

Programme Update 2007



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Mongolia

Appeal no. MAAMN001

Programme Update No. 6

This report covers the period of 1 May 2007 to 31 August 2007 of the 2006-07 planning and appeal process.

In a world of global challenges, continued poverty, inequity, and increasing vulnerability to disasters and disease, the International Federation with its global network, works to accomplish its Global Agenda, partnering with local community and civil society to prevent and alleviate human suffering from disasters, diseases and public health emergencies.



A young mentally-challenged boy receives a toy through the MRCS's Social Care programme, with support of the Finnish Red Cross and the Federation. The MRCS's Social Care programme targets the most vulnerable, including children with mental disabilities. MRCS.

In brief

Programme Summary: The Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) is still working towards its mission to reach vulnerable populations and provide quality services; however, factors such as lack of funding have created challenges, particularly for key programmes such as first aid, blood donor recruitment, and organizational development. The lack of support in these vital areas has created an obstacle in the path towards MRCS's overall development. Despite these setbacks, the MRCS continues to provide overall key support in areas of disaster management, social care, and HIV response through innovative and flexible projects targeted towards those most at risk.

One of the highlights of this reporting period is the organization of the East Asia National Leadership Meeting, which provided a valuable opportunity to advocate for greater support from the Mongolian government as well as share experiences and lessons learned with other national societies in the region.

While Mongolia did not face any major disasters, droughts throughout the country created problems for the Disaster Management Hay Project; however, through responsive management, the MRCS is addressing the issue.

The limited rain that did fall, meanwhile, contributed to new outbreaks in animal-borne diseases. In response, the MRCS has begun working in the area of avian influenza and has successfully started training for local community members. The national society is also developing IEC (information, education and communication) materials based on surveyed needs of the selected areas.

In health and care, the MRCS Social Care programme continues its widely popular and much-appreciated home visit services and social mobilization activities. In this quarter, with support from the Finnish Red Cross, the national society provided toys and dolls on Children’s Day to disabled and impoverished children, and in addition, conducted visits to prisoners to provide hygiene materials and gain ideas for future support.

While first aid and blood donor recruitment programmes are still in great need of support, activities prevailed through valuable training sessions for instructors and disaster response teams as well as coordination with national blood donor agencies to organize World Blood Donor Day. The programmes continue to push for greater membership in first aid and *Youth Donor 25* clubs at all branches.

Meanwhile, HIV response activities have scaled up thanks to expanding networks and continuing support from partners such as the Australian Red Cross. This year, the HIV team will begin reaching out to sex workers and single female-headed households in selected at-risk border provinces as well as begin a new cross-border project targeting Mongolian sex workers in China with funding from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Overall, the MRCS capacity to deliver high impact programmes continues to grow, through support to mid- and primary-level branches via the organizational development programme. This capacity is also built through continued networking and promotion of activities among the general population with support from the information and dissemination programme. Thanks to these efforts, the image of the MRCS is slowly improving, and with it, community support for MRCS activities.

Needs: Total 2006-2007 budget CHF 2.25 million (USD 1.92 million or EUR 1.36 million) out of which 66.8% covered. Outstanding needs are CHF 746,000 (USD 637,270 or EUR 450,510). **Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.**

Through the Federation Global fund, MRCS is implementing an avian influenza project. In 2006, MRCS also received an allocation for disaster management activities from the Empress Shogon Fund, which were implemented in 2007.

No. of people we help directly:

	Programme name	Direct		Indirect	
		men	women	men	women
1	First Aid	142	200	80,000	70,000
2	Blood Donor	1,401	1,200	n/a	n/a
3	Social Care	1,659	2,241	n/a	n/a
4	HIV/AIDS response	2,690	3,150	n/a	n/a
5	Disaster Preparedness	600	210	375,000	625,000
6	Water Sanitation	13,000	12,000	14,700	15,300
7	Organizational Development	300		n/a	n/a
	Total	19,792	19,001	469,700	710,300

Our Partners: The World Health Organization (WHO), Ministry of Health, National Blood Centre, Donor Agency, Ulaanbaatar City Governor, Youth for Health NGO, UNICEF, National Centre for Communicable Disease (NCCD), and National Journalists Association/Journalists Union, Australian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, DFID, Japanese Red Cross, Korean Red Cross, British/German Red Cross, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mongolian National Radio and Television Broadcasting Agency, National Centre for

Diseases with Natural Foci, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour, Border/Customs Control, local health departments, traffic police, Positive Life, NAF, and UNFPA.

Disaster Management Programme

Objective: Vulnerability to disaster is reduced through the effective preparation of MRCS branches and local communities to plan for and respond to sudden and annually recurring disasters.

Achievements: On 8 May, together with the Youth programme, the disaster management (DM) programme organized a national media campaign promoting participation of youth in humanitarian acts, especially in the disaster response programme. Also, the FLAME competition on fire safety was organized in Ulaanbaatar, and the Uvs and Khentii provinces, involving 120 youth from 12 disaster response teams. In addition, 250 young people attended the competition and received information on fire prevention and response.

