

Programme Update 2007



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central America and Mexico

Appeal no. MAA443001, Programme Update No. 5

This report covers the period of 01/01/07 to 31/05/07.

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



Joint efforts of the regional humanitarian principles and values programme with the regional health programme have resulted in the scaling-up of the “Transporting Respect for People” initiative. Source: International Federation.

In brief

Programme Summary:

During the first months of 2007, the Panama Regional Representation continued to provide support to National Societies in the core programme areas, in accordance with the Plan of Action of the XVII Inter-American Conference and Strategy 2010, by strengthening links and building the capacities of National Societies through regional networks, the harmonizing of regional methodologies and initiatives, and the promotion of humanitarian principles and values.

The Panama Regional Representation has also directed efforts towards the preparation of the XVIII Inter-American Conference to be held in Guayaquil on 4-7 June 2007. Preparations for the Conference include the drafting of a new Plan of Action for each programme area, a number of pre-conference meetings and the drafting and printing of programmes' promotional and marketing tools.

The Regional Health and Care Programme (RHCP) has continued to focus on the fulfilment of the key commitments agreed upon during the XVII Inter American Conference. Additionally, parallel to these commitments, the RHCP has been following the Global Health and Care Strategy by focusing on intensifying and scaling up its contribution to the health and socio-economic development of communities through six strategic directions: capacity building, social mobilization, partnerships, health in emergencies, advocacy, and community empowerment.

The Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Programme has condensed the number of expected results for the programme aiming to direct its work towards two vital areas: the improvement of National Society capacity and communities' ever better preparedness for and recovery capacity from natural hazards. Work towards the achievement of these results is carried out together with the Centres of Reference, the regional focal point on SPHERE and the regional disaster network “REDCAMP Disasters”; seeking to establish links between individual projects and a common approach to risk reduction within each National Society and its branches. The programme is further supporting National Societies

in the region to implement the “Well Prepared National Society” process that acts as a baseline for disaster preparedness and for the drafting of the disaster departments’ Action Plans.

During this reporting period the regional Organizational Development programme has seen the development of institutional capacities through the strengthening of regional networks, institutional structures and volunteer management. Hence the programme has focused on the development of Strategic Plans through the improvement of statutes and electoral processes and the ongoing implementation of the Regional Volunteering Strategy with special focus on the new model of management.

The regional Humanitarian Principles and Values programme has been working systematically with National Societies (NS) in the region on the dissemination of the fundamental principles and values through the active use of the regional tools. In collaboration with the regional Health and Care programme, the programme has followed up on its work in the promotion of non-discrimination against persons living with HIV and AIDS - especially through the “Transporting Respect for People”/taxi campaign by creating a documentary film and a number of shorter films and conducting a case study to be presented at the XVIII Inter-American Conference. The programme has also placed great efforts on supporting the formulation of violence-prevention projects that have been identified with an aim to incorporate the promotion of the fundamental principles and values with Integrated Community Programmes.

Needs: Total 2006-2007 budget CHF 5,975,903 (USD 4,787,850 or EUR 3,710,280) of which 84% is covered. The 2006 Appeal Target was 3,089,418 (USD 2,474,220 or EUR 1,918,139) of which 70% was covered. 2007 Appeal target is 2,886,485 (USD 2,312,888 or 1,791,735) of which 106% is covered.

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

No. of people we help:

The Panama Regional Representation focuses on building the capacities of National Societies in the region. In consequence, direct beneficiaries of its programmes are National Societies themselves including their staff at headquarters and branch levels, governance bodies and volunteers. In effect, the Regional Representation’s indirect beneficiaries belong to the civil society since it is through the strengthening of National Societies’ capacities and the technical support offered, that methodologies, initiatives and activities as a whole can be carried out and implemented accordingly.

Our Partners:

The Panama Regional Representation has a number of partners who offer technical and/or financial support to the different programme areas while other partners work hand in hand with the Delegation through alliances and joint collaborations. Partner National Societies include the American, British, Canadian, Finnish, French, Italian, Netherlands, Norwegian, Spanish, Swedish, and Swiss Red Cross Societies. During this reporting period funding has been received from the British, Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish Red Cross Societies, DFID, ECHO and the ProVention Consortium. During the reporting period the Regional Representation has continued to build its relationships with other organizations such as Plan International, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), World Food Programme (WFP) and McCann Erickson.

Progress towards objectives-by sector

Health and Care

Programme Objective: National Societies in the region have increasingly adhered to the commitments in health as set out in the Plan of Action of the XVII Inter-American Conference, particularly with respect to the development of their health departments, and in the areas of HIV and AIDS, health in emergencies, community health, the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD) and water and sanitation.

Achievements:

During this reporting period, the Regional Health and Care Programme (RHCP) has continued to focus on the fulfilment of the key commitments agreed upon during the XVII Inter American Conference. Additionally, parallel to these commitments, the RHP has followed the Global Health and Care Strategy by focusing on intensifying and scaling up its contribution to the health and socio-economic development of communities through six strategic directions: capacity building, social mobilization, partnerships, health in emergencies, advocacy and community empowerment.

Major efforts have accompanied social mobilization initiatives during the first months of 2007. Such is the case of the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation through the Club 25 strategy, which has been rolled-out and scaled-up. A total of 18 National Societies (NS) in the continent – nine of which have been chosen for direct financial support from the Finnish Red Cross (FRC) after a financial revision, as part of a three year partnership commitment - will be implementing the “Club 25” Continental Plan of Action. Of these nine selected NS three belong to the Central America region (Honduras, El Salvador and Panama). All three have already signed the Memorandum of Understanding and the Red Cross Society of Panama has already chosen a focal point for the implementation of the PoA. The RHCP has drafted and printed Club 25 brochures for further mobilization of resources. Additionally, a methodology for the evaluation and monitoring of the strategy was finalized during the reporting period. Another major achievement within Club 25 during the past months has been the Continental Proposal for the strategy’s continental campaign. The latter was made as a result of a detailed perception study on Club 25 prepared by McCann-Erickson - who have played a key role as a vital partner within the strategy’s promotion and advertising.



