

# PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## MONGOLIA

Date 17.12.2003

Appeal No. 01.68/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 770,524 CHF (USD 527,864 or EUR 523,425)

Programme Update No. 2; Period covered: July to November, 2003

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

### *In Brief*

Appeal coverage: 87 %; See attached Contributions List for details.

Outstanding needs: CHF 101,905

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Emergency Appeal, Snowfalls (02/2003)

**Programme Summary: Progress on activities outlined in the annual appeal is, in most cases, going according to plan. The disaster management programme has implemented a number of its objectives through the snowfalls emergency appeal (02.2003) which has also highlighted a number of areas for improvement. The highlight of this reporting period was the Mongolian Red Cross national conference which brought together a variety of participants from around the country to discuss short- and long-term strategies for strengthening the society's response to vulnerable people as a result of this, the National Conference was ratified and adopted the Mongolian Red Cross Society's strategy 2010.**

### Operational Developments

After four years of consecutive dzud, (a term that refers to severe winter conditions that, when combined with drought and poor summer conditions, destroys grazing material, preventing animals from access to food during the country's long winter months), the summer of 2003 turned out to be the best in four years. The warm weather lasted longer than it has in the recent past, and ample rain allowed for good pasture growth. Therefore, although there are always pockets of the country that are subject to dzud, widespread dzud is not anticipated to affect Mongolia during the winter 2003/2004.

Despite the good summer, more people continue to migrate to Mongolia's three main urban centres. According to the latest statistics from the Mongolian Red Cross Society's (MRCS) Ulaanbaatar city branch secretary, an estimated 320,000 people have migrated to Ulaanbaatar over the past decade, with the population having risen from approximately 700,000 to over a million people. There are, according to MRCS, somewhere between 80-90,000 street children living in Ulaanbaatar and up to 20,000 homeless people living off the streets. Ger districts (impoverished suburbs comprised mainly of shacks and in some cases traditional Mongolian tents called "gers") continue to grow, overwhelming the city's available social services. Water and electricity in Ulaanbaatar are derived from a central source that does not reach the ger districts, thus those residing in ger districts do not have access to running water and must rely on small coal fuelled stoves for heating and cooking, pit latrines for sanitation and communal water points for collecting water.

According to the MRCS branch secretary in Ulaanbaatar's Khan-Uul district, the rapid expansion of the population has led to the district's schools having to operate in three shifts to accommodate all of the students. Many families who have migrated to Ulaanbaatar, however, cannot afford to keep their children in school. For the city's numerous single mothers supporting families of eight or nine children on as little as ten dollars per month, basic school supplies such as a pen, a writing tablet, school lunch fees, or appropriate clothing, are completely out of reach, preventing children from attending schools or state run day care centres. Until recently family planning, unlike neighbouring countries in East Asia, has not been an issue in a vast country with a population that remained around two million people. For families earning their income from herding in remote areas, large families with lots of children were assets. The opposite, however, is true within an urban context where tough living conditions cause many children to leave home at an early age and resort to begging or crime.

Both adults, who have lost their assets due to dzud or the widespread closing of factories that has occurred in Mongolia since the early nineties, and children living in the crowded gers, suffer from various forms of severe depression and stress. According to the MRCS, the incidence of suicide and depression is high among Mongolia's urban poor. The network of MRCS branches in Ulaanbaatar is responding to the population's changing needs by increasing the number of psychological support activities. Additionally, over the past year, the Ulaanbaatar city branch has been working with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on activities that address the needs of street children. The MRCS has also played a very active role in assisting new arrivals to Ulaanbaatar to cope with a daunting registration process (especially for those who lack reading and writing skills), thereby ensuring that as many people as possible have access to social and health services.

## Health and Care

**Overall Goal: To carry out health awareness campaigns on the prevention of disease and accidents, and to provide knowledge on general health and first aid practices.**

1.

