

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

CHINA

29 December 2004

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 181 countries.

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In Brief

Appeal No. 01.67/2004; Programme Update no. 03, Period covered: 1 September to 31 November, 2004; Appeal coverage: 51%; Outstanding needs: CHF 2,174,074 (USD 1,905,077 or EUR 1,406,064).
([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List \(also available on the website\)](#)).

Appeal target: CHF 4,436,886 (USD 3.32 million or EUR 2.83 million).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Annual Appeal \(01.67/2004\)](#), [2005 Annual Appeal \(05AA058\)](#)

Programme summary: The National Convention of the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) held in Beijing from 26 to 28 October marked an opportunity for the society to evaluate progress made since the last convention five years ago. The convention, garnering a great deal of press attention and attended by China's president Hu Jintao, adopted a new five-year plan that would strategically direct future RCSC activities.

The national society, with support from the Federation delegation, continued to work towards its objectives in this reporting period. Most of the activities in health involved trainings, workshops and meetings, especially in the areas of youth peer education, capacity building and people living with HIV/AIDS. In disaster management, the society launched a national appeal as well as local fundraising and relief activities in lieu of the floods, while community vulnerability reduction components of health, sanitation and water will soon extend to Chongqing, an area hard-hit by floods and landslides in the previous months. Besides the national convention, a provincial leadership training course in the organisational development area organised by the Sichuan Red Cross saw the participation of the regional delegation in its purpose to share experience in project design and management.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

Operational developments

According to the most recent statistics from the Red Cross Society of China, floods, landslides and earthquakes temporarily displaced or made homeless some 12.7 million people in 2004. By the end of October, as the seasons changed so did the vulnerabilities and the focus of emergency response shifted to addressing the needs arising from heavy snowfall which affected northern China's Qinghai province.

There is a continued need for support in improving the health of China's population through better environmental policies and understanding of the impact good hygiene practices and access to appropriate sources of water and sanitation has on the spread of disease. In terms of health, a recent report published by the World Bank attributes tens of thousands of deaths in the country to polluted air and water. New policies implemented by the government are supporting an increased awareness of HIV/AIDS, which will hopefully contribute to both the reduction of stigma and the spread of the disease. After India, China has the highest number of tuberculosis patients in the world. According to government statistics, there are currently some 4.5 million people with tuberculosis, with 1.45 million new cases every year and 130,000 deaths. Health officials in China continue to monitor the potential for any further outbreaks of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), while recent communications from the WHO also express concern over the potential health risks posed by avian flu.

On the political front, Jiang Zemin's retirement as chairperson of the central military commission signified the formal transition from the Chinese Communist Party's third-generation leadership to the fourth. Although overall China remains stable, there were reports of several incidences of social unrest in Henan, Sichuan, Chongqing and Zhejiang provinces over the reporting period, with foreign analysts citing a potential threat for further incidents.

Focus on the RCSC National Convention

The RCSC National Convention (BADA) was held in Beijing from 26-28 October. Held every five years, 700 people participated in the event that is and functions as an opportunity to evaluate the society's progress since the previous convention. The convention garnered a great deal of attention from the press and was attended in part by China's president Hu Jintao. At the convention, the society elected a new national council and a new national leadership. The convention also reviewed the organisation's existing statutes and adopted a new five-year plan that will guide the society's activities and strategies over the next five years (2004-2009).

As of 2004, all 31 of RCSC's provincial branches have separated from the Ministry of Health (MOH). The next step over the coming five years will be to finalise the separation of prefecture and lower level branches. The RCSC has drafted ambitious growth targets and hopes to establish many new units at the grass-roots level, while increasing the number of members, staff and volunteers.

In the area of disaster management, the RCSC seeks to strengthen inter-branch relief activities by introducing more disaster preparedness (DP) centres (there are currently six regional DP centres established with support from participating national societies in the early 1990s) and improving disaster related information systems.

