

# 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

12 October 2005

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](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA058; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: May - August 2005; Appeal coverage: 88.9%; Outstanding needs: CHF 478,069 (USD 373,608 or EUR 308,412).

[\(click here for the attached contributions list\)](#) [\(click here for the live contributions list available on the website\)](#)

Appeal target: CHF 4,306,933 (USD 3,587,616 or EUR 2,815,909)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

[China Floods 05EA017](#)

[East Asia Regional Appeal 05AA061](#)

**Programme summary:** The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) continues to battle with ongoing typhoons, floods, devastation and loss of life this rainy season, providing relief assistance to beneficiaries affected by 41 different disasters in 23 provinces of China in the four months from May to August. As much support as possible has been provided through the Federation Secretariat, as initial financial assistance has been released from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and an emergency appeal for CHF5.5 million has been launched.

In the meantime, China continues to face ongoing issues of regional inequality despite its surging economic growth. For example, if Guizhou province were a country, it would rank just above Namibia, while Shanghai would rank alongside Portugal on the recently published Human Development Index for 2005. This underscores the importance of programmes supported by RCSC and the Federation appeal that serve vulnerable communities in the country. In this reporting period however, reorganization within the RCSC headquarters and the development of a new project management office has caused temporary delays in certain areas of the programmes. Nevertheless, the health and care programme is expected to make good progress despite initial delays, and a five-year national society work plan on HIV/AIDS has been approved this reporting period. The community vulnerability reduction component has already implemented most of its activities, serving some 65,000 beneficiaries. Discussions with the RCSC project management office have led to the decision to carry forward some organizational development activities to next year.

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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 log frame 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

The overall economic performance of People's Republic of China continues to move strongly ahead, as many developing countries in particular see the significance of building trade and economic relations with the country. The domestic political and economic arena has been generally stable in this reporting period, with one major structural reform: the adjustment of the exchange rate system on 21 July, which has resulted in a slow appreciation of the Chinese currency.

The government is taking steps to address challenges in income disparity between rural and urban areas. According to the newly released United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) *Human Development Report 2005*, China's challenge lies in transforming its surging income growth into sustained progress in the broader dimension of human development. Inequality between the country's regions is apparent. For example, if Guizhou province were a country, it would rank just above Namibia, while Shanghai would rank alongside Portugal on the Human Development Index. In a separate report, the UNDP also notes that a drop in farm-related income and poor rural employment has led to increased urban migration and urban poverty. Some of China's recent policies have met with success however, among them a move to abolish agricultural taxes in March, which has caused the per-capita cash income of farmers to increase by 12.5 per cent in the first half of 2005. Efforts to downsize state-owned enterprises continue, as the government lessens its stake in domestically listed firms. It has also launched a mass propaganda campaign, this time to reduce corruption in the ruling Chinese Communist Party.

The World Health Organization (WHO) confirms that currently 650,000 to 960,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS in China and the potential for a massive epidemic is well acknowledged. Not only has the virus now spread to all 31 provinces of China, the number of cases are growing, and only 15 per cent of those infected know they are HIV positive. In a country where a 80,000 people reportedly suffer from full-blown AIDS, only 12,919<sup>1</sup> are being treated with antiretroviral drugs. The government has begun taking notice of this threat – its budget for 2004 of RMB 810 million was twice more than that of 2003. A government-led programme on drug addiction has taken shape, with needle exchange programmes and methadone treatment. Progress is being made but is still too slow however, and the authorities require much assistance from international agencies, including the Red Cross and NGOs, especially in the area of raising awareness.

A series of floods, typhoons and other disasters struck have ravaged China these past few months. The most recent figures released by the Chinese government show that cumulative disasters between January to September 2005 have killed 1,630 people and caused direct economic losses of RMB 163 billion (USD 20 billion). These disasters have also led to the evacuation of 13 million people. As year after year, the country is haunted by repeated natural disasters that cause a massive loss of life, this year, the state disaster relief commission (SDRC) has recently announced the establishment of a new natural disaster emergency response system.

### The Red Cross Society of China

This reporting period has been a busy period for Chinese Red Cross (RCSC). This year's floods have again been very widespread and have affected a large number of provinces, while China's eastern seaboard has also been struck by 14 typhoons during this summer season. On average, 6.9 typhoons have hit China every year from 1924 to 2004.