Club 25 Coordinator for Panama Red Cross Society During the launch of the Panamanian Club 25 at the World Blood Donor Day

The “Transporting Respect for People Living with HIV and AIDS” initiative continues to exceed expectations: 2007 has seen the result of several efforts. A documentary on the taxis initiative in El Salvador was produced and finalized as a written case study on this methodology (and will be posted on FedNet). Both of these projects will support the future mobilization of resources for the further implementation of the initiative as well as serve as an advertising tool not only for the RHCP but for the Federation as a whole. In addition, the National Societies of El Salvador and Honduras have requested an expansion of the initiative to some of their branches and the NS of Nicaragua has finished its first implementing phase. The NS of El Salvador and Guatemala have gained access to the Global Fund which will allow for the taxis initiative to be further implemented in the respective countries and which will also fund the Salvadorean NS’s “Together We Can” methodology. The latter is a result of the ongoing regional health network: REDCAMP SALUD.



Regional Health and Care Programme Stand at the International HIV and AIDS Forum in Argentina

Moreover, through attending a number of meetings and forums that have been taking place during the year’s first months, the RHCP has seen the unveiling of new funding sources as well as that of new visibility and marketing means within humanitarian work in HIV and AIDS. Foremost, the RHCP attended the “IV Foro Latinoamericano y del Caribe en VIH/SIDA e ITS” (IV Latin American and Caribbean Forum on HIV and AIDS and STIs) in Argentina. Amongst the close to 3,000 attendees was the Guatemalan Red Cross, who did a presentation on the “Together We Can” methodology and received positive feedback.

During this forum, the RHCP presented the “Code of Good Practices” and announced that the Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies holds the Secretariat of this Code. To that

end, it has recently appointed a project manager who will lead the development of self assessment tools, operations research, training modules etc. There will be at least one regional position and a code project officer, who will be hosted by an existing regional network. At the forum the RHCP also attained more visibility through

a stand displaying several marketing and information tools that promote the different strategies, initiatives, methodologies. Health delegates were also able to meet with the International Aids Society for a possible future partnership.

Another important meeting that took place was the “Global Alliance Meeting,” where the RHCP aimed at lobbying for the region to be included as a priority region, resulting in an HIV and AIDS Global Alliance that will allow the scaling-up of the currently implemented initiatives as well as a new strategy to be put in place. Likewise, a major alliance that resulted after a number of meetings with the World Food Programme will focus on nutrition, treatment and care for persons living with HIV and AIDS, through the use of the RHCP’s prevention toolkit. This alliance has already been ratified and negotiations are taking place for an eventual continental roll-out of the strategy.

Additionally, the HIV and AIDS programme within the region received positive feedback at a debriefing with the Nordic Red Cross Societies. The same conducted an in-depth country evaluation of the programme in three countries within the continent, with Guatemala being the region’s chosen country. The final report of this study will be delivered to the Panama Regional Representation by mid June 2007 and reported on in the next Programme Update.

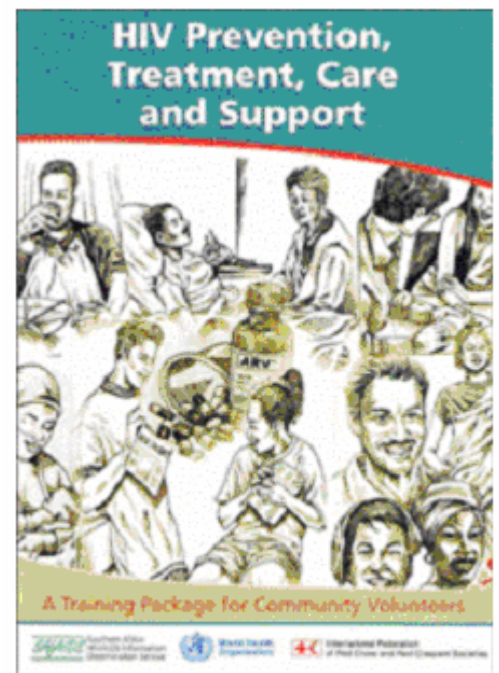
Progress within other areas of the Regional Health and Care Programme is also tangible and several accomplishments can be mentioned. For instance, during the first part of the year a first national workshop on Psychosocial Support Programmes (PSP) took place with a total of 20 participants from the academic sector, the Panamanian Ministry of Health and the Red Cross Society of Panama. The workshop also included a field visit to practice interventions in Panamanian communities. In addition, the ongoing translation into a Latin American context of the Caribbean “Helping to Heal” guide will serve as training material and methodology for volunteers and paraprofessionals.

Due to a dengue alert issued by the Red Cross Society of Panama after an outbreak of 700 cases during the first three months of the year, the RHCP printed 6,000 booklets on Dengue prevention. During the reporting period, the RHCP in a joint effort with the Lima Regional Representation has also printed the “Pandemic Influenza Continental Contingency Plan,” which will be continentally circulating amongst NS, guiding them in their planning process on Avian Influenza/Pandemic Influenza.

Finally, another vital priority during the reporting period for the Regional Health and Care Programme was the preparation for the XVIII Inter-American Conference in Guayaquil, which included a number of consultative meetings with PAHO and PNS and resulted in a collaborative process for an improved Plan of Action for the next four years focusing on six strategic areas for expected results. The preparation for this conference also included the drafting and printing of the “Improving Health and Care in the Community in Latin America and the Caribbean” brochure which served and will continue to serve as a marketing tool as well as a resource-mobilizing tool for the RHCP.

