

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

MONGOLIA

Date 18.07.2003

Appeal No. 01.68/2003

Appeal Target: 770,524 CHF (USD 527,864 or EUR 523,425)

Programme Update No. 1;

Period covered: January to June, 2003

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 80%; Refer to our website for Contributions List for details.

Outstanding needs: CHF 151,905

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A

Programme Summary: A cycle of droughts and severe winters affecting nomadic herders and people in rural centres, who make up 40 per cent of the population, has raised the impetus for long term sustainable development solutions in Mongolia. The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in collaboration with the Mongolian Red Cross Society and other partners are implementing programmes to build the capacity of vulnerable communities to prepare for and survive disaster in their fragile ecosystem. In addition support for the organisational capacity of the national society to implement social care and health programmes are also covered by this appeal.

Introduction

Following four consecutive years, Mongolia has experienced a further harsh winter and sporadic ¹dzud. This has affected most of the provinces of the country, but has severely affected just seven. In January 2003, the Federation launched an Emergency Appeal following an assessment of the situation in November 2002 by an international review team. The overall aim of the Emergency Appeal was to 'contribute to the dzud survival and recovery of the most affected populations in seventeen ²aimags through the provision of wheat flour, children's warm clothes, and top boots for active herders.' In addition to contributing to immediate relief needs, the operation focused on building the capacity of the Mongolia Red Cross Society (MRCS) to reduce longer term vulnerability through

¹ A Mongolian phenomena peculiar to the steppe which involves summer drought, followed by a particularly harsh winter, and where owing to the drought it has been particularly difficult to prepare conserved fodder for livestock from the preceding summer months.

² An aimag is the largest of the administrative regions of Mongolia, and comprises a number of Soums

³ A soum is the second largest administrative district of Mongolia, and comprises a number of Bags. Bags are the smallest administrative district that may be represented by its own Governor, and is usually rural in nature

⁴ A ger is a traditional circular wood framed, felt lined dwelling preferred by the Mongolian herders of the steppe.

'revitalizing branches' of the Mongolian Red Cross at ³soum level (primary organisations) in seventeen soums and three aimag actively involved in the emergency intervention.

The government of Mongolia is forever mindful of the need to use knowledge gained from the experiences of a succession of severe winters and the duzd phenomena. As the result, they are implementing short and long-term strategies to mitigate the effect this has had on the economy, the suffering of livestock and the rural population. United Nations and other elements of the donor community are addressing these needs with development programs. The MRCS and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have sought to address these needs through a variety of interventions designed to minimise the hardships sustained by categories of both rural and urban poor.

Short-term measures have included joint Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and disaster management and mitigation interventions in the soums that are worst effected. This has included the support of dedicated human resources to support herder communities who are in dire straits, and the supply of fuel for all terrain transport of commodities to affected areas. Prevention measures have included the intensification of winter ⁴ger settlements, thus enabling emergency winter support with fodder when needs arise. It has also allowed government and other agencies to support herders with financial loans for preparing winter fodder that can be repaid on a long-term basis.

They also include the improvement of the water supply to selected pastures to ensure the growth of quality grass for the production of hay and the identification of locations for wintering large numbers of families and their livestock predetermined by national and local government. Long-term measures include changes in legislation to incorporate the need for disaster management and mitigation, while reforming the law on civil protection and civil defence.

The Federation's Role in Mongolia

The Federation's position in Mongolia has been to maintain a policy of gradual organisational development. Consequence, they have appointed a Head of Delegation as a permanent representative of the Federation. This is an important step as new partners and donors are starting to work with the national society. In June, the Netherlands Red Cross (NLRC) agreed to implement a capacity building project in the Sukhbaatar district branch within Ulaanbaatar, and at the Gobi-Altai aimag branch of the MRCS. A tripartite agreement, incorporating the role of Federation as coordinator, will be signed shortly between NLRC, the Federation and the MRCS. Other national societies are also keen to look at bilateral interventions. This will assist the MRCS still further in their efforts to improve their standing as the primary player in Mongolia in disaster preparedness and response.

Following a three year review of the International Federation Cooperation Programme to the Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS), the Federation has facilitated a 'Management Comments Process' allowing for key MRCS partners to provide comments on each of the recommendations presented in the 'Final Review Report' ensuring understanding and the building of a consensus on priorities and the viability of the various recommendations.

Once again, the team leader of the review team has been invited back to Mongolia to facilitate the next step in the programme management cycle. The MRCS senior management has accepted the proposals set out in this document, and they consider it equitable to implement these recommendations. This will require the revision of strategies and programs. There will also be a need for the revision of partnerships in order to set a clear and sustainable direction for the MRCS in years to come. The MRCS has already begun this process.

Support and assistance will continue to be provided by Regional Delegations in Beijing and in Kuala Lumpur, and expertise from the Secretariat in Geneva will be requested when appropriate.

The Mongolian Red Cross Society

The Mongolian Red Cross Society together with the Federation, are continuing to develop core programs of their society. Moreover, there has been particular emphasis made to integrate in a cohesive manner, the health and care programme, the humanitarian values programme, the Red Cross youth programme and the disaster preparedness and response programmes. Further more the MRCS recognise the importance of developing collaborative interventions with sister societies within the movement, together with other INGOs and NGOs operating within Mongolia.

