

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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In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA060; Programme Update no. 3, Period covered: September to December 2005; Appeal coverage: 119.6%; Outstanding needs: none.
([click here to go to the attached Contributions List](#)) ([click here for the live contributions list on the website](#))

Appeal target CHF 1,046,981 (USD 817,635 or EUR 677,438)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [East Asia Regional Appeal 05AA061](#), [China Appeal 05AA058](#), [DPRK Appeal 05AA059](#)

Programme summary:

There are now 16 registered people living with HIV/AIDS in Mongolia, with the last two cases found within a span of less than a month. This highlights the importance of MRCS programme activities in raising public awareness about the disease and in accelerating cooperation with governmental and non-governmental agencies.

One significant event has been the 5th National Conference of the Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) held on 23-25 September in Orkhon *aimag*. During the conference, major priorities for the MRCS have been identified, strategic guidelines for implementation developed, and the recommendations of the conference have been adopted. Another highlight this reporting period has been the adoption of a new human resource policy and headquarters organizational structure. This is a significant step forward as the policy and structure have been reformed based on challenges in human resource management of Red Cross staff and volunteers as well as turnover issues faced by the national society.

Most of the activities outlined in the annual appeal are progressing. Health and first aid, social care and the HIV/AIDS programme carried out most of their planned activities during the reporting period, while safer blood programme implemented a number of its objectives, whereas the humanitarian values and organizational development programme activities have been hindered by the funding constraints.

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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 (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). 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>

Operational developments

The president of the United States paid an official four-hour visit to Mongolia on 21 November 2005. It was a historic first visit to Mongolia by an American president and will help to further enhance already-close relations between the US and Mongolia. A trade agreement and other forms of economic co-operation was also discussed during the visit.

Mongolia's 16th confirmed case of HIV was announced on World AIDS Day this year, less than a month after the 15th case was diagnosed. So far, there have been 11 new confirmed HIV cases this year, with one of them being pregnant. It is estimated that many of Mongolia's population are infected but remain undiagnosed. Expert estimates go as high as 100 infections per registered case, raising the modest 16 cases to 1,600. In a country with a population of only two and half million, a potential of 1,600 HIV/AIDS cases is a worrying scenario. International non-governmental organizations (INGOs) attribute this to stigma and misconceptions about HIV/AIDS in Mongolia. The ministry of health is working on legislation to help prevent HIV/AIDS and empower professional organizations, and will work closely with international organizations and NGOs.

The government cabinet of Mongolia decided to give assistance worth US \$50,000 (CHF 65,700) to the US victims of Hurricane Katrina. Campaigns and disaster appeals to send humanitarian assistance to the US are underway countrywide.

There were no large-scale natural disasters over the reporting period, with weather condition remaining relatively stable. An outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Dornod *aimag* however has led to the slaughter of 191 animals in September. Combined with floods in Darkh-Uul *aimag*, these smaller disasters have left many herder families with fewer animals. The MRCS disaster preparedness (DP) centres have provided assistance to herders' families, providing them with a temporary source of income through employment within its hay preparation project

A proposal to establish a new system of paying basic pension insurance premiums has been added to a social insurance draft law being considered by the government. Under the proposed new system, herders, students and those who are self-employed or unemployed would become involved in the programme by paying a minimum pension insurance premium. Previously, only those employed under a working labour contract were entitled for these premium payments, which effectively excluded an astounding 58 per cent of the population. Now, this part of the population will be guaranteed at least some form of income security when they reach retirement age.

The Mongolian Red Cross Society

One of the significant events of the reporting period was the 5th National Conference of the MRCS held on 23-25 September in Orkhon *aimag*. Over 150 people from the Federation delegation as well as all levels of the national society – from governance, headquarters, branches and volunteers – have participated in the conference. Two priority issues were raised during the conference: Enhancing cooperation with the government and improving the financial capacity of mid-level branches. During the conference, major priorities of MRCS were identified and strategic guidelines for implementation developed. The recommendations of the conference have been adopted. The MRCS continues to seek possibilities in helping *ger* area migrants through social welfare services provided by Federation-supported programmes and bilateral projects funded by participating national societies such as the British and Netherlands Red Cross. The national society's branches are currently helping unregistered families in Ulaanbaatar to navigate their way through the registration process, improving the chances of these families to access education, health care and employment.

An interagency consultation on earthquakes has been organized in Ulaanbaatar city from 14 to 15 September, with international participation as well as in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Agency. This consultation aimed to raise the awareness of organizations on Ulaanbaatar's risk to major disasters and improve collaboration with other organizations (please refer to the Disaster Management section, expected result 5, for more details).

Joint dissemination activities carried out in partnership with the Red Cross Society of China on World AIDS Day, 1 December, in Erlyan city of China have significantly contributed to enhanced cooperation between both national societies and between the local branches. The train campaign appealed very much to the public as cultural stars from both countries were engaged in the project.

