

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
الإتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

EAST ASIA REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

27 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.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.70/2004; Programme Update no. 03; Period covered: 1 September to 31 December, 2004; Appeal coverage: 67.3%; Outstanding needs: CHF 374,074 (USD 325,820 or EUR 242,137).
(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: [Annual Appeal \(01.70/2004\)](#), [2005 Annual Appeal \(05AA061\)](#)

Programme summary: Among the different activities carried out in this period, HIV/AIDS has received growing attention as a mounting issue in the region. The Federation, in partnership with the Red Cross Society of China and the Mongolian Red Cross Society, are implementing activities intended to increase awareness and knowledge about HIV/AIDS in an effort to eradicate stigma and discrimination while reducing the spread of the disease. These efforts vary from the ground up, beginning with activities such as university students in Mongolia and China actively educating their peers through the youth peer education programme. At the broader advocacy level, for World AIDS Day on 1 December, considerable media attention was given to the Federation's message that millions of people are hiding in the shadows of Chinese society, afraid of being tested for HIV, afraid of seeking help or advice because of the inhuman and ill-founded stigma and discrimination that surrounds the virus. Unless stigma and discrimination are removed, the delegation warned, it will be extremely difficult - if not impossible - to control China's rapidly growing HIV/AIDS epidemic effectively.

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

Both the dynamic political and economic situation in East Asia, in particular in regards to China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), continues to capture the attention of the media over the final quarter of 2004. China's domestic economic growth, combined with the government's expansion of trade and external relations, continues to attract the global press, and is having a significant influence on policies and market strategies that extend beyond the country's borders. Security issues in DPRK are still the subject of ongoing international negotiations as discussions are underway as to when the next round of six-party talks will be held. At the same time recent decisions by the government to impose tighter restrictions on the presence of international staff in the country is having an effect on the capacity of humanitarian aid agencies to provide and monitor assistance.

Natural disasters in Japan, including the deadly typhoon Tokage that struck on 20 October followed three days later by a powerful earthquake in Nigata measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale, left thousands of people homeless. In both cases, the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) headquarters and local chapters were able to quickly respond to the emergencies. Highly successful preparedness measures in the extremely earthquake-prone country have limited the number of earthquake-related deaths and injuries; however, these measures are still not enough to address the critical need of psychological support for those people affected by natural disasters. Although physically safe, survivors after an earthquake often suffer from insomnia, stress and fear, particularly in this case where the population comprised of many elderly people. In the days following the earthquake, the JRCS, who had previously worked with the Federation's reference centre for a psychological support programme (PSP) to establish a solid PSP network around the country, set up psychological support centres in Ojiya city and Nagaoka city. In cooperation with the local health system and relief teams, JRCS PSP staff were able to provide emergency PSP to evacuees housed in temporary shelters and conduct home visits. In the month following the earthquake, some 3,219 people received PSP from 126 JRCS staff.

HIV/AIDS

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

After the Federation's regional HIV/AIDS delegate's August technical assistance visit to the Republic of Korea, regional programme activities from September through December concentrated on the Mongolian Red Cross' programme, in addition to the work with the Red Cross Society of China detailed in a separate programme update covering China. These activities included:

- One youth peer education (YPE) training of facilitators/volunteers who will be implementing projects for university students in Ulaanbaatar, Darkhan and Orkhon. This is the second round of volunteer training. The first group of volunteers have successfully conveyed key messages about prevention to peer groups usually drawn from local colleges and universities, and new volunteers are being encouraged to expand on previously completed peer education. In terms of stigma, the Mongolian public still regard people with HIV/AIDS with fear. In order to increase the public's understanding on people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), some peer educators initiated public awareness campaigns at their university.
- Support to MRCS staff to observe the first two sections of expert trainers' training on HIV/AIDS prevention and care in China.
- Sponsorship of one PLWHA/MRCS volunteer and a newly diagnosed PLWHA from Mongolia to attend a cooperation meeting on HIV/AIDS in South Korea. The inclusion of a person newly diagnosed with HIV was important as it enables this person to take an active role in addressing his infection while providing him with the personal support he needs.

- Funds for the translation and printing of a manual for PLWHA in Mongolia. To date, there is very little information available in Mongolia on developing services for, and networks of, PLWHA. This manual will be distributed to PLWHA and to organisations that work with PLWHA, prevention and care.
- Assistance to MRCS in finalising the five-year strategic plan that arose from a workshop facilitated by Australian Red Cross. The five-year strategic plan seeks to rationalise and institutionalise MRCS HIV/AIDS prevention and care activities. Until now, MRCS work was ad hoc; the strategic plan focuses future activities on key groups that are at risk of HIV infection and set out targets for activities.

