

Annual report



Latin Caribbean

Appeal No. MAA49002

2 August 2010

This report covers the period 01 January 2009 to 31 December 2009.



Volunteers from the Cuban Red Cross and the Dominican Red Cross participate in the workshop for the use of the Branch Development tool. **International Federation**

In brief

Programme purpose: The Latin Caribbean Regional Representation implements the strategy outlined in the *Federation of the Future* and supports the National Societies of Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic in their work towards the goals of the Federation's Global Agenda by scaling-up programmes, increasing Red Cross capacity and strengthening its role in civil society.

Programme summary:

During 2009, the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation continuously has focused on the prominence of the Red Cross as a leader in disaster management at the national and regional levels, paying particular attention to community preparedness and to addressing the impact of the HIV and AIDS pandemic in the region. The Latin Caribbean Regional Representation additionally has provided concerted organizational development support to the three National Societies to strengthen their abilities to implement tailored development strategies that include branch and volunteer development, resource mobilization and accountability performance.

In the case of Haiti, the Secretariat has made an effort to ensure the continuity of the coordination process with the different actors present in country. However, the conditions for an Operational Alliance of the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) on disaster management are not yet in place. Nevertheless, through Movement partners' combined efforts around the National Society's strategic plan, investment coordination has been established. During the second half of 2009 focus was given to updating the strategic plan and defining future priorities. A decision was taken to keep a minimum Secretariat presence after the phase out of the emergency teams working in Haiti during the 2008 hurricane season. This programme management staff supported planning and reporting mechanisms and improved the National Society's organizational development skills with a focus on regional committees and local branches. The International Federation in Haiti continued to work towards creating an adequate working environment and conditions for strategic discussion to take place between HNRCS and its Movement partners.

The transition of emergency operations to the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation allowed the Secretariat to maintain an adequate long term focus on recovery activities. At the same time, the workload required for operations significantly affected the capacity to implement regular programming for the National Societies of Haiti and Cuba. Particularly in the case of Haiti, a large recovery programme was completed.

Financial situation: The total 2009 budget is 2,041,008 Swiss francs (1,760,450 US dollars or 1,439,780 euro), of which 1,718,928 Swiss francs (84 per cent) was covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was 1,613,958 Swiss francs (79 per cent) of the budget.

When first planned in 2008, the 2009 budget did not include the operational impact of the two major disasters that have affected Haiti and Cuba; as a result some of the forecasted activities have been revised to make sure that it was still achievable for the National Societies to complete their commitments. Funding for Disaster Management activities in disaster risk reduction has been less than expected, but partially covered by the influx of funds linked to the Emergency Appeals of the recovery programme. Furthermore, the funding for running costs of the Latin Caribbean Office has been below that projected, which has had a direct impact on the quantity and quality of monitoring and reporting on all National Societies' activities.

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

See also Hurricane Appeal reports: the emergency operations in [Cuba](#) and [Haiti](#).

Number of people we have reached: The Regional Representation focuses on building the capacities of the National Societies of Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The direct beneficiaries of the Regional Representation's programmes are the National Societies including their staff at headquarters and branch levels, governance bodies and volunteers. In effect, the Regional Representation's indirect beneficiaries belong to civil society since it is through the strengthening of the National Societies' capacities and the technical support offered that methodologies, initiatives and activities can be carried out and implemented accordingly.

Our partners: In Haiti, six Partner National Societies (PNS)— the American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the French Red Cross, the German Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, and the Spanish Red Cross— have a permanent presence in the country and offer bilateral support. The Dominican Red Cross continues to work with their programmatic partners in the Spanish Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross. In Cuba, the Norwegian Red Cross has one delegate focusing on bilateral activities with the Cuban Red Cross on disaster preparedness and community risk reduction. The following tables shows Movement Partners per country:

Country	Movement Partners
Cuba	Norwegian Red Cross
Dominican Republic	Spanish Red Cross
Haiti	American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, ICRC.

Context

Covering the countries of Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation is one of the two International Federation offices which provide **core membership services and programmatic support services** to the National Societies in the Caribbean region.

The region is extremely economically fragile with limited resource bases and stagnant economies, heavily reliant on unpredictable sectors such as tourism and the production of primary products. The global financial events of 2008 have only increased this vulnerability. Poverty is expected to increase due to these conditions and an economic downturn in the formal sector could very likely contribute to the growing illegal drug and weapons trade, money laundering and human trafficking. With regards to the issue of migration, the region experiences continuous movement from the rural communities, intra-regional illegal migration of unskilled persons and extra-regional migration of skilled persons to North America and Europe, generating stress on family structures.

Over the past few years, the region has experienced the impact of the regular Atlantic hurricane season that has led to severe damage. Floods are also a common occurrence, leading to housing damage, business disruption and displacement of coastal communities. The region additionally is vulnerable to other natural disasters including earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. The effects of climate change are having a real and visible impact on some of the island states' fragile ecosystems.

During the second half of 2008, the countries of Cuba and Haiti were severely affected by the passage of Hurricane Gustav, tropical storm Hanna and Hurricane Ike. Last year in Haiti, the tropical storms caused damage estimated at USD 1 billion and aggravated chronic malnutrition in several areas of the country. According to statistics from the Civil Protection Department (*Département de la Protection Civile - DPC*), 793 people lost their lives, 310 were declared missing and 548 were injured. The DPC also reported unprecedented damage to homes and infrastructure which affected 165,337 families. It is estimated that 22,702 families' homes were completely destroyed and 84,625 families' homes were damaged.