The national society are building on a management capacity to enhance self reliance, with expected results of improved management structures and systems throughout the society, better training and more skilled staff, better developed branches, improved financial management and expanded income generation.

The Federation is in turn supporting the MRCS in the development of programs more responsive and focused on the needs of the most vulnerable, with the expected results of increased capacity, programs that are designed to meet the needs of the most vulnerable, improvement in the quality of monitoring and evaluation, and further development of the organisational development, health and care and disaster management programs.

Health and Care

Overall Goal: *The aim of the health and care programme of the MRCS is to carry out health awareness campaigns on the prevention of disease and accidents, and to provide knowledge on general health and first aid practices.*

1. Health and First aid Programme

Programme Objective: *To provide knowledge and skills to the population of Mongolia through the use of the media, and by conducting affective training in line with the Federation's standards, that meets the requirements and needs of target groups, and the population in general.*

Progress in achieving results

1. First aid instruction and training in program planning and reporting was given to first aid trainers and elements of management of the MRCS. In order to expand upon "in house" knowledge of parallel programming, contacts with other agencies are being maintained. These have included NGOs, INGOs, implementing agencies of the Government of Mongolia, WHO, UNFPA and the Blood Transfusion Centre. This was in order to compare and receive updated information as to their activities in the field of health. Program Managers of MRCS have also been successfully trained in aspects of planning and reporting of programs and the application of log-frame analysis. A seminar under the topic of 'Project Planning Process' being held for this purpose.
2. The training of a first aid instructor and seven first aid regional instructors at the HQ of the MRCS was completed and similar training of first aid trainers in provincial centres was also achieved. This comprised both the theory and the practice of sound first aid disciplines. Participants receiving the training came from all over Mongolia and comprised largely professional people of both genders. First aid training for volunteers was also completed successfully.

Impact: The training goal was accomplished according to the Federation's curriculum, and seventeen national trainers who will be able to facilitate continuous first aid training in remote rural areas in the immediate future. A pre course questionnaire, compared with post course test scores, showed that the education level of trainees improved measurably during the training, and theoretical knowledge levels reached the expected level of excellence. The questionnaire also showed that the training given was entirely adequate, while most respondents said that the duration of the seminar should be longer. The participants also stressed the need of strengthening the quality of training materials and handouts. Indicating training aids are a prerequisite for successful training.

3. The procurement of IT equipment, video and audio aids, in addition to standard office fabric and given to the Ulaanbaatar Red Cross Council for the purpose of enhancing training methodologies.

Impact: A new training room, which is suitable for conducting training on first aid and other subjects, was established thus increasing the capacity of the MRCS to provide first rate training to targeted groups of Red Cross staff members and volunteers.

4. Further training of first aid trainers in the Ulaanbaatar metropolitan area was also conducted. These included the representatives from the nine *ger* districts of the city the Fire Brigade RC, the Railway RC, and the Border Defence RC Branch. The first aid program manager, first aid trainer of UB City Council Red Cross Branch, facilitated.

Impact: The training goals were accomplished according to the Federation's training curriculum allowing twenty-six trainers to be trained, and all indicators showed that knowledge and practical skills on First aid had improved, but it was recognised that practical experience of teaching would produce further positive results.

5. The Gobi Sumer Regional Disaster Preparedness and Information Centre has recently opened. A further 'training of trainers' workshop was conducted in the soum of Choir. Once more the training followed the Federation's curriculum, and was facilitated by a medical practitioner from the Central Hospital in Choir, and the MRCS health and care programme manager.

Impact: This resulted in the training of representatives from four aimags of the Gobi region that are covered by this one Regional DP Centre. In turn this will allow soum level branches of the RC within each area to facilitate similar training campaigns. These activities have also allowed some activists to seek financial remuneration for training from commercial concerns - thus augmenting RC branch income. It also allows for the knowledge of first aid to be disseminated in remote rural regions of Mongolia to commercial and government structures.

6. Transparencies depicting many technical aspects of training have been widely developed for use with an overhead projector. These reusable visual aids have proved to be a resounding success as teaching aid for First aid trainers.

Impact: By producing teaching aids, first aid trainers have been able to acquire and use materials and handouts to full advantage, thus improving training in compliance with the newly developed training curriculum. This now offers standardised tuition for use nationwide.

7. A series of first aid training videos are in the process of being produced. These teaching aids, on fifteen different topics, have been produced under commercial contract with Erel Television.

Impact: These will further assist in training methodology. At the time of writing, 65% of the videos proposed under the scheme, have been produced and printed for use.

Constraints: Due to the lack of professionally equipped video studios in Mongolia, the preparation of the Red Cross videos have taken a great length of time to complete.