In the area of health, the society seeks to provide first aid training to one percent of the population (China's total population is 1.3 billion people). The RCSC hopes to implement more activities, such as the establishment of two to three first aid posts in each grass-roots unit. The society is also looking to do more work to promote organ donation and establish blood stem cell donor databanks in all prefecture branches. Additionally, it will seek to incorporate more activities to help promote voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD) in China.

Health and care

Overall Goal: The RCSC will contribute to the reduction of the transmission of HIV/AIDS in China and help to improve care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Programme Objective: By the end of the project, RCSC headquarters and selected branches will have improved ability to design, implement, manage and fund effective and sustainable HIV/AIDS interventions, leading to the increased capacity of youth in selected provinces to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS.

Progress/Achievements

• Work with People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)

The Federation continues to strive to help make the voices of PLWHA heard. Representatives from AIDS Care China and other PLWHA groups deliver presentations at all trainings (and are co-facilitators in many cases). The Federation purchased one thousand 'hong bao' (red envelopes) made by AIDS Care China/PLWHA to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS, and plans to assist AIDS Care China in printing a manual on the use of anti-retroviral therapy for PLWHA.

• Youth Peer Education

The Federation's new HIV/AIDS delegate from the Swedish Red Cross arrived in September to work with RCSC provincial branches in Henan and Shandong in starting the youth peer education (YPE) project in those provinces. The delegate, based in the Shandong provincial capital of Jinan, will travel frequently to Henan province (Zhengzhou) to support activities in Zhengzhou and Zhumadian.

The Shandong and Henan branches have recruited volunteers to be young facilitators for youth peer education, where most of the volunteers are university students. Over the course of a total of eight days – five in September and three in November – twenty volunteers in Shandong and seventeen in Henan participated in YPE training. As of the end of November, ten youth peer education workshops (two days each) were completed in each province for two hundred students. A project office established in Shandong, including the hiring of a project assistant, is working with the RCSC's Henan provincial branch to find appropriate space and support for the HIV/AIDS office.

This project is far behind schedule due to the relatively late confirmation of appeal funds and the delay in the delegate's arrival. The final quarter of 2004 has been put to good use, however, in laying the groundwork for 2005 and beyond, recruiting and training enthusiastic and capable volunteers and reaching understandings between the Federation and RCSC headquarters and branches.

• Capacity Building

During the fourth quarter of 2004, the three part 'Training of Expert Trainers on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care' commenced. By the end of December, twenty Red Cross staff and volunteers will have completed the first two parts of this training. Participants come from provinces that have external support for youth peer education: Yunnan, Xinjiang, Sichuan, Jilin, Liaoning, Beijing, Shanghai, Henan, and Shandong, plus two people from RCSC headquarters. Two delegates from the Mongolian Red Cross are also attending as observer/participants.

The training is divided into three sections, the first of them held in October covering gender, life skills and stigma/discrimination, facilitated by a consultant and trainer from the United States. Unfortunately, the trainers from the Asian Pacific Network of People Living With HIV/AIDS, originally scheduled to participate in the training, cancelled their participation due to family illness. It is hoped they will be available in March 2005 for the final section of the training-of-trainers (TOT).

December's workshop covered the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, drug use and harm reduction from the Asian Harm Reduction Network, and HIV/AIDS science (virology and biology) facilitated by a doctor from the Mulago hospital in Kampala, Uganda.

The third and final section of the TOT in March 2005 will cover adult learning and behaviour change theories as well as living with HIV/AIDS issues from the perspective of people who are already infected.

At the end of the training, there will be a cadre of trainers that the RCSC, Federation and bilateral programmes can draw on to support youth peer education and other HIV/AIDS prevention and care activities.

The regional HIV/AIDS delegate attended a seven-day training on nutritional support for PLHWA conducted by the Tropical Institute on Community Health in Kisumu Kenya (November 2004). In 2005, plans are in place to provide workshops on nutrition and nutritional consequences of anti-retroviral therapy to Red Cross branches working with PLWHA and with PLWHA groups directly.

