Guyana Red Cross shares Strategy 2020 with Local Partners

Strategy 2020 voices the collective determination of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to move forward in tackling the major challenges that will confront humanity in the next decade.

Guyana Red Cross, in aligning itself with the work of the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies and positioning the NS to better serve the needs of vulnerable people in Guyana, is currently in the process of developing a 5-year Strategic Plan 2010-2015.

This, we are doing in consultation with our Staff, Members, Volunteers, Civil Society Organizations and Government in an effort to have a comprehensive plan which adequately considers the needs of the NS in accordance to the mandate of the Red Cross and our auxiliary role to Government as it relates to the humanitarian field.

To this end, GRCS recently conducted a one day workshop with Partners from Government Ministries, NGOs, International Organizations, Donor Organization and Local Community Development Bodies.

The objectives of the workshop were: (1) To raise awareness among our partners and potential partners – both Governmental and Non-governmental – of the mandate and work of the RCRC Movement and specifically, the Guyana Red Cross; (2) To share the Movement’s Strategy 2020, outlining the areas of priority of the National Society; and (3) To establish cross-cutting areas of interest, identify gaps in the services provided in response to the humanitarian needs of the society and plan a way forward for closer collaboration.

Red Cross celebrates 151 years

On May 08th — the GRCS celebrated World Red Cross Red Crescent Day. The GRCS presented the global theme ‘Urbanization’ to its marketing partners. The media were highlighted for promotion of RC principles and values.

This special presentation was held on May 06th at the GRCS headquarters. Members of the media cut the birthday cake, were served refreshments, and saluted for their promotion of RC.
Caribbean Disaster Managers meet

Better regional preparedness requires greater regional coordination. As such Representatives of the CARICOM secretariat, the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) - Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) as well as delegates from the Red Cross Societies of Canada, Finland, France, Netherlands, Norway, Spain and the USA also attended the Disaster Management project planning meeting at Crews Inn, Trinidad from April 20th to 21st.

The Caribbean region currently benefits from substantial support from donors, following the approval in May 2009 of a 5-year Strategic Framework. This support is especially important as it allows every Red Cross Society in the Caribbean to receive some form of support, while emphasizing the need to build each National Society’s capacity for disaster management.

Secretary General, of the Guyana Red Cross, Dorothy Fraser, participated at the meeting, and co-facilitated a presentation.

Regional Communications Conference

Kerensa Singh, Communications Officer of the Guyana Red Cross noted that she was very enthusiastic about the new communications portfolio for National Societies across the Region. She also noted that this new post will focus on highlighting the “who, what and how” of the Red Cross Red Crescent Societies.

Other participants in the Region were excited about the new and solid network developed.

From left: Poyer, St. Vincent, Antoinette of Dominican Republic, Kerensa of Guyana & Gennike—Communications Officer, CRRO

Thirteen Red Cross communicators from around the Caribbean met in Chaguaramas, Trinidad for a 2-day orientation into their roles as humanitarian diplomats. The workshop was hosted by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and funded by the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO), as part of the wider regional effort to build safer, better prepared communities. Strategic communications is a vital element of the disaster management programmes being implemented in the region.

Volunteers are at the heart of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement. Contact your local Red Cross Society to find out how you can get involved.

In picture above: The new Communicators of the Caribbean Region at the Trinidad Red Cross.
Haiti Appeal reaches the millions—GY$13M

The Guyana Red Cross at the end of May closed the Haiti Appeal. Mrs. Dorothy Fraser Secretary General of the Guyana Red Cross noted that the appeal was a successful one. GY$13 million (US$65,000) were sent off to the International Federation of the Red Cross.

Guyana Red Cross would like to thank the Guyanese public for supporting the needs of the Haitian population.

In addition to our local appeal, the Guyana Red Cross was able to assist in the Haiti Operation Response, by making available the services of two members of its team, the Disaster Management Coordinator—Ms. Pryia Rai and First Aid Coordinator—Mr. De Vaughn Lewis, both of whom are trained as a Regional Intervention Team (RIT's). The DM Coordinator was part of the DP/DRR project, assisting in the start up of this project—following up on pre-positioned supplies, working with the Haiti Red Cross and its branches on increasing their capacity, coordinating trainings, etc.

