

# 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 والقمر الأحمر

## EAST ASIA

14 October 2005

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

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### In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA061; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: April-August 2005; Appeal coverage: 52.9%; Outstanding needs: CHF 654,967 (USD 508,752 or EUR 422,778).

*(click here to go to the attached Contributions List) (click here for live contributions list available on the website).*

Appeal target: CHF 1,390,588 (USD 1,158,340 or EUR 909,178 )

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

[China Floods Appeal 05EA017](#)  
[China Annual Appeal 05AA058](#),  
[DPRK Annual Appeal 04AA059](#),  
[Mongolia Annual Appeal 05AA060](#)

**Programme summary:** Extensive floods and typhoons have struck many parts of the region during this reporting period, and have hit China particularly badly. National societies in the affected countries – China, Japan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Republic of Korea (ROK) – have been occupied with flood response activities. The Federation has supported them with an emergency appeal for China and minor emergency appeal for DPRK. Other key events on the political front in East Asia have, this reporting period, been the six-party talks in connection with the DPRK nuclear issue, the rapprochement between DPRK and ROK, as well as the presidential elections in Mongolia. Issues linked to the upcoming Federation General Assembly in Seoul, November 2005, is also a priority for the regional delegation in Beijing.

Most programmes have made good progress with the exception of constraints in the humanitarian values programme this reporting period because of the regional information delegate's end of mission and difficulties to identify a suitable replacement. The regional delegation supported several pan-regional, regional and cross-border initiatives related to HIV/AIDS, particularly the Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent HIV/AIDS Network meeting and a China-Mongolia train campaign. Changes in priorities for national societies in China, DPRK, Mongolia because of needs created by a series of natural disasters this year, the introduction of new projects and the outcomes of in-country reviews have driven the disaster management programme this reporting period. A meeting of East Asian national society leaders in early July allowed them to share and highlight priorities of each national society. Common themes surfaced during the discussions, most interestingly the emergence of new vulnerabilities and challenges in nearly every country in the region related to rural-urban inequality, internal migration, rising health costs and risks and the need to attract youth members. All societies acknowledged the need to scale up their response to address these issues. The Manila Action Plan was also discussed and good progress reported, particular in the area of HIV/AIDS.

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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**

Extensive floods and typhoons have struck many parts of the region during this reporting period, and have hit China particularly badly. National societies in the affected countries – China, Japan, DPRK and ROK – have been occupied with flood response activities as the disasters left millions of people homeless. According to recently released statistics, the government of China has so far organized the evacuation of up to 13 million people these past few months. Extensive needs for relief in the wake of floods has led the Federation to support the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) with an emergency appeal and the DPRK Red Cross with a minor emergency appeal. When typhoons hit the shores of Japan and ROK, both national societies carried out prompt emergency operations to distribute relief supplies to families in the affected areas.

Key events on the political front in East Asia have, this reporting period, been the six-party talks in connection with the DPRK nuclear issue, the rapprochement between DPRK and ROK, as well as the presidential elections in Mongolia.

The DPRK six-party nuclear talks resumed in Beijing in July after a break of almost a year. At first, these talks did not produce any breakthrough in spite of lasting over two weeks, but after an adjournment of several weeks for further consultations in capitals, a joint statement was agreed in September. The parties unanimously agreed on the goal to establish a verifiable denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Furthermore, the DPRK government committed itself to abandoning all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes and returning to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. The United States for its part confirmed that it has no intention to attack or invade the DPRK with nuclear or conventional weapons. All parties agreed to promote economic cooperation and the five other countries stated their willingness to provide energy assistance to the DPRK. The agreement is to be implemented in a phased manner, and a fifth round of talks will be held in Beijing in early November.

