

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

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

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In Brief

Appeal No. 01.69/2004; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: 1 April to 31 August 2004; Appeal coverage: 38.1%; Outstanding needs: CHF 599,682 (USD 472,674 or EUR 387,660).

(click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List (also available on the website).

Appeal target: CHF 968,791 (USD 751,000 or EUR 627,252)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Mongolia Annual Appeal \(01.69/2004\)](#)

Programme summary: Most of the activities outlined in the annual appeal is progressing despite the lack of funding. The disaster management, health and care and humanitarian values programme carried out most of their planned activities, while the human immunodeficiency virus / acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and safer blood programme, social welfare and organisation development implemented a number of its objectives.

English language training upgraded the knowledge, skills and quality of staff at the Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) headquarters, and integration and coordination of programmes at local and national levels improved. A revised volunteer management and improved working conditions under the capacity building project funded by the capacity building fund of the Federation enhanced capacity and organisational development of six *aimag* middle level Red Cross branches.

The highlight of this reporting period was the Mongolian Red Cross Society's widely celebrated 65th Anniversary on 30 June 2004, with a wide range of activities that included a tribute to humanitarian heroes and a huge gathering at the central Sukhbaatar square.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. 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](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

National context

Most territories in Mongolia faced drought at the end of June and the beginning of July as the extremely dry and humid weather caused small scale land fires in Bulgan and Selenge *aimags*. According to the Hydrology Meteorology Institute, 70 to 80 percent of the territory faced drought at the beginning June, with 60 percent of the territory affected at the beginning of August - adversely affecting the crop harvest. Summer 2004 passed without any serious disasters except for small scale flood occurrences in Ulaanbaatar city, Tuv and Uvurkhangai *aimag*. Heavy rainfall throughout 20 June flooded *gers* and left 20 over families from the Bayanzurkh district of Ulaanbaatar city homeless. The MRCS rendered assistance of clothes and relief items (food, blankets etc.) to floods affected families.

Mongolia is increasingly vulnerable to HIV/AIDS as it borders Russia and China, two countries experiencing fast growing HIV epidemics. It is vital for a country with low prevalence but high vulnerability like Mongolia to recognise the need for stronger leadership in responding effectively to AIDS. To this end, the Minister of Defense and Minister of Justice signed a partnership agreement with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) on May 2004 to tackle HIV in the uniformed services, targeting young recruits and increasing awareness about HIV/AIDS. The MRCS in conjunction with this agreement will take an active part in disseminating HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention not only to civilians and prisoners but to uniformed services and cross border target groups.

According to a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) funded survey by the National University of Mongolia on urban poverty and immigration in Ulaanbaatar, poverty is highest in *ger* areas and among migrants. The survey also reported that 80 percent of migrants to Ulaanbaatar city live in *ger* areas and of those 59 percent, the average consumption expenditure is much lower than the poverty line, with a health insurance coverage lower than the urban population. People who live in *gers* with a much poorer standard of living and often work in the informal sector are migrants. They lack access to family health services, specialised health services and consultation.

The MRCS continues to seek possibilities in helping *ger* area migrants through social welfare services. Some migrants settled in high risk flood areas, therefore it is necessary to move those families to safer territories. The MRCS met with representatives of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) mission in early August and discussed ways of collaborating on this disaster prevention matter.

In the first half of 2004, social welfare pensions and allowances of Mongolian Tugrik 8694 million were allocated to 142,800 people, a monthly average of Mongolian Tugrik 32 thousand per person. A majority of this allocation, up to 73.8 percent, went to the elderly.

At the end of July, 2004 there were 37.2 thousand registered unemployed people, a decrease of 0.3 percent or 103 persons compared to last year.

The social welfare programme particularly targeted the vulnerable people living in *ger* areas, the area where most of the vulnerable people live in. Social care delivery services aimed at improving the living conditions of the vulnerable, especially the elderly, provide support to people without caretakers or people who survive on insufficient pensions, while life skills projects target migrant herders who are unable to find jobs in Ulaanbaatar.

Mongolian consumer commodity prices increased in June as the imported oil production prices rose sharply at the beginning of June. Therefore, as of July 2004, the rise of oil production led to a 25.1 percent increase in the consumer price index followed by an increase in price of basic food items, potentially threatening to deepen urban poverty in Mongolia.

The regular parliamentary election on 27 June was an important event during the reporting period. The short period of dispute over election results between parties during election delayed the establishment of the new government, and affected the project implementation that required state authority support in the water and sanitation (watsan) project.

Mongolia's selection as one of the 16 countries to receive funding from the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) in accordance with an announcement of the Millennium Challenge Corporation was another significant event. In conjunction with this event, the MRCS seeks a way of effective bilateral cooperation with the American Red Cross

Society within the MCA programme, with the delegate from the American Red Cross planning to visit to Mongolia in September to discuss further areas of cooperation.