Loudspeakers and Internet services were provided to all mid-level Red Cross branches to improve communication during disasters. Twenty thousand volunteer badges and 375 honorary volunteer badges were produced and distributed to Red Cross branches for their daily use to identify volunteers during programme activities. Weather forecasts have also begun to be published in the “Humanity” Red Cross newspaper, and a nationwide radio programme on fire safety was prepared and broadcasted via Mongolian National Radio. Lastly, 500 copies of the disaster management programme annual report were published and distributed to all mid-level branches.

To increase disaster fund resources at Regional Disaster Centres, 1,200 blankets and 1,200 mattresses were purchased following the Federation guidelines on responsible purchasing. These were distributed to regional centres to be stored until needed. One hundred and twenty one volunteers were trained in disaster-prone areas along the border points, and 1,500 pieces of three different types of IEC materials on earthquakes, fires, and animal-borne infections were printed and distributed to all branches.

Key highlights of this reporting period include the organization of the National Herders’ Consultation Meeting, which covered relationships between MRCS and herders as well as business practices. This meeting was jointly organized by the MRCS, the National Emergency Management Agency, the Switzerland Development Agency, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and the University of Agriculture at the Gobi Regional Disaster Centre. Over 330 “Humanitarian Hero” herders participated in the conference and discussed issues on supporting vulnerable herding families, and establishing a disaster fund at primary level branches as well as increasing preparations for heavy winter or *dzud*.

The East Regional Governing Board meeting was held, involving Dornod, Khentii, and Sukhbaatar province representatives who discussed the future possibilities to improve the effectiveness of their Regional Disaster Centre.

Achievements of the Hay Project: In 2007, the project was to be implemented in 17 selected provinces of six Regional Disaster Centres, including Dornod, Sukhbaatar, Gobi-Altai, Zavkhan, Bayanolgii, Uvs, Darkhan, Selenge, Arkhangai, Khuvsgul, Tuv, Gobi-Sumber, Khovd, Tosentsengel, Orkhon, Zuun Kharaa, and Khentii provinces. The aim of the Hay Project was to prepare over 8,000 tons of hay and to distribute it to 4,800 vulnerable herding families for this year.

Currently, Gobi-Altai, Darkhan, Khuvsgul, Zuun Kharaa, Selenge, Tuv, and Khentii provinces have started preparing hay beginning in mid-August. A total of 80 vulnerable young people from herding families attended first aid training during the project, and have been employed by the Hay Project.

Achievements of the Bilateral Project with Australian Red Cross on Capacity Building of Regional Disaster Preparedness Centres (RDPC): The ever-increasing involvement of bilateral partners with the MRCS has lent opportunities for more synergy between bilateral and multilateral funding in some programme areas of MRCS such as in disaster management. Within the bilaterally funded project of the Australian Red Cross on capacity building of the RDPC, two vehicles were bought and delivered to the Dornod and Gobi-Altai provinces following the Federation guidelines on responsible purchasing. Seven RDPC were provided with LCD projectors, and 30 volunteers of Khentii province attended a two-day training session on disaster preparedness. Due to the high rate of wildfires occurring at this time around Ulaanbaatar city which includes 760 km of fields, the MRCS prepared a TV spot on fire prevention and safety, and broadcasted it 38 times nationwide on Mongolian National Television.

Constraints or Challenges: The other provinces participating in the Hay Project have faced difficulties due to the lack of rain and widespread drought in the country, and were therefore, unable to prepare their hay on time. Usually the best time to prepare hay is in July/August, and the loss of soil fertility makes it difficult for the provinces to maximize their hay production.

Health and Care Programmes

The MRCS health and care programmes consist of four key programmes including social care, first aid, blood donor recruitment, and HIV response. In relation to the changes in health vulnerability in communities and to take a more flexible response to community needs, the MRCS is currently implementing bilateral projects on water and sanitation in Ulaanbaatar city. Additionally, in conjunction with the Youth programme, another bilateral project aims to improve the hygiene and sanitation conditions, and education for young people in five selected provinces.

This year the MRCS health and care programmes are also focusing more on health in emergencies, including implementing a new avian influenza response and mitigation project in five selected provinces considered to be most at risk for avian flu outbreak.

First Aid Programme

Objective: Community-based first aid (CBFA) activities are being implemented in all MRCS branches.

Achievements: The MRCS ordered 40 CPR training mannequins in the first quarter that were distributed among the mid-level branches during the reporting period. This was very important in terms of building the capacity of the mid-level branches, especially as no mannequins have been provided since 2003. Most of the branch mannequins have become quite old and as such, the new mannequins have greatly aided first aid activities.