Prior to the continuation of the six-party talks, there had been a marked improvement in relations between DPRK and the Republic of Korea. A large ROK government delegation visited Pyongyang in June to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the historic meeting of the two countries' presidents, at which a reunification declaration was signed. In addition to the resumption of six-party talks, agreement was also reached on restarting the family reunion programme and the search for missing victims from the war, as well as on the supply of further food and fertiliser from the South. These agreements are likely to set the tone for further measures to strengthen cooperation and aid-related ties between the two countries in the coming months. Following straight on from these governmental discussions, the national societies of both countries organized their own meetings (see section on Coordination and Cooperation for details).

In Mongolia, the candidate of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party was elected in presidential elections in May and has led to policies intended to assist certain vulnerable groups. The minimum wage has increased, and child allowances are being provided to low-income families with fewer limitations. The government has, however, expressed increasing concerns over health issues – avian influenza, foot and mouth disease and HIV notably. This highlights the importance of Mongolian Red Cross core programmes, supported by the Federation and other Movement partners, which address some these issues.

### **1. Health and care**

The period April to August 2005 saw many developments in the East Asia region. Epidemiologically, HIV has increased, surpassing 10,000 diagnoses in Japan and almost doubling from six cases in April to eleven in June over the course of six weeks in Mongolia, (China has not updated its epidemic statistics since 2003, but is expected to announce new numbers on World AIDS Day on 1 December 2005). Both Japanese and DPRK Red Cross attended the 17th Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent HIV/AIDS Network (ART) meeting as observers and expressed a desire to join the ART in the near future. Japan also offered to host the 18th meeting in 2006. Participation in ART portends a new level of Red Cross interest in domestic HIV/AIDS prevention and care in the two countries that have not, to date, been actively involved.

In addition to hosting the 17th ART meeting in July, the Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) hosted the East Asia partnership meeting in May and held a country-wide training for media on HIV/AIDS in June. In April, the Australian Red Cross with the Federation conducted a review of the programmes that they fund and made recommendations for future programming.

Through memoranda of understanding, the MRCS began to formalize its collaboration with and support of local NGOs for people living with HIV/AIDS (*Positive Life*) and men who have sex with men (*Youth for Health*). Along with the Cambodian Red Cross Society, the MRCS has also accepted to be part of the ART project to address stigma and discrimination in the health care setting. These are tripartite collaborations, with MRCS working closely with both the Federation and Australian Red Cross. Funding for the counselling part of this project is limited, so Australian Red Cross and Federation are supporting MRCS with financial and technical assistance. Following this, a voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) training will be held in November 2005. MRCS is continuing its work in the Manit men's prison and youth peer education, with support from both Federation and the Australian Red Cross.

The Red Cross Society of China and MRCS have agreed to hold a cross-border campaign to educate train passengers around 1 December to commemorate World AIDS Day. Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) sent a trainee delegate to the East Asia delegation for six months. The delegate helped with the logistics of Red Cross and Red Crescent participation in the International Congress on HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) held in Kobe Japan as well as contributed to programme planning and monitoring in both China and Mongolia.

**Overall goal: National societies in the East Asia region will contribute to the prevention/care of HIV/AIDS.**

**Programme objective: The national societies and the communities they serve will have improved awareness of HIV/AIDS and knowledge of transmission and prevention.**

### **Progress/Achievements**

*Expected result 1: Train passengers Beijing-Ulaanbaatar understand HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention.*

The train campaign will be held around World AIDS Day, 1 December 2005. In this first MRCS-RCSC cooperative cross-border event, MRCS volunteers will travel from Ulaanbaatar to Erenhot (Ereen in the Mongolian language), while RCSC volunteers travel from Hohhot (Inner Mongolia) and meet the volunteers from MRCS in Erenhot. The two national societies will hold a joint event in Erenhot, then repeat their on-train activities on the return trips.

*Expected result 2: Staff of DPRK RC has increased their participation in regional networks to exchange experiences and demonstrate an understanding of effective educational methodologies through their design of new programmes.*

As the DPRK RC and the government of the country give greater attention to prevention education before the first domestic case of HIV is diagnosed, other sources of funding have been used to educate household doctors. At the same time, DPRK RC has expressed interest in joining the ART. This expected result has therefore been modified to reflect the national society's new attention in learning about HIV/AIDS initiatives through regional networks.