8. The 'Daily News' which has a national readership, has started to publish a series of articles that are aimed at increasing public awareness on first aid. The MRCS first aid Program provided the content for the articles. These included:

- principles of first aid
- first aid for general wounds
- first aid for profuse bleeding
- first aid for fractures and dislocation
- first aid for burns

Impact: Newspaper articles have facilitated distance training for the residents in the remotest areas. It has also

been a promotional factor for first aid training and the Mongolian Red Cross Society.

9. First aid competitions have been organised by the junior leaders of the MRCS. These include a campaign for 'Green Light White Crossing' for crossing busy traffic thoroughfares. These were conducted in conjunction with the traffic police. Further campaigns have also been conducted in the provinces. These include a written and oral exam in general first aid, and giving first aid in the event of fire, earthquake, and epidemics.

Impact. People residing in some very remote areas of the country and in the urban centres are being influenced by Red Cross youth volunteers.

10. In assisting primary level training of children, a first aid manual for children is planned. All the preparation work has been completed, and includes revisions of previous publications. This will take into consideration the viewpoint of volunteers and trainers, who quite often use this manual for their training programs. The manual is compiled using simple words that will be easily understood by children. It is estimated that 2000 copies of the manual will be published by July. The contents of manual will include:

- The Red Cross movement, and its activities.
- Why first aid training is required.
- The main principles of first aid.
- Administering first aid.
- Bleeding and haemorrhaging.
- Breakages of limbs.
- Burns.
- Hypothermia and frost bite.

11. Ulaanbaatar City Branch of the MRCS organised an-inter emergency service and fire rescue demonstration. The aim of this initiative was to promote first aid skills among youth through participation. Ulaanbaatar Fire Department Red Cross Branch also organised activities at the demonstration.

Impact: This activity has developed skills of participants in first aid, and allowed the exchange of knowledge and experience on fire prevention and first aid. It has further evolved and allowed the implementation of Red Cross youth first aid and disaster preparedness activities.

2. Social Care.

Programme Objective: *To expand the community based care for the elderly through an increased capacity of recruited and trained volunteer, and to further the improvement of health and well being of vulnerable people in Ulaanbaatar.*

Objective 1: *To continue the implementation of elderly care in two images (GobiAltai and Uverkhangai) and two districts in Ulaanbaatar (Khan Uul and Nalaikh) and to expand these to two further aimags (Bulgan and Selenge)*

Progress in achieving results.

Due to the funding constraints, community-based activities for the elderly in selected aimags were revised and prioritised instead of expanding activities in to new target areas. The same policy was adopted for the ger districts of Ulaanbaatar.

This program will target elderly men and women, and give home help for single elderly people. It will also give home health care for homebound elderly and disabled people. It will also allow socializing activities among elderly people, and enable RC volunteers to attend meetings. In the support of these measures a Volunteer Integration Workshop was conducted in Ulaanbaatar for thirty local volunteers, and four Red Cross Branch instructors from the provinces and ger districts of the capital.

Impact: Some of the more vulnerable people are being assisted at a time of life when they need such. Volunteers are made increasingly aware of the impact that they are having on the senior members of society, who out of pride, are normally the last to complain or make demands on the community.

Objective 2: *To improve the health and psychosocial well being of the most vulnerable in seven districts of Ulaanbaatar through outreach social services.*

Progress in achieving results.

The volunteers reporting and monitoring system is brought into line with the system used in the 'Community Care for the Elderly' project. Community care outreach activities, organised by the humanitarian centres are expanded to six districts of Ulaanbaatar.

Impact:

- Improved access of older and disabled people to government health care. This has been improved through training of Red Cross staff and volunteers who have advised vulnerable people of their civic rights and eligibility to services.
- At least thirty or more volunteers have become active in social care projects in each of the areas targeted.
- At least fifteen volunteers are active in 'Home Care for the Home Bound Elderly' in the ger districts of Khan-Uul, and Nalaikh in urban Ulaanbaatar, and in the aimags of Gobi-Altai, and Uvurkhangai.
- At least twenty five elderly people will benefit from Home Care in the ger district of Nalaikh of Ulaanbaatar, and in the *aimag* of Uvurkhangai.
- Improved access of disadvantaged men, women and children in each district, to health and psycho-social services through outreach programs in the Ger districts of Ulaanbaatar.
- Improved social care and services to outreach programs by volunteers, through the activities implemented in each of the Humanitarian Centres.
- At least thirty volunteers have become active in all Red Cross activities in each area covered by the social care programmes.

Constraints: Constraints have included the delay in securing sound funding for activities, extensive distances between communities, difficulties of travelling and the poor standards of telecommunications. .

There are some pending activities within the Social Care programme that will improve capacity building of Red Cross Committees at grass-root levels.

3. Blood Donor Recruitment Programme

Programme Objective: *To secure a safe supply of bloodstocks in Mongolia, through greater public awareness and education on blood donor recruitment, and improving the capacity of the MRCS to manage and implement the Voluntary Blood Donor recruitment programmes.*

Objective 1: *To improve the technical and managerial capacity of the recruitment of blood donors.*

Progress in achieving results.