- **Cooperation**

Prior to commencing project activities in Henan and Shandong, the East Asia regional delegation organised a meeting of HIV/AIDS bilateral delegates, their counterparts and key volunteers. The three-day meeting included presentations on the Global Fund, the China HIV/AIDS Information Network (CHAIN) and the needs of PLWHA. The outcome of discussions about the activities and priorities of each province were reminders of the central role volunteers play and the necessity of listening to their voices and incorporating their ideas.

In his address to the workshop, the executive vice president of the RCSC made several important statements on future RCSC direction as well as reaffirmed RCSC leadership support to scale up HIV/AIDS activities beyond prevention activities, including:

- recent and significant changes to national and various provincial level legislation, which included new initiatives in harm reduction such as the incorporation of methadone maintenance, needle exchange and condom promotion and distribution;
- the importance of a respect for the dignity and human rights of PLWHA;
- improvements for China's significant population of men who have sex with men (MSM) that is often not acknowledged, as well as commercial sex workers and other at-risk groups within the community;
- The society's responsibility to meet the challenges of work meaningfully with PLWHA.

The diversity of participant representation pleased the meeting participants, who felt that input from volunteers and PLWHA enhanced the level of discussion. A firm foundation for ongoing collaboration and further HIV/AIDS specific meetings had been established. With several PNS now supporting RCSC HIV/AIDS programmes, it was important to have a coordinated approach and common vision. There is a valuable opportunity to further build on the strengths of the RCSC, which now has a range of HIV/AIDS programmes – some well established, others starting-up.

The group concluded that the regular sharing of experiences and lessons learned would continue to be an important goal across a diverse group of provincial partners.

Through the forthcoming five-year development plan, the society will create a vision that covers HIV/AIDS. This will provide the society with an opportunity to develop strong policy directions that will support and increase the impact of activities on the epidemic at all levels. Key and immediate challenges include:

- the importance of broadening the dimensions of response beyond prevention to cover all key Federation global programme objectives: stigma and discrimination, prevention, as well as care and support with the ultimate goal of working meaningfully with PLWHA;
- translating and disseminating the Federation's HIV global policy and programme as well as recent publications, such as the *Harm Reduction Guidelines*, *HIV/AIDS in the Workplace Guidelines*, *Treatments Guidelines*, and support a process to adapt them to China's context; and
- ensuring a link in the HIV/AIDS programmes to broader public health goals.

In terms of next steps, the PNS recognised the importance and need of working together to support the headquarters' development of a national strategy on HIV, as a part of its broader health programme, which reflects a long-term vision and responds to the commitments of the Federation's global programme. Recent and important changes in government legislation are creating a dynamic opportunity enabling clearer definition and reinforcement of RCSC's role. There is also a strong opportunity for RCSC to build on and continue to contribute to regional programmes, notably the Asian regional taskforce on HIV/AIDS (ART). RCSC can play a strong role by bringing its voice and experience to the discussions.

The Federation's regional HIV/AIDS delegate provided additional support to the Norwegian Red Cross branch/community development project. The Federation delegate travelled to Ganzi prefecture in Sichuan province to facilitate a HIV/AIDS workshop on basic information about HIV/AIDS and related issues. The participants received the workshop well and planned prevention education activities in their counties and villages.

- **Outreach, information, education and communication (IEC) and large-scale events.**

World AIDS Day events were held in Henan, Shandong and Hunan. In Hunan, the RCSC headquarters and the provincial branch hosted the events. The Federation's head of the East Asia regional delegation used the gathering as an opportunity to address the importance of reducing stigma and discrimination against those people affected by HIV/AIDS.

At the end of December, several publications are ready for printing and distribution. The publication *Lifting the Burden of Secrecy* translated by the RCSC will be printed soon. The China HIV/AIDS information network has also compiled a glossary of HIV-related terms that the Federation plans to print. The Federation will also translate and print poster-size copies of its 'triangle' depicting the interrelationship between prevention, care/treatment and stigma/discrimination, as well as design and print a poster describing the principles of using multiple senses to increase understanding and recall. In addition, plans have been made to print the Chinese language version of the Federation guidelines on orphans and vulnerable children.