These disasters have led to an extensive response from RCSC, and the society has provided relief assistance to beneficiaries affected by 41 different disasters in 23 provinces in the four months from May to August. The Federation has followed the situation closely, and in the early phases, the delegates working on the community vulnerability reduction (CVR) programme in southern China participated in assessment missions with the provincial branches in Hunan, Guangxi and Chongqing. An initial response has been made by allocating CHF 200,000 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). After it became clear that this year's flooding had outstripped the RCSC's own capacity to respond, the society requested international assistance from the Federation. An emergency appeal for CHF 5.5 million was then launched on 11 August for a period of nine months to distribute food and quilts to 400,000 beneficiaries in five most vulnerable provinces and to replenish depleted RCSC emergency stocks. Beneficiaries receiving the assistance come from low-income families that have

<sup>1</sup> This figure is based on WHO-provided statistics as of December 2004.

suffered from destroyed or damaged homes, lost crops and/or livelihoods to floods or belong to extremely vulnerable groups like seniors without family support or those with disabled family members.

There have also been a number of significant internal developments within RCSC during this period. A reorganization of the headquarters staff has led to a number of people being transferred between different departments, notably in the relief and health divisions. A new project management office has also been created. This office is responsible for coordinating and ensuring the efficient management of all externally-funded projects outside disaster relief. It will take time for this new unit to be fully functional, but it has already taken over responsibility for most of the Federation and bilateral partner national society (PNS) projects. Other staff members are actively involved in developing and overseeing projects in tsunami-affected countries, for which the society has now raised over CHF 53 million.

In addition to the projects supported by the Federation described below, all the bilateral cooperation projects supported by the PNS working in China have continued. An American Red Cross delegate arrived in early July to start up the planned two year water-related projects in Shanxi and Ningxia provinces. Meanwhile, representatives from Australian, Canadian, and Norwegian Red Cross have carried out project monitoring visits. The long-serving Swiss Red Cross delegate based in Tibet has finished his assignment in August and has been replaced by two new delegates. Information on all the PNS bilateral projects is available on the FedNet extranet.

Finally, there has been an extensive programme of exchange visits between national societies within and beyond the East Asia region. The regional delegation organized a meeting of leaders from all five societies in the region to discuss the statutory meetings to be held in Seoul at the end of the year (reported on in the [East Asia Programme Update no.2](#)), and there were exchange visits related to the blood programme between China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Republic of Korea and Japan. A variety of overseas visits by RCSC provincial branches to sister societies overseas were also carried out.

## 1. Health and Care (HIV/AIDS)

**Overall Goal: The RCSC will contribute to the reduction of the transmission of HIV/AIDS in China, help to improve care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families, and work to reduce stigma and discrimination against People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).**

**Programme Objective: By the end of this 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 and to a decrease in stigma and discrimination.**

### Background

As noted in the first programme update for 2005, reorganization at headquarters and other factors, such as fundraising for tsunami and subsequent follow up by headquarters staff, have delayed roll-out of 2005 agreements and activities at national and provincial levels. Final staffing of the project management office and the health department at headquarters was made in July-August. With these staff in place, significant progress has now been made towards effective planning and implementation of HIV/AIDS programmes for 2005 and beyond. Intra-organizational lines of responsibilities remain a little unclear, but the people involved understand the issues and are committed to ensuring that RCSC HIV/AIDS programmes continue to develop. One example is the five-year work plan for RCSC in the field of HIV/AIDS, which was approved by leadership in July/August 2005. With the close cooperation and communication among RCSC headquarters and branches, Federation and bilateral partners, RCSC can make a significant contribution towards HIV/AIDS prevention, care and anti-stigma in China over the coming years.

### Progress/Achievements

*Expected result 1: Youth peer education (YPE)*

- *Up to 60 youth have been trained as volunteer YPE facilitators*

- YPE facilitators have conducted 100 YPE workshops for 2,000 youth, resulting in youth that has knowledge and skills in protecting themselves from HIV/AIDS.
- A total of 16,000 peers (colleagues, friends, family) understand HIV transmission and prevention (the Australian Red Cross estimates eight peers will be educated by YPE water and sanitation participants).

Project agreements for YPE are awaiting final approval by RCSC leadership. Henan and Shandong branches have, however, made the necessary preparations to start the planned workshops, and they will be able to meet the target of 40 workshops per province by the end of 2005.

*Expected result 2: Information, education, communication*

- Educational materials have been produced or translated and distributed.

