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Annual Report Caribbean

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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**This report covers the
period 01 January 2011
to 31 December 2011**

*Saint Lucia Red Cross volunteers
conducted house-to-house interviews
during a Vulnerability and Capacity
Assessment in the village of
Anse-la-raye.
(Photographer: Bill Mortley)*



In brief

Programme outcome

The Enabling Actions of *Strategy 2020* continue to guide the support given by Caribbean Regional Representation Office (CRRO) to the thirteen National Societies of the Caribbean region. Programmes in 2011 largely focused on Disaster Risk Management, with the CRRO continuing its mandate to help increase the institutional and operational capacities of its member National Societies. To this effect, donor funding enabled the ongoing strengthening of disaster preparedness through a range of programme activities as detailed in this annual report.

Programmes summary

Disaster Management

The secretariat of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and donor support to the National Societies in the Caribbean region primarily focuses on capacity-building in disaster risk reduction (DRR). DRR projects in 2011 were funded by the European Union's Office for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG-ECHO), the Office of Disaster Assistance of USAID (OFDA), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Japanese Red Cross Society. Donor funding for DRR was provided in partnership with implementing Partner National Societies (PNS) as shown in the following table:

Table 1. Red Cross Disaster Risk Reduction programming in the Caribbean Region

Project	Project Countries	Implementing PNSs in country
DIPECHO 7	Barbados Grenada	French Red Cross
	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines Trinidad & Tobago	Finnish Red Cross
	Suriname	Netherlands Red Cross
OFDA 2	Bahamas Belize Saint Lucia	American Red Cross
Caribbean Community Resilience to Disaster Risk (CCRDR)	Dominica Guyana Jamaica	Canadian Red Cross
Prepositioning of relief supplies	Jamaica Guyana Suriname	Japanese Red Cross Society
Water Facility	Guyana	French Red Cross- bilateral
Shelter	Jamaica	French Red Cross- bilateral

Red Cross institutional capacity for is enhanced.

Following the successful implementation and closure of DIPECHO 7, DIPECHO 8 was initiated in the region. The Red Cross National Societies in the Caribbean creatively and efficiently managed multiple actions towards disaster risk management at the national and community levels.

The American Red Cross closely worked with the National Societies of the Bahamas, Belize and Saint Lucia in the projects funded by the Office of Disaster Assistance of USAID (OFDA 2).

Continuing its diverse support to National Societies in the region, the Japanese Red Cross Society has funded the implementation a container project in the Caribbean starting in 2009. Supplies were provided for the National Societies of St. Kitts and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Each received relief stocks for at least 500 families (2,500 people) in the aftermath of a disaster.

General programme activities in 2011 included: development and implementation of tools and related training designed to reduce vulnerability; the prepositioning of disaster relief supplies; and the revision and further development of response, contingency and livelihood recovery plans. The CRRO and the Red Cross National Societies in the Caribbean continue to collaborate with regional and national disaster management systems through the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) - the coordinating body for regional disaster management and an International Federation partner.

A set of tools developed and adapted by the Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Resource Centre based in Barbados were tested and fully deployed in communities across the islands. Additionally, the Resource Centre reviewed for standardization a range of educational materials as reference and guidelines for the National Societies.

The Disaster Management Network, with representation from the Caribbean National Societies, continued to serve as the coordinating body for information-sharing and identification of DRR priorities in the region. National Society services to migrant families were provided when and where

needed. Furthermore, the National Societies held several simulation exercises to test the efficiency of response and deployment readiness.

Cooperation within the Movement:

Two of the CRRO staff were deployed to Haiti to support the Federation's earthquake recovery operation. Staff from the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) visited the CRRO in the context of coordination between the two secretariat's offices, and also collaborated in the organization and facilitation of a disaster management workshop held in July. The American, British, Canadian, French, Finnish, Netherlands and Norwegian Red Cross Societies continue to cooperate with Caribbean National Society development and in the implementation of DRR programmes in the region.

Health

The CRRO health officer supports ongoing emergency health response activities in which the Caribbean National Societies are engaged, which in 2011 included vector-borne diseases related to an increased prevalence of dengue and cholera outbreaks. The primary regional focus was on community-based preventative health, which included water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) training in Guyana, Saint Lucia and Suriname.

A proposal was circulated to prospective donors to fund First Aid programme development in the National Societies, taking into consideration the newly-released *IFRC International First Aid and Resuscitation Guidelines*. These guidelines, published in 2011, were used to review the *Caribbean First Aid Reference Manual*, which had been prepared with British Red Cross support. By the year's end, donor interest was pending for the support of a comprehensive approach to First Aid programme in the region's National Societies that would function as a traditional Red Cross community service and as an income-generating resource to support the National Societies' self-sustainability.

Other health-related activities in 2011 included the adaptation of the Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) resources to the regional context. Planning was started to implement the 10-step process to prevent violence and raise awareness about its impact, developed by the Canadian Red Cross and bi-laterally implemented in the Guyana and Jamaica Red Cross Societies.

As part of the Hurricane Tomas response, the CRRO health officer collaborated with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) on cholera mitigation and WASH activities. A dengue alert poster was created and distributed for National Societies' use in their community awareness-raising efforts. The Suriname Red Cross also was successful in gaining support for their plan of action for a "Club 25" youth initiative to increase volunteer non-remunerated blood donations (VNRBD).

HIV and AIDS:

The Global Alliance on HIV programming continued in the Caribbean region during 2011. The four associated National Societies (Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago) successfully implemented their planned actions, which included work with most at risk populations (MARPS) and awareness-raising events with the general population.

Volunteer Development:

Progress in volunteer development during the reporting period included an increase in the number of volunteer focal points among the National Societies and the completion of new volunteer education and development materials. National Societies also began institutionalizing their volunteer management processes. The Antigua & Barbuda and Saint Kitts & Nevis Red Cross Societies are improving their database records. The Belize and Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross Societies launched computerized volunteer management systems. The Jamaica Red Cross launched a membership development campaign. The Belize Red Cross Society received the Mexican Red Cross volunteer coordinator in an exchange project. In 2011, some 130 Red Cross volunteers across the region

were engaged in Community-Based Disaster Management (CBDM) activities through their DRR projects.

