

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

EAST ASIA REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

June 2004

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

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.70.2004; Programme Update no. 01; Period covered: 1 January to 30 April, 2004; Appeal coverage: 41.4%; Outstanding needs: CHF 670,989 (USD 543,417 or EUR 440,855).
(click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List (also available on the website).

Appeal target: CHF 1,143,957 (USD 857,968 or EUR 732,132).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Programme summary: As the Federation's East Asia Regional Delegation continues to provide support to the region's national societies, the Federation will work to implement new initiatives to ensure that information on all assistance activities is readily available, and that all partners work to build a common strategy to support the individual East Asian societies in their development efforts.

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>

Overall context

During this period, the main event on the geo-political front in the region continued to be the protracted situation surrounding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) nuclear issue. Another round of the six-party talks was held in Beijing at the end of February. With both the DPRK and US government sides keeping very much to their existing negotiating positions, there was a sense of limited substantive progress coming out of these talks. The main outcome was a decision to hold working-level meetings ahead of the next round of talks scheduled for June. With the limited incentive for either side to modify positions, and barring any major external influencing events, those involved consider it unlikely that significant progress will be made until after the US presidential elections in November.

Another significant development in the first half of this year has been China's relations with Taiwan. There was considerable interest in Beijing in the lead up to the presidential elections in Taiwan held at the end of March, and the possibility that this event could be used as an occasion to hold a referendum on the issue of independence. While it seems likely that no initiatives in this direction will occur in the near future, the attention devoted to this issue is an indicator of the general level of sensitivity on this question. This, together with the DPRK nuclear issue, represent two potentially serious sources of concern for security in a region which is, for the most part, otherwise stable, economically vibrant, and peaceful. The Federation emphasizes that it considers these issues pertinent and important because they are so closely linked to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and have an impact on the planned humanitarian programmes and activities.

For the East Asia regional delegation the first four months of the year has been a very busy period. In addition to organising a regional partnership meeting and an international blood donor colloquium and the ongoing work supporting operations with the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC), there have been a series of contacts and meetings with international and donor organisations as described in the sections that follow.

The delegation was strengthened by the arrival of the new regional reporting delegate in the latter part of March. The train disaster that occurred in the DPRK on 22 April resulted in a huge media interest, and for a period of three days or more the delegation gave more or less non-stop interviews to journalists from around the world. Although the regional delegation is already well known to most of the Beijing-based international media representatives, this event provided a rare opportunity to dramatically raise the profile of the International Federation. It is hoped that this will have enduring benefits for our work to raise the visibility and reputation of the National Societies of the region and their PNS partners.

Health and care

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

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

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The Federation's East Asia Regional HIV/AIDS Coordinator continues to provide technical assistance in the form of training, monitoring, and assessments as requested by bilateral participating national societies (PNS) in China and Mongolia. The regional HIV/AIDS coordinator and the regional programme manager of the Netherlands Red Cross conducted a preliminary assessment in Shanghai; and, two, two-part training of facilitators in Beijing and Shanghai during the reporting period. The Federation's regional HIV/AIDS coordinator also worked with the Australian Red Cross to conduct a three day refresher training on Youth Peer Education in Mongolia.

The International Federation is represented on several health and HIV/AIDS related committees and working groups including: UNAIDS Expanded Theme Group, UN Theme Group on Health, UNAIDS Sub Theme Group on Adolescents and Youth, the Country Coordinating Mechanism (Global Fund), and the CCM Working Group on HIV/AIDS.

The International Federation and the Red Cross Society of China were responsible for organising the 9th International Colloquium on the Recruitment of Voluntary, Non-Remunerated Blood Donors which was held in Beijing, 3-7 April 2004. The colloquium which brought together some 200 experts in the subject of voluntary blood donations was co-sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO). The colloquium was hosted by the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC), and was held in partnership with the International Society of Blood Transfusion and the Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals (ADRP).

Colloquium participants highlighted the importance of opportunities such as this for sharing experiences and ideas to support each other with the common goal of building and/or developing strong voluntary, non-remunerated blood donor (VNRBD) programmes around the world particularly in developing countries which although possessing the majority of the total global population (some 82%) have access to a low percentage of the global blood supply and pool of voluntary, non remunerated blood donors. Although improvements in blood collection practices have been

seen in countries such as China, characteristics such as large populations, the prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases and poor understanding about best practices among the medical and general population etc. still pose major challenges to developing countries having sufficient access to low risk population groups which is the foundation for having a safe blood supply.