In anticipation of this, DRPK RC attended and actively participated in the 17th ART meeting held in Ulaanbaatar on July 2005. In addition, the delegates observed HIV/AIDS and other activities of the Jilin provincial branch of RCSC. While directly addressing HIV/AIDS remains very sensitive in DPRK, the Red Cross recognizes the need to initiate effective education and is seeking ways to do so in an appropriate way.

*Expected result 3: Public awareness of HIV/AIDS in China, Mongolia, and DPRK increased.*

This result is intended to reflect World AIDS Day events and will be reported in the final programme update.

*Expected result 4: Mongolian and Kazakh-speaking people in Mongolia and China improve understanding of HIV/AIDS prevention.*

The MRCS and the Xinjiang branch of RCSC have jointly designed an educational pamphlet for Kazakh-speaking people. Kazakhs are a large and mobile minority in both Mongolia and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China, but neither country provides educational materials that address their specific linguistic and cultural needs. As the writing systems in Mongolia and Xinjiang are different from each other, the pamphlet will be bilingual (Mongolian Kazakh use the Cyrillic alphabet while Chinese Kazakhs use Arabic). The pamphlet is being pre-tested in September and will be ready to print in October. It will be distributed by the local Red Cross chapters in both Xinjiang and Mongolia.

Also in October, the Xinjiang branch, MRCS and the Federation delegate will travel to the main border crossing between Mongolia and Xinjiang to assess the possibility for further education. One idea is to negotiate with Kazakh-language radio broadcasters in Xinjiang to add HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and anti-stigma messages. Some Kazakhs in Mongolia have reported listening to radio broadcasts from China.

*Expected result 5: National societies in East Asia continue to improve domestic HIV/AIDS prevention activities.*

Japanese RC does not yet have a well-developed domestic HIV/AIDS prevention programme but are beginning to express interest, especially through the international medical relief department of JRCS. Representatives of the International Medical Relief Centre (IMRC) attended the 17th ART meeting in Ulaanbaatar and made a presentation on their treatment and care activities. It was with the expectation that JRCS would increase their activities that they sent a trainee delegate to the regional delegation for six months (April –September). During her time in the delegation, the delegate made a trip back to Tokyo to support the Tokyo branch in planning peer education for students.

The MRCS programme in the Manit prison for men is well under way. Peer educators who are inmates themselves have designed creative techniques, such as theatre drama, to both entertain and educate their fellow prisoners. While the programme now focuses almost exclusively on HIV/AIDS prevention, inmates have many other unhealthy sex-related practices that could be addressed as the programme develops. As inmates at Manit are usually sentenced for 20 plus years, it will be important to continue to motivate them through innovative methods.

## 2. Disaster Management

**Overall Goal: National societies in East Asia and the Federation are better prepared for disasters and are improving the ability of communities at risk to cope with disasters.**

**Programme Objective: Existing systems are refined and new and innovative ways of working are introduced ensuring that both the national societies and the Federation have improved capacities to respond to disasters.**

**Expected result 1:** New and innovative approaches have been developed in cooperation with national societies in the region.

**Expected result 2:** Vulnerability is reduced.

**Expected result 3:** Ability of national societies in the region to respond to disasters has improved.

### Progress/Achievements

Changes in priorities for national societies in China, DPRK, Mongolia because of needs created by a series of natural disasters this year, the introduction of new projects such as the hay-project in Mongolia, and the outcomes of in-country reviews such as the review conducted in DPRK have all led to a shift in focus in the region's disaster management programme from that which was originally envisioned at the beginning of the year. Thus the Federation's regional delegation has adopted a flexible approach in addressing key needs in the area of disaster management that have evolved since the beginning of 2005.

The regional approach to disaster management will no doubt be further influenced by the final action taken by the Federation in response to the global disaster management review completed in May, which proposes significant structural changes to the Federation as to where coordination responsibilities lie in response to emergencies, articulating a need for a more cohesive regional disaster management structure and network of resources.

