoring of the various HIV projects, effective production of technical and financial reports, and volunteer motivation was addressed.

The National Society strengthening included enhancing their capacity to sensitize and train members and volunteers to HIV related topics and programmes. The HRC maintained an active management team and strengthened coordination with the Ministry of Health in order to develop joint activities in each region covered by HRC HIV programming. Reporting capacities were strengthened with the new appointment of a person responsible for financial reporting and programme administration.

The HRC developed a TB/HIV project proposal and secured funding for 2011 and 2012 through the Eli Lilly Foundation. The project will focus on PLHIV at risk of TB, including multi drug resistant TB (MDR-TB), or needing TB treatment support, and on ensuring that people with TB are aware of their HIV status. Stigma and discrimination will be addressed through the project as both diseases are highly stigmatized.

The HIV programme undertook technical capacity strengthening during 2010, including the addition of the tools to support PLHIV and the participation in both the IV Central American Congress on HIV/AIDS in Costa Rica and the IX World Conference on AIDS and Global Alliance on HIV Forum meeting in Vienna.

Salvadoran Red Cross Society (SRCS)

With the support of the Spanish Red Cross, Global Funds through the Mexican National Institute of Public Health, the Salvador Ministry of Health and the IFRC secretariat through its Global Alliance on HIV framework, the SRCS reported reaching 27,824 people directly and 8,823 indirectly during the reporting period through social mobilization activities and dissemination of IEC materials.

The SRCS national response to HIV was made possible through external strategic alliances with the Ministry of Health through SIBASI, the Ministry of Education, local governments, NGOs and networks. Some of the NGOs that the SRCS worked alongside include, but are not limited to: PASMO, *Orquídeas del Mar*, Gay without Borders, ASAPROSAR, Athletes Against AIDS (ATLECSSES) the Atlacatl Association *Vivo Positivo* (Living Positive), COESAL, and Doctors of the World. The networks include, among others, the Bi-national Network Honduras-EI Salvador, the NGO network responding to HIV, the National Initiative Committee (NIC), and other inter-sectoral committees. Finally, various associations and the media also took part.

In line with the objectives of the Global Agenda of the IFRC Global Alliance, the SRCS has increased its efforts to reach more people through strengthened prevention activities and promotion and

expansion of care to a larger geographic area, allowing the National Society programmes to reach more communities. These service expansions were undertaken with a single purpose: to reduce vulnerability to HIV and the impact it has on El Salvador.

El Salvador continues to experience a high prevalence and incidence of HIV. According to data recorded by the epidemiological System for Monitoring, Evaluation and Epidemiological Surveillance (SUMEVA), which is coordinated by the MoH, El Salvador had a reported 25,697 cases between 1984 and October 2010. 66 per cent of these were cases of patients with HIV and 34% were patients with AIDS. By sex, between January and October 2010, 976 new cases in men and 623 women were reported.

Constraints or Challenges

- In 2010, long term HIV projects funded by external donors and partners have come to an end in several National Societies, such as in the Salvadoran Red Cross Society. This presents a renewed challenge to step up resource mobilization efforts in several countries.
- Various National Societies report the limitation of short term funding cycles for longer term programming and late disbursement of multilateral funds has again been a constraint to National Society HIV programmes.

Component outcome 2: Two National Societies: Costa Rica and Nicaragua are supported by the secretariat to increase their capacity to deliver and sustain HIV programmes that respond to and mitigate the impact of HIV in the framework of the Global Alliance on HIV.

Achievements

Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC)

CRRC implemented programmes between September and December 2010, involving a total of 83 volunteers and covering 14 branches.

The overall aim of the 2010 programme was to contribute to the social recognition of equality for PLHIV and HIV prevention activities. The project was called HIV/AIDS in Action in Costa Rica.

Two specific interventions were designed: the formation of a group of transport drivers trained and sensitized as disseminators of HIV prevention messages and anti-stigma and non discrimination towards PLHIV; and the establishment of a taxi driver training programme whereby training and monitoring of new taxi drivers is undertaken as part of a consolidated programme with the National Society.