1. To develop adequate training resources for the blood donation programme. The Federation manual was translated into Mongolian, and the further editions adapted to the national context are being made. A working group aimed to assist the programme in this effort. This was established and composed of representatives of the Blood Centre and Red Cross branch staff.
2. To improve the technical capacity of Red Cross branches in blood donor recruitment and retention. Three one-day consecutive workshops were conducted for twenty-five staff members of the urban Red Cross branches and relevant agencies in Ulaanbaatar. The workshop intended to improve the skills of participants to conduct blood donation activities, and utilized for its basis the newly translated

Federation's Blood Donor Recruitment Manual. These workshops were also useful in testing the manual and adapting it to the local context.

3. To improve the effectiveness of MRCS donor education and recruitment activities through improved monitoring and evaluation.
The programme has conducted different consultations with the National Blood Centre, the Federation Secretariat in Geneva and the Australian Red Cross in order to identify an appropriate set of indicators to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of its donor recruitment and promotion campaigns. The development of these indicators is underway.
4. To further develop relationship with Mongolian Blood Service.
The MRCS has made an agreement with the National Blood Centre, which outlines the responsibilities and contributions of each party in blood donor recruitment for the year 2003.
Impact: The MRCS has made an agreement with the National Blood Centre, which outlines the responsibilities and contributions of each party in blood donor recruitment for the year 2003. Twenty-five staff members of urban Red Cross branches and relevant agencies are equipped with skills to use the Federation Blood Donor Recruitment manual.

Objective 2: *To increase the awareness of the population on volunteering to become a blood donor.*

Progress in achieving results.

1. To develop an education and marketing plan for the recruitment and retention of VNRB donors.
The youth division of the MRCS has undertaken a social marketing survey of blood donation among the general population in all major towns along the railway line that runs through Mongolia from Chinese frontier in the south east, to the Russian Federation frontier due north from Ulaanbaatar. The survey involved eighty four people and it is intended to help the MRCS to establish the basis for a community education program. The programme is planning to further conduct a survey in Ulaanbaatar and other major cities in September- November.
2. To increase awareness of the importance of VNRB exposure among the general population in Ulaanbaatar.
Jointly with the National Blood Centre, the programme has launched two different annual campaigns to promote the blood donor recruitment. The first campaign involves the Blood Centre, MRCS and all other key players working on voluntary blood donation. The second campaign is specifically focused on Ulaanbaatar Red Cross district branches, and in comparison with the last year campaign, involve quality-monitoring indicators such as donor deferral rate and donor retention rate.
3. To encourage the participation of blood donors in blood donation activities.
In order to encourage the participation of active donors in blood donor recruitment and retention activities, the programme has announced among all Red Cross branches a project grant equivalent for USD 100. It received a good response from the branches (more than 20 proposals received), from which six were approved for funding.
Impact: Greater awareness of the importance of blood donation among the general population.

4. HIV/AIDS Programme

Programme Objective: *To reduce the incidence of STD/HIV/AIDS in Mongolia through greater public awareness and education and strengthening the capacity of the MRCS to respond adequately to the epidemic*

Objective 1: *To improve the technical and managerial capacity of the MRCS HIV/AIDS programme.*

Progress in achieving results.

The national society has established networks with many other actors working in health sectors in Mongolia. Importantly, close coordination with Ministry of Health, with whom they meet regularly. The HIV/AIDS

programme coordinates its activities with the HIV/AIDS theme group, made up of various NGOs and UN involved with HIV/AIDS. The Federation and MRCS work closely with the Australian Red Cross in the implementation of HIV/AIDS programme. Recently, following the strategy for change, the available human resources within the East Asia region has been mobilized to conduct first aid training of trainers and overall management of health programme in Mongolia.

Objective 2: *To improve a positive attitude and understanding among the general population and policy makers concerning people living with HIV/AIDS.*

Progress in achieving results .

1. To increase the awareness of media about HIV/AIDS and discrimination issues.
An agreement has been made with the Mongolian National Press Institute and the National AIDS Foundation to conduct jointly a skills building workshop for 25 journalists (print, radio and TV) from all *aimags*. The workshop is intended to increase the participants' awareness on responsible reporting in regard to HIV/AIDS issues, and equip them with effective reporting skills. It was planned for early May, but has been postponed twice due to SARS restrictions for travel and public gatherings. It has been successfully conducted on first week of June.
2. To increase general public awareness about HIV/AIDS and Red Cross.
Following the theme of HIV/AIDS Federation's Global AIDS campaign - *The truth about AIDS. Pass it on ..* - the programme has planned a range of activities including a major public gathering in Ulaanbaatar on May 8. However, due to SARS situation some of the activities had to be modified. The programme sent out to all branches guidelines on Red Cross Day. The information programme printed three kinds of posters with HIV/AIDS anti-discrimination messages and produced a twenty minutes TV programme featuring MRCS activities, with concentration in Red Cross HIV/AIDS projects.
Impact: A greater awareness of HIV/AIDS issues will be disseminated to social groups at most risk, the media, relevant government agencies and the Mongolian Red Cross Society operatives.

