

Report 2006-2007



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

East Asia

Appeal No. MAA54001

3 April 2008

This report covers the period of 01/01/06 to 31/12/07 of a two-year planning and appeal process.



The national societies in the region respond to disasters with both food and non-food relief items to the affected populations. Red Cross Society of China.

In brief

Programmes summary: The East Asia regional office has supported country delegations and national societies in the management of their programmes, coordination and cooperation amongst partners, the incorporation of humanitarian values, and capacity building at all levels.

Through funding from the appeals, the national societies of the East Asia region have been able to strengthen their current programmes in disaster management and health and care, and have thereby been successful in improving the quality of life for many millions of people in some of the most vulnerable communities in these countries. Federation regional delegates have provided capacity building opportunities through training, supported programme management and monitoring, and facilitated valuable networking on the national and international levels.

Financial situation: The total 2006-2007 budget was CHF 29.9 million (USD 27.7 million or EUR 18.1 million) out of which 96 percent is covered. Overall expenditure against income for the period was 85 percent.

Click here to go directly to the attached financial reports:

[report 2006](#)

[report 2007](#)

[report 2006/2007](#)

No. of people we help: It can be estimated that Red Cross programmes supported by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (The Federation) in East Asia reach more than ten million beneficiaries in Mongolia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and China each year. This number may be a conservative estimate considering the challenges of collecting such data. Women and children have been a primary beneficiary in many of these programmes, especially in health and care, water and sanitation, and disaster preparedness.

Our partners: The East Asia regional office supports all five East Asian national societies (China, DPRK,

Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea, as well the Federation's two country delegations in DPRK and Mongolia, and serves as the country delegation for the Red Cross Society of China. It assists in the coordination of bilateral and multilateral partnerships in these countries for more than ten partner national societies. Furthermore, the East Asia regional office partners with government and international agencies, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations agencies, and other NGOs working in the countries where projects are implemented.

Current context

The East Asia region is made up of a very diverse population, facing diverse political and socio-economic issues. The region stays on the headlines of the media with stories such as the ongoing six-party talks in the DPRK and China's preparation for the 2008 Olympics. At the same time, the region is plagued with frequent natural disasters of massive magnitudes, extreme contradictions in wealth and social welfare, as well as the continuous potential threat of pandemics spreading in and beyond the region.

While development is on the rise in the region, the World Bank estimates that 552 million of the world's 1.1 billion poor are living in East Asia.¹ Governments across the map are beginning to place more responsibility on humanitarian organizations to take on this challenge, often while reducing their funding on critical programmes. This puts a great strain on the Red Cross societies in the region, as they are trying to scale up their efforts in disaster management as well as health and care, while at the same time building their own organizational capacities.

Some of the worst flooding in history hit various areas of both China and the DPRK in the past two years. Millions have been affected with long-term implications of increased vulnerabilities. In 2007, both China and the DPRK launched emergency appeals with the support of the Federation, in order to meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations. At the same time, in other areas, severe drought, and extreme temperatures across the region have left millions without adequate water supplies or protection.



A journalist in the DPRK covers the relief efforts of the DPRK Red Cross after massive flooding in 2007. The Federation.

The regional health context has also been complex and rapidly changing throughout these two years. The diversity of East Asia's countries in terms of demographics and socio-economic development is reflected in the nature of the risks posed by HIV/AIDS and the epidemiology in each of the five countries. HIV epidemic continues to affect the region and although there is some variation in estimation methodology introduced starting from 2007, the 92,000 [21,000–220,000] adults and children estimated to be newly infected with HIV in East Asia in 2007 represent a significant increase over the 77,000 (4,900–130,000) people who acquired HIV in 2001².

Besides disasters and the spread of diseases, ongoing rapid urbanization, population movements, population ageing and other broad social phenomena are having a collective impact on the nature and extent of health problems in the region. These, of course, change how disasters and diseases affect the populations, and ultimately affect how the Red Cross responds in each situation.

During this time, the national societies have themselves been challenged with various constraints in their work, adequate funding being one of the major concerns for both Mongolia and China. For example, at the end of 2005, the DPRK government announced its intention to halt the work of humanitarian organizations and focus on development, rather than relief. Although the DPRK Red Cross and the Federation were able

¹ East Asia and Pacific Update, April 2007

² UNAIDS/WHO; 2007 AIDS Epidemic Update

to negotiate a continued presence in the country, this resulted in a major reduction in the number of in country international delegates and increased the role of the regional delegation in supporting the work in the DPRK.