The CRRC trained 220 taxi drivers who reached at least 10 passengers each per day with messages of HIV prevention and non discrimination supplemented by a one-hour radio programme and radio spots. In total, 80 drivers in communities were reached by volunteers trained as health promotion facilitators covering topics such as first aid, STIs, HIV modes of transmission and anti-stigma and discrimination awareness-raising for PLHIV.

Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC)

The HIV project was implemented by the Nicaragua Red Cross (NRC) at the end of 2010 in Granada, chosen because its high tourism creates an ideal forum for mass dissemination of information on healthy lifestyles and HIV prevention methods.

Two specific project objectives were to strengthen the network of outreach workers in HIV prevention in the Granada branch and to undertake a large-scale campaign aimed at raising social awareness about HIV related stigma and discrimination, risk perception and general awareness of prevention among the general population.

During November, an activity involving 31 lifeguards in Managua and Granada was held at the Blood Bank in Managua aimed at raising awareness about issues surrounding HIV, sharing best practices between regions and strengthening coordination between relief workers, advocates and external partners.

The existing pool of volunteers disseminated IEC materials from previous STI and HIV campaigns (*Proyecto Granda*), as well as the 2009 *Faces* campaign. Materials were distributed within various neighbourhoods as well as bus terminals in order to reach a large number of beneficiaries. With support from CONISIDA (the Nicaraguan AIDS Commission), prevention and anti-stigma and discrimination messages were broadcast through loud speakers in the lead up to World Aids Day. The National Society undertook radio campaigns during programmes for adolescents and young adults as it was estimated to reach more than two million beneficiaries nationally. The radio programmes received positive feedback and consistently good ratings.

During World Aids Day 2010, NRC organised an outdoor hiking activity and exhibition, inviting five partner organisations and reaching 60 volunteer participants from six organisations.

Constraints or Challenges

The CRRC encountered various issues during the implementation of activities during the reporting period. The timing of the intervention was a hurdle to participation because the final quarter of the year is when taxi drivers earn the most for the entire year. Therefore, employers as well as drivers were less willing to participate. It was noted that officially registered taxi companies were less cooperative than those working on the fringe. Differences in levels of initial knowledge about HIV were seen between different geographical areas as well as different social and economic groups. The costs involved in producing materials and enlisting volunteers to train more taxi drivers was a limitation in how many people the CRRC could train during the reporting period. Geographical location was also a hindrance to expansion of training; where there are no CRRC volunteers, it is not possible to train drivers.

NRC, when working towards objective two, found that there was little time to develop activities to attract new volunteers. The timing of the project meant that it began during midterm exams and finals, making it difficult to contact potential volunteers in schools. This limitation meant that the NRC decided to work on strengthening its existing network of volunteers.

Programme component 2: Public health in the community
Component outcome 1: Seven National Societies are supported by the secretariat to improve community-based health programming, including mother and new born child health (MNCH), voluntary non- remunerated blood donation (VNBDR) and road safety.
Component outcome 2: Seven National Societies are supported by the secretariat to improve community food security programming capacity

Achievements

The Central America health network REDCAMP-SALUD met and reflected on the previous Global Health Strategy and Inter-American Plan in light of the Federation's new Strategy 2020.

Community-based health and first aid (CBHFA)

During the reporting period, volunteerism and community ownership has been strengthened through the promotion and training of National Societies for the roll out of the CBHFA in Action methodology.

During 2010, the CBHFA in Action methodology was promoted among National Societies in the Americas and their Red Cross partners as the capacity building framework for Red Cross volunteers working on health and first aid at the community level. The first training of Spanish speaking master facilitators was held in November in Lima.

Club 25

In 2010, the external evaluation of the three-year Finnish Red Cross-supported Club 25 strategy was finalized with recommendations for future programming and sustainability. The secretariat will support seven National Societies in the region in the first year of a five-year global project to strengthen Club 25 implementation and sustainability.

As part of the integration of Club 25 into the Americas, field visits were conducted to Guatemala and Nicaragua Club 25 programmes and a sub-regional meeting was held in Managua for Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Baseline data on Club 25 in the Americas was used to develop draft

National Society Plans of Action (PoA) for the funding period 2011-2015, a five- year project phase made possible through funding from the Swiss Humanitarian Foundation.

