

Programme Update 2007



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Mongolia

Appeal No. MAAMN001

Programme Update No. 7

This report covers the period of 1/9/2007 to 31/12/2007 of the 2006-07 appeal.

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.



MRCS Red Cross youth volunteers in their seasonal costumes spreading the word on condoms and HIV during the MRCS train campaign for World AIDS Day. MRCS

In brief

Programme Summary: The past four months included a number of major events, including international campaigns such as World First Aid Day, the 18th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, World AIDS Day, World Disabled Day, and the ever-important World Volunteers Day. While support for the Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) core programmes continues to vary, each sector did its best to get the word out on these key issues and lead the effort against HIV in equal partnership with everyone.

Outside of these events, the programmes continued to work towards improving their quality programming. Disaster management focused on working with herders to reduce local vulnerability while recognizing the value of traditional wisdom and the need for closer cooperation. The first aid programme continued its efforts to train community leaders and volunteers. HIV response is spreading to new territories, with the first ever training for countryside men who have sex with men (MSM) peer educators as well as the opening of its cross-border project targeting Mongolian sex workers in the border city of Erlian, China. Water sanitation and avian influenza efforts continue to train and work with local communities to reduce vulnerabilities to health risks while promoting sanitation and awareness.

Activities with Mongolia's large youth population have also been growing, such as the expanding Donor 25 club campaigns among campus students and continued traffic safety activities in the "Green Light White Line" campaign. The ranks of Junior Red Cross (JRC) members have also risen to include children from disabled schools who are sometimes left out or forgotten in the youth movement.

Material capacity of programmes has also received a boost this past fall, with new information, education and

communication (IEC) materials and manuals as well as training materials being produced to cover information needs over the coming year. With the support of generous donors, first aid kits, uniforms, brochures, posters, manuals and more are being updated, published and sent out to the field. In turn, the capacity of mid-level branches is also strengthened, both through more resources coming out of headquarters and directly through organizational development projects which help branches to sustain their funding and activities through greater resource mobilization.

Last but not least, successful integration of core programmes with the information dissemination programme has helped media broadcasting reach a high point this year, not only in terms of coverage of MRCS activities but also in terms of integrating MRCS programme activities with new existing series, such as special themed game shows like “AHA” and the Mongolian Wheel of Fortune, where volunteers compete while disseminating knowledge about health and the Red Cross; a first aid series for youth, with weekly lessons on basic aid response; special talk shows and documentaries on HIV and Red Cross Youth activities, and more. Training for journalists, in collaboration with the Mongolian journalists’ union, has also helped strengthen the important bond between MRCS and the mass media, which has helped in forming a bridge to reaching communities nationwide. The integration with the information dissemination programme has shown great results, and in the future information dissemination will remain a key part of each programme.

The MRCS still faces the challenge of consistent funding among core programmes, as well as a lack of technical expertise and resources. In addition, natural forces still affect activities, with droughts this year causing a loss of around 80 percent of emergency hay stock. Building the MRCS capacity to respond to these issues will help not only to scale up activities but also to improve how the MRCS can respond or recover from such setbacks.

Needs: Total 2006-2007 budget CHF 2,291,611 (USD 2,081,065 or EUR 1,432,222) out of which 71% is covered. Outstanding needs are CHF 649,004 (USD 589,140 or EUR 405,900). [Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

No. of people we help: The table below outlines how many people benefited directly from Federation programme interventions during this reporting period, and how many will benefit from activities planned for the rest of what remains of the year. All figures are rough to close estimates. Indirect figures are very high i.e. large television campaigns were launched during this period, touching on disaster management issues and volunteering (on International Volunteers Day), and received very good coverage on prime time television. Various billboards with different Red Cross messages such as avian influenza, have periodically been on display in cities, towns etc.

Reporting period	Programme title	Total beneficiary numbers		
		Women	Men	Total
August- December	Disaster management	3,000	2,000	5,000
	Health and care	3,500	3,500	7,000
	Organizational development	1,000	1,000	2,000
	Humanitarian values	400,000	300,000	700,000

Our Partners: The World Health Organization (WHO), ministry of health, national blood centre, blood 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, Norwegian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, DFID, Japanese Red Cross, The Republic of Korea Red Cross, British Red Cross, German Red Cross, the Red Cross Society of China, the national emergency management agency (NEMA), Deseret International Charities, Mongolian national radio and television broadcasting agency, Mongolian educational channel, local prison authorities, ministry of agriculture, university of agriculture, national centre for diseases with natural foci, the ministry of social welfare and labour, border/customs control, local health departments, traffic police, the national AIDS foundation (NAF), and UNFPA. MRCS also has individuals, both in country as well as international, who sponsor the national society with funds and material donations.

Progress towards Objectives

Health and Care

The MRCS health and care programmes continue in the four key areas of first aid, HIV response, blood donor recruitment, and social care. In addition, the bilaterally supported water sanitation project and the new avian influenza preparedness project work towards protecting the health of partner communities.

First Aid Programme

Objective: Community first aid activities are being implemented in all MRCS branches.

Achievements: The highlight this season was the celebration of World First Aid Day in September. This year's theme was water safety, an often-overlooked component of injury prevention in a landlocked country. However in the seven months leading up to the event, over 1,700 people had drowned, a clear sign that water safety needs to be addressed. The main event was organized at the Ulaanbaatar water sports centre, where Red Cross Youth volunteers trained in life-guarding skills competed both in swimming, diving, performing, and demonstrated water rescue techniques. Three teams from three different districts of Ulaanbaatar competed in front of a crowd of over 135 people, including an additional 90 supporting volunteers and branch staff. A special guest, a former police officer, also gave a speech on how his men used first aid to save lives during a major flash flood of the Tuul River adjacent to Ulaanbaatar in 1967. The event helped showcase the need for water safety and first aid knowledge even among those who may not think they will ever use it.