In order to take forward the recommendations from this review, the Federation's head of regional delegation, and representatives the Chinese, Hong Kong, Japanese and ROK Red Cross all attended a disaster management meeting in Kuala Lumpur from 31 August to 2 September with representatives from other national societies and regional delegations as well as the Federation Secretariat. The meeting's purpose was to form a comprehensive disaster management vision/concept for the Asia Pacific region as a whole, including the role of a new Asia Pacific disaster management centre and its link and support to regional/country delegations and national societies. The outcome of the meeting has been positive, with a strong, collective vision formed as well a clear terms of reference for developing the new disaster management centre. All parties involved committed to take the momentum of the meeting forward and continue building stronger support, understanding and cooperation to

service disaster affected communities in the Asia Pacific region better. It is clear that these proceedings will have an impact on the regional delegation's future role in disaster management.

Meanwhile, reorganization at the RCSC resulted in the introduction of new staff into the society's relief division at the start of what continues to be a severe and highly destructive rainy season. Floods and typhoons have hit 27 provinces in China, and 1,630 people are reported dead. Total reported economic losses in the country now stand at RMB 163 billion (CHF 26 billion). Since the season began, the Federation's regional disaster management officer has maintained a highly productive relationship with RCSC's relief division. The Federation delegation works together with RCSC to conduct assessments, identify needs and develop response activities that not only address immediate needs but consider longer-term objectives to improve the national society's quality in procuring and managing disaster preparedness stocks. In support of RCSC, the Federation released CHF 200,000 from its Disaster Emergency Relief Fund and launched a CHF 5.5 million emergency appeal to support 400,000 beneficiaries in five most vulnerable provinces (for more details please see the [China Floods Emergency Appeal](#)). When destructive floods struck Hunan province in July, Federation delegates present in the country attached to the Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO)-supported community vulnerability (CVR) reduction project (see [China Programme Update no.2](#) for further information) also supported RCSC colleagues with initial assessments and reporting, stepping out of their official roles to work with the RCSC in producing an article for the Federation's website that focuses on Hunan provincial branch's relief activities. At the same time, the Federation's regional delegation continues to support the RCSC/Federation CVR project team by providing technical assistance and support with project planning and reviews.

The Mongolian Red Cross, with support from the Australian Red Cross, is engaged in a long-term disaster management capacity building project that focuses on reinforcing the society's primary regional-based disaster preparedness centres. With a grant awarded to the Federation by ECHO in May, the society seeks to further introduce community vulnerability reduction activities tailored to the Mongolian context. The project engages vulnerable communities in reaping, baling and storing hay in the society's disaster preparedness centres to prepare for the coming winter. As frosts striking the country continue to worsen and the once rare dzuds are evolving into regular occurrences, the MRCS is working towards developing a sustainable level of preparedness. In Mongolia, where human catastrophe is triggered by lack of food for the animals the herding communities depend on, this means ensuring adequate stocks of hay for herders. If livestock can be sustained throughout the winter, then herders will be able to sustain their families. Loss of these herds to natural disasters will only contribute to growing urban poverty caused by rural to urban migration as herders attempt to seek alternative livelihoods elsewhere. For this project, the regional delegation has supported the MRCS and the Federation's country delegation with procurement and other logistic-related activities

DPRK Red Cross has been implementing community-based disaster preparedness activities with support from the British Red Cross and DFID over the past few years. A strategic review conducted in May by an external team, with representatives from the Federation and the British and Danish Red Cross, resulted in recommendations for the DPRK Red Cross disaster management programme's future. The Federation regional delegation will work with the country delegation and the DPRK Red Cross in October to move ahead and incorporate suggestions from the review into the society's disaster management programme. According to the review, there have been good capacity building and interagency collaboration efforts with the national society, while there has been measurable success in emergency response and community-based disaster preparedness. The review also recommended improvements in management and planning issues. Depending on the outcome of the DPRK government's plan to halt external humanitarian aid and restrict the presence of international staff in the country, the regional delegation's involvement in national society disaster management activities will certainly evolve in the coming months.

