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East Asia Mid-year report against Long-Term Planning Framework 2012 - 2015

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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**This report covers
the period
1 January to 30
June 2012**

Red Cross volunteers
providing clean water to
the flood affected
peoples in Anju city,
south Phyongan
province.

Photo: DPRK RCS



Overview

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies (IFRC) East Asia regional office serves to support and build capacities within the national societies of the East Asia region. The region includes China, Mongolia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Republic of Korea, and Japan. The IFRC has annual programmes that support the national societies in China, Mongolia, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

China - In the first half of this year, China has mainly been hit by natural disasters of earthquake, drought, storm and heavy rainfall.

On 9 March, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region was hit by a 6.0 magnitude earthquake, leaving 144,000 people in two counties affected, 37,000 people evacuated, 5,200 houses collapsed and 85,000 houses destroyed.¹ On 30 June, a 6.6-magnitude quake jolted Xinjiang, leaving over 150,000 people affected, 48,000 people displaced and 7,500 houses collapsed.²

A 5.7-magnitude earthquake jolted two counties in the border of southwest China's Yunnan and Sichuan provinces on 24 June. It was followed by 53 aftershocks and the strongest one was measured at magnitude 3.8. The earthquake split roads and disrupted water supplies in the two affected counties. As of 25 June, the earthquake has left 130,000 people affected, four people dead, 153 people injured, over 50,000 people evacuated to safe places, and 4,577 houses toppled.³

A severe drought parching the Yellow River and Huai River regions has affected normal agricultural production since March. As of 21 June, 5.17 million hectares of arable land in Henan, Anhui, Shandong and Inner

¹ Source: Ministry of Civil Affairs March 13, 2012

² Source: Ministry of Civil Affairs 1 July 2012

³ Source: Ministry of Civil Affairs 25 June, 2012

Mongolia has been suffering drought conditions. The drought has also left 4.28 million people and 4.85 million heads of livestock in Yunnan, Hubei and Inner Mongolia short of drinking water.⁴

With the rainy season coming in May, heavy rains, storms and floods continue to strike Northwest and Central and Southwest part of China. At least 80 people have died, 200 injured with 300,000 people evacuated.⁵

In June, a new round of torrential rains began to hit southern and central China. A total of 399 counties in 11 provinces were affected by the torrential rains. As of 29 June, floods triggered by the torrential rains had killed 50 people with 42 still missing, affected the lives of over 10 million people, destroyed some 30,000 houses and inundated over 900,000 hectares of cropland.⁶

With the support of IFRC regional delegation, the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) responded swiftly to the serious disasters with relief items and other assistance

DPRK – DPRK is vulnerable to different kinds of natural disasters and is in the process of setting up and improving early warning systems and disaster preparedness activities. Proper assessment of the overall situation in DPRK for the entire population and particularly the most vulnerable remain a main challenge, as international organizations do not have permission to access certain areas.

The food security situation has further deteriorated, but the absence of significant reliable statistics makes a proper assessment of the situation very difficult. A similar tendency in the health situation is noted; many clinics are in urgent need of rehabilitation, and turnover of distributed drugs is higher than before.

DPRK faced several disasters this year. In April/May, the entire country faced a spell drought, thus, there was a fear of massive decline in crop yield. In the middle of June, a flash flood surprisingly displaced about 3,000 people in Toksonand Sinhung counties and damaged crops and infrastructures. Following this, a series of flooding displaced approximately 154,000 people.

While the situation remains tense on the Korean peninsula, no serious incidents have occurred during the first half of 2012, and relations with Japan have improved.

The DPRK RCS has received consistent support over the last decade from IFRC, its Red Cross sister societies and their donor governments, as well as from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The need for humanitarian support through the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and other international organizations is still acute, particularly in the areas of food, health, water and sanitation and disaster management.

Mongolia – Mongolia is a large country with a very low population density, but, is climatically and geographically one of the most disaster-prone areas in the world. The country experiences a spectrum of disasters ranging from heavy snowfalls in winter, strong winds and dust storms, drought, floods, earthquakes, and animal and human epidemic infectious diseases. Since 2009, Mongolia has experienced devastating natural disasters which have affected 600,000 people, and out of that figure nearly 20,000 families have been forced to migrate to urban areas and more than 25 per cent of all livestock died. These people have migrated in search of a new life after having lost everything, which is compounding social problems in already ill-equipped urban centres. Nearly half of its population residing in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar (1.4 million), 20 per cent of the population inhabit provincial centres where basic infrastructures are limited, and up to one-third of the population follow a pattern of transhumance or nomadic lifestyle.

Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia, is located along three active seismic faults. The potential impact of a high magnitude earthquake on Ulaanbaatar has been drawn from various available data. A combination of factors, which includes elements such as population density, structural integrity of buildings and vulnerabilities in the existing infrastructure, as well as a lack of awareness and disaster response skills in the community, raise concerns about a) the safety of the people and b) the readiness of key stakeholders that play an important role in disaster preparedness and response.

⁴ Source: Xinhua News June 21, 2012

⁵ Source: Ministry of Civil Affairs 15th May, 2012

⁶ Source : Ministry of Civil Affairs 29 June 2012

These existing concerns are heightened as the urban population in Ulaanbaatar continues to grow uncontrollably at an average of 75,000 people per annum. Natural disasters, climate change and shrinking agricultural returns have played a role in driving an increasing number of people from rural areas to the peri-urban surrounding major urban centres, particularly Ulaanbaatar. A majority of the country's population now reside in or around Ulaanbaatar, many of whom are in ger⁷ communities or low income housing. Weak capacity to deal with the growing numbers result in inadequate access to social services such as health care or water/sanitation; as well as overcrowding in schools and health facilities.

During the reporting period the IFRC Country office supported the Mongolia Red Cross Society (MRCS) to implement different projects in the areas of health, social care, and disaster management. The community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) project is being implemented in four provinces in the Gobi Region of Mongolia and is preparing for its expansion into three districts of Ulaanbaatar City. A social care project has continued to address the needs of vulnerable and displaced populations in Uvurkhangai, Khuvsgul, and Tuv provinces. In the disaster management field, three main projects have been implemented. These are Norwegian Red Cross-supported community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP), DFID-funded community-based programming (CBP), national disaster response team (NDRT), and USAID-funded earthquake preparedness project.

The year 2012 has been a parliamentary electoral year whereby 76 parliament seats would be pursued by various candidates from different parties. As a direct result, slight delays have taken place in the implementation of some of the planned activities. It is anticipated that some further delays are likely to arise with the implementation of activities throughout rural areas as October will see provincial-level elections.

Japan – Earthquake and Tsunami - The 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on 11 March 2011 has posed severe loss of lives and humanitarian consequences. As of 8 August 2012, 15,868 people are confirmed dead of which 90 per cent died from drowning in the cold winter waters. A total of 2,848 are still missing or unaccounted for. A total of 17 months had passed since the disaster struck, and while immediate physical recovery is gradually picking up speed, survivors were still in much need of support such as psychosocial and long-term recovery. The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant accident has also created much uneasiness among the public, not only in Fukushima but throughout the nation as the evacuation zone is still seriously contaminated and may remain uninhabitable for decades. (Details on recovery operation can be found at JRCS website: <http://www.jrc.or.jp/eq-japan2011/operations-update/index.html>)

Collaboration within the Movement commenced almost immediately after the catastrophe, and JRCS invited the IFRC to bring in a high level support/liaison mission. From the onset of the disaster, IFRC had provided human resource support in communications, reporting, logistics, finance and other areas through frequent visits from the East Asia Regional Delegation (EARD) and Asia Pacific zone office as well as from the Secretariat in Geneva.

In the past six months, the IFRC EARD focused on national society disaster management, health and care, long-term development in the East Asia region by providing direct support and training opportunities for suitable National Society personnel in building up their capacity. The IFRC EARD also represented the East Asia region at various Asia Pacific meetings to contribute to and coordinate resources and knowledge sharing in Asia Pacific region.

Working in partnership

The IFRC's East Asia regional office works closely with the national societies in the region, their governments, and local communities. Other partners include the American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross/Australian government, British Red Cross/British government, Canadian Red Cross/Canadian government, Danish Red Cross/Danish government, Finnish Red Cross/Finnish government, German Red Cross/German government, Japanese Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross/Netherlands government, Norwegian Red Cross/Norwegian government, Spanish and Swedish Red Cross/Swedish government. The United Kingdom Department of International Development (DFID) is also a supporter in the region. Close coordination with other Movement

partners, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Asian Red Cross Red Crescent Network on HIV (ART) is a key element of our work. Maintaining and building relations within the United Nations system continues to be important, especially with partners such as World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNFPA and other international and non-government organizations. Furthermore, the regional office works with international media agencies and other partners to promote the work of the Red Cross national societies in the region. The national societies in the region have many Red Cross partners engaged in both bilateral and multilateral projects. The IFRC supports the national societies in their coordination with partner national societies, specifically the Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) established in DPRK and the initiation of the process in Mongolia and the Global Alliance on HIV in both Mongolia and China.

