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South Asia Regional Delegation Annual Report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA52001
30 April 2014

**This report covers the
period 1 January to 31
December 2013**

Discussion with volunteers of Killinochi branch of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) during review of volunteers in action programme (a component under RC-PCR), December 2013. Photo: SLRCS.



Overview

Top-line achievements:

The South Asia regional delegation (SARD) has continued to promote the holistic and integrated programming approach to build stronger and sustainable programmes in South Asia in the midst of a complex and evolving environment. SARD has strengthened its technical advisory role and coordination support between technical teams in the country offices and National Societies. This is leading to a more coordinated approach to the Movement aims with significant progress made in strengthening the tools and mechanisms for disaster preparedness and community resilience in the region. In particular, the preparedness and resilience unit (PRU) advisors provided technical support to fine-tune and develop programme tools, procedures and resources of the South Asian National Societies that includes the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC), Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS).

The regional disaster management initiatives included quality enhancement in organisational disaster preparedness (ODP), such as refining training resources, manuals, developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) and contingency plans on disaster response at regional level and finalising those developed by the National Society. Stronger emphasis was put on harmonizing sectoral response, particularly through holistic contingency planning and simulation exercises. During the reporting period, the programme advisors also continued to support the National Societies of the region to improve their community-based programming with organisational development (OD), planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), beneficiary communications.

Finance development has been an integrated, holistic approach to OD, with more system setup and training rolled out for ARCS, BDRCS and MRC. Technical support in terms of trainings, up-grading and customization of financial software, and promotion of study visits have improved National Societies' capacities to plan, to report, manage their financial resources, and track expenditure which facilitates better management.

The regional communication manager, rendered communication support to the South Asian National Societies, which in turn, had facilitated more coverage of media internationally and domestically. Furthermore, liaisons were established or reinvigorated with diplomatic and international community, donor agencies, UN

agencies, non-government agencies and academic institutions, information was shared and collaboration undertaken as appropriate.

The detail of the achievements under the outcomes section below, in themselves only headlines gives a good indication of this.

Factors affecting operating context:

Most of the National Societies have encountered challenging environment in 2013 caused by the context in which they operate.

- The uncertain political environment, including strikes, demonstration, election campaign and national election in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan resulted in delayed or cancelled of regional technical support and planned events. Some planned areas of supports have been rescheduled to 2014 due to some adjustment of priorities in the concerned National Society and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) offices and funding constraints to support country level activities such as implementation of few finance development and agreed beneficiary communication and accountability (BCA) plans.
- The security concerns in Afghanistan, combined with travel restrictions since late May 2013 has delayed the planned activities in the field. Hence, in-country support, particularly to Afghanistan has been affected throughout 2013.
- Severe weather conditions due to the monsoon rainfall caused floods/landslide resulted shifting of priorities to disaster response and relief in India, Bangladesh, and Nepal. The tropical cyclones in Bangladesh and India led to disaster calling for international support from IFRC, Partner National Societies (PNSs) and other institutional donors.

Working in partnership

Working in partnership is one of the crucial elements of sustaining the programme and capacities of SARD. The multilateral PNSs supporting SARD through IFRC included American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross Society, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, the Hong Kong branch of Red Cross Society of China, Indian Red Cross Society, Iranian Red Crescent, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, New Zealand Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Taiwan Red Cross Organization and Turkish Red Crescent Society. The Department for International Development (DFiD), World Bank, Zurich Foundation, PNS governmental back donors are also supporting SARD through IFRC.

Progress towards outcomes

Business Line 1: To raise humanitarian standards.

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Outcome 1: The quality of humanitarian and development thinking is improved by the inputs of experience and knowledge of South Asian National Societies. (Globally lead initiative)			
Output 1.1: National Societies profile their services, strengths and gaps by participating in the global databank.			
<i>By 2015, the global databank and the 'organisational capacity assessment and certification' (OCAC) process will be used to share knowledge, capacities and human resources including peer reviews and community of practitioners offering peer support. 70 people will be benefitted from coaching and mentoring from seven National Society practitioners.</i>	N/A	2	1
Comments on progress towards outputs:			
In 2013, the National Societies initiative to complete the OCAC process was more positive compared to 2012.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARCS have completed both phase 1 and phase 2 of the OCAC process in 2013. This was originally 			

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
<p>planned in 2012 but postponed due to security concerns in the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLRCS has shown a positive response towards OCAC process. An orientation on OCAC process was provided to the OD policy committee and branch executive officers, in December 2013. BDRCS has postponed its planned phase 1 of the OCAC process from August 2013 to the first quarter of 2014. 			
<p>Variance: Frequent political strikes, demonstrations and national elections in Bangladesh have delayed BDRCS's phase 1 OCAC process in 2013 however; this will be continued in 2014. The National Society needs more time and rescheduling of activities for 2014.</p>			

Business line 2: To grow Red Cross Red Crescent services for vulnerable people.