Disaster Management

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

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

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The Federation's regional disaster management delegate is working with national societies and country delegations in China, DPRK and Mongolia to ensure that programme support from the Federation and national societies such as the Australian, Danish and Norwegian Red Cross is directed towards the national societies in a coordinated manner. The Federation has also initiated links with representatives from UNHCR and UNICEF in Beijing. Additionally, opportunities to attend disaster management activities coordinates either by PNS, such as the Norwegian Red Cross disaster preparedness training in Shaanxi and the Red Cross Society of China's Disaster Management Meeting held in Guilin promote better all around co-operation.

Project 1: Explore new and innovative approaches

Mongolian Red Cross Society

The Federation's regional delegation has worked closely with the Federation's country delegation, the Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS), and the Australian Red Cross to support the development and implementation of the Australian Red Cross' disaster preparedness activities in Mongolia. The MRCS's bilaterally funded disaster preparedness programme builds upon existing programmes and aims to improve the society's capacity to respond effectively to disasters.

Red Cross Society of China

The Danish and Australian Red Cross Societies are developing disaster preparedness activities with the Red Cross Society of China's (RCSC) branches in Hunan and Guangxi, respectively, which build upon the society's existing Federation supported Community Vulnerability Reduction (CVR) programme in those provinces.

The CVR programme, which began in 2002 by supporting flood victims in Guangxi with the construction of Eco-san latrines, has evolved over the past two years into a project comprising three components. The CVR programme which aims to reduce the vulnerability of flood prone communities to water prone diseases linked to poor sanitation systems and an absence of health education was designed to also include a community based disaster preparedness component. The Federation, when designing the CVR programme, has always envisioned that support to RCSC branch activities could be logically divided up among different donors. To date the Federation with support from ECHO has supported the construction of latrines and the introduction of health education activities in Guangxi and Hunan. The Federation's East Asia Regional Delegation is now working with the Danish and Australian Red Cross and the RCSC to implement community based disaster preparedness activities in the villages which have already received the first two components of the Federation's CVR programme. Working together in a coordinated manner through the Federation to share and maximise the use of available resources ensures efficient assistance to the branches. To this end the Australian and the Danish Red Cross have been approached by the Federation to seek a means of jointly supporting one disaster management delegate to work with both the Hunan and the Guangxi Red Cross branches on implementing community based disaster preparedness activities supported by these PNS.

A first draft of promotion material targeting international donors was produced by the Federation's Regional Information Delegate during 2002. The Federation is also working with the society on developing the society's and the branches capacity to raise support for the society in China and country specific promotion material is being developed. The RCSC's Beijing branch for example is supporting the construction of latrines in Guangxi. The

RCSC with support from the Federation is working with the DPRK Red Cross hosting study visits and allowing the DPRK Red Cross to benefit from the RCSC's experience with the project thus far.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea Red Cross

Representatives of the DPRK Red Cross water and sanitation team presented lessons learned through the water and sanitation project at the East Asia Partnership Meeting in March to representatives of participating national societies and donors.

Project 2: Refine East Asia Disaster Management Strategies

- **The national societies in the region have a clearer and better defined role in disaster management**

Red Cross Society of China

As the society's 2003 Federation supported flood relief operation comes to a close, representatives from the national office, implementing branches, and Federation flood relief delegates will participate in an operational review facilitated by an external consultant. The purpose of the review is to record progress made in regard to recommendations made in the 2002 review, and draft an appeal based on lessons learned that can be used for recurring emergencies in China.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea Red Cross

The DPRK Red Cross and the Federation's efforts to define a clear disaster management strategy for the national society, has led to the recognition of the society as the lead agency regarding disaster management. The society's network of disaster preparedness centres, and sufficient and appropriate disaster preparedness stock allowed the society to respond immediately to 22 April's devastating train explosion in Ryongchon.

- **Learning reviews have resulted in improved disaster management strategies**

Red Cross Society of China

Recommendations made following an independent review of the society's community vulnerability risk reduction project (CVR) have resulted in the society's amending the activities to more effectively serve the needs of the communities where the project is being implemented.