Progress towards outcomes

Business Line 1: To raise humanitarian standards

Outcome 1.1 East Asia national societies (EANSs) are enabled and inspired to increase the magnitude, quality and impact of their services

Achievements

The Korean Red Cross was part of the pilot group in Asia Pacific to contribute to the databank. Details on the database have been shared now with the RCSC and discussions with country delegations are underway for other national societies.

Three EANSs participated in the organizational capacity assessment certification (OCAC) introductory meeting in Manila in May (RCSC, Korean National Red Cross (KNRC) and JRCS). RCSC was the first to start this process in East Asia. With full support and participation of the Executive Vice President, an assessment team was established and comprised of 22 from the headquarters, ten branch leaders, and 20 county/prefecture branch level participants. A questionnaire was distributed and initial assessments of the results are being collated.

In order to make the online learning platform more accessible to the large non-English speaking population of Red Cross staff and volunteers in China, the IFRC is arranging to launch World of Red Cross Red Crescent in Chinese. The translation was done by the ICRC and presented to the EARD to upload onto the internet. Discussions with technical experts in China are ongoing to find the platform for this course. The hope is that this first launch will open up many opportunities for other learning opportunities in the Chinese language, reaching an extensive and important group of Red Cross staff and supporters in Asia that do not speak English.

The RCSC has established close links with academic professors and researchers as part of a "think tank" advising the RCSC on their current reform process. One of the universities involved has expressed interest in becoming a part of the global academic network. Initial discussions have outlined areas of interest and further exploration of the scope of their involvement will be discussed in July and throughout the year.

Challenges

The challenges remain in balancing the many needs and diverse opportunities in this region with the scale of our human and financial resources. The EARD remains in close dialogue with the EANSs to continuously update our support plans and actions in relation to their needs and interests. Identifying the gaps in partner-related support and finding the specific added value of the IFRC's role in East Asia is a priority, but requires a great deal of time for coordination and analysis. Still, we have built strong relations with the national societies over these past years and are positioned to meet their challenges with them.

Business Line 2: "To grow Red Cross Red Crescent services for vulnerable people"

Outcome 2.1: EANSs have an increased role in disaster response both domestically and internationally.

Outcome 2.2 East Asia national societies have increased their capacity to work in communities and are able to respond to disasters in a timely and effective way.

Achievements

Mongolia - During 12-17 March, the regional disaster management delegate facilitated a national disaster response team (NDRT) planning discussions with the MRCS and the country delegation. All the MRCS

managers and related parties came together to discuss coming plans to realize the establishment for specialized emergency response teams (ERT) and to strengthen the national disaster response team (NDRT) that was trained last year.

In May, the MRCS established a national first aid emergency response team as one of the results in the ongoing discussion of the national society's contingency plan. Currently the team is composed of 15 members that trained in first aid and basic disaster response knowledge.

In March, a monitoring visit to the ongoing community-based programming was organized. The regional disaster management delegate, together with a new senior programme advisor from the IFRC Mongolia country delegation and disaster management manager in MRCS visited Dornod province. Some follow-up actions especially on the selection of communities and analysis of vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) results to best identify community programmes were recommended and will be implemented by the MRCS and IFRC country delegation.

DPRK - The regional delegation supported two participants from the DPRK to attend the Contingency Planning training of trainer (ToT) workshop in Indonesia during 26–30 March. The workshop, which covered topics on how to facilitate contingency planning procedures and adult learning training, had prepared the DPRK with a better understanding of the process and, as a way forward to implement it in the context of DPRK.

In March, the discussion for the NDRT refresher training with the country delegation, DPRK RC and the zone office continued, during which the concept and timing of the training was agreed on.

In May, the DPRK Red Cross organized a damage assessment and need analysis training workshop during 7-10 May. The workshop, supported by the IFRC Asia Pacific zone office, East Asia regional delegation and the DPRK country delegation, trained 18 national society staff members including members from NDRT, and provincial branch Red Cross members who have experience in emergency assessments and was involved in previous flood emergency responses. During the training, assessment and reporting process was refreshed based on the lessons learnt from the 2011 floods operation.

China - RCSC, with the support from the East Asia regional delegation, hosted a disaster risk reduction field school during 20-30 May in Sichuan, China. The training workshop, focused on building up skills and essential knowledge in an integrated community approach which included assessment, planning and transferring vulnerabilities into capacity in an integrated approach of VCA, was attended by over 20 representatives across the East Asia region including China, Mongolia and DPRK. The Southeast Asia Regional Delegation provided technical support including facilitation to this event.