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
<p>Outcome 1: (Organisational disaster preparedness) Strengthened and sustainable National Society capacities to respond to, and help communities recover from, health emergencies, disasters and crises.</p>			
<p>Output 1.1: Each National Society has demonstrably efficient and effective standard operating procedures, guidelines, systems, management processes (including for volunteers), and response/ contingency plans in place and operational that meet norms of health emergency and disaster response best practice.</p>			
<p><i>By 2015, seven National Societies have updated health emergency and disaster response mechanisms and contingency plans in place.</i></p>	N/A	2	5 ¹
<p>Comments on progress towards outputs: The programme advisors of the regional delegation continued to support the National Societies in 2013. With the technical advisory support, the National Societies have strengthened their capacities in terms of tools and plans, to respond to and help the communities recover from health emergencies, disasters and crises. Significant progress was achieved and the outcome was realised through increased sectoral response and better performance of the National Societies in the field of emergency response and recovery programming. IRCS response in Jammu and Kashmir earthquake, Uttarakhand flash floods and cyclone Phailin, BDRCS response in tropical cyclone Mahasen, PRCS response in Balochistan earthquake, and NRCS and SLRCS response in small scale disasters are key evidence of strengthened institutional response capacity as well as community preparedness and resilience. In addition, the findings of the disaster response simulation exercises and field testing in Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Maldives and Pakistan was useful to identify the success and gaps in the National Societies response tools. Further, the findings will be used for fine-tuning the response mechanisms and plan of ARCS, IRCS, NRCS, PRCS and SLRCS in 2014.</p>			
<p>Output 1.2: Appropriately skilled and sufficient human resources are available at all levels of each National Society for health emergency and disaster response.</p>			
<p><i>By 2015, four National Societies have appropriate NDRT and district disaster response team (DDRT) human resources in place.</i></p>	N/A	2	4 ²
<p>Comments on progress towards outputs: Regional technical support, including facilitation of trainings helped the National Societies to have more number of skilled human resources.</p>			

¹ ARCS, IRCS (through FMR), MRC (response mechanism), NRCS and PRCS.

² In 2012, BDRCS trained 36 people in NDRT.

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IRCS has greater numbers of NDRT trained people in state branches. During the Uttarakhand flash floods and cyclone Phailin, NDRTs were extensively used not only in assessment but also at the branch level for relief and distribution. NDWRT were also used to support the deployment of water purification units. PRCS has greater numbers of people trained in DDRT at provincial and state branches. Four NDRT members were deployed by PRCS NHQ for monitoring and facilitation during the relief response operation of Balochistan earthquake. MRC has established and trained more people using the new emergency response team (ERT) training package. NRCS has greater numbers of trained staff and volunteer in emergency shelter, water and sanitation (WatSan), and recovery including cash transfer programme. IRCS (through first medical responder) and NRCS (through emergency health training) have greater numbers of trained personnel in emergency health. 			
Output 1.3: Appropriate logistical equipment and pre-positioned materials are available at all levels of each National Society for health emergency and disaster response.			
<i>By 2015, four National Societies have equipment and materials in place at both national and majority of disaster prone districts.</i>	N/A	1	2 ³
Comments on progress towards outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical support provided to conduct logistics study for IRCS national headquarters' (NHQ) warehousing mechanism in the last quarter of 2013. Recommendations were adopted and follow-up actions will be carried out in 2014. For Uttarakhand flash floods and Cyclone Phailin in Odisha, regional advisors provided technical inputs to IRCS on pre-positioning of relief materials in strategic warehouse locations at Kolkata and NHQ level. The NHQ will subsequently pre-position materials in disaster prone districts. 			
Output 1.4: A demonstrably efficient, effective and sustainable system is operational for mobilizing appropriately skilled regional response capacities to respond to health emergencies and disasters requiring international assistance.			
<i>By 2015, a system in place with which is used to deploy regional disaster response team (RDRT) efficiently and effectively as confirmed by monitoring and evaluations.</i>	1	0	In progress
Comments on progress towards outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At present, there are 120 approved RDRT members in the South Asia region ready for deployment in areas of logistics, WatSan, shelter, information technology and telecommunications, health and emergency assessment/relief. Through the existing RDRT system, nine RDRT members were deployed in 2013. One RDRT was deployed as surge capacity in IFRC Asia Pacific Zone (APZ), two RDRTs were deployed to support BDRCS in the Tropical Cyclone Mahasen relief operation, and four RDRTs in shelter and two RDRTs in logistics were deployed in the Philippines Typhoon Haiyan response operation. 			
Output 1.5: Knowledge is identified and shared from within, and from outside the region that has a direct beneficial impact in another National Society's health emergency and disaster response.			
<i>By 2015, five National Societies can demonstrate the positive impact that external learning has had in their health emergency and disaster response preparedness and the quality of response.</i>	N/A	2	Refer to narrative ⁴
Comments on progress towards outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regional OD forum conducted in March in Sri Lanka promoted OD agenda among the National Societies and formed the regional OD working group (ODWG). 			

³ In 2012, NRCS has strategically pre-positioned two WatSan kit 5's in two separate regional warehouses.

⁴ Knowledge management support provided for developing lessons learned case study on simulation conducted by NRCS. Case study was finalized and circulated for information on the simulation exercise.