The 2008 hurricane season had a severe impact on the island of Cuba, with cumulative damages amongst the highest in many years. Total damages are now estimated at approximately USD 10 billion, almost 20 per cent of the country's GDP. More than 500,000 homes were affected by the storms, including partial or total loss of roofs as well as 63,249 homes that were completely destroyed. Official figures indicate that more than 2 million people's homes, 18 per cent of the total Cuban population, were thus affected. Damages to agriculture have been acute. The 113,000 hectares of damaged crops led to the loss of an estimated 53,000 tonnes of food vital to the population's daily food intake, including sugar cane, rice, beans and other essential basic items in addition to crops cultivated and distributed by the Ministry of Agricultural Development. Revised figures, released in early 2009, indicate that in the province of Pinar del Rio alone more than 900 schools were damaged, of which 400 were partially damaged, whilst 567 totally collapsed. A similar number of health centres were affected. National authorities estimate that rehabilitation efforts, including the building of houses to replace those destroyed by the storms, will continue over the next ten years.

Since the beginning of the emergencies, the International Federation's Latin Caribbean Regional Representation and the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) were in constant communication with the National Societies of the affected countries. The International Federation responded to the needs of the most vulnerable populations in Cuba and Haiti through the launch of emergency appeals for each country. After the completion of the relief phase, the operations were handed over to the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation to complete actions focused on water and sanitation, hygiene promotion, shelter, disaster preparedness, risk reduction and National Society capacity building.

The transition of the emergency operations to the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation allowed the Federation's Secretariat to maintain an adequate long-term focus on recovery activities. At the same time the workload required for those operations significantly affected the capacity to implement regular programming for the National Societies of Haiti and Cuba, particularly in the case of Haiti where a massive recovery programme was completed.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme purpose**Global Agenda Goal 1: To reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.****Programme component 1: Disaster Management Planning****Outcome 1 National Societies' disaster preparedness and response plans are established or updated in line with the National Societies' strategic plan and national disaster plans.**

The National Societies of Cuba and Haiti have been focused primarily on recovery operations from the 2008 hurricane season. The Dominican Red Cross (DRC) has been the only National Society able to fully dedicated attention to preparation for the 2009 hurricane season. The influx of resources at the Haitian National Red Cross Society and Cuban Red Cross (CRC) branches have allowed for the update and review of plans at the local levels.

The Dominican Red Cross tested preparedness levels through simulation exercises as part of the disaster preparedness activities funded by the Spanish Red Cross.

The Latin Caribbean Regional Representation has contributed to the DFID IS III objectives through the support given to the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) with the 2009 planning process that included activity planning. The Regional Representation and the HNRCS have worked towards overcoming challenges by improving communication to ensure accountability and the timely submission of reports. It is also important to note that the Latin Caribbean Regional Representation allocated the DFID funds for the Regional Representation to the HNRCS. As part of the DFID-supported project, four HNRCS branches (Nord-Est, Sud-Est, Haut- Plateau and Bas-Plateau) situated on the border have revised and updated their contingency plans.

Constraints or challenges

There is still a need for qualified resources at the headquarters level in the Haitian National Red Cross Society to correctly monitor disaster preparedness capacity development. The Well Prepared National Society (WPNS) is not used systematically as a baseline and the HNRCS and other actors need to make special effort to involve all levels of the National Society in such activities.

The Regional Representation faced diverse challenges during 2009 to ensure that the HNRCS took efficient strides towards complying with its plan and accepted agreements for the DFID programme. The main difficulties were accountability, the preparation of trimester monitoring reports and timely use of funds. The low expenditures clearly impact the other National Societies in the continent that are a part of the DFID-supported programme. Additionally, since August 2009, the HNRCS's representative in charge of carrying out the plan designed for DFID was replaced by the general director.

Following the HNRCS's challenges to efficiently present, execute and submit required DFID materials, it was decided to exclude this National Society from the DFID programme in 2010.

Outcome 2 National Societies form partnerships with key Movement and non-Movement actors and participate in strategic alliances for disaster risk reduction and response.

During the first six months, the Dominican Red Cross participated in high level forums at the national level to promote a culture of community risk reduction. The DRC also has conducted advocacy work on a various issues such as the dredging of riverbeds in areas prone to flooding. This proved to be highly successful as the President declared it a national concern; a commission, with participation from the National Society, to address the problem was formed. The National Society's advocacy work has raised awareness and been well-received action in flood-prone areas.

In Haiti, the promotion and dissemination of information throughout the Haitian National Red Cross Society networks has increased the understanding of HNRCS activities on community disaster preparedness and the importance of risk reduction. After the 2008 hurricane season, the most affected communities in Gonaïves were relocated to higher and safer grounds as a result of Red Cross Red Crescent actions.

Programme component 2: Organizational Preparedness

Outcome 1 Red Cross capacity in risk reduction, preparedness and response is strengthened.