Federation guidelines on harm reduction (Spreading the Light of Science), orphans and vulnerable children and home-based care have been translated and will be printed and distributed by the end of 2005.

*Expected result 3: Public awareness*

- Large-scale public awareness events have been held in at least five provinces and Beijing commemorated World Red Cross Day on 5 May and World AIDS Day on 1 December.

The Henan branch has planned a HIV/AIDS prevention education campaign on two train lines within Henan (Zhengzhou to Luoyang and Zhengzhou to Anyang) that has been held in September. Other awareness campaigns are being planned for World AIDS Day on 1 December 2005.



Photo 1: A volunteer shares information with train passengers in a HIV/AIDS awareness campaign conducted in trains running across Henan.

*Expected result 4: Community-based care, support, and prevention*

- Positive peer education has been initiated in two new provinces outside Yunnan and Xinjiang.
- Self-care workshops have been initiated in two new provinces outside of Yunnan and Xinjiang.
- Programme to support government-led care and treatment services has been developed and implemented in at least two provinces.

The Shandong branch has proposed a project where volunteers will spend a weekend with orphans and vulnerable children. The possibility of designing the activity to be an ongoing “buddy” or “big brother big sister” model for psychosocial care for vulnerable children is being examined. Both the on-off and ongoing models are, however, still being negotiated with provincial authorities.

Several RCSC provincial branches have expressed interest in the Yunnan branch’s model called “Sunshine Homeland”, which is specifically tailored to former drug users. The concept of a community base for peer education, job skills training, income generation and mutual support groups can be adapted to the various situations of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in China. Realistically however, community-based care initiatives are not expected to begin until 2006. Requests are therefore being made to donors to hold most of the 2005 funding for 2006.

*Expected result 5: Improved blood donor recruitment*

- Up to 40 RCSC staff at the headquarters and branch level have used the manual *Making a Difference to manage their voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD) activities effectively*.

The *Making a Difference* training scheduled for September may be delayed until November because of issues with availability of local trainers who attended November 2004 training on VNRBD sponsored by Federation and the Chinese Ministry of Health.

*Expected result 6: Capacity building*

- RCSC staff and/or volunteers have learnt new methodologies from national and international conferences and meetings.
- RCSC staff or volunteers have improved English and/or computer skills.

- *RCSC staff has demonstrated management skills appropriate to effective HIV/AIDS programming.*

The RCSC sent representatives, supported by the 2005 appeal, to the International Congress on HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) held in Kobe, Japan, in July. One of the representatives was directly responsible for HIV programming in Yunnan province, while another was new to a leadership position in Xinjiang branch and benefited lessons on international practices. Unfortunately, the reorganization at headquarters was not complete at the time and the newly appointed person responsible for HIV/AIDS could not attend.

Training of expert trainers was completed in May. Twenty branch and headquarters staff completed the six weeks training that began in October 2004. While most of the participants did not achieve “expert” status, RCSC now has a pool of people who can support the scale up of youth peer education amongst university students throughout China. The HIV/AIDS programme manager from Mongolian Red Cross Society attended all three sessions over six weeks, supported by the regional programme.

The new RCSC representative to the ART was appointed in time to attend the 17th ART meeting held in Ulaanbaatar in July. This was an opportunity for the representative to network with counterparts from other countries and to understand China’s possible contribution to the network and the international response to HIV/AIDS better.

Domestically, the programme made progress towards objectives set for 2005, especially in reaching agreements with Henan and Shandong branches and in setting a solid foundation for RCSC and Federation collaboration in 2006 and beyond. In April, a workshop for Shandong volunteers and staff on gender and HIV/AIDS and on reporting requirements was completed. The Henan/Shandong project assistant participated in the workshop on baseline survey techniques held by the Netherlands Red Cross in Heilongjiang province, as well as the planning workshop for Appeal 2006-2007 held by the headquarters and Federation in Beijing. The Federation field delegate and counterparts in Henan and in Shandong completed negotiations on the project agreements and plans of action for 2005 (these are now awaiting approval by leadership in headquarters). In addition, an agreement was reached with Henan branch on Federation support for a Henan staff to act as an assistant/liaison.

A planning workshop was held with RCSC headquarters and branch staff to agree on the outline for 2006-2007 activities. The four day workshop was held in July, with eight branch representatives (some with Federation-supported HIV/AIDS activities, some with bilateral support and some with HIV/AIDS projects that receive no international funding) as well as both health department and project management office staff from headquarters. The workshop concluded with agreements on priority target populations, types of activities and budget allocations across activities.

