

Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT)

Field Assessment Coordination Teams (FACT) rapidly assess and coordinate humanitarian response to large-scale emergencies. The system is designed to form and deploy teams of highly trained Red Cross and Red Crescent response practitioners to a disaster site within 12 to 24 hours.

Key data

- Number of FACT deployments between 2000-2002: **13**
- Membership growth projections by 2005: **500**
- FACT budget for 2003: **290,000 Swiss francs**

FACT is the International Federation's operations tool for assessment of humanitarian needs and coordination of response following large, complex and slow-onset disasters anywhere in the world.

The ownership of FACT is shared by more than 70 National Societies and the International Federation secretariat, allowing them to work in synergy in a manner that accommodates both National Society needs for a direct operational involvement and to work in a coordinated manner.

FACT members are experienced international disaster managers from National Societies, the International Federation secretariat and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) whose key competencies cover a full range of cross-sectoral expertise in emergency and recovery services. FACT members follow a standardized two-week training course organized by the disaster management and coordination division (DMC) and are then made available for rapid deployment by their respective National Societies.

When the need arises and a request for international assistance is made either in a sudden or slow-onset disaster, DMC alerts FACT members, and based on availability, composes a team and coordinates their deployment to the affected area. FACT is an adaptable tool and each team is

formed depending on the size and type of disaster, and the affected the region.

Upon arrival, FACT members go to work with the National Society of the affected country and help it coordinate the response of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. To ensure an overall coordinated approach, FACT members work closely with Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRT), the United Nations and other agencies active in disaster response. The disaster assessments of a FACT form the basis for programming the response and appealing for international support. FACT interventions highlight the work of the Movement in disaster relief and globally promote the key role played by National Societies in the aftermath of a disaster.



After an intervention, the scope, methodologies and performance results of FACT missions are reviewed and evaluated to capture lessons learned. These form the basis for continuous fine-tuning of FACT training and methodology to correspond to operational realities.