Due to the extent of the workload for the emergency recovery operations during the early months of 2009, the National Societies of Cuba and Haiti were challenged to focus on updating tools or policies. Nevertheless lessons learnt exercises were carried out in both countries. Furthermore, a disaster management delegate in Haiti updated the Movement's response plan in July, which was shared with the external partners in preparation for the 2010 hurricane season.

The HNRCS has made some progress in the area of shelter management and the component is better reflected in the National Society's disaster response plans. In addition, the National Societies of Haiti and Dominican Republic and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have established coordination regarding shelter coordination in disasters.

It was expected that by early 2010, both Haiti and Dominican Republic would have reviewed and disseminated preparedness tools especially focusing on work being done in the border branches. However due to the 12 January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, all the efforts of the HNRCS and the DRC (in particular border branches) have focused on responding to the large scale emergency.

Programme component 3: Community Preparedness

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

A number of capacity building trainings have been conducted in the three National Societies targeting community-based disaster response and preparedness including early warning with volunteers and disaster response teams. In Cuba, 30 volunteers were trained thanks to the support of the Norwegian Red Cross. In Haiti, approximately 400 volunteers from the National Society participated in 8 trainings supported by the International Federation through the emergency appeal for this country in response to the last year's hurricane season.

The role of the Federation's secretariat in this area is not to necessarily implement programmes, but to ensure collaboration with Red Cross Red Crescent partners and the use of agreed methodology developed by the International Federation.

Tools to develop community-based disaster preparedness programmes aimed at high-risk populations have been used in each country. Five new Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs) have been formed, trained and equipped to prepare and to respond to emergencies in Haiti.

All of the border branches in the National Societies of the Dominican Republic and Haiti have established plans related to disaster risk reduction programmes targeting vulnerable communities.

Outcome 2 Communities lead and implement mitigation, early warning actions in coordination with the Red Cross and other local actors.

In August in Haiti, *Kouri di Vwazin'W* (a phrase rooted in Haitian oral traditions which means "Run and tell your neighbour" in Creole) started within the framework of the Emergency Appeal in response to the Hurricane Season in 2008. The project aims to alert and raise awareness in vulnerable communities about potential hazards, such as hurricanes.

As part of the project, a total of 150 Haitian National Red Cross Society volunteers, named *relais communitaires* since they live and work in these communities, have been trained to alert the population and raise their awareness about response actions if a disaster strikes their community. Aimed at reducing the impact of disasters, 500 wind-up and solar powered radios have been distributed in high risk communities in the six provinces where the project is being implemented. The use of these radios will enable more people to have rapid access to essential information.

Partnerships with community and local radio stations were established and key messages on disaster preparedness were distributed to them.

Programme component 4: Recovery
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Outcome 1 Communities and individuals are better able to recover and reduce further risks following disasters.

No progress towards this outcome has been able to be achieved during the reporting period. Nonetheless, the Haitian National Red Cross Society has carried out some recovery actions through the International Federation Emergency Appeal for this emergency during 2009, focusing on the construction of 400 shelters in Gonaïves. For additional details, see the last *Operations Update* for Haiti.

Programme component 5: Disaster Response

Outcome 1 Ensure strong coordination with PADRU for efficient and effective Disaster Response in the region.

In the first six months of 2009, the International Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit has been on several support missions in the Latin Caribbean countries.

In Haiti, the regional fleet coordinator has been reviewing the needs of the HNRCS and the PNS concerning vehicles. The Regional Logistic Unit (RLU) has been supporting the procurement department of the HNRCS in procedures and regulations. PADRU's Disaster Management department has been supporting the Movement initiative in developing a contingency and response plan. A security assessment mission and good practices in shelter mission were also carried out during the first half of 2009.

In Dominican Republic an evaluation was carried out in May on the shelter study. Recommendations were issued to:

- Reinforce shelter issues in the Development and Strategic Plans of the National Society by defining its policies, role at the country level, responsibilities as auxiliary body and as provider; incorporating the topic of shelter in the functional structure of the National Society through the development of a new department or strengthening the competences of an existing department.
- Draft an institutional contingency plan on shelter. Based on the existing expertise on the topic, consider the possibility of assuming the lead at the national level in the establishment of a response mechanism directed to shelter needs.
- Disseminate the Humanitarian Reform and the Memorandum of Understanding between the International Federation and OCHA at the headquarters and branch levels. This action will focus on sharing the meaning of the Humanitarian Reform, its implications for the work of the Dominican Red Cross and its approach in each sector of the institution.

Health and Care

Programme purpose

Global Agenda Goal 2: Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

Programme component: HIV and AIDS
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Outcome 1 Vulnerability to HIV and its impact reduced through preventing further infection, expanding care, treatment, and support and reducing stigma and discrimination – Global Alliance National Society of Haiti.

Outcome 2 National Societies expand programmes to promote behaviour change to prevent further HIV infection.

Outcome 3 Red Cross capacities in HIV and AIDS are strengthened to provide treatment, care and support.
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Outcome 4 Programmes established and strengthened in their focus on stigma and

discrimination reduction.

Outcome 5 Strengthening National Society, community, national and regional capacities to deliver and sustain scaled up programmes.

Achievements

The Latin Caribbean Regional Representation Office with the support of the Americas Zone Office in Panama has provided technical support to formulate the Global Alliance on HIV work plan and a narrative document. The Haitian National Red Cross Society will scale up its actions in prevention, treatment, care and support, reduction of HIV and AIDS-related stigma and discrimination and strengthening its capacities to respond to the impact of HIV.