In January, a review team comprised of an independent consultant and the Federation's South East Asia Regional Water and Sanitation coordinator participated in the second review of the RCSC's CVR project in Guangxi and Hunan. The findings of the review were prepared and presented to the RCSC's national office and implementing branches. In April, these findings served as the basis for a planning meeting held in Guangxi where recommendations of the review were discussed at length by the branches and the RCSC's relief division. The RCSC has already acted upon some of the recommendations. For example, the project has been designed that beneficiaries are given responsibility for construction of the latrines. In the past, however, there was no support system within the villages participating in the project to assist those beneficiaries who were due to either age and/or mental or physical incapacity unable to build the latrines. Following recommendations in the January review villagers who are receiving assistance and are physically able are engaged in assisting disabled beneficiaries with construction.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea Red Cross

The Federation's regional disaster management delegate and the British Red Cross, which is a key supporter of the society's disaster management programme will engage in a review of the society's disaster management project during the third week of May. The review is a follow up of the 2001-2002 review.

Project 3: Refine and establish regional DM procedures

Red Cross Society of China

In an effort to move forward in amending finance procedures to ensure that they meet the Federation's standards while at the same time facilitating quicker and more efficient action in the field the Federation's regional disaster management and China finance delegates met with the head of the Regional Finance Unit to begin work on refining the procedures to expedite the transfers of funds in China during an emergency. Procedures are being developed within the Federation's established systems that are more compatible with China's operating systems.

Humanitarian Values

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

Programme Objective: The degree of visibility, cooperation and support for the Red Cross in East Asia, through communications and advocacy has increased.

Project 1: Positioning the Federation and national societies

- **The Federation and national societies in the region are seen by national and international media as a primary source of information.**

By the end of the reporting period, the new East Asia Regional Information delegate had met and introduced himself to the major media among the 200-300 international bureaus and correspondents in Beijing, outlined his plans and operating area, and discussed cooperation.

The first cooperation occurred in relation to the 9th International Colloquium on the Recruitment of Voluntary, Non-Remunerated Blood Donors, organized by the Federation and hosted by the Chinese Red Cross in Beijing from April 3 to 7. Pre-conference action made the international media aware that the world is short of safer blood and that experts from around the globe were gathering to discuss how to increase and effectively manage a safer supply. Global coverage was acquired before, during and after the conference. The Federation's web site carried a story well heralded on the home page.

Chinese Red Cross communicators worked simultaneously on acquiring national media attention for the event. Their professionalism and energy brought widespread print, radio and television coverage.

Project 2: Increasing capacity of national societies

- **All national societies in the region have increased the capacity of their information departments.** Discussions took place on a long-planned communications workshop with DPRK Red Cross organized by the Danish Red Cross. The workshop is slated for June and the regional delegate will participate as a facilitator. As one outcome, he will seek to establish a plan of action with the National Society with specific goals and a clear timetable.

Project 3: Strengthening internal relationships

- **Relationships between all partners (Federation, local national society and partner national society) are strengthened.**

Counterparts were identified within the Red Cross Society of China and good working relationships established. The delegate contributed – and will continue to contribute – to the National Society's own media. This includes a regional column on Asia/Pacific issues for the mass-circulation RCSC Weekly newspaper.

Implementation and Management

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

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

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

A regional partnership meeting was organised from 2-5 March in Beijing. This brought together the five societies of the East Asia region together with representatives from ten participating national societies that are supporting programmes in the region. In order to broaden the scope of these types of meetings, representatives from all the

main UN agencies and donor country embassies that support Red Cross programmes were also invited to attend several of the sessions.

One of the objectives of the meeting was to share knowledge of the key vulnerabilities affecting the countries of the region between all relevant humanitarian actors. To this end, the main part of the first day of the meeting was devoted to two panel sessions dealing with public health especially HIV/AIDS and the disaster context in the region. Introductory presentations were made on the first topic by colleagues from the UN theme group on HIV/AIDS, UN AIDS and DFID, while discussions on the disaster topic were initiated by speakers from WFP, ECHO and the US embassy. These sessions helped create a better awareness of the overall context of these key areas for Red Cross work in the region and of the current and potential role that national societies play.

