

Mid-Year report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Asia Pacific

Appeal No. MAA50001

31 August 2011

This report covers the period 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2011.



Japanese Red Cross Society staff and volunteers responded to the earthquake and subsequent tsunami within hours and continue to provide relief and health and care to affected communities. Photo: Toshiharu Kato/Japanese Red Cross Society.

In brief

Summary:

The first half of 2011 saw major disaster events occurring in several countries including Australia, Bangladesh, China, Japan, Myanmar, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Vanuatu. Many societies across the zone continue to maintain a high level of programming in several new disaster response operations and continued comprehensive post-disaster recovery activities, while others have started reviewing their development activities in line with IFRC's newly adopted Strategy 2020.

Collectively the work of the Asia Pacific national societies, assists millions of people each year. While the most visible part of this work is the numerous and extensive disaster response related activities under emergency appeals, equally important are the countless longer-term risk reduction, public health, and humanitarian programmes that are implemented on an ongoing basis by national society volunteers and staff working at community level across the entire zone.

To support national societies in this endeavour, the Asia Pacific zone team continues to promote and facilitate the development of strong Asia Pacific national societies with quality disaster response/recovery and development programmes addressing priority humanitarian needs in their countries.

Financial situation: The total 2011 budget was revised from CHF 3.46 million to CHF 3.94 million, of which CHF 3.37 million (85 per cent) is covered during the reporting period. The budget was revised upwards to reflect the increase in additional delegates based in the Asia Pacific zone office and supported by partner national societies. Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 1.74 million (44 per cent) of the revised budget.

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

The Asia Pacific zone office provides support to the 37 national societies, four Federation secretariat regional offices and 15 country offices in the Asia Pacific region, to help strengthen their capacity to deliver more extensive and effective humanitarian services to vulnerable groups.

Our partners: Within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, there is close cooperation with many partner national societies and with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supporting national societies throughout the Asia Pacific region. In addition, there are partnerships with many external organizations at all levels (community, national and regional levels), community-based, national and international organizations, UN, and other developmental agencies.

The zone office would like to especially thank the following partner national societies which have contributed this year to the Asia Pacific zone appeal: American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross/Australian government, British Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Hong Kong branch of the Red Cross Society of China, Irish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross/Swedish government; the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre/Netherlands government, USAID and the DFID partnership grant.

Context

Asia and the Pacific continued to experience economic growth, or at least stability, despite the slow pace of economic recovery in other parts of the world. This is due in large part to internal growth of both China and India. The capacities of states, national societies and of many communities have likewise been strengthened across the zone.

Unfortunately however, despite the significant economic development, the levels of threat and vulnerability remain significant, with the pressure of a rapidly growing population forcing an increasing number of vulnerable people to live in expanding urban centres and marginal areas exposed to natural disasters.

In addition, the flip side of the economic boom over recent years has been the increasing disparity, between and within countries, and among various communities, which has led to significant political and social instability in some parts of Asia Pacific.

With some of the lowest lying countries in the world such as the Maldives, Pacific Island nations and parts of Bangladesh, the Asia Pacific zone is already amongst the hardest hit by climate change and the increasing scale and number of hydro-meteorological disasters and impending sea level rise will seriously challenge the capacities of national societies in the coming years.

Regular monitoring of these trends, and consequent adaptation of our approaches, will be required for responsive support to the national societies.

A number of countries also continue to suffer from armed conflicts due to ethnic, ideological and/or religious differences. In Afghanistan alone, there have been more than three decades of conflict with no short term resolution evident. In Southeast Asia, tension remains over the disputed borders of Thailand and Cambodia. Unfortunately, discrimination, intolerance, exclusion, and violence continue to form part of the lives of many of the vulnerable communities across the zone.

In Pakistan in January, the six month commemoration of the Pakistan Monsoon Flash Floods marked the beginning of the recovery phase of this extensive, ongoing operation. By the end of June, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society with the support of its partners and donors had reached at least 1.6 million people (230,000 families) across the five most flood-affected provinces.



IFRC continues to support Pakistan Red Crescent Society in its response to the monsoon flash floods which occurred in 2010. A PRCS woman doctor examines a pregnant woman at the mother and child health centre operating in Mehr, Sindh.
Photo: Olivier Matthys/IFRC

By far the most dramatic event in the first half of 2011 was the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami which occurred on 11 March. The magnitude 9.0 earthquake, at a depth of 24 km had its epicentre off Japan's northeast (Pacific) coast and generated a devastating tsunami estimated to reach a height 38 m. The consequences of the earthquake and tsunami, in terms of deaths, injuries, economic and environmental damage are still being calculated. As of 23 June, the number of confirmed dead was 15,482 and 7,427 were missing or unaccounted for. 75,215 persons displaced by the disaster remained in evacuation centres and other temporary housing within the three worst affected prefectures.

The devastation was further exacerbated since reactors within the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant were severely damaged by the earthquake and tsunami, with consequent radiation leaks. The government quickly created a 20 kilometre radius exclusion zone around the plant, from which all residents were evacuated.

Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) responded immediately and their extensive operations are continuing. Global financial response from the Red Cross Red Crescent national societies and other donors in support of JRCS was unprecedented and the National Society was also assisted by IFRC regional and zone office expertise in establishing mechanisms to handle the incoming support.

One new Emergency Appeal was launched in January in Sri Lanka, and DREF operations were carried out in Vanuatu, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management Unit

Programme purpose

Asia Pacific national societies will provide timely assistance, and build resilience amongst communities to prepare for and recover from disasters.

The Asia Pacific disaster management programme during the reporting period has provided support to national societies working with and through regional and country offices for the implementation of various activities across organizational and disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and disaster response and recovery. Asia Pacific National Societies were supported in sharing their experiences in disaster risk reduction at global events internally and externally to the Red Cross Red Crescent. This was done to aid the future direction and approaches of supporting holistic risk reduction and building of safety and resilience.

The beginning of 2011 saw major disaster events occurring in several developed countries. Widespread flooding in Australia in December 2010 and January 2011 caused the highest damages in the country since 1981. While there were only 16 deaths overall due to the level of preparedness, the event caused USD 5.1 billion in economic damages. The 6.3 magnitude earthquake that hit Christchurch in February was one of the worst disasters in New Zealand history, with the death of 181 people and NZD 15–16 billion in economic damage. The Tohoku earthquake and tsunami which struck Japan in March caused over 28,000 deaths, which is the highest earthquake mortality in Japan since 1923, and economic losses of USD 305.6 billion.

The disaster management unit (DMU) as part of the IFRC global DM team has provided surge capacity to the Middle East and North Africa zone through the deployment of an operations coordinator and to the community preparedness and risk reduction department in Geneva with the deployment of the zone DM and disaster risk reduction (DRR) delegate.

Programme component 1: Disaster Management Planning

Outcome: National societies' mechanisms for the analysis of disaster risk and delivery of disaster management assistance are strengthened.

Key activities:

- Analyze the results of the (well-prepared national society) WPNS Phase III identifying common trends and areas for capacity development against the Asia Pacific and global DM strategies.
- Support the regional and country offices in their assistance to the development of holistic DM-related policies or strategic plans and baseline assessments in four national societies.
- Support the regional and country offices in their assistance to the contingency/disaster response (national societies, government, IASC) planning processes in six national societies through the implementation of the standardized contingency planning training module.

- Contribute and facilitate Asia Pacific national society inputs into the review process of the global DM Policy and Principles and Rules for Disaster Relief.
- Raise awareness of revised Red Cross Red Crescent global and zone DM policies, strategies (including S2020) as well as disaster response tools and international DM standards.
- Monitor progress of national society achievements against the Asia Pacific DM Strategy and IFRC global DM strategies.
- Raise awareness and understanding of the global cluster system, inter-agency standing committee (IASC) contingency planning in four countries.
- Build on and expand awareness and understanding within IFRC senior management, national societies' technical, management and governance representatives of the global cluster system and inter-agency standing committee (IASC).
- Advocate for and adoption of the IDRL guidelines with national societies and their governments.

Achievements

There was further building on the work undertaken in 2010 around developing the contingency planning training package (supported by American Red Cross) with a number of national societies including DPRK, Indonesia, Philippines and Sri Lanka. The lessons from these processes have helped informed the final update of both the training package and planned update of the contingency planning guideline. Further to these events the DMU has provided guidance to contingency planning processes in Bangladesh, Fiji, Kiribati and Pakistan, and are supporting ongoing processes in Cambodia, Mongolia and Viet Nam. Support for inter-agency contingency planning processes has also been provided to the DPRK, Pacific, Nepal and Thailand.

Across Asia Pacific, 32 National Societies have completed the third phase of the WPNS process. The completion of the surveys provides valuable information from which to analyze the most appropriate support to National Societies in taking forward their DM programming.

Following the request at the 2nd Asia Pacific DM meeting in May 2010, the DMU has commissioned (with support from Australian Red Cross/AusAID and Japanese Red Cross Society) a review of disaster response capacities in Asia and Pacific. The purpose of the evaluation is to analyze the disaster response capacities across Asia Pacific zone from which priority actions will be identified to support National Societies to further develop their disaster reduction capacities. The independent review will be finalized in August.

The Asia Pacific zone held the annual planning and technical meetings in April. The DM meeting brought together disaster management practitioners from IFRC country, regional and zone offices, ICRC and several partner national societies. The discussions focused on enhancing the understanding, consistency and cooperation of Red Cross Red Crescent support to National Societies. The DMU shelter team finalized its shelter programme plan 2011-2014 which outlines the objectives of raising awareness and capacities of Red Cross Red Crescent in the area of shelter interventions in Asia Pacific.

In cooperation with the IDRL programme the DMU has supported the Malaysian Red Crescent in working with the Islamic University of Malaysia to review the syllabus and the curriculum of the "Diploma on Humanitarian Affairs". In addition the DMU assisted with a request from the Government of Bhutan to provide inputs to the Bhutan's draft DM Bill and to review the report prepared in-country by UNDP. The first feedback has been provided and the IFRC is waiting to receive the first revised bill in order to provide more suggestions.

Programme component 2: Organizational Preparedness
<p>Outcome: National society capacity to develop and maintain skilled human resources, financial and material capacity, and effective systems and procedures for disaster management are supported.</p> <p>Key activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate pre-disaster response meetings in six countries and support follow up actions in four countries to promote cooperation through key agreements such as memoranda of understanding, preparedness to receive international assistance and standard operating procedures. - Support regional and country offices in their assistance to national societies for developing capacity and defining roles in national early warning systems, climate monitoring and wider National Disaster Response Preparedness Mechanisms (NDRPM). - Support the development of shelter capacity within national societies through the facilitation of general shelter training; the development of guidelines for cross-sector approaches to enhance holistic shelter programming; and the development of a training video on the use of the IFRC shelter kit to accompany

the booklet developed in 2009.

- Lead the zone task force for regional disaster response teams (RDRT) and provide support and guidance for standard tools, training, induction courses with technical focus (i.e. water and sanitation, shelter, health, IT/telecommunications etc.), cross regional activities and overall integration into the global response system.
- Review data analysis processes and tools that support the analysis of assessment information for developing effective response and recovery plans of action.
- Development of guidance for national societies and IFRC offices in the engagement with civil-military bodies across the zone.
- Manage phase two of the zone wide disaster management capacity database, in collaboration with the zone organizational development and other pertinent units, with national societies and secretariat offices.
- Support the identification and development of disaster management staff to increase the effectiveness of disaster response and recovery surge capacity.

Achievements

During the reporting period emphasis was placed on supporting preparedness for disaster response at the national level. This work focused on pre-disaster meetings where events and follow up was undertaken in Bangladesh, China, DPRK, Viet Nam. Further pre-disaster meetings are planned or are in discussion for Indonesia, Cambodia, Pakistan, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.

The Asia Pacific DMU lead supported the facilitation of a number of capacity building activities including a DM induction training for Hong Kong Red Cross staff and volunteers, regional disasters response team (RDRT) Induction, shelter (supported by American Red Cross) and refresher courses (supported by Australian Red Cross/AusAID), a basic health care emergency response unit (BHC ERU) training for the Japanese Red Cross Society and a technology and telecommunications (IT&T ERU) training for the Finnish Red Cross.

The Asia Pacific DMU also supported the coordination training for the emergency shelter cluster which was delivered in the United Kingdom. This support involved a restructure of the training methodology, review and revision of previous training materials, the creation of new sessions and co-facilitating the training course. One operations coordinator also assisted as a participant of the training.

Consultation on issues related to civil military relations in Asia Pacific was undertaken by the disaster management delegate and global focal point for civil protection/civil military issues from the Budapest zone office. The purpose of the mission was to consult with DM practitioners on current practices and the approaches. Opportunities were taken to engage with the South East Asia Regional Disaster Management Committee, which followed with visits to individual national societies and stakeholders in Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Practical engagement in the area of civil military relations included participation at the ART DIREx international exercise conducted in Indonesia. The Indonesia Red Cross was supported by RDRT members as part of the Red Cross contribution to the exercise and the IFRC representatives participated as observers to the desk top exercise in disaster response coordination.

The DMU further supported the Netherlands Red Cross with regard to the commencement of a project to review transitional shelters in Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines and Nepal. The project aims to identify standard designs in each country from which national societies can draw from with regards to their shelter programming.

A meeting of the Asia Pacific RDRT Task Force (supported by American Red Cross) was held to take stock of the current status of the RDRT tool and agree on a common approach across Asia Pacific for the facilitation of MoUs with National Societies; SoP's 'training performance appraisal' equipment standards; roster management and evaluation.

The beta version of the Resource Mapping System (RMS) was completed during the reporting period and has been accessible by the National Society reference group since March. The RMS is a web-based GIS system that complements the range of information systems provided by IFRC, by providing a single point of access to a) information of material and human resources the Movement has, and b) various datasets of vulnerability, hazard and demographic information on a combined map overlay supporting disaster preparedness planning and response operations. Building on the RMS system, it has been decided that a

DRR database comprising information from the tsunami DRR study will be implemented and integrated to RMS. This will further feed into the ISDR Asia Partnership's DRR Projects Portal.