Advocacy:

The CRRO relationships-- alongside Partner National Societies (PNS) active in the region-- with CDEMA and the Eastern Caribbean Donor Group (ECDG) supported civil society outreach and engagement. The secretariat's regional representative for the Caribbean serves as Co-Chair of CDEMA's Civil Society Sub-Committee. Thus, the CRRO and Caribbean National Societies' representatives attended coordination meetings and participated in simulation exercises for emergency response preparedness. The CRRO continued to include advocacy work and issues in its ongoing communications with partners, stakeholders, and especially with the National Societies in the region to support their respective auxiliary roles.

Financial situation

The total 2011 budget was CHF 2,851,577, of which CHF 3,646,896 (128 per cent) was covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 1,809,154 (63.4 per cent) of the budget.

Click here to go directly to the financial report.

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual11/MAA4900111arf.pdf>

See also [Caribbean - Hurricane Tomas \(MDR49006\)](#)

[Bahamas - Hurricane Irene \(MDRBS001\)](#)

[Dominica - Tropical Storm Ophelia \(MDRDM001\)](#)

[Saint Lucia - Floods \(MDRLC001\)](#)

[Saint Vincent and the Grenadines - Floods \(MDRVC001\)](#)

No. of people we have reached

A wide range of beneficiaries were largely reached through disaster risk management programming, with complementary health outreach primarily in CBHFA actions within the context of DRR. In community-based DRR during 2011, project staff and volunteers supported 40 communities across the 13 National Societies, providing direct training to a total of 18,673 persons in First Aid, community disaster planning, community disaster response teams (CDRT) and training in family emergency plans. Furthermore, some 29,500 people benefitted from community mitigation micro-projects in 14 communities. At the institutional level of the National Societies, preparedness for disaster risk reduction complemented community activities, leading to varying progress towards the development of disaster response plans. A total of 119 Red Cross staff and volunteers in the region were enrolled in disaster response capacity training, including National Intervention Teams (NIT), Regional Intervention Teams (RIT) and in Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT) specialized team leadership training. In health programming, the training of 26 CBHFA facilitators in Suriname and Guyana led to a cascade training of a further 135 CBHFA community-level volunteers in 13 communities, subsequently reaching 9,781 people.

In 2011, National Societies reached 589,766 people (of which 42,036 were youth) through the provision of various Red Cross services. This was accomplished through a total of 244,140 recorded volunteer working hours.

Further recorded figures include:

- 26,121 people reached by disaster management VCA activities at the community level. However, this number is expected to increase in 2012 as the VCA reports continue to be compiled and with many of the Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM) activities programmed to extend into 2012.
 - 4,328 families in Barbados, Grenada, St Vincent & The Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago and Suriname benefitted from Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM) activities. In Suriname, the National Society worked with more communities than initially planned.

- 6,900 children, teachers and school staff were reached in school-based training in 23 schools.
- 1,666 families benefitted from 31 micro-mitigation projects. Based on the estimate of an average family unit being composed of 5 people, this figure is approximately 8,329 people.
- Regional coordination and participation in the country profile process allowed 11 local and regional organizations to actively organize and implement community and institutional disaster risk management activities. The UNDP, UNISDR, CDEMA, CIDA, OFDA, ODPM and the Office of Disaster Preparedness Management of Trinidad & Tobago jointly worked together with the Canadian, Finnish, French and Netherlands Red Cross Societies in these activities.
- Stocks pre-positioned in 2011 will allow the Red Cross Societies of Jamaica and Suriname to cover the needs of 5,000 persons (1,000 households) in each of the countries if a disaster occurs. This was made possible with funding from DG-ECHO, the Japanese Red Cross Society and the Norwegian Red Cross. As the year came to a close, stocks in Guyana for 1,500 families were in the procurement process to complement pre-positioned stocks from previous project phases.

Our partners

In fulfilment of its mandate, the CRRO engaged with its partners within the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and external collaborators from a wide-range of institutions such as intergovernmental and regional actors, international development bodies and their governments. Strategic relationships also have been further developed with international donor agencies and local universities. The secretariat maintains ongoing partnerships with the International Movement components, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), that are operational in the region.

Context

The turbulence in global financial markets continued to burden the Caribbean region during 2011. Since this financial uncertainty was triggered by large and formerly stable and developed economies, the subsequent economic impact on smaller, more fragile and dependent economies such as those of the Caribbean was substantial. With regional markets already challenged by structural inefficiencies in interconnectedness, as manifested in the continuing debates within the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), the financial and economic crisis has resulted in a fall in incomes and wealth, subsequent decrease in demand for goods and services, and eventually a further increase in unemployment. These events have had dire social impacts on hard-pressed communities and individual households. Violence, criminality and gang culture are just some of the disturbing impacts of the ongoing economic and social crisis.

In this challenging economic environment, the secretariat worked to strengthen the resource mobilization (RM) capacities of the National Societies, through various initiatives. These included the placement of DIPECHO-funded resource mobilization officers, support for participation in an RM workshop in Panama and facilitation of DFID and Norwegian funded investment for RM and organizational development projects with the Belize and Jamaica Red Cross Societies.

Programme and funding priorities in the Caribbean region have been traditionally focused on preparedness and capacity building for the hurricane season. In this context, the 2011 season was characterized by weaker-than-typical tropical storms that caused minimal damage in the region. Yet, with over 40 million inhabitants in the Caribbean islands living at the front line of vulnerability to natural disasters – mostly hydrodynamic (hydrological), but also including seismic and volcanic – the hazard risks are significant. Combined with the continuing evolution of theories concerning climate

change impacts, and the causes and consequences of coastline erosion, Caribbean nations are high on the agenda of agencies dedicated to disaster mitigation.

Natural disasters – slow onset or sudden – can be particularly disruptive for small countries with relatively small economies, such as those located in the Caribbean. Seventy per cent of the region's population and an equal amount of its infrastructure are situated along threatened coastlines; the consequent destruction of natural habitat and infrastructure caused by rising sea levels and hurricanes endangers the livelihoods of many of the Caribbean economies – especially in tourism and agriculture – further increasing already widespread pockets of poverty. Estimates of the potential costs of future natural disasters range upwards of 46 billion US dollars by 2100 and it has been predicted that many economies could fall into a perpetual state of recession without action in the present day.