The MRCS

The Mongolian Red Cross Society and the Federation continue to develop core programs of the national society. Moreover, particular emphasis was made to integrate the health and care, humanitarian values, Red Cross youth and the disaster preparedness and response programmes in a cohesive manner. Furthermore, the MRCS recognises the importance of developing collaborative interventions with sister societies within the movement, together with other international non-governmental organisations and non-governmental organisations operating within Mongolia.

During the past five years the total population of Ulaanbaatar city swelled considerably, causing an increase in the number of vehicles and street traffic which led to a rise in the number of deaths caused by external factors such as infectious diseases, poisoning, accidents and injuries. Therefore, the MRCS recognises the importance of extending its health and first aid programme and taking preliminary steps to cooperate with the traffic police department.

The MRCS HIV/AIDS programme's reputation within governmental organisation and non-governmental organisation (NGO) circles is increasing, enabling the rapid development of MRCS cooperation with these groups. On example of this collaboration is a survey by the National Aids Foundation and MRCS of HIV/AIDS vulnerable groups, such as men who have sex with men, as well as the general population's attitude towards this group. The MRCS HIV/AIDS programme is cooperating with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in blood donor recruitment and the United Nations Populations Fund (UNPAF) is supporting its implementation of youth peer education programmes on HIV/AIDS in three *aimags*. There is still a great deal of work ahead for the government, NGOs and MRCS in the fight against the epidemic.

The MRCS was involved over the past two years in relief assistance to disaster affected herder families. After the passing of the disaster emergency phase, the MRCS decided to address issues affecting new urban poor living in *ger* districts who make up a very significant part of the total vulnerable people of Mongolia. To assist the most vulnerable groups, the MRCS decided to ensure the improved well being of the most needy vulnerable homebound people such as the elderly and disabled persons in *ger* districts who are incapable of living without social care services.

The rate of *ger* area households that use water from unsafe sources is 30 times higher than households in apartment areas, and these *ger* area households are also on average located 3.5 kilometres away from their water source. To address the lack of water supply systems and appropriate latrines in *ger* areas, the MRCS decided into partnership with the Netherlands Red Cross to implement water and sanitation projects.

The MRCS human resource extends year by year. The number of key headquarter staff (including programme managers and officers of the international relations department) this year reached 17, whereas the number of key staff was 11 at the beginning of the year.

Health and care

Health and first aid

Goal: To alleviate vulnerability of population by providing health and first aid education.

Objective: To develop the health programme, to provide community based health and first aid education to target groups, and provide favourable conditions to utilise experience gained.

Achievements:

To facilitate improved cooperation with organisations conducting similar activities, a working group meeting was held by the MRCS to and those organisations. Participants at the meeting came from the MRCS, the capital city health authority, the health associations of eight districts, the emergency centre for poisoning, the emergency centre and the hospital centre for injury rehabilitation. The meeting evaluated existing MRCS health and first aid programme activities, identified further directions and areas of cooperation as well as possibilities for more cooperation in assessment surveys on the general public's first aid practices. The discussions resulted in agreements

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on timeframes, survey questionnaires and survey methods, while 1000 copies of the survey questionnaire, developed with assistance from a professional consulting agency, were distributed and filled out by these organisations.

Training materials as posters and slides were produced and distributed to trainers trained in 2003, and training manuals were prepared according to Federation standards. A three-day first aid training workshop for volunteers was conducted by certified trainers in Dornod *aimag* from 14-16 May, Khovd *aimag* from 4-6 May and Orkhon *aimag* from 10-13 May. A total of 18 participants attended the Dornod training, 18 more attended the training in Khovd and 20 participants took part in the Orkhon training. The participants took knowledge tests before and after training and were given certificates and manuals.

An exchange meeting of first aid (FA) central regional trainers trained in 2003 was organised, while the annual review meeting of 17 first aid trainers was organised from 20 to 22 May 2004. 16 selected, qualified FA trainers from 10 *aimags* and 6 districts were invited to the meeting, which served to examine the efficiency of trainers and conduct discussions that worked towards improvements in first aid training.

First aid handbooks for volunteers were published and distributed to volunteers, and 1000 copies of the previous year's publications was reprinted.

To sustain continuous training and advocacy of first aid in Dornod *aimag* as well as the Bayanzurkh and Chingeltei district Red Cross (RC) branches, financial support was provided to assist their FA clubs. The Chingeltei district RC branch's FA club established a first aid station to disseminate information about first aid the public, enhance first aid provision and preparedness in emergencies and reduce accidents and injuries. The FA club of the Bayanzurkh district RC branch conducted FA training for school and kindergarden students and organised essay and drawing competitions on first aid. Dornod RC branch's FA club trained students in health, involved them in medical observations and organised campaigns.