Funded by the Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO), the community vulnerability reduction's hay preparation project in six regions of Mongolia has been implemented successfully and has fulfilled its main objectives. The Federation and ECHO delegates paid monitoring visit to the hay-making fields, ascertaining that 60 per cent of the total amount has been distributed to selected beneficiaries, while 20 per cent of the remaining stock has been sold at a 50 per cent discount to market price. Income from this sold hay will be used for next year's hay-making activities, while the remaining 20 per cent will be sold under fair and equitable terms to the public ahead of the winter season, better sustaining the regional DP centres' capacity for haymaking. It is observed that volunteers have participated very actively in haymaking while the public image and appreciation of the Red Cross branch have increased. This year's closing ceremony for the hay project is being organized on 20 December 2005, and will involve all who have participated in the project.

Health and care

Goal: The health and psychosocial well-being of the most vulnerable is improved through the support of MRCS initiatives that promote community health, health awareness and safe behaviour.

Objective: The MRCS and local communities will be better prepared in addressing threats to the public's health and psychosocial well-being.

Health and first aid

Expected project result: Health at the community level has improved.

Progress/achievements

The MRCS celebrated World First Aid Day for the second time on 11 September, using mass media campaigns to promote public awareness on the importance of first aid. The celebration involved 140 MRCS volunteers and staff, and the MRCS estimates that some 100,000 people have improved their knowledge on first aid through the society's activities. Activities conducted by the MRCS on this special occasion to further public understanding about first aid have included:

- A press conference involving journalists from three national television channels and seven newspapers.
- Twenty-second, televised promotional spots (twice per day for five days).
- Thirty-second FM radio promotional spots (four times per day for four days).
- A 20-minute radio interview.
- A 15-minute television programme.
- A promotion board installed on the central street.
- One-page promotion published in the "daily news".
- Exchange meetings of first aid trainers and volunteers in three regional centres (Dornod and Uvs *aimag*, Chingeltei district).



Demonstrations for the public held on World First Aid Day.

The MRCS worked with the following partners on World First Aid Day: the traffic police department, emergency medical centre, health department of the ministry of health, national television, FM radio and the Ulaanbaatar city council of Red Cross branches.

Running first aid clubs is much more efficient in terms of recruiting new first aid volunteers and covering larger amounts of people. The MRCS first aid club members and volunteers regularly conduct first aid training for their peers and others who have yet to undergo this training. In [Programme Update no.2](#), it was reported that the Chingeltei district's Red Cross branch has set volunteers' regulations and working schedules, while agreeing with volunteers on a system of evaluating volunteer work. Since then, some volunteers have submitted reports on their activities and provided feedback.

The “Stage” competition was announced and broadcasted on some television channels. Over 14 university teams have participated. Selected participants received guidelines and special homework on certain Red Cross-related themes. The first round of competitions was organized at district-level and the second round at national-level.

Impact



These CPR demonstrations teach young and old alike what to do in an emergency situation.

As the first cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) demonstration has been well accepted by the public on World First Aid Day, the MRCS is planning to organize more of such campaigns and demonstrations on special occasions, further to adopting it as one of the national society’s traditional activities.

Also on World First Aid Day, various public communication and media campaigns have served to strengthen the positive image of the national society and the Movement as a whole, raising Red Cross visibility throughout Mongolia. Wide dissemination of first aid skills has enhanced the participating public’s capacity to deal with emergency situations as well.

Activities conducted this reporting period have increased the number of youth participants and members as well as reached television audiences. An enhanced cooperation from the national television management board has been reported. There is a need to update and increase the number of promotion materials.

Social welfare

Expected project result: Health and psychosocial well being of the most vulnerable living in isolation, as well as the people affected by internal migration, have improved through direct community-based welfare-related activities, referrals, advocacy and awareness raising endeavours.

Progress/achievements

The focus of Mongolian Red Cross Society community-based social welfare activities is to improve senior citizens’ access to health, their psychological condition and quality of life in five *aimags* and two district Red Cross branches. Please see [Programme Update no.2](#) for more details on services and support provided to vulnerable groups, the Red Cross branch and volunteers’ maintenance and monitoring of activities, as well as the running of Red Cross branch care centres for senior citizens.

The Khuvsgul *aimag* Red Cross branch continues to run a daily recreation centre for seniors. In this reporting period, the recreation centre has received 60 senior visitors and provided them with traditional, medical and physical treatments such as massages and distribution of vitamins. The centre has the capacity to accommodate 15 visitors at once who stay for ten days. A six-hour health educational training is conducted for the senior visitors on a regular basis during their stay. The training includes a video on prevention of diseases specific to older people and exercises that are helpful for their physical well-being. In the meantime, the Gobi-Altai Red Cross branch has received 150 senior citizens at its day care centre. The branch has also organized an experience-sharing meeting for its primary-level branch staff.

Two articles on the community-based care service activities for senior citizens of the Khuvsgul *aimag* Red Cross branch have been published in October 2005 in the local “Freedom” newspaper, enhancing the public image of volunteers and profiling the national society.

The MRCS honors senior citizens on World Elderly Day

In November 2005, World Elderly Day was celebrated widely. The MRCS celebrated this special day with a number of organizations such as the ministry of health, the senior citizen community, the Gerontology Centre and the capital city’s health department.