Disaster Management

- **Project 1: Disaster response**

Goal: Assist RCSC to strengthen the society's speed and effectiveness with disaster operations.

Objective: The RCSC and the Federation improve their capacity for disaster response in China.

Progress/Achievements

Although there were no emergencies over the reporting period, the East Asia regional delegation continued to maintain regular contact with the RCSC's relief division, supporting the division on a regular basis with narrative and financial reporting, administration as well as planning in the society's Federation supported projects. The Federation's information team has also continued to work towards improving the visibility of the RCSC relief division's activities. This included the publication of a column by the Federation's head of regional delegation in the South China Morning Post on how Federation supported projects in Guangxi and Hunan exemplify community resilience, a publication made in correspondence with the launch of this year's *World Disasters Report*.

Flooding in China extended into September in 2004, when severe floods and landslides struck the provinces of Sichuan and Chongqing, leaving hundreds of thousands of people homeless and causing millions of dollars in damage. Although the RCSC did not elect to launch an international appeal, the society launched a national appeal and, together with the Federation, identified Chongqing as the location to initiate a new phase of the community vulnerability reduction programme that the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) will support. Provincial branches in flood-affected areas kicked off local fundraising and relief activities, while RCSC headquarters supported branches in flood-affected areas with the provision of items such as water purification tablets, disinfectant, rice, quilts and warm clothing. While the society's national lottery fund funded the bulk of the national society's national appeal, RCSC also received support from the Hong Kong Red Cross, the Macau Red Cross, the Chen Ting Hua Foundation and the Federation's Disaster Response Emergency Funds (DREF). DREF funded the purchase of rice and quilts distributed in Anhui, Chongqing and Zhejiang provinces.

Ten RCSC provincial branches conducted training on the RCSC's emergency relief procedures for county and prefecture branch representatives to ensure staff at the grass-roots level have a good understanding of the society's procedures. It is expected that these trainings will contribute towards improving the flow of information in emergencies.

At the end of November, the head of the RCSC's relief division and one of the divisions' officers participated in a regional meeting on monitoring and evaluation hosted by the Federation's regional reporting unit in Kuala Lumpur.

- **Project 2: Community Vulnerability Reduction**

Goal: Develop a model for vulnerability reduction that can be replicated throughout China.

Objective: The vulnerability of the most at risk populations in three to four disaster prone provinces is reduced by implementing the community vulnerability reduction (CVR) project.

Progress/Achievements

The establishment of the CVR programme structure within the RCSC and Federation along with the completion of specific activities demonstrate substantial progress in the CVR programme's health, sanitation and water components. Actions to date have provided a sound basis for the programme's continuation and the overall achievement of the programme's specific objective.

The focus during the reporting period has been on:

1. The further development of a community-focused, participatory-based health and hygiene programme, an increase in the knowledge and understanding of water-based and water-washed disease transmission as well as its link to water, sanitation and personal hygiene. This has been achieved through:
 - The development of training materials for facilitators, volunteers and village members, which focus on participatory knowledge transfer practices as well as key messages on water and sanitation-related disease, its transmission and prevention.
 - The commencement of household knowledge transfer activities undertaken by trained village volunteers via participatory activities.
2. The development of improved sanitation facilities within the target villages. Activities have focused on the continued construction of household Ecosan toilets, which concentrate on containing and providing a safe method of composting human excrement (in preparation for future agricultural use) in all target villages.
3. The development of safe water supplies in four villages. Activities for this component have focused on:
 - The construction of all four water supply systems by villagers supported by engineers and Red Cross personnel, in which one system of the four one has been completed.
 - The development of community water committees and rules outlining the use and requirements of water supply systems for the villages.