The disaster risk reduction (DRR) field session is a mutual learning process between participants and community people and a good opportunity for Red Cross staff to systematically study and practice the VCA tools and to build up their network.



Participants and the facilitator in the regional disaster risk reduction field school in May 2012. Photo by IFRC

The psychosocial support (PSS) projects in Sichuan province had been completed since November 2011; the project in Yunnan province has been completed by the end of June 2012, and the project documentation in the province is planned to be done by August. PSS had also been introduced in different workshops, such as Restore Family Links (RFL) and Health Emergencies in Large Populations (HELP).

Asia Pacific technical meeting

In April, the regional DM delegate participated in the Asia Pacific technical meeting to discuss with other regions on disaster management and resilience programme updates, regional disaster management team development and other global disaster response tools and knowledge development. The sharing and discussions contribute to East Asia's valuable knowledge and experience for better capacity building within the national societies.

Challenges

The changes in staffing and organizational structure had posed some challenges in the past month. In the East Asia regional delegation, the regional disaster management delegate will be ending his mission. In DPRK, international staffs (programme managers) were asked to take turns to leave the country due to visa issues. Temporary staff arrangements had to be made to mitigate the problem.

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

Outcome 3.1 East Asia national societies are recognized as a valuable and integral actors in building community safety and resilience, with tools and methodologies guided by the global community safety and resilience framework and integrated across programmes such as disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, road safety, health, livelihoods, and others.

Achievements

As part of its anti-poverty strategy, and based on the experience from the Sichuan earthquake recovery livelihoods programme, RCSC has recently started to emphasize national strategies on microfinance and capacity-building for sustainable development. RCSC supports local initiatives including microfinance strategies, employment and income-generation schemes in a community-based programme (Bo Ai Jia Yuan Programme) aiming to reach out to 1,000 communities in six provinces of China in five years.

IFRC in East Asia is committed to promoting poverty alleviation, community empowerment and responsive governance. In this regard, EA has started to promote community-based microfinance in poverty alleviation and community capacity-building programmes in East Asia, in partnership with EANS. Lessons learned from these projects have influenced national RCSC policies. Under the ongoing China livelihoods support programme, RCSC has provided 289 (as of June 2012) small funds to earthquake-affected people in Sichuan. The funds are managed by the Postal Savings Bank of China and administered by the RCSC.

After consultation with the RCSC, IFRC has decided to initiate a community-based microfinance project which will aim at empowering communities to manage microfinance interventions with RCSC playing a facilitation role. The objective of this pilot initiative is to increase community resilience and coping abilities through empowering communities to manage, implement and monitor community-based microfinance schemes in poverty reduction and community self-reliance development.

This work started in DPRK within the DRR programme. The East Asia delegation plans to provide the DPRK RCS with more community-based tools and methodologies and help the National Society to adapt to the local context.

The same is pending for Mongolia; the East Asia delegation will provide support to the MRCS through development of localized training curriculum in integrated approach.

IFRC East Asia regional health manager attended GRSP Asia road safety seminar held 7-9 March in Bangkok, Thailand. There were up to 300 participants at this conference from various organizations/bodies from government, business and civil society. In the seminar the need for the impact of road safety initiatives to be better assessed and communicated was emphasized. The meeting also pointed out that Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers should be considered among the key partners for the UN Decade of Action (Time to Act) on road safety that is now underway in China.

Global Road Safety Programme's (GRSP) advocacy project proposal has been developed by the Red Cross and was approved. Two new GRSP staff have started working in the programme office for China in June 2012. This marked the incorporation of road safety initiatives by East Asia national societies into the work of one of the EA national societies (RCSC).

The Asia Pacific zone water and sanitation workshop was held on 27 February - 1 March in Guilin, Guangxi province, China. A total of 32 participants from national societies and partner national societies of Asia Pacific region had attended. The workshop introduced sanitation marketing, behaviour change communication and alternatives of sanitation in emergency.

Under the purpose of increasing the knowledge and skills of health delegates in CBHFA approach and use of its materials and tools to be able to provide high quality support to national societies, the IFRC DPRK health delegate and EA regional health manager participated in CBHFA delegate's training on 6 – 8 June in Sweden;

The health department provided support and coordination for the preparation of the World Blood Donor Day among the national societies in EA region. Under the theme "every blood donor is a hero", the main event was held in Seoul on 14 June as the KNRC had been selected to host this year's global launch of World Blood Donor Day.