### **Impact**

While lacking measurable indicators, the five-year HIV/AIDS work plan does set clear guidelines for the priorities of RCSC as an organization in addressing HIV/AIDS and demonstrates the national society’s potential to make significant contributions. Support for a Henan staff to act as an assistant/liaison is important as, until July 2005, there has been no Federation presence in Henan – the delegate has been travelling to Henan on an ad hoc basis from Shandong. It is now agreed that the Federation delegate will visit Henan monthly and that the local staff assistant/liaison will support project activities in the delegate’s absence. The planning workshop in July was significant as representatives from the Federation delegation, RCSC headquarters and branches discussed and agreed on activity plans for the next two years, making it a thorough consultative process.

### **Constraints**

A great deal of progress has been made since the reorganization at headquarters. Nevertheless, the Federation delegation is again faced with conducting all activities planned for the whole year in the last four months of 2005. Henan and Shandong branches are, however, enthusiastic and confident that their peer education and other HIV/AIDS work will be successful.

## **2. Disaster Management (community vulnerability risk reduction programme)**

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

**Programme Objective: To reduce the vulnerability of at risk populations in three to four disaster prone provinces by implementing community vulnerability risk reduction programme activities.**

### Background

The first phase of the community vulnerability reduction (CVR) programme was introduced in 2002 in the southern part of China, with the support of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO). Since then, the programme has continued and rural communities across the provinces are now addressing significant health needs through this programme, which integrates health education with water and sanitation activities. Selected villages in Hunan, which participated in the CVR programme, are benefiting from the further introduction of Danish Red Cross-supported community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) activities. As underscored by the relief officer from the Guangxi Red Cross at a recent meeting in Hunan, the rapid economic growth of the country remains concentrated to limited areas, leaving many rural localities, such as those selected for the project, lagging behind in economic development. Poor access to safe water and sanitation facilities, basic awareness about safe hygiene as well as regular and cost effective health facilities are constants. Natural disasters create further setbacks, demonstrated in the floods of June and July.



*Photo 2: In Bingyang, Guangxi, children receive health education through colourful and attractive murals in their school.*

The ECHO-supported part of the CVR programme – health education, water and sanitation – is reaching 17,000 families (some 59,000 people) throughout 37 villages in Guangxi, Hunan and Chongqing. Similarly, the community-based disaster preparedness component of the CVR programme is reaching some 1,600 families (6,000 individuals) throughout four villages of Zhangjiajie prefecture in Hunan province.

Despite the constraints this year's severe weather placed on the programme, it has managed to implement most of the planned activities. Since April, 61 trained health facilitators (43 men and 18 women) have conducted health education training for 811 village volunteers (526 men and 285 women) in three provinces. Village volunteers have carried out promotional campaigns in their respective villages using information, education and communication material. The construction of more than 51 per cent of the Ecosan toilets

is complete and the rest of the building continues. Construction of water supply storage tanks and collection tanks as well as the digging of water pipe trenches for 19 water supply systems has commenced in all three provinces. Progress on the installation of water supply systems is varied, depending on their respective construction plans and the priorities of communities concerned.

During the course of the programme's implementation, it was also found that Guangxi and Hunan branch have collectively saved a total of RMB 574,000 (CHF 90,773). With the consent of ECHO, these funds will be used for additional water sanitation materials, facilities and workshops. A new total of 11,874 Ecosan toilets and 21 water systems is therefore planned for construction, instead of the original 11,800 toilets and 19 systems.

### Progress/Achievements:

*Expected result 1: The level of sanitation related diseases is reduced for 69,000 men, women and children from rural population in Guangxi, Hunan, Chongqing and Jiangxi.*

The ECHO-supported health education programme has been adapted for each of the three provinces, based on lessons learned in past ECHO projects. Implementation models vary slightly between provinces. In Guangxi, in addition to trained health facilitators and village volunteers, a core group of support persons has received training in each prefecture. The role of the core group is to assist in village campaigns, volunteer management, project promotion and community mobilization. In Chongqing, health facilitators for each village include county, town and village representatives. This model is proving very effective as it has reduced the number of external personnel responsible for direct project implementation and increased the level of community ownership. In Hunan, prefecture and county level Red Cross and government staff have received health facilitator training and

visited the villages to provide volunteer training and monitoring. The project is well received by villagers who are highly motivated to participate.