September 2010 saw the coming together in Panama of the Central American National Societies of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua to participate in a Continental workshop on Club 25 with three principle themes: strategies for diversifying Club 25, the integration of health promotion into Club 25 and moving the strategy forward in line with youth culture. The workshop provided an opportunity for cross-fertilization between continents with the participation of Singapore Red Cross, which shared strategies for Club 25 management and blood donation.

As an outcome of the workshop, each of the seven National Societies produced a PoA with indicators for the activities they hope to carry out within their national Club 25 programmes between 2011 and 2014.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene initiative integrated with community projects

During the reporting period, the development of water, sanitation and hygiene technical units in four post hurricane Mitch countries of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador were further developed. These activities involve eight communities, reaching a total of 5,055 beneficiaries and include water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure rectification; training of committees on organization strengthening, administration, operation and maintenance; and hygiene promotion. The project, to be completed in 2011, emphasizes monitoring and evaluation at the community level and promotes the involvement of municipalities and ministries of health in both monitoring and overall project evaluation.

Constraints and Challenges

- The roll out of the CBHFA methodology is challenging as a result of lack of human resources and funding currently available. It will be important to support National Societies to find new partners for the implementation of this key methodology and to advocate for its insertion into disaster risk management funding opportunities.

Programme component 3: Public health in emergencies

Component outcome 1: Seven National Societies are supported by the secretariat to improve their capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from epidemics/pandemics and disasters as well as to improve access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services for vulnerable populations through implementation of WASH projects.

Achievements

Emergency Health Training

35 National Society emergency health focal points from 23 National Societies participated in a seven-day emergency health workshop in Panama in mid May. Of the 35 participants, 11 represented six National Societies from Central America: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Nicaragua. The participants were trained by experienced facilitators in many themes, including a public health approach to emergencies, basic epidemiology, health assessment and surveillance, communicable diseases, health and hygiene promotion, nutrition and food security, psychosocial support and reproductive health, among others. The training culminated in a table-top simulation exercise on initial assessment, planning and coordination in public health emergencies.

Community-based health and first aid (CBHFA)

Representatives from 16 National Societies participated in a seven day CBHFA in Action master facilitators training in Lima in November with the objectives of integrating the Red Cross National Societies into the global implementation of the CBHFA methodology; adequately training Red Cross staff and volunteers to confidently and aptly use the CBHFA materials; creating a PoA for implementation of CBHFA by trained volunteers; and creating resources capable of supporting the implementation of the CBHFA on a regional level.

Participants, including those from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, were active Red Cross staff and volunteers with first aid training and experience in community-based health, first aid, psychosocial support and response to epidemics.

Water and sanitation in emergencies

During the reporting period, a workshop on the use of water and sanitation kits and hygiene promotion (HP) in emergencies was carried out in Guatemala. The workshop involved 20 participants from 15 National Societies from Latin America and the Caribbean, six from Central American National Societies. Participants were primarily health coordinators from those National Societies with an active health programme. Facilitators consisted of GRC NIT instructors, the Zone water and sanitation coordinator and the German Red Cross Emergency Response Unit (ERU).

The overall objective of the workshop was to promote the integration of water and sanitation into health programmes. As a result of the workshop, most participants committed to promote the emergency water and sanitation component in their National Society. The participation of key staff from National Society health programmes is an asset, since they are more likely to facilitate the development of the water and sanitation in emergencies component after having attended the workshop.

During 2010, Guatemala and Salvador trained 73 new NITs, 39 and 34 respectively. In addition, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Salvador trained 60 NIT members in water and sanitation activities.

The reporting period saw National Societies work towards reaching the community through integrated water and sanitation and community health programming. Regarding the integration of water and sanitation and hygiene promotion (HP) activities during the response to Tropical Storm Agatha, 525 beneficiaries were reached in Nicaragua and 7,500 in Guatemala. The dengue fever response in Honduras saw programmes with integrated sanitation and HP activities undertaken, however final numbers are not clear.

PHAST training of trainers (ToT) and strengthening of committees for the administration, operation and maintenance of water and sanitation systems

A ToT was carried out in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua and involved 52 community volunteers and 31 staff and PHAST volunteers. Elements covered during the training include functions and responsibilities of committee members, calculation of tariffs, book keeping, writing of minutes, water and sanitation project regulations, and operation and maintenance.