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual regional PMER network meeting held in June provided a platform to improve the harmonious working, knowledge and experience sharing of PMER practices in South Asia region. This platform brought together 16 participants from five National Societies (BDRCS, MRC, NRCS, PRCS and SLRCS), four IFRC offices (Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka), SARD and APZ and continue to advocate for enhancing the PMER capacity in each National Society and country office. The terms of reference (ToR) and guideline for the South Asia Youth Network (SAYN) was discussed with all National Societies' OD and youth focal person before finalization. Two youths from National Societies (MRC and SLRCS) represented the RCRC Movement in the 9th Commonwealth Youth Forum held in Sri Lanka in November 2013. 			
<p>Variance: Significant progress has been made in the utilization of advisory technical support, especially in strengthening the tools, plans and procedures of the respective National Societies for health emergency and disaster response work. However, some of the outputs such as pre-positioning of equipment and materials at disaster prone districts, demonstrating the positive impact of external learnings in health emergency and disaster response preparedness by all National Societies could not be achieved as expected due to some adjustment of priorities in the concerned National Society and IFRC offices. In particular, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Bhutan had to focus more on disaster response during monsoon season, whereas Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, and Nepal were affected by the tightened security situation.</p>			

Business Line 3: To strengthen the specific Red Cross Red Crescent contribution to development.

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
<p>Outcome 1: (Strengthening community resilience) Strengthened and sustainable National Society capacities to implement community-based approaches that increase the resilience of vulnerable communities to the risks posed by hazards, climate change and public health issues.</p>			
<p>Output 1.1: Each National Society has demonstrably efficient and effective procedures, guidelines, systems, management processes, tools and plans in place and operational for achieving quality impact in community-based programming.</p>			
By 2015, seven National Societies have long term programmes in place that demonstrate quality community impact.	N/A	5	5 ⁵
<p>Comments on progress towards outputs: With the utilization of regional advisory technical support, five National Societies have strengthened community-based approaches while implementing long-term projects that increase the resilience of vulnerable communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRC and SLRCS have integrated climate change adaptation (CCA) into their community-based health and first aid (CBHFA)/community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) processes. ARCS, MRC, NRCS, PRCS and Bhutan have further improved their CBDRR/CBHFA approaches to enable more resilient communities. NRCS and PRCS have integrated beneficiary communication into community-based programming. SLRCS facilitated a discussion to integrate "Youth as Agent of Behavioural Change (YABC)" in climate change at community level. 			
<p>Output 1.2: Appropriately skilled and sufficient human resources are available at branch and field levels for community-based programme implementation and at branch and headquarter level to technically support and manage community-based programming.</p>			

⁵ BDRCS, IRCS, MRC, NRCS and ARCS.

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
<i>By 2015, four National Societies have sufficiently skilled staff at both branch and headquarter levels.</i>	1	2	4 ⁶
<p>Comments on progress towards outputs: Guidance, orientation and facilitation of trainings by the regional technical advisors on community-based programming have enhanced the technical skills of available human resources in the National Societies and country offices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IRCS is developing a blueprint for the long term junior, youth and volunteer development programme. MRC, NRCS and Bhutan have more community resilience - CBDRR/CBHFA trained human resource in place. MRC and SLRCS have more people trained in conducting the vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA). A total of 50 new YABC peer educators were trained and active in South Asia region. Two YABC trained experts from NRCS and SLRCS were mobilized as co-facilitators in the YABC trainings hosted by PRCS and the Hong Kong branch of Red Cross Society of China. ARCS, BDRCS, NRCS and SLRCS have greater beneficiary communications capacity in place. 			
Output 1.3: Each National Society has the capacity to generate back donor support for community based programming and to link with governmental institutional capacities.			
<i>By 2015, three National Societies regularly securing funds for community-based programmes.</i>	N/A	1	4 ⁷
<p>Comments on progress towards outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDRCS has continued to grow their CBDRR project with the support of Swedish Red Cross through IFRC. NRCS has received funding for CBDRR through Zurich Foundation and World Bank. PRCS has been able to continue their integrated community-based risk reduction (ICBRR) programme. SLRCS has an on-going community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) programme. The Indian housing project under SLRCS's Red Cross post-conflict programme (RC-PCR) progressing successfully in the northern provinces of Sri Lanka. 			
Output 1.4: Knowledge is identified and shared from within, and from outside the region that has a direct beneficial impact in another National Society's risk reduction work.			
<i>By 2015, five National Societies can demonstrate the positive impact that external learning has had on their community based programmes.</i>	N/A	2	2 ⁸
<p>Comments on progress towards outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IRCS has disseminated case studies on good practices from the current CBDRR project. SLRCS has developed and shared experiences from the field from the CBDRR programme. 			
Outcome 2: Strengthen National Society capacities in their auxiliary role to government in reducing the burden of public health issues.			
Output 2.1: Each National Society has demonstrably efficient and effective procedures, guidelines, systems, management processes, tools, and plans in place to address public health issues.			
<i>By 2015, at least five National Societies, capacities to deliver public health interventions are strengthened and scaled up.</i>	N/A	2	3 ⁹
<p>Comments on progress towards outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ARCS received technical support from SARD in designing the food and nutrition security study, especially for the measurement related indicators based on Anthropometry. BDRCS integrated CBHFA into their mother and child health (MCH) programme. 			

⁶ IRCS, NRCS, MRC, SLRCS

⁷ NRCS, BDRCS, MRC, SLRCS

⁸ A community resilience page developed on FedNet for South Asia region in 2012.

⁹ One National Society was continued from 2012.