Health and hygiene education activities and promotional campaigns have continued in the targeted villages. Promotional boards, murals, banners and posters have been developed, while promotional information, education, communication and training material has been developed and distributed. Community meetings and group activities have also been facilitated.

Village health volunteers (526 men and 285 women) that have been trained are actively carrying out household visits and community group activities to impart health education knowledge and promote improved hygiene behaviour. In turn, provincial and county project staff and Federation delegates are undertaking volunteer support and monitoring activities. Monitoring involving contact with beneficiaries during field visits is ongoing to assess community activities and participation.



*Photo 3: A health education message board in Liangping county, Chongqing, disseminates messages on safe hygiene habits to the locals.*

*Expected result 2: Selected disadvantaged communities are equipped with the skills and resources to develop improved water and sanitation facilities.*

Throughout this period, the focus for the water and sanitation component was to commence construction of beneficiary toilets and water supply systems. A total of 6,023 Ecosan toilets have been constructed for beneficiaries in all provinces while construction for remaining toilets is underway. In Chongqing, Ecosan toilets have been fully completed in some of the beneficiary villages. Evaluations have commenced for the completed Ecosan toilets to ensure that they meet quality standards, enabling beneficiaries to commence usage.

In all targeted provinces, the construction of water supply storage tanks and collection tanks as well as the digging of water pipe trenches has commenced. Each of the 19 village water supply systems are currently at varying stages of construction in accordance with construction plans. Two additional water supply designs have been approved in Guangxi and will be constructed using programme savings. Planning of the operation and maintenance training for village water committees has commenced in all beneficiary villages (one in each village). These committees will be responsible for the ongoing sustainable management of the water supply systems.

Monitoring of the construction of Ecosan toilets and water supply systems has been ongoing in all provinces to ensure the quality of construction is consistent and meets the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE).

*Expected result 3: Community-based disaster preparedness and mitigation activities are implemented.*

The CBDP project activities supported by the Danish Red Cross and the Federation are being implemented in Hunan province's Zhang Jia Jie prefecture. This reporting period, the major focus has been to finalise the CBDP training manual as well as conduct a management and CBDP training-of-trainers (TOT) course so that village-level activities can commence in a timely manner. In relation to the CBDP manual, it has been updated based on a review of course material and CBDP manuals from other countries, shared with Geneva and has now been published and distributed to all relevant parties. Four different brochures on CBDP have also been prepared, printed and distributed. The three-day management training course on the other hand has been conducted with active interaction from its participants (eight county staff and three branch staff). Seventeen facilitators from different counties and project village participated in the five-day CBDP TOT course.

There have been many other activities carried out this reporting period. A field visit conducted to the CBDP project area in Zhangjiajie has collected first hand information about the existing situation and the needs and has assessed the existing capacity of local Red Cross branches. The CBDP project's implementation plan has been prepared and shared with prefectures/counties concerned and has been finalized based on their feedback. Provincial and city Red Cross branches have also signed an agreement.

Two staff members from the Hunan Red Cross, along with the Federation CDBP delegate, visited the Philippines Red Cross under a long-awaited study tour, which further encouraged and enhanced the capacity of the Hunan Red Cross in managing and implementing their own CDBP project. Four village disaster committees have also formed in all four project villages, with each committee comprising 16 members. All village disaster committees have received village-level training on CDBP.

*Expected result 4: The CVR programme is replicated in two additional provinces.*

New support from ECHO has allowed the Federation and the RCSC to expand the ongoing CVR programme in Guangxi and Hunan province to Chongqing. As anticipated however, funding to introduce the programme in Jiangxi province did not come through and plans to extend activities into this province have therefore been cancelled.

### Impact



*Photo: Hunan Red Cross and Federation delegation representatives inspect the quality of Ecosan toilets to ascertain they meet SPHERE standards.*

In the health education project, monitoring visits involving beneficiaries have shown that while initial acceptance has been slow at times, there has been a change in attitudes from indifferent to enthusiastic, with increasing levels of satisfaction. General health knowledge has improved and ideas and hygienic habits are changing as knowledge and awareness develop through health education activities. Additional positive benefits identified by beneficiaries include improved environmental conditions and more harmonious relationships between villagers and village leadership. They have also confirmed that they have received sufficient knowledge on using and maintaining Ecosan toilets prior to commencing use. Many of them have attested that their initial suspicions and unfamiliarity with these new toilets have given way to acceptance and an understanding for the need to change, especially when they have witnessed the concern of Red Cross facilitators and volunteers over their health situation.