Disaster Management

Goal: *In the next two years, the MRCS aims to strengthen the disaster preparedness of provincial and district branches of the Red Cross. They will then continue to conduct disaster mitigation and preparation activities through well trained volunteers, and to respond to disaster affected people through material and psychological support. There will also be rehabilitation activities for those that lose their livelihood as a result of dzud..*

Programme Objective: *To reduce the impact of small and large scale disasters and local emergencies in Mongolia by strengthening the capacities of the MRCS in disaster preparedness and post-disaster response.*

Objective 1: *To facilitate alternative means of livelihood for dzud affected households in the worst affected soums, or districts, of GobiAltai and Bayanhaongor aimags, or provinces (five soums will be selected in each aimag).*

Progress in achieving results .

The launch of an emergency appeal on 17 January 2003 following an assessment in November 2002 of the climatic and physical conditions of herder families on the Steppe expedited activities originally outlined against this objective in the annual appeal. Naturally, while the primary objective of the emergency appeal was to provide immediate relief to affected populations the operation also focused on building the capacity of the Mongolia Red Cross Society (MRCS) to reduce longer-term vulnerability through revitalizing Red Cross local branches (primary organisations) in 17 soums and three aimags. It is regretted that the Emergency Appeal was not substantial enough to also facilitate programming for alternative means of livelihood for dzud affected households we continue to address this objective through the annual appeal (Please refer to our website for further information on the emergency operation).

Objective 2: *To provide psychological support in six aimags.*

Progress in achieving results .

1. Psychological support manual is resourced and translated into Mongolian.
This “Stress Management” handbook was developed by the International Federation, and was translated into Mongolian by a professional psychiatrist.
Impact: Prepared material on psychological support is available.
2. Establishment of the working group in order to develop training curriculum on psychological support to disaster victims.
A working group involving experts from the Psychiatric Clinic Hospital was established. This was affiliated to the Ministry of Health, the State Emergency Commission, Secretaries from Ulaanbaatar city district’s RC branches, and MRCS Health and FA Program managers.
Impact: Better co-operation with professional agencies in the area of psychological support. A new module on psychological support enriches further improvement of disaster preparedness training for the victims of emergencies and disasters.
3. DP training for volunteers in *Uvs aimag*.
MRCS Disaster Preparedness department facilitated a training seminar for health and first aid programme managers with assistance of experts from the psychiatric clinic, and officers from State Civil Defence office. This aimed to educate the participants on DP key activities, and to introduce a new training course on post-disaster psychological support to disaster victims, which has recently been developed by DP programme.
Impact: Thirty volunteers have been trained on DP and post-disaster psychological support to disaster victims and are available for mobilization.

Objective 3: *To establish a community disaster relief emergency fund in one pilot aimag.*

Progress in achieving results .

No progress so far.

Objective 4: *To implement preparedness and mitigation activities in five aimags.*

Progress in achieving results .

1. Disaster awareness radio programmes are produced and broadcasted.
Two radio programmes were transmitted. The first program was fully dedicated to the SARS epidemic. The second was dedicated to the risk of forest and steppe fires. The MRCS DP program, in corporation with State Fire Department, RC branch secretaries and the National Radio, produced a program on the fire awareness. Radio media is very popular with herder families on the steppe, and is ideal for relaying this type of information.
Impact: According to the statistics more than 90% of the population in Mongolia have access to the radio. The copies of the programmes were sent to RC Branches for transmission in particular remote areas.
2. Forest fire risk video.
Forest fires in Mongolia are commonplace, and are normally caused by man. Two videos describing the risks of forest fire have been made and screened on national television. This will be repeated again in the autumn when the risk of fires is high. A similar video regarding the risks of flood will be published later this year.
Impact: According to the statistics, more than 70% of the population in Mongolia have access to the television, and it is thought that television messages such as this, influences public more effectively than it is in the written form.