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

Within the framework of the programme objective to work with the DPRK Red Cross (DPRK RC), the Mongolian Red Cross (MRCS) and the Red Cross Society of China in exploring new and innovative approaches to address disaster response and preparedness, the Federation and partner national societies like the Australian Red Cross and the Danish Red Cross are working with the respective national societies to introduce activities that will improve the national societies' level of responding to disasters. In Mongolia, the Australian Red Cross, in close coordination with the Federation's Mongolia country delegation, developed a plan with the MRCS for a disaster preparedness programme that will increase the capacity of MRCS branches for preparedness at a regional level in the form of establishing disaster preparedness centres and improving communications. The Danish Red Cross, in cooperation with the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC), the Federation and the Australian Red Cross, are supporting the development of community-based disaster preparedness activities in China as part of the community vulnerability reduction (CVR) programme in Guangxi and Hunan.

The search continues to fill the position of the Federation's regional disaster management delegate following the departure of the former delegate in early October. Since the departure, responsibility for working with national societies on implementing regional programme activities has been shared between various Federation delegates at the regional and country levels, and as 2004 comes to a close, most of the programme's expected results have been met. Over the reporting period, work continued at the country level, with the national societies refining their disaster management strategies reflected in the respective country's programming for the next 12 months and detailed in the Federation's 2005 Appeal.

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.

Progress/Achievements

The flood season that China's state media announced as over in August returned with a vengeance in Sichuan and Chongqing in September. More devastating than it had been all summer, it provided another opportunity to acquire international media coverage and profile for Chinese Red Cross efforts, and television, radio and wire services

carried Red Cross interviews and information. For one week, international television news services carried daily Federation updates on the situation.

It was emphasised that needs were likely to continue for months to come and therefore the national society's appeal, launched in early August, was more critical than ever. Media messages also underlined Red Cross concern for, and response to, the threat to health that flooding brings because of poor sanitation as well as unsafe and unprotected water supplies in rural China. The point was graphically illustrated by outbreaks of water-related sickness in flood-hit areas.

Again, the national society could see the importance of Red Cross information activity in disasters. Journalists were unable to travel widely in the affected areas and the Red Cross was once more the prime non-state information source. Among other things, the regional delegation arranged for an extensive Associated Press Television News interview in Beijing with an executive vice president of a frontline Red Cross branch. An old proverb says if the mountain won't come to Muhammad, Muhammad must go the mountain. The Red Cross in East Asia is learning if the media cannot get to the mountain, the mountain must be brought to the media.

The floods brought a natural link to the launch of the *2004 World Disasters Report (WDR)* in late October. The WDR theme was community resilience, and the Chinese Red Cross CVR programme in Guangxi and Hunan was used to illustrate the point. The fact that the programme will expand to Chongqing in 2005 made it more relevant still. For the first time, a Mandarin summary of the WDR was produced and circulated to all participants at the Chinese Red Cross National Convention with which the launch date coincided. Copies of the summary, together with a media release, were distributed to media covering the convention. Key figures in government, local authorities and academic institutions are also being targeted.

Among other media activity around the WDR, the head of delegation gave an extensive interview on community resilience to a prestigious prime time news background programme on Japan's NHK television, an opinion piece was placed in the South China Morning Post and a visit to the CVR programme was arranged for Finnish television.

For World AIDS Day on 1 December, the media gave considerable attention to the Federation message that millions of people are hiding in the shadows of Chinese society, afraid of being tested for HIV, afraid of seeking help or advice because of the inhuman and ill-founded stigma and discrimination that surrounds the virus. Unless stigma and discrimination are removed, the delegation warned, it will be extremely difficult - if not impossible - to control China's rapidly growing HIV/AIDS epidemic effectively.

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

This reporting period has seen a number of activities aimed at making progress towards achieving the above objective and ensuring key external stakeholders in the region know and appreciate Red Cross programmes better. Building on recent institutional developments and the expressed desire of the societies concerned, measures have also been initiated to start a more strategic approach towards future programming in both China and DPRK.

In terms of encouraging a more active collaboration and knowledge sharing of the international cooperation programmes in China, one of the main activities has been the PNS meeting held in September in Beijing. Two back-to-back meetings were organised, the first specifically on HIV/AIDS and the second with a more general focus on programme management and quality issues. Representatives from seven of RCSC's key partners shared experiences and analysis from their work with RCSC. RCSC in turn were able to brief participants on their working methodologies, notably in the area of financial management.

It became apparent that although there is not a wide diversity in types of programming supported by external partners within the broad sectors of HIV/AIDS and disaster preparedness, there are considerable differences in approaches taken by PNS to programme management, monitoring issues, etc. Participants at the meeting committed to working towards greater uniformity, with RCSC recognising the need to provide its partners with a more strategic approach to its programming. It was also acknowledged by all that more work needs to be done on developing the RCSC's capacity for fundraising and supporting a greater and more effective use of volunteers.

In closing the meeting, the RCSC secretary-general noted that over the past few years several provincial branches had implemented partnership activities that have had a significant impact on programme beneficiaries and have also benefited the public image of the RCSC. The society was aware of the important roles good project management and coordination activities play in ensuring the success of these programmes and the efficient use of funds.

In addition to these commitments, another of the outcomes from this meeting has been the preparation of concise overviews of all the externally supported programmes underway in China by each PNS. These have been edited and are available to all partners on the Federation's FedNet extranet.