As part of World Elderly Day, the Dornod, Uvs and Khan-Uul Red Cross branches organized gatherings for 120 senior citizens at their day care centre, providing them with advice on five different topics:

- the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and activities;
- health care and physical exercise information;
- overview on state social Care Law and resolutions; and
- delivering of care services and insurance law.

In addition, promotional material has been distributed to participating beneficiaries, as well as eye glasses and walking sticks, while selected vulnerable families and/or 18 beneficiaries received five to ten kilogrammes of rice. Volunteers have further renovated humanitarian rooms in senior citizen communities.

Various socially-oriented activities were conducted on this day as well, benefiting seniors and Red Cross staff and volunteers who assist them. A hiking trip entitled “Elderly age – new development power” was also organized, with participation from the local senior citizen communities as well as organizations and provincial authorities providing social care services. Additionally, senior beneficiaries performed in a concert. An essay competition entitled “Current development and elderly performance” and speech presentations on ‘Elderly age – new development power’ have been initiated among peers educators. Winners were awarded with cash and small gifts.

A project proposal competition has been carried out among 18 Red Cross branches. From a total of 21 project proposals received, those from Dornod, Uvs and Khan-Uul Red Cross branches have been selected. Each of the nine Ulaanbaatar district Red Cross branches installed a dissemination board on health and social care on their premises. The MRCS programme manager mounted a dissemination board on Elderly Day in Ulaanbaatar’s central street.

All activities have been broadcasted through local television and radio stations.

Impact

Access for over 1,100 vulnerable senior community members to government health and social welfare services has improved through community-based, welfare-related activities, which have led to improvements in their psychological, health and living conditions. The activities diminished the sense of isolation among beneficiaries, who are now motivated and have a network of friends.

Volunteer activities of Red Cross branches implementing the community-based social welfare activities have become more sustainable and the human resource of the branches has increased accordingly. Effective dissemination of volunteer and MRCS social care activities through the media have increased the number of volunteers and awareness about the vulnerable among the public, NGOs and relevant government agencies.

Constraints

As the November budget was not approved in advance, some of Red Cross branch activities were not carried out.

Blood donor recruitment programme

Expected project result: The MRCS has improved the blood programme’s technical and managerial capacity and increased awareness amongst the general population with regard to voluntary blood donation recruitment.

Progress/achievements

In Ulaanbaatar, the youth blood donor club-25 has organized seven community sessions on voluntary non-remunerated blood donation that involved 340 students before conducting mobile blood drives, resulting in a decreased deferral rate of 11 per cent. A ten-minute television broadcast about youth participation in voluntary non-remunerated blood donation has been developed and used during the community sessions. Six district branches of Ulaanbaatar organized a total of 18 mobile blood drives, in which over 1,098 people donated blood.

On 29-30 September 2005, refresher training for blood donor recruiters was organized and attended by 16 people.

A blood donor promotion media campaign disseminating information on safer blood and blood products needs has been developed with participation from the media, such as the Mongolian national radio, television channels (UBS and TV 5) as well as two FM radio stations.

Impact

Activities of the youth blood donor club-25 have increased the number of regular blood donors among student youth. Through the blood donor promotion media campaign, public awareness on voluntary non-remunerated blood donation has improved.

HIV/AIDS programme

World AIDS Day has been widely celebrated in Mongolia. The minister of health appealed to all organizations working in HIV/AIDS to consolidate their efforts by organizing joint events. A number of activities have therefore been organized according to the plan of action approved by the minister.

A significant event this reporting period has been the “Cross border – train campaign on HIV/AIDS”, jointly organized with Red Cross Society of China from 28 November to 2 December 2005. The campaign, titled “STOP AIDS, Make the promise”, was targeted at mobile passengers, external migrants and border communities of both countries, who are considered vulnerable to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The campaign covered nine train stations from the northern city of Mongolia to the border city of China through the Trans Siberian Railway Line. Within the framework of the campaign, over 5900 people travelling on trains received HIV/AIDS prevention information. A high-level meeting of two national societies was organized in Erlian city on 1 December. Secretaries-general of both Mongolia and China expressed their willingness and commitment to work together closely and effectively in future in HIV/AIDS and discussed cooperation issues.

Progress/achievements

Expected project result 1: Community-level stigma and discrimination have reduced and community awareness of HIV/AIDS issues has increased.

The MRCS has placed importance on strengthening collaborative partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organizations operating within Mongolia in same field. The “Journalists against HIV/AIDS” media campaign was an example of such initiatives. Its aim was to attract the media towards HIV/AIDS-related issues, to develop more AIDS advocates among the media community and to increase quality and number of media coverage on HIV/AIDS through the participation of journalists. The media campaign was jointly organized from 20 October to 20 November with the meaningful participation of stakeholders, including Positive Life, Focus, Global Fund through the ministry of health project, GTZ, World Vision Mongolia and the Mongolian National Press Institute. Over 70 print, television and radio broadcasts have been issued during the campaign and an outstanding coverage was selected and awarded in a ceremony.