Constraints or Challenges:

No major challenges or constraints were encountered during this reporting period by the Regional Health and Care Programme. Nevertheless, the fact that the Port of Spain Sub-Regional Office lacked an HIV and AIDS delegate posed a challenge for the Central America RHCP, since the programme delegate for this region had to split his time as acting delegate for the Caribbean during the period. In addition, the RHCP faced a constraint in the development of the Nicaraguan NS Strategic Health Plan due to the NS’s delicate institutional situation.



Cover of the RHCP "HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support" toolkit

Disaster Risk Reduction Programme

Programme Objective: Strengthened National Societies are working at the community, national and regional levels to reduce risk, making communities safer and more resilient to disasters.

Achievements:

The Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Programme has condensed the number of expected results for the programme aiming to direct its work towards two vital areas: the improvement of National Society capacity and communities' ever better preparedness for and recovery capacity from natural hazards. This division directly involves the focus of the two Centres of Reference in the region: the Centre of Reference for Disaster Preparedness at the institutional level based in El Salvador (CREPD) and the Costa Rica Centre of Reference for Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CRCBDP), as well the regional focal point on SPHERE. In addition, the regional disaster network "REDCAMP Disasters" (a tool through which NS in the region are able to harmonize and consolidate the RDRRP) elected the Mexican Red Cross as its new coordinator for a one year period.

The RDRRP has created good coordination mechanisms with other agencies not belonging to the Movement such as REDLAC (UN, the International Federation, PLAN, Oxfam) and follows up on joint activities such as the "Risk Reduction Begins at School" campaign. Having created successful alliances will consequently have a larger impact at both regional and community levels. From an internal point of view, the RDRRP has been working jointly with PNS such as the Italian, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross in the implementation of the national and regional risk reduction programmes financially supported by ECHO. Through the financial support received from the British and Finnish Red Cross, DFID, ProVention and ECHO, the RDRRP has also been able to attain the necessary funding to cover the entire region including Mexico, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, which is seen as a vital achievement by the programme.

Furthermore, the RDRRP is supporting the development process of the Centres of Reference. As part of this process, the drafting of a Strategic and Business Plan will serve to define the vision of the two Centres and the practical steps to realize this vision, together with a strategy to ensure increasing financial sustainability through increasing the percentage of self financed funding. The Plan will also serve to guide the Centres' operations.

During the reporting period, the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction programme has worked with National Societies and the CRCBDP in ensuring that communities be better prepared and organized to respond and recover from the effects of natural hazards by recognizing potential risks and taking actions and measures in order to reduce such risks. The CRCBDP hosted two internships from the Nicaraguan Red Cross staff with the objective of developing the Social Micro-projects module which has now been finalized and is being printed. This module will provide volunteers in communities with information on how to implement mitigation micro projects and other community based disaster management activities.



REDCAMP-Disasters Meeting in May 07:

- "A well Prepared NS" self-evaluation tool for NS and the children's paint contest, part of the "Risk Reduction Begins at School" Campaign were presented
- 5 "Contingency & Response Plans" were handed out with other materials
- Pic 2: Presentation of the new focal point: Mexican RC and the coordinator: Isaac Oxenhaut

as



Children help their parents in completing their Family Response Plans as part of the "Better Be Ready" activities of the Community Based Disaster Management Programme, in Guatemala after Hurricane Stan.

In addition, the "Better Be Ready" series, the cornerstone of community based education in disaster preparedness and risk reduction, has been expanded through the addition of new modules that play an important role in Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCA) and are currently being printed. The "Early Warning Systems for Floods in Small River Basins," "Healthy Homes," "Community Dialogue on Water and Climate," "Community Maintenance of Schools," and the "Management of Temporary Shelters," modules have been drafted and are being printed as well as the "Community Manual for the Prevention of Disasters on Rural Water Systems". Due to the introduction of these new modules, the RDRRP and the CRCBDP will have to increase the number of VCA facilitators through Training of Trainers (TOT) workshops for further training in all 13 modules. During the reporting period, the RDRRP has been able to conduct a number of workshops on the "Protected School" module that belongs to the first series of modules printed last year. The Honduran Red Cross and other organizations such as CARE visited the CRCBDP to receive capacity building workshops on the latter module

through a national proposal of DIPECHO and the RDRRP. Parallel to these activities, the CRCBDP was able to develop case studies on work with communities using the VCA tools that will provide information on lessons learned to other VCA practitioners.

During this reporting period, the RDRRP has also supported the NS of Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama in starting with the implementation of community based projects.

Moreover, the RDRRP has worked towards the improvement of NS disaster management capacity hand in hand with the CREPD. A component of the CREPD initiative is to support NS in carrying out NIT Basic Curricula workshops. During the reporting period, Guatemala and Honduras carried out NIT workshops while six more workshops will be conducted during the next months. Further, through an internship with RC, Oxfam and UNICEF members and with CREPD support, the preparation for the specialized NIT Water and Sanitation curricula was initiated. The CREPD has also developed case studies on NIT jointly with NS in order to gather lessons learnt and good practices from organizational disaster preparedness.

The RDRRP is further supporting NS in the region to implement the "Well Prepared NS" process that acts as a baseline for disaster preparedness and thus for the drafting of the disaster departments' Action Plans. A first initiative involves working with the NS of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. Along the same lines, the RDRRP can mention the printing and distributing of the Contingency Guides together with PADRU and the South America RDRRP. This guide serves as a base for the updating of NS plans as is the case of El Salvador that updated the National Response Plan and is working with its branches in updating the Contingency Plans.

In addition, the SPHERE Regional Focal Point has been working with the NS of Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras (which is at the same time the SPHERE Interagency Coordinator) in awareness-raising and workshops. During the International Disaster Response Laws Forum, the SPHERE focal point conducted a presentation on how to apply standards during humanitarian responses.