On World First Aid Day, a team of Red Cross Youth volunteers demonstrates a water rescue at the Ulaanbaatar water sports center.

Regular activities of the programme also continue. Refresher training for first aid instructors of the Ulaanbaatar city district branches was organized in November for ten participants. Traffic safety competitions entitled “Green Light White Line” have also been organized at participating schools in partnership with the youth programme, reaching over 300 students in participating schools.

The material capacity of the first aid programme is also getting a boost, thanks to generous funding from the Norwegian Red Cross through the Federation appeal. Starting in August, the first aid programme purchased 295 first aid kits, distributing five each to all 37 mid-level branches for use in trainings and disaster response activities. Excess kits were sold as part of fund-raising efforts. In December, 2,000 new copies of first aid manuals will also be printed, for sale to first aid students and organizations. In addition, USD 6,246 (CHF 6,876) in funding for more kits and first aid volunteer uniforms has been secured for December, and quotes are now being taken to procure the new materials.

Constraints or challenges: The first aid programme continues to face a lack of adequate sustainable funding. While more integration with disaster management could assist in this regard, the process has not taken hold and first aid activities continue to be organized using separate funding, which is often not available or given to disaster management. In addition, there is no policy or experience for managing health in emergencies. Cooperation with government agencies such as the ministry of health in this regard and on first aid, in general, needs to improve. First aid by citizens remains an illegal practice in Mongolia, where only certified doctors or nurses are allowed to perform it in any situation. Changing this legal practice as well as the attitude of the public on first aid as a community activity will require greater advocacy in the future.

HIV Response Programme

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

Federation-supported HIV project achievements: As the HIV response programme continues to plan to join the Federation Global Alliance on HIV, it has also been busy organizing events for this year's exciting celebration of World AIDS Day (WAD) in December. Events this year included the annual train campaign, organized in partnership with railway authorities and targeting passengers and railway workers across all five stations and provinces from the Russian border to China. In total, over 4,000 passengers and 5,000 citizens around train stations were reached on the ride. Other riders took the public route. In Ulaanbaatar city, Red Cross volunteers rode the streets on city buses, reaching over 380 passengers directly. After alighting, they took to the streets and did campaigns targeting those walking through the main city square, including stopping along the way to talk to construction workers and commuters. Campus-wide university campaigns that reached a total of 8,000 students via campus radio were also conducted in collaboration with student unions and organizations. Red Cross Youth members also organized trainings in dormitories and college classrooms, reaching over 650 college and 300 high school students. In cooperation with the information dissemination programme, ten- to fifteen- minute television spots on the C1 television station were broadcast over five days around the event, promoting this year's theme of "Leadership" and utilizing active Red Cross Youth members to spread the word about condoms with seasonal messages and costumes. In total, over 19,000 people were reached through WAD activities.

Federation-supported joint activities between the social care programme and HIV response also continued this year at two prisons in Baganuur and Zuun Kharaa. At Baganuur, 30 new HIV prevention peer educators were prepared, and a total of 515 prisoners were reached through group discussions and peer education efforts. At the Zuun Kharaa maximum/long-term security centre, a first time and refresher training were organized, and a total of 50 peer educators are now providing information to their peers. The prison is divided into five sections, with each section having ten peer educators reaching between 85 to 120 prisoners within their sections. In addition, the training room of Zuun Kharaa was refurbished to facilitate preparing prisoner educators. On World AIDS Day, volunteers also distributed information, education and communication (IEC) materials on HIV through both the prison health clinic and visits to prisoners.

The HIV response programme is also responsible for the following bilaterally-supported projects:

Japanese Red Cross bilaterally-supported project achievements: The three voluntary counselling and testing centres established over the summer through the project in Khuvsgul, Dornod, and Selenge provinces continue to serve their communities with testing and information. Recent estimates from the centres showed that together they had served over 1,250 clients, including mothers, newly-wed couples, and walk-ins. The centre staff members have also become more active in promoting HIV/STI awareness through outreach activities in the surrounding communities. Further IEC promotion of the centres and continued collaboration with hospital directors and staff will be the key focus for this project into the future.

Australian Red Cross bilaterally-supported project achievements: Following the survey conducted during the last reporting period, representatives of single women-headed households in Selenge and Dornod participated in national training for 18 HIV peer educators in Ulaanbaatar. Training covered not only HIV but also life skills and general reproductive health. The trained educators have planned to return to their communities and select a group of ten target women per educator who will form a small self support group, which will meet monthly to disseminate information on HIV/STI, reproductive health, and other topics identified by the women and supported by the HIV response team at headquarters.

In November and October, a key consultant from the Scarlet Alliance sex workers organization in Australia came to Mongolia for a period of two weeks and assisted greatly in helping set approaches, practices, and goals for working in equal partnership with sex workers in Khuvsgul. During the visit, meetings with local sex worker community members as well as outreach workers helped identify future directions of activities and needs, which can be addressed by the project with future support from the Scarlet Alliance and Australian Red Cross. Lessons from the visit have also contributed to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)-supported project working with Mongolian sex workers in Erlian, China.

Meanwhile, the key partner, Youth for Health, had an exciting quarter of firsts, starting with the first ever drag queen pageant in Mongolia. The pageant included 12 contestants and a panel of judges from the community and supporting NGO partners, and drew a crowd of nearly 50 men who have sex with men (MSM) community members and friends. The event was a keystone in mobilizing the MSM community in Mongolia while championing for their acceptance and rights. Following in October, with help from a consultant from the Philippine Library Foundation, a national training for peer educators from provinces and cities across Mongolia was held in Ulaanbaatar. This was the first time training for volunteers working outside of Ulaanbaatar had been held on this scale in the city. With the help of these trained educators, Youth for Health hopes to gradually expand its reach to assist MSM living in rural areas and other growing urban centres. MSM and HIV sensitisation training was also held for all MRCS headquarters staff, establishing a precedent which can now be used with all branches to ensure a positive approach towards working with MSM.