The first aid training-of-trainers in the western region organised for 18 attendees from Zavhan, Tosontsengel, Uvs, Gobi-Altai, and Hovsgol took place on 20 to 24 July at the Uvs *aimag* Red Cross branch. First aid training-of-trainers in the central region held at the Harkhorin Red Cross branch office on 30 June to 5 July involved 22 participants from Bayanzurkh, Songino-Khairkhan Bayangol, Chingeltei, Sukhbaatar, Nalaikh, Khan-Uul, Bagahangai districts and Harkhorin and Tuv *aimag*. A first aid instructor from previous courses led the training in both regions. The standardised and participatory training course, based on previously approved formats, had participants take intelligence quotient (IQ) tests at the beginning and end of training. Training handbooks, materials and certificates were distributed to the participants at the end of the course.

Up to 15 first aid manikins procured from a Norwegian company were distributed to ten middle level RC branches.

The MRCS signed the contract with the Mongolian newspaper that allows them to publish a series of first aid lessons. The paper, with a nationwide outreach, started publishing a series of articles aimed at increasing public awareness on basic health care.

The 'green light – white line' first aid and traffic rule competition was held among children in cooperation with the traffic police. The competition is a traditional Red Cross activity, annually organised among kindergarten and elementary school kids, and involved kids from nine district schools this year. The competition promotes understanding about Red Cross, trains them in first aid and teaches them safety and traffic rules.

First aid training for 25 Red Cross youth (RCY) volunteers at the Medical University of Mongolia conducted as a competition attracted active involvement from the students. The objective was to stimulate student participation in the Red Cross programme, disseminate Red Cross goals, train the students in first aid techniques and skills as well as develop cooperation between the Red Cross and school community.

First aid training during the RCY summer camp in Khuvsgul *aimag* involved 300 participants including trained volunteers, and was followed by refresher training for volunteers and an evaluation competition. First aid training during the RCY summer camp in Kharkhorin *soum* of Uvurkhangaï *aimag* on the other hand involved Red Cross youth and junior Red Cross (JRC) members from every corner of Mongolia, and 150 RCY and JRC members were trained in FA at camp held on 25 to 30 June, 30 June to 7 July and 14 to 21 July 2004.

Impact

Cooperation between MRCS and other health organisations stabilised, allowing the implementation of the community-based health programme in cooperation with other concerned organisations.

All certified FA trainers able to conduct qualified training with the utilisation of standard training manuals at the national level and were provided with training materials like manikins. Many volunteers were trained on FA through continuous first aid training at branches. The main purpose of these trainings were to decrease health vulnerability of population in three target *aimags* including Dornod, Khovd and Orkhon.

The newspaper article series is published successfully on the stipulated date served as a means of distance training for the residents of remote areas and promotion of first aid training. Total of 40,000 readers including 20,000 subscribing readers gained knowledge on basic health care, particularly on water and sanitation, through the educational articles published in the daily news.

The Red Cross movement information disseminated successfully among the young generation stimulated their self-voluntary participation in humanitarian activities. The participants of the competition 'Green light - white line' gained knowledge about the Red Cross, safety traffic rules and first aid skills.

Junior and youth Red Cross members from *soum* levels or the provincial primary level gained skills and abilities in first aid through training and first aid trainers' peer exchange.

Social care programme

Goal: To improve the quality of lives of the most vulnerable people living in Mongolia.

Objective: To improve health and psychosocial well being of the most vulnerable, and the people affected by internal migration through direct community-based welfare-related activities, referrals, advocacy and awareness-raising endeavours.

Achievements:

Community-based social welfare activities aimed at improving elderly access to health, better psychological conditions and improved quality of life were carried out by volunteers in four *aimags* (Gobi-Altai, Uvurkhangai, Orkhon and Khuvsgul) and two district (Nalaikh and Khan-Uul) Red Cross branches. A total of 340 volunteers provided home care services for 650 elderly people between January to June 2004, and the volunteer-driven community-based care programme implemented by middle-level RC branches provides health, social and psychological care to single, homebound elderly people from the vulnerable community. A total of 550 volunteers provided home care services to approximately 1000 elderly people, in-kind assistance, linking of the elderly to each other, various kinds of competitions and joint assistance with other organisations. The Khan-Uul district RC branch's care centre for the elderly receives disabled elderly on Mondays and served 500 elderly so far while the Gobi-Altai *aimag* RC branch's care centre receives elderly on Wednesdays and served 600 elderly so far. In addition, the volunteers conduct review and exchange meetings on a monthly basis where they also discuss further activities and submit monthly reports to their respective local RC branches. The local RC branch conducts monitoring once in two months to monitor the condition of the target group and the home care service quality and frequency. Based on the monitoring results as well as the volunteer report, the local branches encourage its best and most active volunteers.

Training in community based care for the elderly was conducted together with the Archon *aimag* RC branch on 23-25 May 2004 and 25 volunteers participated in the training that focused on social attitudes toward the elderly, knowledge on legal issues, knowledge on the home care services and revision of volunteer skills in providing home care services. The prepared volunteers selected volunteer council members during the training, discussed further plans together with the RC branch staff and agreed to report back to the RC branch. The training was disseminated on local television.