The Asia Pacific DMU has also tendered for an Assessment Data Analysis Tool (ADAT) initiative which is envisaged to assist various National Societies with analyzing assessment data gathered after a sudden onset of emergency. The ADAT initiative has been developed in coordination with the Geneva Disaster Services Department and will be an ongoing process over the coming months.

Programme component 3: Community Preparedness

Outcome: Capacity of national societies to support community preparedness and mitigation and adaptation actions is strengthened and harmonized across Asia Pacific.

Key activities:

- Drawing on national society experiences, to support regional offices in enhancing understanding and inclusion of historical and future hazard data (i.e. influence of climate change) into their vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA), education and awareness, mitigation and adaptation actions.
- Look to adapt our experiences and tools to meet the needs of newly forming 'communities' such as urban populations and those which have arisen due to issues of migration and economic hardship.
- Guide the incorporation of cross-cutting issues, such as gender, into DRR programming.
- Support regional and country offices through the provision of technical inputs, harmonization and linkages in the development and dissemination of guidelines, tools and manuals for application across Asia Pacific.

Achievements

The 2011 IFRC Global Community Safety and Resilience Forum was held in Syria with the participation of 70 national societies (HNSs and PNSs) and IFRC staff from Geneva secretariat, five zones, few regional and country delegations. The overall objective of the forum was to strengthen approaches and commitment to improved safety and resilience programming. Sixteen participants from Asia Pacific representing Red Cross Red Crescent societies of India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Timor Leste, Cambodia, Indonesia, China, Cook Island and IFRC Zone, regional and country delegations participated in the forum (with support from Australian Red Cross/AusAID). All the participants agreed on the importance of having an integrated planning and implementation approach for Red Cross Red Crescent activities in the future to achieve community safety and resilience.

The tsunami DRR study completed field work and presented a draft report on resilient characteristics, key determinants of a successful CBDRR project and the lessons learnt. A final sharing and feedback workshop will be held at the end of July to discuss the way forward and explore the ways to use research findings for Red Cross Red Crescent programming and institutionalization.

A number of concept papers and proposals on focus issues including the use of climate information, beneficiary communication and urban community resilience have been prepared through consultation with Red Cross Red Crescent partners and it is planned to put them into action in the coming period.

Programme component 4: Disaster response

Outcome: National societies' response operations effectively mitigate the loss of life and impact on livelihoods from disasters and health emergencies through the leadership and rapid provision of disaster management services.

Key activities:

- Maintain a 24/7 disaster monitoring system linked to national societies and IFRC offices.
- Ensure effective information management for all disaster response operations undertaken by national societies including the use of the disaster management information system (DMIS), information bulletins, disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) bulletins, emergency appeals, and operations updates.
- Provide disaster management support and human resource surge capacity to initiate emergency assessments, support emerging operations, bridge gaps in operation staffing and support ongoing operations technical sector needs.
- Coordinate the facilitation of international assistance and provide technical guidance for national societies disaster response and early recovery operations.
- Support national societies engagement with national coordination and cluster mechanisms and provide operational support to IASC emergency shelter cluster coordination teams.
- Conduct an evaluation of the Asia Pacific response and recover capacity and identifying priority areas for development.

- Facilitate the annual update of the Asia Pacific disaster response and early recovery standard operating procedures; and raise awareness and alignment through their dissemination.
- Monitor the quality of the disaster response across the zone in line with the Principles and Rules for Disaster Relief, Code of Conduct for the Red Cross Red Crescent and NGOs in disaster relief, Sphere and other international standards.
- Jointly with communications, develop common guidance with regard to enhancing beneficiary engagement, communication and feedback mechanisms in times of disaster.
- Coordinate and ensure evaluations and reviews are conducted for all internationally supported disaster response operations undertaken by Asia Pacific national societies.

Achievements

Within the first six months of 2011, Asia Pacific National Societies have responded to 49 disaster or crisis events. In support of these actions National Societies have utilized their own resources, and accessed support from in-country Red Cross Red Crescent partners and the IFRC through four DREF disbursements and one emergency appeal.

The DMU has used the first part of 2011 to review the first year experiences from the implementation of the Asia Pacific Standard Operating Procedures. The review conducted by an independent consultant has provided valuable information on how to improve the readability, clarity and awareness of the IFRC internal procedures which support the way assistance is provided to National Societies in times of disaster or crisis. The Asia Pacific Standard Operating Procedures will be revised based on the recommendations in the second half of 2011.

Programme component 5: Recovery

Outcome: National Society and IFRC representatives will have increased capacity to effectively plan for and participate in recovery processes which support disaster affected communities.

Key activities:

- Provide recovery expertise to support national societies during disasters in developing emergency appeals, needs assessments, planning, identifying key roles, implementing, reviewing and evaluating recovery processes.
- Develop tools that support national societies to achieve a stronger understanding of their possible roles in recovery processes.
- Disseminate the outcomes from the Asia Pacific Food Security study and guidance on including the analysis into recovery programming.
- Support the development of national society and IFRC recovery capacity through the development of staff and volunteer skills development in the areas of cash transfer modalities and integrated recovery planning.
- Maximize integration of recovery programmes and ability to coordinate recovery activities within the Movement through cross sector planning with OD, DRR, health, water and sanitation, psychosocial support, and shelter.
- Further develop linkages, relationships and potential partnerships for mutual support in recovery processes. Support the prior establishment of key relationships and partnerships between national societies and relevant partner national societies, key government departments, private sector, and non-government organizations etc.
- Maintain close technical coordination and collaboration with the Secretariat disaster response and early recovery unit.

Achievements

During the reporting period substantive momentum around the recovery portfolio was developed through support to disaster response operations in Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Furthermore a review of SEA national societies' recovery programming generated a number of concrete steps to build capacity in the region. These included revising and expanding the Relief-2-Recovery training to include recovery assessments and integration of sector components, expanding cash training and sharing of experience and support to some national societies in preparing national recovery plans. It was also agreed to establish a network of recovery practitioners/focal points within national societies to build capacity and lead recovery planning and coordination. These initiatives will be led by the Asia Pacific zone in liaison with GVA.

Also within the zone, much interest has been shown regarding cash programming and developing greater awareness, understanding and skills in supporting this effective methodology. A Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) global learning event in Bangkok highlighted the increasing use of cash and vouchers, and expectations from donors that use of cash may become a routine consideration in disaster response. A cash

training for DM staff from the zone was held with support from the IFRC/CaLP partnership and focused on advanced cash and voucher programme development and delivery.

The DMU also hosted a meeting of recovery focal points attended by the national societies of America, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Sweden and the Norwegian Red Cross. Discussions focused on strategic recovery priorities including poor disaster recovery planning, post disaster recovery assessments and human resourcing. Other recovery activities included participation in the annual IRP event which focused on pre-disaster recovery planning and support to Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) to develop a recovery toolkit.

Programme component 6: Coordination and Advocacy

Outcome: Active engagement with Movement and external partners for the exchange and adoption of best practices, peer learning, awareness and advocacy actions to benefit from our shared values, experiences and capacities.

Key activities:

- Development and dissemination, together with the regional offices, five new technical guides and best practice outlines through narrative and visual media.
- Translate global shelter practical booklets and guidelines into six national languages.
- Promote greater integration of health, volunteering and OD into regional disaster management programming and emergency operations.
- Strategic support for Asia Pacific regional networks and promotion of cross regional network lessons learnt and best practices.
- Provide guidance and support to national societies in their engagement with national platforms and promote their role through the ISDR Asia Partnership.
- Facilitate two emergency shelter cluster meetings for Asia Pacific.
- Engage in joint ISDR missions for supporting the scaling up of DRR and UNDAC disaster preparedness missions for enhancing national response preparedness.
- Facilitate a civil military relations reference group meeting for key national society, IFRC and ICRC representatives, to review guidelines and develop common approaches for military cooperation and representation.
- Identify and develop joint programme activities with ICRC including mechanisms for greater cooperation in disaster response and preparedness.
- Continue the development of relationships with regional governmental bodies, UN agencies, International NGOs and development banks in the area of DM.

Achievements

During the reporting period the Pacific and Southeast Asia held their annual regional DM network meetings. These events provided important opportunities to discuss the outcomes of the Asia Pacific DM meeting and Amman Conference in 2010 as well as to set the direction and focus for the regions in the coming period.

Participation at the third session of DRR Global Platform saw over 60 people from Red Cross Red Crescent engage in the conference which included 20 different national societies, of which eight representatives were from national societies of Nepal and Indonesia, IFRC Nepal delegation and the zone office (through support of Australian Red Cross/AusAID). Key areas for Red Cross Red Crescent considerations which were highlighted during the discussions are: to include DRR into the work plans of all National Societies, vulnerability tracking, develop risk transfer (micro-insurance, micro credit etc.) capacity in DRR work, demonstrate how Red Cross Red Crescent investments in local action have paid off, ensure that a sustainable trust fund is established, enhance "South-South" cooperation and advocate on working with schools and children/youth.

The Asia Pacific DMU represented the IFRC and presented on our DRR/CCA approach at the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2011 meeting in Colombo. The focus of the conference was to further follow up on the progress made towards the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and identify the common tasks in the Asian region.

The Asia Pacific DMU has also maintained regular attendance at the Regional IASC Network and ISDR Asia Partnership meetings during the reporting period.

International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles

Programme purpose

The International Federation Red Cross Red Crescent's (IFRC) International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) Programme seeks to reduce human vulnerability by promoting legal preparedness for disasters.

The IDRL programme aims to improve legal preparedness for disasters and the effective application of existing international legal tools in disaster management. Through a field-focused structure, it acts in three main areas:

- cooperating with national societies to provide technical assistance to governments on implementing the guidelines, through country-level technical assistance projects and the development of a detailed handbook and model legislation
- building the capacity of national societies, IFRC staff and humanitarian partners to promote and use the guidelines and related international instruments through the finalization of an advocacy manual, training workshops and other materials; and
- disseminating and promoting the IDRL guidelines and related instruments with governments, humanitarian partners, and inter-governmental organizations as well as fostering new collaborative research on domestic legislative issues in disaster management designed to strengthen the Movement's approach to disaster risk reduction in applicable law.

Programme component 1: Technical assistance to governments

Outcome: Policy-makers understand and make use of the IDRL guidelines to strengthen legal and policy frameworks for disaster response.

Moving into the third year of the adoption of the IDRL guidelines at the 30th International Conference in 2007, there has been some encouraging interest from several countries to undertake intensive reviews of domestic legislation and policies.

Achievements

In Nepal, an IDRL study report prepared by the Nepal Red Cross Society has been finalized and is undergoing formatting and printing. Discussions are underway for a possible follow-up project to develop guidelines on international assistance.

In Vanuatu, the technical assistance project has been the subject of a thorough detailed technical review, editing and layout. The final report has been formally presented to the internal affairs ministry and other partners.

The IDRL programme commenced a project in Pakistan to review the operation of its legal framework for international disaster response against the IDRL guidelines in 2010. A draft report has now been prepared by a disaster management expert. Due to a change in the government's disaster management leadership, the project recently had to establish a renewed commitment from the government. Drawing upon contacts and expertise from the national society, the project is now on track, with a comprehensive report expected to be completed in the coming months.

In the Philippines, an IDRL workshop was held by the national society with the government to discuss the way forward to improve their new *Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act's Implementing Rules and Regulations* according to the IDRL guidelines.

In the Cook Islands, following an IDRL forum in December 2010, discussions are underway with the Cook Islands Red Cross Society and Emergency Management Cook Islands regarding a technical assistance project with view to start implementation in the second half of 2011.

In Cambodia, a legal consultant was hired to analyze the new Disaster Management Law and provide comments to the government before the final process of the adoption of the law. Additionally, Bhutan, Afghanistan and Vietnam have also requested technical input and comments from the IDRL programme on their draft disaster management legislation.

The IDRL programme has provided technical input to SOPAC's ongoing support to government Disaster Risk Management review processes in Tuvalu and Kiribati. This input has taken the form of reviewing early drafts of new arrangements, suggesting amendments related to National Societies' preparedness to request,

receive and facilitate foreign disaster assistance, as well as clarifying the role of the respective National Societies in the arrangements.

Programme component 2: Training and capacity building

Outcome: Interested National Societies and humanitarian partners are empowered to use legal tools and advocate for strengthened legal frameworks for disaster response

Achievements

In addition to ongoing bilateral briefings for development partners and National Societies, the IDRL programme contributed to an advocacy and communications session at the Pacific Disaster Management Officers meeting in May.

The newly established Asia Pacific Legal Network, made up of legal advisors from National Societies in the Asia Pacific, agreed to form an IDRL working group during its one-day meeting in Kuala Lumpur in June.

This year, the IDRL programme includes a collaboration with the humanitarian diplomacy unit to run a regional training workshop with the South Asia National Societies in October focusing on IDRL as humanitarian diplomacy 'in action'. Targeted national societies and government participants will then be able to establish networks to further humanitarian diplomacy and IDRL work in their own countries.

Following a request from the Malaysia Red Crescent Society to build a group of experts in disaster management and IDRL, a one-day training workshop is being planned for the second half of 2011. This is also seen as a positive opportunity to train potential trainers on IDRL for the new IDRL module in the Executive Diploma course in Humanitarian Affairs offered by the International Islamic University of Malaysia. Curricula for the module have been completed and training is being planned for later this year.

Presentation on IDRL and briefing to guests, new staff and delegates are also part of the ongoing activities of the IDRL programme.

Programme component 3: Dissemination, advocacy and research

Outcome: The IDRL guidelines are well known, partnerships are developed and the knowledge base of the Movement on legal issues in disaster response is deepened.

Achievements

In June, IDRL was one of the main topics discussed during the third Commonwealth Red Cross and Red Crescent International Humanitarian Law Conference held in Kuala Lumpur. Participants reviewed progress and challenges to the implementation of the IDRL guidelines in the Commonwealth and reviewed the disaster law issues planned for decision at the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in November 2011. The outcome statement noted the importance of Commonwealth countries working together with National Societies in the area of IDRL.

