

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

EAST ASIA REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

13 July 2001

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.47/01

Appeal Target CHF 1,378,372

Programme Update No. 1 Period covered: January - June

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 24.2%

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,044,777

Update: Significant progress has been made on programmes in East Asia in support of vulnerable people. The regional office has already begun to demonstrate its added value but taking impact to the next level will require a major increase in donor support.

Outstanding needs

In October 1999, the Federation and the Government of China (GoC) signed a status agreement, paving the way for the opening of the Regional Office (RO) for East Asia, in Beijing, in February 2000. The Regional Office, initially situated in the Headquarters of the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) moved, on the request of the GoC, into new and separate premises in January 2001 and became fully functional at the end of March 2001.

The Context

The East Asia region is one of the most populous regions in the world including China (1.3 billion), Japan (125.5 million), the Republic of Korea (45.5 million), the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (22.5 million) and Mongolia (2.5 million). The region is characterised by significant social, political, cultural and economic diversity. The diversity of the region is reflected in the five national societies in terms of their size, funding base and capacities. The region is also prone to a diversity of natural disasters including: floods, earthquakes, drought, volcanic activity and typhoons.

Vulnerability in the region is predominantly a result of poverty and natural disaster. The two often combine to increase vulnerability.

Objective 1 - To establish and maintain a closer and more intensive working relations with RCSC.

The RCSC continues to establish itself as an entity separate from the Ministry of Public Health, and a significant degree of independence has been achieved in 15 of the 31 Provinces and Autonomous Regions. This newly established independence ensures a higher/better profile for the RCSC which will facilitate more effective dissemination, better access to Government ministries and departments and other organisations, greater opportunities for resource development, and in time, a greater degree of freedom of action. RCSC is currently undergoing a restructuring in the Beijing head quarters.

In March a delegation of RCSC personnel and representatives from the GoC visited the Federation, the French and Spanish RC and organisations running lotteries to gather information and ideas on fundraising. This visit is being followed up in Beijing. There have been discussions between the Federation and the RCSC on raising support for training in resource development and with the GoC on issues such as a national lottery either run by the RCSC or one in which the Society receives a percentage. The RCSC has already negotiated with the GoC for tax exemptions on donations to the RCSC.

Operations in Inner Mongolia (China)

During the period 523.1 metric tonnes (MT) of wheat flour were distributed to 20,924 beneficiaries in Xilingol prefecture together with 1700 quilts. 197.4 MT of wheat flour were distributed to 7,896 beneficiaries in Tongliao prefecture.

The total number of beneficiaries to date is 28,820. This amounts to 48% of the 60,000 beneficiaries targeted in the Federation appeal. Beneficiaries received 25 kg each in this distribution and will receive another 25 kg in later distributions.

Outstanding needs related to the appeal objectives are therefore:

25 kg per person for 28,820 beneficiaries. 48 %

50 kg per person for 31,180 beneficiaries. 52 %

Although substantial assistance has been distributed to disaster victims targeted through the Federation appeal, covering most immediate short term needs, many families have lost most or all of the livestock that was a crucial part of their livelihood. These families will need further assistance in the medium and long term.

(The final distributions for this appeal are expected to take place by the end of July).

Objective - To establish relations with the National Societies of Japan (JRC), the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK RC), the Republic of Korea (RoK RC) and Mongolia - also the RCSC branches of Hong Kong and Macau.

(For information on operations in Mongolia see Mongolia Programme Updates)

Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) / Republic of Korea (RoK)

In 2000 following the meeting of the two Korean leaders in June and the ensuing family visits, there was a feeling of optimism that at last the Korean Peninsular 'issue' may, in time, be resolved. However, with the arrival of the new US administration in February and a hardening of positions between the DPRK and the USA some of this optimism has now disappeared and no family visits have taken place during the reporting period

(For information on operations in DPRK see DPRK Programme Update)

Establishment and activities of the Regional Office

The Regional Office which moved into new premises in January became fully functional at the end of March 2000. The only remaining task to complete the Regional Office's full integration into Beijing's 'diplomatic community' is the inclusion of the Regional Office in Beijing's Diplomatic List in December 2001.

During the reporting period the Head of Regional Office has concentrated efforts on getting to know the Red Cross of China at the provincial and branch level and seven provinces have been visited. (Bringing the total number to eleven since the opening of the RO in February 2000).