During the reporting period the Panama Regional Representation managed an independently led review process, looking at how the Federation in general responded to Hurricane Stan 2005 through its emergency and rehabilitation programmes. Focusing particularly on the experiences of the two worst-hit countries – El Salvador and Guatemala – the review collects good practice and lessons learned and offers a broad range of recommendations to build on the experience, particularly based on feedback received from beneficiaries. The report is currently being finalized and translated and will shortly be available to all National Societies. It will act as a baseline for the disaster Risk Reduction programme.

Lastly, one of the reporting period's achievements has been the strengthening of a "culture of prevention" through a development process of a regional risk reduction communication strategy that has started with the updating of the disaster risk reduction and response website jointly with the South America RDRRP. NS have

strongly supported the development of the website (<http://www.cruzroja.org/desastres/redcamp/index.htm>) by constantly sending and uploading information on their ongoing activities.

Constraints or Challenges:

The RDRRP has faced some challenges and constraints during the reporting period, mostly dealing with confirmation of funds in order to launch planned activities. The delay in the signing of the Federation-DFID Institutional Strategy created some particular difficulties. It has been a challenge for the RDRRP to start putting into practice all the plans with the national and regional proposals with both Red Cross and non-Red Cross actors. Another challenge has been beginning the implementation and development of NS plans.

Organizational Development:

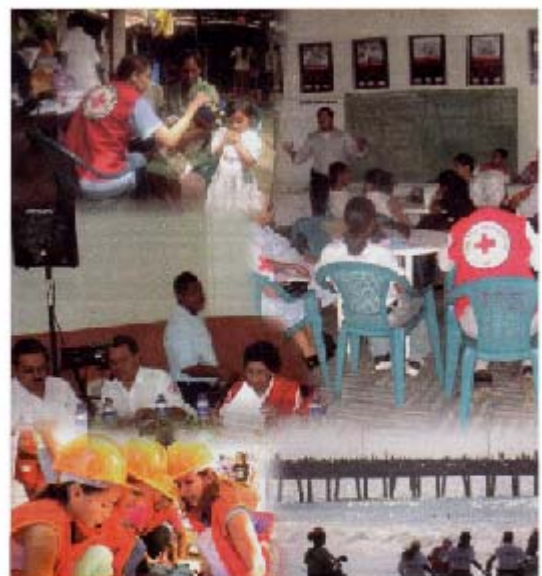
Programme Objective: The National Societies in the region are increasingly adhering to the criteria of a “Well Functioning National Society,” and are improving their capacity to work with vulnerable communities.

Achievements:

The Regional Organizational Development Programme (RODP) plays a pivotal role in developing the capacity of National Societies (NS) through the strengthening of the institutional structures of such. During this reporting period the RODP has seen the strengthening of institutional capacities of NS through the development of Strategic Plans and through the improvement of statutes and electoral processes, for one. Such has been the case with the Red Cross Society of Panama, which has recently approved electoral procedures during the next national assembly for the election of their governance. Similarly, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society has already approved and published its Strategic Plan after a two year elaboration and evaluation process while the Honduran Red Cross is currently undergoing an evaluation process of its Strategic Plan together with its branches. The elaboration, evaluation and monitoring of these and all National Strategic Plans in the region focus on the impact of National Societies’ work with communities. Further, the RODP has coordinated with the Regional Risk Reduction Programme in order to initiate a second phase of Community Integrated Programmes (CIP) in the branches at the border of Panama and Costa Rica for the implementation of micro projects. These micro projects help communities through cooperation with community volunteers from the branches, aiming to improve their quality of life.

Furthermore, NS Presidents approved commitments and guidelines for the strengthening of their human resource management systems and adopted the resource mobilization strategy as well. These vital advances towards the building of strong institutional capacities were the result of a number of Technical Seminars and the Sub Regional Presidents Meeting. The RODP supported the Guatemalan Red Cross in the organization of these events.

The RODP has also focused on the implementation of the Regional Volunteering Strategy with special focus on the new management model since it makes up a vital part of NS’s institutional structures. In effect, the RODP has made significant advances on the implementation of the regional volunteering strategy and on the approval of the Volunteer Policies, as is the case of the Red Cross Society of Panama. In addition, the RODP has launched a new initiative in the area of volunteer capacity building that focuses on youth volunteers and consists of online education courses. This initiative is financially and technically funded by the Spanish Red Cross and is offered to volunteers in the form of scholarships. There are two ongoing courses; the first one is a



The Regional Organizational Development programme has been working in youth capacity building, volunteer recruitment and training and strengthening of institutional capacities.

Spanish Red Cross online pilot course on volunteer management which is currently implemented by the NS of Honduras and Mexico and the second one is a high level course on youth public policies offered online by the “Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO),” currently implemented by the NS of Panama, Honduras, El Salvador and Costa Rica. Also within the subject of volunteers, the second successful meeting of National Volunteers of the Guatemalan Red Cross had an attendance of more than 100 volunteers coming from the different branches of that NS.

Moreover, during the reporting period, the RODP has been working with NS on the recovery of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, which is currently facing an institutional crisis. In order to find solutions for the crisis, a number of steps have been taken, such as the establishment of a high level commission made up of the President of the Honduran Red Cross, the Director General of the Salvadorean Red Cross, the regional heads of the ICRC and the International Federation and the Regional OD. After interviewing more than 59 members, directors and volunteers belonging to the Nicaraguan NS, the commission drafted a report with the alternatives and commitments to follow and was further presented during the executive committee and the governing board as well as before the integrity commission and the Federation’s governing board by the Honduran President, who is a member of the board. The report emphasizes the seriousness of the deteriorating situation of the Nicaraguan NS and the need to carry out an electoral process managed by the Federation and the promotion of the participation of candidates that may guarantee a new and efficient leadership.

Significant efforts were also directed towards the preparation for the upcoming XVIII Inter American Conference in Guayaquil. The RODP offered technical support at the sub regional and continental level to the organization of the Inter-American Youth Meeting to be held during the conference. It also directed efforts towards coordinating the drafting of a new Plan of Action for the XVIII Inter American Conference during the past month. A process of self-assessment by NS was essential to put into perspective the advancements and achievements that resulted from the implementation of the last Plan of Action. Hence the RODP, through the regional Organizational Development network, coordinated self-evaluation assessments with National Societies. Results from the self-evaluations served greatly in the putting together of a new Plan of Action that will be the primary guideline within OD in the region for the next four years.