The rest of the meeting was devoted mainly to reviewing the current programmes and future strategies of the Chinese, DPRK and Mongolian Red Cross. Presentations were made by each of the national societies, and there followed good discussions with the interested PNS and ICRC outlining their perspectives and approaches to supporting the societies' development needs. In the case of Mongolia, the society has made considerable progress in re-orienting its programming towards addressing the longer-term needs of vulnerable communities especially the urban poor. The Federation has been encouraging the society to move in this direction, and several PNS have been successful in mobilising resources to support these longer-term projects. Similarly in China, there are now 10 PNS, as well as the Federation, supporting RCSC developmental programmes. In addition, the ICRC continues with its IHL dissemination programme. In DPRK the main emphasis remains on the extensive multilateral assistance programme, but opportunities are being pursued to develop more tailor-made projects to support DPRK Red Cross developmental needs, and the Netherlands Red Cross has stated implementing a branch development programme.

The meeting concluded by agreeing on the need to take new initiatives to ensure that information on all assistance activities were readily available, and that all partners worked to build a common strategy to support the individual East Asian societies in their development efforts. The Federation would explore the possibilities of using the recently developed FedNet as a vehicle for the former task, and a working level meeting of all partners would be organised later in the year in order to explore options for developing a more strategic approach to supporting Chinese Red Cross.

In the area of external relations, a number of visits were paid to donor country embassies and international organisations based in Beijing. These included Australia, Canada, DFID, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as ECHO, UNDP, WFP and the World Bank. Most of these cover at least one other country, in the region in addition to China. The main purpose of these visits was to provide and update of the latest situation regarding Red Cross Red Crescent activities in the region and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Whilst the Federation's operation in DPRK is of particular interest to many, there is undoubtedly a considerable interest in learning more about the societies in the region, their programmes and more generally about their organisation. There is an understandable tendency for those embassies that already provide some assistance through their respective PNSs to think that this forms the major part of the external assistance going to that particular society. When the bigger picture is presented to them, this helps create a much better picture of the extent and significance of the work being carried out by the Red Cross in the region. It also helps provide a better understanding of the nature of the Federation and underlines the importance of ensuring good coordination.

The Federation participated in two significant international meetings during this period. The first was an international symposium on the changing nature of international organisations organised by the UN University and a leading Japanese university in Tokyo in March. Here the head of regional delegation was asked to present a paper dealing with leadership in the humanitarian organisation community, focusing in particular on the Code of Conduct and the Sphere project. Other participants at the symposium included several UN organisations, the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in Geneva, MSF and the Japanese Red Cross, as well as a variety of Japanese academic and parliamentary representatives. This occasion provided a useful opportunity to profile the work that has been done by the Federation to play a leading role in setting and abiding by quality standards in humanitarian work. It also serves as a reminder of the value of initiatives of this nature and the extent to which they generate interest and respect from a wide variety of other institutions.

The second event in which the Federation participated was the 60th session of ESCAP, the UN's regional organisation for Asia and the Pacific. Although usually held in Bangkok where the ESCAP secretariat is located, this session was held in Shanghai where the organisation had been first established in 1947. The Federation's delegation was led by the secretary general of the Red Cross Society of China, supported by the head of the regional delegation and two RCSC staff members. The meeting was chaired by the foreign minister of China and attended by senior level representatives from each of ESCAP's 35 member nations as well as a wide range of international and regional organisations. One special session of the meeting was devoted to disaster management and communications. Overall, the meeting provided a useful opportunity for networking and profiling the Federation with representatives from these organisations, and represented another step in the Federation's intent to build a closer partnership with ESCAP.

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

East Asia Regional Programmes

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.70/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

08/06/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,143,957	TOTAL COVERAGE 41.4%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				168,625		
AUSTRALIAN - RC				10,000	05.02.04	IN-COUNTRY COSTS HIV/AIDS COORDINATOR
BRITISH - RC/PRIVATE DONOR		15,000	GBP	34,298	28.01.04	HEALTH & CARE
NETHERLANDS - GOVT		144,249	EUR	21,886	22.03.04	HIV/AIDS DELEGATE
NORWEGIAN - RC				22,400	28.01.04	HEALTH DELEGATE
SWEDISH - RC		500,000	SEK	84,250	26.03.04	HIV/AIDS PROGRAMME
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				341,459	CHF	29.8%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATES			58,400		
DENMARK	DELEGATES			73,200		
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				131,600	CHF	11.5%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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