### **3. Humanitarian Values**

**Overall Goal: The Red Cross is seen as a primary, credible source of information on humanitarian issues and disasters in the East Asia region. The awareness and application of humanitarian values is enhanced across the region.**

**Objective: The degree of visibility, co-operation and support for the Red Cross in East Asia, through communications and advocacy, has increased.**

*Expected result 1: There is regular coverage of Red Cross action and concerns by national, international and Movement media.*

*Expected result 2: All national societies in the region have increased the capacity of their information department.*

*Expected result 3: Partner national societies are supported in promoting awareness of their programmes.*

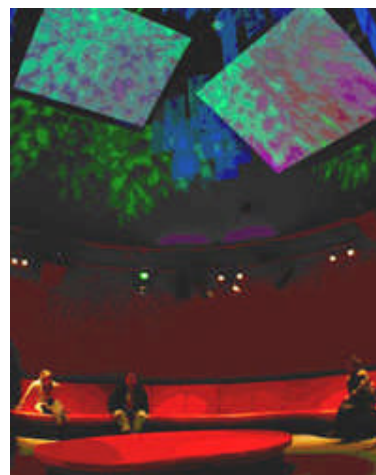
*Expected result 4: Allies and partners have been identified in the region as well as within the Movement.*

A critical gap in the humanitarian values programme has emerged with the very experienced regional information delegate's end of mission in April this year, as a replacement to fill his position has yet to be found. A short reprieve however came when the delegate returned for three weeks in July/August to cover the summer flood season in China. The delegate visited flood-affected areas in Hunan, both to examine the extent of this year's floods and follow up on families affected by floods the previous year. The final output was a poignant web story and video footage, which carried the underlying message that more often than not, it is the same families who suffer from the devastating effects of floods year after year. Solutions and assistance must therefore look beyond short-term response and towards longer-term measures. While relief is critical, it is not enough as the poor become poorer with every disaster.

During this mission, the delegate also prepared a DVD on the China community vulnerability reduction programme, based on film footage made available by a Finnish television company that the delegation had supported to visit the CVR programme earlier in the year. The DVD will be added to an already available information pack that contains leaflets that carry stories and information on the various aspects of the CVR programme, providing readers with deeper perspectives and analysis of programme's impact, while promoting the work of the Red Cross and its partners. This information pack has already been distributed to ECHO (the main donor of the CVR programme), partner national societies, donor country embassies and international organizations in Beijing.

Other members of the regional delegation and CVR team in China turned information focal persons intermittently throughout this reporting period, producing quality web stories and photographs for the Federation website to fill the absence. This has been especially crucial during the China rainy season, when regular hard-hitting occurrences of floods, typhoons and other disasters would have otherwise lacked information support.

One major promotional initiative that is taking place in the region is the International Red Cross and Red Crescent pavilion that the Japanese Red Cross Society has established on behalf of the Movement at an international expo running from April to September at Aichi in central Japan. This pavilion has a very innovative "mind theatre" displaying the work of national societies, the ICRC and the Federation around the world, and was visited by the head of regional delegation in early June as part of a mission to JRCS. The pavilion also contains a gallery zone, which contains photos illustrating the history and activities of the Movement, as well as video messages from personalities; and a message zone in which visitors' messages are posted on the wall and uploaded to a computer so that they can be shared with others. Last year, the Federation's former regional information delegate had been part of an initial advisory group when the concept for this pavilion was first elaborated. By now, the pavilion, which has been entirely financed by JRCS, has attracted many hundreds of thousands of visitors and media coverage and is consistently voted as one of the top two or three most popular venues in the entire expo.