Constraints or Challenges:

Even though, the RODP has made great advances in strengthening the institutional capacities of the region’s National Societies throughout the reporting period; the programme has faced a number of challenges and constraints that have slowed the different process. For one, the RODP faced a severe cut down in its budget, as it received almost 50 percent less funding than in the previous year. In consequence, major adjustments had to be made in order to still be able to implement previously planned initiatives and strategies.

Additionally, albeit the RODP’s effort in overcoming the Nicaraguan NS institutional crisis, the challenge remains as current leaders are resistant to change and may not put recommendations in place. If this is not possible, it will be indispensable to consider further, higher level intervention mechanisms of the Federation in coordination with the country’s governmental authorities.

Humanitarian Principles and Values:

Programme Objective: Humanitarian principles and values are integrated in each of the core programme areas within the National Societies in the region, in accordance with Strategy 2010.

Achievements:

Throughout the reporting period the regional Humanitarian Principles and Values programme (RHPVP) has been working systematically with National Societies (NS) in the region on the dissemination of the fundamental principles and values through the active use of the regional tools. One of the regional tools used for this purpose has been the HPV workshops program implemented by NS at their branches. The Mexican Red Cross, in coordination with its volunteer department, has been working with its branches on workshops that focus on discussing, questioning, critiquing, and building on given information. The purpose of this type of workshops is to teach attendees to ask themselves why it is important to avoid discrimination. The initiative has been

implemented twice as a pilot project through two workshops with a total participation of sixty volunteers thus resulting in a case-study-supported proposal for the regionalization of the initiative which is currently undergoing validation. In addition, NS are increasingly using regional campaigns' materials for the external dissemination of the fundamental principles and values. Such is the case of the Honduran Red Cross which put together a total of five television spots on the "0%" HIV and AIDS campaign to be transmitted through local cable systems. During this reporting period, the Honduran Red Cross, technically supported by the RHPVP, also launched a new radio based campaign on non-discrimination. "Actúa, Rechaza la Discriminación" ("Act Now, Reject Discrimination") is made up of a number of different radio spots and is currently being implemented by a number of Honduran Red Cross branches.

Similarly, within the area of promoting non-discrimination of persons living with HIV and AIDS, the RHPVP has arrived at major achievements, especially with the "Transporting Respect for People"/taxi campaign. In collaboration with the Regional Health and Care Programme and the regional programme coordinator, a documentary film and a number of shorter films based on the daily life of one taxi driver who volunteers for this initiative in El Salvador were produced and are now finished. Parallel to the documentary, a case study was developed and will be presented at the XVIII Inter American Conference. The RHPVP would like to thank the HPV programme in Geneva and DFID for funding these two important initiatives, which will help promote the work of the Federation internally and externally, as well as attempt to measure the impact of the methodology and assess its strengths and weaknesses in order to improve it and hence further implement it throughout the region.



The regional HPV and Health programmes in a meeting with the National Mexican Council introducing the Taxis Initiative

The RHPVP has also placed great efforts on supporting the formulation of non-violence projects through technical revisions and feedback on the same in the NS of Guatemala and Nicaragua. The Guatemalan Red Cross is currently carrying out a project on violence against indigenous women and is also coordinating with the RHPVP to initiate workshops on the topics of discrimination, tolerance and diversity while the Honduran Red Cross is carrying out a project with schools on the subject of violence. This initiative is being carried out in coordination with the Spanish Red Cross' focal point for the regional Violence Prevention Strategy who is supporting the RHPVP with technical resources.

Moreover, after a meeting with REDCAMP SALUD - the regional health network - a space was identified to incorporate the promotion of the fundamental principles and values in Community Integrated Programmes (CIP). Consequently, the RHPVP has begun a regional consultative process in order to identify how tolerance and diversity topics will be integrated. Besides promoting the fundamental principles and values, the RHPVP has also directed efforts in encouraging NS leaders to promote advocacy initiatives in favour of vulnerable communities. The RHPVP has managed to acquire funding for a new tool that will inform on the actions of NS within the subject of advocacy in favor of vulnerable communities. The Swedish Red Cross has confirmed its financial support for the implementation of this new tool consisting of an electronic newsletter to be released every three months. Hence, this newsletter will help NS in sharing information on their activities such as lessons learned and experiences thus creating a collaborative process between regional NS. Two possible candidates have already been identified to act as the focal point for the initiative; however a final decision has not been taken yet.

During this reporting period, the RHPVP has also made advances in other important areas such as the preparation for the XVIII Inter American Conference and a Red Cross Youth workshop. For one, the programme has been responsible for the coordination of "Group 3" - the humanitarian principles and values table for the upcoming Inter-American Conference, in order to create a logical framework on future directors and the Plan of Action for the next years which will be presented at the Conference. The Plan focuses on tolerance and non-discrimination through advocacy. Furthermore, the RHPVP has carried out an important workshop with Red Cross Youth for the review of new youth-led initiatives and actions to be carried out throughout the coming months. The workshop ended with positive results given that new initiatives were agreed upon. Red Cross Youth will lead the school brigade project by which youth leaders visit schools to present, promote and orient peers in the topic of values.

Constraints or Challenges:

The RHPVP, as well as the other regional programmes, has been facing a challenge given that the regional office is lacking a web master since early April. Therefore, the uploading of information onto the regional webpage has been a strenuous task for most NS who lack a webmaster themselves. NS, nevertheless, have found different ways in which they can share information, though at a slow pace. Another challenge has been the lack of sufficient funds which has hindered the carrying out of several activities, hindering the achievement of planned goals within the strategy.