Within the framework of a regional HIV/AIDS discrimination project financially supported by the Asian Regional Task Force on HIV/AIDS (ART) network, Mongolia and Cambodia were selected as pilot countries. A first step to develop a MRCS HIV/AIDS workplace policy has been made by including a special section in the newly-developed human resource policy for the national society, which makes reference to the development of HIV/AIDS-related policies within MRCS. One of the main achievements this reporting period has been a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed between Mongolian Red Cross and the Positive Life centre, run by people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Mongolia, which establishes a positive environment for meaningful partnerships with community groups.

Two advocacy and anti-stigma workshops in Bayan Gol and Khan Uul districts of Ulaanbaatar city held on 15 and 17 September have used and adopted the “advocacy and stigma discrimination” toolkit produced by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance. In total 43 people (70 per cent male), including representatives of the local government, the health unit, partner organizations, key volunteers, head of *khoroo* (administrative-level under district) and staff of branches attended the workshop. The objective of the training was to facilitate the building of partnerships and trust at the local-level, stimulate their participation in HIV/AIDS, disseminate the Red Cross mission and the HIV/AIDS programme’s approach, as well as decrease stigma and discrimination. The workshop

has resulted in an increase of participant knowledge and the development of a cooperative plan of action, which covers last quarter of the year and maps key stakeholders at the district-level

Expected project result 2: Effective prevention programme in place targeting high-risk groups.

The prevention pilot programme targeted at male inmates of Maanit prison, Tuv province, has successfully finished. Excluding 420 male prisoners that have more than five years of detention, over 140 new inmates attended four six-hour life skills community group discussions facilitated by trained peer educators on various topics, such as HIV/AIDS prevention, harm reduction and safe behavior. New shaving equipment has been provided to 50 male inmates, with the purpose of preventing some viral and bacterial infection, such as hepatitis B and C, which are common among prisoners. A meeting to advocate prison authorities on getting approval to set up a condom distribution point at the prison compound has been undertaken, and a small point at the prison hospital has been consequently established. With the support from the project support team, programme staff conducted an evaluation of the pilot project, which showed an increase in knowledge on HIV/AIDS issues by 44 per cent, compared to a baseline survey conducted before implementing the project.

Targeted at staff of a border troop unit, a short-term project has been piloted in the Western border city of Bayan Ulgii province. Fifteen selected staff attended three days of peer education training organized by the local Red Cross branch. Follow-up activities conducted by trained peer educators, such as a group discussion and information dissemination campaign, have provided HIV/AIDS prevention knowledge to 250 staff and local communities.

Short-term prevention projects targeting single women-headed households have been effectively implemented in six soums of Zavkhan and Selenge province. Over 250 women aged 18 to 35 have been selected according to developed criteria and have benefited from the project, obtaining basic reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention knowledge.

In Zuunkharaa soum of Selenge province, World Aids Day was jointly marked with local organizations, such as World Vision International Mongolia and the health care centre. Dissemination and networking campaigns under the theme “The truth about HIV/AIDS and come closer” were organized, targeting the general population for a period of two months using mass media. A total of 3,500 condoms for men with information brochures were distributed to public.

An effective prevention initiative targeted to herders has been conducted in Bulgan and Tosontsengel soum of Zavkhan province, which provides mobile information services on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS-related issues. Through six mobile sessions in each province, more than 300 herders have benefited from the project by attending sessions organized by trained Red Cross volunteers.

Expected project result 3: The MRCS staff has increased their ability to manage, plan and evaluate community-based education programmes.

By developing and implementing various HIV/AIDS programmes described in the sections above, MRCS staff at headquarters and local branches has improved their ability to manage community-based education programmes.

Impact:

Various new approaches and initiatives in defining and working with new vulnerable groups at the local level have succeeded with clear outcomes. Besides decreasing vulnerability of targeted community to HIV/AIDS epidemic, human resource and technical capacity of middle-level branches have improved. Also, the Red Cross' reputation among community has increased, resulting in increased community willingness to contribute to the humanitarian work of the Red Cross Movement. Number of members has also increased with improved fundraising.

New steps have been taken to cooperate with PLWHA, while recognition has been given to the greater involvement of community groups in the programme management cycle. Media programmes have facilitated the establishment of more sustainable partnerships with the media and strengthened cooperation with stakeholders.

Disaster management

The 2005 hay preparation project, based in the MRCS regional disaster preparedness centres in the “Altai” region, has implemented and fulfilled its main objectives successfully with funding from ECHO. Once the hay is prepared, 60 per cent of the total amount will be given to selected beneficiaries, while the remaining 40 per cent will be sold under fair and equitable terms to the public ahead of the winter season. Profits will contribute towards a revolving fund that will help sustain similar hay preparation activities for next year. The final amount of hay produced may be more than originally calculated as it was based on the project’s formal procurement of hand tools and did not take into account the support of the hay workers themselves, who contributed their own traditional hay machinery to the project.