Single mothers demonstrate their peer education skills by showing how to use male condoms.

Last but not least, anti-stigma efforts in collaboration with the Mongolian journalists union continued in conjunction with MSM-targeted activities. A two-day sensitisation training for regional journalists in the fields of TV, radio, and print media was held in November, with 30 participants from six provinces and two districts of Ulaanbaatar. A one-hour talk show with HIV team members was also broadcast twice on the Education Channel.

UNFPA-supported cross border project achievements: This fall marked the start of activities under the new partnership of the MRCS and the Mongolian UNFPA on the project “Prevention Without Borders”, which seeks to reach some of the 300 Mongolian sex workers living and working in the border city of Erlian, China. In cooperation with the Red Cross Society of China and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) in China, the project hopes to provide peer education among Mongolian sex workers as well as condom and HIV prevention campaigns on both sides of the border. In addition, the project is currently building a new voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) centre on the Mongolian side of the border in Zamiin-Uud. The centre, when finished, will be able to serve not only sex workers reached by the project and returning to Mongolia seasonally, but also the thousands of mobile workers and drivers crossing through the city each year.

In October, initial meetings with community stakeholders, particularly Mongolian sex workers in Erlian, took place and in November a joint advocacy meeting to mark the launch of the project was held in Zamiin-Uud with participants from both the local Mongolian government and hospital as well as the Inner Mongolian Red Cross branch and a team of representatives from UN agencies and the WHO. The meeting successfully introduced the project and raised the need for working in partnership with sex workers across the border. This December, peer education activities will be underway as sex workers trained through the project will begin outreach work among their community. For World AIDS Day, outreach workers paired up with HIV team members to conduct mobile women condom promotion campaigns on both sides of the border, reaching at least 130 women in Erlian city and an additional 800 local and visiting Mongolians in Zamiin-Uud soum.

Constraints or challenges: Attitudes and perceptions of local and key stakeholders remain an obstacle for effective HIV advocacy. Within the VCT project, a lack of support from local hospital directors has made the work of the VCT centre staff more difficult in terms of a lack of full-time doctors for the centre and lack of understanding about the need for VCT services in the area. In addition, stigma against sex workers has remained a strong obstacle in terms of working with local government officials in Zamiin-Uud and Khuvsgul.

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: Despite limited funding, the donor programme kicked off the start of its youth-targeted activities this year with two trainings for new university student recruiters in August. These recruiters collaborated together on 19 September to organize an all-day competition campaign titled "What is a Voluntary Blood Donor?" at the humanitarian college of the Mongolian teacher's university. A total of 60 students participated in the competition, which covered knowledge on needs for voluntary donation, how to ensure your blood is healthy, and myths about donating. A total of 3,000 students attended the event, and afterwards over 130 donated their blood. The campaign was part of month-long activities organized by the new recruiters and members of the expanding Youth Donor 25 clubs.

In addition, media campaigns targeting youths have been organized in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar. A street billboard promoting donation and showing Donor 25 Club members was erected on major thoroughfares, and a special edition of the popular quiz game show AHA was broadcasted with 20 student participants and 80 audience members from all nine districts of the city. The programme, which was broadcast nationally, featured contestants answering questions related to blood, blood diseases, and donation myths.



Many people responded when the MRCS conducted a mobile blood donor drive in Ulaan Bataar. MRCS/Enke

The MRCS has also been slowly working towards a closer relationship with the government. Over the past two years, the government of Mongolia for the first time contributed funding towards blood donor recruitment activities. This amount has been gradually increasing, from the initial USD 3,000 to the most recent pledge of USD 9,000 (CHF 9,908). This funding has been used to publish six different IEC materials, including 6,000 copies of three targeted brochures, 2,000 copies of two different posters, and 5,000 copies of pocket calendars. In addition, donor gifts to help retain regular donors have been produced including 2,000 pens and 4,000 invitation cards. Funding was also available to organize regional training for branch recruiters in December, including 18 participants from over three provinces. Television spots promoting voluntary blood donation were also prepared and broadcast on the national Mongolian TV5 station.

An advocacy meeting with the national blood centre and MRCS leadership was also held. The two organizations discussed how to better cooperate with the ministry of health, what activities should be planned for the coming year, and how to improve donor recruitment. The partners also discussed how to approach the new minister and sub-minister of health from the newly-elected government, and expressed their hope to meet the new officials before the new year.

In November, representatives from the MRCS also attended the fifth Red Cross and Red Crescent symposium on blood programmes in the Asian region. The conference was a huge step towards gaining more technical support and exchanging experience with other well-functioning national societies promoting voluntary blood

donation in the region.

Constraints or challenges: The programme still faces all the traditional fears and myths about donations coupled with a lack of support to scale up activities to address them. The programme currently relies only on Federation funding, and while the government has gradually been providing more financial support, technical support continues to be lacking.

Social Care Programme

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

Achievements: The social care programme continues to support volunteer home care visits to the disabled, elderly, and impoverished with support from both the German Red Cross and the Finnish Red Cross through the Federation appeal and the British Red Cross as a bilateral donor. Currently, Federation funding has supported 200 volunteers working in eight mid-level branches, each visiting three families to provide help around the house, refer family members to local health services, and provide friendly company. In total, around 600 families or 3,000 people are receiving help from the Federation project. For the British Red Cross- supported project, which targets overcrowded *ger* districts in Ulaanbaatar, three branches are overseeing 650 volunteers, reaching at least 1,875 families or almost 10,000 beneficiaries.