Partner National Societies that supported the response to the Japan earthquake and tsunami concluded that there is great need to promote IDRL and develop agreements in improving legal preconditions for international cooperation in disasters. The participants of the meeting held on the 9th of May also recognized the challenges presented by the disaster and committed to support Japanese Red Cross Society in their future response to disasters.

The IDRL programme rendered ongoing support towards regional organization's efforts. In its advocacy and dissemination work, the IDRL programme focuses on cooperation with regional organizations and networks, including ASEAN, the OCHA-facilitated Pacific Humanitarian Team and the SOPAC-facilitated Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network. Cooperation with SOPAC – now a division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community – involved an exchange of letters in January with SOPAC committing itself to present IDRL amongst its members and to provide advocacy support at national level. For ASEAN, discussion continued in establishing a checklist on domestic legislation readiness against the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response. AADMER.

IDRL guidelines was also referred to as an instrumental source for the development of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) General Guidelines for Disaster Relief and the ARF Strategic Guidance for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief during the ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx) in Manado in March.

The IDRL programme is also involved in the working group on mainstreaming disaster risk management of the Pacific DRM Partnership network. Through regular meetings, the group will allow closer coordination and collaboration of development partners in this area. As a member of this group, the IFRC focuses primarily on legislative preparedness for international response.

The IDRL programme has supported the initial work and analysis behind a broader humanitarian diplomacy approach of the Pacific National Societies.

Constraints or Challenges

Securing sustained National Society and Government commitment to the implementation of the IDRL technical assistance projects remains a major challenge to the IDRL programme in the Asia Pacific. The introduction of a new concept and programme continues to be a challenge, particularly in the Pacific, where small national societies and government agencies are already stretched by competing priorities. Even national societies that have proactively shown an interest in national-level advocacy and training have found themselves giving priority to other issues.

In an effort to address this challenge, the IDRL programme is presenting a technical assistance model that requires less time from National Societies, and focuses more on enhanced collaboration with regional and international organizations. The IDRL programme will also work to promote increased awareness and understanding of the purpose and importance of the IDRL guidelines.

It also needs to be taken into account that legal advocacy, such as IDRL, requires sufficient understanding of the subject matter, as well as certain skills, understanding and analysis to engage in strategic higher-level advocacy and partnerships. Legal advocacy also requires a long-term commitment as changes to legal and regulatory frameworks do not happen quickly.

To ensure a longer-term approach to the IDRL programme, there will be a focus on increased National Society involvement and leadership in broader national-level advocacy. The IDRL programme has already provided input into the drafting of a general humanitarian diplomacy approach for the Pacific National Societies and our continued work in this area will inform the IDRL programme's approach to its future work across the Asia Pacific.

The IDRL programme is also expanding its work and taking two new issues to the International Conference in November: strengthening domestic legislation for disaster risk reduction at the community level and addressing regulatory barriers related to meeting the emergency and transitional shelter needs of people affected by disasters. This means that the IDRL unit will need to invest in increasing its own understanding and expertise in these areas.

Health and care

Programme purpose
National societies in Asia Pacific have strengthened capacity to deliver effective and sustainable health and social care programmes that respond to national public health priorities and social needs.

A new water and sanitation delegate for Asia Pacific Zone, seconded by the Spanish Red Cross joined the health and care unit in January 2011 to provide technical support primarily to South East Asian national societies. A water and sanitation consultant was also employed on short term basis to assist with the trainings and receipt of the Netherlands Red Cross donated water and sanitation kit 5s to India, Nepal and Afghanistan. He will continue to provide support primarily to Vietnam and South Asia for the next six months as a WatSan delegate. A water and sanitation staff on loan from New Zealand Red Cross will also join in July for six months to support the development and collection of WatSan software materials.

Programme component 1: Emergency Health
Outcome: Increased capacity of national societies to prepare for and respond to disasters, disease outbreaks and other health emergencies.

Achievements

During the reporting period and under this programme component, technical advice and support were given to the health components of new IFRC-supported emergency operations: floods response in Sri Lanka, cyclone in Vanuatu, earthquake, tsunami and radiation threat in Japan, earthquake in Myanmar and dengue outbreak in the Maldives. It also continued to provide support to ongoing operations: floods recovery in Pakistan, typhoons in the Philippines and Vietnam, volcanic eruption, earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia,

and support to internally-displaced populations in Sri Lanka. Support and monitoring visits were made to Japan and Pakistan.

A number of emergency health and related trainings took place during the period. In February, the Japanese Red Cross inducted 25 medical staff from its network of hospitals on the basic health care emergency response unit (BHC ERU). A regional emergency health training in April was participated by 20 South Asian national society staff and volunteers whose task is to carry out emergency health preparedness and response activities at headquarters and district levels. Graduates from Nepal Red Cross are currently conducting trainings, focusing on diseases with epidemic potential, for staff and volunteers of district branches in the mid-western region. Pakistan Red Crescent also conducted two emergency health trainings in June for around 50 headquarters and provincial branch staff.

Following the master training on the epidemic control for volunteers (ECV) in December 2010, the Afghan Red Crescent already completed a regional training attended by 56 volunteers; similar trainings are scheduled to be conducted in the eastern and northern regions within the year. As part of the ongoing 2010 floods recovery programme, the Pakistan Red Crescent undertook an ECV national training in June for 22 health staff from seven provincial branches using the toolkit which has been translated in Sindhi and Urdu.

Through the initiative of the South Asia health unit, all other South Asian national societies will have trained ECV practitioners within the year to lead the rollout of the toolkit to district branches. The Cambodian Red Cross, with support from the Danish Red Cross, has also scheduled a national ECV training in August to further develop its district staff and volunteers in disease outbreak preparedness and response.

With the exception of the ECV training in Afghanistan, the above trainings received technical advice and guidance from the programme. The latter is also in the thick of preparations of a zonal emergency health training which will take place in the Philippines in July.

The programme led an evaluation of the Nepal Red Cross's nine-month 'potential diarrhoea outbreak' operations, and presented findings in a zonal water and sanitation coordination meeting. It also participated in recent reviews on the Asia Pacific disaster response capacity, Asia Pacific disaster management standard operating procedures, and Asia Pacific zone office disaster preparedness and response protocol. It also contributed to the consultation process on the proposed IFRC logistics strategy, and the review of the ECV toolkit rollout and utilization.

Nepal Red Cross was also supported in the preparation of a proposal for an 18-month emergency health project submitted to the German international cooperation agency, as well as the South Asia health unit for a two-year ECV roll-out project with support from the Canadian Red Cross.

Programme component 2: Community based health and first aid (CBHFA)
--

Outcome: Asia Pacific national societies have well trained volunteers and programmes adapted to the most pressing health needs in local communities and contributing to national health strategy.
--

Achievements

Community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) approach is increasingly being used as a vehicle to address the most pressing health priorities in communities. New areas being addressed through CBHFA are NCDs (see below) and elderly/social care (China Red Cross). Integration between health and WatSan/DRR/OD is happening at the country level whenever it is seen to benefit the programmes, e.g. in China, East-Timor, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Tuvalu.

During the period, the Red Cross Red Crescent societies of Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar and Philippines undertook master/national trainings to create or increase its pool of facilitators who will lead the application of the approach in their programmes. The Samoan Red Cross is restarting community health programming, calling it community-based self-resilience, after being disrupted by the 2009 earthquake and tsunami.

The IFRC assessment field school encourages technical fields to do joint assessments in community based programmes. During the reporting period the field school was conducted in Timor Leste in April. The Timor Leste Red Cross (CVTL) is expanding the implementation of the approach to new districts using joint health and disaster management toolbox.

Non-communicable diseases (NCD: heart disease, cancers, diabetes and chronic obstructive lung disease) are a rising concern in Asia Pacific, where they contribute 45 to 80 per cent of mortality. Some national societies are involved in NCD projects: Sri Lanka Red Cross started a six-month pilot on NCDs in Colombo branch targeting risk factors, Bangladesh Red Crescent is strengthening diabetes and blood pressure related

services in health centres. Thai Red Cross has a health promoting programme to prevent obesity in school-aged groups.

First aid is practised in communities as well as commercially, the latter as an income generating activity. For example, Lao Red Cross hired a marketing consultant to support the national society in developing a business plan for the first aid courses as means of resource mobilization. The Maldivian Red Crescent, banking on its Emergency First Response Team, is working with national authorities to become the only first aid training body for the aviation industry in the country.

Nepal and Philippines Red Cross implemented polio and measles-rubella social mobilization campaigns respectively with the support of IFRC. Pakistan is experiencing an increase of polio cases after the floods and the national society is planning to take part in social mobilization of the National Immunization Day for polio in September.

The Global Decade of Action on Road Safety (2011-2020) was launched on May 11. Road safety (RS) is a rising concern in Asia Pacific, where annually, approximately half a million persons lose their lives on roads. Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) is hosted in IFRC globally and has representatives in all regions. National societies in Bangladesh, China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Mongolia and Nepal are already implementing road safety projects with various donors. Cambodia and Vietnam are tapping into Bloomberg Philanthropies' five-year funding on RS. India and China are also eligible for this substantial funding and China Red Cross is working on joining in 2012.

Psychosocial support projects are ongoing in China earthquake affected provinces, where new ways of addressing psychosocial stressor include, for example, working with the rural children whose parents have migrated to the cities in search of work ('Left behind children'). The emergency response teams on psychosocial support are also being developed. Mongolian Red Cross is investing in psychosocial support training in social care projects.

Climate change and dengue prevention are being addressed in Vietnam and Indonesian Red Cross societies with funding from Rockefeller foundation through the Climate Centre. Pacific regional health team and Fiji Red Cross are taking part in a pilot which addresses health adaptation to climate change.

Programme component 3 : HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB)

Outcome: Asia Pacific national societies scale up and implement their HIV and TB programmes in line with the IFRC's related policies and alliances.

Achievements

UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS in June set new targets for HIV/AIDS: zero new infections, zero HIV-related discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths. In Asia Pacific the focus in HIV should be in addressing the key vulnerable groups: sex workers (SW), men having sex with men (MSM) and intravenous drug users (IDU). To visualize these targets the zone communications and health units produced an advocacy multimedia on Thai Red Cross HIV programme. It will be launched in the [10th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific](#) (ICAAP) in August.

A mapping of national societies' involvement in harm reduction activities showed that only three countries (China, Cambodia, Philippines) are engaged in spite of intravenous drug use being the driving factor in the spread of HIV throughout Asia. The main obstacle is legal constraint.

Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria (GFATM) is increasingly funding the HIV, TB and malaria activities in the zone. Globally GFATM has expressed an interest to work directly with IFRC Secretariat. The risks and benefits of getting involved with this donor organization as principal or sub -recipient were mapped within Geneva and global health team. As a background work a mapping of involvement in GFATM was done. It showed that in Asia Pacific, 14 national societies are currently receiving funding from GFATM. In addition to this the national societies are also reporting to IFRC Global Alliance.

The only regional GFATM-funded programme is in Pacific in four national societies (Cook Island, Kiribati, Samoa and Micronesia), which have a strong focus on youth through high STI prevalence and club 25 and VNRBD activities.

Cook Islands Red Cross took a strong advocacy role in reducing stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS after the first individual was tested HIV positive and was facing deportation. IFRC assisted in collating key messages on the issue for the press.

World tuberculosis (TB) day was celebrated on 24 March. IFRC launched a global advocacy report "Towards

a Tuberculosis-free World” with case studies from China, India and Myanmar Red Cross.

Tuberculosis retreatment adherence support projects were reviewed in India and China Red Cross societies. Both showed good level of support (nutritional, psychosocial) for the beneficiaries and have potential to involve multi-drug-resistant TB patients once the national policies are ready to implement MDR-TB programmes.

Most national societies in the zone are involved in VNRBD activities. Philippines and Vietnam receive funds for VNRBD from Swiss Humanitarian Foundation’s five-year programme. Twelve national societies are dealing with transfusion; five of them are the only providers of blood in their countries (Japan, Australia, Thailand, Korea and Nepal). Global Advisory Panel (GAP) is supporting, especially Nepal, Indonesia and Vietnam in blood risk management and governance issues. The IFRC global blood position and blood policy are both pending and the lack of guidance in this area is becoming evident.

Programme component 4 : Water and Sanitation/hygiene promotion
Outcome 1: Asia Pacific national societies improve their mechanisms for deploying water and sanitation equipment in emergency response.
Outcome 2: Asia Pacific national societies improve their capacity to implement community-based water and sanitation/hygiene promotion programmes.
Outcome 3: Sharing adoption of best practice methodologies is achieved through peer national society support, regional and zonal exchange and engagement with all Movement components in Asia Pacific and external humanitarian organizations.
Outcome 4: Water and sanitation/hygiene promotion programmes conducted by the IFRC utilize approved project management tools

Achievements

Two Asia Pacific national societies responded to disasters during the reporting period utilizing their own water and sanitation trained staff, volunteers and emergency response equipment.¹ To continue to build the capacity of national societies in water and sanitation response, support was provided by the Asia Pacific zone to five water and sanitation emergency response trainings (Nepal, India, Cook Islands and China) as well as to five² priority national societies in improving their water and sanitation emergency response support systems, planning and local equipment adaptation.

Four water and sanitation kit 5s to the IFRC from Netherlands Red Cross (and NORIT water treatment company) were dispatched and donated to the Nepal Red Cross, Afghanistan Red Crescent and India Cross. Follow-up trainings were supported by Asia Pacific Zone using this equipment during which time the NORIT water treatment unit was also piloted for its suitability in emergency response. India Red Cross was supported to conduct a review of their water and sanitation emergency response equipment in order to organize and prepare the existing equipment for possible deployment during the monsoon season. Pakistan Red Crescent was also supported by Asia Pacific zone to hold a water and sanitation lessons learnt workshop from their 2010 monsoon flood response, which was the first of such meetings to be held. The recommendations from this workshop will be used to guide the PRCS National Disaster water and sanitation Response Team plan, future deployments as well as international support to PRCS in water and sanitation. A case study is under development to highlight the positive development of PRCS water and sanitation emergency response capacity.