In September 2005, the representative from ECHO, the Federation head of country delegation and the MRCS hay project manager visited Khovd and Bayan-Olgii *aimags* to monitor the hay making process in the provinces. All provinces prepared most of the hay between 15 September and 20 October -- the hay has been stocked and reserved, while the hay wrapping has finished. According to the project’s objective, each branch has to organize to give 180 tonnes of hays (60 per cent of the total amount prepared) out to households involved in the project that have less than 50 heads of cattle. It is estimated that one bale of hay that weighs 25kg is equal to MNT 1,000. The discounted price of one bale of hay varies from *aimag* to *aimag* – it ranges from being sold at 50 per cent to 80 per cent of the original estimated price in Altai, Bayankhongor and Zavkhan and Tosontsengel provinces. In Darkhan-Uul province, 90 households have received a cumulative total of 180 tonnes of hay. Also in the province, hay cut from fields in Nam davaanii *am* of Khongor *sum* and Zederiin *bulag* have been stocked, with 60 tonnes of hay stocked for the winter quarter.

Delegates from the Federation Secretariat and regional delegation, an ECHO representative and the MRCS hay project manager conducted a field visit on 4 October 2005. Their purpose was to assess the Darkhan-Uul Red Cross branch’s and the regional centre’s project implementation process and the use of equipment. These activities were broadcasted to the community through local television stations (TV-Lkha, DBS), where the visiting delegates were interviewed. At each targeted community, the hay preparation project’s implementation and progress have been presented through picture boards. Within the dissemination work, documentary films and a song for haymakers have been developed and broadcasted by the Mongolian National Television. The secretary-general of MRCS authorized a technical handbook, which had the main purpose of disseminating traditional methods of hay production to the wider community and encouraging the younger generation to participate and build life-long skills and values.

The Mongolian Red Cross six regional disaster preparedness centres (RDPCs) now have a sufficient amount of hay in stock for emergencies. 300 families who lost their source of income due to the death of their herds were provided with job opportunity for two months. Regional centres’ capacity for haymaking is sustained because some branches are starting to sell hay, where the income generated will be allocated to hay production next year. Volunteers participated in hay making actively. The public image and appreciation of the Red Cross branch has increased, and this year’s hay project closing ceremony will be organized, involving all participating stakeholders and communities on 20 December 2005.

Responding to a need to provide social care in the aftermath of disasters, a mobile team of doctors has provided health care services to 890 people in five soums in Umnogobi province (Gurvantes, Servei, Noyon, Bayandalai, Bulgan), who were affected by dzud and steppe fire disasters in 2004. The working team has provided psychological support to the disaster affected herder families. This mission has been organized for the second time this year and has been highly appreciated by the target groups. Next year, Umnugobi Red Cross branch will handle this activity in their own capacity.

Goal: Disaster preparedness in the community is better enhanced to mitigate the impact of disasters, by increasing awareness and advocacy of the general public as well as mobilizing local resources for responding to emergencies.

Objective: To reduce vulnerability in times of disaster by strengthening the capacity of the MRCS, as well as improve integration with local and international organizations within the framework of the disaster preparedness programme and other core activities.

Progress/achievements:

Expected programme result 1: Responses and operational capacity of six established regional DP centres and one national DP centre in Ulaanbaatar have increased.

A quarterly review meeting of the regional DP centres has been conducted on 14 December at the Darkhan-Uul *aimag* Red Cross branch. The review meeting was organized with the purpose to improve the performance of the regional DP centres, to encourage the exchange of experiences and lessons learnt among the centres and to also coach the newly recruited DP centre managers. The regional DP centres provided an update on activities, while participants discussed activities to be conducted in the first quarter of 2006 and also the possible cooperation with local governmental and non-governmental organizations and agencies. During the meeting, participants were introduced to Darkhan-Uul Red Cross activities, such as one of the branch's income generation initiative through the bakery and its DP relief stock management.

Expected programme result 2: MRCS branch capacity has strengthened in disaster management.

Expected programme result 3: The capacity of the MRCS team trained in first aid has increased and there is greater public awareness of fire prevention and flood hazards due to publicity surrounding first aid team competitions.

Training on disaster management for 30 volunteers in Bulgan *aimag* and volunteers of 15 *soums* of Sukhbaatar *aimag* has been conducted at local mid-level Red Cross branches. Sukhbaatar *aimag* was selected because of the frequent occurrence of steppe fires. There has not been DP training in this *aimag* since the last one in 1999. The training also focused on effective coordination and cooperation of volunteers with local government organizations, especially the local branch of the National Disaster Management Agency. The content of the training was adjusted according to the special local context of the areas hosting the training. The Red Cross primary branch's active volunteers, who are local school social workers, doctors, power station staff and emergency unit staff, have attended the participatory trainings in Sukhbaatar and Bulgan *aimags*. Training programmes initiated a DP advocacy campaign and increased local herders' DP awareness by distributing promotion materials.