*In the pavilion's mind theatre, visitors watch a short film about how the Red Cross and Red Crescent assist vulnerable people during conflicts and natural disasters*

### **Constraints**

The lack of a regional information delegate this reporting period has severely constrained programme activities. The regional delegation is actively seeking the appointment of a new information focal person.

## **Cooperation, Coordination and Strategic Partnerships**

**Overall Goal: The Federation is a widely known and respected partner in the humanitarian field in East Asia.**

**Programme Objective: Strong coordinated and diversified partnerships with long-term stakeholders have led to sustainable and cost-effective national society programmes targeted at those most in need of assistance.**

*Expected result 1: Quality of international assistance delivered to national societies in the region has been enhanced.*

The main event designed to promote stronger and well coordinated assistance to national societies in the region was the holding of the regional partnership meeting in Mongolia from 10 to 14 May. This was attended by 46 participants from 13 national societies, the ICRC and the Federation. The main purpose of the meeting was to provide a forum for national societies of East Asia and their Movement partners to reflect on the effectiveness and scope of developed programmes in addressing key vulnerabilities over the past two to three years and to agree on best ways for working together to make further improvements in the years ahead. Discussions at the meeting were very open and allowed a good exchange of views and opinions. Generic issues that were discussed included a review by the Federation of the lessons gained so far in implementing cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) processes in different parts of the world. The perspectives of donor societies of their recent experiences in mobilizing funds from governments and the general public, especially for development-oriented programmes, were also discussed.

In order to give a broader perspective to the meeting, there was a presentation and panel discussion on the overall humanitarian context in Mongolia, which involved a number of speakers from the Population Research Centre at the Mongolian National University, the Mongolian Ministry of Social Welfare, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the representative of the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency. This allowed participants to get a better understanding of the background in which the various MRCS programmes such as health, social welfare, disaster management and HIV/AIDS operate. A presentation on the current status of these programmes was made by the MRCS leadership, and during the course of the meeting, a number of side meetings were held in which partners could discuss in more detail with MRCS programme managers aspects of the programmes they were supporting.

A considerable amount of time was spent reviewing the outcomes of the strategic review of the DPRK RC programmes that had just been completed. The four-member review team, including a senior DPRK RC manager, gave a presentation of their findings. The team also set out draft recommendations on taking forward the current portfolio of large-scale programmes, and matched these to a longer-term strategy to support the society to provide sustainable humanitarian services to its country's people. A considerable amount of attention was also given to discussing the issue of monitoring the distribution of humanitarian assistance, taking into account the recent policy statements of the DPRK authorities and the need to provide adequate assurances to donors. It was agreed that, based on the discussions and the various points of view put forward, the Federation would develop a new policy paper on how it would manage monitoring activities in the future (this was subsequently done and distributed to all partners).

The key issues highlighted by the RCSC to its partners were the steps being taken to implement the five-year development plan adopted at the end of last year and its new draft HIV/AIDS strategy. There was considerable interest in the latter. A special side meeting was organized to discuss this further, and it was agreed that partners should provide written feedback to the society in the coming weeks so that this could be finalized. One final innovative aspect of this meeting was that the last part was held at a rural location outside Ulaanbaatar so that participants could appreciate the beauty but also the tough living conditions of the population in the countryside.

This period also saw an active programme of visits to the region by representatives of bilateral partner national societies covering China, DPRK and Mongolia. In total, there were twelve short-term missions visiting the regional delegation, and such visits provided useful opportunities to gather updated information and share experiences amongst and between the various partners. Also during this time, the American Red Cross set up its new office in China based within the delegation, and there were change-overs of long-term bilateral delegates from Australia and Switzerland.

One other important development was the signing in July of an agreement between the Chinese government and the ICRC on the establishment of the ICRC regional delegation for East Asia in Beijing. Negotiations on this topic had been underway for some years, but good progress had been achieved in the previous 12 months, allowing for the successful conclusion of the talks in the summer. There already exist good relations between the ICRC and Federation in the region, with each having a clear and specific number of distinct activities. The opening of the ICRC delegation should allow for further closer cooperation and more interaction with the societies of the region.

