Red Cross...
responding to & preparing for
disasters in the Pacific

Overview

- History of the Red Cross
- The Movement’s principles
- The Movement’s emblems
- Public Health in Emergencies – IFRC response capacities
- Red Cross in the Pacific
Brief History of the Movement

- 24 June 1859: Henry Dunant, a 31 year-old businessman from Geneva, witnessed the battle of Solferino

- 1862: Henry Dunant published “A Memory of Solferino,” in which he launched two proposals:
  - that an international treaty be adopted to recognize the immunity and neutrality of the medical personnel bringing aid to the wounded soldiers
  - that in all countries relief societies be formed to assist the wounded soldiers in wartime.

Ethics and ideals are at the origin of humanitarian action

“The humanitarian ethic is an ancient and resilient conviction that it is right to help anyone in grave danger. This deeply-held value is found in every culture and faith, as well as in the ideology of human rights”

- Hugo Slim, in World Disasters Report 2003
Components of the Movement

- National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- International Committee of the Red Cross
- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

National Societies....

- Form the **basic units** and constitute a **vital force** of the Movement
- Within their own countries, they are **autonomous national organizations** providing a framework for the activities of their voluntary members and their staff
- Carry out their **humanitarian activities** in conformity with their own statutes and national legislation, in pursuance of the mission of the Movement, and in accordance with the **Fundamental Principles**
Auxiliary Status of National Societies….

- All NS must be formally recognised by ICRC

- A National Society must "be duly recognized by the legal government of its country on the basis of the Geneva Conventions and of the national legislation as a voluntary aid society, auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field".

- We are not technically an NGO
- UN observer status

Mission of the ICRC

“The exclusively humanitarian mission of the ICRC is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to forestall the suffering engendered by such situations:
- by taking direct action on the level of the victims
- by assuming its role as a neutral and independent institution and intermediary
- by influencing the conduct of all actual and potential perpetrators of such violence through dialogue, the establishment of rules and the dissemination of humanitarian law and of the principles of the Movement.”
Mission of the Federation (Strategy 2010)

“to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity”

Four Core Areas....

• Promotion of Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Value
• Disaster Response
• Disaster Preparedness
• Health and Care in the Community
A Global Agenda (adopted in Seoul)

• to reduce the deaths, injuries and impact of disasters on people’s lives
• to improve methods of dealing with public health crises,
• to combat intolerance and discrimination
• to build Red Cross and Red Crescent capacity at the community level to prepare for and cope with threats to lives and livelihoods
HUMANITY....

- Prevention and alleviation of human suffering
- Protection of life and health
- Respect for the human being

IMPARTIALITY....

- No discrimination – race, religion, class or political opinion
- Assistance based on needs only
- Priority given to the most urgent
NEUTRALITY....

- Not take sides in hostilities
- May not enter into controversies

INDEPENDENCE....

- Auxiliary to government humanitarian services
- Subject to laws of the country
- BUT must remain autonomous
VOLUNTARY SERVICE....

- Not prompted by gain

UNITY....

- Only one Society in one country
- Must be open to all
- Must work throughout the country
UNIVERSALITY….

• All Societies are equal within the worldwide Movement.

Fundamental Principles

• As a guide for actions…
• As an enabling mechanism
The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

EMBLEMS

The Emblems Today….

- The Red Cross on a white background is the reverse of the Swiss flag
- The Red Cross and Red Crescent are NOT religious symbols
- Both the Red Cross and Red Crescent are equal in law and in practice
- Additional Emblem
Use of the Emblems....

- **Recognized Emblems**
  - Protective Use
  - Indicative Use

The PROTECTIVE Emblem in times of War....

- Armed Forces Medical Services (also peace-time)
- National Society assisting military medical services (in peace-time also) if authorized.
- Authorized civilian hospitals
- Recognized civilian medical units
- Authorized Voluntary Relief Societies in support of military medical services
The INDICATIVE Emblem….

- National Societies showing a link to the Movement

- Ambulances/First Aid Stations of third parties duly authorized by Government and NS and offering a free service

- The Indicative emblem must be small and cannot be on armbands or the roofs of buildings

Use of the Emblems….
Use of the Emblems....
Misuse of the Emblems….