Achievement of objectives

Disaster Management

Objectives: East Asia national societies have demonstrated improved capacity in disaster management and there is increased cooperation with government and relevant disaster management agencies and wider sharing of best practices throughout the region.

Achievements: In both 2006 and 2007, severe flooding affected both China and the DPRK. The regional delegation supported these two national societies by launching international emergency appeals, for China in both years, and for DPRK in 2007, and supported relief operations as well as recovery activities. The relief and recovery efforts met the needs of millions of people immediately during and after the disasters, and also provided long-term recovery and risk reduction through timely reconstruction and community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programmes.



Group work during a VCA workshop helped to build the confidence of programme staff from the region's national societies. The Federation.

The regional disaster management (DM) programme organized a six-day vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) workshop to build up the technical capacities of the national societies in the region. A separate VCA workshop was organized for the DPRK Red Cross. The regional DM programme facilitated an exchange visit from the DPRK Red Cross to Hunan province in China. The visit focused on sharing experiences of CDBP programmes and provided the platform for two national societies to learn from each other and promote the best practices in regards to risk reduction activities. Both national societies have expressed willingness for further close co-operation in regards to disaster management.

A number of trainings have been organized and supported by the regional disaster management programme to the national societies in the region. The regional DM and health programme organized a public health in emergencies workshop to strengthen the regional and national disaster preparedness and response capacity of the Red Cross in East Asia. A number of staff from the national societies have also participated in field assessment and coordination (FACT), emergency response unit (ERU) and regional disaster response team (RDRT) trainings in 2007.

The regional disaster management programme has supported the Mongolian Red Cross (MRCS) in drafting its first disaster contingency plan and introduced the contingency plan to both the DPRK Red Cross and the Red Cross Society of China. In 2008, the regional programme will work with them to develop and review their contingency plans.

The regional DM programme facilitated the first disaster management working group meeting, which involved the three national societies in the region in which the Federation is supporting operations. During the meeting, the national societies have shared their concerns and the problems they are facing in the disaster management field, provided an overview of their overall programme, and reviewed the areas of support needed from the Federation. The programme introduced the Federation's disaster management policy, contingency plans and other disaster response tools to the national societies in the region.

Constraints and challenges: Due to the restrictions set by the DPRK government in humanitarian support, the regional delegation has faced additional challenges in facilitating travel for expatriate delegates and arranging for shorter term and longer term stays in Beijing. Communication constraints due to technical barriers have also posed some additional challenges, which are overcome by persistence and good collaboration between the delegations.

For the Mongolian programme, the regional and country delegations, as well as the MRCS, have reached the consensus that there is a genuine need to increase manpower in the disaster management department of the MRCS. There has been only one full-time DM staff in the MRCS headquarters and this doesn't meet the needs of the programme's development and implementation. Possible solutions are being discussed.

For China, the regional delegation has been trying to work with the RCSC to improve its overall reporting capability in the disaster management programmes. Given the limited manpower in the delegation, it is crucial that the RCSC starts to improve their internal and external reporting systems.

Lessons learned: The CDBP exchange visit between DPRK Red Cross and RCSC has shown a great impact to improve the knowledge sharing between the two national societies. This visit provided a platform for the national societies to exchange their experiences during project implementation, which lead to further cooperation on overall disaster management programmes.



Participants of the public health in emergencies workshop actively discussed the threats and challenges in serving their beneficiaries. The Federation.

Health and Care

Objectives: National societies in East Asia have improved capacity to design, implement and evaluate innovative and effective health and care projects.

Achievements: The Federation's regional office was able to provide support in improving the overall capacity of the national societies to design and implement health and care programmes that are reflective of the changing regional and national social and health vulnerabilities.

During the period of 2006-2007, the regional health programme has provided extensive technical assistance to the regional national societies customized to their special needs, either through support from the Beijing delegation, or through country visits, consultations, meetings and reviews. In conjunction with the Finnish Red Cross, the Federation conducted a review of the MRCS health programme, and made cross-border assessment missions in western China and western Mongolia, and six technical consultancy visits to the DPRK and Mongolia. In the view of emerging regional health and social trends, like internal migration in Mongolia or avian influenza outbreaks across the region, the delegation supported the process of adapting existing health and care programmes to address these issues. As the result, the Mongolian Red Cross and the Red Cross Society of China now have community-based avian influenza prevention projects and the Mongolian Red Cross is in the process of securing long term funding for their expanded social care project.