In addition to providing regular home care service, the social care programme also organizes community mobilization activities and social events to help integrate marginalized members of society and advocate for their rights and needs. For International Elders Day on 1 October, branches organized local elderly meetings at social care centres for over 200 elders living without family or pension. This year, they collaborated with



A child benefits from one of the 200 wheel chairs donated by Deseret International Charities to the social care programme implemented by the Byangol Red Cross branch. MRCS

both the youth and information dissemination programmes to organize a World Disabled Day television broadcast on 3 December, showcasing their collaboration with youth on recruiting disabled JRC members and working with disabled schools in Ulaanbaatar.

For International Volunteers Day on 5 December, the social care programme again collaborated with information dissemination and media to send out 7,000 greeting cards to over 200 volunteers at all branches, thanking them for their service. In addition, two different television programmes were produced; one followed the activities of five social care volunteers at two branches in Ulaanbaatar, where staff and volunteers explained how communities can contribute through volunteering their time and skills. Four beneficiaries also shared their views on how the

programme had impacted their lives. The other programme both advocated for volunteers and rewarded outstanding volunteers by inviting them to be contestants on a popular game show. Some 100 volunteers from three countryside branches and four Ulaanbaatar city branches attended, and some were selected to compete. The programme helped to motivate the volunteers and disseminate information on Red Cross volunteer activities and opportunities. The programme was broadcast once on International Volunteers Day and then again on the weekend, when viewer numbers jump to between 80,000 to one million Mongolians nationwide.

At least 216 new volunteers also received bags bearing the Red Cross logo as a thank you for working with the Red Cross.

During the past six months, Bayan-Olgii province branch also established its first social care centre, a traditional Mongolian *ger* that will be used to host community meetings among beneficiaries and volunteers. Approximately 30 people have been using the centre everyday, many of them elderly or disabled people living alone with no one to talk to. In addition, the Chingeltei district branch of Ulaanbaatar hosted an experience sharing workshop with 22 volunteers and staff on how to help register persons for government benefit programmes, such as children's allowance, health insurance, identity cards, etc. With this knowledge, those not receiving any government pensions or welfare can be helped to register with local agencies to receive support.

The joint effort with the HIV response programme at prisons, supported by the Federation, also provided 515 prisoners at Baganuur prison with hygiene products this year. In addition, at the request of prisoners for more vocational training, 15 prisoners were given carpentry lessons as well as equipment and wood for starting their own carpentry work. As a result, small income generation from prisoners' labour has now created a limited fund which could be used to help organize more peer educator trainings in the future. An additional 15 prisoners were also trained in first aid to assist their fellow inmates in times of need. At Zuun Kharaa prison, home visits to prisoners at the local long-term security centre have also continued, and this past fall a concert was organized for the prisoners with support from local Red Cross volunteers.

Constraints or challenges: Distance was the key challenge for the programme in terms of ensuring equal participation for all volunteers. For the TV broadcasts, it was not possible for volunteers from provinces far away to participate, due to high flight costs and poor weather conditions. This was very disappointing as the event was meant to be open to all volunteers. In addition, when sending out cards to volunteers, once again those in far away provinces received their cards late due to distance and a longer time taken to post them.

Water Sanitation Project

Objective: 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 potable water and improving personal hygiene by means of education. Furthermore, the capacity of the MRCS to implement similar projects will be improved.

Achievements: Since August, the remaining ten water kiosks out of the 14 planned have been completed, with the final kiosk handed over to local authorities in October. The 14 kiosks are now working in four districts of Ulaanbaatar city, and from August to November over 6,703 tonnes of water have been sold to over 5,402 families. Based on surveys conducted by the operating branches, the average use of water at each kiosk is six to fourteen litres of water per family per day. In December, another two water trucks will be purchased to ensure water deliveries are keeping up with demand.

Participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) sessions with local community members are also being organized in conjunction with the new kiosks to help promote sanitary behaviours among the



Local community members gather for a water kiosk inauguration in October 2007 for one of 14 built this year in the *ger* district of Ulaan Bataar Federation/Thor Danielson



Young boys pull water canopies up a hill with fresh water from the Red Cross water kiosk installed this year through the water sanitation programme of the MRCS. Federation/Thor Danielson

target communities. At least 260 volunteers have been trained over 11 training sessions in the past six months. These volunteers have then organized a total of 159 PHAST sessions reaching over 3,138 people in the community.

Constraints or challenges: Costs of construction and transport have gone up with rising prices in Mongolia over the past fall, but this issue is being dealt with. Main problems still remain in how to best evaluate the improvements in local health conditions since the project began. Volunteers and communities are also still unfamiliar with the PHAST methodology, and sometimes have problems communicating during sessions or conducting the training effectively. Improved volunteer management would help to address this issue.

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: The AI project began by printing all the necessary IEC materials for public awareness campaigns in September, including two different posters, three different brochures, and short television and radio spots for broadcasting. A stakeholder meeting was also held with the national emergency management agency (NEMA) and UNICEF, to discuss how the organizations would cooperate in the coming year. A follow-up meeting in December included the national centre for health development and the national centre for infectious diseases. Refresher training on AI prevention and response with ten project staff from five provinces was also conducted in December, and project workers were able to share their experiences and ideas for advocacy campaigns.



An avian influenza prevention billboard in Moron town, Hovsgul province, brings life saving messages to the local community. Federation/Thor Danielsson

Monitoring visits to project provinces were carried out during October and November. Mid-level branch staff members have been very active in spreading the word about AI and each have taken different approaches towards working with their communities. In Khovd province, volunteers were trained at primary-level branches, and through their efforts training campaigns were organized targeting university students and mobile communities, particularly drivers. In Bayan-Olgii province, branch staff organized a training for chicken farmers, while those in Bulgan province organized education campaigns for students in grades one through six, and those in Khuvsgul province conducted a regional training for its primary level branch volunteers from four different cities. In total, over 242 volunteers have been trained since August and with their

support the word on AI is reaching more and more families across Mongolia.