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IRCS has implemented measles social mobilization as part of their community-based programming in 20 districts of two Indian states. NRCS has included HIV and non-communicable disease (NCD) in their updated health strategic plan as part of their community-based programming. NRCS has also started the HIV programme targeting with the most-at-risk population. MRC has a health strategy in place. The CBHFA approach has been taken as the umbrella programming approach to prevent and manage any public health issue in the Maldives. NRCS and MRC rolled out their CBHFA PMER toolkit and improvised the programme tools (unified log-frame, M&E framework, etc.) as per programme context. 			
<p>Output 2.2: Appropriately skilled and sufficient human resources are available at branch and field levels for public health issues programme implementation and at branch and headquarter level to technically support and manage public health issues programming.</p>			
<i>By 2015, four National Societies have sufficiently skilled staff at both branch and headquarters level.</i>	N/A	3	4
<p>Comments on progress towards outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The improved beneficiary communications capacity in CBHFA, in ARCS has commenced the beneficiary satisfaction “spot checks” in the programme. BDRCS staff received training on MNCH with special emphasis on newborn care and management of complication in new-born. IRCS has increased the number of trained personnel and volunteers in health. At least 458 volunteers were trained on measles social mobilization and mobilized during national immunisation day. NRCS has greater numbers of HIV/AIDS trained personnel available for programming. SLRCS has greater numbers of trained personnel in NCD. MRC now has a group of 23 master trainers trained in MCH and nutrition. As a result, these trainers further trained more than 150 volunteers. 			
<p>Output 2.3: National Societies have increased capacity to generate donor and government support as well as other stakeholders towards sustainability of their public health activities.</p>			
<i>By 2015, at least four National Societies engage in a more strategic way with external organisations, including governments and international organisations, and are able to influence policy outcomes to strengthen assistance to vulnerable people.</i>	N/A	2	2
<i>By 2015, at least two targeted South Asian National Societies have demonstrated an enhanced capacity to deliver an increased volume of humanitarian aid internationally in a coordinated way.</i>	N/A	2	2
<i>By 2015, one MoU/agreement is in place with regional cooperation bodies to enhance collaboration between IFRC and the respective regional governments to influence better outcomes for vulnerable people.</i>	N/A	0	1
<p>Comments on progress towards outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRC established an excellent collaborative relationship with Health Protection Agency (HPA), Government of Maldives and the World Health Organisation (WHO); as a result, the HPA and WHO team proposed 13 per cent match funding of MRC budget for NCD prevention and management programme. Other than this, a partnership was built with Diabetic Centre and Cancer Association of Maldives. IRCS engaged with the Tuberculosis (TB) Association of India, Hans Foundation and the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) India office for joint programming and resource mobilization. The partnership with Nestle was further developed as stakeholders convened on nutrition. The event gave a good opportunity to position the SARD, and the IFRC to major nutritionists in India, in November 2013. The plan to link BDRCS and SLRCS with Nestle for working on nutrition security is in the pipeline. IRCS rolled out its first medical responders (FMR) initiatives in 14 disaster management programme 			

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
<p>states in India. During the Uttarakhand flash floods, IRCS mobilized hundreds of FMRs who provided support in the rescue operation in coordination with different government agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRC by developing a contingency plan, providing support to the government by leading the activities in major islands of Maldives. The WHO Cooperation Agreement is already in place, which will be revised in 2014. 			
Output 2.4: Knowledge is identified and shared from within, and from outside the region that has a direct beneficial impact in another National Society's public health issues.			
<i>By 2015, five National Societies can demonstrate the positive impact that external learning has had on their public health issue programmes.</i>	N/A	2	2
Comments on progress towards outputs: SARD promoted two case studies on dengue developed by MRC and SLRCS. These case studies will be launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Maldives and Sri Lanka in the first quarter of 2014.			
Outcome 3: (Finance development) South Asian National Societies' have skilled members of finance management staff to establish transparent financial management and timely reporting to stakeholders.			
Output 3.1: National Societies' capacities in financial accountability, reporting and management are strengthened.			
<i>By 2015, all National Societies in South Asia will have a technically trained cadre of finance staff.</i>	4	3	3 ¹⁰
<i>Improved accounting and reporting skills and competencies as well as cultural awareness and adaptability to different environments will be seen in National Societies' staff.¹¹</i>	N/A	0	Refer to narrative
<i>By 2015, 80% of donors consulted state they are satisfied with National Society planning and reporting.</i>	N/A	0%	20% ¹²
<i>By 2015, 95% reports are submitted on time and in line with reporting guidelines and standards (including financial reports).</i>	10%	0%	55% ¹³
Comments on progress towards outputs: The finance development project was phased out from Nepal in 2012. With customized financial software, improved financial procedures and manuals NRCS is now managing its day-to-day financial affairs, including audit and financial reporting with less dependence on IFRC. In 2013, the focused countries were Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Maldives. The regional finance development delegate continued its technical advisory support in terms of trainings, up-grading and customization of financial software, and promotion of study visits which have improved ARCS, BDRCS and MRC's capacities to plan, to report, manage their financial resources, and track expenditure on a real time basis.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ARCS upgraded its financial system and trainings to NHQ and regional finance teams on Navision accounting and logistic software. The initial trouble shooting as per ARCS requirement is on-going hence; Navision is at the final stage of handover to ARCS. Trainings on finance management for NHQ and branches have ensured better financial management systems in BDRCS and MRC. Both the National Societies have more people trained in financial management. In 2013, 44 finance staff (22 each) from BDRCS and MRC's national headquarters' and district units was trained in June. This has strengthened their knowledge on financial record keeping, cash, ledger, appropriate financial register maintenance and preparing receipts and payments accounts, internal and external audit system. This will bring improvement in generating relevant and reliable financial reports to meet the requirements set within the rules and regulation of the National Societies to transfer funds on time and achieve confidence of all stakeholders, its members and donors. BDRCS 			

¹⁰ ARCS, BDRCS and MRC have greater numbers of people trained during 2013.