**Programme Objective: To provide knowledge and skills to the population of Mongolia through the use of the media, and by conducting effective training in line with the Federation's standards that meets the needs of target groups, and the population in general.**

### Progress/achievements against expected results

Over the period July through October, Mongolia's "Daily News," which is circulated throughout the country, continued to publish a series of ten articles authored by the MRCS on treating common hazards. Articles have been published on a bi-monthly basis covering topics such as choking, poisoning, animal bites, eye injuries, hypothermia and shock. Other articles addressed the transportation of injured people, preparing a first aid kit and, most recently, first aid and HIV/AIDS.

The first of a series of three regional training of trainers was held in Khovd aimag (province), at the MRCS Bulgan branch from 4-8 September for nine MRCS aimag branches, namely: Darkhan, Orkhon, Kharaa, Selenge, Bulgan, Khovsgol, Arkhangai, Uvurkhangai, and Kharkorin. The training was facilitated by a trainer from the MRCS's First Aid trainers from the Khangai and Orkhon-selenge regional centres, as well as instructors from the Arkhangai and Orkhon MRCS branches.

A first aid trainer from the west regional centre facilitated the training of first aid trainers from 21-24 October at the MRCS Khovd branch for four MRCS aimag branches, namely: Khovd, Bayan-Ulgii, Bulgan in Khovd and Uvs. Participants came from western regional aimags. A total of eight trainers were trained, resulting in each of the four branches having two trained first aid trainers.

Training of first aid trainers from Mongolia's east region took place in Dornog aimag from 31 October to 3 November. Participants in the training came from MRCS aimag branches in Dornod, Khentii, and Sukhbaatar in Dornod aimag. The east region training course was facilitated by a trainer from the Dornod branch and employed

various teaching tools to actively engage the participants. The training trained eight trainers resulting in two trainers each for the Khentii and Sukhbaatar branches, and four trainers for the Dornod MRCS branch.

Over the period 1-3 October, 15 MRCS volunteers representing five different soum (district) branches and eight local organisations participated in a training course for first aiders. A newly trained trainer from the Dundgobi branch conducted the course. Due to a shortage of time to conduct the training the group was only able to cover first aid theory and was unable to participate in practical exercises.

First aid training course participants were engaged using a variety of training tools such as mannequins, videos and live demonstrations. The effectiveness of the training was monitored by administering testing of knowledge prior to and following completion of the course. Higher post-training scores as opposed to pre-training test scores indicated that course participants had improved their knowledge and practical skills in regard to first aid. Trained trainers, however, still require practical teaching experience and training manuals.

Newspapers are an excellent forum for distance learning about first aid and health for people residing in the most remote areas of Mongolia.

Capacity building at the community level through the training of first aid trainers improves the community's ability to respond to emergencies locally, as well as their local understanding of first aid practice through disseminating information.

## **MRCS Red Cross Youth**

**Overall Goal: To more effectively implement the health and first aid programme for children and increase youth participation in these activities.**

**Programme Objective: To increase both the level and distribution of health and first aid knowledge amongst the youth community.**

### **Progress/achievements against expected results**

The MRCS Ulaanbaatar branch organised an interdistrict first aid rescue competition. As a result, a campaign has started where information, education and communication (IEC) is being provided for youth by youth about first aid. The main goal of the rescue competition is to promote first aid skills among youth by their participation.

The Ulaanbaatar fire department MRCS branch organised rescue competition activities in the district. The month-long competition took place in three stages involving participants from 12 high schools and 8 universities in Ulaanbaatar.

Participants in the competition:

- developed first aid skills;
- exchanged their knowledge and experience on fire prevention and first aid; and
- increased visibility of Red Cross youth first aid and disaster preparedness activities.