Public Health Emergencies – epidemics, disease outbreaks, SARS, Ebola, meningitis

Public Health in Emergencies – health dimension during and after disasters (earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, famine)

PHE – special issues in disasters (HIV/AIDS, Reproductive Health, Psychological Support etc)
Public Health in Emergencies for the Federation is

- To reach and assist as many as possible with basic care – individual care second priority in the early stages of the operation
- Focus on alleviating effects of the most common (5) diseases and injuries caused by the disaster, by prevention and care
- Minimise effects of already prevailing common disease and health conditions

To reach and assist as many as possible with basic care

- CONCENTRATION ON COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PERIPHERAL CLINICS
- SECURE FIRST LEVEL OF HOSPITAL CARE FOR SERIOUS CASES AND EMERGENCY SURGERY
- ESTABLISH REFERRAL SYSTEMS
**PHE - OPERATIONAL AIMS**

**STRATEGIES FOR IFRC**

- Fill a gap or overload in the health care system caused by a disaster
- Target the most vulnerable in the community
- Provide basic, standardised and targeted quality service to as many as possible

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**WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH IN EMERGENCIES (PHE)?**

**APPROACHES, NORMS FOR IFRC**

- Use District Level approach as a platform
- Use SPHERE standards for planning
- Use WHO std protocols until MoH standards are known, endorsed
- Offer equal care of displaced to local residents, they are often indirectly affected
**PHE – WHAT PROBLEMS TO TARGET - AND HOW**

**THE COMMUNITY APPROACH**

- Acute Respiratory Infection
- Malaria
- Measles
- Diarrhoea
- Anemia
- Nutrition
- Injury
- Water & Sanitation
- Vector Control
- Basic Health Care
- Disease control
- Social Welfare
- Reprod Health/HIV
- Psych Supp
- First Aid

**PUBLIC HEALTH IN EMERGENCIES (PHE)**

**FEDERATION RESPONSE**
Disaster Management Process

- Disaster Preparedness
- Monitoring, sharing and managing information
- Initial Assessment
- Detailed Assessment
- Plan of Action
- Deployment of ERUs
- Mobilizing resources
- Appeal/Revised Funding

DMIS

- Disaster Management Information System
- Monitoring
- Preparedness
- Response
- Toolbox
- Links
**DREF**

- Disaster Response Emergency Fund
- 10 million Swiss Francs
- Up to 2 million available for rapid & immediate response to disasters
- Difference topped up using the annual appeal

**FACT**

- Field Assessment and Coordination Team
- Mobilised in 12-24 hours
- Highly skilled DM professionals from NS, IFRC & ICRC
- Rapidly assess and coordinate humanitarian response to large scale emergencies in conjunction with NS, RDRT, UN etc.
- Disaster assessments are the basis for international appeals for assistance
**RDRT**

- Regional Disaster Response Team
- Builds regional capacity
- Closer cultural links
- Standard training
- 2 RDRT members in Pacific
- Deployment between 6-24hrs
- Supports National Society undertake the relief operation

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**WHAT IS ERU?**

*(Emergency Response Units)*

- Rapid, ready to go response system
- Sectoral focus – logistics, telecom, relief, watsan, health
- Pre-packed self-sustainable, ready to be deployed standardised modules
- Pre-trained teams of technical experts
- Sponsored by National Societies
- Deployment coordinated by IFRC in Geneva

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**TYPES OF ERUs?**

- Water – sanitation modules:
  - Specialised Water
  - Treatment & Supply Line
  - Distribution & Trucking
  - Mass Sanitation
- Basic Health Care
- Referral Hospital
- Telecom & IT
- Logistics
- Relief

**LOGISTICS ERU**

- Assesses logistic analysis on the ground in prep for operation
- Receives, stores and forwards relief goods to operational areas
- Provides standards and systems for logistics: tracking, transportation, procurement, air freight, warehousing & planning
**BASIC HEALTH CARE ERU**

- 20,000 – 30,000 target population
- 4 months
- Preventive/community health (health promotion)
- Basic clinic, Out Patient Only, pre-referral care
- 5 - 6 expat professionals

**GENERAL HOSPITAL ERU**

- 150,000 – 250,000 target population
- 4 months
- Referral hospital with surgery & surgical deliveries
- 120 – 150 beds (extendable)
- 10 – 20 expat professionals
- Modular approach
Hospital ERU, deployment

WATER/SANITATION ERU

FOUR MODULES USED TOGETHER OR SEPERATELY

Treatment & Supply Module
- 40 000 beneficiaries

Distribution & Trucking
- 5 000 benef at 9 locations

Specialized Water & Sanitation
- 15 000 or health institutions

Mass Sanitation
- 40 000 beneficiaries
**TELECOM ERU**

- Provides assessments
- set up necessary communication links in an operational area, within teams, with partners and with Secretariat/PNSs
- Provides support to set up emergency IT systems
- Coord with Ministry of Telecom, arranging permits, agreements etc with other partners (ICRC, UN, NGOs)