¹¹ There will be qualitative measurement from the external audit report and donor audit report.

¹² This was achieved in 2012.

¹³ This was achieved in 2012.

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
<p>district units are submitting their finance reports on time to national headquarters' which is helping to transfer funds on time to district units.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The exchange visit among the National Societies has been useful in promoting peer-to-peer learning opportunities. The BDRCS head of internal audit visited to Nepal to study the NRCS's internal audit system and adapted into BDRCS. 			
<p>Variance: Though the knowledge management has not achieved the expected outputs, however the regional forums for knowledge sharing provided a useful platform to discuss various sectoral issues and how to minimize gaps within programmes.</p> <p>Limited in-country supports were provided to ARCS and BDRCS due to travel restrictions following volatile security situation in both the countries. For BDRCS, the finalization of local software for district units and support to the head of internal audit in developing internal audit manuals were postponed to 2014 due to frequent strikes and political demonstrations in the country. The customized software will be handed over to BDRCS by April 2014.</p> <p>Funding constraints to support country level finance development activities have also resulted in postponement of country level finance management in emergency training for BDRCS and ARCS, regional finance directors and internal auditors meeting and exchange programme visits for MRC and PRCS finance staff.</p>			

Business Line 4: To heighten Red Cross Red Crescent influence and support for our work.

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
<p>Outcome 1: Humanitarian diplomacy (HD) in South Asia is strengthened through engagement, quality service support and humanitarian diplomacy initiatives to our membership in the region. Also employ communication and advocacy tools to effectively influence policies and attitudes both nationally and regionally.</p>			
<p>Output 1.1: Development of a South Asia HD framework and the organisational development and capacity building of SARD in HD.</p>			
<p><i>By 2015, a consultative 'South Asia HD team' is developed and established consisting of representatives of SARD, National Societies, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), IFRC country delegations, and Partner National Societies.</i></p>	N/A	0	Refer to narrative
<p><i>By 2015, knowledge and skills of the SARD leadership and key programme managers such as the health, DM and communication delegates, as well as key Partner National Societies are strengthened.</i></p>	N/A	0	Refer to narrative
<p><i>By 2015, a regional plan of HD action region is in place which focuses on both SARD supporting National Societies and IFRC delegations in the region, as well as SARD practicing advocacy on regional issues.</i></p>	N/A	0	Refer to narrative
<p>Comments on progress towards outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of continuous effort to promote the humanitarian diplomacy (HD) agenda in the South Asia, which was started in 2012 during the regional integrated HD and communications workshop for National Societies and IFRC country offices in the region. SARD has been working to position the Red Cross and Red Crescent as the primary, credible source of information on humanitarian issues and disasters in the 			

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
<p>seven countries in which it operates. To do this it will assist the National Societies and country offices to establish a culture of HD and communication in line with the IFRC Strategy (2020).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent cooperation has been established with the ICRC regional delegation in Delhi, with several joint initiatives implemented. Among them, leadership training and orientation for the ARCS; joint mission to the Maldives; coordination of work in Bhutan; FMR training of IRCS in Jammu and Kashmir. • SARD staff was sensitized to HD issues and through updates provided in weekly staff meetings. The regional communication and advocacy manager and technical advisors continued to promote HD agenda while participating in high level government meetings and international events. In December, a workshop on HD and beneficiary communication for NRCS senior management was conducted in Nepal. • A user-friendly version of the South Asia regional HD framework was produced and shared with the regional HD focal points, Global HD team and APZ. The APZ is taking a lead for the development of a regional HD plan and efforts are under way to reinvigorate the work of establishing and maintaining a culture of HD and communication within each respective National Society and regionally. As demonstrated in regional strategy and advocacy plans of 2009 - 2010 and of 2011 - 12, the need for a more professional communication approach lingers on. Introductory visits by the regional communications and advocacy manager have been paid to three National Societies, probing into existing structures, plans and need for support. Together with the APZ, a strategic operation plan aligned with the HD global strategic positioning initiatives plan for the SARD is to be developed in March 2014. • The SARD is already taking an active role in the delivery of HD global positioning initiatives: emergencies, silent disasters, access to health, post-2015 agenda and humanitarian empowerment. Among other, expertise, stories and a case study has been extended to the 2014 IFRC Advocacy Reports on polio respectively on dengue. The Head of Regional Delegation, with the support of the team, is establishing contacts with the Ambassadors represented in Delhi, and with the international organisations in view of strengthening the IFRC representation and creating opportunities for advocacy and cooperation. 			
<p>Output 1.2: A stronger and more integrated communications culture across delegations and National Societies with enhanced communications capacities in the region.</p>			
<p><i>By 2015, all National Societies and country delegations communications team produce clear, focused, coherent, and consistent communications products and deliver strong communications messages across the region.</i></p>	N/A	0	Refer to narrative
<p><i>By 2015, all National Societies and respective country delegations in the region have a deeper understanding of beneficiary communications and are able to map out their needs, target audiences and best channels in a strategic way.</i></p>	N/A	3	3 ¹⁴
<p>Comments on progress towards outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach has taken place with representatives of the media, namely through the Foreign Correspondents' Club of India, members of the diplomatic and the humanitarian community. The Regional Communication Manager supported IRCS with international and national media coverage from the field. These included BBC, CNN, CNN India, Al Jazeera, TT- Swedish National Wire Service, Radio France Europe, DPA- German Press Agency, NDTV and Pioneer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After the Cyclone Phailin made landfall on the eastern coast of India in early October, the profile of IRCS and IFRC was promoted through international, national and local media on disaster preparedness and response. The regional communication manager paid field visits and produced web stories on IRCS relief and response actions. ○ To increase South Asia visibility and knowledge sharing, two news and feature stories from India were produced and published in the 12th edition of Asia Pacific Voices. ○ The launch of FMR programme in Jammu and Kashmir was featured in local, regional and national media. ○ World Disaster Report 2013 was launched in Pakistan. • Following the last year beneficiary communication and HD workshops, SLRCS is progressing with a 			