Working in partnership

The Panama Regional Representation strengthens and improves cooperation, coordination and support mechanisms that facilitate collaboration amongst Movement partners as well as with strategic partners. These partnerships have contributed and continue to contribute to the development of the Red Cross Movement's image through the promotion of innovative joint ventures.

Day to day cooperation amongst National Societies in the region has progressed during the reporting period, in part through the increased contact through networks together with new and updated internet-based communication tools such as the Regional Health and Care Programme's Persons living with HIV and AIDS regional network - ASONAHSIDA - that is currently working through REDLAC.



At the Santa Barbara branch of the Honduran RC were the radio based 0% campaign is being developed.

The Panama Regional Representation continues to build new and vital alliances with other NGOs, UN agencies and the private sector through all programme areas. The Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Programme has been strengthening and broadening its new communication tool the "Risk Reduction Communication Strategy," through which regional activities, methodologies and initiatives are carried out in a harmonized way by the Regional Representation and its partners within the strategy: PLAN, UNICEF and the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de Desastres en Centro América – CEPREDENAC). Through this communication strategy several activities have taken place, such as a painting contest for children, which is part of the "Disaster risk reduction begins at school" campaign.

The Regional Organizational Development Programme has also developed a strategic alliance with UNICEF for a future initiative in the area of youth. Also, as previously mentioned, the OD programme is working hand in hand with the Spanish Red Cross for the implementation of the online courses initiative aiming at building knowledge and capacities amongst volunteers and offered through scholarships.

The Regional Humanitarian Principles and Values Programme has placed immense efforts in order to carry out new non-violence promotion initiatives that could have not been possible without strategic alliances of national organizations such as the "Defensoría de los Derechos de la Mujer Indígena en Guatemala" (The Ombudsman Special Office for Guatemalan Indigenous Women's Rights), and the "Young Christian of Honduras."

Moreover, the Regional Health and Care Programme continues to build on its relationship with McCann Erickson through the development of a new campaign for the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation called "Club 25". A new alliance that the regional health and care programme has built during the reporting period has been with the World Food Programme (WFP) on HIV and AIDS prevention, assistance and nutrition, which will be further developed.

The strategic position of the Panama Regional Representation facilitates improved collaboration with other organizations as Panama (and particularly "Ciudad del Saber") becomes the regional hub for the UN, NGOs and

other humanitarian and development agencies. Even though the Delegation has missed opportunities to invest in the development of further alliances and partnerships in the past because of insufficient time resources, 2007 has started to see an increased focus on addressing these lost opportunities.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Throughout the reporting period, the Regional Representation has worked on improving the region's capacity to respond to disasters through the implementation of the communication strategy and the scaling up of information dissemination. It has also significantly promoted respect for human dignity through tolerance, anti stigma and non-discrimination messages in terms of HIV and AIDS advocacy. It has collaborated with regional National Societies and strengthened their institutional capacities through the implementation of the Regional Volunteering Strategy and through the development, monitoring and evaluation of their Strategic Plans. Hence, the Regional Representation has contributed and contributes to the International Federation's Global Agenda.

Concerning gender and diversity, programmes within the Regional Representation integrated this approach in search of parity and non-discrimination. All programmes aim towards ensuring a balance in numbers of women and men attending workshops and having access to training and development opportunities. The inclusion of men in the promotion of anti-stigma and non-discrimination against persons living with HIV and AIDS in initiatives, particularly the taxis initiative, has been a tremendous achievement by the RHCP, for women are the usual carriers of these messages. Additionally, the International Federation's Gender Policy itself is being disseminated together with the Volunteering Policy and the results from the Secretariat's study on gender composition of governance bodies and volunteers have been disseminated as well.

Furthermore, the Regional Representation's programmes work towards meeting quality standards in each of their activities and initiatives. The Regional Organizational Development Programme is carrying out the monitoring and evaluation of the strategic plans according to indicators developed by the Department of Organizational Development in Geneva that were approved at the Seoul Assembly. The Regional Health and Care Programme follows Federation's policies on HIV and AIDS, PSP and MCH as means to complement alignment with the Global Health Strategy. It also follows the Federation's policy on promoting condom use. The Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Programme monitors NS implementation of SPHERE standards through a regional focal point. Additionally, the Humanitarian Principles and Values Programme participated in the design of a workshop to train youth leaders in the different codes. The regional website has all codes available for the public, staff and volunteers to refer to.

The drafting, monitoring and evaluation of all strategic plans focus on the impact of the RC's work with communities. In coordination with the risk reduction programme, the organizational development programme has initiated the second phase of integrated community programmes at border branches for the implementation of micro projects in these areas. In coordination with the Costa Rican Centre of Reference, the Panama Regional Representation has started the drafting of a volunteer management guide for community volunteers. In consequence, these micro projects aid communities through building cooperative initiatives between them and so improve their quality of life.

Looking Ahead

2007 is a key year for the Central America region, in terms of representing the final year of implementation of the commitments made at the XVII Inter-American Conference held in Santiago de Chile and implementing the new commitments that will be made at the XVIII Inter-American Conference to be held in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Intense work will follow the Conference in order to start translating the commitments from the event into actions and plans for the following four years. It is expected that the community focus of the Conference and the Inter

American Plan, at the same time will strengthen the strategic and operational planning of National Societies in their work with communities.

The Humanitarian Principles and Values Programme also has great expectations, for it has the necessary financial resources to carry out work in other areas such as violence and consolidate in areas where work has been done in the past. On their part, the Regional Health and Care Programme has adopted a long term approach that will standardize methodologies for all National Societies in the continent. The Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Programme has acquired medium-term sustainability for its initiatives and will so be able to scale up its work with communities through the use of the new VCA modules. Coupled with this will be the decentralization of the Secretariat's work, with the setting up of the Zonal structure, to ensure that Federation support is closer and more tailored to the needs and capacities of the National Societies.