Three wheelchairs purchased from China for each of the 30 Red Cross branches in June were distributed.

In preparation for the 65th anniversary of the Mongolian Red Cross Society, a 15 minute clip about the social welfare programme and the living conditions and employment of blind people was broadcasted on national television. The television programme broadcasted on 15 June covered blind and poor-sighted people from the labour training factory of the Mongolian blind people.

Promotions through newspapers on voluntarism aimed at making volunteers reputable were published. Three articles revealing the community-based care service activities for the elderly published four times in the newspapers increased the public image of volunteers. Articles on the Khan-Uul and Nalaikh district as well as the Gobi-Altai *aimag* RC branch social care activities were published in the local newspapers.

A campaign organised in universities and colleges had 140 students of poor, vulnerable families clean the surroundings of the Mongolian children and youth recreation centre and the students were given stationery sets in return. The objective was to encourage Red Cross activity among university students, to involve them in humanitarian deeds and render assistance to the vulnerable students. The Mongolian farmer university students actively participated into the cleaning campaign of the Mongolian children and youth recreation centre in preparation for its summer time opening ceremony on 1 May within the framework of the RCY program. The RCY members recruited the Mongolian farmer university students and rendered assistance to them.

The junior/youth Red Cross organised a group meeting on the eve of World Red Cross Day to publicise and encourage Red Cross activity in Ulaanbaatar city, to exchange experiences and to disseminate Red Cross movement information to the younger generation. The participants were from Chingeltei, Bayangol, Bayanzurkh, Khan-Uul, Soginokhairkhan, Sukhbaatar, Naalehu, Baganuur and Bagakhangai district as well as Tuv *aimag* branches.

Impact

Up to 50 volunteers trained on home care service increased access of elderly, disabled, poor and migrated people to government health and social welfare services through community-based welfare-related activities.

There was an increase in knowledge of beneficiaries, family and community member rights, entitlements and eligibility to services, and advocacy for access, services, support and registration. Psycho-social support, home care support and home health care for vulnerable people improved as a result of day care centres, home visits to *ger*-bound people by trained staff and volunteers, and healthcare outreach.

Awareness about the vulnerable among the public, NGOs and relevant governmental agencies and the number of volunteers increased due to effective dissemination of volunteer as well as MRCS social care activities through the media.

The Mongolia Red Cross has increased its commitment to welfare related activities and community-based approaches and strategies and has begun implementing home care service projects in three branches with financial support from the British and German Red Cross. It has extended its target group from just the elderly to disabled and vulnerable single mothers with many children.

Blood donor recruitment programme

Goal: To secure a safe supply of blood stock 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: To improve the technical and managerial capacity of the recruitment of blood donors.

Achievements:

The MRCS together with the state blood center and local delegation of the World Health Organisation successfully celebrated the World Blood Donor Day throughout Mongolia on June 14 for the first time. The media participated greatly and the Mongolian national television, the Ulaanbaatar government-owned UBS TV as well as three daily newspapers disseminated the celebration. The national television and UBS television broadcasted blood donor advertisement, while copies of television advertisements and documentaries were distributed to 38 mid-level RC branches. Up to 50,000 phone cards with promotional information of the World Blood Donor Day were printed, 2000 promotional posters were developed, pre-tested, printed and distributed, two advertisement boards were

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installed, and the Mongolian Red Cross Society conducted a blood donor survey in cooperation with the state blood centre and a consulting company using methodological guidelines of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) that involved 1,000 people from five selected provinces.

Impact

The blood donor survey analysed with the cooperation of the blood center and a monitoring and evaluation consulting service gave important information regarding blood donor participation and motivation levels, status of safe blood etc.

HIV/AIDS programme

Goal: To reduce spread of HIV/AIDS or sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and improve the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Objective: To protect young people from HIV/AIDS/STIs by supporting MRCS branches in implementing an effective and efficient education/prevention programme.

Achievements:

The MRCS cooperated with the youth Red Cross programme in celebrating World Red Cross Day on May 08 2004 at the central square where RC junior members of Tuv province and nine districts of Ulaanbaatar were involved. The gathering provided greater awareness on HIV/AIDS preventative knowledge, and over 1,000 people participated in the above mentioned gathering.

Training conducted for 15 youth RC leaders from three selected branches encouraged them to initiate HIV/AIDS prevention activities at the community level. Three selected branches implementing their youth peer education project organised refresher training in youth peer education (YPE), involving 45 youth peer educators who gained knowledge on HIV/AIDS and improved their communication skills. Up to 400 copies of YPE manuals were printed and monitoring of the YPE workshops at the branches was conducted twice. Training for 750 youth from three branches on prevention from HIV/AIDS was conducted while train campaigns that passed messages on HIV/AIDS prevention to the public was organised successfully from 24 to 28 August. In cooperation with the National Aids Foundation, MRCS conducted a survey to assess vulnerability of men who have sex with men to HIV/AIDS and the general population's attitude towards this behaviour. The implementation of the prison project in Baganuur district's place of confinement was successful.