Further disaster management training for 30 volunteers of Khovd *aimag* and volunteers of Ulaanbaatar city's Bayanzurkh district Red Cross branch were conducted with cooperation from National Emergency Management agency staff. Volunteers of three *soums* of Khovd *aimag* (Bulgan, Uench and Altai) have been involved in the DP training on 13-14 October 2005, while the training of Bayanzurkh district Red Cross branch was conducted from 20-21 September 2005.

Training of first aid team leaders has been organized for 25 Chingeltei district Red Cross branch volunteers and 30 volunteers of Uvs *aimag*. Chingeltei district Red Cross branch in particular has a good performance record, as it collaborates with its district's emergency unit department by contract and regularly organizes trainings and competitions for first aid team members to provide them with practice opportunities. Topics in the training included the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the structure and activities of the MRCS. The training also covered disaster management, the role of volunteers in mitigating the disaster's impact, duties and responsibilities of volunteers prior to and after disaster strikes, knowledge about first aid, as well as ways to advocate and disseminate disaster impact to the general public.

Expected result 4: The impact of disasters has been mitigated as a result of increased public awareness in disaster preparedness.

The promotion material aimed to motivate Red Cross youth members in their humanitarian work increases their DP awareness towards the dangers of forest and steppe fires. The material, which contains information on methods of fire prevention, reduction of fire damages and advice on providing first aid to a person injured or burned by fire, has been printed and distributed throughout 38 branches of the MRCS. In addition, 9000 DP reminding leaflets in four different varieties have been printed and distributed to mid-level branches.

Expected result 5: Awareness/knowledge among MRCS volunteers and the general public about earthquakes, especially in Ulaanbaatar, has increased.

Within the framework of an Australian bilateral project, an interagency consultation on earthquakes has been organized in Ulaanbaatar city from 14 to 15 September, with international participation as well as in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Agency. This consultation aimed to raise the awareness of organizations on Ulaanbaatar's risk to major disasters and improve collaboration with other organizations. Over 51 people participated in the consultancy, where 11 experts from professional state agencies, the Japanese Red Cross Society, Asian Disaster Reduction Centre and Chinese Red Cross Society made presentations on:

- health assistance,
- disaster prevention,
- the development of seismological observation in Mongolia,
- research and assessment of possible earthquakes in Ulaanbaatar,
- the need to improve construction projects,
- earthquake disaster response in Ulaanbaatar,
- areas of seismic risk (such as in big cities),
- the role of state disaster prevention/disaster management agencies and
- coordination of their actions during earthquakes.

Recommendations from the meeting will be shared with participants and appropriate follow up within the governmental agencies will be conducted. The MRCS is due to release booklet with consultation's recommendations and all presentations.

Impact

The disaster management capacity of those local branches has been strengthened in the disaster management trainings as volunteers, including some first aid team leaders, learnt many related skills. The primary-level branch volunteers increased their knowledge on DP management and renewed contact between Red Cross branches. Volunteer local networks have developed and working locations have been identified. Capacity in the regional disaster preparedness centres has also improved because of the progressive work of responsible managers, who have become much more experienced and skilful from the exchanges of experience and lessons learnt among the Centres.

The impact of MRCS activities is demonstrated to and shared with other stakeholders. The conference's recommendations and outcomes will be shared with other stakeholders. The promotion material has increased DP awareness and education on the prevention of and from fires among the Red Cross youth and junior Red Cross members. Increased public awareness has mitigated the occurrence of fire and its potential damage.

Humanitarian values

Goal: People's behavior changed, with an increased mutual understanding and respect for human dignity through the promotion of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.

Objective: To increase the capacity of the MRCS in promoting awareness, understanding and acceptance of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.

Progress/achievements:

Expected programme result 1: Awareness and knowledge of the Red Cross Movement and Mongolian Red Cross Society activities have increased.

Through a one-year contract, the MRCS has permission to place information on the Red Cross Movement and MRCS activities on five advertisement boards (300x400 sqm) in the Ulaanbaatar city centre. The information board will be updated with information on MRCS special occasions, events and news.

Expected programme result 2: Better understanding and increased cooperation with the media.

Expected programme result 3: The local media at the aimag level has an enhanced awareness of humanitarian values and middle-level Red Cross branch activities.

Please see information on the “Journalists against HIV/AIDS” media campaign in the HIV/AIDS section under Health and Care. Various partnerships and media campaigns under the different programmes above have also enhanced relationships and exposed the media to MRCS and Red Cross and Red Crescent activities.

Expected programme result 4: Updated and more precise information about the Red Cross Movement has been delivered to the public.

Two-day introduction training on the updated teaching file and CD has been conducted for 15 middle-level branch instructors, who received the updated teaching file at the end of the training.

Expected programme result 5: Awareness of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement among the junior/youth population has increased.

On December 23, in conjunction of the Mongolian Youth Red Cross Day celebrations, the MRCS organized its fifth youth assembly involving all Red Cross branches. The significance of the youth assembly, carried out once in four years, is its function to evaluate youth activities of the past four years, identify future priorities and involve youth and volunteers in decision-making. The celebration was broadcasted through several forms of media.