Twenty-six participants from the Gobi regional provinces and another 27 participants from the six Orkhon-Selenge regional province mid-level branches participated in an updated first aid training over three days comprising 24 hours of study. Out of the total participants, six were men. For ten per cent of the participants, this was refresher training as they had participated in others before, with one participant a master-level trainer. Participants received certification as first aid trainers, and of these, 25 per cent were new staff of the MRCS. In addition, at the request of the disaster management programme, first aid training was organized for five border patrol units of three border provinces; a total of 180 volunteers participated of which 80 per cent had never before participated in first aid training.

Three district mid-level branches in Ulaanbaatar conducted a survey on first aid in which 60 community members were selected for the survey and were all provided with health insurance to

enable them to receive health services from the government. The Bayngol and Sukhbaatar district branches organized a standard training programme for a total of 49 traffic police officers at traffic coordination points.

In terms of disseminating first aid information, 285 first aid kits were purchased. Some first aid messages were issued in the “Today” newspaper a total of three times. Through these articles, three key ideas of having an informed community and community organizations, of working together, and of the need for first aid training were communicated. The 285 kits were distributed across 37 mid-level branches to increase their capacity.

Constraints or Challenges: Due to delayed transfer of funding, activities were postponed until July; their impact will be reported on in the next quarterly report. The national society will endeavour to avoid this recurring in the future.

Despite the purchase of a few new mannequins and kits, the first aid programme still lacks adequate funding and resources to scale up activities to reach communities nationwide. The MRCS is currently looking for partner organizations to help by providing intensive capacity building assistance to the first aid programme.

HIV Response Programme

Objective: To contribute to the National HIV/AIDS/STI response by implementing community-based interventions by December 2007.

Achievements: The Federation’s Global Alliance on HIV, East Asia Regional process has begun and the MRCS has committed itself to developing this programme in Mongolia. Representatives from the MRCS attended the regional meeting in May together with the Red Cross Society of China, and helped develop the framework for the programme in East Asia. The finalization of this framework is now underway and the MRCS will continue to actively participate in the process.

The MRCS was appointed as a member of the management team of the Asian Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on AIDS. Representatives from the MRCS attended the management meeting in Bangkok and discussed emerging issues for the ART Network (Asian Red Cross Red Crescent AIDS Network) and its future direction.

A total of 1,830 people in targeted communities including men inmates, prison staff, households headed by a single person, and MSM (men who have sex with men) have benefited from the MRCS’s HIV response programme activities during the reporting period. Over 2,080 people have been reached through IEC campaigns as well. In addition, 692 people were referred and tested for HIV/STIs (sexually transmitted infections) through the project.

Currently, the HIV response programme is implementing three key projects, funded by the Federation, the Australian Red Cross, and the Japanese Red Cross, and is beginning a new project with funding from UNFPA. This has shown a scaling up in both activities as well as networking and cooperation with other HIV-related organizations.

Federation-Supported HIV Project Achievements: “Let’s go home healthy” prevention project has been successfully implemented in two high security male prisons, namely Zuun Kharaa and Baganuur. Within the project, a total of 250 male inmates have received HIV prevention information and attended mobile voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) services provided by the local health department. A total of 100 prison staff were involved in the training and improved their knowledge on HIV/STI prevention. As a result of the activities, the knowledge among inmates and prison staff was increased by 20 per cent in comparison with the level before training.

Following the national level training of trainers conducted in the first quarter, participants submitted a total of 25 short-term HIV project proposals targeting truck drivers, students, unemployed youth and the general public. Small grants have been given to the Nalaikh, Zuun Kharaa, Uvurkhangai, Arkhangai and Bayan-Olgii provinces to implement short-term public dissemination projects to make them familiar with the community-based HIV programme. This initiative resulted in reaching 890 people.

Japanese Red Cross Bilaterally-Supported Project Achievements: As a result of the project on the establishment of voluntary counselling and testing centres bilaterally supported by the Japanese Red Cross, three centres were renovated or constructed in the Selenge, Khuvsgul and Dornod provinces. Twenty counsellors attended five days training in Ulaanbaatar city jointly organized by the MRCS and UNICEF, Mongol Vision and the National Centre for Communicable Diseases. As a result of the activities, counsellors obtained skills and knowledge to provide accurate services to clients and through the VCT services, a total of 692 community members were provided with testing and counselling.



Single mothers gather together at a community-based HIV/AIDS meeting in Selenge, as part of the MRCS HIV Response Programme. MRCS

Australian Red Cross Bilaterally-Supported Project Achievements: Further complementing multilateral funding, Australian Red Cross (ARC) has been working bilaterally with MRCS for a number of years, apart from HIV/AIDS related matters. The new phase of the ARC-supported HIV response project started in July. This year, the project is expanding its target communities from youth and MSM to include commercial sex workers in Khuvsgul province as well as households headed by single women in the Selenge and Dornod provinces. As a result of activities, a total of 248 such households participated in a survey to identify the knowledge, attitude and practices of communities in HIV/STI prevention. Based on this survey, the project will identify much-needed interventions and clarify target groups among single mothers for future peer education and HIV prevention activities.