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**To support or find out more about the Federation's programmes or operations,
click on www.ifrc.org**

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA43001 - CENTRAL AMERICA

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/05
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA43001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	2,113,859	1,795,799	268,317	1,326,505	471,425	5,975,903
B. Opening Balance	168,865	123,973	31	159,678	51,027	503,574
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross	22,250					22,250
British Red Cross	95,615	178,047	0	0	3,119	276,781
Canadian Red Cross Society	18,895					18,895
Capacity Building Fund		46,720		0		46,720
DFID Partnership	72,998	70,078	17,462	102,342	37,810	300,690
ECHO		392,840				392,840
Finnish Red Cross	64,800	81,000				145,800
Irish Red Cross Society		8,784				8,784
Norwegian Red Cross	413,582			138,631	38,310	590,524
Swedish Red Cross	309,871		86,744	84,838		481,452
C1. Cash contributions	998,011	777,469	104,206	325,811	79,239	2,284,735
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
British Red Cross	153,515	209,485				363,000
DFID Partnership		600,000				600,000
ECHO		100,650				100,650
Finnish Red Cross	61,050	77,550				138,600
Norwegian Red Cross	404,000					404,000
ProVention		300,645				300,645
Swedish Red Cross	-15,744					-15,744
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	602,821	1,288,330				1,891,151
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
American Red Cross	0			0		0
Australian Red Cross				6,015	-6,015	0
British Red Cross		0			0	-0
Capacity Building Fund				-0		-0
DFID - British Government	-14,624			-0		-14,624
DFID Partnership					40,000	40,000
Irish Red Cross Society	0					0
Italian DREF		2,641				2,641
Netherlands Red Cross		40,000		20,000	15,594	75,594
Norwegian Red Cross				0	0	-0
ProVention		150,323				150,323
Swedish Red Cross	0			0		0
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or	-14,624	192,964		26,015	49,579	253,934
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
British Red Cross					86,800	86,800
C5. Inkind Personnel					86,800	86,800
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	1,586,207	2,258,763	104,206	351,826	215,618	4,516,620
D. Total Funding = B + C	1,755,073	2,382,736	104,237	511,504	266,644	5,020,194

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA43001 - CENTRAL AMERICA

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
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Appeal	MAA43001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	168,865	123,973	31	159,678	51,027	503,574
C. Income	1,586,207	2,258,763	104,206	351,826	215,618	4,516,620
E. Expenditure	-1,089,268	-784,151	-72,922	-478,869	-322,149	-2,747,359
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	665,805	1,598,585	31,314	32,635	-55,505	2,272,835

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA43001 - CENTRAL AMERICA

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
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Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA43001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		2,113,859	1,795,799	268,317	1,326,505	471,425	5,975,903	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	28,000							28,000
Construction Materials	14,000	12,120			83		12,203	1,797
Clothing & textiles	7,000	1,003	1,736		1,059		3,797	3,203
Food		265			143		408	-408
Water & Sanitation					1,964		1,964	-1,964
Medical & First Aid		6,140	622				6,762	-6,762
Teaching Materials	85,730	6,464	20,353		1,862		28,679	57,051
Utensils & Tools	54,000		42		1,690		1,732	52,268
Other Supplies & Services		52			2,389		2,441	-2,441
Total Supplies	188,730	26,043	22,753		9,190		57,986	130,744
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	13,750		13,372		2,320		15,692	-1,942
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.		1,945					1,945	-1,945
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	13,750	1,945	13,372		2,320		17,637	-3,887
Transport & Storage								
Storage	14,750	556					556	14,194
Distribution & Monitoring	310	313	418		97		827	-517
Transport & Vehicle Costs	15,648	8,849	1,257	269	3,807	58	14,239	1,409
Total Transport & Storage	30,708	9,717	1,675	269	3,904	58	15,622	15,086
Personnel Expenditures								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	928,107	225,607	124,262		147,568	244,833	742,269	185,838
Delegate Benefits	250,579							250,579
Regionally Deployed Staff	203,303	72	13,869		181	144	14,265	189,037
National Staff	385,548	76,906	44,377	15,117	6,441	7,854	150,695	234,853
National Society Staff	194,058	73,116	115,102	13,964	21,997		224,180	-30,122
Consultants	409,304	43,583	8,598		17,129	40,782	110,092	299,212
Total Personnel Expenditures	2,370,898	419,282	306,208	29,081	193,317	293,613	1,241,501	1,129,397
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	2,070,059	255,176	92,315	6,284	147,320	7,217	508,311	1,561,748
Total Workshops & Training	2,070,059	255,176	92,315	6,284	147,320	7,217	508,311	1,561,748
General Expenditure								
Travel	406,383	79,691	67,890	2,717	44,086	8,194	202,578	203,805
Information & Public Relation	385,633	64,651	35,138	3,220	24,297	1,674	128,981	256,652
Office Costs	78,040	20,007	28,934	948	5,535	1,956	57,379	20,661
Communications	35,744	22,532	20,222	2,706	12,083	4,854	62,397	-26,653
Professional Fees	4,000	11,297	8,519		1,475		21,291	-17,291
Financial Charges		5,200	4,324	851	3,063	-10,769	2,668	-2,668
Other General Expenses	3,525	4,167	999		1,052	404	6,622	-3,097
Total General Expenditure	913,325	207,544	166,027	10,441	91,591	6,312	481,916	431,409
Program Support								
Program Support	388,434	70,802	50,970	4,740	31,126	20,573	178,212	210,222
Total Program Support	388,434	70,802	50,970	4,740	31,126	20,573	178,212	210,222
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		98,758	130,833	22,108	101	-5,624	246,175	-246,175
Total Operational Provisions		98,758	130,833	22,108	101	-5,624	246,175	-246,175
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	5,975,903	1,089,268	784,151	72,922	478,869	322,149	2,747,359	3,228,544
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,024,591	1,011,648	195,394	847,636	149,276	3,228,544	