The President of the Federation, Ms. Astrid Heidberg, visited China between the 8th to 16th April. She visited Beijing, Nanjing and Shanghai and was accompanied by the Head of the RO throughout the visit. Prior to her departure the President met with Madame PENG Peiyun, the President of the Red Cross Society of China.

In the reporting period the Head of RO has participated in two ICRC workshops in China, in Yunnan and Beijing, where presentations were given on the history of the Federation its constitution and activities in China.

On Saturday May 5 the Head of RO participated in dissemination activities in Beijing with the RCSC. Pamphlets were handed out and speeches delivered in the main park and shopping malls in anticipation of Red Cross day on May 8th.

Finance Development Project

During the first six months of 2001, the Finance Development Project POA scheduled two main tasks: Firstly, to monitor the pilot implementation. Secondly, to prepare for the 19 province training workshop. The first task included (1) Follow up on the training workshop for pilot provinces and HQ Finance Dept. (2) Test data developed and used for the suitability of accounting software (3) Pilot implementation evaluation workshop successfully held in Beijing (4) Discussion and revision on the drafted Federation supported project accounting system. The second task was to prepare for the second workshop to be held in July 2001. This included: (1) finalizing all training manuals and documents (2) Finalizing the design of accounting codes, reporting formats etc... for Federation supported projects in China.

Within the next 6 months, the primary task will be the 19 province training workshop and follow up. The prefecture level training will also be facilitated after the provincial branch accountants receive the Federation training. Finally, a workshop will be held for 31 provincial branch accountants and Secretaries General in October.

Computerisation Program

Following a period of inactivity within this program, caused by the absence of a technical expert within the Federation's office, efforts continued during the reporting period to identify a skilled delegate who would be able to manage its implementation. In June, a candidate was finally selected and the new delegate will arrive in China in early August. With the arrival of this technical delegate the program will now get 'back on track'.

This project aims to establish a national networking information system on disaster relief and preparedness, which is based on the existing local network in RCSC Headquarters in Beijing. The aim is to connect the local net to internet by means of ISDN as soon as possible, provide the necessary

communication equipment to 6 regional Disaster Preparedness (DP) Centers and provincial Red Cross Branches to develop a integrated computerized system, focusing on dealing with information, communication and disaster response through accessing to internet.

Disaster Preparedness Training

The seminar planned for June had to be postponed due to internal restructuring within the RCSC. Funds that were released from Geneva to the RCSC to cover the expenses of this course and will now be held by the Society until a new date is fixed. A full agenda and course materials have been prepared by the Relief Department for this course.

Disaster Preparedness Centers Equipment

Following the receipt of a detailed proposal and budget from the RCSC relating to funds needed to support and strengthen the administration of the four Disaster Preparedness (DP)/ Disaster Relief (DR) centers, as well as to equipping them with much needed facilities, the Regional Office applied for funding from the fund balance in Geneva to cover these costs.

Detailed Plan

The National Headquarters (HQs) of Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has, following consultations and discussions with the four DP centers designed the following project proposals.

The following DP Centers will receive assistance from the funds provided by the Canadian RC.

1) Shen Yang DP center

Project Objective: Reimbursement of loan raised by the Shen Yang DP center to provide electrical systems to the center.

Proposed Budget: RMB150,000

2) Jiang Su Provincial RC DP/DR Center

Project Objective: Building of a covered yard for storing the relief materials

Proposed Budget: RMB100,000

3) An Hui Provincial RC DP/DR Center

Project Objective: Construction of a Dinning Room

Proposed Budget: RMB100,000

4) RCSC Cheng Du DP/DR Center

Project Objective: Supply of hot water supply system and kitchen facilities

Proposed Budget: RMB100,000

5) RCSC National HQ

Project Objective: Supervision of implementation, training courses, hardware.

Proposed Budget: RMB 100,000

English Language Training

This project still awaits funding.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Contacts have been maintained with the UNHCR on the DPRK refugee issue and contacts established with UNAIDS on the issue of HIV/AIDS in China.

Contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has continued over the establishment of the Regional Office.

Regular and intensive contact has been maintained with representatives of the International Media concerning our operations in Mongolia, DPRK and Inner Mongolia (China), and the RO was able to 'monopolise' major TV networks on May 8th with a video clip from Inner Mongolia

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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East Asia Regional Programmes						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.47/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				16.01.2002
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'378'372		TOTAL COVERAGE 24.2%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				273'678		
SINGAPORE - RC				1'600	16.07.2001	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				275'278	CHF	20.0%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Canada	Delegate(s)			58'316		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				58'316	CHF	4.2%