## Social Care

**Overall Goal: To expand community-based care for the elderly through an increased capacity of recruited and trained volunteers, and to further improve the health and well being of vulnerable people in Ulaanbaatar.**

**Programme Objective 1: To continue the implementation of elderly care in two aimags (Gobi-Altai and Uverkhangai) and two districts in Ulaanbaatar (Khan Uul and Nalaikh), and to expand these to two further aimags (Bulgan and Selenge).**

### Progress/achievements against expected results

Activities carried out through the MRCS community-based care for the elderly project were revised and priority is being given to Khan-Uul and Nalaikh districts in Ulaanbaatar, and Gobi-Altai and Uvurkhangai aimags. Home care training was conducted in Yesunzuil soum, Uvurkhangai aimag at the end of October for 30 local volunteers and five primary Red Cross branch instructors from Arvaikheer, Zuunbayan-Ulaan, Bayan-Uundur, Yesunzuil and Ulziit soums.

From 1 July to 15 November, community-based care activities were implemented by MRCS volunteers in Gobi-Altai, and Uvur Khangai aimags, and Khan-Uul and Nalaikh districts targeting elderly men and women by providing: home help for single older people; home health care for home-bound older people; socialising activities among older people; and volunteer meetings.

In addition to community-based care for the elderly, the social care programme is implementing outreach activities in six districts of Ulaanbaatar. The humanitarian centres are making progress to renovate their purpose from offering prepared food through soup kitchen, hairdressing, shoe and clothes repair, distribution of clothes for the vulnerable. Humanitarian centres are gradually evolving into multipurpose Red Cross community centres where volunteers and beneficiaries can come together to participate in various Red Cross activities. Active participation of volunteers and beneficiaries plays a significant role in mobilising and empowering communities.

Besides providing home care to the most vulnerable, volunteer teams convey the needs of the elderly to local authorities, family doctors and nurses, and advocate on their behalf to local government agencies, NGOs and charity organisations.

MRCS social care activities resulted in:

- improved access of older and disabled people to government health care through training of MRCS staff and volunteers and vulnerable people about their rights, eligibility to services, and how to advocate for and access services and support;
- at least 30 active volunteers in social care projects in each target area;
- at least active 20 volunteers in home care for the homebound elderly in Khan-Uul and Nalaikh districts, and Gobi-Altai and Uvurkhangai aimags;
- at least 60 older people involved in home care in Nalaikh district and Uvurkhangai aimag;
- at least 30 volunteers trained first aid; and
- improved access to health and psycho-social services for disadvantaged men, women and children through outreach programmes in Ulaanbaatar all districts.

**Programme Objective 2: To improve the health and psycho-social well-being of the most vulnerable in seven districts of Ulaanbaatar through outreach social services.**

### Progress/achievements against expected results

- 27 per cent of operational costs of two community humanitarian centres are being supported;
- Community care outreach activities implemented from humanitarian centres have been expanded to six districts of Ulaanbaatar;

- Volunteer reporting and monitoring is systematised in line with the system used in the community care for the elderly project; and
- Improved social care and services to outreach programmes by volunteers through each humanitarian centre's activities.

## **MRCS Red Cross Youth**

**Overall Goal: To focus MRCS youth activities on providing assistance to vulnerable people such as the single elderly and orphans.**

**Programme Objective: To improve the effectiveness of assistance teams by encouraging the implementation of their own ideas and suggestions.**

**Progress/achievements against expected results**

### *Collection campaign*

The MRCS youth welfare program organised the collection of essential items for vulnerable groups. The main goal of the collection campaign was to gather materials which people need most such as candles, matches, newspapers, secondhand clothes, soap, and coverlets for animals. The collection campaign takes place twice a year, before and after winter .

The collection campaign continued for a month and involved mostly Ulaanbaatar universities. During the campaign MRCS youth collected: 3,700 box candles, 1,646 pieces of matches, 30kg of newspapers, 80kg of second hand clothes, four boxes of general merchandise, one box of kitchen soap, and three boxes of coverlets for animals.

At the end of the collection campaign MRCS Red Cross youth distributed collected items to nine soums in three aimags, mostly by post.

One of the main outcomes of the collection activity was to cultivate a sense of humanity among local youth and to increase their involvement in MRCS activities.