Constraints or challenges: Rural level implementation of AI efforts remains difficult, as cooperation between key stakeholders remains at the national level and there is no set system as of yet for AI response at the city or provincial levels. This cooperation and coordination between emergency agencies needs to be further developed, possibly through continued stakeholder meetings. In addition, the development of a national health in emergencies policy (as mentioned before) would aid in achieving this end.

Disaster Management

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

Hay project achievements: With the end of the harvest season, the MRCS hay project, which aims to provide vulnerable herding families with low-cost/free hay to help their livestock survive the harsh winter, was able to see the impact of its efforts over the past summer/fall at the six participating regional disaster preparedness centres (RDPC). However, due to widespread droughts, this year's target amount of hay (roughly 8,500 tonnes) could not be met; instead, only 20 percent (1,700 tonnes) was produced. Key support was provided through the appeal from the Norwegian and Finnish Red Cross Societies. Integrated activities with the first aid programme included training for the project's 56 hay workers (unemployed herders temporarily hired by the project) and their families in six different provinces in the project. In total, 1,020 vulnerable herding families received hay free of charge, and the remaining 40 percent of produced hay was sold at reduced rates to the public. Radio segments on *dzud* (heavy winter), fire and animal diseases were developed and broadcasted thrice by the Mongolian national radio.

Disaster volunteer training was organized in Khentii province and a total of 30 volunteers were trained. Local NEMA officials actively took part in the training, providing local statistics, information on common types of disasters, and discussion on the collaboration between Red Cross branches and local NEMA agencies.

All disasters, special events and weather forecasts have been reported by the MRCS "*Humanity*" newspaper every month, covering stories such as a mild earthquake in one province, horse flu in three provinces, and other information from the government on disasters which occurred from September to December.

The disaster programme officer visited the Eastern and Khangai RDPCs and other sites in the two provinces to monitor the hay making process and activities, including volunteer training, capacity building, and planning for 2008-2009.

Achievements of the bilateral project with the Australian Red Cross on capacity building of the RDPC: The Australian Red Cross (ARC)- supported capacity building project has successfully been supporting RDPCs in Gobi-Altai, Bayan-Olgii, Darkhan-Uul, Dornod, Arkhangai, Tov, and Gobi-Sumber provinces. One of the key achievements supported by this project included the organization of herder consultation meetings in the Eastern, Altai, and Khentii provinces. The meetings helped bring together both wealthy and vulnerable herders to share traditional knowledge/skills, and allowed new information to be presented by guest speakers including representatives of the ministry of agriculture, the national university of agriculture, and other participating NGOs. Over 500 herders from targeted areas participated. As a result of the conference in one province, trilateral contracts were signed by sponsor herders, local Red Cross branches, and vulnerable herders. Through these contracts, the sponsors will provide free animals to the assisted herders in order to increase their stock over the coming year. Television broadcasts were also prepared with disaster prevention (DP) messages targeting local communities, and over 90 new volunteers were trained in Khentii and Dundgovi provinces on community-based disaster response and volunteer roles before, during, and after disasters. This fall, the project also provided new LCD projectors to all participating branches, as well as two Russian vans to the Eastern provinces of Dornod and Gobi-Altai to assist in their mobile disaster campaigns and trainings.

A TV segment on *dzud* and fire was developed and broadcast by the Mongolian national television 20 times. One of the local channels agreed to broadcast the segments free of charge upon request from the disaster management programme.

A herder consultation meeting was conducted in Uvurkhangai province and all heads of local government departments took part and gave presentations for herders. The consultation aimed to facilitate cooperation and understanding of humanitarian work among herders, and a total of 600 animals were donated by participating herders. Recommendations were also issued that focused on how to cope with the harsh winter, improving cooperation with local Red Cross branches, the efficient use of pasture land, and more.

Constraints or challenges: The key constraint for DM this season was the weather. Droughts in almost 70 percent of all provinces greatly reduced the hay project's impact and productivity, which coupled with the need for timely funding during the harvest season made it difficult for the hay project to reach its full potential. However, branches have received valuable equipment as well as experience in running the hay

project and while they cannot control the climate, this experience and capacity will continue to serve communities in the future. Meanwhile, rising costs of fuel and other commodities have made it more expensive to run activities both in the hay project and in mobile campaigns in the countryside.

Mongolian Red Cross Youth Movement

Objective: To cultivate humanitarian values in youth and to enhance the participation of youth in humanitarian activities

Achievements: The Red Cross Youth and Junior Red Cross (RCY/JRC) Movement continues to serve as the only fully-integrated programme at the MRCS, with youth members participating in all core programme activities. However, the RCY/JRC Movement is also leading causes of its own.

This year, the MRCS has been sowing the seeds to integrate disabled students into RCY/JRC activities. Beginning with the start of school in September, the youth programme has been recruiting JRC members from the five national schools for children with disabilities in Ulaanbaatar. So far, 120 disabled students have been recruited as members and an additional 120 students from vulnerable families have been provided with stationery and bags generously donated by the Japanese Red Cross Society. In addition, new members were able to participate in the exhibition of youth organizations celebrating the 18th anniversary of the UN convention on the rights of the child in November. As a result, the involvement of disabled youth has been directly increasing, leading to a fuller and more participatory youth movement.

In addition, in partnership with the youth programme, the first aid programme, and the information dissemination programme, a television series on first aid for youth, with one-hour lessons covering a basic part of first aid such as bandaging or burns is produced weekly and broadcast four times on the Mongolian education channel. The lessons help to not only disseminate information on basic first aid, but also to promote first aid knowledge and youth participation in community health response.



Red Cross Youth preparing for cloth distribution to the vulnerable in Ulaan Bataar. MRCS/ Ugan

On 9 December, in conjunction with Children's Broadcast Day, the MRCS also worked with the children's programming department of the Mongolian national broadcaster to produce a short show about the MRCS JRC/RCY Movement. The programme was broadcasted nationwide and helped disseminate information on Red Cross activities and youth involvement in humanitarian efforts.