During this reporting period, the “*Scaling Up Together We Can*” HIV prevention youth project has been the only component of HNRCS’s HIV programme. For this reason, programme achievements have only occurred within Output 1 of the Global Alliance on HIV: Preventing Further HIV Infection. To date, 43 per cent of the target objective for peer education and community mobilization has been reached.

By the end of 2009, there were approximately 136,150 direct and indirect beneficiaries of the Global Alliance on HIV in Haiti through prevention, partnership and capacity building actions. These included 134,632 youth reached with prevention messages, including peer education and community mobilization, IEC, VCT, condom promotion and anti stigma messages. Sixty-five trainers and peer educators were trained in the youth peer education methodology “Together We Can” (TWC). The Haitian National Red Cross participated in the Caribbean external evaluation of the TWC methodology conducted in 2009. Town hall meetings were attended by 1,494 adults and 27 operational community councils were operational. Twenty four HNRCS staff people were trained in organizational development and the HNRCS participated in one national project task force and 12 operational partnerships.

The HNRCS has received support to conduct several activities targeting adolescents between 10 to 24 years old who benefited from HIV prevention key messages through the “*scaling up Together We Can*” project in partnership with the American Red Cross which was funded by the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Among these adolescents, approximately 6,000 benefited from a 15-hour curriculum adapted from the Together We Can methodology. The curriculum is composed of capacity building exercises that are delivered through peer-to-peer education. The exercises are designed to give beneficiaries the aptitude to assess unsafe situations along with the skills to negotiate safer sex. This project targets the departments of Ouest (areas of Petion-Ville, Cite Soleil and Petit Goave), Nord (Cap Haitian), Nord-Est (Fort Liberté, Ouanaminthe), Sud-Est (Anse-a-Pitre, Cayes Jacmel and Marigot), Grand-Anse (Jeremie), Sud (Les Cayes), Nippes (Anse-a-Veau), Nord-Ouest (Port-de-Paix), Artibonite (urban and rural regions) and Plateau Central (urban and rural regions).

Constraints and Challenges

Support will be provided to the Cuban and Dominican National Societies (which are not yet part of the Global Alliance on HIV) for the improvement of the Together We Can programme. The Cuban Red Cross has been unable to implement the programme due to the recovery operations workload. The health department of the Dominican Red Cross has been restructured and very few decisions were made to roll out a new plan for 2009. The funding period for the HIV and AIDS programme supported by the Netherlands Red Cross in the DRC has expired and now poses a challenge for the improvement of DRC monitoring and evaluation for. Efforts are being undertaken to support this National Society to joint the Global Alliance on HIV by the end of 2010.

The HIV prevention youth project of the Haitian National Red Cross Society, funded by PEPFAR through the American Red Cross, is expected to end in June 2010. The National Society will be challenged to identify other funding sources to sustain its existing HIV prevention outreach and expand its programme into other Global Alliance on HIV outputs.

Programme component: Community Health and First Aid

Outcome 1: National Societies with capacity to develop voluntary, non-remunerated blood

donation using Club 25 as a strategy, and engage in a strategic alliance with private sector.

The Haitian National Red Cross Society continues working in the initiative thanks to the bilateral support of the Global Fund. The Dominican Red Cross has developed the Club 25 approach through its own sources of funding.

Outcome 2: National Societies with capacity to give psychosocial support to reduce mental health morbidity, disability and social problems.

Within the emergency appeal in response to the 2008 hurricane season in Haiti, psychosocial support (PSP) was provided to HNRCS volunteers and to the staff of the Hospital de Secours des Gonaïves who have been doubly affected by their own experiences added to their exposure to human distress during the emergencies. The psychological support programme focused on improving their psychological balance to enable them to respond and support others in a more sustainable manner. The workshops on psychosocial support took place in Gonaïves with 400 HNRCS volunteers and hospital staff from the *Hopital de la Providence*. The workshops were conducted by IDEO (*Institut de Développement Personnel et Organisationnel*) and the local institute specialized in psychology. For additional information, see the latest *Operations Update*.

Outcome 3: National Societies with capacity to disseminate good practices in first aid through the promotion of the community-based first aid.

Beyond the daily normal business of training for the National Societies, no additional progress towards this outcome has been made during the reporting period.

Outcome 4: National Societies have developed public health in emergency activities to control emerging diseases and epidemics (avian flu, dengue, etc.) and have shared experiences and support process for harmonized tools and methodologies for epidemic control.

The Regional Representation for the Latin Caribbean actively participated in the Dominican Red Cross' crisis room after the outbreak of the Influenza A (H1N1). In alignment with the International Federation's Influenza contingency plan, the Regional Representation supported the preparation of the DRC contingency plan.

During the reporting period, the Regional Representation provided follow-up and information-exchange with the three National Societies about the progress and actions related to the Influenza A (H1N1).

In addition, the Regional Representation participated in two PAHO-led meetings in Santo Domingo with health authorities on the progress of the Influenza A (H1N1) in the continent and its imminent emergence in the Dominican Republic. The International Federation also held a meeting with the State's Public Health Secretariat (*Secretaría de Estado de Salud Pública*) on the same topic.