H2P - humanitarian pandemic preparedness programme

During the reporting period, five National Societies in Central America continued to implement H2P projects. Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Costa Rica were involved in H2P projects funded by USAID, while Nicaragua was funded by DfID. The H2P longitudinal project was designed to take between 12 – 18 months and result in a comprehensive, country-wide preparedness and response plan for multiple civil society actors. Essential staff in the RCRC as well as other civil society and government actors in all districts were identified and trained for implementation during a pandemic. Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras undertook H2P Accelerated Programmes with similar goals but to be completed in 4 – 6 months. The total funding for all five participating Central American National Societies was 755,333 Swiss francs.

During the first half of 2010, implementation of the pandemic preparedness projects continued with excellent results. The formation of teams of volunteers in Red Cross branches and communities has been one of the legacies of this project. This workforce of volunteers has not only been active in community work aimed at preventing pandemic influenza but also in other areas such as hand washing, hygiene promotion, and food security. In April, a meeting was held in El Salvador with the participation of health directors, pandemic preparedness project coordinators, and secretariat staff. The objective of the meeting was to share lessons-learned, innovations and challenges, and to discuss integration and sustainability of activities at the end of the projects.

As part of the H2P projects, the aforementioned National Societies developed pandemic preparedness and response plans, trained staff and volunteers, and provided consistent messages to their communities, in addition to providing ongoing in-country coordination with all stakeholders. Health, Food Security, Livelihoods and Communications working groups consisting of IFRC and partner organizations have developed tools, materials, guidelines and a website for pandemic preparedness and response efforts. www.pandemicpreparedness.org

Pandemic Preparedness Focal Points and Health Directors from all Central American countries met during April in El Salvador to share lessons learnt from the H2P project and discuss how to carry pandemic preparedness forward after the project ends.

Influenza preparedness and response

Red Cross Society of Panama (RCSP) participated in the PAHO funded Influenza preparedness and response project through its Risk Management department. The target population identified for the project included children and senior citizens living in centres and homes for the elderly as well as the staff providing care to them. During 2010, the trained Red Cross volunteers, facilitated awareness-raising sessions in the targeted institutions. In addition, visibility material, cleaning items and protective equipment were distributed to selected institutions.

The RCSP worked closely with the MoH, being considered a permanent member of the Anti-Pandemic Commission. The project, upon request from the MoH and using RCSP funds, continued until the end of 2010 and contributed to training staff and volunteers and first responders in communities; preparing and adapting local education and communication materials; and engaging different actors in developing multi-sectoral pandemic preparedness community plans which are connected to national plans. The project empowered the National Society to focus on non-pharmaceutical intervention, community preparedness, and the role of civil society actors in their national plans.

The total pledge received was 108,166 Swiss francs (USD 100,000). A total of 2,078 beneficiaries in a total of 12 institutions were reached through the project in Panama, surpassing the initial target of 1,455 beneficiaries.

Constraints and Challenges

- Various National Societies reported delays in implementation due to disasters and emergencies in their countries, such as in Guatemala with the severe Tropical Storm Agatha and the eruption of Pacaya volcano. Health staff and volunteer resources were deployed to provide support to affected communities.

Organizational development

Programme component 1: Support National Societies' governance, management and organizational development processes

Component outcome 1: National Society leadership and management development

Support National Society governance and management to strengthen the ability to effectively lead the organization and its service delivery; leadership abilities are increased through the development of governance; a sustainable organization is ensured, characterized by innovation, which carries out effective coordination and collaboration within the Federation and with other partners.

The key tool for organizational strengthening is the Intensified Capacity-Building (ICB) project financed by the IFRC Secretariat. Through its main goal of strengthening community level volunteerism and branch support services, it has contributed to branch capacity building and self-sustainability.

Achievements

During 2010, organizational development processes were carried out funded through SOS (Nicaragua) and ICB (El Salvador). In Nicaragua, with the support of the secretariat and contributions from the Spanish Red Cross, new accounting software was purchased and financial skills were reinforced through internships in Panama and advice from the regional representative. An imaging study was developed, the results of which will be used to build a resource mobilization strategy to apply to the National Society and its services in 2011.