Japanese Red Cross bilaterally-supported project achievements: Since 2004, the Japanese Red Cross (JRC) has generously supported the MRCS youth programme in implementing the "International Friendship Project". This project aims to provide healthy learning environments for low-income schools and help children from vulnerable families continue their education. This year the project is working with five selected schools from Ulaanbaatar city, Tosontsengel city, and Gobi-Altai, Khuvsgul, and Zavkhan provinces. The schools were provided this summer with new equipment including personal computers and printers. In addition to improving the material capacity of the schools, training has also been conducted for teachers and school staff members on adolescent health issues and the use of peer education approaches in working with youth. Through the project, youth volunteers will be trained as health peer educators and will work with school teachers/social workers to disseminate health education to their fellow students.

In addition, the annual student exchange programme with JRC gave one youth programme officer and two RCY members the chance to travel to Japan and meet with youth volunteers of the JRC and attend the JRC/RCY international meeting at Mount Fuji. The group travelled for two weeks in November and shared many experiences with their fellow RCY members.

Constraints or challenges: The youth programme has been continuously grouped together with other MRCS programmes as a sub-programme or side project, relying only on partial funding from other programmes which include small youth activities in their overall projects. This makes it extremely difficult for the youth programme to stand alone as a fully sustainable and independent youth-led programme, with activities of its own, separate recognition and adequate funding for its work.

Organizational Development

Objective: The most vulnerable in society have received support from a better-prepared national society that is effective, non-competitive and sustains its activities.

Achievements:

Capacity building fund (CBF): To evaluate the effectiveness of the programme and identify areas where improvements can be made, the MRCS organized an experience-sharing meeting among mid-level branches participating in the CBF project. The key topic of the meeting was income generation and volunteer/resource mobilization. A total of 45 people participated, including 15 Red Cross staff members and 30 volunteer leaders. During the meeting, issues brought up included increasing the sustainability of branches and their activities, as well as paying more attention to retaining volunteers through training and promoting active volunteer participation.

Also, monitoring visits to assess the CBF project's impact were carried out in Uvurkhangai province in August and Arkhangai province in November. During the meeting, headquarters staff met with volunteers and helped organize a conference on "Volunteer Participation to Improve Herders' Health and First Aid Awareness". A total of 150 volunteers were involved. In December, a project review meeting among all 15 participating branches was also held in Ulaanbaatar to discuss how to improve finance management. Accountants from the branches were the key guests of the meeting.

Red Cross Society of China (RCSC)-funded capacity building:

Six mid-level branches from Bayankhongo, Uvurkhangai, Dornogobi, Sukhbaatar, Seleneg, and Tuv provinces are currently working under cooperation agreements with the RCSC (its headquarters and sister branches working in the field) to build their capacity over the next two years. Activities have included income generation (for one branch this involves animal husbandry; for another, it involves running a hotel), fundraising campaigns, and remodelling of necessary fixtures such as training rooms with newly updated training materials. In addition, all branches are working to improve their cooperation with the RCSC in the spirit of friendship.



MRCS accountants were brought together to learn the new accounting structure, and developed new ways of working during a finance workshop organized this fall. MRCS

Finance development: During the reporting period the finance department at the headquarters has been strengthened with the hiring of an additional accountant to take on the ever increasing workload. The software programme (interactive), as originally planned, has been programmed and additional modules

enhanced as per expectations. After an additional needs assessment was carried out, further programme related work will be carried out in 2008 to enhance the system even further by providing even more effective finance management. As previously reported, the chart of accounts (CoA) was changed in early 2007 to include all programmes, activities and also to list individual donor transactions per branch and headquarters.

A one-week workshop was held for all MRCS accountants (all Red Cross branches) or 38 participants, who covered the new CoA and learnt how to use the new accounting structure to be reflected in finance reporting. A new reporting format was therefore introduced. Various trainings were conducted on the use of the new system. External finance consultants participated in the training, enhancing it to a professional level. It must be noted that Red Cross branches are not yet using the software programme but the plan in the future is to cascade the software into the larger implementation branches. The consensus among the participants was that this was a very good and practical workshop which will increase their professional capacity in the finance field.

Income generation sustainability: As part of efforts to strengthen the income self sustainability of Red Cross branches, a competition was held between all MRCS branches for the best income generating project (IGP) proposal. Of the number of proposals received, two of the Red Cross branches received start-up capital. The proposal which was considered the best received CHF 7,000 and it involved the plantation of the sea buckthorn fruit, a popular fruit that is considered very healthy in Mongolia. The risk analysis showed that planting the fruit would be a low risk undertaking. The first runner up was the classic IGP of procuring goats and sheep and CHF 2,000 was allocated for that purpose. This is an IGP which is also considered low risk under normal climate circumstances, and gives a steady income flow from cashmere and wool. In the past, MRCS branches have had several different IGPs, of which some have succeeded and others have failed. With lessons learned, MRCS branches are moving more into conservative investments which can provide long term, low cost and steady incomes from IGPs. Cashmere production (which is sold to the large cashmere production companies) and investments in housing (office space) have proved to be the safest investments.

Other organizational development issues:

The East Asia national societies leadership meeting was held on 30 and 31 August. The theme of the meeting was the auxiliary role which national societies have in relation to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. Each national society presented its SWOT analysis (strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats) which highlighted the challenges the national societies are facing in their country of operation. Other issues came up such as the new zone structure of the Federation and challenges which the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is facing in the region including in the fields of international humanitarian law (IHL) and international disaster relief law (IDRL), and how cooperation with the authorities in these areas could be strengthened.



East Asia Leadership meeting held in Ulaanbaatar 30-31 August, 2007. MRCS

Constraints or challenges: Management of volunteers and resources remain as key challenges for branches to ensure sustainable and effective activities. While management training and materials are constantly being updated, more technical resources and experience in this regard would help the branches to improve their impact. A lack of business management experience also makes it hard for branches to run effective income generation projects, which are nonetheless necessary in order to cover the branches' day-to-day running costs. Even after a considerable search for a marketing / fundraising manager at the headquarters, the national society has been unable to find a replacement.