3. Foot and Mouth disease dissemination (carried out by youth Red Cross).
Sukhbaatar and Dornod aimags, abutting the Mongolian-Chinese border have a high incidence of foot and mouth disease which affects all cloven hooved animals. In an attempt to stem the spread of this disease, the MRCS youth has carried out activities that may assist the herder community in understanding the risks that this virus causes. These have involved the printing and distribution by volunteers of over 500 copies of leaflets on maintaining hygienic standards. A film regarding foot and mouth has also been transmitted on national television.
Impact: The distribution of leaflets and the transmission of strong message via television allow important animal health messages to be relayed to the general population and herder families out in the steppe.
4. Disposal of animals carcasses (carried out by youth Red Cross).
The disposal of animals carcasses is carried out each year in the early spring, and reduces the risk of serious disease spreading as temperatures rise. The operation for disposing of animals carcasses by burying or chemical means, was organised by soum Red Cross youth volunteers. They worked closely with the veterinary authorities who gave advice regarding the risks involved in the spread of serious disease transferable to herders and urban communities alike. One hundred and twenty volunteers participated in this process which included the distribution of 2,500 pamphlets on the process of carcass disposal, and environmental issues in general.
Impact:
 - In these soums carcasses of animals were removed through Red cross youth participation.
 - Activists acquired knowledge of using strong disinfectants
 - The sources of serious disease were removed from the environment
 - The urban and herder communities received important instruction regarding the environment.
5. Clearance of fire damaged wooded areas and tree planting initiative (carried out by youth Red Cross).
A fire damage forest clearance and reforestation campaign was carried out in three RC branches. Eighty or more volunteers, most of them unemployed, were involved in organizing fire prevention dissemination activities, and distributing 580 leaflets. Following the clearance of fire damaged woodlands; sixteen loads of wood were delivered to local hospitals for heating purposes. These had been removed from mature forest areas following devastating fires that had caused the felling of the trees. In the framework of the campaign, Khan-Uul district RC branch called up young people to plant saplings to replace some of those that have been lost.
Impact: Participants cleared up approximately twenty-two hectares of total 165 hectares of forest destroyed by forest fire. Activists were made more aware of environmental issues.
6. Painting competition on fire prevention (carried out by junior Red Cross).
Two Hundred children from ten aimags and cities took part in a painting competition describing fire prevention.. Those paintings most noteworthy will be published in the RC paper for teenagers 'Ever lasting challenge'. Such paintings may well be used further on posters, and for other dissemination purposes.
Impact: Children's perceptions of forest and steppe fire were expressed artistically. Children of a young age grasped an understanding of wild fires, and the enormous damage they do to wildlife and the environment. Ideas for further poster campaigns were developed during the process.
7. DP Dissemination educational board developed and placed in schools.
Disaster Preparedness information boards have been made, and placed in six schools, in six different districts of Ulaanbaatar. The information given included:
The Red Cross Movement.
The meaning of disaster.
How children can contribute to disaster preparedness.
Activities that can be organised in schools in order to improve disaster preparedness.
Impact: Important Disaster Preparedness knowledge was shared with children of a young age.
8. Fire prevention demonstrations.
Fire prevention exercises have been implemented with the assistance of the State Fire Department, and the support of RC Branches and volunteers in six soums in three aimags. Representatives from local hospitals,

schools and other organisations were invited to participate in the event that involved disseminating information on relief, and first aid following fire. Participants practiced fire fighting and the rescue of fire victims. Leaflets on fire prevention and the legal consequences of causing fires were distributed to those attending the exercise.

Impact: Compare with previous years, the incidence of fire has been reduced. Aimag authorities and Red Cross activists have agreed to have further fire fighting practice.

9. Community flood prevention interventions.

The objective of this exercise was to build diversion dams, clear storm drains and water ducts, and to build new ones where appropriate. It also disseminated important information regarding flood and general disaster preparedness measures to vulnerable households in the community.

Impact: RC activists took part in creating two new water dams. The process was given publicity on television and radio in order to motivate the community to take similar steps 600 leaflets regarding flood prevention were distributed.

10. Training of first aid team leaders in Uvs aimag.

Uvs aimag RC branch collaborated with the Civil Defence Department, the Fire brigade, and the psychological advice sector, in giving first aid training to team leaders. This involved thirty volunteers from nineteen soums of Uvs aimag. Participants were introduced with a disaster preparedness plan of action, and taught first aid essential skills.

Impact: Disaster preparedness capacity in Uvs aimag was improved having 24 FA team leaders. But there's still a problem - lack of FA kits and equipments.

Objective 5: *To strengthen regional DP centres and systems.*

Progress in achieving results.

The MRCS has plans for developing a number of Disaster Preparedness and Management Centres over the coming period. However, this is largely subject to the availability of financial resources, although it has already been decided to place these centres at existing branches of the Red Cross where personnel are already carrying out traditional RC activities. Where possible, these centres are near to the railway line to enable the transfer of relief materials and personnel in times of emergency. The DP/DR Manager of the MRCS is involved in developing this policy further by disseminating DP/DR knowledge whenever possible. A recent logistics and relief work shop in Ulaanbaatar has gone some way in galvanising Red Cross volunteers and the community into a cohesive force in order to reduce vulnerabilities.

The senior management of the national society are keen to find ways to mobilise the populace in an effort to mitigate all forms of emergency and disaster in some of the remotest regions of the country. The onset of *duzd* in recent winter seasons has focussed attentions on the issues surrounding the continued survival of herders on the steppe. However, the MRCS are forever mindful that Mongolia is susceptible to other forms of disaster other than drought and *duzd*.

Earthquake is seen as a very real threat to Mongolia's urban communities, especially at a time when the construction of high-rise buildings are being authorised. The MRCS are to use their influence in advocating safe building practices in the principle cities of the country where this development is more prevalent. In doing so, they will be working closely with the Emergency Commission. It is further hoped that the commission will follow the pattern of the MRCS in opening offices in or near to Disaster Preparedness and Management centres. This will allow for coordinated cooperation in times of crisis when both organisations are required to work in unison.

In recent weeks, one such centre has been opened at the Red Cross branch at Choir in the aimag of Gobi Sumer. On the same occasion there was a rescue exercise implemented by the Red Cross rescue team who were able to demonstrate their first aid skills, while other elements of the rescue services including the fire department, police, ambulance and military were able to demonstrate their specialist skills.