Better coordination of different project activities (ICB, Latin American Risk Reduction Activities (LARRA), pandemic preparedness, the Global Alliance on HIV and emergency response operations) took place to optimize resources at the branch and headquarter level.

The Salvadoran Red Cross Society (SRCS) invested heavily in organizational renovation in 2010, including the appointment of a new secretary general, the revision of the organizational structure and the drafting of a new strategic plan. In addition, the Resource Mobilization Unit was restructured and started working to incorporate a more comprehensive strategy. A Country Programme Coordinator was appointed in July 2010 and contributed to these processes.

Six micro-projects and six international internships took place to develop leadership skills in youth and promote generational change through the youth network at the regional level.

At least 500 volunteers were trained as volunteer focal points.

Component outcome 2: Strong and sustainable organizations are able to provide effective services to the vulnerable nationwide.

Provide technical support to National Societies in their organizational development processes through effective coordination within the Federation; ensure access to resources to better manage and carry out strategic planning and change management; update the legal base and enhance integrity through transparent legal and accounting mechanisms

Achievements

Twenty eight human resources facilitators were trained to help in recruitment and orientation of new volunteers. In four of the six participating departmental branches, members received training and developed market studies and plans to improve resource mobilization.

During 2010, the HRC, with the support of the National Pedagogical University, developed a teaching guide for training managers on the new statutes of society. Twenty volunteers were trained as facilitators, reaching 36 managers of the national society (72 per cent). Forty five branches are functioning based on the new statutes.

Programme component 2: Volunteering and youth development with nation-wide coverage through grass roots units and services, branches and volunteer units.

Component outcome 1: Support National Societies in developing nation-wide coverage of grass roots units and services.

Component outcome 2: Mobilize and maintain volunteer networks. Support National Societies in volunteer development and management and promotion of an enabling environment for volunteerism in their national contexts.

Achievements

During 2010, leadership skills and generational change were supported through youth networks. At a regional level, six micro-projects and six internships were conducted and one international camp held in Nicaragua. A regional methodological guide for educative brigades was developed with the contribution of representatives from the National Societies.

In 2010, the Salvadoran Red Cross Society (SRCS) continued working through the ICB programme in six communities, involving six of the thirteen departmental branches. As a result, the participating departmental branches have established a new core base of 72 community volunteers and registered a rise in the number of traditional volunteer categories.

The following outcomes were registered by SRCS: incorporation of 300 new volunteer members, graduation of 75 female volunteers, training of 90 facilitators in first aid and training of 28 human resources advisors.

The ICB project has contributed to the reactivation of youth volunteer groups in the Chalatenango and Sonsonate departmental branches as well as helped to establish and foster strategic partnerships with educational institutions and public and private stakeholders. Through the ICB programme the SRCS has promoted and systematically applied its volunteer management plan, reactivated coordination meetings among the four traditional volunteer groups and re-established the role of the volunteer unit as the focal point of all volunteer activities in the country.

The SRCS youth department received financial support from the ICB project, the Global Alliance and the Red Cross Youth Network to implement a seven-part training programme to give youth leaders better skills to work in Red Cross activities and projects. The training included leadership, planning and specific themes such as disasters and first aid. Twenty four youth members completed the cycle and 15 branches received the trainer kit. Five micro-projects were conducted by the participants. A part of the funding was used to organize an annual youth camp with 146 participants.

As a part of strengthening and promoting volunteerism strategy in Honduras, the National Society emphasized volunteerism focal points in ten branches and trained 350 volunteers on issues such as volunteer management, regulations and management and accountability. 100 per cent of the branches also updated volunteer databases.

Constraints or Challenges

- Tropical storms Agatha, Alex and Matthew delayed project implementation in El Salvador.
- Financial support for the regional and country plans was lower than expected.
- In El Salvador, the organizational renovation process delayed project implementation in some cases.