IFRC now has a team in place whose focus will be specifically on DP/DRR to assure full coverage.

The First Aid Coordinator assisted in the area of IT and Radio Communications Network. Both DeVaughn and Pryia gave a month's service each.

Guyana Red Cross would like to thank the Guyanese public for supporting the needs of the Haitian population.

RC attends Berbice Health Fair

The Guyana Red Cross was part of third Annual Health Fair put together by the Berbice Regional Health Authority (BRHA) held on Friday June 18th, 2010. Some 47 Booths were displayed on Main Street in New Amsterdam by various departments of the Health sector and a variety of non-governmental organizations such as Help and Shelter, Comforting Hearts, Ptolemy Reid Rehabilitation Centre.

The GRCS team displayed brochures and other materials on the programmes and services of the GRCS. Demonstrations on first aid techniques were shown.

The fair was conceptualized as an educational and awareness event and proven a successful one because of the integrated approach of all the aspects of health, with the particular focus on healthy lifestyles.

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RC Volunteer Kendrica —talking to Nursery School Children about the “Best Defense” Campaign.

RC Volunteer Kendrica —talking to Students and other members of the public.

Ms. Norma —Asst First Aid Coordinator testing blood pressure and RC Volunteer Luanna talks about Sanitation practices.
The Guyana Red Cross Society facilitated First Aid Training in Bartica and Lusignan under the Crisis Response Grant Programme, funded by Scotia-bank through its corporate giving initiative, the “Brighter Future” Programme. The trainings, conducted in March and June respectively brought together participants from governmental offices, NGO’s, private entities and community members. The need for First Aid Training in Bartica and Lusignan was identified from a Vulnerability Capacity Assessment conducted by the Guyana Red Cross Society in collaboration with Scotia Bank in 2009.

The participants from the training are now certified First Aiders/Responders and are better able to help identify priority needs within their community and provide first aid in cases of emergency. Several other Red Cross Programmes have been earmarked for dissemination in Bartica and Lusignan in the near future under the Crisis Response Grant Programme.

The (GRCS) is continuing its quest to stop abuse before it starts. Therefore we are reaching out to teachers/caregivers, parents and children across Guyana to train, sensitise and educate on our “Be Safe!” child abuse prevention programme. “Be Safe!” is a child safety programme for children ages 5-9.

We have collaborated with UNICEF to train 158 teachers and Caregivers from regions 1, 3, 4, 7, and 9 in our “Be Safe!” Programme. These 158 teachers will reach at least 3950 children in one school year.

On June 25 and 26, the GRCS also collaborated with the Mother’s Union (MU) of Guyana to train 16 MU members and parenting facilitators from the Corentyne, New Amsterdam, West Coast Berbice, East Coast, East Band, Essequibo, Linden and West Coast. These new facilitators will take the programme into schools, churches and groups within their communities.

Community members continue to receive information on “Be Safe!” through sensitization workshops. During the month of April through June, communities in West Demerara, North Ruimveldt, Berbice, Lethem, Bartica and others were made aware of the programme, issues of violence and abuse in our society, how to handle disclosures of abuse and generally how to keep their children safe by teaching them to

“Say NO!”

“Get Away”

“Tell someone; keep telling until someone helps you.”

Prepared by:
Shauntel Maloney
‘Be Safe’ Coordinator.
On May 15, 2010, The Guyana Red Cross Society facilitated a trainer of trainers H1N1 workshop. After the workshop, participants who were primarily first responders, volunteers and community health workers, and Civil Defense Commission members were equipped to administer training to others in their respective communities.

The workshop reviewed facts and information about pandemic influenza and the novel H1N1 influenza virus, and described non-pharmaceutical practices that people can practice at the household level as principle control measures for reducing the spread of pandemic influenza outbreaks. Non-pharmaceutical practices included the five best practices—hand washing, respiratory etiquette, isolation and quarantine, hygiene, home care for the sick and waste disposal.

Participants of the workshop have since visited communities on the East Coast, Georgetown and Linden hosting “Best Defense” talks and distributing stickers and posters to health centre’s and schools.
Children’s Convalescent Home — over 50 years of service

Children are referred to the Home from Government hospitals, Ministry of Human Services, the Police and Health Centres. Medical Doctors, Registered Nurses, trained Caregivers, and Volunteers are part of our team caring for the children.

