1. National context

Papua New Guinea (PNG) lies in the western half of the Pacific Ocean. The country is inhabited by diverse communities, who between them speak over 800 languages. The country gained independence from Australia in 1975 and has maintained a stable parliamentary system since independence. The country is prone to natural disasters including earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, flooding, droughts and tsunamis, as well as conflicts arising from tribal fights.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Port Moresby</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>5.2 million (2000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNP per capita</td>
<td>US$ 525 (2000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy</td>
<td>58 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate</td>
<td>79 per 1,000 live births (1998)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult literacy rate</td>
<td>63.2 per cent (1998)</td>
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</table>

2. Foundation

Mission
The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRCS) has a mission statement that reads: “As a member of the worldwide Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and an auxiliary to the government, the PNG Red Cross Society is an independent, nationwide, community-based humanitarian organization.

“Through ongoing organizational development and capacity building, the organization provides professional quality services and training through its unique network of branches and volunteers. Learning from and adapting to the diversity of Papua New Guinea culture, by ensuring transparency and accountability, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society is well prepared and committed to take on the challenges of the new millennium.”

The society’s efforts in the humanitarian field are highly appreciated by the government and the various stakeholders. PNGRCS activities are well known to the public through television, local newspapers and radio stations and the society enjoys a high media profile in PNG.

Legal base
The PNGRCS was incorporated by an act of parliament in 1976. The ICRC recognized the society in September 1977 and in October 1977, it was admitted as a member of the International Federation. The PNGRCS has a national council that sets policy directives for the society. The statutes of the society are currently being reviewed.

Constituency
The PNGRCS has eight branches and is in the process of establishing three more. The society has very committed volunteers who uphold the activities and image of the Red Cross. The society currently has 610 volunteers and members.

The PNGRCS has conducted a number of training workshops for its staff and volunteers as part of its organizational development and capacity building. The PNGRCS has developed a five-year strategic development plan for 2002-2006, which includes branch development and establishment of new branches in the remaining provinces, with priority being given to disaster-prone areas. Major disaster response activities are carried out from headquarters.

3. Capacity

Leadership
The national council consists of 23 members, two representatives from each branch, with independent members limited to half the number of branch representatives. An executive committee of seven is elected from members of the council. The council meets four times a year in addition to the annual general meeting, while the executive committee meets about eight to ten times a year and the branch committee meets monthly.

Committees made up of volunteers manage the publicity and fund-raising committee including the subcommittee of the Miss PNG Red Cross Charity Quest, the blood
transfusion service and the special education centre with ad hoc committees established for planning and review of the PNGRCS constituency and statutory regulations. Members of the executive mostly chair these committees.

**Human resources**
Currently the society employs 15 staff at headquarters: the secretary general, seven administration and support staff and six programme officers. Two staff are employed at the branch level. The special education centre has seven professional staff while the blood bank employs a director and two support staff.

The society has been running intensive training for its programme staff to equip them with the appropriate knowledge and skills for each respective programme.

The staff are monitored under a staff regulation and a code of conduct. The performance appraisal is now in force to measure the performance of each staff member. The society is in the process of reviewing and updating duty statements.

**Financial resources**
The PNGRCS expenditure in 2001 was approximately CHF 452,268. The current budget is CHF 427,086 which includes a grant of CHF 123,743 from the government for the blood transfusion service. The society’s main fund-raising activity is the annual Miss PNG Red Cross Charity Quest. This year, a new structure has been put in place to diversify the fund-raising activities. Income is also derived from investments, interest-bearing deposits and donations.

More emphasis is being placed on branches being self-sufficient in terms of raising funds for their various activities.

**Material resources**
The PNGRCS has its headquarters building, which includes a training room and a warehouse, in the capital city of Port Moresby. A resource library is also in the process of being set up. The warehouse in Lae, in the north of the country, is being leased to provide additional income for the society. Two properties in Port Moresby and Mount Hagen also provide the society with a small income. The East New Britain branch is yet to build on the land it has acquired. The New Ireland Branch is in the process of acquiring land in the provincial capital of Kavieng.

Headquarters has a van and two cars. The special education centre has a school bus, a small utility vehicle and a small four-wheel-drive vehicle for its outreach programmes, while the blood transfusion service has one utility vehicle, a van and a large specially fitted bus. Manus branch has a sea ambulance. The four-wheel-drive vehicle of the East New Britain branch has been sold by tender.