In addition, the MRCS partner MSM community-based organization Youth for Health moved into a new larger drop-in centre office with a separate training room as well as a counselling room to provide a new base for their scaling-up activities. MSM peer educators along with youth peer educators from Selenge and Dornod also participated together in a national level experience-sharing meeting where they were able to show their activities and gain new ideas from each other.

Constraints or challenges: While the MRCS have received planned funding from bilateral partners for project activities, the funding from the Federation for this quarter was relatively limited and has been in suspension since the end of June. This has impacted Federation-supported activities particularly targeting inmates.

In terms of the new VCT centres, monitoring visits revealed that while the doctors have received training on counselling, they lack knowledge and skills on managing the centre, including confidentiality and other procedures. The MRCS has raised this issue at the national VCT committee and will work to ensure that management training is included in the future for all VCT service providers.

As for the youth peer education project, most activities were postponed during the summer due to student vacation schedules and the national holiday in July. However, this is a regular occurrence and did not pose any major difficulties.

Blood Donor Recruitment Programme

Objective: To enhance the general population's awareness about voluntary non-remunerated blood donation by improving its effectiveness in managing blood programme activities.

Achievements: In June 2007, a day-long training on "Successfully Recruiting Voluntary Non-Remunerated Donors" was organized at Bayan-Olgii province Red Cross Branch. Western region Red Cross branch staff, volunteers, and donor recruiters from headquarters, mid-level branches, and primary level branches participated, and a total of 20 people came to the event. The training covered areas such as improving information campaigns among the community as well as donor relations, and developing a policy towards reaching the goals of blood donor recruitment. At the training, Ulaanbaatar district branch staff from Bayangol introduced new methods in donor campaigning and recruitment, and shared them with the countryside branches.

To promote the act of giving blood as a humanitarian activity, an information campaign on "Humanitarianism and the Donor Movement" was organized to recruit voluntary donors and increase the available safe blood supply. A ten-minute television programme was prepared and distributed among 26 mid-level branches and broadcasted free of charge by the Mongolian National Television and Radio agency.

World Blood Donor Day was organized in Ulaanbaatar city with the active participation of eight mid-level branches, university students, volunteers, city communities, and others. Together with the National Blood Centre and the WHO, the event was organized by the MRCS in Sukhbaatar Square. During the activities, 400 people attended included representatives from the WHO, the Ministry of Health, and the National Donor Association. The event was broadcast on five national TV stations, two radio channels, and was reported on in six newspapers after the event. One city district Red Cross branch, Khan-uul, was awarded the "Best Voluntary Blood Donor Recruiter" for having recruited 1,175 donors. They received a cup, certificate, and award money up to MNT 150,000 (CHF 148 or USD125) for their work. The second- and third-placed branches, which recruited 886 and 815 donors respectively, were Bayangol and Bayanzurkh. These branches also received awards and money up to MNT 130,000 (CHF 125 or USD 109) during the event. The idea of voluntary non-remunerated blood donor recruitment, increasing the number of youth donors, and recognizing the sacrifice and generosity of donors, is now being introduced among young university students through campaigns and advertisements in three universities, and as a result, 120 students participated in World Blood Donor Day activities.

The Mongolian-translated Federation handbook "Making a Difference: Recruiting Voluntary Non-remunerated Blood Donors" has run out of copies and the MRCS is working to select a company to reprint an additional 300 copies of the manual.

There is also a lack of blood donor IEC materials and the MRCS is currently addressing this issue which will be further reported on in the next quarter's report

Constraints or challenges: In July, due to delay in transfer of funds, activities were postponed and will be reported on during the next reporting period. The MRCS will endeavour to avoid such situations in the future.

Social Care Programme

Objectives: By the end of 2009, the health and sustainability of targeted communities will be improved through mobilization of volunteers and the community.

Achievements: Volunteers continued to provide home care visits to selected beneficiary families twice a month during this period, delivering goods and relief items such as second-hand clothes while providing valuable psychological support through sitting and talking with the family members. A total of 200 volunteers reached at least 400 beneficiaries in the eight Federation-implemented project branches over the past year.

During their visits with beneficiaries, volunteers help out in various ways - by reading books, providing medical advice, and helping to clean beneficiaries' homes. Beneficiaries who do not have registration (internal migrants) can also get help from volunteers, who have participated in a "How to Register" training workshop organized by the MRCS. After the workshop at eight branches, a total of 47 beneficiaries were able to receive citizen registration, which enables them to sign up for government welfare services and health insurance. In addition, the volunteers provide small support (about CHF 2 worth of household goods or food) based on the beneficiaries' needs. During winter, most beneficiaries asked for warm clothes and the branches provided them with second-hand clothes. The rest of the time, food is the most important commodity for them, and volunteers assist by bringing flour, vegetable oil, rice, and other food items each month.