Working in partnership

The MRCS network of partners and supporters continues to be one of the biggest assets of the organization. Programmes continue to work with related agencies and donors to build their technical capacity as well as collaborate to expand the impact of projects and activities. Moreover, as mentioned above, special relationships with partners such as television broadcasting companies have helped the MRCS to reach more people than ever before, while contributing to its overall image and growing contacts with other humanitarian organizations.

The Federation of course remains one of the most important supporters of the MRCS, and appeal efforts and multilateral funding has helped the MRCS to attend several international conferences to share experiences and network with other sister societies. Conferences have included the 8th International Congress on AIDS in the Asia Pacific; a skill-sharing meeting in England (with support from the British Red Cross); the Federation general assembly; the East Asian disaster management group meeting in Beijing; the ICRC-supported humanitarian law meeting in Malaysia; the regional disaster response team workshop hosted in Indonesia; the fifth Red Cross and Red Crescent symposium on blood programmes in the Asian region; the Global Alliance planning meeting for member societies, where the MRCS representative helped facilitate using the MRCS's extensive experience in HIV response; the global social care forum in Vienna; and finally the most recent vulnerability and capacity/ emergency assessment (VCA) training, which is critical in helping assist the MRCS to carry out programme-specific VCAs which will be used to build strategic directions for its activities in the future.

Disaster management: The national emergency management agency remains a key partner for all disaster management activities. Local herders councils and leaders have also been crucial in raising support for the most vulnerable.

First aid: First aid partners have included police officers, who receive training and promote first aid awareness and preparedness in the community, youth members and the Mongolian educational channel who collaborated this year to produce a series of first aid lessons for youth. Donor support from the Norwegian Red Cross through the Federation appeal has also enabled the programme to purchase needed first aid kits and produce updated materials.

Social care: Social care continues to work with local welfare agencies, hospitals, and NGOs such as World Vision, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Deseret International Charities, the national association for the disabled, and local women's and elders councils. Support also from the Mongolian volunteer network, including the Voluntary Service Organization (VSO) was also crucial in helping organize events for World Volunteers Day. The British and German Red Cross continue to be the key donors in supporting bilateral activities, together with the Finnish Red Cross which supplies funding as well as donations of clothing/toys through the Federation appeal. Also, generous individual donors from Iceland contributed funds to help assist some of the most vulnerable beneficiaries within the programme. Cooperation with visiting representatives from Iceland's media has also helped spread the word about the programme abroad.

HIV response: For VCT development, the MRCS remains a member of the national VCT/provider initiated HIV testing and counselling (PITC) working group, which has provided both materials and guidance in managing VCT services in Mongolia. Membership on the national AIDS committee has also provided a value outlet for advocacy and cooperation with the Mongolian government. Other community partners have included, of course, Youth for Health, the MSM community-based organization, as well as the Mongolian journalists union which has helped organize trainings as well as campaigns among journalists throughout the ARC funded project. Donors such as the Japanese Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross (which provides support through the appeal to prisoner initiatives), and now the UNFPA have also been invaluable in helping the programme expand. Also, over the coming year the Federation East Asia region HIV Global Alliance will become a key partner in scaling up HIV response for the MRCS, which has been working with the Federation office in Beijing, ARC, as well as its East Asian sister national societies to plan

for integrating the programme into the Global Alliance.

Blood donor recruitment: The blood donor programme currently receives most of its funding through the Federation appeal, although the Mongolian government is slowly providing limited support towards this end. The national blood centre remains a key partner, and new partners such as Mongolian students association and Mongolian youth association have helped the programme to reach young donors and expand its Club 25 efforts.

Water sanitation: Water and sanitation remains solely funded by the Netherlands Red Cross (NLRC) with the government of Netherlands as a back-donor, and continues to work closely with implementing branches as well as the Mongolian water authority Ulaanbaatar water and sewage company (USUG) and the Sumpaks construction company to build and hand over water kiosks in the targeted districts. Local government leaders have also been key in supporting and promoting the project.

Avian influenza: The AI project receives its funding from ARC, a key donor for many MRCS programmes. Other key partners have included WHO and UNICEF, as well as NEMA, the national centre for health development, and the national centre for infectious disease.

Youth Movement: The youth programmes' main bilateral donors include the Japanese Red Cross, which runs the international friendship project, and the Republic of Korea Red Cross, which participates in a yearly exchange programme with RCY members. Other partners have included UNICEF, the national youth association of Mongolia, the Mongolian national broadcast company, the Mongolian educational channel, and hundreds of local supporting schools and teachers, particularly those at the most recently recruited disabled schools in Ulaanbaatar.

Organizational development: The OD programme receives support from the CBF fund as well as the Red Cross Society of China, and works closely with implementing branches and the Federation on all projects.

Last but not least, as mentioned before, partnerships with organizations such as the Mongolian journalists union, the Mongolian national broadcasting company and the educational channel, with support from the MRCS's own information dissemination programme, has helped promote and advocate for MRCS activities and causes nationwide.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The MRCS continues to contribute to the Federation Global Agenda through core programming in both reducing vulnerability to disasters as well as reducing risks to health concerns through first aid training, social care relief, HIV education and prevention, contributing to a safe and secure blood supply, and promoting sanitation and prevention through water sanitation and avian influenza education.

The MRCS also continues to push for government awareness and participation on key issues through meetings with stakeholders such as the ministry of health, and membership on government advisory boards such as the national AIDS committee. Through these collaborative efforts, the MRCS helps achieve national goals, as well as work in line with international agendas such as the Millennium Development Goals, which are also key for Mongolia.