Humanitarian Principles and Values

Programme component 1: Promote fundamental principles and humanitarian values.
Component outcome 1: The National Societies of Central America have enhanced their internal understanding of the fundamental principles and values, carrying out systematic work in the promotion of humanitarian principles and values and their integration into National Society operational programmes (disaster management, and health care) with support from the secretariat.
Component outcome 2: The secretariat supports National Societies in the promotion of internal capacity to tackle discriminatory practices, to ensure inclusive and egalitarian participation and to enhance work in gender, discrimination and violence.
Component outcome 3: The target population is aware of humanitarian values and is taking initiatives to change behaviours with the support of the National Societies.
Component outcome 4: Increased capacity of the seven National Societies to work on programmes in the area of migration with support from the secretariat.

The promotion of fundamental principles and humanitarian values is included in the staff and volunteer management curriculum as an integral part of introduction to Red Cross work.

Achievements

In El Salvador in 2010, 450 SRCS volunteers, members of the staff and stakeholders (civil protection, university students and staff of the National Hospital) received training in the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and their contextual application.

In addition, approximately 50 members of staff and volunteers received information on the use of the Code of Conduct in disaster relief as part of two workshops organized by the Disaster Risk Reduction programme on emergency procedures and operations.

Furthermore, 320 SRCS members of staff and volunteers received training on the issue of anti-stigma and discrimination associated with HIV and AIDS.

Approximately 55,400 members of the general public in El Salvador were reached through anti-stigma and discrimination public media campaigns and activities aimed at target populations of the Global Alliance programme.

Constraints and challenges

- Financial support for the regional and country plans was lower than expected.
- Tropical storms Agatha, Alex, Matthew and Thomas delayed project implementation in some countries.
- Understanding of the new cooperation model at National Societies and by staff of the IFRC.

Working in partnership

National Societies have reached a stage where working in partnership with government ministries of health and other governmental departments, as well as with international organizations, NGOs and other partners, has become part of their routine work. A major movement in this direction can be observed and the results speak for themselves: a rise in technical and financial assistance, a fruitful exchange of experiences, the creation of alliances, and timely support for projects.

Joint work is being developed with National Societies in the region, Participant National Societies and personnel from the Federation Secretariat to build a reference framework for integrated risk and disaster management. The regional programme has contacted many actors in the region, such as CEPREDENAC, CRRH, CECC and FEMICA, to identify potential cooperation processes. In 2010, work focused on the search for alliances and partners to share strategic approaches in areas of great importance or mutual interest, leading to greater coordination with institutions such as UNHCR in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, and with PAHO/WHO to support the logistics of humanitarian aid for those affected by Tropical Storm Agatha in Guatemala. Coordination and support is ongoing among the Federation Secretariat, Regional Centres of Reference, United Nations agencies, NGOs such as Oxfam, Care, Handicap International, and DIPECHO partners for action plans VI and VII.

National Society relations with local governments have been strengthened, contributing to an increase in activities and micro-projects, ensuring the sustainability of rehabilitation and recovery activities in communities affected by disasters and fostering follow-up in communities supported by projects implemented in 2010.

In 2010, Costa Rica, Mexico and Nicaragua with their respective governments mobilized resources for those affected by the earthquake in Haiti.

The Guatemalan Minister of Foreign Relations provided full support for the reactivation of the Headquarters Agreement, thanks to strong coordination between the GRC and the IFRC regional representative. Actors within the Movement maintain a good level of coordination with PADRU and the continental health programme. The Norwegian Red Cross is providing administrative support in Guatemala and resource mobilization and development initiatives with Guatemalan Red Cross and Red Cross Society of Panama.

In Costa Rica, the Minister of Foreign Relations, the Congress of the Republic and the CRRC provided valuable support for the reactivation of the Headquarters Agreement and the installation of the IFRC regional representative in San José.

Contacts with governmental authorities in El Salvador have led to greater openness on their part in support of the International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles programme (IDRL). The Finnish Red Cross is supporting the costs of the programme coordination delegate in El Salvador as well as projects aimed at strengthening the youth network.

A coordinated approach with Partner National Societies in Honduras has generated support for a proposal to strengthen volunteerism on the part of the Spanish, Dutch, Canadian, Swiss and Italian Red Cross Societies.

In Nicaragua, The Spanish Red Cross is supporting two projects related to the recovery process of the NRC as well as the operation of the IFRC office.