The IFRC's secretariat has attempted to respond to this daunting challenge by engaging and supporting National Societies through the facilitation of regionally-based funding, cooperation with national and regional organizations in conducting Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments to establish humanitarian needs and baselines for action, and provision of programmatic capacity building and institutional strengthening.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management (DM)

Programme purpose

Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.

Programme component 1: Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction

Component outcome 1: Vulnerable communities have increased knowledge, skills and resources to conduct disaster mitigation, preparedness and response activities.

The secretariat provides technical support to the National Societies for the Caribbean Community Resilience to Disaster Risk (CCRDR) project. This Canadian Red Cross – Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) - funded project aims to enhance community resilience to disaster risk in the Caribbean region to generate positive impacts at the regional, state and community levels.

The project undertook research to develop and pilot a regional methodology for targeting vulnerable communities. This methodological tool will be used as part of the IFRC's information sharing in the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy and in the Civil Society Sector Sub-Committee (CSSS). The Red Cross Caribbean DRM Centre has begun the development and adaption of other tools for regional-wide integration with the cross-cutting themes of climate change adaptation, gender, violence prevention, and education.

The National Societies of Dominica, Guyana and Jamaica have worked with their national development organizations (NDOs) and other partners in the implementation of the project activities and through government partnerships at the regional and national level. The project will sponsor 45 communities with DRR activities, planning exercises, and equipment. In 2011, the project has enabled beneficiaries to understand the risks due to local hazards, while fomenting a holistic understanding of vulnerabilities.

Sixteen communities have been selected in collaboration with national government and other stakeholders.

Community	Country
Broken Water Lands	Guyana
Straatcampbell-Chance	Guyana

Perth	Guyana
Mara	Guyana
Barakara	Guyana
Layou	Dominica
Mero	Dominica
Dulanc	Dominica
Warner	Dominica
Marigot	Dominica
Bensonton	Jamaica
Salt Marsh	Jamaica
Seaforth	Jamaica
Comfort Hall	Jamaica
Milk River	Jamaica
Little London	Jamaica

These actions ultimately played a role in enhancing community resilience to disaster risk in the Caribbean region, contributing to CDM Outcome 4 and IFRC Regional Result ER1 as well as CIDA's Caribbean Strategy.

The DRM Resource Centre in Barbados continued to develop tools and to network while the Climate Change Adaptation tool was rolled out in five National Societies. The CRRO worked in collaboration with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre based in The Hague and contributed to the publication of a resource bibliography.

Furthermore, the CRRO supported National Societies' participation in a Cash for Work training in Panama and the initiation of a Green Response project together with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

The secretariat provided technical support to pre-position stocks, thus strengthening the Caribbean National Societies' disaster management capacity building.

Achievements

Guyana Red Cross Society in communities

- The CCRDR project in Guyana is currently working in 5 communities throughout Region Five and Region Six. In 2011, 98 community members were trained in First Aid (Broken Water Lands 12, Straatcampbell-Chance 12, Perth 17, Mara 19, Baracara 38). Community members were also trained as Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRT) with 55 persons trained and two communities pending training at the end of 2011. Thus far, 55 out of 85 persons representing 65 per cent of the established target have been trained as CDRT members between the five communities. Alongside community trainings, the Guyana Red Cross Society has completed a participatory VCA in all of the communities. Micro mitigation projects are planned in the communities in 2012.
- The Guyana Red Cross Society has held a National Intervention Team (NIT) refresher and training course in order to strengthen the National Society's capacity to better respond to disasters. Towards this same end, training in facilitation skills, surveying techniques and community mobilization also were held.

Jamaica Red Cross in communities

- The Jamaica Red Cross worked in 6 communities in 2011. All VCAs and CDRT trainings in Jamaica were completed (Seaforth 14, Comfort Hall 11, Bensonton 12, Milk River 10, Salt Marsh 12, Little London 15), while 1 of 6 mitigation projects was completed and the others are projected for completion in 2012. A formalized system for linking CDRT members into the government response system is also in place.

- The Jamaica Red Cross has trained 21 persons in survey techniques, as well as provided First Aid refresher courses for 26 volunteers and trained another 16 volunteers in First Aid.

Dominica Red Cross Society in communities:

- The Dominica Red Cross Society has supported 5 communities during the first year of the CCRDR project. The CCRDR team has been able to complete KAP surveys and VCAs. The Dominica Red Cross Society has completed First Aid trainings and CDRT trainings in all communities and mitigation projects continued to show progress.
- The year one trainings were completed. Through project funds the National Society could generate increased youth participation and strengthen their active Club 25 programme. The National Society also implemented a French Red Cross-supported 72 hours preparedness project that is complementary to the CCRDR project.

The CRRO collaborated with CDEMA and other regional partners throughout the first 9 months of the project. The regional representative for the Caribbean continues to be the co-chair of the Civil Society Sector Sub-Committee (CSSS), while continuing to encourage the development of tools with the active participation of the Resource Centre in the Education Committee. The IFRC also introduced an interim pilot Community Selection Tool that was adopted by all 13 National Societies in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. This tool ensures standardized practices for National Societies and stakeholder collaboration when identifying the most vulnerable communities and those in need of project intervention. This tool will be further refined and promoted in 2012.

The Resource Centre successfully adapted two tools in 2011 under the framework of the CCRDR project. Plans were underway to pilot these tools with communities and national societies. The first tool is the Contingency Planning Guide that will enable National Societies to create standardized contingency plans in case of natural disasters. The second tool adapted is the CDEMA Climate Change Adaptation toolkit. The Red Cross will be implementing this toolkit alongside community activities in pilot communities in Guyana. Along with tool adaptation, the Resource Centre had its first intern as part of a joint agreement between the Red Cross Climate Centre, the Resource Centre and the University of Columbia.

The secretariat supported DRR capacity building in all 13 National Societies through various DIPECHO, OFDA and CIDA/Canadian Red Cross-supported projects.