Under the support of East Asia delegation, RCSC drafted a new proposal submitted to Eli Lilly Geneva. The purpose of this proposal is in contribution to reduction of tuberculosis (TB) infection rates in the targeted prefectures in Shanxi Province. Meanwhile this paper is aiming to make a roll-out plan based on the current experiences gained and provide social care by the improved adherence to TB treatment protocols to the most vulnerable-suspected multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) patients and the enhancement of public awareness on TB prevention knowledge.

Challenges

The Sustainable Development Thematic Group within IFRC's EA Regional Delegation has started in 2012. Substantial changes in reporting lines and overall reorganization took some time for a structure to be fully functioning with all the elements in place.

Outcome 3.2 East Asia national societies are strengthened through robust organizational structures and systems and a wide representation of their stakeholders

Achievements

Context-specific leadership induction course has been developed and piloted in one East Asia National Society (China) with training of five leaders from the NHQ and provincial branches.

Tailor-made and interactive induction sessions are conducted with RCSC branch leaders who are heading to Geneva for a study tour. The induction is a series of conversations in which the participants have a big part in setting the agenda and the facilitator works with participants to clarify the issues, define the goals and establish the plan to achieve these. The sessions provide an overview of the key characteristics of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and its international components, and how these relate to China context.

The RCSC study tour to Geneva has been ongoing since 2003. The objective is for the branch leaders to have a better understanding of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and to be updated about the latest initiatives of the Movement. In April 2012, the RCSC sent two groups on study tour. The members include the leaders from the headquarters and six branches.

Youth and volunteer projects are supported, both financially and technically. RCSC is going to have two national youth camps on 26 July – 1 August in Qingdao and the second half of August in Anhui. The theme for this year is 'focusing on children of migrant workers'. IFRC is co-financing the camps and will facilitate sessions on migration and youth leadership, etc.

The Youth Network of EANS is under development. East Asia regional delegation is providing assistance and coordination in preparation for the Youth Model General Assembly Meeting in the Republic of Korea scheduled for September 2012. A staff-on-loan from Hong Kong Red Cross has started as Youth Programme Officer in June 2012 in the East Asia office to facilitate the Youth Network Development.

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

Outcome 4.1 The national societies of EA are better positioned and have stronger capacity to achieve the vital goal of helping to protect the most vulnerable and increasing and safeguarding humanitarian space.

Achievements

The IFRC has recently signed MOUs on international cooperation with the governments of Korea and Japan. In Korea, the MOU is a tripartite agreement with the KRCS, IFRC and the ROK government. These landmark MOUs will pave the way for stronger cooperation with these governments for Red Cross support in operations world-wide.

In May, the JRCS held a forum on nuclear disaster preparedness, which included Red Cross Red Crescent representatives of 38 states with functional or under-construction nuclear reactors, plus the ICRC, UN, IAEA, the Japanese government and other relevant organizations. This forum provided a very important platform for discussing the role of Red Cross Red Crescent in relation to response to nuclear disasters.

As the EU and Chinese government step-up their cooperation, the RCSC was able to showcase their role, skills and capacities in being a first responder in China—especially in relation to rapid urban response. When the EU Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Civil Response visited Beijing to launch the EU-China Disaster Risk Management Project and inaugurate of the EU-China Institute of Emergency Management, both the IFRC and RCSC participated in the stakeholders meeting and invited the Commissioner to visit the Beijing Red Cross's 999 emergency response center. This provided a valuable opportunity to highlight the strengths of the Red Cross as a key actor in China's emergency response mechanisms:<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/china/eus-top-humanitarian-official-stresses-cooperation-and-learning-with-national-society-58039/>.

The RCSC is holding two major events this year to forge new Red Cross Red Crescent partnerships, all with an interest in strengthening Chinese government support channelling humanitarian support through the RCSC. The first, held in May, was the Sino-Africa Red Cross Red Crescent forum inviting more than 20 African national societies to China to exchange experiences and explore potential partnerships. This event was supported by the EARD through close coordination with the IFRC zone office in Africa and others.

With the support of the EARD, the EANSs have had other opportunities for improved dialogue with key stakeholders on critical issues in their country context. Some of these specific examples can be found throughout the other development reports in programme areas, such as on road safety, climate change, and disaster management.