The Asia Pacific zone has taken the lead in supporting national societies with water and sanitation emergency response trainings, and has also received strong support from partner National Societies with regards to providing facilitators, funding and other technical expertise.

The 4th RDRT water and sanitation specialized training that was postponed from the end of 2010 (due to the host society, Indonesia Red Cross staff being focused on disaster response) was held 2-10 April in Bandung and Indonesia, and facilitated by the Asia Pacific zone. Twenty six participants from 14 national societies attended the training. A review of RDRT water and sanitation progress to date was undertaken by the Asia Pacific zone in May, which determined that a total of 84 participants have been trained in RDRT water and sanitation specialized training, however 25 currently meet the criteria for deployment availability (30 per cent of those trained). The review recommended future RDRT water and sanitation specialized trainings include more participants from South Asia and East Asia and for water and sanitation specialized refresher trainings to be held in 2012, with a slightly revised curriculum.

¹ New Zealand RC, Red Cross Society of China

² India RC, Pakistan RC, Nepal RC, Vietnam RC, Red Cross Society of China

During the period, three national society staff and one water and sanitation delegate were supported to attend ERU trainings hosted by the Austrian Red Cross on MSM³ and water and sanitation M15. In addition to the RDRT water and sanitation specialized training, for the first time two trained RDRT water and sanitation members were deployed to support other national societies in a preparedness capacity, one to support the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) in reviewing their water and sanitation emergency response equipment and the other to support RCSC in training facilitation.

The translation of the IFRC Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage in emergencies (HWTS) manual into 12 Asia Pacific languages continues. To date four translations have been finalized in the reporting period and another five are in process. This manual will be used to strengthen the skills of national society staff and volunteers in household water treatment in emergencies.

The Asia Pacific Zone PHAST⁴ Master training was held in Hanoi 23-28 April, with support from the Japanese Red Cross Society. A total of 21 participants from PNS/IFRC and national societies attended the training. This training was the first of its kind in Asia Pacific and the recommendations from this will be used to guide future trainings in the zone. One of the participants at this training has been confirmed to join the Asia Pacific zone health and care team as a staff on loan from NZRC for six months from July and will use the skills developed at this training to provide follow up support to Bangladesh Red Crescent PHAST implementation as part of their CDI program. National-level PHAST trainings were also supported by Asia Pacific zone in Philippines Red Cross and the materials from both these trainings will be shared with movement partners and used to guide future PHAST trainings in the zone.

The 3rd Asia Pacific zone water and sanitation coordination meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur on 18-20 May, with support from Japanese Red Cross Society. Twenty-six participants from IFRC/PNS/ICRC/NS working in water and sanitation in Asia Pacific attended, as well as a representative from UNICEF for the first time to strengthen external collaboration in water and sanitation. The recommendations from this meeting will guide IFRC planning in water and sanitation for 2012-2013. This meeting will continue to be held annually given the interest from movement partners in the value of such a meeting.

Water and sanitation monitoring support visits were conducted by the Asia Pacific zone office to Timor Leste to assist with finalizing the drafting of water and sanitation guidelines. Support visits were also conducted during the reporting period to Pakistan Red Crescent, India Red Cross, Nepal Red Cross, Vietnam Red Cross, Thailand Red Cross, Philippines Red Cross and China Red Cross.

World Water Day was celebrated on the 25th March and support was given to national societies with their water and sanitation activity preparation as well as to promote their activities, particularly in Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Programme component 5: Coordination, partnerships and advocacy

Outcome: Asia Pacific national societies' health programmes are further improved through coordination, partnerships and advocacy actions with relevant regional partners.

Achievements

Strategic Operational Framework (SOF) for health 2011-15 was finalized in May using the global health team (Geneva, zone and regional/country health delegates). Communication happened largely virtually (e.g. SharePoint) and through teleconferences. SOF is intended to guide the global health team to support national societies.

SOF builds heavily on the new dimensions in S2020, namely in resilience, networking, research and behavioural change communication. The new areas in health like linking formal and informal healthcare, inequity in health, non-communicable diseases, urban health, and aging population have been addressed in SOF with separate working papers, which are meant to guide the national societies in their strategic planning. Some regions already drafted their own health strategies and the long term planning framework (LTPF) according to SOF. It has also contributed in structural changes and development of resiliency units in IFRC regional offices.

The annual technical and planning meeting for health were held in April and in Kuala Lumpur with 23 participants. This was the first year that partner national society representatives (six of them) participated for two days. Main outcomes: understanding of SOF in terms of longer term planning in health and shift towards

³ Mass Sanitation Module

⁴ Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation

resilience/community programming units in regional delegations. Discussions on integrated programming continued with other technical areas, especially with DM/DRR in the spirit set in the the 2011 IFRC Global Community Safety and Resilience Forum in Syria in March.

The Asia Pacific zone water and sanitation coordinator together with the senior water and sanitation officer from Geneva attended the ADB "Sanitation Dialogue" on the 23-25 May in Manila. A paper with recommendations has been submitted to the Asia Pacific zone director for opportunities to follow up on potential resourcing for the Global Water and Sanitation Initiative and particularly in strengthening the achieving sustainable sanitation targets in Asia Pacific zone..

The emergency health coordinator participated in a WHO-organized meeting on disaster recovery on the health sector in Kobe in May to document practices and lessons learned from the great East Japan earthquake and tsunami and put forward recommendations for Japan as it moves into the recovery phase, as well as the broader humanitarian health community. The latter will be done through the First Regional Health Cluster Forum for Humanitarian Emergencies which will take place in Kobe in August.

In addition to working with the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office, UNICEF Philippines, the SPRINT programme of the International Planned Parenthood Federation in connection with the upcoming zonal emergency health training in the Philippines, discussions are also ongoing to translate current linkage into programmes at country level.

The Emergency Health Coordinator continues to be engaged in influenza pandemic preparedness and has worked with partners to disseminate findings of the Humanitarian Pandemic Preparedness (H2P) programme review. These include the Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF) Network for Public Health which held an annual advisory committee meeting in February to finalize its plan of action for 2011, and a strategy development workshop for multi-sector pandemic preparedness in June; the latter included an officer from Indonesian Red Cross who was involved in the H2P programme. The coordinator also engaged with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) secretariat in which the H2P review findings were shared during the Regional Workshop on Multisectoral Pandemic and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response in Bangkok, and with UN System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC) for the UN System Workshop on Animal and Pandemic Influenza.

IFRC, through the East Asia health unit, was also represented in the WHO WPRO meeting on reviewing and strengthening pandemic influenza preparedness and response in March. Through the Southeast Asia health unit, IFRC participated in the UN System Workshop on Animal and Pandemic Influenza in Bangkok. Said unit also discussed H2P review findings with health managers of Southeast

Constraints or challenges

The demand for support to Asia Pacific national societies in water and sanitation emergency response development has increased exponentially and has been a challenge to maintain the support required with the two-person water and sanitation team. The IFRC will continue to lead the support to national societies in this area, however, increased technical and financial collaboration for this role from movement partners is essential.

Funding of the health positions especially in the regional level continues to be a challenge.

Organizational Development

Programme purpose
Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most pressing situations of vulnerability.

A significant milestone was reached in the IFRC's Governing Board meeting of April 2011 when the new "Framework and Principles for Building Strong National Societies" was adopted. Anticipating this new Framework, the Asia Pacific zone organizational development, volunteering and youth unit aligned its objectives to meeting the new targets for the zone set under the "flagship deliverables" of the National Society Knowledge Development (NSKD) department in the Secretariat in Geneva.

While this report continues to use the determined programme purpose, components and outcomes as set in the original 2011 plan, it does so by including under each relevant programme component the reporting on the new global targets.

The zone organizational development, volunteering and youth unit continues to benefit from the kind and strategic support from the Swedish, Australian and Japanese Red Cross Societies. It has also successfully mobilized country-level support from global funds in the form of Empress Shoken support, Urgent OD Intervention fund, and Digital Divide global fund to support the specific OD and capacity-building needs of selected societies as described in the report below.

a) Organizational development

Programme Component 1: Tailor-made organizational development and capacity building initiatives
Outcome: Organizational issues have been addressed in individual national societies through tailor-made organizational development and capacity building initiatives

Achievements:

The unit has participated in a more harmonized Movement approach to organizational development and volunteering recruitment by participating in organizational development delegate recruitment, selection, and induction processes for the branch development delegate in Pakistan, the regional Community Resilience Coordinator positions in the Pacific and South East Asia regional delegations, and a multi-country finance development delegate in the Solomon Islands respectively. The second meeting of zone wide organizational development practitioners from IFRC, partner national societies (PNS) and ICRC teams was convened in Kuala Lumpur in April to check and ensure common approaches in fundamental aspects of organizational development work, to pool and maximize shared resources (delegates, organizational development managers, national society practitioners, consultants), and share innovative/creative experiences and techniques. The outcomes of the meeting were agreed coherent future approaches to mapping and updating national society baselines and progress using the new global “Framework for Building Strong National Society” tools such as the Organizational Capacity Assessment Certification tool (OCAC), Digital Divide characteristics, Volunteering and Youth policies, national society databank, and the global Red Cross Red Crescent Learning Platform participation. Other key topics included discussions on agreed future directions including human resource development, resource mobilization, and communications capacity development.

With the strategic support of Swedish Red Cross, six national society case studies (from Nepal, Sri Lanka, East Timor, Mongolia, DPRK, Cambodia) reporting on organizational development processes resulting in strengthened services that have built resilient communities, have been completed and will be disseminated by end of July as one of the first NSKD global products from the “Learning and Knowledge Sharing Network”. Work has begun in supporting two other national societies in Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu to adopt resilience focused programming by introducing the agreed “New OD approach for national society development” with a harmonized Movement plan. Lao Red Cross Society has also taken the initiative to develop a harmonized Movement plan following the strong example shared from Afghan Red Crescent.

Four societies made applications to the Empress Shoken Fund in 2011 (Fiji, India, Nepal, Vanuatu) with Vanuatu Red Cross Society proving to be one of only three successful global awardees this year. Successful support was also given to Samoa Red Cross Society to be able to access the global IFRC “Urgent OD Intervention Fund” to address integrity issues in the society related to governance disputes.

Against the original target of 18 national society Strategic Plans to be aligned with Strategy 2020 (S2020) in 2011, 12 national societies completed new Strategic Plans in alignment with S2020 (Australia, Nepal, Pakistan, Cambodia, Vietnam, India, East Timor, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Mongolia, DPRK, and Solomon Islands) and 12 national societies expected to complete between July and December 2011 (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar, Laos, Philippines, Malaysia, New Zealand, Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu).

Support has been given to Samoa and Bangladesh national societies to address their internal issues in line with IFRC’s Integrity Policy. A third joint IFRC/ICRC mission was completed to Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) to assist in the next stages of the legal base revision process, with the Joint Mission Report being submitted to the Joint Statutes Commission in GVA and all Movement partners to enable coordinated support to BDRCS which was subsequently obtained at the planned partnership meeting held in May. The zone OD coordinator has also coordinated work with the IFRC’s global Compliance and Mediation Committee on the Samoa Red Cross integrity case which resulted in the successful application to IFRC NSKD global “Urgent OD Intervention Fund” to provide a senior national society development consultant to Samoa Red Cross to assist in immediate revision of legal status and conduct of AGM and orientation of new elected Governing Board. A harmonized Movement support plan is being negotiated in Samoa as well.

Other legal base development processes have been supported with ICRC in the Maldives. The latter society

has formally applied for recognition as a national society and a final Joint Statutes Commission Mission will visit Maldives to conduct a final assessment in October prior to an ICRC decision. Other legal base support and guidance has been given to Tonga, Tuvalu, Bhutan, Samoa, Kiribati, and Sri Lanka Red Cross societies respectively.

Work is in progress to agree on Finance Development support to targeted ten national societies in 2011 using the recommendations of the 2010 Asia Pacific Zone Finance Development Review to agree on clear outputs in strengthened systems. The zone OD coordinator and the Southeast and East Asia Finance Development delegates will convene a Finance Development Forum in Bangkok in September where the Finance Directors and Treasurers of at least 11 societies will be asked to customize the recommendations of the finance development review to their context to be able to set baselines and agree on next steps in capacity development work. The IFRC's new OCAC tool will also be used to agree and set finance management indicators and capacity building steps relevant to each indicator in order to agree on an appropriate strategic blend of human, technical and financial support to each society in its own context to achieve agreed deliverables. The overall goal of transition from working advance to cash transfer systems will be set as the short, medium or long term goal of finance development steps in each society and monitored against a baseline in keeping with the recommendations of the review.

Targeted Human Resource Development support has been mobilized to three national societies in 2011 through external consultancies and peer support mechanisms. The zone HR coordinator has supported specific HR capacity-building assessments and plans in Solomon Islands, Fiji Red Cross and has facilitated a medium-term peer practitioner support to Kiribati Red Cross, and the zone OD coordinator has fed into the development of a terms of reference for a management consultant/HR professional to offer Samoa Red Cross a strategic mix of HR and wider OD support once the integrity crisis is resolved.

To continue to develop learning and excellence in coaching and mentoring support mechanisms, a number of different initiatives are being tracked and monitored for successful characteristics to inform future practice. Of the two Secretary Generals who attended the global pilot Change Management course hosted by Kenya Red Cross in January 2011, one has opted for national and international peer mentoring support. Another very significant initiative is the Pacific societies' Governance Enhancement programme covered under section (iii) of this report below.

Coordination between the zone resource mobilization delegate and zone OD delegate has resulted in the successful appointment of the secretary general of the Philippines Red Cross as the new Chairperson of the Asia Pacific Fundraising Network (APFN), and the handing over of the Chair from New Zealand Red Cross. Planned activities for the second half of 2011 include a reformation of the Working Group Chairs, a Steering Group meeting to activate key deliverables expected from each thematic Working Group, and the overseeing of the Skillshare 2011 application process. It is hoped that the APFN will successfully coordinate the implementation, support, and follow up on resource mobilization capacity building plans in five national societies in 2011 which show measurable results.