## **Blood Donor Recruitment Programme**

**Overall Goal: To secure a safe supply of bloodstocks in Mongolia through greater public awareness and education on blood donor recruitment, and improving the capacity of the MRCS to manage and implement the voluntary non-remunerated blood donor recruitment programmes.**

**Programme Objective 1: To improve the technical and managerial capacity of the recruitment of blood donors. (This objective was met during the first half of 2003 and is fully reported on in programme update no. 1.)**

**Programme objective 2: To increase the awareness of the population on volunteering to become a blood donor.**

**Progress/achievements against expected results**

The president of Mongolia has approved the dedication of the first week of September to the recognition of blood donors. In commemoration of the president's declaration, the MRCS safe blood programme, in cooperation with the State Blood Centre, created a summary of annual campaign activities, which were launched by all NGOs working in the blood sector.

Blood drives were organised in Darkhan and Orkhon city by the MRCS Red Cross Youth, State Blood Centre and the students association. Over 600 donors were recruited during the blood drive of which fifty percent were first time blood donors.

Awareness of voluntary blood donation was raised through the dissemination of promotional material by:

- The distribution of 3,000 copies of leaflets covering the subject of voluntary blood donation by MRCS branches in Ulaanbaatar, Orkhon and Darkhan.
- The design and printing of four series of posters covering the topic of voluntary blood donation. An important religious figure in Mongolia lent the use of his image to the initiative.
- Distributing 50,000 calling cards with promotional messages to the public.
- Broadcasting a twenty-minute promotional film entitled “Safe Blood Starts With Me” on Ulaanbaatar’s television channel (UBS).
- Airing a series of radio programmes covering blood donor recruitment on FM 100.1 in Ulaanbaatar.
- Airing a 15 second video clip on voluntary blood donation on UBS television eight times.

## **HIV/AIDS Programme**

**Overall Goal: To reduce the incidence of STD/HIV/AIDS in Mongolia through greater public awareness and education and strengthening the capacity of the MRCS to respond adequately to the epidemic.**

**Programme Objective 1: To improve the technical and managerial capacity of the MRCS HIV/AIDS programme.**

### **Progress/achievements against expected results**

The MRCS HIV/AIDS programme manager attended the ARCSAN meeting and gender workshop held in Yunnan China and the 15<sup>th</sup> ART meeting and strategic planning workshop held in Bali. The MRCS has been recognised as a member of the UN theme group on HIV/AIDS. The MRCS has also expanded its cooperation efforts with other agencies to include the National Aids Foundation, the National Centre for Communicable Diseases, the Ministry of Health and other organisations involved with HIV/AIDS. Additionally, the MRCS has linked into the IEC core group on HIV/AIDS and STIs. The Federation’s regional HIV/AIDS health delegate was in Mongolia during the second week of November to facilitate a workshop and work with the MRCS on developing the project further.

**Programme objective 2: To promote a positive attitude and understanding among the general population and policy makers concerning people living with HIV/AIDS.**

### **Progress/achievements against expected results**

Eight male and eight female MRCS youth leaders from MRCS branches in Darkhan, Orkhon, Tuv, Baganuur, Sukhbaatar, and the Railway Red Cross were trained as facilitators to provide HIV/AIDS youth peer education workshops to their peers from 15-19 December.

The MRCS, with support from UNAIDS, organised a train campaign during the period 17-30 August. The project, aimed at contributing to a reduction in the spread of HIV/AIDS among the mobile population and communities living in railway towns, utilised the Federation’s campaign based on the slogan “The Truth About Aids....Pass it on.” The MRCS has brought the campaign to nine cities bordering the Trans-Siberian railway.

On 15 November the MRCS initiated activities to prevent STI and HIV/AIDS in male prisons located in the Baganuur district of Ulaanbaatar. On the same day work began with regards to a voluntary counselling and testing centre based at the Railway Red Cross Hospital.