Outcome 4.2 EANSs and IFRC communications are improved, and better integrated, with focus on advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy, highlighting the areas in which National Society and the IFRC needs to stress its competitive advantage

Achievements

Japan: To help prepare the one-year anniversary on 11 March, the EARD communications delegate visited Japan three times to prepare materials, conduct media relations activities, and proactively generate media coverage around the role of the Red Cross in the recovery effort. Supported by IFRC, JRCS has made both audio-visual materials and written materials for media and publicity use. There was a high level of coverage of Red Cross activities in Japanese media and international media. On 11 March, JRCS took out a series of advertisements in major media, informing the public about the National Society's achievements and about the extension of the period of domestic fundraising until September.

Throughout the run-up to the anniversary, both IFRC and JRCS kept up frequent reprises of important pieces of our coverage both on Twitter and Facebook; these were also re-tweeted from Geneva to reach a wider audience.

The EARD also provided communications support for the National Society Consultation Meeting on Nuclear Preparedness, hosted by JRCS in Tokyo in May, the signing of a JICA/IFRC MoU, and contributed a "box" section to World Disasters Report on the Fukushima evacuees and an article for a peer-reviewed publication by the Center for Excellence on JRCS cooperation with other civilian and military actors in the GEJET response.

China: For the first time, the delegation established a social media presence in Chinese, on Sina weibo. The microblog has featured stories both about IFRC's activities in support of RCSC within China and updates on worldwide latest news translated and adapted to the local context from www.ifrc.org

Another key focus of ongoing EARD support in communications has been the series of activities which the RCSC has been holding in order to raise their domestic and international profile, such as the Sino-Africa Red Cross Red Crescent Forum in Taicang, Jiangsu on 8 May and the Open Day on 6 June. Also, the communications delegate and the head of delegation (HoD) have consistently engaged with Chinese media to promote a positive and supportive image of the National Society, its commitment to reform and transparency and its international role and profile. There are several articles published by the Chinese media.

Republic of Korea: The communications delegate visited Seoul for the International and Communications teams and also to compile a report on KNRC's multicultural programme. Further coverage of this topic is also planned, with the idea of a video under discussion.

Besides, EARD communications delegate played a key role in preparing communications tools ahead of the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea from 29 November to 1 December. It provided an opportunity both to highlight IFRC's position as a key advocate for a more coordinated approach to

integrating emergency and development aid, based on resilience and also for profiling the Korean Red Cross' work internationally and domestically.

Mongolia: In a partnership between the IFRC and Euronews on silent disasters, the European broadcaster sent a team to shoot a mini-documentary on Mongolia⁸; The communications delegate also arranged with *BBC Online* for them to put up a gallery of images from Mongolia, taken for the Red Cross Red Crescent by photographer Palani Mohan. (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-16502510>)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Plans are also underway for a film on livelihoods/food security, which would be made to coincide with the submission of a proposal on food security to the EU by European PNS in 2012.

There are currently 11 beneficiary stories from East Asia published. See the [attached list](#).

Outcome 4.3 Potential is maximized through existing and potential resources allowing EANSs and IFRC to achieve their objectives

Achievements

A mapping of partner support in the region has been conducted in the beginning of this year. The mapping recorded current year partner support as well as a historical view of partners support over the years. The mapping will continue to be developed with partner and EANS input. The EARD is also collecting updated strategic plans from partners and potential funders to analyze current funding trends and identify opportunities for furthering partnerships.

Discussions with partner national societies, relevant embassies and corporate donors (such as Lilly and Coca-Cola) have been ongoing in the past months with the aim to raise awareness of the good work of EANSs and funding opportunities and involvement for donors.

The EARD has been coordinating closely in recent months with the Australian Red Cross to secure funding from AusAID for both Mongolia and the DPRK. Concept notes and proposals have been shared with AusAID, and a one-year grant for CBDRR has been awarded to Mongolia.

Discussions and relations with the EU Delegation in Beijing have stepped up in 2012. Our delegation provided valuable advice to the EU team in their preparations for the visit of the EU Commissioner. From that, we are now discussing options for closer collaboration between the EU-government and Red Cross on the project and institute launched by the Commissioner in June.

In addition, staff from the EU delegation in Beijing participated in the EU funding training organized by the EARD, which opened up more discussion between the EU delegation and the EANSs, EU-PNSs and the IFRC delegations on potential funding opportunities.

In March, a resource mobilization workshop was organized in Beijing for the region's national societies, partners and IFRC team members to learn about EU-funding opportunities. This workshop was facilitated by expert trainers from the EU delegation in Beijing and representatives of EU-NSs (specifically, Sweden, Austria and Finland). The workshop not only introduced the funding mechanisms and process to submit proposals to the EU for both development and emergency response, but also allowed a one-day hands-on workshop for further developing potential project proposals/concepts for both Mongolia and the DPRK.