Programme Components 2: Integration with health, disaster management and humanitarian values

Outcome: Increased integration of organizational development and capacity building aspects within health, humanitarian values and disaster management programmes

Achievements

In order to complete the concept of the planned "OD in Emergencies" and to see it mainstreamed into major relief and recovery operations through contingency planning and operational support in future major disasters, discussions with South Asia regional delegation (SARD) leading the research and development of a IFRC "OD and Volunteering in Emergencies Guideline", based on best practices in OD and volunteering in emergencies, have been advanced by a mission in June and July. Further technical cooperation between SARD and the Asia Pacific zone volunteering and OD delegates on SARD operational support on their Disaster Preparedness Disaster initiative was agreed on. The document is to be fully integrated with the "Volunteering in Emergency" Guideline (see section (iv) of this report for more details) and both are to be completed by end of 2011.

The above two documents will also have integrated the lessons learned and specific gendered aspects of all DM cycles captured in the earlier Asia Pacific Zone "Gender and DM" Guideline which is also to be turned into interactive tools for use in operational contexts in the second half of 2011. Once ready, these interactive tools and training modules are to be mainstreamed in all field assessment coordination team (FACT), emergency response unit (ERU), regional disaster response team (RDRT) and national disaster response team (NDRT) training for national society and wider Movement counterparts involved in such teams.

Both the above guidelines will be actively piloted and then mainstreamed in the systematic country-level contingency planning exercises with zone DMU's coordination. The *Volunteering in Emergencies: Practical Guidelines for National Societies* has been drafted and is being consulted upon and will be field tested in all zones after consolidating and incorporating the comments and suggestions. A final version will be published and disseminated at the IFRC's General Assembly in November 2011 for use as a global guideline.

In the mean time other activities have been conducted to ensure integrated approaches with both disaster management and health teams at country, regional and zonal level in terms of:

- The Asia Pacific zone volunteering and OD delegates participating as resource persons in the South East Asia RDRT Induction Course in Singapore on May 23-27. Two modules on volunteering in emergencies and organizational disaster preparedness were conducted as part of the course.
- Two members of the Asia Pacific zone OD, volunteering and youth team participated as resource persons in Asia Pacific Zone WATSAN coordination meeting in Kuala Lumpur on May 18-20. A mapping exercise of WATSAN-related organizational capacity of national societies was conducted and a harmonized approach to OD was shared with the participants.

Work has begun to initiate more focussed discussions with regional health teams in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific on shared guidelines for strengthened integrated capacity building with zone health teams in emergency and development contexts in three societies per year. The global CBHFA toolkit provides an entry point for further discussions and it is hoped to complete the first phase of drafting appropriate guidance for capacity building and OD linkages in health programmes by early 2012.

It has not been possible to initiate the planned reviews of auxiliary status in six national societies with the zone IDRL coordinator and ICRC due to the pressures of time, However, the global NSKD "flagship deliverable" targets on this, set 2012 as the initial point for initiating such reviews so this activity will be planned for 2012 accordingly.

Work has continued with the monitoring and evaluation team in the zone PMER team to plan PMER support in developing operational plans with monitoring and evaluation, and quality and accountability targets in three national societies per year. Missions have already been conducted to Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Cambodia in 2011 and with 12 societies having completed it strategic plans, and with 12 more to potentially complete by the end of 2011, more such support work is being planned.

Out of the eight targeted societies being chosen to strengthen "digital divide" opportunities through upgraded connectivity and use of web-based applications with the Asia Pacific zone ISD Unit manager, eight societies have been prioritized with the zone ISD team to benefit from the global Digital Divide project. The targets are designed to assist societies to 'cross' the digital divide line of capacity by November 2011 with a scaled-up human, technical and financial package of support. Each of these sources of funds is tied to strict criteria which expects each society to show the measurable numbers of vulnerable people benefiting from new services once the OD interventions are completed.

Discussions have begun with the zone humanitarian diplomacy coordinator to develop appropriate case studies, training and capacity building modules to be piloted in three national societies linked to the concept of organizational characteristics for "readiness" for each selected society to undertake HD work as an OD support issue. Further work on this will ensue in the second half of 2011.

Initial actions with the zone communications unit and zone HD coordinator have been taken to develop communications development training modules to improve National Society visibility and positioning within and outside the Movement. The initiative aims to improve humanitarian advocacy and increase resource mobilisation in four national societies per year. National society-focused capacity building toolkits and approaches have been agreed on and Asia Pacific societies' experiences have been translated into global communications capacity-building plans led by the Secretariat's communications capacity building coordinator. Five Asia Pacific societies are being prioritized for the rolling out of the capacity building exercise by the end of 2011.

Programme Components 3: Information sharing and knowledge management
Outcome: Sharing of lessons learned, best practices, and skilled national society practitioners providing peer national society support in organizational development and capacity building across all Movement components in Asia Pacific

Achievements

Active steps have been taken to better manage and coordinate a zone-wide database of skilled national society peer practitioners that provide mutual capacity-building support between societies and at the same time monitor this human resource pool to identify more diverse candidates for international deployments within IFRC. The Asia Pacific zone OD, volunteering and youth team have fed Asia Pacific societies' experiences and learning into the development of a global Community of Practitioners pool (including new mentoring and coaching initiatives) led by the learning and OD department in GVA.

Support to national societies has resulted in nine societies participating in the first two phases of the global national society databank (Fiji, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand, Cook Islands, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Philippines), with nine others being approached in July to participate in the third phase (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Maldives, Malaysia, Australia, Thailand and Japan). Assistance has been carefully coordinated with the zone ISD coordinator and selections made on the basis of appropriate participation of some societies in the Digital Divide project to ensure the appropriate IT and connectivity platforms are in place to enable databank uploading capacities.

To meet the target of enabling eight societies to learn and feed into the self and peer accreditation processes globally as well as to meet the NSKD global "flagship deliverables" in rolling out the "Framework for Building Strong National Societies";

- Seven societies participated in the global Secretariat consultation on the new "Framework for Building Strong National Societies" (Bangladesh, China, Cook Islands, India, Malaysia, Nepal, and Fiji)
- Five societies (China, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, and Cook Islands) participated in the pilot global C-BAR self and peer accreditation process which will now transform into the new National Society organizational capacity assessment certification (OCAC) system
- One Asia Pacific National Society (Philippines) participated on invitation in the final global OCAC consultation process in June in Budapest.

In addition, support was provided to the Pacific "Knowing Governance Knowing Leadership" governance and leadership development initiative as part of a wider learning approach to mentoring and possible senior coaching programmes. The five societies who are members of the Pacific National Society Governance Enhancement Working group (Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands, New Zealand) have produced new governance self and peer assessment and accreditation tools, support and coaching systems. A successful pilot was conducted in Cook Islands in April 2011, the results and learning from which are to be fed into the global Secretariat "Organizational Capacity Assessment Certification" by end June 2011 for global learning.

In order to strengthen the ability of Asia Pacific National Societies, numerous steps have been undertaken such as allowing their OD and CB practitioners to access peer practitioner support, online download-ready OD, volunteering and CB tools developed by Asia Pacific societies made available, and access made to lists of resource persons and external accredited consultants who can support National Societies in their OD plans. Also, other initiatives were taken and completed in a globally coherent way with NSKD counterparts in Geneva as follows:

- Asia Pacific zone office hosted a visit from Singapore Polytechnic who expressed interest to be part of the Red Cross Red Crescent global Learning and Knowledge Sharing Network and a possible member of the Red Cross Red Crescent Academic Network if their "Diploma in International Humanitarian Management" is accepted by the IFRC's accreditation panel in due course.
- The zone OD coordinator provided orientation into the first of a planned series of global NSKD "Learning and Knowledge Sharing Network" OD case studies taking place in Vietnam Red Cross to capture local as well as global lessons on how VNRC has transitioned itself in the changing environment in the country and how that change has been internally managed and externally supported by the partners, including IFRC and members present in-country.
- The visit of the zone OD coordinator to GVA in June agreed on contributions to global targets on Community of Practitioners; Global OD, Youth and Volunteering Newsletter; and four documents being contributed to the "Learning and Knowledge Sharing Network" by end of October 2011 (Volunteering in Emergencies, OD in Emergencies, Finance development Impact Review, and Strategic Planning Guidelines).
- Asia Pacific OD coordinator initiated, with Secretariat Planning and Evaluation Department and Asia Pacific zone PMER Unit, the drafting of global Strategic Planning Guidelines for National Societies. Initial scoping visit to GVA and Asia Pacific Zone with a consultant resulted in consultations with Secretariat senior leadership and Department Heads and ICRC in GVA and zone. Inception report completed and

first phase of drafting initiated with involvement of all other zones. Project is expected to be completed by 31st August 2011.

- The revision of the 2007 updated Asia Pacific OD and Volunteering CD Rom was completed with 293 new resource materials received from Asia Pacific national societies to be distributed to all National Societies Movement counterparts during the rest of 2011 to enhance awareness of best practice tools in 14 areas of OD and CB work.
- Two follow up meetings took place with two academic institutions assessed in Singapore for possible inclusion in the IFRC's global Learning and Knowledge Sharing Network. The first involved the Asia Pacific Zone Logistics Unit being invited to participate in a global forum by the Logistics Institute of National University of Singapore. The second resulted in Singapore Polytechnic senior faculty Directors and staff visiting Asia Pacific Zone Office to scope out potential use of IFRC materials and resources to strengthen their forthcoming three-year full Diploma course in "International Humanitarian Management", and a request to have it accredited by the IFRC global accreditation panel as part of the global Learning Platform menu of courses when it is ready.

As a result of providing support to the Asia Pacific Youth Network to enable implementation of their action plan following the 2010 Youth Summit, which is to promote active youth governance and leadership networks and proposals for stronger youth involvement in services and Red Cross Red Crescent, five National Societies have already completed or initiated Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change training events (PMI, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, PNG, and Cook Islands). This is to implement the Ajloun Commitments signed at the end of the Asia Pacific Youth Summit in November 2010, and four societies have signed Pledge 129 (Australia, Japan, Philippines, and Nepal) with active requests being spearheaded by the APYN to all other societies to sign up.

b) Volunteering development

The volunteering development unit at the zone office continue to aim to be the focal point of which national societies and Movement partners within the Asia Pacific region can refer to for any guidance and technical support in relation to volunteering development. It continues to provide specific country-based assistance to National Societies on the following dimensions of volunteering development: (1) Legal base; (2) systems and procedures; (3) Celebration of volunteerism; and, (4) volunteering in emergencies. It also continues to provide support to Partner National Societies (PNSs), IFRC and ICRC delegations to further strengthen their work with volunteers and approaches in managing volunteers.

In April, the unit received a boost with the recruitment of a new Asia Pacific volunteering and organizational development delegate, just in time for the zone-wide planning held at the end of the month.

Programme Component 1: Tailor-made initiatives to support National Societies in their volunteering development and management efforts
Outcome: National societies have access to technical support (including peer-to-peer support) and resources on volunteering development, and, are receiving consistent strategic support in volunteering developmental work.

Achievements

Supporting national societies in their initiative to develop or update their volunteering policy and the accompanying implementation guideline is high in the agenda of the unit. This support will be more evident in the second half of the year when national societies are through with their planning and are more clear on what type of support they actually need.

Upon the request of Cambodian Red Cross (CRC), a support mission was conducted on 24 – 26 May with the objective of facilitating exercises with CRC stakeholders to (1) review and revise the CRC *Volunteer Policy* and its accompanying *Implementation Guideline* and (2) to develop and disseminate an action plan in relation to the implementation of the volunteering policy and implementation guideline. The National Society wants to leverage its culture of volunteering by having Red Cross volunteers in its villages. For this national plan to be sustained, a serious look on how current project volunteers are remunerated must be done. The volunteering development delegate will accompany the National Society in this policy development and in the journey towards implementation at the branch level.

Nepal Red Cross has started the updating of their volunteer, policy, guideline, systems and procedures. Technical support is provided from the zone by inputting on the draft documents sent by the National Society and offering further support if needed.

Insuring volunteers through the global insurance system for volunteers remains a challenge. While there is increasing awareness of this facility and its benefits, a majority of national societies in the zone has not yet insured their volunteers. Currently, volunteers in Nepal (1,290), Sri Lanka (821), Indonesia (5,130), Myanmar (100), Timor Leste (1,015), and Vanuatu (50) were insured, or a total of 8,406 volunteers for the entire Asia Pacific zone.

National Societies in the zone either have volunteer databases in various level of complexity and use (e.g. stand alone programs, Microsoft Excel base, Microsoft Word base, manual) or are interested in developing a database. The volunteering unit actively engages with the IT focal points in the regions and volunteering and OD focal points in country, facilitating a discussion on database appropriateness and usefulness in informing programmes for services in the community. The Google group of NSS OD practitioners is currently having an intensive discussion relating to volunteer databases.

Programme Component 2: Integration with health, disaster management and humanitarian values to better manage volunteering in conflicts, emergencies and disasters.

Outcome: Integration of strengthened and sustainable volunteering practices within health, principles and values, and disaster management programmes in conflicts, emergencies and disasters, and development scenarios.

The *Volunteering in Emergencies: Practical Guidelines for National Societies* has been drafted and will be field tested after consolidating and incorporating the comments and suggestions. The development process is led by the Asia Pacific Volunteering unit in collaboration with the volunteering unit in Geneva and the volunteering focal points in the Americas. The South Asia Regional Delegation is significantly inputting into the document. In terms of preparing National Societies for Volunteering in Emergencies, a workshop programme is currently being prepared and the National Society in South Asia that will implement it will have an accompaniment support after the workshop. This will increase the likelihood of a significant volunteering development in the National Society.