Through the Japanese Red Cross and the International Federation container programme, the PNGRCS has ten relief containers situated in various branches including one each in Madang, East New Britain, Milne Bay and New Ireland and six containers in the Morobe branch. These will be distributed to the other branches that do not currently have relief containers.

**Organisation/planning**
The PNGRCS national council at its planning meeting in November 2001, reviewed the society’s five-year strategic development plan 2000-2004 and agreed to extend this plan to cover the period 2002-2006. The plan is very much in keeping with the strategic directions of the International Federation’s *Strategy 2010*.

In this meeting the council discussed major issues which include: the review of the PNG Red Cross statutes; the review of the mission statement of the PNG Red Cross Society; and the review of the five-year strategic development plan 2000-2004.

**Partnerships**
The PNGRCS cooperates closely with government ministries, especially in the field of health and disaster preparedness and response. The society receives support from the government for the provision of special education for deaf children. The blood transfusion service is operated in partnership with the government through a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

The society receives support from the International Federation, the ICRC (training of police and military in IHL), the American, Australian and Japanese Red Cross Societies, for which it is very grateful.

4. Performance

**Activities**

**Disaster preparedness**
With assistance from the International Federation’s country delegation, the PNGRCS has conducted six basic disaster management workshops since August 2001 covering five branches. One disaster response workshop was conducted at headquarters by the American Red Cross. The participants included staff, members, volunteers, government officials, women’s leaders, community leaders, youth leaders and others.

The PNGRCS national disaster preparedness and response plan was officially launched in March 2002 by the patron of the PNGRCS and governor general of Papua New Guinea, HE Sir Silas Atopare. A one-day seminar was held in Madang in October 2001 coinciding with the International Natural Disasters Reduction Day. A disaster assessment and response team was formed in 2001 comprising staff and volunteers.

Since the launch of the community-based self-reliance (CBSR) programme in 2000, a training of trainers
workshop was conducted at the PNGRCS headquarters in Port Moresby. The aim of the workshop was to train the PNGRCS staff and volunteers to equip them with the skills and knowledge on CBSR in order for them to facilitate other workshops at the community level. Six CBSR workshops have been conducted so far in identified disaster-prone areas in the Sandaun, Milne Bay and Madang provinces. Components of the CBSR include community-based first aid, community-based health awareness and community-based disaster preparedness.

**HIV/AIDS**
The HIV/AIDS programme was launched in 2000 and the PNGRCS has conducted a number of workshops in the country. The HIV/AIDS programme is one of the leading programmes for the society. A total of 265 volunteers have been trained to become disseminators for PNGRCS branches. With support from the Australian Red Cross, counselling is also planned to be a part of this programme in the second part of the year, 2002.

**First aid**
First-aid courses, especially the basic first aid at the workplace, bring in revenue to the society. Other interested individuals can also take part in the courses. The society has a number of agreements with business houses throughout the country to conduct first aid for their employees. Community-based first aid, one of the components of the community-based self-reliance programme, is also taught to rural communities with plans to expand to urban areas as well.

The development of a teachers’ in-service training package is under way, and the national health department have included the society’s community-based first-aid manual in their curriculum for training community health workers. The society has also applied and is in the process of obtaining accreditation with the national training institute.

**Blood transfusion service**
In partnership with the government health authorities, the society runs the blood-transfusion services. Branches are involved with donor recruitment. The council has directed that the society’s focus should be on blood-donor recruitment and negotiations are currently under way to formalize an MOU in this regard between the government and the society.

**Youth**
The PNGRCS youth programme is new and has been designed and formulated as a result of the youth workshop held in October 2001. A youth programme officer has been employed to coordinate the programme. Initially the programme is being trialed in schools in four provinces namely NCD/Central, Madang, Milne Bay and New Ireland.

The expected results by the end of 2002 are that the youth programme will be run in eight Red Cross branches, with 40 schools using the programme in their respective schools and 2,000 students (youth) taking part in the programme. About 30 per cent of the expected result has been achieved to date.

**Dissemination**
With assistance from the ICRC, IHL training workshops have been conducted with the military and police. In 2001, PNGRCS and the ICRC launched the Red Cross emblem as a sign of protection programme. A dissemination officer has been recruited to undertake the dissemination activities for the society. With ICRC support, the University of Papua New Guinea will also introduce an IHL course at the law faculty.