The delegation further facilitated regional experience sharing and skill building of national societies' key health managers in different aspects of health programming. In 2006-2007, the programme conducted the first East Asian regional training workshop on public health in emergencies and facilitated the attendance of national society health staff to attend relevant regional and international thematic meetings and trainings. As a follow up to these initiatives, during 2008, with the support of the Federation, the DPRK Red Cross is interested to develop a public health in emergencies policy framework and the Hong Kong Red Cross branch is planning to organize public health in emergencies trainings.



The MRCS and RCSC sat with partner national societies during a workshop on the HIV Global Alliance designing their possible plans for scale-up of HIV activities over the next three years. The Federation.

In addition, the regional health team actively promoted the Federation's new strategy and policy documents, tools and guidelines and has supported their translation into regional languages. A total of four Federation key strategic documents and tools in health and care have been translated, printed and disseminated widely to the national societies.

One of the major achievements in 2007 has been the support towards large and long-term scale up of HIV prevention, care and support programmes of the Red Cross societies of Mongolia and China, under the framework of Federation's global HIV alliance. Following the East Asian consultation meeting, the RCSC and MRCS have agreed to join the global alliance and with the support of the regional office, and during the second half of 2007 they have developed Red Cross nationwide HIV programme plans for 2008-2010. Both programmes will be launched in early 2008.

Constraints and challenges: One of the challenges during this reporting period was the change of regional health delegate twice, which negatively affected the programme's implementation speed and its continuity of discussion with the national societies in some areas. To address this, in 2007 the regional office arranged a week-long overlapping of incoming and outgoing delegates for handover.

Humanitarian Values

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

Achievements: Although the East Asia regional office has not had a regional information delegate consistently during these two years, it has worked closely with the national societies in the region to build their visibility and increase their own capacities for communication and advocacy.

During these two years, an information delegate was provided to the regional delegation through the support of the Finnish Red Cross from August 2006 to July 2007. During that time, the regional office was able to cover the work of the national societies in our region through web stories, information bulletins and media releases, especially in relation to disaster relief efforts during flooding. In addition, she was able to raise public awareness of the role the Red Cross plays in HIV work through organizing panel discussions and coordinating events, and conducted a communications workshop in the DPRK for the national society's information department.

Following her departure, a temporary information delegate was brought on board to help the national societies keep the media and the public informed about the disaster responses to flooding in both China and DPRK in the third and fourth quarter of 2007. This opportunity greatly increased visibility and contact with international media, and provided many quality stories for the Federation website, which were often picked up by international media sources.

Other important events during these two years, supported by the Federation's regional office, included participation and information dissemination of the 60th anniversary of the DPRK Red Cross society. This was a very important event and the DPRK Red Cross gained excellent recognition locally and abroad from the improved information sharing done at country, regional and global levels.

The regional delegation also continued to support increased Red Cross participation in global and regional HIV issues, especially by being a key organizer in the HIV prevention through sports workshop held in Beijing by the International Olympic Committee.

For a second and third year in a row, the 'World Disaster Report' was translated and published in Mandarin with support of the Federation's regional office. Thousands of copies were distributed to Red Cross branches throughout China, which has greatly increased local branch knowledge of disaster management issues and practices.

The planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) manager has also been working with the country delegations and the national societies to enhance their capacities in reporting. She has also filled in during times when the delegation lacked an information delegate by providing timely web-stories and being in contact with the media.



The regional information delegate conducted information workshops in the DPRK helping to enhance the capacities of the Red Cross headquarters and branches. The Federation.

Constraints and challenges: The absence of a regional information delegate during these times has put a constraint on development initiatives with the region's national societies. This time period in East Asia is of critical importance for the national societies, especially with the upcoming Olympics in China and the six-party talks continuing in the DPRK. This area of the world attracts a lot of media attention, and yet the stories of how the Red Cross is impacting the local communities are not adequately shared without further financial support towards gaining an information delegate in our region.

Lesson learnt: Taking an active role as organizers and participants in events such as the HIV prevention through sports workshop exposes others to the good initiatives of the Red Cross and allows opportunities for national societies to take a leading role in issues that contribute to the Global Agenda Goals and the Millennium Development Goals.

Working in partnership

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

The East Asia regional office has taken great efforts in these past two years to increase the coordination and cooperation between the national societies and their partners in the region, and beyond.

An annual partnership meeting hosted by the region's delegation, as well as an annual regional leadership meeting which brings together leaders of each national society has enabled national societies and their partners to find better ways to work together on critical issues, discuss common challenges and solutions, and has encouraged cross-border collaboration between the national societies themselves.

In 2006 in Singapore, the Federation successfully supported the establishment of a cooperative agreement strategy between partners of the DPRK Red Cross. Hosting meetings twice a year since then has fostered open dialogue and planning that has led to a more comprehensive and strategic programme for the national society.