¹⁴ SLRCS in 2012 whereas ARCS, BDRCS and NRCS started in 2013.

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
<p>strong beneficiary communication component in the post-conflict recovery programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Technical and facilitation support was provided to SLRCS to host and conduct the Global Beneficiary Communications meeting and simulation exercise in October 2013. A total of 85 participants from 40 different National Societies globally, ICRC and IFRC representatives from zones and regions participated in this event. ○ ARCS, PRCS, SLRCS have greater beneficiary communications capacity in place for response programme. ○ BDRCS and NRCS have integrated beneficiary communication into emergency response and preparedness programmes and services. 			
Outcome 2: Increased awareness of the fundamental principles and values that contributes to building inclusion, tolerance and reduce stigma and discrimination.			
Output 2.1: National Societies lead the process of behavioural change and develop and implement programmes aimed at reducing discrimination, intolerance and violence and have enhanced understanding and application of Principles and Values and promoting its integration into their programmes.			
<i>By 2015, at least five National Societies engage in the promotion of a culture of nonviolence and peace in which all groups of the community, including marginalized or disenfranchised groups are involved.</i>	N/A	1	3 ¹⁵
<i>By 2015, at least one National Society has gender and diversity policies in place and is making progress with the mainstreaming of gender and diversity.</i>	N/A	0	1 ¹⁶
<p>Comments on progress towards outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARCS, IRCS and SLRCS have incorporated YABC into their youth curriculum. SLRCS have translated the YABC toolkit in two local languages – (Sinhala and Tamil and published all three versions (inclusive of English language). This has been a milestone for SLRCS as being the first National Society in South Asia to translate and publish the toolkit. 			
<p>Variance:</p> <p>The HD and communications resume by the end of third quarter, with the position of the regional communication and advocacy manager was filled in September prior to being vacant for a few months. Changes in country office human resources, including HD and communication focal points implied a temporary stop in finalizing the South Asia HD team and building capacities in the above mentioned areas. However, a communications team with representation of HD already exists and more HD actions are in the pipeline for 2014.</p> <p>Preliminary support plans to develop beneficiary communication programmes were designed for Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Nepal, including the appointment of BCA focal persons in Afghanistan and Bangladesh and initial baselines. However, the integration of beneficiary communication in community-based programming and BCA capacity building initiative is going to take some more time as these initiatives are linked to medium term programmes such as ICBRR in Pakistan, Rohingya proposal in Bangladesh, and CBDRR Koshi in Nepal. We shall continue our efforts to move forwards to demonstrate the link with improved programming and accountability mechanisms.</p>			

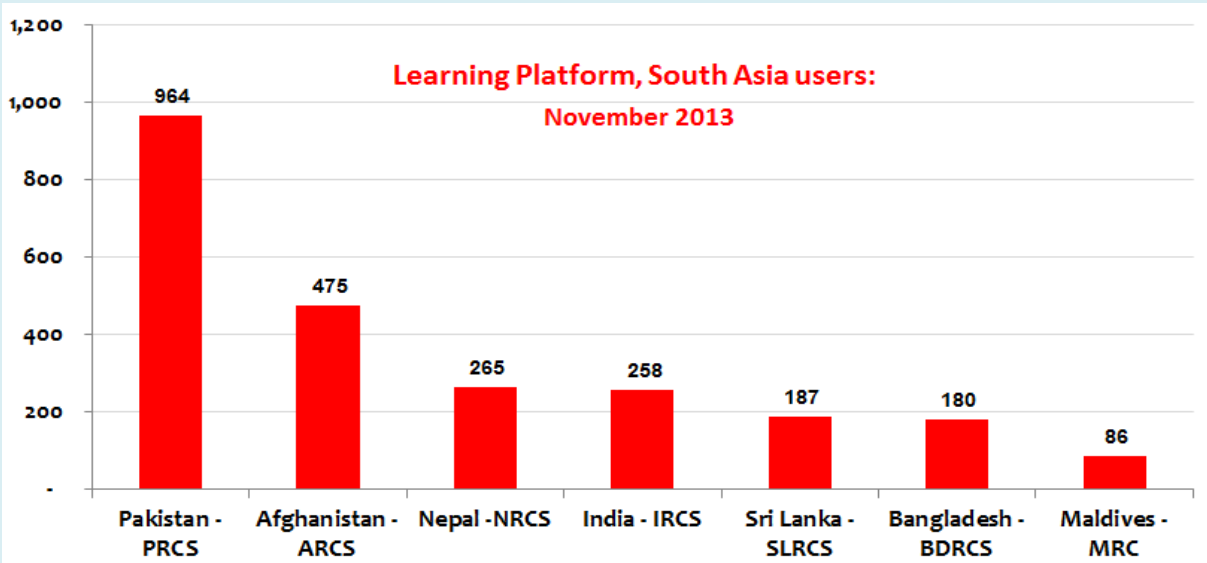
Business Line 5: To deepen our tradition of togetherness through joint working and accountability.