Coordination

All activities have been implemented in compliance with the Federation and MRCS Disaster Preparedness and Rehabilitation Policy. Better cooperation with the governmental organisations and local authorities has improved the impacts of these activities.

The State Emergency Commission and Mongolian Red Cross are working closely together - the Secretary General of MRCS being a member of its executive committee. Communications with other agencies is good, although it is hoped that co-ordination with these can be improved upon. A meeting of all INGOs and various NGOs were convened by the MRCS earlier this year. This was well attended, and it is hoped that this type of forum will become a regular feature in the Red Cross calendar. The Federation is advocating for regular coordination meetings, together with a coordinated response to emergencies by all international organisations based in Ulaanbaatar.

The Federation, together with the MRCS have started to map government and agency interventions in addressing various hazards and humanitarian issues within Mongolia. The primary objective is to identify where there are complimentary or duplicated services.

Humanitarian Values

Goals: *To promote the Movement's Fundamental Principles, and humanitarian values in order to change behaviour at community level.*

Programme Objective: *To promote the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values in order to change behaviour in the community.*

Objective 1: *To implement a series of activities and events in order to promote the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.*

Progress in achieving results.

Hereunder are listed a number of activities that have been implemented during the period to which this report refers.

- MRCS annual report produced in English and Mongolian.
- 2000 'Humanity' newsletters produced and distributed each month.
- 2000 Junior/Youth Red Cross newsletters produced and distributed each month.
- International Red Cross Day, May 8, activities planned and implemented, including TV and Radio programs.
- Song was commissioned to highlight the issue of HIV/AIDS.
- TV programs.
- Radio Programs.
- Poster campaigns.

Together with well-known singers of Mongolia, a song, 'Let's prevent AIDS' was produced. Furthermore, 2000 copies of an AIDS discrimination poster with a picture of the singers who sang the song, was published and distributed to aimag Red Cross branches. Production of the posters and the song has been recognised by other young musicians, and with their help, it is hoped to involve more young people in Red Cross activities.

Mongolian television, produced a programme entitled 'Power of Humanity'. This was broadcast through out the country. The programme included information about the history of Red Cross Movement, and described recent activities conducted by the Mongolian Red Cross Society. The main text of the programme has been used to

develop a fifteen-minute radio programme, which was also broadcast nationwide on two occasions. This enabled people in remote areas without television to receive the same information by radio.

'Eternal Challenge' is the youth Red Cross newsletter that is published monthly in cooperation with the youth and junior volunteers. It is the main source of information for dissemination of the humanitarian values among young people. The newsletter has been largely responsible for the increased number of volunteers in the joining the movement.

The 'Humanity' newspaper, which is published by the MRCS, is used to disseminate information regarding the Red Cross, and to motivate volunteers and members alike. It is further used to familiarise the general public with Red Cross activities and news, and it is hoped that the MRCS hopes to improve on the scope of the newspaper. This is in line with the annual report published at the end of 2002 in which it was stressed that the general public be better informed of the MRCS activities and achievements.

Impact: This has increased the number of people actively participating in Red Cross activities and has raised the numbers of volunteers.

Constraints: The information and dissemination programme is responsible for publishing newsletters and quarterly newspapers under strict deadlines. Poor financing frequently causes the editors to overrun these deadlines.

Organisational Development

Goal: *To improve the capacity of the MRCS making the most effective and efficient use of its available human and financial resources for implementing the health and care, disaster preparedness and relief programs.*

Programme Objective: *To strengthen the capacity of the MRCS through: recruitment, training and better management of volunteers, improvement of financial sustainability, through strategic and operational planning, income generation and fund raising, and through support to branches.*

Objective 1: *To develop the MRCS volunteer management capacity in health and care, and disaster preparedness programmes.*

Progress in achieving results.

1. Volunteer management training.

Training was organised for more than forty delegates representing employees of RC Branch from all regions. Besides which, volunteers, members of the main board, and representatives of collaborating organisations also took part. Delegates were asked to implement proposals from their regions, and which had been decided upon at the 'volunteer management' regional meeting. Emphasis was placed on developing a volunteer strategy within the national society.

Impact: A consensus was reached as how to progress with management strategies through the involvement of RC employees, elected members of the RC, volunteers, and representatives of participatory organisations who collaborated in exchanging experience and opinions.

2. Volunteer Trainer

Red Cross instructors have covered all relevant levels of training in the practical operation of the RC in all aimags.

Impact: Volunteers have been recruited and mobilised in the majority of aimags throughout Mongolia.

Objective 2: *To further develop competencies in human resource management, financial management, leadership and ideology of the Red Cross in branches by implementing health and care and disaster preparedness programmes.*

Progress in achieving results .

Three staff members of the MRCS, including program coordinators, and two managers participated in the PPP course held in Beijing on March 2003, while others participated and facilitated a relief and logistics workshop held in Ulaanbaatar.

Impact: Individual management skills has increased and reflected into program development and implementation.

Objective 3: *To provide funding to support the branches of the MRCS in implementing income generating activities.*

Progress in achieving results .