Following that, an intensive planning session was held in Pyongyang with the DPRK RCS and IFRC team to develop a concept/proposal for food security.

As a follow up, a half-day mini-workshop was also held in Beijing, using the DPRK Food Security logframe as a tool for gaining a deeper understanding of the process and required content of an EU Grant proposal. Participants of both workshops will continue to stay involved in this proposal drafting to gain hands-on learning throughout the process.

⁸ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=li_9u4j3a0g

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

Outcome 5.1 EA national societies are working together more effectively in partnerships and alliances within Red Cross Red Crescent and with external partners.

Achievements

The annual East Asia Leadership meeting is now scheduled for 6-7 September in Beijing. All five EANSs have confirmed they will attend this important annual event. This will precede the Asia Pacific Forum on disaster management, hosted by the RCSC from 8-14 September, which the five EANSs will also have representatives in attendance, along with the IFRC (with representatives from region, zone and Geneva levels, including President Konoe and Secretary General Bekele.)

Country-specific partnership meetings for this year include the DPRK CAS meeting to be held in Helsinki, Finland, in September, and the MRCS partners meeting scheduled for October.

This year, the DPRK RCS, IFRC and CAS partners engaged in a review of the CAS system in the DPRK. This was a very interesting exercise and provided good insights about the history of this successful model, but also allowed the CAS partners to reflect on possible changes as the time to sign a new CAS Agreement for the coming three years draws closer.

The IFRC supported the JRCS in organizing a partner meeting for those who have supported the efforts of the JRCS during this past year in response to the triple disaster of 2011. The IFRC representative has been supporting the JRCS in coordinating partner visits and events such as these throughout the first half of the year.

The RCSC has submitted its application for the 2014 Asia Pacific Regional Conference. The RCSC and IFRC met with an assessment team to go through the RCSC's proposed plan and locations for the event. The application was officially accepted and approved recently by the committee.

In February, the KNRC hosted the Asia Pacific's Strategic Mentoring Forum to enable senior APNS leaders to share experiences, good practices and strategies for resource mobilization and corporate partnerships.

Finally, in 2012, the EARD has revitalized the quarterly newsletter that is shared with partners and friends of EANSs. This platform will provide more timely information sharing with partners and give an overview of the priorities and challenges of the national societies at more frequent intervals. Partners have been encouraged to share their bilateral project achievements to allow for a more streamlined communication channel between partners supporting in EA.

The RCSC's psychosocial support programmes are currently being documented in photos, video/films and case study materials to be shared with the PSS Center in Copenhagen.

In 2012, participants from IFRC EA Delegation, Hong Kong Red Cross Society and the Republic of Korea Red Cross Society attended the PSS Master Training hosted by the Centre. During that training, the IFRC delegate was able to present experiences gained by the RCSC in the PSS recovery programmes of the 2008 China earthquake.

In 2012, experts from the PSS Centre had been invited to be facilitators of the China PSS ERT training and the IFRC will coordinate a visit to the center for RCSC PSS staff later in the year.

The DPRK RCS and RCSC continue to share experiences on livelihoods between their two countries. A visit of the RCSC to the DPRK took place earlier in the year to further explore this platform of exchange.

The IFRC continues to send representatives of the EANSs to participate in global events, meetings and forums on topics of priority concern. Please see programme sector reports for details.

Outcome 5.2 EA national societies' staff have mechanisms and systems in place that support good results-based programme management, transparency and accountability

Achievements

The EU Funding workshop held in Beijing in March provided a very good opportunity to improve the skills of IFRC and National Society staff in logframe design, proposal writing, and reporting skills. monitoring and

evaluation was also touched upon in the aspects of ensuring proposals have monitoring and evaluation plans and have measurable, achievable implementation milestones.

The half-day follow-up workshop focused on IFRC regional staff members to help them better understand partner coordination, donor expectations and quality design of logframes.

The IFRC regional PMER officer attended the training of trainers on PPP in Geneva. She is now working out a plan to roll-out support for PMER skills training in the region.

In addition, the EARD is holding "Wednesday Lunch" trainings on various topics to increase skills for staff. Topics included excel spreadsheet skills, Outlook email organization and tricks, optimal use of Fednet/Sharepoint/Communities of Practice, and others.

A workshop was held for all IFRC team members to understand new reporting templates and emphasize how to show impact through quality reporting. Individual support was given to the country delegations in the region as needed, including support to the reporting officer of the JRCS.