With support from DG ECHO, the Dominican Red Cross has implemented its planning for the Regional Epidemic Control project with other National Societies from the Americas. The project worked towards enhancing the National Societies' response capacities to epidemic outbreaks of malaria, dengue fever, dengue hemorrhagic fever, leptospirosis and yellow fever. Technical support was provided by the Health in Emergencies officer based in the Regional Representation for the Andean Region.

As part of the regional activities, two meetings were held to develop a training module for Epidemic Control for Volunteers using the Secretariat's global material as a reference. These meetings were made possible by ECHO financial support and Regional Centre for Disaster Preparedness technical assistance, as well as direct technical support from National Society focal points of Bolivia, Colombia, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic and the Regional Representation for the Andean Countries.

Following these meetings, the Validation for Epidemic Control for Volunteers workshop, with support from DG ECHO, the American Red Cross, and the Regional Reference Centre for Disaster

Preparedness, took place in June. A total of 19 representatives from the Dominican Red Cross and National Societies from South America participated in the workshop.

Moreover, the Dominican Red Cross trained a total of 95 volunteers from the Santo Domingo Este branch and other neighbouring branches through the Epidemic Control project funded by DG ECHO. The training focused on prevention, control and response to epidemics related to dengue, malaria, leptospirosis and influenza A (H1N1). From this group, 24 volunteers have become NIT members specialized in health in emergencies and epidemic control ready to be deployed in case of emergencies. Additionally, the National Society has reached as well 35 health professionals from the Ministry of Health through trainings. These health professionals have been able to disseminate the information to other co-workers inside the national health system.

Outcome 5: National Societies have developed a strategy on road safety, promoted road safety campaigns and promoted adherence to road risk reducing guides in coordination with other actors.
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It was not possible to complete the two workshops on road safety planned in the Americas for 2009. Project support will be provided to National Societies implementing road safety projects. Nonetheless, the Dominican Red Cross has worked on establishing a working group responsible for the development of road safety policies and is enthusiastic about developing road safety programmes in 2010. The National Society already has an appropriate network to work on the issue since they are in charge of road rescue on the country's major highway.

Organizational Development / Capacity-Building

Programme Purpose

Global Agenda Goal 3: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
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Actions towards this Global Agenda Goal during 2009 are reflected under the different support activities carried out with the National Societies of the region.

The 2009 plan for this programmatic area reflects one modification. The programme component 3 and related outcomes were removed as implementation towards these outcomes was not possible to achieve during this year.

Programme component 1: National Society Leadership Capacities improvement
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Outcome 1: National Societies have improved their system of governance and management.

Outcome 2: National Societies are promoting effective and empowered leaders.

Achievements

In June, the regional Organizational Development programme started drafting a proposal for a leadership and management skills training promoted by the organizational development zone coordinator. This proposal covers all National Societies in Latin America, including the Dominican Republic and Cuba, and seeks to promote institutional learning through a virtual platform. The piloting of this proposal is expected to take place 2010 in the Latin Caribbean region.

The regional programme prioritized the roll-out of the Branch Development Game in the National Societies of Cuba and the Dominican Republic during the second semester of the year. One workshop in Branch Development took place in the city of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic between 14 to 16 September with participants from ten branches of the Dominican Red Cross and participants from three branches and headquarters from the Cuban Red Cross. The second workshop was held in the city of Matanzas in Cuba from 7 to 10 December. Members of ten branches and the headquarters of the Cuban Red Cross participated in the workshop. Both activities had the same features and objectives, and have contributed to capacity building of the Dominican Red Cross and the Cuban Red Cross to

respond effectively, efficiently and with quality to the needs of individuals and groups in vulnerable situations. The Branch Development Game also contributes to promote human development and planning within the branches.

Programme component 2: National Society systems, procedures and staff sustainability

Outcome 1 The National Societies of Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti are using results-based planning and performance management systems with clear quality standards.

Achievements

The Regional Representation Organizational Development programme provided support to the Haitian National Red Cross Society in the drafting and updating of its plan DFID IS III 2009.

The regional programme also carried out follow-up in the receipt of narrative and financial reports, specifically with the Haitian National Red Cross Society for the DFID-funded programme. Moreover, the regional Organizational Development programme has provided support to the National Society of the Dominican Republic in the preparation of its proposal for the Global Alliance on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Constraints or Challenges

Further support is still required for the Dominican Red Cross and the Haitian National Red Cross Society to strengthen their systems and procedures on planning, budgeting, accountability and reporting.

Programme component 3: National Society financial sustainability

Outcome 1 The National Societies have developed a more effective financial management.

Constraints or Challenges

Notwithstanding the Regional Representation's efforts towards achieving this outcome, enhancing the National Societies' capacities on financial management still remains a challenge. This topic is still a priority for 2010; therefore actions towards it have been included in the regional plan 2010—2011 for the Latin Caribbean as well as the 2010—2011 country support plans.

Programme component 4: National Society grassroots and service development

Outcome 1 Red Cross youth initiatives are promoted and supported by the National Societies of Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti ensuring effective participation of young people in the institutional life of the National Society.

Outcome 2: Communities have increased their capacity to organize themselves and create change through the promotion of volunteers.