Results from initial trainings carried out under CDBP to date have been positive. The workshop is easily understood by participants and the participatory approach is well accepted. At the end of the training, participants who were divided into four groups and tasked with activities such as mapping disasters, vulnerabilities and available resources in their respective villages produced village risk reduction plans.

### Constraints

Serious flooding since early June has disrupted the smooth implementation of the CVR programme. Disrupted road access to actual project sites in flood-affected areas has also led to delays in the delivery of sanitation material.

The social and political structures in China make it difficult to achieve gender balance in volunteers. Although some counties have received additional volunteer materials to encourage further recruitment and there has been much discussion and emphasis on this issue, only 35 per cent of village health volunteers are women. Branches of the RCSC are still finding it difficult to deliver updated financial reports in time because of delays in receiving complete supporting documents from different counties.

## 3. 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/Achievements

*Expected result 1: 65 RCSC leaders at headquarters and selected province / prefecture branch levels have acquired understanding and basic skills in project management methodology used by international donors.*

*Expected result 2: A group of up to 30 RCSC trainers has been identified and provided with TOT training in project management (15) and finance management (15) skills in order to implement training programmes for RCSC branches in these areas.*

*Expected result 3: Chinese language branch training packages have been developed in project management and finance management skills.*

As reported in Programme Update No. 1, internal restructuring of the RCSC headquarters has delayed progress in taking forward most of the planned activities in this organizational development (OD) programme. This restructuring was implemented in June, and one of its most important features was the setting up of a new project management office (PMO). As noted in the general section on RCSC above, the main purpose of this new office is to coordinate and ensure the efficient management of all externally-funded development cooperation projects, whether carried out bilaterally or by the Federation.

One of the tasks of the PMO will be to increase the project planning and management skills of RCSC staff, especially at the branch level. For the time being however, this office is fully occupied with starting up its activities and building up its staff, as at mid-September, it was composed of two experienced staff members and was in the process of recruiting three additional new personnel. It has been agreed that the above activities will not be carried out in the remainder of this year but rather carry forward these plans to next year.

*Expected result 4: 30 RCSC finance and programme staff at selected province and prefecture branch levels have acquired increased knowledge and skills in financial management for international projects.*

A national level financial management training workshop was organized from 13 to 16 June in Zhuhai city in Guangdong province in the south of China. This was attended by 50 participants, most of whom were finance officers from 30 RCSC provincial branches. Also attending the workshop as participants were headquarters staff from the relief and the new project management office.

The main topics covered in the workshop were RCSC's financial accounting and reporting systems and special procedures for dealing with donor funded projects. Presentations were made by the Federation's finance delegate on how to manage Federation-funded projects, including those of ECHO. A representative from Hong Kong Red Cross explained how it manages its finance system and donor reporting requirements, and a presentation was made by the head of the new PMO on how this unit will operate in the future. A number of group discussions were organized in which participants shared their own experiences and problems, which were then dealt with in the following plenary session.

### **Impact**

One of the main outcomes of the financial management training workshop was serving as a forum for learning and knowledge exchange between the headquarters and branches and between the more and less experienced branches. Another benefit that was felt strongly by the headquarters finance department management was the building of a good team spirit all the provincial finance staff who do not often have the opportunity to learn new skills and interact with others outside their immediate working environment.

### **Constraints**

Internal restructuring and the development of the PMO has led to the decision to defer some OD plans to 2006.

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

# China

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05AA058

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

11/10/2005

### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				4,306,933		TOTAL COVERAGE 88.9%
DANISH - RC				167,800	28.01.05	CBDP HUNAN PROVINCE
ECHO (01001)	1,999,565	EUR		3,085,329	05.01.05	COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY REDUCTION IN CHONGQING, GUANGXI ZHUANG, HUNAN
SWEDISH - GOVT	360,000	SEK		61,560	17.02.05	IN-COUNTRY COSTS DELEGATE
SWEDISH - GOVT	720,000	SEK		123,120	17.02.05	HEALTH HIV/AIDS
SWEDISH - GOVT	720,000	SEK		123,120	29.03.05	HEALTH HIV/AIDS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				3,560,929	CHF	82.7%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATE(S)			153,600		
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			40,200		
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			73,000		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				266,800	CHF	6.2%

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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