**RELIEF ERU**

- Plan and set up distribution systems in the operational areas, identifying beneficiaries
- Coordinate with other organisations distributing goods
- To receive, store and distribute relief goods in the operational areas
- Strongly linked to logistics ERU
Red Cross in the Pacific

- Fiji
- Samoa
- Cook Islands
- Tonga
- Palau
- FSM
- Marshall Islands
- PNG
- Solomon Islands
- Vanuatu
- Australia
- New Zealand
- Kiribati
- Tuvalu

Pacific Delegation

- HOD – Alberto Pasini
- Organisational Development Delegate
- Finance Development Officer
- Disaster Management Coordinator
- Disaster Risk Reduction Delegate
- Health and Care Delegate
- 5 support staff for admin & finance
ERT

- Emergency Response Teams
- Branch level emergency needs assessment
- For rapid information flow to the NS headquarters
- Solomon Islands - have also integrated climate change
- Recent training for Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

Pacific Disaster Container Programme

- 59 prepositioned shipping containers stocking disaster relief items
- Standard items include:
  - Blankets, tarpaulins, hurricane lamps, rope, kitchen sets, buckets, water containers
- Challenge is to keep them well stocked
- Plans to expand
New Zealand Red Cross Communications Strategy

- Satellite phones in every National Society headquarters in the Pacific
- Many NS have or are preparing to have at branch level
- Training extensively in last 12 mnths
- Simulation exercises scheduled for 2007
- Plans for VHF/HF radio systems in 2007

Pacific Disaster Net

- Disaster information is currently scattered across the Pacific
- Internet and DVD based
- Will include information on governance, risk assessment, early warning and monitoring, risk reduction measures, disaster management
- Information will include reports, templates, maps, contact lists and web links
- Funded by IFRC in conjunction with UNOCHA, UNDP & SOPAC
- ‘Shell’ nearing completion, testing using SOPAC’s data first, then all other stakeholders material will be input
- First ‘cut’ ready early 2007
Climate Change – A growing concern

- Increased number of weather related disasters - response
- Threatens capacity to cope with extreme weather events
- Health implications – of disasters, disease distribution and frequency, heat stress, nutrition,
- Potential to fuel conflict eg. Melting Glaciers, desertification
- Cause of displacement
- Hinders work towards Millennium Development Goals
- Increases the number of people needing assistance
Pacific

- In 2003 the ‘Pacific Regional Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness Project’ was written

- 3 Main findings – National Societies wanted to:
  - Be well educated in the science and trends of climate change.
  - Interact closely with other players in the climate change and disaster preparedness sector
  - Strengthen their skills and methods in participatory community based preparedness planning and action

Red Cross/Red Crescent Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness

- A joint initiative between the Netherlands Red Cross & IFRC
- Formed in June 2002
- Pilot projects in Nicaragua, Indonesia, Vietnam & Mozambique
- Works on 3 main objectives –
  - **Awareness** – Raising awareness of Climate Change
  - **Action** – Assisting National Societies be prepared for Climate Change
  - **Advocacy** – bringing attention to the links between disaster management, climate change and development.
    - Being a voice for the vulnerable in the climate change arena
Preparedness for Climate Change Programme

4 step process

1. National workshop for staff, volunteers & board to raise awareness of climate change risks
2. Preparation of a document summarising impacts of climate change on the country and building networks & gathering information from with non-traditional partners
3. Participation at a regional climate change/disaster risk reduction workshop
4. Develop and seek funding for climate resilient programs

- Samoa and Tuvalu already undertaken
- Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands will begin this year
- Other Pacific NS will undertake only step 1

Samoa Case Study – results of 1st phase

- **Prioritised:** Water availability & Health impacts of flooding
- **Action:** Using VCA process to assist those in need
- **Advocacy:** Advocate for vulnerable groups in climate change dialogue
- **Awareness:** Will now use volunteers to step up disaster preparedness & health related drama activities & tv program eg. Interpretation of weather warnings

- **Lessons Learnt:** There are many low cost community adaptation options that the Red Cross can assist with
Disaster Reduction Day 2006

- Tuvalu, Fiji, Tonga & Kiribati ran activities with assistance from the Federation
- 2006 theme “Disaster Reduction begins at school”
- Partnerships with Met & NDMO’s