A MRCS volunteer checks the blood pressure of a bedridden beneficiary in the Chingeltei district of Ulaanbaatar under the Social Care Programme. MRCS

"Helpful Group" youth members, consisting mainly of students, also help volunteers provide home care services. Usually, they prepare wood and fuel for fires to make beneficiaries' homes warmer, and they also clean and read to beneficiaries. With donations of handmade dolls from the Finnish Red Cross, Helpful Group members and social care volunteers provided toys and candy to the disabled, orphaned, and impoverished children within selected areas. Children were very happy to receive the gifts, and the coverage of activities in local media helped highlight the need to assist vulnerable youth in the community. A total of 900 children were reached, with 100 dolls being left in stock for future interventions.

Monthly report meetings for volunteers to share experiences and new ideas were carried out according to schedule. Refresher training on providing home care service as well as other training sessions on health topics such as nutrition and first aid were conducted for volunteers in order to improve their skills and ability to provide knowledge and service to beneficiaries. Meetings among beneficiaries were also conducted at social care centres to help socialize excluded groups, particularly the elderly and the disabled.

Project staff from Social Care and HIV Response visited two selected prisons and around 2,400 prisoners were provided with hygiene materials such as laundry soap, hand soap, and toothpaste. Since facilities for prisoners are very limited, and they have no access to such materials, the goods were very much appreciated. Feedback on new ideas for services was also taken from the prisoners, who requested to have their libraries renovated and restocked with new books.

Constraints or challenges: Overall, no major challenges were faced in implementing activities. Delays in fund transfers as well as the need to schedule activities around major holidays and events led to the postponing of some activities, but as these issues occur every year, they were dealt with effectively and did not have a major impact on the project.

A review of the British and German Red Cross-funded Social Care project in three branches in Ulaanbaatar was conducted in June. The review identified some key areas for improvement in social care service, such as the need to provide better psychological support training to volunteers as well as integrate more promotion of health/hygiene education and community self-support groups among targeted families. These recommendations were noted and steps to address them will be taken in the following year and applied to Federation-funded branches as well as the British and German Red Cross project partners.



Male prison inmates in Zunnkharaa received various hygiene items as well as HIV prevention education under the Health programme of the MRCS. MRCS

Water Sanitation (Bilateral Project with the Netherlands Red Cross)

Further contributing to the health and care activities of the MRCS, the Netherlands Red Cross supports MRCS in implementing a three-year programme in the area of water and sanitation. Many of the beneficiaries of this programme are the same as those of the multilaterally and bilaterally funded social care programme, once again adding to the synergy between programmes.

Objectives: This project aims at improving the living conditions of approximately 20,000 people living in four Ger districts of Ulaanbaatar, by increasing the availability of portable water and improving personal hygiene by means of education. Furthermore, the capacity of the MRCS to implement similar projects will be improved.

Achievements:

- Ten water kiosks constructed in three districts
- Over 3,908 tonnes of drinking water delivered to 2,950 families in three districts
- Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) community discussions organized 66 times, with 1,442 beneficiaries
- Trained 100 volunteers on water sanitation and hygiene promotion
- Two types of brochures and posters developed and distributed on water storage and hand washing to water kiosks and beneficiaries
- WINPACCS (project accounting system) programme used for the project

Constraints or challenges: In Mongolia, all construction material costs increased, such as cement, iron, brick, wood and other materials. Particularly, the cost of cement doubled for a single tonne from MNT 80,000 (CHF 79 or USD 67) to MNT 160,000 (CHF 158 or USD 135). The MRCS discussed with the Netherlands Red Cross on increasing the agreed price for construction of the last four kiosks and they concurred in doing so. The Federation office in Ulaanbaatar, which has a status agreement with the government of Mongolia, has contributed by facilitating importation of water trucks and

therefore, saved on expenses such as VAT, customs and duties, thus allowing programme funds to be utilized to further support beneficiaries.

Avian Influenza (AI) Preparedness Project

Objective: By the end of 2007, the target communities in at least in five provinces will possess increased awareness on avian influenza prevention.

Achievements: As part of the Global Programme on Avian Influenza Preparedness, Mitigation and Response, the MRCS has started implementing the project in five selected provinces namely Uvs, Khovd, Khuvsgul, Baya-Olgii and Bulgan. The office equipment was purchased to support the branches in facilitating project implementation. The baseline survey of the project was done by ME Consulting Company in early May to assess the vulnerability of the community in the region, to identify the most appropriate way to reach out to communities in the provinces, and to assess the knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) of target communities in the selected provinces. The survey involved 138 herders from six *soums* (towns) of Khuvsgul, Bulgan, and Bayan-Olgii provinces. The survey revealed that 89 per cent of respondents had heard of avian influenza, but knew nothing besides the name of the disease. They did not have enough knowledge to prevent avian influenza outbreaks and only 17 per cent of total respondents said that if they saw a dead or sick bird, there would be a need to inform local government; others did not feel any need to inform authorities.

Around 77 per cent of herding families in this area have access to Mongolian National Television Channel, and this is likely to be the most appropriate way for reaching them in the future. The survey revealed that IEC materials in Kazakh language will be needed in Bayan-Olgii province, where most herding families cannot understand the Mongolian context on avian influenza.