The RCSC National Convention held at the end of October saw the election of a new leadership and the adoption of its new development plan. Building on the momentum created within the society by these events, the Federation has begun discussions in December on how the society's partners could best support RCSC in its undertakings to develop a comprehensive five-year strategy that will guide its work in HIV/AIDS. It is hoped the process that will emerge can be instructive, not only in terms of providing a framework for this increasingly important sector of the society's national work, but also help guide the society in thinking about new ways in which it can operate internally and with its external partners.

Progress in responding to DPRK RC's request for Federation support to set up a cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) process has been made in this period. Initial consultations held with DPRK RC leaders and staff led to agreements on two best ways to develop such a process, the first being an internal one that would be largely carried out by the society itself. The headquarters would need to elaborate to its branches an implementation plan that will take the new strategic development plan, adopted at a national congress in the first half of the year, forward. The Federation's experienced Asia Pacific organisational development delegate based in Kuala Lumpur could offer some facilitation to this work.

Another important part of this CAS exercise would be to carry out a strategic review of the international programmes undertaken in the past four years and make recommendations for the future direction of international assistance in the next three to five years. Such a review should be an inclusive process, involving DPRK RC at all levels, relevant DPRK government ministries and the society's external partners from within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, as well as other relevant international actors within DPRK. The terms of reference for this review has been circulated towards the end of the year to all the society's Movement partners, who were also invited to nominate members of the team to undertake this exercise, which will be carried out in the first half of 2005.

Briefings and support have been provided to a number of individual national society delegations who have visited the region in the past four months. In the case of RCSC, these included the president and head of the Swiss Red Cross' international department, an American Red Cross project-planning mission and a Norwegian Red Cross team carrying out an evaluation of the Ganzi programme in Sichuan province. Similarly, the delegation has provided assistance to staff from the Australian, Danish and Swedish Red Cross that visited DPRK RC.

Another focus of this cooperation, coordination and international representation programme is to help societies from the region play a more active role in activities of the Federation. In this regard, the delegation has provided some modest support to the training of potential new delegates from the region. This has consisted of sponsoring five staff from RCSC and two from Mongolia to attend basic training courses (BTC) organised by Japanese Red Cross and Hong Kong Red Cross in the last quarter of the year. In addition, the delegation arranged for an experienced disaster management facilitator from Danish Red Cross to support the Hong Kong BTC.

The delegation also helped with the organisation of study tours, carried out by RCSC headquarters and provincial leaders, to some European national societies, as well as visits to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Federation in Geneva.

Finally, in the area of international representation, in addition to its ongoing contacts with Beijing-based embassies and international organisations, the delegation has been invited to participate in several meetings with governmental and other donor organisations during this period. Among the most notable were two meetings of the coordinating committee for the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, on which the Federation and RCSC are both well-established members, as well as briefings provided to the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office and the UK Department for International Development's evaluation teams visiting DPRK. The delegation also gave a briefing on Red Cross work in the region to the visiting US assistant secretary of state for population, refugees and migration.

[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

23/12/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	1,143,957		TOTAL COVERAGE 67.3%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD	168,625		
AUSTRALIAN - RC	10,000	05.02.04	IN-COUNTRY COSTS HIV/AIDS COORDINATOR
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT	7,950	AUD	6,928
		01.09.04	GUIGXI RC, CBDP.
BRITISH - RC/PRIVATE DONOR	15,000	GBP	34,298
		28.01.04	HEALTH & CARE
BRITISH - RC	25,000	GBP	57,150
		07.12.04	REGIONAL HIV DELEGATE, PROGRAMME COSTS
BRITISH - RC	20,000	GBP	45,720
		18.11.04	HUMANITARIAN VALUES
DANISH - RC			47,650
		15.09.04	BEIJING REGIONAL DELEGATION
JAPANESE - RC	42,830	USD	54,159
		21.09.04	DISASTER MANAGEMENT, HUMANITARIAN VALUES
KOREAN - RC			50,000
		25.08.04	DELEGATION
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	144,249	EUR	21,886
		22.03.04	HIV/AIDS DELEGATE
NETHERLANDS - RC	6,168	EUR	9,474
		24.06.04	CHINA REGIONAL
NETHERLANDS - RC	1,800	EUR	2,795
		10.10.04	DELEGATE BEIJING
NEW ZEALAND - RC	1,400	NZD	1,113
		30.06.04	CHINA
NORWEGIAN - RC			22,400
		28.01.04	HEALTH DELEGATE
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC			10,000
		09.06.04	INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION
NORWEGIAN - RC	160,000	NOK	30,000
		25.11.04	REGIONAL HIV/AIDS DELEGATE
SWEDISH - RC	500,000	SEK	84,250
		26.03.04	HIV/AIDS PROGRAMME
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH	656,448	CHF	57.4%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATES			58,400		
DENMARK	DELEGATES			54,800		
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				113,200	CHF	9.9%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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