Achievements

During the first half of the year, the Haitian National Red Cross Society with support from the International Federation completed the process of providing accident insurance for 1,770 of its volunteers.

The regional Organizational Development programme conducted a 15-day mission to the Cuban Red Cross to offer and promote the support of the Regional Representation for this National Society's volunteering activities. The Regional Representation visited and selected two provincial branches (Santiago and Villa Clara), as well as gave talks to volunteers in the municipal branches of San Luis, Palma Soriano and Songo-La Maya (in the city of Santiago), Placetás and Remedios (in the city of Villa Clara) and the CRC's headquarters in La Habana.

The regional programme additionally has worked on the preparation process for the project to establish and apply a volunteer database in the Cuban Red Cross. This project is based on the volunteer

database registry used by the Bolivian Red Cross. By the end of the year, the Cuban Red Cross aims to have implemented up to 50 per cent of the database. For the coming year, this initiative will be started with the Dominican Red Cross.

The Branch Development Tool has been promoted through visits to different branches of the DRC. During the second semester of 2009, trainings of trainers targeting at least 50 people on the use of the game were carried out in the Dominican Republic in September and in Cuba in December.

In the actions to promote youth participation, the Dominican Red Cross and the Haitian National Red Cross Society participated in the Regional Caribbean Youth Forum, organized by the Regional Youth Network, in July 2009.

Programme component 5: National Society programme development and management

Outcome 1: Caribbean technical networks are supporting the development of the Caribbean National Societies .

Achievements

During the second half of the year, the regional programme has supported the inclusion of the Dominican Red Cross in the Global Alliance on Disaster Risk Reduction. As previously mentioned, the regional programme supported the DRC to prepare its proposal.

In addition, the three National Societies of the Latin Caribbean are part of the Caribbean Disaster Management Network.

The Regional Representation, which participated in the bi-national meeting with both National Societies, has provided follow-up to drafting a Plan of Action for the Haitian-Dominican border. This plan of action aims to harmonize the actions in the Red Cross branches along the border and promote the joint planning to address this area's vulnerability. Floods, health-related emergencies and disasters that occur on one side of the border also tend to affect the other side. The Plan of Action incorporates support mechanisms between Red Cross branches in emergency situations since oftentimes branches on one side of the border can provide more efficient support than other branches from its own National Societies.

Outcome 2: National Societies have increased significantly their participation in public initiatives with the authorities, the private sector and civil society.

The regional Organizational Development programme provided support to the National Societies for the preparation of events prior to the 150 Anniversary in Solferino. The programme also provide support to the Dominican Red Cross for their participation in the launch of the global Red Cross campaign *Our World, Your Move* at the national level.

The regional Organizational Development programme supported the Regional Representation in the preparation of documents and Memorandum of Understanding with the Dominican Red Cross for the DG ECHO- funded Epidemics Control project, and support for diverse project activities with communities, volunteers and the National Society's health department.

The regional programme also assisted in drafting the section on general migration in the Latin Caribbean report, based on the International Federation's Migration Policy and its possible application in this region.

Principles and Values

Programme component: Migration

Component outcome 1: Migration issues are analyzed and National Society programmes and projects include considerations related to migration.

Given that all three countries of the region are both sender and receiver nations in migratory flows, the National Societies are particularly concerned with this issue and the growth of migration due to the region's socioeconomic context. As a first step, the National Societies of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti will analyze current initiatives and will take steps to strengthen activities to assist migrants in situations of vulnerability within their respective countries. While the significance of this issue cannot be underestimated, it is important to ensure that it does not become an additional topic within the National Societies rather it is integrated into current and ongoing actions. These actions include efforts to increase awareness of the International Federation's Migration Policy and identifying approaches which best serve migrant populations. Upon the request of National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation included migration as a key discussion topic with National Society leadership during the Cooperation Workshop, supported by the Canadian Red Cross, held in Trinidad in October 2009. The International Federation's new Migration Policy also was disseminated.

Working in partnership

The start of 2009 marked some changes in the PNS which operate via bilateral agreements in the Latin Caribbean. The **Norwegian Red Cross** has strengthened its presence in Cuba and has established a plan to provide support during an extended period. The Norwegian Red Cross collaborates with the Cuban Red Cross on three community risk reduction objectives:

- Strengthen community capacity in dealing with disasters and the proper use of water and sanitation for health maintenance.
- Increase the level of disaster response and relief operations with groups at different levels.
- Develop the capacity of the Cuban Red Cross in disaster risk reduction.

The Norwegian Red Cross supported the Disaster Risk Reduction programme of the National Society of Cuba with special focus on water and sanitation. Awareness-raising activities were conducted in 32 communities in 6 provinces (reaching approximately 10,544 families). Assistance also was provided to improve search and rescue teams in 12 Cuban municipalities and specialized groups in 3 provinces. The Cuban Red Cross has reported an increase in its volunteer base in communities and municipalities in which the Norwegian Red Cross-funded Disaster Risk Reduction programme was conducted. The Cuban Red Cross also has increased its visibility through television and radio reports, newspaper articles, community presence in projects and trainings and collaboration with authorities and organizations.

In the Dominican Republic, the **Netherlands Red Cross** has concluded their HIV and AIDS programme. The Netherlands Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross have closed their offices. The **German Red Cross** is opening an office in Port Au Prince in Haiti.