This has been slow to materialise. While that may be so, it should be pointed out that a major constraint in this respect is the heating of RC branches during the severe Mongolian winters. This refers to not only the fabric of the system but the availability of the heating fuel. It is estimated that 50-60 percent of operational expense of an average regional RC is spent on heating. In order to decrease these expenses, and to spend money on other activities, heating systems in nominated branches of the RC should be replaced and/or overhauled. If this basic need is not met, income generation is unlikely to take place.

Impact: The installation of portable heating stoves in the aimag centres would offer constant and reliable heating in winter, thus ensuring staff and volunteers can work effectively, and to conduct activities that can contribute towards income generation.

Objective 4: *To provide support in the development of branches implementing health and care and disaster preparedness activities.*

Progress in achieving results .

Since 1999 and in the framework of the decentralisation policy the Federation has funded six districts of Ulaanbaatar.

Impact: As a result of this funding these districts, membership and volunteers have increased considerably.

Federation Coordination

The Federation has had regular coordination meetings with the national society at both executive and at operational levels. During these meetings programs are discussed, strategies set and information is shared.

Goal: *Federation continues providing support to the MRCS and resources made available by its partners*

Objectives: *Cooperation between the Federation, MRCS and other partners is well coordinated*

Progress in achieving results .

The review and assessment of the MRCS conducted last year, and a subsequent visit to Ulaanbataar by the team leader has focused current programming, thought and planning for the future. VCA that was also conducted in the course of last spring and summer has also made MRCS mindful as to the need of most vulnerable in their society.

Following the distribution of final review report, the review team leader presented his findings to a range of Secretariat Departments in Geneva, and took part in two teleconferences in order to debrief sister/donor national societies.

Following these debriefings, the International Federation facilitated a process, whereby key MRCS partners have been invited to provide their comments on each of the recommendations presented in the final review team. As mentioned above the team leader of the review team has been invited back to Mongolia to facilitate the next step in the programme management cycle.

As per the recommendation made in 'Established the way ahead – Mongolian Red Cross' by the team leader, MRCS has formed a Change Process Team to review existing goals and strategies of the MRCS, outlined specific areas within the objectives and reported to the senior management with recommendations. The Change Process Team received an approval on recommendation from the MRCS management, which was presented in a partnership meeting in Geneva in June 2003. The MRCS feels that it is now necessary to act on the review's recommendations, by revising its strategies, programming and partnerships in order to set clear and sustainable directions for the longer term.

Federation health delegates from East Asia region including North Korea also paid a visit to the MRCS during this reporting period. One conducted Master Trainers of first aid training and upgraded the existing programme, and second delegate worked with the MRCS on broader programme development. In early June the Regional HIV/AIDS Programme Coordinator made a visit in order to help MRCS to conduct an HIV/AIDS workshop to the local media people in Mongolia.

Furthermore, the deployment of Head of Delegation to Mongolia, a position that has not been fielded before, is specifically to assist the MRCS in furthering medium to long-term strategies for the betterment of the society. It is envisaged that experience, and attendant knowledge of the movement that this position brings, is contributing to ensure cohesion of core activities while inter-phasing with the society's broader organisational development. Additional coordination within the Red Cross society have included regular meeting on the development plan and on ongoing emergency operation.

Impact: The review recommendations helped to enhanced coordination between MRCS, PNS and the Federation, and has improved and attracted attention of the donor community to support the national society. Netherlands Red Cross is going to start their capacity building project with MRCS through the Federation.

International Representation

Goal: *International stakeholders are increasingly supporting the initiatives of the Red Cross/Red Crescent in Mongolia for the benefit of targeted vulnerable groups*

Objective: *The National society's priorities should be better understood by stake- holders, especially by the international media, UN organisations, local and International NGOs, and Diplomats based in Mongolia and Beijing.*

Progress in achieving results.

After the deployment of the Federation's Head of Delegation and other core delegates in February 2003, the Federation has been active in visiting diplomatic missions, UN offices and international NGOs. More general coordination meetings are held monthly at the UNDP Office in Ulaanbaatar involving donors, members of the diplomatic corps and the Federation.

The agenda of these meetings varies from month to month, and covers a range of topics associated with the nation's development of a market economy. It periodically addresses purely humanitarian issues, and it is to these meetings that the MRCS, INGOs and NGOs are invited. The UNDP forum enables the Delegation to keep abreast

of broader economic interventions financed by structures other than INGOs and their traditional backers, namely the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank.

Separate meetings were held independently by the Federation or jointly with the national society include World Vision, Save the Children, Adra, JCS International, and individual consultants attached to government ministries such as the Integrated Crop and Livestock Production office of TACIS of the European Union and national NGO called 'Great Protection' under the Government body civil defence and supported by UNDP.

Impact: The presence of International Federation in Mongolia is publicised, as are Red Cross activities and the Federation's standpoint on the humanitarian crisis and Dzud emergency operation. Received good support from some diplomatic missions to generate funding for the appeal from their respective countries.

Constraints: The Mongolian Red Cross are considered as being only a relief organisation by the Mongolian public, NGOs and diplomatic missions in Mongolia.

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

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