Constraints or Challenges

- The project in Dominica was launched with a slight delay due to widespread flooding. However following this delay, the programme was able to efficiently work towards established goals.

Programme component 2: Institutional Preparedness for Disaster Risk Reduction

Component outcome 1: Red Cross institutional capacity for disaster risk management at national and community levels is enhanced.

This component outcome reflects the successful implementation and impacts of DIPECHO 7, which spurred the establishment of DIPECHO 8 in the region.

Achievements

Five members of the IFRC in the Caribbean (DRR manager, DIPECHO project manager, Caribbean Resource Centre coordinator, communications officer responsible for supporting the DIPECHO countries, and the Netherlands Red Cross delegate responsible for the development of the Country Profiles) participated in the 2011 regional workshop of the DIPECHO Action Plan for the Caribbean held from 24 to 25 October 2011 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The head of the National Disaster Office in Grenada also attended the workshop. The IFRC presented its DIPECHO-funded

project in five countries, highlighting how the four expected results were in line with and supported the four outputs of CDEMA's Caribbean Disaster Management Framework. The presentation on the Community Selection Tool generated other participants' interest. Side meetings were held with UNISDR to begin the coordination of work on the Country Profiles. In addition, UNDP undertook work on a matrix of common indicators for DRR in the Caribbean to build on and support existing indicators and to support effective capacity building. UNISDR is also developing a standard format for the country profile documents which the IFRC plans to employ. CDEMA indicated it was possible to incorporate Country Profile development into their work programme for 2012.

Eight National Societies (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, and Saint Kitts and Nevis) have updated, or developed and tested, their disaster response plans that connect to their national systems. Through IFRC's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) and direct communication, the CRRO monitored Red Cross participation in response activities related to excessive rainfall in April 2011 that led to flooding in the parishes of Saint John and Saint Mark in Grenada, and inundated roads and damaged bridges in eastern Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. In Grenada, the Red Cross supported 29 families in the affected area with in-kind items, while the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross (SVGRC) distributed 48 hygiene kits, 160 jerry cans, 60 buckets, 40 blankets, basic food and clothing to affected families. Planning for response continued with the revision and development of operational plans for the Red Cross in Barbados and in Trinidad and Tobago.

Five NIT trainings in the Caribbean and a RIT training in Guadeloupe were held for 70 volunteers and staff in February 2011.

Five National Societies started work with 37 communities by conducting stakeholders' meetings and actions to raise awareness. The stakeholder meetings presented the project's objectives and activities to stakeholders to ensure participatory support from local authorities and community members in each of the countries. In Barbados and Grenada, these meetings additionally allowed for the selection of communities and working together to agree upon use of the IFRC-developed tool.

The awareness meetings aimed at introducing the project's objectives and working with the population to identify risk of disasters in their communities. Further meetings to include other topics (e.g. climate change, HIV and AIDS) were planned.

This was followed by the organization and planning of activities jointly with community members, conducting baseline surveys in 4 countries by the end of 2011, initiating first aid training and carrying out VCAs. These activities were part of the preparatory work for rolling out the project at the community level and guaranteeing community members' active participation. Up to December 2011, Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) surveys were almost completed in the 5 countries surveying 4,328 households (approximately 26,121 persons) as the year came to a close.

The VCA results will guide the work planned for 2012 which includes the identification of micro-projects for mitigation, training and equipping of community disaster response teams, development of community disaster plans, promoting disaster preparedness at the household level through trainings and developing family disaster preparedness plans.

Communications continue to play an integral part in profiling the work of the National Societies. DIPECHO 8 places significant value on the strengthening of the National Societies' communications area, as detailed in the specific objectives:

- 1) Strengthening of communications plans for each National Society.
- 2) Technical committee established for online support.
- 3) Caribbean website online.
- 4) Greater collaboration to support projects and share ideas and information.

In an effort to identify needs, an orientation meeting was held in November 2011 with National Societies' communications officers supported by DIPECHO. Held at the Resource Centre, this meeting aimed to discuss communications needs and outputs for the DIPECHO 8 project, establish links between the communications plan for DIPECHO and the communication needs of each National Society, and demonstrate the manner that the Resource Centre will support to the communications officers. Additionally, a Technical Support Committee and a Social Media Committee for Caribbean National Societies were established.

In addition, the National Societies of the Caribbean in 2011 continued to increase their capacities to provide efficient, targeted and rapid humanitarian response to benefit the most vulnerable populations in the event of a disaster. The above detailed actions are in line with the projected increased access to relief stocks as established in the Caribbean 5-Year Strategic Framework (2009-2014) to provide an immediate response to disasters in the Caribbean, contributing to cover basic needs of vulnerable populations affected with "access to goods locally, for a quicker, more economical response" based on increasing prepositioned stocks acquired locally.

Starting in 2009, the Japanese Red Cross Society provided the necessary funds to implement the container project in the Caribbean.

The project benefited the National Societies of St. Kitts and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to each have relief stocks for at least 500 families (2,500 people) immediately available for families affected by a disaster. This prepositioning of stocks has reduced by at least 30 per cent of the overall cost of mobilizing and distributing goods to Caribbean National Societies in cases of emergencies.

As part of this action, 45 Red Cross volunteers completed logistics training to be able to support the National Societies in times of emergencies. A total of 13 National Societies benefited from the development of a Caribbean regional strategy for logistics capacity development and sustainability, including an implementation plan that included timeline, resources, costs and project plan with implementation phases.

Programme component 3: Coordination and advocacy

Component outcome 1: Increased Red Cross coordination and advocacy for comprehensive disaster management.

The *Caribbean Red Cross Disaster Management Framework 2009-2014* served as the operating guideline for the programmes and disaster management coordination amongst the region's National Societies. The secretariat worked with regional partners, including CDEMA and UNISDR, to develop common indicators for measuring impact and country risk assessments. The CRRO continues to conduct advocacy to support the auxiliary role of the National Societies for disaster management planning, preparedness and response, and the promotion of the Disaster Law guidelines. The Regional Representative of the IFRC CRRO is co-chair of the CDEMA Civil Society Committee, which provides an opportunity for communication and collaboration on DM-related matters with a wide range of civil society organizations in the Caribbean region. This is interpreted as a significant step towards the further recognition of the critical role that the Red Cross plays in DRR and DRM in the Caribbean.