In the recently concluded Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) Induction Course held in May in Singapore, a session on volunteering in emergencies was made, facilitated by the volunteering development delegate. A complementing session on Organizational Preparedness for Disasters was delivered by the OD delegate.

The volunteering unit has actively engaged with the DM coordinators who are in the process of supporting National Societies in their contingency planning or during pre-emergency meetings. This is to ensure that volunteering issues during disasters and emergencies will be addressed in the contingency plans during the pre-emergency meetings. One of the major issues that national societies still have to address in their contingency plans is that of spontaneous volunteers who offer their support during disasters. The recent pre-emergency meetings and contingency planning meetings in Pakistan, Indonesia and the Philippines have already raised these volunteering issues after the interaction with the DM facilitators. In the 3rd quarter, the volunteering unit intends to actively participate in the review of contingency plans, raise volunteering issues and likewise offer appropriate support.

Volunteering in health programmes will also be given more attention in the following months, especially in community-based health programme of which branches of National Societies may find easier to sustain. This will have more active engagements by the second half of the year.

Programme Component 3: Information sharing and knowledge management to enhance coordinated support to National Society volunteering development and promoting volunteerism.
--

Outcome: Volunteering development knowledge management and enhanced volunteerism environment.
--

The mentoring and coaching programme as a managed peer support mechanism has been developed. Consultation as to its implementation processes is ongoing. The project will be implemented by the 4th quarter of the year where by that time, a small number of resource persons are already assessed and accredited into the *Pool of Experts or Resource Persons*. This managed mentoring coaching support will not replace, but complement, the ongoing informal support network amongst National Societies.

Through the volunteering unit, National Society development practitioners (e.g. programme coordinators, country representatives, delegates, ICRC cooperation delegates, secretaries general) are connected through a free platform in Google called *Red Cross Red Crescent OD Practitioners' Group*. The platform has recently debated volunteering issues such as the challenges in developing useful volunteering databases, sharing of volunteering policies and procedures, the challenging issue of remunerating volunteers beyond

the real definition of volunteers and how it may impact on the future volunteer mobilization capacities of National Societies. In the second half of the year, other IT platforms that are low-cost and user friendly will be actively explored to facilitate a richer interaction and active exchange of inspiring practices amongst the Asia Pacific National Societies.

Early in the year, the Asia Pacific zone presence at IAVE international volunteering conference in Singapore led to successful networking with external volunteering institutions.

National Societies and Regional Delegations were supported in their efforts to determine the type of activities that could be done to celebrate volunteerism.

Programme Component 4: Global volunteering
Outcome: Global volunteering development

In January, the IFRC launched the global campaign: *“Find the volunteer inside you”*. The aim of this campaign is to help national societies solidify their leadership position as the best place to volunteer and make a humanitarian contribution. The volunteering unit has provided support to delegations and National Societies who wanted to further strengthen their work with volunteers and approaches in managing volunteers,

With the aim of showcasing inspiring volunteering stories from our national societies during the Global Volunteering Conference later this year, national societies were actively encouraged to submit concept proposals with the volunteering unit offering technical support if needed. With this, a total of 12 proposals were received representing 34 per cent of the zone (Bangladesh Red Crescent, Australia, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, Thai, and Vanuatu Red Cross).

The volunteer development unit likewise supported the global volunteering policy revision by encouraging Asia Pacific National Societies to review and share their insights and input into the proposed revised volunteering policy.

Constraints or challenges:

The previous constraints in terms of available personnel to support a wider set of expected support roles at country level across the zone have been to a large extent addressed by the extremely generous deployment of an Asia Pacific Zone Volunteering and OD delegate supported by the Swedish Red Cross and an Asia Pacific Zone OD delegate supported by the Japanese Red Cross.

It is still proving challenging to mobilize donor support to resource key OD positions at country and regional level (such as in South East Asia and South East Asia regional delegations respectively).

Principles and Values

Programme purpose
Global Agenda goal 4: Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Programme component 1: Promotion of tolerance and respect for diversity
Outcome 1: Enhancing understanding and sharing of best practices.
Outcome 2: Capacity-building in principles and values/gender of national society staff and volunteers.
Outcome 3: Raising public awareness with a view to changing behaviour in society.
Outcome 4: Advocacy and international representation.

Achievements

Many societies across the Asia Pacific zone have strengthened their approach to addressing social inclusion in their new Strategic Plans after absorbing the new Strategic Aim 3 of Strategy 2020. The use of the best practices DVD on “Gender and Diversity” has been a contributory factor. All five DVDs deliberately included the cross-cutting themes of gender, social inclusion, anti-discrimination, and branch and volunteer development as holistic concepts. The DVDs have enjoyed an increased audience via IFRC’s YouTube site as of which “Gender and Diversity” garnered 415 hits. New Strategic plans from societies as diverse as Nepal and Vietnam to name but two include many new references and objectives to social inclusion in their programme and institutional development processes.

Programme component 2: Integration of humanitarian values and gender into operational disaster management and health programming

Outcome : Further development of gender into programming.
--

Achievements

There have been a number of significant activities following the forum on gender and disaster management co-hosted between Nepal Red Cross, the zone disaster management and OD units, and the secretariat's principles and values department from Geneva in Kathmandu in December 2009. The new "Gender and Disaster Management" Guidelines created after the forum have been followed in the Pakistan floods operation where a fresh approach to gender disaggregated data enabled specifically targeted assistance to reach women and children.

Gender focal points who had attended this Asia Pacific Zone Forum were also invited to a global workshop to translate the S2020 into concrete gender activities by each Strategic Aim and each Enabling Action. Six working groups identified the key issues under each Strategic Aim and Enabling Action, and the results of each working group were then agreed on in plenary sessions to prioritize the ideas. This will build the basis of the IFRC's gender strategy. From the Asia Pacific zone, participants came from Pakistan, Australia, Nepal, Philippines, and also included a IFRC Programme Coordinator from Sri Lanka, who has since been appointed as the Asia Pacific Zone Humanitarian Diplomacy Coordinator.

Discussions have begun with the Secretariat's principles and values department on the development of training modules to mainstream the "Gender and Disaster Management Guidelines" as operational practices in all steps of the disaster management cycle (ie response, recovery and preparedness).

Programme component 3: Anti-discrimination and violence prevention/reduction programmes
--

Outcome : Mapping of national society programmes which target discrimination, marginalization or exclusion of communities who fall outside the traditional health and disaster management programme areas.

Achievements

The issues of "Children in Conflict" were also addressed in a comprehensive paper from Pakistan Red Crescent Society in the Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Amman, leading to commitments to improve this area of work in many national societies in conflict-sensitive environments.

The youth Red Cross and Red Crescent members who have organized their new Asia Pacific Youth Network (APYN) led by young people conducted their successful Joint Asia Pacific and Middle East Youth Summit with the Middle East Youth network in October.

In particular the Ajloun Commitments call on all Red Cross Red Crescent youth to undertake work that results in them:

- being the change that communities need through living the seven fundamental principles and humanitarian values
- empowering agents of change through the development of skills which promote harmony and positive attitudes within communities
- strengthening advocacy and action of the needs of vulnerable people through influencing decision makers and opinion formers and deepen public support for common humanitarian values
- promoting social inclusion, intercultural dialogue and social mobilization through open communication among youth and communities
- promoting non-discrimination and take actions to increase respect for different cultures, beliefs and ethnicity.

The APYN has proposed a youth-led Secretariat of one young person based in the Asia Pacific zone office to facilitate all APYN activities and the implementation of the Ajloun Commitments from 2011 onwards.

Several national societies have already activated further training at national and local levels for their youth in the "Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change" (YABC) Federation methodology such as Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

Programme component 4: Advocacy and international representation

Outcome: Conduct humanitarian advocacy and communications work to influence decision makers to take into consideration the interests of the vulnerable in conjunction with the humanitarian diplomacy new goals and strategies in alignment with Strategy 2020 in 2010 onwards.

Achievements

At the global gender strategy development workshop held in October, the zone humanitarian diplomacy coordinator participated in the humanitarian diplomacy and gender working group to identify where the strategic opportunities for advocating on gender issues were likely to be. The group proposed that particular advocacy around sexual and gender-based violence was required in line with a resolution 101 signed at the last International Conference and that a draft proposal should be submitted for raising further awareness on the need for more follow up from national societies on resolution 101 and to be included in the next International Conference.

The humanitarian diplomacy coordinator is working closely with the Pakistan delegation on developing an online report focusing on beneficiary communication and gender. There are also plans in highlighting the need for stronger participatory approaches to be employed in all sectors of humanitarian programming where equal opportunities but different needs are recognized more clearly.

A humanitarian diplomacy staff on loan is being identified to develop a draft Humanitarian Diplomacy (HD) Strategy for the Pacific, to look at how humanitarian diplomacy can be supported more effectively in the Pacific region. The strategy document will be presented at the Pacific Leaders Partnership Meeting in May 2011. A job description for a Humanitarian Diplomacy delegate in Pakistan has also been developed and the recruitment process is underway. This humanitarian diplomacy delegate will be expected to work with the Pakistan head of delegation to ensure greater access for the IFRC, to strengthen the national societies' effectiveness to advocate on behalf of the vulnerable and increase proactive engagement of the Red Cross Red Crescent with policy makers, the donor community, other humanitarian agencies, as well as enhancing recognition and influence of the IFRC and the Pakistan Red Cross Society in the country.

The regional and country Delegation Programme Updates contain a very wide range of local level advocacy and international representation work and achievements. To supplement this with both access to zone-wide advocacy and representational platforms, and to complement local strategies with capacity-building support to national societies who wish to have such training, the Asia Pacific zone has successfully appointed a new humanitarian diplomacy coordinator who will lead this work in the future. The key objectives of the 2011 work plan will therefore be:

- Humanitarian Diplomacy Capacity building: Develop national-level humanitarian diplomacy plan for selected countries interested in strengthening their humanitarian diplomacy readiness. This plan will include the delivery of tailored and context-specific training and tools to support the national societies in achieving the main advocacy goals identified in the plan.
- Multi-lateral Diplomacy-Governments, International and Regional Organizations: Support national societies and through the secretariat, develop and further enhance already existing cooperation with a number of regional institutions and regionally established international organizations particularly the Asian Development Bank, ASEAN, SAARC, Pacific Island Forum (PIF) and UNESCAP.
- Partnership strengthening with Academia, foundations, private sector and civil society. Support national societies to expand cooperation and partnership with other opinion leaders in the region and identify common denominators to persuade decision makers to act in the interests of vulnerable people.
- Focus zonal advocacy around thematic issue to include: Gender and migration and areas identified by the National Society relevant to them. Supporting National Societies to building up a body of knowledge and expertise in the zone in these areas and assisting them to advocate through campaigns, quiet diplomacy, and advocacy reports. The zone office will have a lead role in coordinating humanitarian diplomacy related-issues in Asia Pacific, supporting national society and country teams through the regional offices in close consultation with the humanitarian diplomacy division in Geneva, New York and Brussels.

Communications, Advocacy and Knowledge Sharing

Programme purpose

To influence changes in humanitarian policies and practices through improved engagement and cooperation with media and externally focused associations, and to enhance Red Cross and Red Crescent programme impact and effectiveness through expanded national society domestic visibility and increased global IFRC brand identity.

In order to deliver outcomes expected from Strategy 2020 and the global communications and advocacy strategy, the Kuala Lumpur-based communications programme will pursue the priorities and actions identified in this plan for the Asia Pacific zone, building on communications and knowledge sharing activities carried out in previous years.

The unit will be collaborative in terms of including both input and supportive actions by fellow department heads, communications colleagues in regional and country offices, and communications leaders in national societies. Activities will be focused on enhancing the image and resource mobilization capabilities of the organization as a whole. They will also be focused on building skills and capacities through hands-on learning opportunities and peer-based mentoring.

Programme component 1 : Enhanced emergency communications capability

Outcome: National societies and the IFRC are the leaders in providing accurate, timely information to domestic and international press during major disasters.

Achievements:

In January the zone communications unit worked closely to develop a communications plan to mark the six-month anniversary of the floods in Pakistan. Media uptake was encouraging, with the IFRC communications delegate giving extended interviews to BBC and CNN and other international media outlets including Reuters, AFP and the Guardian. January also saw severe flooding in Sri Lanka where the IFRC launched an emergency appeal. Extensive media relations activities were carried out in support of the appeal and IFRC representatives on the ground gave numerous interviews to local and international media over a two-week period. In February, the zone communications unit responded to further disasters – Cyclone Yasi, which struck northern Australia, and the Christchurch earthquake in New Zealand. The zone provided relevant information to National Society communicators, linked international media with Red Cross spokespeople on the ground and highlighted the response of the Red Cross in both contexts through a series of web stories on ifrc.org.

On 11 March an earthquake and tsunami struck the North East of Japan, causing devastation along a 600 km swathe of coastline. The zone communications manager was deployed to Japan to support the Japanese Red Cross communications department and to coordinate the IFRC's international media relations. In the four days following the earthquake, more than 2,000 news reports mentioned the Japanese Red Cross and/or the IFRC. This coverage included CNN, BBC, AP, Reuters, the Guardian, The New York Times, The Independent and The International Herald Tribune. TV interviews were provided and broadcasted repeatedly to all major TV networks including BBC, CNN, ABC, NBC, Al Jazeera, Al Arabiya, Euronews, Deutsche Welle. In the USA, 50 per cent of the media coverage surrounding Japan's earthquake referenced the Japanese Red Cross and/or the IFRC. Regarding social media activity, all previous IFRC records were broken. Over a seven-day period more than one million people viewed the IFRC's Japan slideshow on Flickr. The IFRC's digital newsroom recorded the highest number of views/uploads – 64,000 in one day; IFRC b-roll aired in hundreds of TV stations around the globe. The IFRC's Twitter reach amounted to more than 2.2 million people. Facebook activity increased by nearly 400 per cent and ifrc.org received an average of 40,000 hits a day (compared to 12'000).

The IFRC maintained a team of communicators in Japan over a three-month period and over this period regular communications materials including key messages, facts and figures, press releases, web stories, photographs and video content were produced for use by the media and National Society communicators.