The MRCS information dissemination programme played an active role in facilitating the cross-border train campaign ‘Stop AIDS...keep the promise’ described in detail within this report’s section covering the HIV/AIDS project.

Impact:

Awareness and knowledge of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Mongolian Red Cross Society activities have increased. Capacity of mid-level branches to disseminate Red Cross activities has enhanced. Number of junior/youth active members has increased. As a result of activities conducted this reporting period, various school and university management has expressed an interest interested to send students to participate in MRCS activities. Awareness on the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement among the junior/youth population has also increased.

Organizational development

Goal: The national society is well functioning through the improvement of the society’s capacity and quality of service to vulnerable people.

Objective: To increase the MRCS’ financial and human resource capacity to implement sustainable programmes through branches.

Progress/achievements:

Expected programme result 1: The human resource capacity of primary- and mid-level MRCS branches has increased.

With support from the Federation Asia Pacific organizational development (OD) coordinator, the human resource consultant has been working in MRCS for a month. The human resource working team consists of MRCS OD programme managers, a local management academy’s human resource consultant and the Federation human resource consultant. The team has been working on a human resource policy revision, human resource development recommendations and human resource management plan for the MRCS to be implemented in 2006. Within the framework of policy development mission, human resource training has been conducted for all programme managers and Red Cross branch secretaries.

Expected programme result 2: Volunteer management and programme implementation improved.

A monitoring visit carried out this reporting period aimed to review capacity building project implementation and provide technical support for Sukhbaatar, Khentii and Selenge *aimags* Red Cross branches. Red Cross branch

secretaries in these branches have been appointed this year; therefore, the monitoring team, made up of the programme coordinator and capacity building programme manager, supported them with technical advices on project implementation and current challenges.

Expected programme result 3: Life skills training has been provided to the most vulnerable group of people to improve their livelihood.

Please refer to [Programme Update no.2](#) for achievements under this expected result.

Expected programme result 4: The functioning and efficiency of the governance and management at all levels increased.

The MRCS Fifth National Conference entitled “improving financial management of mid-level branches” was organized on 23-25 September in Orkhon *aimag*. Over 150 people including the president of MRCS, governing board members, the head of the Federation delegation, Federation delegates and consultants, representatives from the national society headquarters and branches from all levels as well as volunteers participated in the conference. Two priority issues have been raised during the conference: the need to enhance cooperation with the government and improve the financial capacity of mid-level branches. The conference identified major priorities for the MRCS and developed strategic guidelines for implementation, and the recommendations of the conference have been adopted.

Expected programme result 5: Knowledge on income generation activities has been enhanced.

The resource mobilization consultant has joined the MRCS OD team for one month to support and improve the management of income generation and fundraising activities. The working team has been established to discuss financial capacity of mid-level branches and headquarters as well as resource mobilization issues. The working team conducted training for programme managers and secretaries on the above mentioned issues. Recommendations and next year’s working plan have been developed.

A handbook on fundraising and income generation activities has been published and distributed to the middle-level branches. A financial management training was conducted during the reporting period for three days. The guideline on fundraising and income generation was introduced during the training. The training was conducted at the headquarters level, involving headquarters staff, branch secretaries and accountants. It was the first step towards implementing the recommendations developed by human resource and resource mobilization consultants, who have supported the MRCS from through the Federation

Expected programme result 6: Knowledge on the Red Cross Movement among the Red Cross youth/junior members has been enhanced.

Various activities conducted across all programmes have served to increase Red Cross youth and junior members’ knowledge of the Movement. For examples, please refer to the youth assembly and media broadcasts on Mongolian Youth Red Cross Day (Humanitarian Values section), disaster preparedness promotional material (Disaster Management section), youth blood donor club-25 activities (Health and Care section).

Impact

The participants of the national conference have recognized the importance of being active in enhancing governmental cooperation with the MRCS and the need for financial support from government. The recommendations and strategic guidelines on taking immediate action to improve financial management of the MRCS have been further developed.

At the initiative of the MRCS and support of Federation Asia Pacific OD coordinator, the MRCS human resource policy was revised and adopted by the governing board of national society. The adoption of the new human resource policy and headquarters organizational structure is a significant step forward as it was reformed based on the challenges in human resource management of staff and volunteers and turn-over issues faced by the MRCS. The policy, based on recommendations of the human resource working team, further defines future priorities and advocates for solutions to overcome challenges through efficient human resource management and organizational structure.

The guideline, in turn, will be beneficial for MRCS in developing effective business and financial management for successful project implementation as well as Red Cross regulations. Based on the recommendations of the financial review by British Red Cross, the national conference and recommendations by the human resource and resource management consultants, the MRCS has taken its first steps in reforming management systems at all levels. Within the MRCS headquarters organizational structure reform, there the decision has been made to establish a new marketing department.

Established in previous reporting periods, the heating system and volunteer training room within the capacity building project in Sukhbaatar and Khentii Red Cross branches has been maintained. Consequently, it has been observed that the number of volunteers has doubled by more than 60 people, while 30 elderly beneficiaries have been able to continue receiving home care services despite colder weather. This year, the Selenge provincial Red Cross branch has recently joined the project, and with the opportunity to renovate their heating system, they are now able to carry out their activities progressively.