*Expected result 2: Strategic dialogue between national societies of the region has increased.*

In early July, the regional delegation organized a meeting of national society leaders from East Asia. The agenda was designed to offer participants the opportunity to present the current priorities of their societies, discuss the main topics of the forthcoming Federation General Assembly and Council of Delegates meetings to be held in South Korea in November, and finally to look at the progress being made in implementing the action plan adopted at the 2002 Manila Asia Pacific regional conference.

The presentations on priorities allowed societies the opportunity to outline to their peers the key issues and concerns that they were experiencing as senior managers within their own organizations. Although there were a number of very differing challenges, there were also several common themes that emerged. Amongst these was the emergence of “new vulnerabilities” in nearly every country in the region that were recognized as being important, to which the societies acknowledged the need to scale up their response. Such challenges included migrants to the cities, the rising costs and risks associated with curative health and blood services, the need to develop activities that can have an impact on reducing rural poverty and lastly, the need to develop more meaningful activities to attract youth members. There was, in addition, a useful exchange between some societies which had been successful in getting recognition from their governments of their role in disaster relief confirmed in recent legislation and those who were still working to achieve this.

The sessions on the forthcoming statutory meetings were facilitated by a director from the Federation Secretariat in Geneva involved in several aspects of the strategic items on the respective agendas, particularly around such topics as the Federation of the Future, the new plan and budget and the emblem issue. In addition, both JRCS and RCSC are members of the Federation Governing Board and together with the two representatives of the ICRC at the meeting, they were able to share the views and perspectives. These sessions therefore provided not only a good opportunity for briefings and explanations on these topics to those who were less familiar with their content, but also served as a forum in which societies could put forward their views and insights, while providing useful feedback both to the Secretariat and their board representatives.

The discussions around the Manila Action Plan (MAP) gave the opportunity to gather up-to-date information on the progress being made by each society in taking forward the important commitments contained in this document. The different presentations revealed that the action plan had influenced several of the programmes of the societies. The objectives relating to health and disaster management programmes appeared to be progressing well. The issue of the role of the Red Cross vis à vis the government in a range of activities was emerging as an important issue in several countries. In particular, the focus of MAP on HIV/AIDS has had a positive effect in all the societies. Population movement was now coming up as an issue to which more importance was being given. It was recognized that this was a complex and sometimes grey area, where the special position of the Red Cross could solve serious humanitarian problems.

During this period, there was a marked improvement in the contacts and dialogue between the DPRK and ROK societies. This reflects developments taking place at the governmental level as reported in the introductory section of this report. A team from the Republic of Korea National Red Cross (KNRC) led by its president visited the North at the end of June and agreement was reached on the following points:

- to develop an exchange programme for the Red Cross hospital in Pyongyang and to assist in supplies and the modernization of equipment;
- to upgrade the facilities at the meeting point for separated families in Mt. Kumgang;
- the KNRC will supply an additional 150,000 MT of fertilizer to the first 200,000 MT donated the previous month by the ROK government;
- to resume the tree planting activities of the youth volunteers.

Although the Federation regional delegation did not play any role in these contacts, it had facilitated dialogue and several exchanges of information between the two societies in the first half of the year, a role which was appreciated and recognised by both sides.

*Expected result 3: Awareness amongst international organizations and donor country embassies of the role as well as value of the Federation and its member national societies in the region is heightened.*

The regional delegation continued to carry out various activities to raise the profile of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, attending two external meetings. The first, at the end of May, was a two day international meeting on urban disaster risk and preparedness in China held in Beijing. Most of the participants came from research centres and governmental institutions in China, but there were also representatives from RCSC as well as the Asia Disaster Reduction Centre in Kobe and an American emergency rescue organization. The Federation head of delegation gave a presentation on the Red Cross Red Crescent role in urban disaster preparedness and response, highlighting examples of national society and Federation activities in this area and underlying the linkages between disaster risk, poverty and migrants particularly in the Asian context. This was also a useful opportunity to distribute and make better known the Chinese language version of the *World Disasters Report*.