National Societies are strengthening their cooperation and coordination links with weather systems, which allows them to improve the quality of interventions and projects developed locally, using scientific information and the experience of community work by the Red Cross.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The National Societies and other organizations (DIPECHO partners) in the region have strengthened their capacities through trainings, internships and support missions provided by both Centres of Reference. The Facilitators Regional Network has also been enhanced, replicating trainings and workshops in the region with the support of the Centres of Reference and the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction programme.

During 2010, final assessment of the regional DIPECHO VI project took place, serving as the basis for the preparation the DIPECHO VII project proposal that would consolidate and develop new areas of work, both for the regional programmes and for the Centres of Reference.

The regional risk reduction programme produced a collection of key messages on cross cutting themes, with the cross-cutting theme of climate change particularly emphasized. Under the theme of disability, National Societies collaborated with the international agency Handicap International.

National Societies are developing activities with communities more systematically and collaboratively. Activities related to disaster risk management have increased and expanded in many National Societies, due both to secretariat-led capacity building and the support National Societies cooperating in disaster risk reduction receive. The integration of actions related to climate change and risk management has expanded and improved in pace with understanding of the subject.

Special emphasis has been placed on supporting capacity building in preparation for disaster response and disaster risk management activities.

The participation of National Societies in activities such as regional exchange of experiences, collective knowledge-building and peer support has created dynamic collaboration, exchange, participation, coordination, and harmonization of methodologies, materials and tools that are currently widely recognized, not only internally in the Red Cross, but among other actors.

Through its organizational renovation process and the appointment of a new Director of Organizational Development, the Salvadoran Red Cross moved towards a more consolidated approach in its programme activities. In 2011, plans include the development of mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating programmes to improve the integrated work of different programme areas.

A key element for Salvadoran Red Cross organizational development is the ICB programme financed by the secretariat which aims to strengthen the sustainable activity and volunteer base of National Societies at the community level and the support services offered to community volunteers by branches and headquarters.

Looking ahead

The year 2010 was a year of adjustments in the regional disaster risk reduction programme and change in the reporting lines of the regional representation to the disaster risk management Zone coordination.

During 2011, special emphasis will be given to the implementation of IFRC support plans to countries according to the developed planning process. Thus, the mobilization of resources and the coordination with other participating National Societies will be very important for the activities being developed in the region by National Societies regarding disaster risk reduction.

The completion of the regional framework for integrated risk and disaster management, as well as its implementation together with REDCAMP-DESASTRES, will be a priority in the regional agenda.

In El Salvador, 2010 marks the year during which the National Society started a considerable organizational renovation process. As an outcome, the National Society has a three-year plan to work on identified gaps to improve its organizational structure and procedures. This renovation process resulted in some delays and challenges in the implementation some of the programme activities mentioned in this report. 2011 is the key year to introduce the changes, and once introduced, programme activities are expected to resume their normal speed.

How we work	
<p>All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.</p>	
<p>The IFRC's vision is to:</p> <p>Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.</p>	<p>The IFRC's work is guided by <i>Strategy 2020</i> which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises. 2. Enable healthy and safe living. 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
Contact information	
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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA43001 - Central America and Mexico

Annual Report 2010

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/1-2010/9998
Budget Timeframe	2010/1-2010/12
Appeal	MAA43001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	806,430	775,866	401,551	20,166	0	2,004,013
B. Opening Balance	203,244	147,023	45,014	258	0	395,538
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>DFID - British Government</i>		17,008				17,008
<i>DFID Partnership grant</i>	462,941					462,941
<i>European Commission - DG ECHO</i>	-22,643	9,257				-13,385
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	8,274	0	15,126			23,400
<i>Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)</i>	46,887	0	85,712			132,599
<i>IFRC at the UN Inc (from Alcatel Lucent)</i>	747					747
<i>Netherlands Red Cross</i>	30,139					30,139
<i>Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)</i>	-1,889					-1,889
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>		32,910	2,385			35,295
<i>Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)</i>	52,623	296,189	21,463			370,275
<i>Other</i>			92			92
<i>Spanish Red Cross</i>	0		7,753			7,753
<i>United States Government - USAID</i>		314,108				314,108
C1. Cash contributions	577,080	669,472	132,530			1,379,082
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>			52,800			52,800
<i>Spanish Red Cross</i>			103,000			103,000
C3. Inkind Personnel			155,800			155,800
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	577,080	669,472	288,330	0	0	1,534,882
D. Total Funding = B + C	780,324	816,495	333,344	258	0	1,930,421
Appeal Coverage	97%	105%	83%	1%	#DIV/0	96%