The Red Cross Children’s Convalescent Home provides residential care for up to 30 children, between ages 6 months to 5 years while they convalesce.

The Guyana Red Cross depends on donations to maintain the Children’s Convalescent Home and the Meals on Wheels Service. Your help is greatly appreciated.

“MOBILIZING THE POWER OF HUMANITY”

RC Volunteer Profile — Deionne Davidson (the love of HUMANITY)

Professional Background:
Micro Computer Studies, Nursing, Communications.

Years of Voluntary Service with the RC: 3 years
Areas of Voluntary Service: First Aid, Blood Drives.

What has been your best experience with the Red Cross?
There are numerous! But I look forward to volunteering at the RC every time, meeting the staff and other volunteers, the love and respect for the seven fundamental principles, the love of HUMANITY!

What are your views on the role of volunteers in the Red Cross?
The role of the volunteer in the RC is very important. Programmes depend heavily on volunteers. I think they are the backbone of the Red Cross.

What advice would you give to other volunteers within the RC?
My advice to other volunteers would be to be selfless and always remember and be guided by the 7 Fundamental Principles.

What encouragement would you give to persons thinking about becoming volunteers?
Becoming a volunteer widens your horizons. It strengthens and empowers you as an individual in whatever area you work. The knowledge and skills you acquire in the process are phenomenal and the fact you can be called to help others and share your knowledge in the process is empowering.

You should become a volunteer now!

Your help is greatly appreciated.

The Guyana Red Cross depends on donations to maintain the Children’s Convalescent Home and the Meals on Wheels Service. Your help is greatly appreciated.

“MOBILIZING THE POWER OF HUMANITY”
GRCS celebrates World Blood Donor Day

The focus of World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) 2010 was on Young Donors - with the slogan: “New blood for the World”. The Guyana Red Cross expects a new generation of idealistic and motivated voluntary unpaid blood donors who will form a pool of volunteers who provide the safest blood possible for wherever and whenever it is needed to save lives.

The Guyana Red Cross has embarked on recruiting and retaining young donors through regular blood drives (on the 2nd Tuesday of every month) and the Club 25.

Club 25 is dedicated to young, voluntary blood donors who aim to give 20 units of blood by their 26th birthday. Club 25 members become peer educators, encouraging peers to live healthy lifestyles and to give blood regularly. The need for blood is increasing in all parts of the world.

Young people can make an important contribution by donating blood and by recruiting other young people to become donors.

World Blood Donor Day takes place on 14 June each year.

RC Volunteer Odel Allen
Gives blood for the 1st time.

The aim is to raise global awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products for transfusion and of the critical contribution voluntary, unpaid blood donors make to national health systems.

World Blood Donor Day is an opportunity to celebrate those who already donate blood, in response to the worldwide increase for voluntary non-remunerated blood donors.

Take a ride with Reddi to our blood drive on the 2nd Tuesday of every month- Pledge to save at least 3 lives a year!

Meals on Wheels

Recipients include senior citizens, physically challenged, persons recovering from surgery, Persons living with HIV and shut-ins. Volunteers, who in addition to delivering meals, provide regular social contact and monitors the well being of the recipients. For some, this may be only meal or contact to the outside world on a regular basis.

Ms. Valerie Rausch—Volunteer on the Meals on Wheels.

The Meals on Wheels is a Red Cross Community Service Programme which began since the days of BG branch of the British Red Cross in the 1950’s. This service currently caters for about 60 persons, 5 days a week.

Ms. Deborah Bristow — preparing meals to go.
The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is guided by seven Fundamental Principles: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary service and Unity.

The Mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing “the power of humanity.”

For further information please contact:

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Guyana.

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Fax: (592)- 227-7099

E-mail: grcs.communicationsgy@gmail.com or guyanaredcross@yahoo.com

Calendar of events

August 10
Blood Drive

August 12
International Youth Day Activities

August 14
Youth BBQ

September 11th
World First Aid Day

“Mobilizing the Power of Humanity”

Be part of the
Guyana Red Cross Youth Today!