Health and Care

Programme purpose

Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS

Component outcome 1: National Societies scale up activities aimed at preventing further HIV infection.

The Caribbean National Societies expanded their HIV programmes to target most-at-risk populations (MARPS) and engage in activities to prevent further HIV infections. Overall, the Global Alliance on HIV programming is making progress in increasing the general population's access to prevention messages despite a minor decrease in people reached in 2011. From 2008 to 2009 there was an 81 per cent increase in the numbers of people reached with prevention messages, while from 2009 to 2010 there was an additional 25 per cent increase. A small decline from 2010 to 2011 might reflect the greater focus on targeting populations at higher risk of HIV.

In Guyana, focus was on the development of curriculum and tools to work with miners, sex workers and youth in the hinterland mining communities. The Guyana Red Cross Society has produced the first draft of a programme manual which addresses prevention education, and risk reduction needs of the target groups. The manual will be supplemented with educational posters and message cards. Plans also involve providing sex workers with personal hygiene kits.

The Jamaica Red Cross has facilitated empowerment workshops for men who have sex with men (MSM). The purpose of the Jamaica Red Cross HIV programme is to reduce the prevalence of HIV, prevent further infection and provide treatment care and support to beneficiaries. The Jamaica Red Cross works specifically in the areas of prevention, care and support. The focus for 2011 was specific to MSM, youth outside of educational institutions, people living with HIV (PLHIV), and sex workers. In 2010, Jamaica had features of both a generalized and concentrated epidemic with a 1.6% prevalence rate (32,000 persons) and a 30% rate among MSM.

These workshops provided training on life skills, the basics of HIV, other sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) and risk assessment. Sex workers also were provided with voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) services and sensitization sessions. This work established reach-out to them in the local clubs where many of them work. The National Society has identified the benefits of working through club owners and encouraging them to understand the benefits of their staff being aware of HIV.

Through the Global Alliance on HIV, the Jamaica Red Cross has been able to fill the gaps created by reduced funding opportunities from Global Fund. Global Alliance funding supported peer educators' trainings, support groups, back to school support for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), development and distribution of information, education and communications (IEC) materials, and World AIDS Day activities and anti-stigma sessions.

The Jamaica Red Cross is currently receiving funding for its HIV programme from the Global Fund, USAID, the American Red Cross and resources channelled through the secretariat. The National Society has managed to diversify the source of funding used to employ 10 programmatic staff and implement activities through the Global Alliance on HIV Framework. This National Society has also partnered with the Canadian Red Cross to implement a violence prevention project that links HIV and youth, planned to be launched in 2012. Partnerships with the Ministry of Health and civil society organizations continued in 2011; these institutions assisted the JRC in achieving its programme objectives.

For 2011, the Belize National Society's revision of the TWC methodology and materials targeted at in school youth was nearly complete by the end of the year. The materials were piloted, reviewed and arrangements were undertaken to print the revised materials, along with the launch of the methodology in identified communities.

Finally, discussions were underway so that the Bahamas Red Cross Society could prepare its entry into the Global Alliance framework. The year 2011 was an opportune time for the National Society to

benefit from the work carried out by the other Global Alliance member countries during their preparation processes of their new four year proposals.

Component outcome 2: National Societies strengthen HIV treatment, care and support activities

Caribbean Red Cross National Societies provided psychosocial support to 521 people living with HIV and to 82 children orphaned due to the virus.

The HIV Prevention Treatment Care and Support (PTCS) initiative was promoted as a capacity building framework for volunteers working within HIV programmes at the community level. In 2011, the Jamaica and the Trinidad and Tobago National Societies, in conjunction with their Ministries of Health, successfully rolled out training to Red Cross and other community volunteers. Response to these trainings was encouraging and additionally allowed National Societies to use the effectiveness of the HIV PTCS activities in their resource mobilization efforts.

The CRRO promoted the PTCS methodology with the Bahamas Red Cross. Implementation, however, was dependent on available funding that is in line with the capacities of the National Society on HIV programming. The latter has increased with the support from the American Red Cross Caribbean HIV and AIDS Project (CHAP).

Component outcome 3: National Societies scale up activities to reduce HIV stigma and discrimination

Anti-stigma training is a comprehensive section of the Global Alliance on HIV programme. The preparation of Red Cross volunteers for their interaction with communities around HIV awareness incorporates non-discrimination as a basic messaging component. This is supported by HIV in the workplace policies, which have been developed by the American Red Cross-supported Caribbean HIV and AIDS Project and each of the Global Alliance on HIV member countries, where training for staff and volunteers is currently provided. By the year's end, 192 staff and volunteers in the National Societies of the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago were reached with HIV in the workplace programmes.

This process was programmed to extend through early 2012 in the Bahamas and Barbados Red Cross National Societies in line with their capacities.

Component outcome 4: National Societies' capacities to deliver and sustain scaled-up HIV programmes are strengthened.

The IFRC CRRO continued providing technical support in 2011 to the National Societies of Belize, Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago that form a part of the Global Alliance on HIV, as well as collaborating with the American Red Cross bilateral Caribbean HIV AIDS Project, which is based within the Bahamas Red Cross Society. In March of 2011, the Bahamas, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago National Societies participated in a *Design for Behaviour Change* workshop presented by CHAP. The goal of this workshop was to further support HIV programme managers and planners' need for a practical behavioural framework that assists them in planning their projects strategically for maximum effectiveness.

The last three years focused on a uniform approach to HIV mitigation through the Federation's Global Alliance on HIV framework. The Global Alliance framework has supported the development of National Society HIV programme plans and has encouraged National Societies to seek funding from independent donors. The Belize Red Cross Society was successful in obtaining funds from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society

received support from REPSOL (a Spanish oil and gas company) and the Jamaica Red Cross counted on the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) support in this area.

The Caribbean Global Alliance on HIV members met in Trinidad to discuss programme progress, establish a common perspective of the requirements of the programme's next 4-year phase, and to discuss planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER). The National Societies have been challenged with monitoring and reporting during the first 3-year phase of the programme.