Impact

Up to 15 young facilitators of three *aimags* were trained and initiated in HIV/AIDS prevention activities in their respective local areas. A train campaign increased awareness of one third of the train passengers and youth living in railway stations and towns. Public awareness increased through the special event of celebrating Red Cross Red Crescent Day.

Constraints

The lack of funding partially hampered the health and care programme. The programme cannot be continued without additional funds and the planned programme cannot be carried out within the year.

Disaster management

Goal: To enhance disaster preparedness in the community to mitigate the impact of disasters by increasing awareness and advocacy within the general public and by mobilising local resources for responding to emergencies.

Objective: To reduce vulnerability in times of disaster by strengthening the capacity of the Mongolian Red Cross Society and improving integration with local and international organisations, within the framework of the disaster preparedness programme and other core activities.

Achievements:

Up to 3000 copies of a handbook with a variety of topics related to traditional animal husbandry was published and distributed to herdsmen through local red cross branches. Assemblies of the leading herdsmen held in Dornogobi, Selenge and Khentii provinces conducted training workshops based on relative sections of the handbook, with participation from agricultural experts the organisation of publicity activities. As the majority of territory experiences severe drought, the MRCS carried out preventive actions such as advertising about hay preparation and other necessary activities in the public media as well as reports about emergency situations to related organisations, the Federation and donor countries.

The disaster preparedness (DP) programme established a mobile team of doctors that provided free health consultations, basic laboratory tests, preliminary health care services and prescribed medicines to herdsmen. A total of 3568 individuals from six *soums* in South Gobi *aimag* and seven *soums* of Dornogobi *aimag* were involved in these activities. These *aimags* that experienced drought and dzud disasters over the last three years have vast territories, scarce populations and are permanent sources of animal foot and mouth disease. The mobile team worked in close collaboration with local nurses, community representatives, and volunteers with support from the local Red Cross branches in accordance to the agreement between the local authorities and the team of doctors. The herdsmen were very satisfied with these activities as expressed in the letters received by MRCS, and the activities were publicised in the central and local media.

Goods procured for seven regional disaster centres were received and registered. Selection and procurement made from three proposals presented by various providers assured the quick delivery of cheap and reliable goods for the disaster preparedness and response inventory. As food and sanitary items spoil easily, the decision was made to purchase these items directly at the onslaught of actual disasters rather than store them for a long period. The purchased items include:

- Boots for manipulator jobs (600 pairs),
- Mats (600 pieces),
- Red Cross vest (600 pieces),
- Tents (12 sets),
- First aid kits (600 sets),
- Blankets (600 pieces),
- Woollen boots (600 pairs),
- Cars from Australian bilateral DP project (2 vehicles).

Gobi-Altai province experienced disaster combinations of drought and dzud throughout 1999 to 2003. As a direct consequence of the disasters, more than 3000 herdsmen families lost their livestock and they began emigrating to *soum*, province centres and major cities. This movement in turn caused a significant increase in the demand for schools, kindergartens and medical services in urban centres that could not be met, leaving many children without school and preschool education. In light of this situation, MRCS is implementing a project designed to build a *ger* kindergarten for 25 children. The MRCS chose children from families that lost their livestock, most vulnerable families and orphanages, and recruited specialised staff to work in the *ger* kindergarten. The signed agreement stated that the financial responsibility of the *ger* kindergarten will be taken over by the local government on January 2005.

The DP programme of MRCS initiated two formal meeting of NGO delegates with participation from the general authority for disaster prevention, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Food and Agriculture. At the meeting, the issues regarding state policy on reducing disaster risks and enforcing relevant national legal acts, humanitarian roles of the Red Cross Society and future cooperation in the field of enhancing disaster management systems were discussed in detail. Cooperation agreements were established and directives for improving the cooperation of lower level branches were issued.

MRCS recruited one staff for each regional disaster preparedness centre (RDPC) to enhance its capacity. The staff will be responsible for conducting training and dissemination activities, publicising humanitarian activities and educating the community in ways to improve their quality of life. The general secretariat recruited one staff in charge of external relations, information and dissemination of the DP programme in a long-term agreement.

This summer a majority of the territory, 31 *soums* of nine provinces, experienced serious drought and risk of steppe and forest wildfires, while actual wildfires are already causing serious damage in some places. A radio programme

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about fire prevention and reducing fire damages was created and broadcasts through the national radio, including speeches from fire victims and warnings to people who might be at risk of initiating or getting into wildfires.

A drawing and essay writing competition under the disaster management programme was organised among the children under the slogan 'we are the humanitarian ambassadors' on the eve of the 65th anniversary of the MRCS. The competition disseminated information about the Red Cross among the community especially the young generation and stimulated their creative thinking.

Impact

The mobile team of doctors met the underlying needs of herdsmen successfully. In the coming years, the MRCS plans to hold this activity in the *aimag* Red Cross branches regularly, especially in spring when most herders experience health problems related to seasonal resource shortages, poor quality traditional food and long winter survival fatigue.