## Disaster Management

**Overall Goal: To reduce the impact of small and large-scale disasters and local emergencies in Mongolia by strengthening the capacity of the MRCS in disaster preparedness and post-disaster response.**

**Programme Objective 1: To facilitate alternative means of livelihood for dzud affected households in the five worst affected soums of both Gobi-Altai and Bayanhaongor aimags. (Activities to meet this objective were carried out under the Federation's dzud emergency appeal [02/2003] and are reported on in detail in programme update no. 1 and operations updates covering the emergency operations activities.)**

**Programme Objective 2: To provide psychological support in six aimags.**

### Progress/achievements against expected results

120 volunteers from four aimags (Bulgan, Dornogobi, Zavhan and Umnugobi) were trained in psychological support. Training was conducted with the assistance of experts from aimag civil defence, professional psychiatrists, MRCS staff and health facilitators. Standard MRCS psychological support training lasts for twenty hours. Volunteers participating in the course have been provided with basic knowledge about providing psychological support to victims both during and after a disaster as well as covering topics such as stress management.

MRCS staff and volunteers working in the field have observed a high frequency of depression among herders who have either lost belongings collected from a lifetime's work, or seen their holdings greatly diminished as a result of four years of dzud which contributed to the death of millions of head of livestock.

1,500 psychological support manuals were printed and distributed to MRCS branches. The manual contains information on psychological support, stress management and practical exercises. Volunteer psychological support workers will use the manuals.

Training in psychological support will take place in Selenge aimag in December.

**Programme Objective 3: To establish a community disaster relief emergency fund in one pilot aimag. (There was insufficient funding to implement activities with regards to this objective).**

**Programme Objective 4: To implement preparedness and mitigation activities in five aimags.**

### Progress/achievements against expected results

From June through November, five 20-minute radio programmes were aired over Mongolia's national radio channel. The programmes, which were produced with the technical support of radio experts and medical doctors, were intended to raise public awareness about prevention and response to common disasters in Mongolia, namely flooding, plague (caused by marmots), forest and steppe fires, and SARS. More than 90 per cent of the country's population has access to the national radio channel and programmes were aired during a time slot when herders were most likely to tune in.

A radio programme was also produced to raise public awareness about steppe and forest fires. It was produced with the assistance of the state fire department. Programmes to increase the general public's understanding of fire prevention and response were aired in August, September and October. At the same time, 8,000 leaflets were printed covering fire prevention and response. These leaflets were then distributed throughout eleven of Mongolia's most fire-prone aimags.

**Representatives of 33 MRCS first aid groups from Uvs, Khubsgul, Uvurkhangai and Selenge aimags received first aid training. Course participants each received a first aid kit and instructions on how it is used. A total of 660 first aid kits were distributed to 20 first aid groups. Thirty-eight MRCS branch secretaries will participate in disaster preparedness training in December.**

### **Programme Objective 5: To strengthen regional disaster preparedness centres and systems.**

#### **Progress/achievements against expected results**

In order to finance disaster preparedness training and the activities of disaster awareness mobile groups, a workshop producing boots was established in the Gobi-Altai aimag regional disaster preparedness centre. Profits earned are used to support disaster preparedness activities in 62 soums throughout Bayanhongor, Zavhan and Gobi-Altai aimags. Since August, profits from the workshop were used to fund a mobile training group which has trained 200 herders living in five soums in Zavhan aimag. In addition profits from the workshop funded disaster preparedness training for 30 volunteers. The society, through activities conducted in partnership with the Federation in response to the 2003 dzud (emergency appeal 02/03), has also initiated small income generation projects, such as bakeries, in connection with its other regional disaster preparedness centres.

Emergency stock to cover the needs of families in the event of a disaster was procured and has been pre-positioned in the warehouses at the newly established MRCS disaster preparedness centres in Darkhan-Uul and Ulaanbaatar, as well as at the existing disaster preparedness centres in Gobi-Altai, Dornod, Bayan-Ulgii, Gobisumber and Arkhangai aimags.

Centres in Darkhan-Uul and Ulaanbaatar were provided with enough stock to cover the needs of 100 families while centres in Gobi-Altai, Dornod, Bayan-Ulgii, Gobisumber and Arkhangai aimags were provided with enough stock to cover the needs of fifty families in the event of an emergency.