The MRCS successfully coordinated with UNICEF Mongolia who has implemented an AI prevention programme before, and received official permission to use the existing IEC materials that have been pre-tested by them. Based on the materials, and the facilitators' training manual, the MRCS conducted a National Level Training of Trainers on AI and health in emergencies with the technical support from the National Centre for Diseases with Natural Foci and the National Emergency Management Agency. The training involved a total of 20 participants from project implementing sites, including representatives from local branches, senior volunteers, and local NEMA staff.

The Federation manual on AI has been translated in Mongolian and Kazakh language and 1,500 copies were printed and distributed to branches. Three thousand copies of a poster on AI were also printed and distributed to communities. Street information boards were established in five provinces showing educational information on avian influenza prevention. Local level training of volunteers at primary level branches was conducted five times in each province and involved 95 participants.



Two local girls collect water at the water kiosk in the Ger area of the Chingeltei district of Ulaanbaatar. MRCS

As a result of the project activities, the AI activities are mainstreamed into existing MRCS health activities in five provinces increasing the level of awareness on AI prevention among the target population. Radio and TV warning spots have been produced and are ready for distribution.

Challenges or Constraints: The key challenge was the lack of experience on health in emergencies within the MRCS. The MRCS received technical assistance from UNICEF and NEMA on this issue and with their help, conducted activities effectively.

Even though the MRCS were able to use materials developed by UNICEF, some materials were still not accepted by local communities. As such, more time will be dedicated to developing IEC materials in the next quarter.

Organizational Development Programme

Objective: To contribute to the building of civil society by identifying and meeting the needs of the most vulnerable.

Achievements: For this reporting period, the programme has focused on enhancing the capacity of the primary level branches and ensuring their sustainability. The key highlight of this reporting period was the establishment of inner-*soum* disaster funds based on newly established, fully functioning primary level branches at Chandmani Soum of Gobi Altai province. The aim of this initiative was to increase programme integration at the ground level and to enhance service delivery quality.

Within the framework of the Capacity Building Project, a series of community mobilization campaigns were organized at Tuv, Uvurkhangai and Khovd provinces, involving over 300 people, to advocate for civil registration and further improve access of vulnerable and migrant communities to state services. As a result of these campaigns, over 50 people received state registration.

Income-generating initiatives commenced in three provinces, including a canteen in Tuv province, animal husbandry in Khovd province and a garden in Uvurkhangai province. Heating systems were installed in three mid-level Red Cross Branches namely Arkhangai, Ulaanbaatar City branch, and Bulgan. The MRCS expects that these initiatives will help to reduce the administrative cost of the branches and create a more comfortable environment for volunteers and staff to work in winter time.

In the area of finance development, the upgraded finance software has been working properly. Finance reports are being generated to the bilateral partners easier than before. New MRCS finance procedures are being revised and the plan is to have that revision completed by year end.

Constraints or challenges: The MRCS did not receive any financial support for the organizational development programme in the last four months. All of the aforementioned activities were conducted with the funding from the Capacity Building Fund (CBF). Without funding from Federation, the MRCS faced financial constraints to support mid-level branches (MLB) and primary level branches (PLB) as well as overall organizational development.

The finance software needs still further work/modification, which will be addressed in the coming months with the local software company. The marketing manager/fundraiser at headquarters resigned in May and a replacement has not yet been found. It is difficult to find a marketing orientated person in Mongolia, but not impossible. Meanwhile fundraising plans are being planned for the winter, such as the Humanitarian Lottery which was a huge success last year.

Working in Partnership

The MRCS has worked hard to build its network with cooperating partner agencies and organizations, both governmental and non-governmental. As a result, the MRCS receives support and cooperates with a variety of different partners, including bilateral partners as well as local community-based organizations.

In terms of cooperation with the Federation, this has greatly improved over the years and the Federation provides a lot of support on human resource development through the funding of MRCS representatives to attend regional and international conferences. During this quarter, three representatives from MRCS attended the Health in Emergencies regional training in May, and the MRCS HIV response programme officer attended the ICAAP conference in Sri Lanka in August. Bilateral partners have also wholeheartedly supported capacity building, as it is the third goal of the Federation's Global Agenda. Through bilateral support, MRCS staff participated in a gender workshop in Bangkok (Australian Red Cross), and the Social Care programme presented its activities at the Global Health Forum in Geneva in May (British Red Cross/German Red Cross). The ICRC officer of MRCS also attended regional workshops and meetings regarding promotion of international humanitarian law.

Disaster Management: The disaster management programme cooperates closely with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to coordinate disaster response and relief efforts at the national and local levels. In addition, the disaster management programme works closely with local herders and agricultural organizations to help maintain local ownership of disaster preparedness and response measures. The disaster management programme also receives bilateral funding from the Australian Red Cross (ARC).