The activities completed to date in accordance with initial the work plan have focused on achieving the five result areas of the programme. In addition to the ongoing implementation of the current CVR programme supported by ECHO, funding from the commission for the programme's continuation into a fourth phase commencing in 2004 and finishing in 2005 was successfully secured. The new funding has been approved for the existing provinces of Guangxi and Hunan and the programme's replication in a third province: Chongqing.

This ECHO-supported programme currently operates in Guangxi and Hunan provinces and combines sanitation, health education and water components. Recently, community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) activities have been integrated with technical and financial assistance from the Australian and Danish Red Cross. The Norwegian Red Cross is supporting a very similar new programme in Jilin province, which is incorporating much of the methodology and experience from the Federation's CVR programme, while RCSC will soon initiate similar activities in Ningxia and Shanxi in cooperation with the American Red Cross.

Constraints:

There have been minor difficulties with the implementation of the sanitation component of the programme during the reporting period, due to the villagers' attention being occupied with addressing the current drought in certain areas and the need to ensure their second harvest of rice has adequate water. The provincial Red Cross staff and the relevant prefecture staff are addressing the slow progress of construction in these areas by holding communal meetings and conducting house hold visits.

Organisational Development

Overall Goal: RCSC is making a significant contribution to national efforts to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people in China.

Programme Objective: RCSC has improved its capacity to plan and deliver high quality Red Cross programmes.

Progress in advancing planned organisational development (OD) activities at the national level in this reporting period has mostly been put on hold due to the need for RCSC to focus on its national convention (see operational developments section above). In particular, support planned by the Federation for national workshops in the area of financial management and communications could not be carried out as these events were both postponed.

Outcomes from the National Convention however bode well for future RCSC organisational development and capacity building initiatives. The place of volunteers in the society's work has been formally recognised in the newly adopted constitution, and the concept of developing models to support community service in each province has been identified as one of the strategic goals in the five-year development plan. In addition, the new leadership recognises that clearer strategies will need to be developed in order to achieve many of the goals and output targets that set out in the plan.

The main specific OD-related activity carried out has been the head of regional delegation's participation in a provincial leadership training course organised by Sichuan Red Cross with the support of the Norwegian Red Cross. This course brought together vice presidents and secretaries general from 20 of the province's 21 prefecture branches. The overall purpose of the workshop was to share experience in project design and management, notably from the ongoing Norwegian Red Cross supported community development and capacity building project in Ganzi prefecture in the far west Tibetan area of this very large province. Inputs from the Federation included a short presentation on strategic planning and the facilitation of discussions on fundraising and volunteerism.

In addition to the learning shared from the Ganzi project, several other prefectures were able to contribute their own experiences from implementing some interesting service programmes, some of them with the support of external non-Red Cross partners. The provincial branch's finance officer, who has been able to adapt and take forward the systems and procedures developed as part of the original Federation-supported finance development programme, provided another important session. These systems and procedures still serve as the basis for RCSC financial management for externally-supported programmes and projects in most provinces.

Another interesting feature that emerged from this workshop was the fact that the Sichuan branch had recently been able to secure significant financial commitments from the provincial government to help support the society's core costs at provincial and potentially more local levels. This also serves as an indication that there exists considerable potential for the sharing of good practice in management and other aspects of organisational development for the overall benefit of the society in the years ahead.

Constraints

As noted above, the main constraint to implementing planned activities has been the need for RCSC headquarters to focus its attention on its national convention.

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

APPEAL No. 01.67/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

14/12/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				4,436,886		51.0%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				215,683		
BRITISH - RC		15,000	GBP	34,358	04.05.04	HEALTH & CARE, TRAINING OF TRAINERS
ECHO (02001)		999,915	EUR	1,575,366	23.02.04	COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY REDUCTION
SWEDISH - RC		1,500,000	SEK	252,750	26.03.04	HIV/AIDS PROGRAMME
SWEDISH - GOVT		250,000	SEK	41,875	09.09.04	DELEGATE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2,120,032	CHF	47.8%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATES			54,400		
DENMARK	DELEGATES			67,000		
SWEDEN	DELEGATES			23,200		
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				144,600	CHF	3.3%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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