The total amount of stock purchased for MRCS regional disaster preparedness centres during the second half of 2003 was: blankets (450); warm clothes (450 sets); children's boots (450 pairs); felt boots (450 pairs); Ger covers (80); Ger curtains (80); tents (14); and medicine (330 packages).

All activities have been implemented in compliance with the Federation's and MRCS's policy on disaster preparedness and rehabilitation. Cooperation with governmental organisations and local authorities has improved the impact of these activities.

### **Humanitarian Values**

**Overall Goal: To promote the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values in order to change behaviour in the community.**

**Programme Objective 1: To implement a series of activities and events in order to promote the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.**

During the period July through October the MRCS published and distributed a total of 1,400 copies of the MRCS's Humanity Newspaper. The journal reaches approximately 350 people per month. The paper serves to motivate volunteers and members while disseminating information to the general public. The most recent edition of the paper featured articles about HIV/AIDS and the MRCS National Conference.

During the months of September and October the MRCS published a total of 700 copies of the MRCS Red Cross Youth newspaper "Eternal Challenge." The paper's circulation is approximately 30 readers per month. The "Eternal Challenge" features stories about MRCS Red Cross Youth activities and articles aimed at raising awareness about common health hazards and communicable diseases.

## Organisational Development

**Overall Goal: To improve the capacity of the MRCS in making the most effective and efficient use of its available human and financial resources for implementing the health and care, disaster preparedness and relief programmes.**

An MRCS National Conference was organized in Gobi-Altai aimag over the period 9-12 August, 2003. The conference was attended by over 200 people including all members of the MRCS governing board, central committee members, MRCS headquarters and branch staff, volunteers, members, delegates from the member organisations, and the media. During the conference, the MRCS Gobi-Altai aimag branch shared information about best practice and its experiences with other branches.

Activities carried out during the MRCS national conference included:

- Evaluating the impact of activities which were implemented by the MRCS during the period August 2002 to August 2003;
- Defining future goals by discussing the following reports:
  - “Improve the management of the primary and middle level branches of MRCS”;
  - “Experiences of the Gobi-Altai aimag Red Cross branch”;
  - “Cooperation of the local Red Cross branches with other governmental and non-governmental organizations”;
  - “Volunteer activities and problems facing them.”
- Enacting the renewed strategy of MRCS;
- Enacting the “Regulation of the middle level branch activities”;
- Disseminating information about the activities of the MRCS among the population of Ovorkhangai, Kharkhorin and Bayankhongor aimags.

The active participation of MRCS volunteers and local staff in discussions, as well as the process of enacting the two most important documents contributing to the future direction of MRCS, has facilitated the relevance of these documents to local situations by providing opportunities for each level of MRCS branches to share their experiences of programme implementation and other activities. Both short and long-term programme strategies and management will be focused on how to reach the expected results for improving the living conditions of vulnerable people, both in rural and urban areas, by coordinating the related programmes.

The Gobi-Altai MRCS aimag branch has many good experiences that other branches can learn from. Examples include: how primary level branches’ activities are comparatively independent; and how services to elderly people are regularly organised with the help of the volunteers who are very experienced in the field. Additionally the branch has its own disaster preparedness fund and reward fund for volunteers. Meetings were also held in Bayankhongor and Ovorkhangai aimags to share experiences.

**Programme Objective 1: To develop the MRCS volunteer management capacity in health care, and disaster preparedness programmes.**

### Progress/achievements against expected results

Since the establishment of a first aid training centre at the Ulaanbaatar MRCS branch during the first half of 2003, the branch’s master trainer has conducted first aid training four times, training 60 people in first aid, including the employees of two travel companies and covering three aimags. The salary for the first aid trainers working out of the Ulaanbaatar MRCS branch was supported for the months of July, August and September.

**Programme Objective 2: To further develop competencies in human resource management, financial management, leadership and ideology of the Red Cross in branches by implementing health and care and disaster preparedness programmes.**

**Progress/achievements against expected results**

Handbooks for middle and primary level branch staff were prepared and 1,000 copies printed.