First Aid: The first aid programme works with the ministry of health and local emergency response agencies, and integrates with the disaster management programme to provide first aid training to NEMA officers and disaster management response teams.

Social Care: The scope of social care services has greatly expanded through a cooperative network with other social service agencies, organizations, and local health service providers to whom beneficiaries can be referred in order to receive extra services such as wheelchairs, homes, and income support. Non-government partners include World Vision, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA), and the National Association for the Disabled, and local Elders' and Women's councils. In addition, local government leaders, the ministry of social welfare and labour, and state-owned hospitals provide support in identifying and providing services to beneficiaries in their communities. For the prison programme, the social care and HIV response programmes coordinate closely with local prison authorities. The social care programme currently receives bilateral support from the British and German Red Cross societies, as well as support through the Federation from Finnish Red Cross which provides relief goods to vulnerable children.

HIV Response: The HIV response team is currently part of the National AIDS Committee, as well as the National VCT¹ and PITC² Working Groups. It cooperates and coordinates with key agencies such as the National AIDS Foundation (NAF), the WHO, UNFPA, Global Fund, World Vision, the National Centre for Communicable Diseases (NCCD), and the Ministry of Health. At the local level, the HIV programme works closely with local hospitals and health providers in building VCT centres and providing counselling to referred beneficiaries. Also, in order to reach sensitized target groups, the HIV programme has a special relationship with the MSM-owned and -run Youth for Health organization as well as Positive Life, an NGO for HIV-positive Mongolians. Anti-stigma and discrimination activities are carried out in cooperation with the Mongolian Journalists' Union. The

¹ Voluntary counseling and testing

² Provider Initiated Testing and Counseling

HIV response programme currently receives technical and financial support from bilateral partners including the Australian Red Cross, the Japanese Red Cross, and is now starting a bilateral project with the UNFPA.

Blood Donor Recruitment: World Blood Donor Day brought together the ministry of health, the WHO, and other NGOs who participated in the session on topics such as first aid and blood donor recruitment. It has also begun cooperating with the Mongolian Youth Association and Students' Association to promote Blood Donor 25 clubs among 12 selected universities/colleges in Ulaanbaatar city. In the future, greater cooperation with government and non-government agencies may help to address the sustained funding problems of the donor recruitment programme at MRCS, and help to expand activities. Although MRCS is responsible for blood donor recruitment, the national society has never received any funding or support from the Mongolian national government for its blood donor recruitment activities, or any other programmes, and is hoping that in the future through cooperation with other NGOs to address this issue, especially for support from the Ministry of Health in this specific area.

Water Sanitation: The water and sanitation project cooperates with local water authorities and agencies, including USUG (Ulaanbaatar Water and Sewerage Company) and the Sumpacks Construction Company to build and maintain water kiosks in local communities. The water and sanitation project has worked with local and national land development authorities in procuring permission to build the kiosks, and with local government authorities and leaders in identifying vulnerable communities and promoting the project. The water and sanitation project receives funding and support from the Netherlands Red Cross.

Youth: The youth programme works closely with local schools and school social workers to promote the active participation of youth in volunteering and humanitarian acts. In addition, it cooperates with the National Youth Association of Mongolia and other youth NGOs on national campaigns. The Youth Programme is bilaterally supported through the International Friendship Project and other initiatives by the Japanese and Korean Red Cross Societies.

Organizational Development (OD): The OD programme receives support from the CBF on organizational development and capacity building initiatives.

Information and Dissemination (ID): The ID programme works with national journalists and media as well as with government and military leaders on the promotion of humanitarian law and ideals. It also disseminates information on MRCS activities, much of which is done in partnership with the Mongolian National Radio and Television Broadcasting Agency.

This year, the MRCS facilitated many exchange forums including the East Asia National Leadership Meeting involving national societies from across East Asia, and the Youth Exchange programme with visitors from the Korean and Japanese Red Cross Societies.

Contributing to Longer-Term Impact

Overall, all programmes work towards reaching the Federation's Global Agenda. At the same time, these programmes also work towards meeting key Millennium Development Goals particularly in reducing poverty/vulnerability (social care), reducing the spread of disease (HIV response, avian influenza) and ensuring access to safe water and hygiene materials (water and sanitation).

In addition, the disaster management programme works with NEMA and national authorities to reach national standards on disaster response and preparedness. The first aid programme has contributed to the nationwide injury prevention campaign and traffic safety programme, while the HIV response

project works with national actors on the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. In all applicable areas, the MRCS works to help achieve both national and international goals.

Looking Ahead

All activities will continue and serve as a basis for the rest of the year, and those activities which were not funded during this reporting period will be carried out by the end of 2007. Through internal and external reviews by the Federation and bilateral donors, the MRCS has identified areas in which activities can be improved and scaled up for 2008-2009. Specifically, focus will be placed on: 1) strategic policy development for all programmes to help identify future goals and directions for activities; 2) greater sustainability of activities through focus on income generation and generating community support; 3) improving training curricula to meet community needs in areas such as first aid and social care which will implement new psychological support training; 4) expanding target groups while maintaining quality of service; and 5) improving overall dissemination of information through behaviour change communication and targeted IEC material development.