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	203,244	147,023	45,014	258	0	395,538
C. Income	577,080	669,472	288,330	0	0	1,534,882
E. Expenditure	-773,406	-666,975	-251,826	0	0	-1,692,207
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	6,918	149,520	81,518	258	0	238,214

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA43001 - Central America and Mexico

Annual Report 2010

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/1-2010/9998
Budget Timeframe	2010/1-2010/12
Appeal	MAA43001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		806,430	775,866	401,551	20,166	0	2,004,013	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Construction - Facilities			25				25	-25
Construction Materials		15,838	899				16,736	-16,736
Clothing & textiles		1,831	1,472				3,302	-3,302
Food			3				3	-3
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene		330	9,936				10,266	-10,266
Medical & First Aid	3,504	14,461	3,989				18,450	-14,946
Teaching Materials			794				794	-794
Utensils & Tools			8,966				8,966	-8,966
Other Supplies & Services			177				177	-177
Total Relief items, Construction, Supj	3,504	32,459	26,260				58,719	-55,215
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles			22,337				22,337	-22,337
Computers & Telecom	19,856	2,146	11,622	824			14,592	5,263
Office & Household Equipment			-657				-657	657
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	19,856	2,146	33,303	824			36,273	-16,417
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage			459				459	-459
Distribution & Monitoring			691				691	-691
Transport & Vehicle Costs	54,511	10,004	50,001	6,034			66,040	-11,528
Logistics Services			1,394				1,394	-1,394
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	54,511	10,004	52,545	6,034			68,583	-14,072
Personnel								
International Staff	163,406	61,418	25	183,699			245,142	-81,736
National Staff	170,946	16,866	82,591	3,320			102,776	68,170
National Society Staff	270,963	136,201	292,370	5,545			434,116	-163,153
Volunteers			9,598				9,598	-9,598
Total Personnel	605,315	214,485	384,583	192,564			791,632	-186,317
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants	85,984	28,701	7,034				35,735	50,249
Professional Fees	22,150	2,366	1,442	7,612			11,420	10,730
Total Consultants & Professional Fe	108,134	31,067	8,475	7,612			47,155	60,979
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	687,972	284,651	190,769	30,306			505,726	182,246
Total Workshops & Training	687,972	284,651	190,769	30,306			505,726	182,246
General Expenditure								
Travel	104,120	33,243	20,953	9,465			63,661	40,459
Information & Public Relation	77,441	70,321	94,628	9,213			174,162	-96,721
Office Costs	53,604	32,827	15,109	3,744			51,680	1,925
Communications	17,254	13,220	7,049	931			21,199	-3,945
Financial Charges	39,677	6,252	37,352	3,986			47,590	-7,913
Other General Expenses	86,827	651	4,903	8			5,562	81,265
Shared Support Services	23,894	9,487	6,235	2,529			18,251	5,643
Total General Expenditure	402,817	166,001	186,229	29,875			382,105	20,712
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions	-4,373	-20,261	-258,446	-22,087			-300,795	296,421
Total Operational Provisions	-4,373	-20,261	-258,446	-22,087			-300,795	296,421
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Service Support	126,277	46,375	39,872	5,757			92,004	34,273
Total Indirect Costs	126,277	46,375	39,872	5,757			92,004	34,273

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA43001 - Central America and Mexico

Annual Report 2010

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/1-2010/9998
Budget Timeframe	2010/1-2010/12
Appeal	MAA43001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		806,430	775,866	401,551	20,166	0	2,004,013	
Pledge Specific Costs								
Earmarking Fee		6,024	3,337	754			10,115	-10,115
Reporting Fees		455	47	187			690	-690
Total Pledge Specific Costs		6,479	3,384	942			10,804	-10,804
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	2,004,013	773,406	666,975	251,826			1,692,207	311,806
VARIANCE (C - D)		33,024	108,891	149,725	20,166	0	311,806	