The second meeting was a forum on international assistance in DPRK organized in Beijing by a coalition of prominent South Korean NGOs. This meeting was attended by nearly all the UN and international NGOs working in DPRK as well as some donor organizations, and the Federation's regional disaster management delegate was able to present the Federation/DPRK Red Cross operation and outline some of the strategies and activities planned for the coming years based on the recent strategic review of DPRK RC programmes.

During this period there were a number of contacts with the American and Australian embassies as well as the ECHO representative for East Asia. The contacts with the American embassy related in particular to the flood disasters in southern China, one result of which was a grant of USD 100,000 from the embassy to RCSC. At the end of August, the Federation regional disaster management delegate accompanied a representative from the embassy on a visit to Guangxi province to monitor the distribution of relief supplies procured with this donation. Feedback on these embassy visits was provided to the respective partner national societies.

*Expected result 4: New funding partnerships with donor organizations based in the region have lead to increased funding.*

A follow up mission to China was made by the Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) in May. As reported in Programme Update No 1, GRSP is planning to start up a project in China in 2006 and on this occasion, a visit was made to RCSC headquarters to meet the society's vice president and discuss the possibilities for possible collaboration as part of this project. It was agreed that support for first aid training, particularly for the police and other relevant organizations in the cities to be targeted as part of the broader GRSP project could be considered, and RCSC was asked to submit a project proposal to this effect for potential consideration for funding in 2006.

The regional delegation participated in a final review mission carried out by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) of its support for Red Cross HIV/AIDS work in China. Over the past three years, this company has provided GBP 300,000 (CHF 678,480) through the British Red Cross for the Australian Red Cross-supported programme in Yunnan and Xinjiang provinces. Although the Federation regional delegation has not been directly associated with this partnership, it was asked to attend this meeting to provide an overview of the broader context of Red Cross HIV/AIDS programming in China. This four-way partnership between GSK, British and Australian Red Cross and RCSC is a good example of an innovative partnership in which funding from different donor sources can be used to complement each other and maximize support for mutually agreed priority programmes. One of the key factors for success in these types of arrangements is to have a clearly identified coordinator to be able to ensure that the reporting and other requirements of the different donors can be met. In this case, this role was played by the Australian Red Cross. The GSK involvement in this programme has now finished, and Australian Red Cross is currently scoping out its future support for RCSC HIV/AIDS work.

*Expected result 5: Members of the Federation governing board are effectively supported.*

As noted above in the section on Expected Result 2, the national societies' leaders meeting provided a good opportunity to bring together representatives of societies that are members of the Federation Governing Board with their societies from the region to discuss topics on the agenda of the forthcoming statutory meetings in Seoul at the end of the year.

In addition to this, the head of delegation was able to maintain a dialogue on governance related issues with leaders from both Chinese and Japanese Red Cross on various occasions which has helped create a sense of positive and practical collaboration.

**Constraints**

No particular constraints to carrying out the set objectives were experienced during this reporting period.

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

# East Asia Regional

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05AA061

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

11/10/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>	
					<b>1,390,588</b>	<b>52.9%</b>
OPENING BALANCE				356,521		
CHINESE - GOVT		60,000	USD	74,742	23.06.05	
DANISH - RC				38,500	11.04.05	REGIONAL DM (DR GU)
FINNISH - RC				43,200	22.08.05	REGIONAL FINANCE DELEGATE
JAPANESE - RC		29,164	USD	33,014	14.04.05	TRAINEE DELEGATE
NETHERLANDS - RC		10,850	EUR	16,801	15.02.05	COUNTRY SUPPORT SERVICES AGREEMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		500,000	SEK	85,500	29.03.05	HIV/AIDS, DELEGATE'S COSTS (AUDREY SWIFT)
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				648,278	CHF	46.6%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			24,000		
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			63,400		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				87,400	CHF	6.3%

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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