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAMN001 - MONGOLIA

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/8
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAAMN001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	617,845	921,623	77,712	411,552	218,360	2,247,093
B. Opening Balance	17,304	270,234	168	27,352	5,896	320,953
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
British Red Cross				15,925		15,925
Capacity Building Fund				50,000		50,000
DFID Partnership		61,740				61,740
ECHO		48,025			743	48,768
Finnish Red Cross	230,147	48,300			37,665	316,112
German Red Cross	55,673	55,673				111,346
Icelandic Red Cross				7,500	53,200	60,700
New Zealand Red Cross				37,259		37,259
Norwegian Red Cross	1,033	194,000				195,033
C1. Cash contributions	286,852	407,738		110,684	91,608	896,882
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
China Red Cross				48,120		48,120
DFID Partnership		58,260				58,260
ECHO		-61,326			-934	-62,260
Finnish Red Cross	63,294	49,320			-37,823	74,791
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	63,294	46,254		48,120	-38,757	118,911
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
British Red Cross				0		0
Capacity Building Fund				46,545		46,545
ECHO		0			0	0
Finnish Red Cross	0					0
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or	0	0		46,545	0	46,545
<u>Inkind Goods & Transport</u>						
Other	15,885					15,885
C4. Inkind Goods & Transport	15,885					15,885
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
Icelandic Red Cross					98,033	98,033
C5. Inkind Personnel					98,033	98,033
<u>Other Income</u>						
Miscellaneous Income					3,832	3,832
C6. Other Income					3,832	3,832
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	366,031	453,992	0	205,349	154,716	1,180,088
D. Total Funding = B + C	383,335	724,226	168	232,701	160,612	1,501,041

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	17,304	270,234	168	27,352	5,896	320,953
C. Income	366,031	453,992	0	205,349	154,716	1,180,088
E. Expenditure	-324,884	-660,845	0	-141,459	-159,852	-1,287,041
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	58,450	63,380	168	91,242	760	214,000

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAMN001 - MONGOLIA

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/8
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAAMN001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		617,845	921,623	77,712	411,552	218,360	2,247,093	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	1,246							1,246
Clothing & textiles	130,084		42,777				42,777	87,307
Seeds,Plants	22,423							22,423
Medical & First Aid	18,052	5,817	2,728				8,544	9,508
Teaching Materials	76,597	33,468	4,895				38,363	38,235
Utensils & Tools	3,177							3,177
Other Supplies & Services	287,058	9,290	185,233		52,142		246,664	40,394
Total Supplies	538,637	48,574	235,633		52,142		336,348	202,289
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	29,897		29,790				29,790	107
Computers & Telecom	1,036		1,595			2,131	3,726	-2,690
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	30,933		31,385			2,131	33,516	-2,583
Transport & Storage								
Storage	5,424		884			1,061	1,945	3,479
Distribution & Monitoring	7,999		2,379			3,708	6,088	1,911
Transport & Vehicle Costs	87,213	8,280	53,969		605	-6,109	56,745	30,468
Total Transport & Storage	100,636	8,280	57,232		605	-1,339	64,778	35,858
Personnel Expenditures								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	222,450		56,200			138,907	195,107	27,343
Delegate Benefits	42,000							42,000
National Staff	48,108	10,855	17,539		669	3,939	33,001	15,107
National Society Staff	171,093	35	31,299		9,681		41,016	130,078
Consultants						1,124	1,124	-1,124
Total Personnel Expenditures	483,651	10,891	105,038		10,350	143,969	270,247	213,404
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	337,436	88,505	37,228		35,780	1,588	163,101	174,335
Total Workshops & Training	337,436	88,505	37,228		35,780	1,588	163,101	174,335
General Expenditure								
Travel	38,452	2,038	15,889		2	3,975	21,904	16,548
Information & Public Relation	467,636	108,963	47,670		19,781	99	176,513	291,122
Office Costs	53,802	9,006	7,148			8,236	24,390	29,412
Communications	34,778	2,824	8,258			11,202	22,284	12,494
Professional Fees						2	2	-2
Financial Charges	15,070	105	39			38,253	38,396	-23,326
Other General Expenses		23,562	32,815		2,226	-58,240	363	-363
Total General Expenditure	609,738	146,497	111,820		22,009	3,527	283,852	325,885
Program Support								
Program Support	146,061	21,050	42,955		9,195	9,976	83,176	62,885
Total Program Support	146,061	21,050	42,955		9,195	9,976	83,176	62,885
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		1,087	39,554		11,380		52,021	-52,021
Total Operational Provisions		1,087	39,554		11,380		52,021	-52,021
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	2,247,093	324,884	660,845		141,459	159,852	1,287,041	960,052
VARIANCE (C - D)		292,961	260,777	77,712	270,093	58,508	960,052	