Capacity and management in the regional disaster preparedness centres improved. The increased inventory stock enhances disaster preparedness capacity of the MRCS while increasing their ability to respond to disasters in a timely manner, thus improving the image of humanitarian organisations.

The first initiative in child education for families to start or continue their education because of loss of income generation resources and migration to urban centres is well underway. The government authorities will assume responsibility for future funding to ensure the project's continuous operation in accordance to the agreement made between the MRCS and the authorities. This opportunity enables the *ger* kindergarten to contribute to the future education of children and to be a great psychological support for families.

The above-mentioned formal meeting with other governmental agencies upgraded integration with other agencies, information and experience sharing in the field of disaster management. The roles and responsibilities of the government and the MRCS was clearly formulated and the improved coordination will contribute to better planning and efficiency of the humanitarian activities.

The radio programme increased education on disaster preparedness and psychological support among the general public. Increased public awareness mitigated disaster impacts.

Constraints:

Despite some left over funds from last year and from the belated Australian bilateral support to the DP programme, there are insufficient funds to complete the targeted programme for 2004. The appeal programmes are severely hampered by this disability.

Humanitarian values

Goal: To change the general community's behaviour through the promotion of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.

Objective: To enhance the public's understanding of the Mongolian Red Cross Society and strengthen fundraising activities.

Achievements:

The printing of a centre spread with different articles related to MRCS activities within the local newspaper is published once a month by the MRCS. The April edition was dedicated to the regular meeting of the central committee of the MRCS whereas the May edition was dedicated to the World Red Cross Day. In accordance to the 65th anniversary of the MRCS, the June edition was published separately with eight coloured spreads.

The *Eternal Challenge* newsletter for youth and children was initiated by the RCY and JRC. The survey conducted among the readers on the newsletter revealed the necessity of changing its content and design. Today, children and youth of Mongolia are more interested in reading coloured newsletters with quality designs and pictures. In conjunction with this new trend, MRCS plans to turn the newsletter into a journal design. MRCS produced the test edition of 500 copies with the annual report on the RCY activities conducted in 2003.

The Red Cross Museum established in 1991 undertook the renovation and decoration this year under the title 'profession'.

Numerous activities were conducted by the information dissemination programme during the celebration of the World Red Cross Day. Nine people who made remarkable contributions to the humanitarian mission were named a humanitarian hero and awarded a golden humanitarian medal. A concert was held jointly with Mongolian cultural stars in the Cultural Palace of the Trade Union on 5 May 2004, and a twenty-minute interview from the concert was broadcasted on the National TV.

A gathering was organised among the Red Cross junior members of Ulaanbaatar city in Sukhbaatar square. During the gathering, a recruitment ceremony of 600 new Red Cross juniors took place and stalls were set up to introduce the core programmes of the MRCS. The health care stall passed out information on HIV/AIDS prevention and anti-discrimination messages to over 800 young people and children. A hot air balloon carrying words encouraging six children with haemophilia, written by the Red Cross junior members, was flown through the sky. These activities coincided with the 65th anniversary of the MRCS.

Up to 1000 copies of the MRCS report on activities conducted in 2002 and 2003 is currently under production.

Impact

The *Humanity* newspaper provided information on humanitarian activities for the last six years to the public, and as the face of the MRCS it has a regular readership. This improved knowledge of Red Cross activities among the general population and relevant organisations.

The new journal design of the *Eternal Challenge* newspaper attracted more Red Cross youth and junior members and met their satisfaction. This improved knowledge of the RC activities among youth and children in Mongolia and mobilised their participation in humanitarian endeavours.

The renovation of the museum was a very significant, timely activity in terms of disseminating Red Cross activities, as people entering the MRCS building for the first time are introduced to the museum and information about Red Cross activities. The Red Cross museum has become an effective and interesting means of information dissemination.

The celebration of World Red Cross Day organised with the social care programme improved cooperation and coordination between programmes. The joint dissemination of activities conducted with a Mongolian public relations agency was highly popular involving much media participation. The publicising of the humanitarian mission and dissemination of values through a cultural stars show further demonstrated that humanitarian values and information diffusion is increasingly enriched and modernised, leading to an increased number of volunteers and members.

The annual report will include activities conducted in 2002 and 2003 and can therefore be considered as a written archive helpful in identifying the advances and reforms of the MRCS. The report will improve knowledge about the Red Cross activities among the general population and concerned organisations.

Organisational development

Goal: To become a well functioning national society by qualifying volunteers, formulating reliable financial resources and making branches independent.

Objective: To improve working conditions for volunteers at mid-level Red Cross branches, to improve the quality of programmes and enhance capacity with the support of volunteers.

Achievements:

Four headquarter (HQ) staff including the program managers as well as financial department staff were involved in the English language basic and intermediate level courses during the months of April, May and June.