Programme component 2: Communications capacity and team building at the zone, regional/country office and national society level

Outcome: A wider culture of communications across the Red Cross Red Crescent that supports the aims of Strategy 2020, through the development and strengthening National Societies communications capacity

Achievements

Progress has been made with developing the strategic partnership between Thomson Reuters and the IFRC. Meetings were held with senior Reuters staff in Singapore where Reuters agreed to provide National Societies with photography training through its country bureaux. The first one-day training workshop was held in Manila for approximately 30 chapter and headquarters staff from the Philippine Red Cross.

The Asia Pacific communications Network remains active. A Lyris email group has been established through which relevant information is shared amongst all National Society communicators in Asia Pacific. The email

group has been used consistently, particularly to encourage information sharing around the International Year of the Volunteer campaign. Certain members of the network have participated in the steering group for the forthcoming Global Communications Forum and a number of National Society communications staff are being funded by the zone to attend the forum.

Collaboration continues between the zone communications unit and the capacity building officer in the Secretariat to develop an appropriate communications capacity building programme for selected National Societies in the zone. An assessment framework has been drafted to gather data that will be central to IFRC's wider databank and rating system.

Programme component 3: Increased knowledge sharing and capture of institutional successes from and between national societies and all other Movement components
--

Outcome: Increased input to knowledge sharing systems by Movement partners and increased usage of those systems by key customers/audiences.
--

Achievements

The zone communications unit continues to contribute products and materials towards meeting the IFRC's global public communication needs. A total of 106 media service updates/Newswires relating to operational activities in the zone have been distributed to National Societies and 71 web stories originating from Asia Pacific have been posted to ifrc.org representing 39 per cent of the total web stores published.

Support continues to be provided to regional and country offices as well as programme units with their publication and video production needs. Publications produced include Asia Pacific Voices, Pacific Monthly, South East Asia risk reduction newsletter and an Organizational Development case studies series.

The alpha version of the new FedNet platform was launched on 15 May. The zone communications unit was trained on the new Episerver platform and a structure has been mapped out for the Asia Pacific zone pages on FedNet with content being updated and revised. The communications unit facilitated the pilot trainings at the zone level. A total of 14 editors have now been trained at the zone office. Additional trainings will be carried out for the regional and country offices as well as with National Societies. A training of trainers module will be developed in collaboration with the Geneva secretariat.

Typefi, an automated publishing software was recently introduced to produce reports, newsletters and publications that are consistent with the IFRC's new corporate visual identity. The zone communications unit was one of the first to be trained in Typefi and has supported Geneva in improving the templates for these publications. Support has also been provided to regional offices in the production of newsletters and reports using Typefi.

Programme component 4: Integrating beneficiary communications across Red Cross Red Crescent Programming in the Asia Pacific Zone

Outcome: Improved aid effectiveness through greater transparency and accountability of Red Cross Red Crescent Services targeted at vulnerable individuals and communities
--

Achievements

A two-year beneficiary communications proposal has been developed between the zone communications and disaster management units and circulated to National Society donors for funding. The proposed project has three components which include: working with three National Societies in the Asia Pacific region to integrate beneficiary communications into their programmes and services; integrating beneficiary communications into the IFRC's disaster management and health systems in the Asia Pacific region; forging strategic partnerships with telecom providers to roll-out the Trilogy emergency relief application in the most disaster-prone countries in the zone.

Resource Mobilization and Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Unit

Component 1: Resource mobilization

Outcome 1: All Asia Pacific annual plans and emergency appeals are at least 80 per cent covered (aiming for 100 per cent coverage) and receipt and management of all pledges and funding is carried out
--

effectively.

Outcome 2: Asia Pacific national societies have enhanced capacities and support networks to enable them to diversify their funding sources and secure longer term funding.

Achievements

The first part of the year has fortunately seen few new emergency appeals and the RM/PMER unit has focused on mobilization of resources and grant management for the 2011 Annual Plans and ongoing Emergency Appeals. In the first six months of the year:

- Total funding for all 21 annual plans was CHF 46.6 million, representing a total coverage of 82%
- Total funding for all 14 active emergency appeals (excluding Tsunami) was CHF 537.0 million representing a total coverage of 92%
- Total of 151 pledges of funding were received and processed for the six months up to the end of June 2011

The embryonic Asia Pacific Fundraisers' Network which was established in April 2010 during a meeting in New Zealand, attended by over 30 participants from 18 national societies, had unfortunately lost its momentum during the second half of 2010 and early 2011, mainly due to the difficulty in identifying national society leaders with the time commitment to take it forward. A new chairperson has now been identified however and the process and structure are currently being rejuvenated. Development of this network will facilitate peer learning and sharing of best practice to maximize individual and collective fund raising efforts.

Component 2: Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)

Outcome 1: Asia Pacific IFRC appeals, plans and reports meet required quality standards, and are 100 per cent compliant in meeting all deadlines.

Outcome 2: Quality of Asia Pacific Red Cross Red Crescent programmes is enhanced through effective planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems in place in national societies and IFRC offices

Achievements

During the first six months of 2011, the unit has finalised and validated a total of 196 reports/plans/appeals/other documents. This included completion, by the end of June, of the newly introduced IFRC Long Term Planning Framework (LTPF) process during which 20 country and regional plans were compiled as well as one for the Zone office and an aggregated plan for the entire Zone.

Working with the regional and country offices, the unit has continued to achieve compliance in meeting all reporting deadlines.

In PMER capacity building, a "mentoring concept" has been initiated whereby hands-on practical support will be provided in-country to national society staff who have been previously trained in PMER/PPP. Preparations have been made to conduct two pilot projects commencing in Q3 in Timor Leste and Q4 in Nepal. Recruitment of a second PMER officer is underway which will enable expansion of this support. This mentoring process is intended to maximize the impact of PMER training and thereby contribute to improved national society planning processes, programme design and reporting.

A total of four weeks in-country support to the Sri Lanka IFRC office and national society was provided earlier in the year, partly as surge capacity in the Floods Operation but also in restructuring the PMER unit.

The development of a global database on FedNet for all IFRC evaluations/reviews which was initiated in Asia Pacific zone during 2010, has continued to take shape. Unfortunately this has been a slow and frustrating process due to problems in developing an acceptable user-friendly interface. Most of these issues have now been resolved and it is anticipated that this will be launched in Q3. Easy access to such information will facilitate incorporation of previous lessons learned into programmes to improve their quality and impact.

Constraints or Challenges

There were several staff changes during this period including two delegates ending their missions. Recruitment, and particularly funding, of their replacements proved problematic, however one resource mobilization delegate commenced work in June. There still remain two staff vacancies to be filled within the recently formed region support teams and workloads will remain excessively high until these recruitments are completed in Q3.

Regional Logistics Unit

The 1st half of 2011 has been a period of change for the Kuala Lumpur Regional Logistics Unit (KL RLU). The long serving Head of RLU departed and the process to find a replacement remains ongoing. In addition the new Global Logistics five-year strategy (LOG2015) has been launched. Overall, the main focus of LOG2015 strategic plan is on three main objectives:

Objective 1: to support the development and measurement of National Society logistics capacity, to help strengthen National Societies and to articulate the global capacity and effectiveness of the IFRC's logistics.

Objective 2: to increase the IFRC's logistics capacity to deliver logistics services for preparedness and operational activities, connecting National Society assets where possible, and making this self-sustaining by promoting the effective functioning of the IFRC.

Objective 3: to provide agreed logistics services to pre-selected agencies to help ensure the sustainability and relevance of the supply chain, and therefore help protect the IFRC's ability to maintain its neutrality and voice in humanitarian diplomacy

Operationally the first half of 2011 has been quiet with ongoing support to Pakistan floods operation and support to the closure of operations in Myanmar and Indonesia. Pre-positioned stock turnover remains steady with replenishment to many small operations in South East Asia and the Pacific.

The task of the KL RLU in the coming months will be to take this global logistics strategy and create a business plan for Asia Pacific context in order to implement this strategy in the region. Meetings are planned for the 2nd half of 2011 to further disseminate and seek the input of Asia Pacific national societies into this plan.

Finance Unit

Programme purpose
Sustain the goodwill that is already in place and at the same time continue to provide, professional and technical support to the Federation delegations in improving the standard of financial management in the region.

Outcomes and achievements

Zone finance unit (ZFU) provided support and services to delegations in the field. In brief, the support can be listed down as follows:

- Technical support is given to field finance staff in ensuring timeliness and accuracy of monthly returns and compliance with financial procedures.
- Financial management information and support is provided to technical managers periodically and on ad-hoc basis when deemed necessary.
- The level of financial awareness in the Asia Pacific region is continuously raised and financial management support is given to operations without secretariat's in-country presence.

The following achievements and impact have proven that the support provided by ZFU has improved the overall financial management of the region.

- Three programme managers' (East Timor in February, Pakistan in March and Sri Lanka in April) training for delegation and national society staff was provided and these training had improved the overall financial accounting, management and reporting of IFRC and national society funds - total participants were 28 delegates and 21 national staff.
- Timely Monthly Financial Analysis report was circulated periodically to ensure managers are kept informed on the financial issues and risk so that immediate action can be taken to improve the financial situation and eliminate the risk or financial exposure.
- ZFU has maintained, and to a certain extent, improved the finance infrastructure by training, locating skillful human resource and filling the gap whenever needs arise.
- Involved in the interview, selection and training of the new finance delegate of DPR Korea and finance manager of Bangkok regional office.

- Zone finance manager conducted visit to Pakistan in March for reviewing floods operation and advising on the human resource side of the finance set-up .
- Analyst visited Chengdu in April for the smooth closure of earthquake's operational office and at the same time ensured clear handover between the field office and regional office.

The overall understanding on financial management and monitoring of activities has proven that IFRC has improved and developed the financial skills of all personnel. The following activities were reported:

- Expenditures have been in line with planned budget and activities with approved expenditure ceiling. There have not been exposures on the funding plan.
- Timely financial reporting to donors and continuous monitoring on pledge-based financial statement. ZFU has processed 163 pledge based financial statement during the first half of this year.
- Smooth monthly cash transfer of funds to delegations in enabling delegation and national society to implement the activities on time.
- In Asia Pacific there are in total 61 finance staff in the delegation, 10 delegates and 51 national staff to whom ZFU has been providing technical support.

Constraints or challenges

A constant challenge has been the maintenance of adequate human resources in the field due to regular and high staff turnover. Another issue is that often it is not the most qualified and experienced who are appointed to fill vacant positions in the field. Positions are sometimes filled by appointees from partner national societies who are willing to bear the full cost of these appointees. For expediency, national societies in the region who do not have the necessary resources accept these appointments. This causes disruptions to the work as these appointees need quite a bit of training before they can perform the required tasks.

Information Systems Unit

Programme purpose
Increase Red Cross Red Crescent information technology and telecommunications capacity to provide adequate support to all IFRC activities, including disaster situations. Support is also provided to National Societies

This unit provides information technology (IT) and telecommunications services and support to the AsiaPacific IIFRC zone, regional and country offices as well as national societies in the zone. The zone information systems unit's budget is part of the core budget allocated to the zone.

Programme component 1: Customized IT and telecoms service support systems
Outcome: Increased productivity and efficiency of IFRC field secretariat offices and operations, and improved response time for solving all information systems problems.

Achievements

Stock centre in Kuala Lumpur have been distributing IFRC Standard Lenovo laptop sets for delivery. Spare parts are now available for older Lenovo laptops as well as peripherals like batteries. Most IFRC offices have been getting stocks from Kuala Lumpur. National Societies have also ordered through the Asia Pacific zone office e.g. Maldives and Timor Leste.

Blackberry Enterprise Server Services are being rolled out to more IFRC staffs in Asia Pacific. The standard phone model have been proposed at Bold 9780, Torch 9800 and Curve 3G 9300.

The satellite phone database and management system for Asia Pacific is being migrated to a new system to enable faster response time for activation, deactivation, services and finance management.

Online "International Computer Driving License" (ICDL) training has been made available to IFRC offices and national societies. Meanwhile, point-to-point video conferencing systems (Polycom and LG using H323 and SIP) have been set up in the zone offices and Geneva to facilitate better communications and coordination.

New Zealand Red Cross is organizing an IT ERU Training in October 2011, and American Red Cross have donated radio telecom equipments for Bangladesh Red Crescent operations for the cyclone season. DPRK has added VHF radio capabilities for emergency response.

Programme component 2: Information sharing and knowledge management
--

Outcome: Sharing of lessons learned and best practices in providing peer support across Asia Pacific and more efficient teamwork across the seven zones and Geneva to provide better services.

Achievements

Knowledge is currently shared through service desk knowledgebase, sharepoint collaboration workspace and email communications between IT telecommunications personnel in the zone, Geneva, and National Societies. The information technology infrastructure library and service desk usage have been widely promoted and user trainings provided zone wide. We are encouraging all IT Telecom service request and incidents to be reported using service desk. The tool is also used to track response to the reported request or incident to gauge the degree of conformance to the service catalogue.

Peer support among national societies and IFRC offices are being fostered after the first Asia Pacific IT Telecom Meeting and as part of bridging the digital divide initiatives. IFRC offices are providing consultancy services, assistance and support to National Societies in their country of presence. Mailing list consisting of national societies ICT focal point has been created to share experiences. Fednet sharepoint site on Digital Divide has been set up.

Programme component 3: National society information systems capacity building

Outcome: Standardized and increased information systems capacity in national societies.

Achievements

More national societies have approached IFRC for assistance and we have delivered almost all of these requests. Some national societies have also purchased licences of McAfee Antivirus, Microsoft softwares, and Lenovo laptops through the IFRC contracts which provides pricing levels reflecting our non-profit humanitarian status.

IFRC also provided assistance on daily IT and Telecom operations such as troubleshooting, maintenance, virus removal, backups, reconfigurations, installations, administrative and technical support for national societies.

Japanese Red Cross Society has received ICT equipments for the earthquake response while Malaysian Red Crescent has received radio equipments for capacity building.