During the development of the 4-year Global Alliance on HIV proposals, National Societies had the opportunity to identify the existing challenges within the Global Alliance on HIV Framework, which were communicated to the HIV team in the secretariat. A series of virtual meetings with Global Alliance members were also conducted, with support from the Americas Zone PMER unit, in an effort to improve planning, monitoring and reporting processes and to establish a standard criterion for data collection in member countries.

The first Caribbean HIV Conference in the Bahamas was held in November. The following list details the National Societies' actions during the conference:

Poster Displays:

- Role of the Jamaica Red Cross in Providing Safe Space for MSM - Jamaica Red Cross
- Development of MSM Training Manual for the Jamaica Red Cross Peer Education Programme - Jamaica Red Cross
- Adapting culture for theatre-based HIV prevention with Peer Education in Bahamas - American Red Cross Caribbean HIV AIDS Programme
- HIV Knowledge attitudes and practices and level of stigma and discrimination against MSM in Jamaica – University of the West Indies and American Red Cross
- Red Cross Global Alliance on HIV – Jamaica Red Cross
- Communicating safe messages through radio – Jamaica Red Cross

Presentations:

- Challenges of Recruiting Peer Educators from High Risk Populations in Urban Communities in the Bahamas - Bahamas Red Cross
- Challenging risk behaviours in the hinterland: Peer Education with miners and sex workers in Guyana - Guyana Red Cross

Skill Building Workshops:

- Cyber Peer Educators – Jamaica Red Cross

Programme component 2: Community Based Health

Component outcome 1: Communities are healthier and more resilient

The process to strengthen the linkages between health and community disaster risk reduction showed minimal progress in 2011. Although the target of 21 communities was impossible to cover during this period, the region's National Societies received support to integrate CBHFA training in communities where health hazards are clearly identified and prioritized through the VCA process. If this is successful it will represent a large step towards demonstrating the natural integration process between community-level health and disaster management activities. Additionally, the linkage of the Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) methodology with CBHFA, started in 2011, was scheduled to continue in 2012 to better prepare National Societies to partner with their Ministries of Health during critical health emergencies. The community component of the CBHFA toolkit was adapted to the Caribbean context and was launched for use by National Societies in late 2011.

The Guyana Red Cross Society held a CBHFA training in the period that Venezuela, a neighbouring country, reported over 200 cases of cholera. The Guyanese Ministry of Health placed the country on

heightened alert. The National Society's presence in the region allowed the CBHFA facilitators to focus on cholera, hygiene and safe water during the training. In light of the on-going risk, the issue of cholera was added to the standard CBHFA community toolkit under adaptation for the Caribbean.

Water and sanitation supplies were pre-positioned to increase timely and efficient response capacity and to complement CBHFA and WASH training. Water and sanitation equipment, intended to complement community training, arrived in Suriname in January 2011; however due to delays as well as budget constraints, Guyana did not receive its equipment until late 2011. Both National Societies, through previous projects with the French and Netherlands Red Cross Societies, have skilled community WASH facilitators who were able to integrate WASH topics into the CBHFA curriculum. The CRRO will further build on the skills of the Guyana and Suriname Red Cross Societies to strengthen their abilities to become a resource for the wider region, which will include those other National Societies interested in developing water and sanitation initiatives.

The Health and Water and Sanitation Planning and Coordination meeting held in Panama in February 2011 and the CBHFA Monitoring and Evaluation workshop, held in May 2011, contributed to strengthening coordination in the region. These events provided new perspectives on the integration of CBHFA with water and sanitation and DRR for a cross-programmatic and more effective approach in line with *Strategy 2020*.

During the reporting period, initiatives had not yet begun to link the impact on health of climate change in the Caribbean. However, the National Societies are growingly aware of the manner that climate change and the rainy season increase threats such dengue and cholera.

Component outcome 2: Scaled up First Aid services are strengthening community resilience and supporting National Society development

The regional proposal to procure funding to strengthen the first aid programme made use of the initial *IFRC International First Aid and Resuscitation Guidelines* released in February 2011. These guidelines also influenced the final revision of the Caribbean First Aid Reference Manual, developed with support of the British Red Cross, and released in late 2011.

The Belize Red Cross Society developed its First Aid Policy as a continuation of a first aid resource mobilization process that initiated with the support of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) in 2009. The National Societies of Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago launched first aid business planning with American Red Cross support in 2010, which continued by strengthening of their first aid programmes in 2011. Building on these initiatives, the regional first aid proposal has three central goals:

- Improved professionalism in first aid programming to increase the generation of funds from commercial first aid,
- Increased outreach services to vulnerable communities, and
- Advocacy work in favour of legislation that supports mandatory first aid requirements in industries including tourism, as well as first aid as a requisite for community risk reduction.

Component outcome 3: National Societies capacity to contribute to increasing their countries' blood supply is strengthened

Funding from the Swiss Humanitarian Foundation was approved in April 2011 to support the participation of the Suriname Red Cross in a 5-year global project to strengthen Club 25 globally. Towards this aim, efforts were placed on the increase in youth donors focused on healthy lifestyles and solidifying the initiative's sustainability. The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society launched their own Club 25 Campaign on World Blood Donor Day on 14 June 2011 while other National

Societies in the Caribbean joined their blood bank services to raise awareness about the need for VNRBD.

Suriname Red Cross's experience will strengthen their programming and offer the opportunity to share newly-acquired skills with other National Societies to promote coordination with their respective Ministries of Health.

Programme component 3: Public Health in Emergencies

Component outcome 1: Capacity and preparedness of National Societies to mitigate against the impact of public health emergencies increased

The psychosocial support in emergencies module, initiated in 2010, was finalized in early 2011 and was piloted in the latter half of the year. Further developments in the psychosocial support module will be utilized to build on the existing NIT and CDRT trainings in the Caribbean to integrate psychosocial support. As this is an area that Caribbean National Red Cross Societies consider critical in their response to disasters, the CRRO committed to seeking additional resources to support these processes.