¹⁵ ARCS, IRCS and SLRCS

¹⁶ Achieved in 2012: NRCS has gender and diversity policies in place and is making progress with mainstreaming of gender and diversity. NRCS has changed its gender department name to the gender and social inclusion department.

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Outcome 1: The regional delegation has strengthened the strategic organizational development and capacity building support to National Societies and its coordination role and formed new partnerships, strengthened existing partnerships and promoted for a holistic planning process.			
Output 1.1: The coordination role of the IFRC regional delegation is adapted to meet the changing needs of the situation and circumstances of the region and the individual countries.			
<i>By 2015, regular development support visits are made to countries in the South Asia region.</i>	N/A	0	Refer to narrative
<i>By 2015, IFRC regional partnerships with external stakeholders are increased by 10% and on-going relationships.</i>	N/A	0	Refer to narrative
Comments on progress towards outputs:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The regional technical advisors, including PRU team has made many support visits to all of the countries of the region throughout 2013. Also encouraged support among the National Societies through follow-up of regional and country level forums or meetings. Bhutan has received support visits in 2013, including finalization of project proposal to implement CBDRM and MoU documents, stakeholder orientation and a comprehensive overview and understanding of the project was provided to the Department of Disaster Management, the Royal Government of Bhutan. • The regional delegation has also strengthened its relationship with external agencies and partners through meetings and sharing its technical expertise in the region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regular communication with the Disaster Management Centre of SAARC based in Delhi to explore future collaborations in regional disaster response and preparedness. Through this, we have supported the AP Zone office in liaising collaboration on sensitization of disaster law in South Asia region. ○ Coordinated Canadian Red Cross, Australian Red Cross and ICRC for the support to the MRC on OD project and discussed the possibility of sustaining and productive support to the MRC. ○ Liaisons with ECHO office in Delhi was conducted to develop more understanding on future funding opportunities. ○ As part of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Sphere India and IFRC strategic alliance, SARD Health Advisors have been identified as master trainers for India and in the later stage for South Asia to provide trainings to the trainers on minimum initial services package (MISP) for strengthening the preparedness to more contextual response in emergencies, particularly to protect reproductive health rights of the affected communities. The health advisors provided training to NGO workers, Red Cross branch staff/volunteers and government officials as lead trainers in various locations of India that includes Kolkata in November and Bhubaneswar in December 2013. ○ The scale of the problem with poor sanitation and hygiene continues to be one of the major causes of sickness, death and lack of human dignity in India. In October, the IRCS and IFRC hosted a meeting in New Delhi with the aim of entering partnership on sanitation with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the WHO. The partnership will not set up any new structures or funding mechanisms, but focus on enhancing action at the community level. Among other, a pilot project will be implemented up to 2015 as a precursor to longer term programming to 2025. 			
Output 1.2: National Societies' priority OD issues have been addressed appropriately through tailor made OD initiatives that enable better programme implementation			
<i>By 2015, all National Societies in South Asia will have aligned their national strategies in line with S2020 and are used as basis for programming and implementation.</i>	4	1	3 ¹⁷
<i>By 2015, at least one National Society, as a result of heightened awareness, are willing to incorporate new or enhanced legislation to better define the auxiliary status through the identification of roles and responsibilities.</i>	N/A	1	1
<i>By 2015, at least three National Societies in South Asia have improved human resource (HR) systems for recruiting and</i>	N/A	2	2

¹⁷ BDRCS completed in 2012.

Measurement																			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual																
<i>retaining staff and volunteers.</i>																			
<p>Comments on progress towards outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 2012, six National Societies – ARCS, BDRCS, MRC, NRCS, PRCS and SLRCS have aligned their national strategies in line with Strategy 2020, except IRCS. But in 2013, IRCS has drafted and aligned their strategic development plan with the strategy 2020. The SLRCS have reviewed their current strategic plan and drafted the strategic direction for the next three years. BDRCS has continuously making efforts to approve the revised legislation to improve its auxiliary status in the country. SLRCS's Way Forward beyond Re-Engineering, have initiated improvement in HR systems to retain staff and volunteers. Job description and performance systems introduced. BDRCS has initiated discussion with AP zone office to move forward in HR development process. Following the OD assessment in 2012, MRC's new organisational structure was approved by its governing board and came into effect in the beginning of 2013. Several job descriptions were formulated for new positions within the MRC. 																			
<p>Output 1.3: Promote Federation-wide communications through best affordable technologies that bridge the digital divide and inform and connect National Societies to ensure mutual trust and belonging, and enhance productivity, knowledge sharing, collaborative working and outreach.</p>																			
<i>By 2015, seven National Societies have crossed the digital divide in South Asia.</i>	N/A	0	1 ¹⁸																
<i>By 2015, staff and volunteers from all seven National Societies and the IFRC offices are using the IFRC online learning platform with 1,000 new subscribers.</i>	N/A	7	7																
<p>Comments on progress towards outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of users using the online learning platform is growing in South Asia. By 2013, 2,415 users were registered from South Asia, of which 40 per cent were from Afghanistan. Out of 3,107 registered courses, 1,304 courses were completed. 																			
 <table border="1"> <caption>Learning Platform, South Asia users: November 2013</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>National Society</th> <th>Number of Users</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pakistan - PRCS</td> <td>964</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Afghanistan - ARCS</td> <td>475</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nepal - NRCS</td> <td>265</td> </tr> <tr> <td>India - IRCS</td> <td>258</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sri Lanka - SLRCS</td> <td>187</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bangladesh - BDRCS</td> <td>180</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maldives - MRC</td> <td>86</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				National Society	Number of Users	Pakistan - PRCS	964	Afghanistan - ARCS	475	Nepal - NRCS	265	India - IRCS	258	Sri Lanka - SLRCS	187	Bangladesh - BDRCS	180	Maldives - MRC	86
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¹⁸ BDRCS has updated the email address with the support from Asia Pacific zone office in 2012.