Digital Divide project to upgrade the capacity of ICT infrastructure for National Societies is in progress. The project's objective is to ensure that national societies would have improved their delivery of services and programmes to the most vulnerable, would have more efficient and effective internal processes, and are able to participate more fully as a member of the IFRC.

We are in the process of assisting and partially funding the ICT infrastructure upgrade under the Digital Divide Project for Fiji Red Cross, Afghanistan Red Crescent, Nepal Red Cross, Bangladesh Red Crescent, Cambodian Red Cross, Vietnam Red Cross, Sri Lanka Red Cross, and Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society.

An MOU with Google (Google Apps) and Microsoft (Office 365) is being worked out to benefit National Societies who would want to have corporate emails, file sharing, file editing functions all through the web without the hassle of maintaining their own servers.

Security

As the position of the security coordinator has been mostly vacant during the January-June period, support services filled in the gap and the following activities were undertaken:-

- Coordinated a facilitator from Geneva to participate in the IMPACT training with Hong Kong Red Cross in April.
- Provided security support, by way of risk assessment and analysis, to Asia Pacific zone delegations that visited Japan in support to Japanese Red Cross Society in the earthquake disaster.
- Supported the closing of the radio room in Sri Lanka Red Cross whereby radio equipment were returned to IFRC.
- Managed the revision of PNGRC security rules
- Continued promotion and monitoring of staff in undergoing the online security training course
- Managed the dissemination of day-to-day security messages
- Installation of security system in the zone office as well as current revision of security guidelines process.

The position of security coordinator for the Asia Pacific Zone was filled on 8 June 2011.

In the next half of the year, the primary focus for the new security coordinator will be to analyze the current level of compliance across the Asia Pacific zone with regard to IFRC Minimum Security Regulations (MSR). Special focus is given to the security framework for the zone office in Kuala Lumpur and the mechanisms to disseminate security related information to all staff within the zone Office. It is anticipated that an SMS Alert System will be operational, and the duty phone system will be enhanced. This will be combined with the implementation of a security framework that will see the security coordinator in more of a supporting role for domestic security, thus allowing greater freedom to focus upon international security with the various country and regional delegations.

Additional units

In addition, the Asia Pacific zone office has units covering important work in human resources and administration. Information on the activities of these units during the reporting period can be provided on request.

Working in partnership

Promoting better and more effective cooperation within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and with external organizations remains a key objective of the IFRC within the Asia Pacific zone. To further this aim, partnership meetings were organized on behalf of the national societies in the Pacific region (May), and Bangladesh (June).

In March, both the Asia Pacific zone office and ICRC held their annual head of delegation/head of office meetings in Kuala Lumpur. This gave both organisations an opportunity to work together during a half day session devoted to areas of mutual interest. This dialogue helped create a much better sense of awareness about the work that each organisation is carrying out in their respective areas.

Canadian Red Cross held a coordination meeting for its Asia Pacific zone country representatives in Kuala Lumpur. IFRC and ICRC colleagues were given the opportunity to share with Canadian Red Cross their priorities and activities but more importantly allowed all to examine more effective ways to manage our collective support to national societies. Of particular importance was the area of capacity building support to Asia Pacific national societies, and this meeting reinforced the importance of making greater efforts at more joint planning to maximise the effectiveness of such assistance.

Progress in developing relations with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has continued steadily:

- A visit to ADB Headquarters in Manila took place in February to resuscitate our engagement and in May the External Relations/Humanitarian Diplomacy Coordinator (HDC) attended the ADB AGM to further build relations and stay in touch with current ADB initiatives.
- IFRC participated in the 2nd ADB and Developing Member Countries and Partners Sanitation Dialogue in Manila in May which reiterated the need to further scale-up sustainable water and sanitation programming. As result of the meeting IFRC has drafted a proposal outline to scale up existing projects through a possible co-financing mechanism with ADB.
- The HDC attended the ADB policy dialogue on Climate Induced Migration in Bangkok in June. Greg Vickery, IFRC Governing Board member, and Goli Ameri, Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Diplomacy will be attending the conference on Climate Induced Migration, scheduled to take place in Manila in September.
- At the country level, the IFRC Sri Lanka office attended ADB country partnership strategy meetings and undertook bi-lateral discussions.
- The HDC, Head of South East Asia regional office, and Head of Indonesia country office also visited the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta to re-establish contact and to discuss the current status of the draft MoU which is still under discussion.

An IFRC statement on 'People centred development' was delivered at the High Level Policy Dialogue on progress against MDGs of land locked countries, which was hosted by UNESCAP and the Mongolian government in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. A statement was also delivered at the High Level Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime.

The Zone Director attended the World Economic Forum (WEF) on East Asia which was held in Jakarta in June. The forum covered a wide range of issues and was attended by 625 participants from across Asia representing government, private sector and civil society. A session on “Natural Disasters : Addressing complex and interconnected risk in East Asia through public-private partnership” was attended, and support given to the working group session on “Great East Japan Earthquake lessons learned”. This was an excellent networking opportunity as well as a good platform to informally raise awareness of Red Cross Red Crescent issues amongst decision makers. Further engagement with WEF at the regional level will be encouraged to ensure more significant contributions to future such events.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Collectively the work of the Asia Pacific national societies, assists millions of people each year. While the most visible part of this work is the numerous and extensive disaster response related activities under emergency appeals, equally important are the countless longer-term risk reduction, public health, and humanitarian programmes that are implemented on an ongoing basis by national society volunteers and staff working at community level across the entire zone.

To support national societies in this endeavour, the mission of the Asia Pacific zone team is to promote and facilitate the development of strong Asia Pacific national societies with quality disaster response/recovery and development programmes addressing priority humanitarian needs in their countries in line with Strategy 2020.

To accomplish this the Asia Pacific team will therefore place increasing emphasis on the approaches outlined below to ensure that IFRC support in the zone is appropriate, effective and well-coordinated:

- Sustainable development of national societies through focused country level support to their strategic priorities
- Enhanced focus on our development activities alongside our well-known disaster assistance efforts
- Offer more integrated support to national societies where all programmes are owned and managed by them, with guidance and accompaniment by partners
- Partner national societies are supported in coordinated bilateral programmes through cooperation frameworks and Integration Agreements; IFRC secretariat develops programmes in situations not covered by partners and facilitates strengthening of host national societies and sharing of knowledge, expertise and innovation
- Striving for equality by ensuring that there is no gender-based or other discrimination in our policies and practices, and enabling greater participation by vulnerable people
- Better ways of working together among Movement partners to maximise the utilisation of the resources in expanding our services to the most vulnerable people; this will be accompanied by greater openness and flexibility in partnerships and collaboration with others outside the Movement
- Speaking up and speaking out more on the side of the vulnerable and disadvantaged people while adhering to our fundamental principles
- Strengthening a harmonized approach to planning, performance management, transparency and accountability

Looking ahead

In this overall context, the overarching imperative which drives our work in Asia Pacific is rooted in IFRC’s Strategy 2020, as articulated by the Amman Commitment from the 8th Asia Pacific Regional Red Cross Red Crescent Conference held in October 2010.

In the Amman Commitment, national societies agreed to the following:

“... we re-confirm the importance for the Red Cross Red Crescent to build community resilience and to prepare and respond effectively to disasters. We must adhere to the Fundamental Principles in all our actions. We celebrate the valuable contribution of our youth and volunteers and recognise their indispensable role in achieving the goals set out in S2020.”

This is encapsulated in the Commitment Statement in three main groupings of programmes and activities:

- Effective preparedness (Saving Lives)
- Humanitarian Diplomacy (Changing Minds)
- Culture of Volunteering and Greater Youth Participation

The key function of the Asia Pacific zone is to support national societies to fulfil these commitments and this is the basis for all our work throughout 2011 and beyond.

Forthcoming partnership meetings are planned in Vietnam, DPRK and Mongolia in September, and in Myanmar and Cambodia in October.

How we work

All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to:

Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:

IFRC Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia: fax + 60 3 2161 1210; phone: +60 3 2161 0892

- Jagan Chapagain, Director of zone, email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org
- Al Panico, head of operations, email: al.panico@ifrc.org
- Michael Annear, head of disaster management unit, email: michael.annear@ifrc.org
- Jim Catampongan, emergency health coordinator, email: jim.catampongan@ifrc.org
- John Gwynn, organizational development coordinator, email: john.gwnn@ifrc.org
- Patrick Fuller, communications manager, email: patrick.fuller@ifrc.org
- Alan Bradbury, head of resource mobilization & planning monitoring evaluation and reporting, email: alan.bradbury@ifrc.org
- Umadevi Selvarajah, zone finance manager, email: umadevi.selvarajah@ifrc.org; phone +60 3 9207 5740
- Sumant Kumar, human resource coordinator, email: sumant.kumar@ifrc.org
- Jonathan Chua, information systems manager, email: jonathan.chua@ifrc.org; phone +60 3 9207 5733
- Iswana Ishak, administration manager, email: iswana.ishak@ifrc.org; phone: +60 3 9207 5710

[<interim financial report below; click here for title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA50001 - Asia Pacific Zone

Annual Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/1-2011/6
Budget Timeframe	2011/1-2011/12
Appeal	MAA50001
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	1,722,347	1,147,542	515,886	0	558,669	3,944,444
B. Opening Balance	829,162	360,082	129,719	2	243,150	1,562,115
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross	49,433					49,433
Australian Red Cross		8,310	20			8,329
Australian Red Cross (from Australian Government)		27,342				27,342
British Red Cross					29,282	29,282
Eli Lilly Export SA		5,000				5,000
Finnish Red Cross	87,378				11,933	99,311
Irish Red Cross					12,162	12,162
Japanese Red Cross	117,835	59,227	53,327		53,327	283,716
Netherlands Red Cross	-0	17,225				17,225
New Zealand Red Cross	0	-20			60,000	59,980
Spanish Red Cross		20,000				20,000
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)			182,327			182,327
C1. Cash contributions	254,646	137,083	235,674		166,704	794,107
<u>Inkind Goods & Transport</u>						
Netherlands Red Cross		288,801				288,801
C2. Inkind Goods & Transport		288,801				288,801
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
American Red Cross	54,600					54,600
Australian Red Cross	109,800	46,200				156,000
British Red Cross	46,200					46,200
Finnish Red Cross	54,600	54,600				109,200
Irish Red Cross					46,200	46,200
Japanese Red Cross			23,100			23,100
Netherlands Red Cross	46,200				6,417	52,617
New Zealand Red Cross					54,600	54,600
Other					8,493	8,493
Spanish Red Cross	46,200	47,700				93,900
C3. Inkind Personnel	357,600	148,500	23,100		115,710	644,910
<u>Other Income</u>						
Balance Reallocation		0		-2	2	0
Services Fees					48,007	48,007
C4. Other Income		0		-2	48,009	48,007
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	612,246	574,384	258,774	-2	330,423	1,775,825
D. Total Funding = B + C	1,441,408	934,466	388,493	0	573,573	3,337,941
Appeal Coverage	84%	81%	75%	#DIV/0	103%	85%

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	829,162	360,082	129,719	2	243,150	1,562,115
C. Income	612,246	574,384	258,774	-2	330,423	1,775,825
E. Expenditure	-730,188	-603,714	-160,321		-247,064	-1,741,287
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	711,221	330,752	228,171	0	326,510	1,596,654

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA50001 - Asia Pacific Zone

Annual Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/1-2011/6
Budget Timeframe	2011/1-2011/12
Appeal	MAA50001
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)		1,722,347	1,147,542	515,886	0	558,669	3,944,444	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief			31				31	-31
Construction Materials			10				10	-10
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	306,026		269,120				269,120	36,906
Other Supplies & Services			546				546	-546
Total Relief items, Construction, Supplies	306,026		269,707				269,707	36,319
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	25,000							25,000
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	25,000							25,000
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	1,800		99				99	1,701
Distribution & Monitoring			23,808				23,808	-23,808
Transport & Vehicle Costs		303	80				383	-383
Logistics Services			1				1	-1
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	1,800	303	23,988				24,291	-22,491
Personnel								
International Staff	2,240,326	518,667	199,658	56,619		184,964	959,908	1,280,418
National Staff	27,000	499	500				999	26,001
National Society Staff	69,000							69,000
Total Personnel	2,336,326	519,166	200,158	56,619		184,964	960,907	1,375,419
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants	233,000	60,335	11,544	27,156			99,035	133,965
Total Consultants & Professional Fees	233,000	60,335	11,544	27,156			99,035	133,965
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	501,500	91,225	25,212	16,883		11,075	144,395	357,105
Total Workshops & Training	501,500	91,225	25,212	16,883		11,075	144,395	357,105
General Expenditure								
Travel	186,050	21,212	31,417	32,457		13,115	98,200	87,850
Information & Public Relation	69,711	3,732	1,364	12,611		36	17,743	51,968
Office Costs	11,809	529	1,725	477		1,851	4,583	7,226
Communications	13,250	7,815	2,585	611		1,440	12,451	799
Financial Charges	310	-1,273	-441	-926		-779	-3,418	3,728
Other General Expenses	21,000	12	55				66	20,934
Shared Support Services	9,600		6,900	3,450		25,875	36,225	-26,625
Total General Expenditure	311,730	32,026	43,604	48,681		41,538	165,850	145,880
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			417	1,500			1,917	-1,917
Total Operational Provisions			417	1,500			1,917	-1,917
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Service Support	229,062	22,455	26,151	8,303		7,921	64,830	164,232
Total Indirect Costs	229,062	22,455	26,151	8,303		7,921	64,830	164,232
Pledge Specific Costs								
Earmarking Fee		2,209	1,133	700		914	4,954	-4,954
Reporting Fees		2,468	1,800	480		652	5,400	-5,400
Total Pledge Specific Costs		4,677	2,933	1,180		1,566	10,354	-10,354
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	3,944,444	730,188	603,714	160,321		247,064	1,741,287	2,203,157
VARIANCE (C - D)		992,159	543,828	355,565	0	311,606	2,203,157	