In Haiti, the **Canadian Red Cross** is currently working on community health in the department of Les Nippes (Anse-A-Veau and Petit-Trou-De-Nippes). Community participation and mobilization are key aspects of the project. Using the PHAST methodology, project communities identified latrine construction as their priority to improve sanitary conditions. The project benefits 15,000 people from 29 towns. The principle project actions include community mobilization, hygiene awareness and trainings, sanitation and malaria prevention, hygiene and sanitation micro-projects, and mosquito net distribution. This multi-year programme currently is programmed to end in September 2012. The Canadian Red Cross and the Haitian National Red Cross Society, in coordination with the International Federation and other PNS, will continue to develop response programming initiatives.

The **American Red Cross** has reached 5,000 direct beneficiaries in its work on malaria prevention and community-based health in north-eastern Haiti. Since its onset, 5,282 long lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs) have been distributed to pregnant women and children under the age of 5 in 5 communes in Haiti. A new system recently was established in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in order to identify newly pregnant women through prenatal care visits to two health centres. As a result, 213 newly pregnant women were identified and received LLINs.

The American Red Cross-supported Youth HIV and AIDS prevention programme, Together We Can (TWC) has reached 70,000 people in Haiti. This longstanding programme, now culminating more than 6

years of activities, aims to reach youth between 10 and 24 years old with HIV and AIDS prevention messages. These messages are transmitted via an adapted curriculum, peer-to-peer outreach, educative entertainment and the mass media. Since its initiation in 2003, 1,603 youth have been trained as peer educators, over one million youth have been reached with interpersonal outreach actions, and many more people have received messages through public events and mass media.

New opportunities for outreach have been designed to increase intensity and dosage, such as “follow-up interventions” which take place three to six, and nine to twelve months after curriculum-based sessions. Additionally, an enhanced peer-to-peer outreach methodology now facilitates the sharing of key prevention messages and self-efficacy building activities with the same groups of peers on multiple occasions. Free condom distribution has begun in most sites where appropriate.

The **French Red Cross**, through a DIPECHO-funded project and additional follow-up project, has supported the HNRCS in the strengthening of local disaster preparedness and response structures in the communes of Saint Marc, Verrette, La Chapelle, Dessalines, Petite Rivière, Grand Saline and Desdunes (Arbonite department). Actions included the establishment of operational disaster local committees and the provision of response equipment, training of managerial staff in 48 schools on disaster preparedness, a radio awareness-raising campaign, micro-projects and provision of disaster mitigation toolkits. These combined actions have reached approximately 6,074 direct beneficiaries and 555,773 indirect beneficiaries, as well as strengthening the capacity of the HNRCS branch in Saint Marc.

Moreover, the French Red Cross continues working on the water facility project which aims to provide safe drinking water in a healthy environment through the improvement of water facilities and management and hygiene promotion. The project, implemented in the Anse-Rouge commune in the Arbonite department, has reached 4,400 direct beneficiaries and 20,000 indirect beneficiaries. To date the project’s principle achievement has been the rehabilitation of the water network and public drinking fountains, hygiene awareness at schools and water fountains, as well as the establishment of water management committees.

In the same commune, the French Red Cross also carries out actions to improve hygiene and health conditions. Latrine construction and actions towards good hygiene practices with families and in schools have reached 9,000 direct beneficiaries and 15,000 indirect beneficiaries.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The Latin Caribbean Regional Representation Office is working towards the integration of National Society programmes at two distinctive levels. The first, based on geographical and language issues, aims to foment coordination between the National Societies of Cuba and the Dominican Republic. The second, based on strategic issues, has the objective of fostering cooperation between the Haitian National Red Cross Society and the Dominican Red Cross. Advocacy work has been carried out with partners and government so that each of the countries are allocated an equal percentage of the regional representation’s operational budget.

Looking ahead

Secretariat supported programmes in 2009-2010

As part in development of the country plans for the three National Societies, especially in the Dominican Red Cross, the continental programme coordinators in Disaster Risk Management, Health and Care, and Organizational Development met with the National Societies in Santo Domingo in July 2009. Over a period of three days, the region’s National Societies worked together with the continental programme coordinators and the Regional Representation for the Latin Caribbean to plan the next two years. This exercise helped to foment coordinated planning and attain more realistic plans.

The Movement partners in Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic have acknowledged the need for direct support to the National Societies in these three countries. However the low-level of funding

provided for the secretariat office in Santo Domingo makes this situation quite unstable; it is currently difficult to project the level of support which will be available for the next planning round. Haiti still requires special support. A decision has been made to maintain a minimum secretariat presence after the phase out of the emergency teams in Haiti. The secretariat's permanent in-country presence will facilitate its work with the National Society of Haiti to strengthen its organizational development skills.

The high-level of devastation and the enormous affectation following the 12 January 2010 earthquake, measuring 7.7, dramatically have changed the panorama of the Haitian National Red Cross Society and the country in general. A large-scale emergency operation is underway and the Regional Representation for the Latin Caribbean continues to provide constant support to the National Society. Several Partner National Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation currently support the HNRCS in their efforts to respond to the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable people. Additional support has been provided to the Dominican Red Cross, which is reinforcing relief efforts. The Regional Representative worked with the HNRCS President to coordinate with state institutions and international humanitarian actors in Port-au-Prince.