Given their substantial migrant populations from Haiti and the Dominican Republic, where cholera remains a concern, the Red Cross in The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) and in the Bahamas emphasized their cholera responses. The Overseas Branch of the British Red Cross in TCI worked closely with their Ministry of Health in a DFID-sponsored project for cholera preparedness within the territory, and was subsequently invited to participate in monthly virtual meetings hosted by PAHO in which the CRRO is a principal member. A dengue poster was created and printed for the Caribbean and was shared with National Societies in preparation for the 2011 rainy season. Following the pattern of 2010, the incidence of cholera was predicted to again increase.

The *10 Steps* training was conducted in Guyana for staff and volunteers from the Red Cross Societies of Guyana and Jamaica, and one staff member from the IFRC CRRO and ICRC also participated. The Canadian Red Cross, which is active in violence prevention programming in the Americas, facilitated and supported the programme. The *10 Steps* programme is a resource for developing, implementing and monitoring risk management strategies within organizations and communities to help keep individuals, especially children and youth, safe from violence, abuse and harassment. Some emphasis was also placed on violence prevention among children and youth in emergency situations. The interactive programme utilized several case studies and other dynamic methodologies.

The Regional Health Network continued its outreach with the wider Caribbean Red Cross community. The network actively participated in several initiatives, including a review of health mapping processes guided from the Americas zone office, as well as completing the Inter-American Conference (IAC) questionnaire for health. In April, the Health Network was represented at a workshop on *Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases in the Americas*. A representative of the Health Network also sat as a member of the Global Gender Review committee for the development of the IFRC Gender Strategy. The Health Network held its first joint meeting with the Health and Disaster Management Network in July 2011.

The CBHFA training which had started in 2010 in Guyana and Suriname as part of the regional Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) programme was completed in the first half of 2011. This event taught 26 national CBHFA facilitator trainers who are now available nationally and regionally. Additionally, 91 community members in 8 communities were trained in the CBHFA methodology. As a direct outcome of these actions, the Suriname Red Cross signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work in partnership with UNICEF and a local NGO to roll out joint training based on CBHFA in new communities.

The CRRO participated in the 19th FACT training course, which was held in Chile in March 2011.

Organizational Development

Programme purpose

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

Programme component 1: Support National Society Organizational Development Processes

Component Outcome 1: National Society leadership is supported to adhere to the well-functioning of their National Society in terms of governance, management and leadership practices

By the end of 2011, all 13 all Caribbean National Societies had functional Governing Boards with clearly defined and understood roles and responsibilities. The revision of Statutes and Strategic Plans, underway in most of the National Societies, was at varying stages of development by the end of the year. The alignment to *Strategy 2020* is well understood among the National Societies, and is an integral part of their strategic planning considerations.

Component Outcome 2: National Societies are supported in adhering to standards of performance and accountability

The inclusion of two Caribbean National Societies –Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago – in the Federation-Wide Reporting System (FWRS) pilot and test run initiatives contributed to this outcome in 2010 and 2011. A proposal was presented to support the FWRS process in the Belize Red Cross Society.

A pilot exercise with selected National Societies to test the online platform of the IFRC's global databank was held in late 2011. Since this initiative is being progressively rolled out globally to adapt and improve the platform, a complete exercise with all Caribbean National Societies was not foreseen in 2011. However, the National Societies of Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago have been invited to participate in the pilot round of the databank initiative during the last semester of 2011.

While all National Societies have made progress towards establishing independent external audits, four National Societies were independently audited in 2011: Belize Red Cross Society, Guyana Red Cross Society, Jamaica Red Cross Society, and Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society.

The promotion of National Societies' use of FedNet, especially to update the Americas National Society profiles, led to the identification of focal persons in all 13 National Societies. Through these focal persons, National Societies received orientation and initiated data collection.

In 2011, all the Caribbean National Societies were introduced to the E-Learning Platform and took steps to employ development resources.

Component outcome 3: National Societies are better able to sustain their organizations through improved resource mobilization

The improvements in the commercial First Aid programmes in six National Societies provided the opportunity to work towards resource mobilization that could eventually allow for their self-sustainability. Best practices in resource mobilization were shared, and the National Societies of

Barbados, Belize, and Jamaica participated in a resource mobilization workshop in Panama in July 2011.

The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society's strategic planning process identified the need to develop a specific resource mobilization strategy. This National Society aims to roll out the concept of corporate volunteerism to foster corporate social responsibility so that companies could jointly reach their objectives while contributing to their National Society. This strategy was understood as complementary to communications and public relations strategies; plans to continue its implementation in 2012 were established.

Programme component 2: Volunteering Development

Component outcome 1: National Societies have active and vibrant networks of well managed and trained volunteers

Building on the previous year's volunteer development training, National Societies in 2011 attempted to recruit new volunteers that reflect each country's diversity. This initiative involved the volunteer focal points appointed in each National Society and the completion of new V volunteer education and development materials.

A member of the St. Lucia Red Cross represented the region's National Societies in the Global Volunteer Conference: Volunteering for a Sustainable Future jointly organized by the IFRC and UN Volunteers in September 2011 and held in Hungary.

At the end of the reporting period, examples of volunteering best practices were in the process of being documented for future dissemination. In the same manner, the content for the volunteering in emergencies toolkit was finalized. As the year came to a close, the National Societies requested funds to print and distribute the toolkit to all National Societies in the region.

At least 20 participants from the Caribbean completed the European e-learning volunteer management programme training through the Open University of Catalonia.

The National Societies of Trinidad and Tobago and Antigua & Barbuda both requested to pilot volunteer data base management software (DBMS) to enhance their respective volunteer development. Both have contacted the software company and began the process of installing the database. Upon completion, the DBMS will facilitate the provision of reports to support planning, management and decision making.

Programme component 3: Youth Development

Component outcome 1: National Societies with strongly integrated Youth Programmes

The Youth Network implemented a project in the National Societies of Barbados, Grenada and Saint Lucia. This Finnish Red Cross- funded capacity building project focused on youth leadership in violence prevention. The objective established to support National Society youth functioning at governance level has been met in the Belize Red Cross Society and the Jamaica Red Cross. By the end of 2011, there was no programme officer in CRRO for youth development, causing some constraints to promote and further work towards this outcome. These limitations did not allow for the planned youth internship activities, leadership training, and use of social media platforms to connect Red Cross Youth leadership in the Caribbean.