Volunteer club were established in Orkhon and Bayankhongor *aimag* RC branches. There was concern over the sustainability and effectiveness of activities for volunteers when selecting a local branch for the establishment of a volunteer club. The number of the volunteers of Bayankhongor and Orkhon RC branches increases every year. The volunteer club aims to expand volunteer activities and create favourable condition to conduct volunteer training, meetings and exchanges of experiences. A total of USD 14,000 utilised for the establishment of volunteer clubs included the renovation and the procurement of the following equipment and furniture:

- video camera,
- training table and chairs,
- training board, and
- photo camera

The Council of volunteers was divided into the council of the elderly and youth, while special schedules of health and disaster meetings and gatherings were set up. The volunteers were also provided with volunteer manuals and terms of reference, while small information resource centres were established in clubs.

Impact

The skill and qualification of staff improved.

Volunteer clubs were established in two local RC branches and the working condition of the volunteers improved. An ideal volunteer club structure for follow-up activities of other mid-level RC branches was created. Volunteers trained in the core programmes of the MRCS make real contributions to the expansion and enhancement of community based volunteer activities. Volunteer management improved and led to sustained activities of volunteers.

Financial capacity of branches at the local level increased with an improved income and improved image of the Red Cross among the public, mobilising individuals and the community in humanitarian activities.

Capacity building fund

Goal: Mongolian Red Cross Society is building strong management capacities and sustainable community-based social care at rural areas.

Objective: To implement projects focused on improving capacity building and income generation, reducing cost for heating, formulating favourable conditions for volunteers to work as well as enhancing and sustaining permanent community-based social care through trained and committed volunteers.

Achievements:

Small heating systems were installed in six *aimag* RC branches which were Dundgobi, Umnugobi, Khentii, Uvs, Sukhbaatar and Khuvsgul.

Two training courses were conducted within the capacity building project. The basic training course involved a total of 60 participants from three *aimags* encompassing middle and primary level RC branches that included Dundgobi, Umnugobi and Khentii. The RC branch secretaries, staff, primary level RC branch voluntary staff and volunteers gained fundamental knowledge on organisational management and the Red Cross movement.

The skill training on the other hand intended to provide staff and volunteers with more specific knowledge and skills like organisational and operational strategy planning abilities, methods and approaches of implementation, operational monitoring, impact assessment as well as information and dissemination.

Impact

The reduced cost for heating meant an increased income for the RC branches. The warm office rooms provided a favourable working environment, particularly in wintertime. The condition to conduct training for volunteers improved and the Red Cross branch staff gained skills and knowledge in management and planning.

Implementation and management

Goal: International stakeholders are increasingly supporting the initiatives of the Mongolia Red Cross Society for the benefit of targeted vulnerable groups.

Objective: National societies' priorities were better understood by stakeholders especially by the international media, UN organisations, local and international NGOs and diplomats based in Mongolia and Beijing.

Achievements***Bilateral cooperation***

There was a determined achievement in the development of bilateral cooperation with partner national societies.

The MRCS agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Hong Kong Red Cross Society, to extend the existing cooperation with one more project on water and sanitation with Netherlands Red Cross, a disaster preparedness project with Australian Red Cross Society as well as a social care project with British and German Red Cross.

MRCS implemented projects within a bilateral cooperation framework with other partner national societies. The international friendship project funded by the Japanese Red Cross Society involved the Red Cross youth and junior programme for the 2003-2006 period. This project aims to improve environments of school education as well as health and sanitation, support the Red Cross youth and junior activities, as well as to promote mutual understanding and friendship between youth members of the two countries.

The HIV/AIDS project funded by the Australian Red Cross covers the period of May 2002 to May 2005. The project objectives are to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and improve the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as to promote voluntary, non-remunerated blood donations, with the aim of ensuring a safe and adequate blood supply. This project covers part of the Annual Appeal 2004 activities under the health and care programme.

The capacity building project funded by the Netherlands Red Cross covers the period 2003-2007. This project assists two middle level MRCS branches to become a more efficient, effective and sustainable organisation that will provide support to the most vulnerable in society through better design, implementation and evaluation of programmes, as well as better financial resource mobilisation and strategic development.

The Netherlands Red Cross Society-funded life skills project for the period February 2004 to October 2004 goal is to help unregistered migrant former herder families improve their livelihood through life skills training. The project targets some 130 vulnerable families who migrated from rural areas and settled in *ger* districts of the Songinokhairkhan district of Ulaanbaatar.

The Netherlands Red Cross Society-funded water and sanitation project for the period 2004 to 2006 goal is to improve water supply and sanitation conditions of the residents living in three *ger* districts of Ulaanbaatar. The components of the project includes health education, creation of boreholes, construction of public sub-terrain latrines and creation of solid waste points and improvement of individual latrines.

A social welfare project funded by German and British Red Cross Society covers the period of April 2004 to April 2005. The main purpose of the project is to improve the livelihood and the socio-psychological condition of the most vulnerable and elderly people through home care services carried out by volunteers.