The handbooks cover topics such as: how to improve the management skills of the branch staff; guidance with regards to daily branch activities and methodology for implementing activities; and theoretical knowledge and information.

The handbook will function as a reference for daily activities and all the branches produce reports in the format for their reports and plans; improvement in responsibility and ability to organize activities.

**Programme Objective 4: To provide support in the development of branches implementing health and care and disaster preparedness activities.**

**Progress/achievements against expected results**

The provision of suitable working conditions for branches so that they may carry out their daily activities has been evolving over the past ten months of 2003 in six aimags and is expected to be completed by early December.

Four of the six aimag branches namely, Khovsgol, Uvs, Sukhbaatar and Omnogobi, have already undertaken a cost survey, selected a supplier and commenced installation of the system. After heating systems are installed, five days will be spent checking the quality of installation prior to final acceptance. This work is expected to finish in these four branches by the end of November. Installation of heating systems in MRCS aimag branches in Khentii and Dundgovi began on 15 November and is expected to finish within a month.

By installing independent heating systems within the branches, money spent on heating will be reduced by an estimated 20-30 per cent. Money spent on heating branches in Mongolia absorbs as much as 50-60 per cent of the total expenditure of the branch's budget. The substantial amount of money being saved by installing these heating systems will be used for volunteer and social care activities such as training and other regular activities.

**Programme Objective 5: To fund operational expenses of Red Cross branches in two districts.**

**Progress/achievements against expected results**

Support is being provided for the operational expenses of MRCS branches in the Bagakhangai and Chingeltei districts. Branches are provided with a grant that covers 37 per cent of the monthly operational expenses for each district. The grant covers the salary of four staff members at both of the branches, and 37 per cent of the social care insurance. The grant also covers other operational expenses such as stationery, rent, heating, communications and electricity bills.

With basic running costs covered, MRCS branches were able to carry out the following health and disaster preparedness activities:

- The Bagakhangai branch organised a meeting of volunteers to share knowledge and experiences in Bagakhangai.
- An essay competition was organised for children with the theme of "Who knows the most about the Red Cross?" Thirty children participated in Bagakhangai.
- Dissemination workshops were organised in each primary branch, as well as disaster relief workshops in 5 branches in Bagakhangai.
- First aid training was held in 8 sub-districts, the Communication and Service Company, and for fire fighters, covering over 60 people.

- 10 people from 4 families, having migrated from the countryside and being unregistered, were helped to get jobs, and 5 people were trained in tailoring.
- Relief efforts following flooding in July were facilitated by repairing damaged roads and collecting relief goods with the help of almost 100 volunteers; Ten particularly vulnerable families received food and clothes.

## **MRCS Red Cross Youth**

**Overall Goal: To effectively organise Red Cross youth humanitarian activities on a national level to create a greater understanding of the humanitarian youth movement nationwide.**

**Programme Objective: To increase the number of people participating in MRCS Red Cross Youth activities, thereby increasing the membership base, and resources available to assist vulnerable groups.**

### **Progress/achievements against expected results**

MRCS Youth training for youth leaders involved 60 MRCS youth leaders in each of the 25 universities and colleges in Ulaanbaatar. The purpose of the course was:

- to develop the leadership skills of those people in charge of Red Cross youth groups at universities and colleges;
- to exchange experiences; and
- to improve implementation strategies and policies of Red Cross youth.

An MRCS Red Cross youth leader manual was prepared for the training and distributed to participants. The MRCS's blood donor programme manager and volunteer management programme manager taught course participants about their roles in the MRCS as well as volunteering.

## **Federation Coordination**

**Overall Goal: The Federation continues providing support to the MRCS and resources made available by its partners.**

**Programme Objective: Cooperation between the Federation, MRCS and other partners is well coordinated.**

### **Progress/achievements against expected results**

With the close of the dzud relief operation, the Federation's delegation in Mongolia will be staffed by the Head of Delegation and two national staff specialising in finance and administration/logistics. The Federation is supporting the MRCS to develop more responsive and focused programmes, with the expected results of: increased capacity; programmes that are designed to meet the needs of the most vulnerable; improvement in the quality of monitoring and evaluation; and further development of the organisational development, health and care and disaster management programmes.