Due to the disaster's considerable magnitude, the Regional Representation has centred its actions on this emergency operation. During 2010, the Regional Representation will continue providing support and assistance as needed.

How we work	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. • Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies. • Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability. • Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.
Contact information	
<p>For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Regional Representation for the Latin Caribbean: Alexandre Claudon de Vernisy, Regional Representative for the Latin Caribbean, Santo Domingo - Dominican Republic; email: alex.claudon@ifrc.org; phone: (1 809) 334 4545. • In the Americas Zone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Xavier Castellanos, Head of Zone; email: xavier.castellanos@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 380 0250; and fax: (507) 317 1304. - Zuleyka Maynard, Resource Mobilization Officer; email: zuleyka.maynard@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 380 0250; and fax: (507) 317 1304. 	

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA49002 - Latin Caribbean region

Annual Report 2009

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Appeal	MAA49002
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	249,290	1,711,240	80,478	0	0	2,041,008
B. Opening Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Income						
Cash contributions						
American Red Cross		3,915				3,915
DFID Partnership grant	116,887					116,887
ECHO		50,528				50,528
European Commission, Europe Aid		1,029,684				1,029,684
Japanese Red Cross	87,790		15,290			103,080
Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)	18,634					18,634
Norwegian Red Cross		7,777				7,777
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)	25,417	63,457				88,874
Other	12,743					12,743
Spanish Red Cross			70,073			70,073
C1. Cash contributions	261,470	1,155,360	85,363			1,502,193
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
ECHO		8,709				8,709
European Commission, Europe Aid		222,121				222,121
Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)	18,598					18,598
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	18,598	230,830				249,429
Income reserved for future periods						
ECHO		-1,122				-1,122
European Commission, Europe Aid		-32,546				-32,546
C3. Income reserved for future periods		-33,668				-33,668
Other Income						
Services		974				974
C6. Other Income		974				974
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	280,069	1,353,496	85,363	0	0	1,718,928
D. Total Funding = B + C	280,069	1,353,496	85,363	0	0	1,718,928
Appeal Coverage	112%	79%	106%	#DIV/0	#DIV/0	84%

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0
C. Income	280,069	1,353,496	85,363	0	0	1,718,928
E. Expenditure	-219,098	-1,347,077	-47,850		68	-1,613,958
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	60,971	6,419	37,513	0	68	104,970

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA49002 - Latin Caribbean region

Annual Report 2009

Selected Parameters	
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Appeal	MAA49002
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)		249,290	1,711,240	80,478	0	0	2,041,008	
Supplies								
Construction Materials		452					452	-452
Clothing & textiles	30,353	2,322					2,322	28,031
Food	17,400							17,400
Utensils & Tools	12,375	13,978					13,978	-1,603
Other Supplies & Services	10,760	12,155					12,155	-1,395
Total Supplies	70,888	28,907					28,907	41,981
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Land & Buildings		856					856	-856
Computers & Telecom	4,600							4,600
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	4,600	856					856	3,744
Transport & Storage								
Storage	15,300	9,903					9,903	5,397
Distribution & Monitoring		1,005					1,005	-1,005
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,827	4,697	603	1,048		122	6,470	-4,643
Total Transport & Storage	17,127	15,604	603	1,048		122	17,377	-250
Personnel								
International Staff	48,131	42,616	24,555	2,275		224	69,670	-21,539
National Staff	18,429	2,003		28			2,032	16,397
National Society Staff	71,014	28,385	4,331	134			32,850	38,164
Consultants	10,970	11,954		415		380	12,749	-1,779
Total Personnel	148,544	84,958	28,886	2,852		604	117,300	31,244
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	103,091	18,324	3,275	7,930		55	29,584	73,507
Total Workshops & Training	103,091	18,324	3,275	7,930		55	29,584	73,507
General Expenditure								
Travel	21,862	5,853	856	11,353		1,111	19,173	2,689
Information & Public Relation	11,006	866	3,654				4,520	6,486
Office Costs	38,626	2,127	2,328	122		595	5,173	33,453
Communications	23,229	7,482				289	7,771	15,458
Professional Fees	11,000	1,614					1,614	9,386
Financial Charges	352	7,109	-27,503	-4,402		-2,840	-27,636	27,988
Other General Expenses	360	133	75	-24			184	176
Total General Expenditure	106,436	25,185	-20,590	7,048		-845	10,799	95,636
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies	1,447,952		65,139				65,139	1,382,813
Cash Transfers Others			1,192,162				1,192,162	-1,192,162
Total Contributions & Transfers	1,447,952		1,257,301				1,257,301	190,651
Programme Support								
Program Support	132,665	14,606	10,775	3,116		-4	28,492	104,174
Total Programme Support	132,665	14,606	10,775	3,116		-4	28,492	104,174
Services								
Services & Recoveries	6,705	7,336		14			7,350	-646
Total Services	6,705	7,336		14			7,350	-646
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions	3,000	23,322	66,827	25,842			115,991	-112,991
Total Operational Provisions	3,000	23,322	66,827	25,842			115,991	-112,991
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	2,041,008	219,098	1,347,077	47,850		-68	1,613,958	427,050
VARIANCE (C - D)		30,192	364,162	32,628		68	427,050	