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA43001 - CENTRAL AMERICA

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/05
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA43001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

IV. Project Details

Project	Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Budget	Variance
		A	B	C	A + B + C	D	D - C
Health & Care							
P43401	Gulf of Fonseca	0	0		0		0
P43402	HIV/AIDS&Peer Educat	0	0		0		0
P43403	Regional Health	0	0		0		0
P43404	Health Dev.	16,626	123,456	-138,188	1,895	140,086	1,898
P43405	Community Health	41,155	787,723	-407,471	421,407	845,067	437,596
P43406	HIV/AIDS	40,145	766,178	-563,821	242,503	764,107	200,286
P43407	Volunteer Blood Dona	0	0		0		0
P43408	Health Dept. Develo	0	0		0		0
P43409	Water & Sanitation	503	0	-503	0	364,599	364,096
PGT401	Human Development	59,218	-74,625	15,407	0		15,407
PGT402	HIV/AIDS	0	0		0		0
PGT403	Water and Sanitation	0	0		0		0
PHN401	HIV/AIDS	11,218	-14,624	3,407	-0		3,407
PSV401	Health	0	-1,901	1,901	0		1,901
PSV403	Golfo de Fonseca	0	0		0		0
Sub-Total Health & Care		168,865	1,586,207	-1,089,268	665,805	2,113,859	1,024,591
Disaster Management							
P43003	Mexico & Haiti Floods	0	0		0		0
P43008	Mexico-Advocacy/DP	0	0		0		0
P43160	Disaster Preparednes	0	0		0		0
P43161	CBDPP	0	0		0		0
P43162	DPP Response Capacit	0	0		0		0
P43163	Comm.DPP	0	0		0		0
P43164	Integrated CBDP	0	0		0		0
P43165	Stren	0	0		0		0
P43166	Disaster Mgt.Prog	37,370	2,107,729	-443,138	1,701,961	939,491	496,353
P43167	Risk Reduction	0	0		0	0	0
PCR002	CBDP Centre of Reference	0	0	-92,702	-92,702	350,537	257,835
PCR161	Disaster Preparednes	2,231	95,261	-97,413	79	119,358	21,945
PGT162	Strengthening NS DM	0	-773	772	-0		772
PGT163	Integrated CBDP	0	0		0		0
PGT164	Disaster Mgt Prog	0	0		0		0
PNI401	Golfo de Fonseca	0	0		0		0
PSV161	Disaster Preparednes	0	0		0		0
PSV162	Earthquake DPP	0	0		0		0
PSV163	DPP 2004	84,372	56,545	-151,670	-10,753	386,412	234,742
Sub-Total Disaster Management		123,973	2,258,763	-784,151	1,598,585	1,795,799	1,011,648
Humanitarian Values							
P43301	Humanitarian Values	0	0		0		0
P43302	HPV	31	104,206	-72,922	31,314	268,317	195,394
P43303	Antistigma HPV	0	0		0		0
P43304	Indigenous Pop.HPV	0	0		0		0
P43305	Youth Violence HPV	0	0		0		0
Sub-Total Humanitarian Values		31	104,206	-72,922	31,314	268,317	195,394
Organisational Development							

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA43001 - CENTRAL AMERICA

IV. Project Details

Project	Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Budget	Variance
		A	B	C	A + B + C	D	D - C
P43005	Communica&informa	0	0		0		0
P43006	Org. Development	0	0		0		0
P43007	Strategy&Progr.Dev.	0	0		0		0
P43025	Sustainable Nat.Soc.	81,787	-92,090	10,303	-0		10,303
P43026	Govern.&Magt	0	0		0		0
P43027	Integrated Branch De	0	0	0	0	0	0
P43028	OD Network	0	0		0		0
P43029	Volunteer Management	0	0		0		0
P43030	OD Network	45,722	483,841	-496,928	32,635	1,326,505	829,576
P43031	Communica Advocacy	0	0		0	0	0
P43032	Volunteer Management	0	0		0	0	0
P43102	Regional Reporting	0	0		0		0
P43104	Region Del,Coord&Mgt	0	0		0		0
P43201	Regional Representat	0	0		0		0
PGT004	OD	32,169	-34,337	2,169	-0		2,169
PGT008	HR.MGMT	0	0		0		0
PGT009	Branch Str.	0	0		0		0
PHN002	Institutional develo	0	-5,099	5,099	0		5,099
PNI005	Instit. Development	0	0		0		0
PNI006	OD Delegate	0	0		0		0
PNI007	Change Process	0	-488	488	0		488
PNI008	Golfo de Fonseca	0	0		0		0
PSV002	Institutional Develo	0	0		0		0
PSV003	OD	0	0		0		0
PSV005	Golfo de Fonseca	0	0		0		0
Sub-Total Organisational Development		159,678	351,826	-478,869	32,635	1,326,505	847,636
Coordination & Implement							
P42004	CORI	0	0		0		0
P43002	Comm.Cap.Building	2,795	0	-2,799	-4		-2,799
P43101	Guatemala RFU	0	0		0		0
P43202	Int	8,353	-8,766	413	0	0	413
P43601	Regional Co-ordinati	39,879	-42,243	2,364	-0		2,364
P43604	Corp.Social Resp.	0	0		0		0
P43606	Federation Managemen	0	272,641	-328,142	-55,501	471,425	143,283
P43607	Regional Coordinator	0	0	0	0	0	0
P43608	National Society Gov	0	0		0	0	0
P43925	Regional Delegate Re	0	0		0		0
PGT602	Federation Represe	0	0		0		0
PNI000	National Coordinatio	0	0		0		0
PSV004	Change Process	0	-6,015	6,015	0		6,015
Sub-Total Coordination & Implement		51,027	215,618	-322,149	-55,505	471,425	149,276
Total	CENTRAL AMERICA	503,574	4,516,620	-2,747,359	2,272,835	5,975,903	3,228,544