The Federation, in cooperation with participating national societies (PNSs), will continue its support to the MRCS over the next two years. Given the vulnerability potential as well as the size of the country, the challenges are enormous. Although the MRCS is large in terms of geographical coverage and numbers of volunteers, it is lacking in terms of its capacity. A top priority is therefore to assist the MRCS to strengthen the primary and secondary level MRCS branches and build up capacities at national headquarters and – in the long-term – within the entire network of aimag and soum branches, thus developing the society into a strong partner at home and abroad.

Support and assistance for the MRCS will be provided by the Federation's country delegation and regional delegations in Beijing, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur. Expertise from the secretariat in Geneva will be requested when appropriate. PNSs will be involved in technical and funding assistance.

The Federation will continue its presence in Mongolia with the country delegation, and will recruit short-term delegates during times of disaster or should the necessity arise.

The Federation's aims are:

- to assist in building the management capacity and enhance the self-reliance of the MRCS, with expected results of improved management structures and systems, better trained and more skilled staff, better developed branches, improved financial management and expanded income generation; and
- to support the MRCS in the development of programmes that are more responsive and focused on the needs of the most vulnerable, with the expected results of increased capacity, programmes designed to meet the needs of the most vulnerable, improvement in quality of monitoring and evaluation, and, further development of the organisational development, health and care and disaster management programmes.

The Netherlands Red Cross Society is initiating a capacity building programme in a bilateral partnership with the MRCS. Both the MRCS and the Netherlands Red Cross have worked closely with the Federation during the preparatory stages of the project which will last until August 2007. The Federation and the MRCS in Mongolia received a representative of the British Red Cross during the third week of November to research possibilities for supporting MRCS activities.

## **International Representation**

**Overall Goal: International stakeholders are increasingly supporting the initiatives of the Red Cross/Red Crescent in Mongolia for the benefit of targetted vulnerable groups.**

**Programme Objective: The national society's priorities will be better understood by stake holders, especially the international media, UN organizations, local and international NGOs, and diplomats based in Mongolia and Beijing.**

### **Progress/achievements against expected results**

Through the Federation's Head of Delegation and two delegates deployed with regards to the dzud relief operation (appeal 02/2003), the Federation continued visits to diplomatic missions, UN offices and international NGOs. More general coordination meetings were held monthly at the UNDP Office in Ulaanbaatar involving donors, members of the diplomatic corps and the Federation.

#### ***For further information please contact:***

- *Mongolian Red Cross Society, [redcross@magicnet.mn](mailto:redcross@magicnet.mn), Phone: +976-11-329433, Fax: +976-11-320934*
- *Delegation contact name Udaya Regmi, HoD, [ifrcmn06@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcmn06@ifrc.org), phone/fax: +976-11-321684*
- *International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; Geneva; Satoshi Sugai, desk officer; [sugai.satoshi@ifrc.org](mailto:sugai.satoshi@ifrc.org); Phone:*

• *All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

APPEAL No. 01.68/2003

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

10/12/2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
-------	----------	----------	------	-----------	------	---------

## CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				770,524	TOTAL COVERAGE 86.8%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				117,445		
AUSTRALIAN - RC		90,000	AUD	70,857	03/01/2003	BILATERAL /DEVELOPMENT
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		80,924	EUR	118,432	07.03.03	HEAD OF DELEGATION
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		28,427	EUR	41,944	18.03.03	HEALTH & CARE
JAPANESE - RC		87,340	USD	118,782	27.02.03	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		500,000	NOK	93,500	21.02.03	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				50,000	29/08/2003	PMN005
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				610,960	CHF	79.3%

## KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			57,659		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				57,659	CHF	7.5%

## ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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