Measurement			
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
Output 1.4: National Societies' capacities in planning and reporting are strengthened.			
<i>By 2015, programme staffs from all National Societies are trained in the new project/programme planning (PPP) module.</i>	N/A	1	3 ¹⁹
<i>By 2015, 80% of donors consulted state they are satisfied with National Society planning and reporting.</i>	N/A	0	Refer to narrative
<p>Comments on progress towards outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical and facilitation support was provided to the National Societies staff and volunteers for improving their PMER capacities and skills. In 2013, through mentoring and using the IFRC PPP module, the CBHFA project team, including programme managers and staff of MRC and NRCS were trained to enhance their PMER skills. The project logframe and M&E plan were reviewed and PMER tools were finalised following the field test. Apart from this, the use of online PPP training by the country office staff was advocated while meeting the HoDs from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. Coordination and guidance was provided to the country PMER focal points, to keep them informed about various reporting requirements, plans and other relevant information, and develop timely narrative plans and reports. The regional PMER network meeting and teleconferences have been useful to discuss PMER issues, planning and reporting timelines, reporting templates for 2013 and advocating quality planning and reporting system in the region. Reporting and planning support was also provided to India and Maldives in producing pledge-based reports as per donors' requirements. The approach and mechanism to facilitate donors consultation on National Society's planning and reporting will be explored together with the APZ PMER and this will take some time. However, in South Asia, most of the National Societies are able to produce quality narrative plans and reports that satisfy the donor requirements. 			
<p>Variance:</p> <p>The advisory and technical supports provided by the regional team has been useful for the country offices to gap fill and meeting increased demand of the National Societies. SARD continued its initiative to explore new partnership with other external stakeholders in the region and strengthened its ongoing relationships, through dialogue and new ways of working together.</p> <p>SARD has limited funding to support PMER capacity building activities in the region, therefore the regional PMER worked closely with the APZ PMER to facilitate and meet the country level reporting, planning and capacity building initiatives.</p>			

Stakeholder participation and feedback

The South Asia HoD Meeting in the later part of October 2013 was very useful for understanding the operational context, challenges and opportunities. Country feedback was helpful to facilitate better programming in the region for win-win situation and optimizing our ways of working as a regional team.

SLRCS have developed an action plan for volunteering development, which was monitored by having a meeting with all the stakeholders in the SLRCS. The regional OD manager conducted a review on volunteers in action programme under RC-PCR for Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu branches of SLRCS. The study provided SLRCS with important data that informs the current situation and future direction related to the volunteer development or volunteer management of these branches.

¹⁹ Two National Societies – IRCS and NRCS were completed in 2012.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
The security concerns in Afghanistan and Pakistan, combined with travel restrictions since late May 2013 has delayed the planned activities in the field.	H	Continued monitoring and liaison with country delegation over the appropriate course of action.
The uncertain political environment, including strikes, demonstration, election campaign and national election have hampered implementation of field activities in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal.	H	Increased use and frequency of Skype and emails. For planning of new projects, the security concerns are included as part of the locality selection criteria.
The monsoon rainfall caused floods/landslide and earthquake in Balochistan resulted shifting of priorities to disaster response and relief in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Pakistan.	H	Some planned areas of supports have been rescheduled to 2014 due to some adjustment of priorities in the concerned National Society.

Lessons learned and looking ahead

Lessons learned:

PRU advisors have been instrumental in sharing the programme experiences across different National Societies through technical support visits, to ensure key lessons learnt could be used for enhancement of future programme planning. Where resources will allow in the future, such sharing can be organized in the form of workshops in crystallizing the learnings as reference of good practice.

Looking ahead:

The major focus in 2013 was to see the PRU deliver a high level of technical support to the countries of the region. In addition, SARD has been closely involved with country level operational planning for 2014 through the inputs from and technical advisors. It is also envisaged that for 2014, SARD's strategy will focus more towards effective programming with greater coordination, OD, and a holistic planning and reporting process underpinning, that benefits the National Societies of the region in delivering quality impacts for the vulnerable community in line with their Strategy 2020 aligned goals. There are plans to promote deeper understanding of community resilience within National Societies and Bhutan. An internal review of the PRU support to the countries is planned in 2014. The objective of the review is to understand the success factors and also learn from similar models of South East Asia. There will be emphasis on promoting the resilience agenda and strengthen the community resilience approach in South Asia in 2014 and beyond.

Financial situation

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

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](#) (NGO's) 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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