Principles and Values

Programme purpose

Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

Programme component 1: Promotion of Humanitarian Principles and Values (Humanitarian Diplomacy)

Component outcome 1: Increased promotion of the Red Cross work through implementation of communication and advocacy strategies.

In 2011, advocacy work was undertaken during programme visits to promote the National Societies' auxiliary role. The promotion of the Movement's Principles and Values was incorporated as a central component of implemented programme activities. The continued actions of the communications officers, funded through DIPECHO 8, have contributed to furthering the promotion of the involved National Societies' activities and the Fundamental Principles. Additional information on the communications component is detailed in the section on Institutional Preparedness for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Component outcome 1: Increased strategic collaboration with external partners

During the reporting period, CRRO representatives participated in a disaster response systems coordination meeting facilitated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as well as several health coordination meetings conducted by PAHO, and in the ECDG-DM coordination session. In addition, the regional representative played an active role in setting the agenda for the deliberations of the Civil Society Committee of Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). These meetings with Red Cross partners continue to provide an opportunity to promote the general objectives of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the specific programmes of the National Societies in the Caribbean region.

The CRRO was involved in directly and indirectly supporting the region's National Societies in a wide range of areas. Several meetings were held with agencies in Belize, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago in the area of humanitarian diplomacy. The International Federation was also represented in the CDEMA. Continued programme funding was provided by ECHO, OFDA and Canadian CIDA for DRR projects as well as from the Japanese Red Cross Society for pre-positioning of relief supplies. New funding from UNFPA to develop peer education training materials was pursued. The DIPECHO project provided funds for resource mobilization officers and a workshop on the topic in Panama was attended by staff and volunteers from the National Societies.

Highlights

- The Finnish Red Cross provided financial support for youth-based violence prevention projects in Barbados, Grenada and Saint Lucia.
- Discussions started for new sources of DFID funds.
- Meetings were held with the Belize National Emergency Management Organization and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to secure commitment for a disaster law workshop with involved government officials. Furthermore, a disaster law workshop for Caribbean National Societies and government representatives in partnership with OCHA was held. The Jamaica Red

Cross started a DFID-funded disaster law project to study the effectiveness of existing legislation and regulations.

- Technical support was provided for the development of strategic plans for the National Societies of Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, and Trinidad & Tobago. Further OD support was given to create the Long Term Planning Framework (LTPF) for Barbados and Belize. Close consultation and support were provided to the Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross concerning strife with an internal factional group. A workshop was held and consultations were made with the leadership of the Trinidad & Tobago Police Service (TTRCS). A report was produced that detailed the consultations and workshop's findings.
- The secretariat worked together with UNICEF to create a training curriculum for post-disaster child psychosocial support counsellors.
- An internship with Barbados Red Cross allowed the Resource Centre to adapt the Climate Change Adaptation toolkit for community-level training.
- The National Societies of Belize and Colombia organized a peer-to-peer exchange on DRR.
- Training was provided for volunteer development, the project planning process and FedNet.

Working in partnership

As part of the IFRC's mandate, strategic relationships must be developed and maintained with intergovernmental and regional agencies, international development organizations, governments and respective donor agencies channelling their governmental agencies' funds, and educational institutions. Such relationships augur well for the success of the various programmes, which are administered by the region's National Red Cross Societies. Therefore, relationships were developed and maintained with the following institutions:

Intergovernmental/Regional:

- The Association of Caribbean States (ACS)
- Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)
- Evaluation Capacity Development Group (ECDG)
- Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP)
- Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)
- Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC)

United Nations:

- Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs (OCHA)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Policy Centre Brazil
- United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Government/Donors:

- The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID)

Government:

- National Disaster Offices of Belize and Jamaica.

Universities:

- University of the West Indies (UWI) Jamaica (Geoinformatics)
- St. George's University, Grenada (Child psychosocial support with UNICEF)
- John Hopkins University

Contributing to longer-term impact

The secretariat established an approach to support and facilitate National Societies' engagement to determine their strategic aims within the context of *Strategy 2020*. This process provided an opportunity for their governance and management bodies to collaborate with the CRRO in preparing Long Term Planning Frameworks (LTPF) that guide the secretariat in its technical resource allocation in support of its National Society membership.

Future approaches will seek resources from key contributors interested in supporting the Caribbean National Societies' capacities to comply with their strategic plans. In each National Society, the development of individual plans and strategies will be drafted in line with the country-specific LTPF. The country-based planning effort ideally will have a stronger focus on respective institutional and programmatic needs.

The goal is to foment methods and actions so that each National Society can fulfil its potential and effectively address the humanitarian needs of their populations, while recognizing the inter-dependent characteristics of the Caribbean.

At the programmatic level, the continuing vulnerability to vector-borne diseases such as dengue demonstrate the region's susceptibility to emergency health threats and reinforce the need for stronger links between programmes for early warning, awareness building and response.

With a view to making progress in the area of information technology, the digital divide programme was taken up by the National Societies of Suriname and St. Vincent & the Grenadines. Discussions started with the CRRO and the mobile service provider, Digicel, for partnership on mobile phone message delivery service similar to the Haiti project.

Looking ahead

The prolonged economic crisis continues to have a negative impact on the Caribbean nations. The general population's vulnerability increases as the marginally poor get pushed further down the economic ladder. This trend augments the National Societies' humanitarian responsibilities in a context in which the financial resources to mitigate the consequences of hazard risks continue to dwindle. The potential for donor fatigue as developed countries begin to cut back on budgeted amounts for international aid and development compound this challenge.

The long-term sustainability of National Societies operations always will remain a priority; improving volunteer development systems and a culture of planning – with an emphasis on volunteering in emergencies and resource mobilization techniques and practices – can help to increase the capacities of the National Societies in the region to fulfil their mandates. National Societies are encouraged to innovate resource mobilization strategies and reduce their own institutional vulnerability and dependence on international funding. A clear, realistic and effective long-term strategy for the diversification of funding sources for the National Societies in the region needs to be developed.

How we work

All IFRC 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 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 nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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