Implementation and management

Goal: Support of international stakeholders for the initiatives of the Red Cross in Mongolia that benefit targeted vulnerable groups increased.

Objective: The national society's priorities are better understood by stakeholders, especially by the international media, UN organizations, local and international NGOs and diplomats based in Mongolia and Beijing.

From 5 July to 2 December 2005, an additional logistics delegate responsible for the hay preparation project joined the country delegation. The Federation logistics delegate and MRCS programme manager joined the logistics training in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia held on 5-11 December 2005.

A meeting on the 2006-2007 appeal process throughout East Asia was held at the Beijing regional office, which the Mongolia head of delegation took part in. This reporting period, the head of regional delegation visited Mongolia for a year-end review and to discuss initiatives for the Federation [Mongolia Appeal 2006-2007](#). It was also an opportunity to assess the hay project and DP centre activities. The regional officer from the Geneva secretariat also visited the country to review and discuss the ongoing ECHO project and appeal 2006-2007.

For more detailed and general information, please refer to [Programme Update no.2](#).

Delegates visiting the MRCS

The regional programme manager of the Netherlands Red Cross conducted training on project planning and management for programme managers and secretaries of branches during 16-21 October 2005. Representatives from Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) had participated in the workshop.

The head of the East Asia delegation of the Federation paid a visit to MRCS from 28 November to 4 December. The purpose of the visit was to monitor the hay project and DP centre activities. The third secretary delegation of ECHO visited Mongolia during 1-30 September 2005 for a monitoring mission of supported projects implemented by MRCS in the country. Various delegates visited Mongolia to attend the interagency consultation with on earthquakes held in Ulaanbaatar.

The head of delegation responsible for armed forces training from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited the MRCS to facilitate a refreshing training-of-trainers on laws of armed conflicts (LOAC) from 19-23 September. The refresher training has covered 25 LOAC trainers from the units of the General Staff of Mongolian Armed Forces (GSMAF) and the National Academy of Defense.

From 8 to 17 November, 2005 the "cooperation assessment and planning mission" evaluation has been made by ICRC. The assessment and planning mission has been carried out with the national societies concerned in close collaboration with the Federation Beijing regional delegation and their individual country structures, to ensure the overall approach to organizational development (as established by the Federation) is respected.

An international humanitarian law (IHL) seminar for secretaries and instructors has taken place on 11 November 2005, covering nine district Red Cross branches of Ulaanbaatar city and the Selenge, Tuv, Orkhon Darkhan province Red Cross branch secretaries and IHL instructors. The information dissemination delegate of the ICRC, Beijing has given speech on the main understandings of IHL. The seminar was the first IHL-specified seminar for instructors and secretaries since 2002.

Participation of the MRCS in meetings and conferences

From September 1, the foreign relations officer of the MRCS started working as staff-on-loan for the regional delegation office of the Netherlands Red Cross in Beijing for one year.

Five delegates from MRCS, headed by the under-secretary-general (other delegates are Zavkhan province Red Cross branch secretary, MRCS officer of the international department, Gobi Altai province Red Cross branch secretary and Red Cross council secretary) paid a working visit to the RCSC through the invitation of the RCSC vice-president. An experience-sharing visit was vital for both national societies, in terms of boosting already established relationships between national society core programmes and initiating new cooperation between branches.

A delegation of four people headed by the MRCS president, including the foreign relations department officer participated in the 15th General Assembly of the Federation and Council of Delegates meeting held in Seoul on 10-18 November 2005.

The HIV/AIDS programme manager and officer has participated in the Australian Red Cross supported AIDS Programme (ARCAIDS) meeting held in Luang Prabang, Laos from 7 to 10 December.

An officer from the international department, together with a senior researcher of the ministry of education and the researcher of the ministry of education, has taken part in the Asia Pacific regional Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) Seminar in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 10 to 15 October 2005.

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

APPEAL No. 05AA060

PLEDGES RECEIVED

28/12/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,046,981	TOTAL COVERAGE 119.6%	
OPENING BALANCE				266,488		
BRITISH - RC		3,960	GBP	9,053	08.12.04	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BRITISH - RC				22,436	06.05.05	CO-ORDINATION & MANAGEMENT SOCIAL WELFARE PROG.
BRITISH - RC		7,800	GBP	17,675	16.09.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				61,884	18.01.05	INSTITUTIONAL & RESOURCE DEV.
CHINESE - GOVT		40,000	USD	49,828	23.06.05	
ECHO (01003)		200,000	EUR	307,500	30.03.05	COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY REDUCTION-HAY PREPARATION
ICELANDIC - RC		2,196,181	ISK	39,751	15.02.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, IRD
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		78,000	EUR	120,081	16.03.05	
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		24,300	EUR	37,361	30.05.05	HOD
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1,500,000	NOK	283,500	19.04.05	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,215,557	CHF	116.1%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATE(S)			36,800		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				36,800	CHF	3.5%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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