Tailored support to team members in all aspects of PMER is ongoing and a daily task. The new reporting requirements aligned with the LTPF have resulted in very close coordination between PMER team members and programme managers/officers. The EARD has worked with the regional team to design user friendly adaptations to the templates that allow for a streamlined reporting system.

All programmes are using standard logframes as part of their 2012 plans of action. These were organized and presented to team members in easy-to-use formats arranged by project codes for quick reference on targets, indicators, and activity plans. Evaluations are following the IFRC's Guidelines.

With support of the regional office, the IFRC programme officer in Mongolia conducted a training on programme management skills for the MRCS and its branches. The next steps in rolling out more support to the MRCS on PMER issues is under discussion between the zone, region and country delegations.

An integrated planning process was facilitated by a staff-on-loan of the Swedish Red Cross to the DPRK delegation. This process was not only for the purpose of designing the EU Food Security proposal, but provided an excellent learning opportunity for the IFRC and National Society.

As follow up to the PPP Training of Trainers in Geneva, the regional delegation will begin to roll out a more targeted plan for PMER skills training and support in the region for the latter part of 2012.

The regional delegation is coordinating with the Asia Pacific zone office on the Federation-wide management system (FWMS) and how it will be utilized and rolled-out in the future within the region.

Stakeholder participation and feedback

Our stakeholders are an integral part of our activities and support. We closely consult each national society, and keep close coordination with partners. The feedback received in revising the CAS agreement in DPRK is an example of utilizing stakeholder inputs towards building stronger relationships. Communications is also striving to improve beneficiary communications within East Asia and support national societies in East Asia to reach out to stakeholders in their communications strategies.

ICRC has funded a translation of World of Red Cross Red Crescent into Chinese and made it available to EARD for further action.

Beijing Normal University has been contacted to begin the regional academic network establishment. Its representatives are now being invited to participate in key activities in EARD and RCSC.

Lessons learned and looking ahead

Plans and approaches for support must be constantly reviewed in light of the changing needs of a national society and its constituents.

Communications for the public, internal reflection and for beneficiaries all play a critical role in helping us to evaluate the achievements of RC action.

The regional disaster management programme will continue to support the RCSC in developing their emergency response capacity by supporting the development of national ERTs and an NDRT. On the level of community preparedness, the regional disaster management team will continue to explore an integrated approach of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation programming for the rural vulnerable populations.

Taking further, the RCSC plans to further integrate the CBHFA approach with their other disease-specific or thematic components such HIV, tuberculosis and also plans to integrate closely with other community-based approaches such community based disaster risk reduction.

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

Contact information

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East Asia - Beneficiary stories 2012 (January – June 2012)

Stories from Japan

1. Family and community tensions make a return to Fukushima more difficult for some.
<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/japan/family-and-community-tensions-make-a-return-fukushima-more-difficult-for-some-57759/>
2. The extraordinary challenge of a school lunch in post-tsunami Fukushima
<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/japan/the-extraordinary-challenge-of-a-school-lunch-in-post-tsunami-fukushima-57716/>
3. With the restrictions lifted in areas of Fukushima, some residents are returning home
<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/japan/sssss-57698/>
4. Recover, rebuild, and return. The challenge facing many communities one year on
<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/japan/recover-rebuild-return-the-challenge-facing-many-communities-one-year-on/>
5. The long road to recovery one year on from the earthquake and tsunami
<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/japan/the-long-road-to-recovery-one-year-on-from-the-earthquake-and-tsunami-/>
6. Japan Anniversary diary 1-6
<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/japan/japan-anniversary--diary-1--coming-to-terms-with-tragedy-one-year-on-from-the-earthquake-and-tsunami/>

Stories from China

1. Psychosocial seeds bear fruit in Sichuan
<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/china/psychosocial-seeds-bear-fruit-in-sichuan/>
2. Community health volunteers empower the young and old to help themselves
<http://www.ifrc.org/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/china/community-health-volunteers-empower-the-young-and-old-to-help-themselves/>

Stories from Korea

1. Taking diversity and multiculturalism into the classroom
<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/korea-republic-of/red-cross-helps-foster-multi-cultural-south-korea-57997/>
2. Painting the town red to say thank you to the world's blood donors
<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/korea-republic-of/painting-the-town-red-to-say-thank-you-to-the-worlds-blood-donors-57924/>
3. 3,000 students join forces to create the world's largest human blood drop
<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/korea-republic-of/3000-students-join-forces-to-create-the-worlds-largest-human-blood-drop-57911/>