Gender issues are also receiving more attention through the small gender project recently developed and currently in progress to provide gender sensitization training to MRCS headquarters staff, with the aim of helping them to create a gender policy for the organization in the near future.

Lastly, the continued strengthening of the MRCS capacity helps lead to sustainable programming and scaling up of activities into the future.

Looking Ahead

In the last update, the MRCS identified five key areas for its work: 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 a high quality of service; and 5) improving overall dissemination of information through behaviour change communication and targeted IEC material development.

For the new year, the MRCS will continue to focus on its efforts in these areas and at the same time strengthen the strategic direction of its programmes through better policy/strategy development; the participation of key staff in the regional training on VCA will help kick-start this process for many programmes. While efforts towards updating IEC materials have already come a long way, this also needs to be continued to ensure that enough MRCS-targeted IEC material is available for all activities and interventions. Integration with the information dissemination programme has helped all programmes to expand their reach and information distribution, but this integration needs to continue with more technical support in partnership with the information dissemination programme. Sustainability and income generation will also stay in the forefront of overall capacity development.

Expansion of target groups and improved training of communities has already begun, with signs of success as well as new challenges in continuing to tailor training to meet community needs. These efforts will also carry into the new year.

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAMN001 - Mongolia

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/11
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	662,363	921,623	77,712	411,552	218,360	2,291,611
B. Opening Balance	17,304	270,234	168	27,352	5,896	320,953
Income						
<u>Cash contributions (received)</u>						
British Red Cross				15,925		15,925
Capacity Building Fund				50,000		50,000
China Red Cross				48,120		48,120
DFID Partnership		122,969				122,969
ECHO		48,025			743	48,768
Finnish Red Cross	330,577	98,100			37,665	466,342
German Red Cross	72,738	55,673				128,411
Icelandic Red Cross				7,500	109,240	116,740
New Zealand Red Cross				37,259		37,259
Norwegian Red Cross	1,033	194,000				195,033
C1. Cash contributions	404,347	518,768		158,804	147,648	1,229,566
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
ECHO		-61,326			-934	-62,260
Finnish Red Cross	880	1,200			-37,823	-35,743
German Red Cross	296					296
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	1,176	-60,126			-38,757	-97,707
<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		-168	168		0
German Red Cross	-0	0				0
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or	-0	0	-168	46,713	0	46,545
<u>Inkind Goods & Transport (received)</u>						
Norwegian Red Cross	15,885					15,885
C4. Inkind Goods & Transport	15,885					15,885
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
Icelandic Red Cross					123,533	123,533
C5. Inkind Personnel					123,533	123,533
<u>Other Income</u>						
Miscellaneous Income					3,832	3,832
C6. Other Income					3,832	3,832
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	421,407	458,642	-168	205,517	236,256	1,321,654
D. Total Funding = B + C	438,711	728,875	0	232,869	242,152	1,642,607

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	421,407	458,642	-168	205,517	236,256	1,321,654
E. Expenditure	-395,251	-710,357	0	-212,902	-188,763	-1,507,273
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	43,460	18,518	0	19,967	53,389	135,334

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAMN001 - Mongolia

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/11
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)		662,363	921,623	77,712	411,552	218,360	2,291,611	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	1,246							1,246
Construction Materials					2,067		2,067	-2,067
Clothing & textiles	130,084		42,777				42,777	87,307
Seeds,Plants	22,423							22,423
Medical & First Aid	17,952	5,817	2,728				8,544	9,408
Teaching Materials	74,617	33,468	4,895		5,953		44,316	30,301
Utensils & Tools	3,177							3,177
Other Supplies & Services	287,058	12,994	187,026		52,711		252,731	34,328
Total Supplies	536,557	52,279	237,425		60,731		350,435	186,122
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	49,897		29,790				29,790	20,107
Computers & Telecom	1,036		1,595			2,131	3,726	-2,690
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	50,933		31,385			2,131	33,516	17,417
Transport & Storage								
Storage	5,424	275	884			1,061	2,220	3,204
Distribution & Monitoring	10,999		4,399			3,708	8,108	2,891
Transport & Vehicle Costs	89,616	11,190	62,084		605	-7,283	66,596	23,021
Total Transport & Storage	106,040	11,465	67,367		605	-2,513	76,924	29,116
Personnel								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	222,450		56,200			171,604	227,803	-5,353
Delegate Benefits	42,000							42,000
National Staff	53,573	16,463	21,123		669	-115	38,140	15,432
National Society Staff	168,882	35	31,285		10,796		42,116	126,766
Consultants						1,524	1,524	-1,524
Total Personnel	486,905	16,499	108,607		11,465	173,012	309,583	177,321
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	355,561	91,734	56,785		46,375	2,040	196,934	158,628
Total Workshops & Training	355,561	91,734	56,785		46,375	2,040	196,934	158,628
General Expenditure								
Travel	37,643	2,052	19,581		2	5,660	27,294	10,349
Information & Public Relation	454,628	123,732	54,624		33,417	99	211,874	242,754
Office Costs	60,811	9,051	9,401			9,723	28,174	32,638
Communications	38,508	3,073	11,432			11,730	26,235	12,273
Professional Fees						2	2	-2
Financial Charges	15,070	134	3,245			36,834	40,213	-25,143
Other General Expenses		25,990	33,850		2,226	-61,703	363	-363
Total General Expenditure	606,661	164,032	132,132		35,645	2,344	334,154	272,506
Programme Support								
Program Support	148,955	25,624	46,173		13,839	11,748	97,384	51,571
Total Programme Support	148,955	25,624	46,173		13,839	11,748	97,384	51,571
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		33,619	30,482		44,243		108,344	-108,344
Total Operational Provisions		33,619	30,482		44,243		108,344	-108,344
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	2,291,611	395,251	710,357		212,902	188,763	1,507,273	784,338
VARIANCE (C - D)		267,112	211,265	77,712	198,651	29,598	784,338	