Similarly, in 2007, the Federation hosted a regional meeting on the HIV global alliance and how both China and Mongolia Red Cross Societies might initiate their own operational alliances to massively scale up HIV prevention and care work over the coming years through a coordinated effort amongst all partners.

The Federation's East Asia office has continued to host offices for partners such as the Netherlands Red Cross and the American Red Cross, and also continues to host the [Global Road Safety Partnership \(GRSP\)](#) office. In addition, the regional office plays a critical role in facilitating travel and visas to the DPRK for all partners coming and going.

The structure of disaster management programme in the delegation includes a regional disaster management delegate and a regional disaster management officer, who are responsible to support disaster management

programmes for all the national societies in the region. During the flood relief operations in China, the delegation has contracted a short term relief delegate, through support of the Japanese Red Cross.

The health and care programme is supported by a regional health delegate and an avian influenza programme coordinator. The regional health team members have actively participated in different regional and national level health coordination meetings, organized by the UN and international organizations in the region. These meetings provided numerous opportunities to profile the national societies' health programmes to the wider humanitarian community and keep abreast with the latest global health developments.

In addition, the regional office has actively promoted different memorandums of understanding made between the Federation and other UN organizations, and during the reporting period, the national societies of Mongolia and China made project agreements with the UNFPA, with the Red Cross Society of China organizing collaborative events with the UNAIDS and the International Olympics Committee.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The past two years have brought greater coordination of activities in the region, further contributing to the Global Agenda Goals and the Millennium Development Goals. The Federation's regional office has prioritized capacity building of the national societies through various workshops, meetings, events and activities, and the result has been seen in the partnerships developed with other organizations in the field.

The new Red Cross Law established during this time in the DPRK was a huge success for the Red Cross, and the other national societies in the region have also gained credibility in their respective nations due to their contribution to disaster response and critical health issues.

The foundation established in these years of experience sharing between the national societies, especially through regional workshops, such as the disaster management, vulnerability and capacity assessment, and public health in emergencies workshops, has provided many opportunities to strengthen the cooperation in the region, and thus improve the quality of services of these national societies.

Considering the heavy toll on the local populations due to the natural disasters over these past two years, the work of the national societies through support of the regional and country delegations has made a significant impact on the lives of these people and the sustainability of disaster risk reduction work in communities. The progress in the development of quality CPDB programmes in the region has not only raised awareness in these countries and communities of the importance of preparedness and risk reduction, but has also positively empowered the local communities to take action and see the impact of their efforts year after year.



Villagers of Zhang Jia Jie prefecture in Hunan draw and present a village map during a discussion of local vulnerability and capacity analysis. Red Cross Society of China.

Three out of eight Millennium Development Goals are directly health-related and the achievement of the objectives set out by the Red Cross societies in the region have both directly and indirectly contributed to the overall improved health of the people. In the long term, the improved capacity of the national societies' health programming and expansion of their community based work in neglected health areas will contribute to the concerted regional effort to reach the Millennium Development Goal targets by the end of 2015.

Looking ahead

In the coming two years the regional disaster management programme will continue to work with national societies in the region closely to build up their disaster management capacity in the areas of disaster management policy and contingency plans, and will continue develop disaster risk reduction programmes, as well as building up community based programme activities.

Based on the results of planning with the national societies under the framework of the HIV global alliance, in 2008 the regional health programme will focus on supporting the MRCS and RCSC in extensive resource mobilization to match their scaled up commitments towards national HIV prevention targets.

Also, given the unprecedented scale of disasters in the region in 2006 and 2007, especially in China, there is an increased need for the national societies to step up their public health in emergency preparedness and response capacity and to this end, in alignment with the regional disaster management programme, the regional health programme has incorporated a strong public health in emergencies component in the regional appeal plans for 2008-2009.

Capacity building and coordination will continue to be a key element for the region, with focus on increasing information and reporting capacities, while at the same time developing resources and contacts that will further the visibility and credibility of the Red Cross in the region.

For more information on what the East Asia regional delegation is planning in its support of the region's national societies, please refer to the [Appeal 2008-09](#).

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering quality and accountable 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>

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information on this Appeal, contact:

- Federation regional office in China: Mr. Carl Naucler (head of East Asia regional office); carl.naucler@ifrc.org; phone: +86.10.65327162, fax: +86.10.65327166.
- Federation zone in Kuala Lumpur: Mr. Jagan Chapagain (deputy head of zone); email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org; phone: +603-2161 0892; fax: +603-2161 1210