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A disaster preparedness project funded by the Australian Red Cross Society covered the period of June 2004 to June 2006. The main purpose of the project is to enhance the DP capacity of MRCS through supporting the regional DP centres. This project will cover half of the annual appeal DP programme and budget.

The Hong Kong Red Cross' DP project's main objective is to increase awareness of DP among the public through the use of media.

Delegates visited MRCS during the reporting period. The OD coordinator responsible for the Asia and Pacific region of the Federation paid an official visit to MRCS from 27 April to 7 May. The main purpose of his visit was to monitor the implementation process of the ongoing capacity building project and to support the MRCS social welfare programme. The delegate from the Federation facilitated a three-day project planning process workshop with the head of delegation of the IFRC in Mongolia, while the MRCS social welfare programme manager and the facilitators' team worked on the social welfare project proposal about the delivery of social care services to the most vulnerable and elderly people, agreeing on the project's logframe and plan of action.

The head of the regional delegation of the ICRC from Bangkok, together with the ICRC staff and teacher from the Ukrainian University visited MRCS from 17 to 23 May. The delegates conducted a five-day workshop on humanitarian law for secondary school teachers coming from both urban and local schools. The main objective of the workshop was to discuss with the teachers issues regarding the inclusion of humanitarian law in the secondary school education curricula, the method of its inclusion as well as approaches of teaching humanitarian law. After the workshop, the delegates and senior management of the MRCS conducted a press conference to disseminate the main outcomes of the workshop and the significance of teaching humanitarian law to the young generation.

The regional programme manager of the Netherlands Red Cross paid an official visit to MRCS from 6 to 11 June 2004. The delegate monitored and evaluated the ongoing capacity building and life skills projects as well as the preparation for the water and sanitation pilot project that is a bilateral cooperation with the Netherlands Red Cross.

Regional delegate in charge of information dissemination of the ICRC visited MRCS from 21 to 23 June. The main objective of the visit was to review the past cooperation projects between the ICRC and MRCS and to discuss the common objectives and project plans for the years 2004 and 2005.

The regional programme manager of the Netherlands Red Cross paid an official visit to MRCS from 26 August to 3 September. The delegate conducted monitoring on the implementation process of the capacity building, life skills and water and sanitation project.

A delegation of five people headed by the vice president of the Red Cross Society of China paid an official visit to MRCS from 29 August to 2 September. A cooperation agreement was signed between the two national societies as a result of the visit of the delegation from Red Cross Society of China.

Delegates from MRCS participated in meetings and conferences. The HIV/AIDS and safer blood programme managers participated in the 9th international voluntary non-remunerated blood donors recruitment colloquium held from 2 to 9 April in Beijing, China.

The secretary general of MRCS participated in the statutory meetings of the IFRC development commission from 26 to 27 April in Geneva, Switzerland.

The under-secretary general of MRCS participated and represented MRCS as a NGO in the macroeconomics and health conference organised by WHO held 27-28 April 2004 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

A delegation of three people headed by the secretary general included the head of administration and officer of the international relations department participated in the centennial ceremony of the Red Cross Society of China.

The HIV/AIDS and safer blood programme manager participated in the 16th Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent HIV/AIDS Network meeting and 15th International HIV/AIDS conference held from 7 to 19 July in Bangkok, Thailand.

Coordination and management

The Federation delegation continuously works constructively with MRCS as they continue to require extensive support in core areas of disaster management, health and care, humanitarian values and organisational development. Lack of funding resulted in insufficient support from the Federation to fully meet MRCS need and programmes although the Federation played a vital role in enhancing the capacity of the Mongolian Red Cross and gathered a wide range of bilateral PNS interest to Mongolia.

Close cooperation between the Federation and other bilateral sister national societies remains vital to ensure consistent support for the different core areas of MRCS such as OD, social care and disaster management. Most PNS provide Federation-coordinated bilateral support to MRCS.

The Federation is well known in the country and among international communities working in Mongolia and the country delegation continues to promote the profile of the Federation and work of MRCS. In 2004, through its programme management, the Federation country delegation with support from the East Asia regional delegation enhanced the image of the MRCS within partner national societies during a PNS meeting held in Beijing by contributing to the capacity building of the MRCS through the capacity building fund project.

Through close working relations between the delegation and the regional finance unit and regional reporting unit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the Federation provided accurate financial and timely narrative reports, thereby assuring its partners that expenditure of funding was appropriate.

2004 is a challenging and difficult year for the Federation as well as MRCS as there are constraints exemplified by lack of funding, uncertain funding support from the Federation, uneven functioning of the delegation and the demand for completion of programme implementation. There may thus be difficulty in meeting many objectives.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

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PLEDGES RECEIVED

21/09/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				968,791		38.1%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				183,234		
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		61,340	EUR	95,690	10.02.04	HOD
FINNISH - VOT/RC		57,000	EUR	89,804	27.02.04	HEALTH AND CARE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				368,728	CHF	38.1%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	