

OPERATIONS 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

ASIA: SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (SARS) PREVENTION AND CONTROL: FOCUS ON CHINA

24 June 2003

Appeal No. 11/03; Operations Update no. 2; Period covered: 16 May to 29 May 2003

Appeal launched on 7 May 2003 for CHF 2,016,000 (USD 1,515,405/EUR 1,330,467) for 10 months; Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 100,000

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 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 32.5%; this will increase to approximately 53% once the ECHO contract is finalised. See the Contributions List on the Federation's website at: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?03/1-2-3%20-%20ap1103.pdf

Outstanding needs: CHF 939,800

Related Annual Appeals: See Annual Appeals for China (Appeal 01.66/2003) and DPR Korea (Appeal 01.67/2003)

Summary: The SARS prevention activities of the following National Societies are being supported through this Appeal: Red Cross Society of China, DPRK Red Cross, Philippine National Red Cross, Lao Red Cross, Mongolia Red Cross, Cambodia Red Cross and Myanmar Red Cross.

Some donors have already specifically earmarked their contributions to China and DPRK. Fifty-four percent of the funds raised from the Appeal will be used to support Red Cross Society of China, and 36 percent will support activities in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Operational developments

As of 23 June, China reports a cumulative total of 5,326 probable SARS cases with 347 deaths in 24 provinces on the mainland. In addition, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region reports 1,755 cases (296 deaths), Macau Special Administrative Region reports one case (no death), and Taiwan reports 692 cases with 84 deaths. The rate of new diagnoses on the mainland and Hong Kong SAR have decreased dramatically since April and early May when more than 50-100 cases were reported each day. On June 15, no new confirmed case of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) was reported, marking the fourth consecutive day of zero infection in Hong Kong. Chinese Ministry of Health (MOH) on Sunday June 15, reported no new severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) case, no new suspect SARS case and no new death from the disease on the Chinese mainland for the 24

hours from 10:00 a.m. June 14 to 10:00 a.m. June 15. Outbreaks in the initial “hot zones” seem to be contained or coming under control, indicating that control measures are effective. The global cumulative caseload is 8,459 with 805 deaths.

On Friday June 13, the World Health Organization (WHO) removed the travel advisories to Hebei and Shanxi Provinces, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, and Tianjin Municipality and on June 24, WHO lifted its travel advisory against Beijing. In addition, the WHO removed Guangdong, Hebei, Hubei, Inner Mongolia, Jilin, Jiangsu, Shaanxi, Shanxi and Tianjin from the list of areas with recent local transmissions. Criteria adopted by WHO to remove a SARS travel advisory for an area include: less than 60 probable cases at hospital; less than five new cases each day for successive three days; no unknown local transmission; no new export cases. In Beijing, traffic jams has returned, despite the fact that the city is still on the travel advisory list and many schools are still closed.

Temperature checks for all passengers at the airport, ports and border points continue to be implemented to watch for travellers displaying symptoms of SARS. In addition, all incoming travellers are required to complete a health declaration.

On June 11, a WHO delegation has visited China to discuss with Chinese health authorities research issues, measures to ensure that the disease is securely contained, and measures to protect against a future recrudescence of cases. The WHO continues to emphasize case detection, patient isolation, and contact tracing as the best means to control SARS. In China, WHO praised local community-based surveillance efforts that appear to have brought SARS transmission under control. Top World Health Organization (WHO) communicable disease official David Heymann arrived on Wednesday morning to work in cooperation with Chinese government SARS prevention authorities.

The experience in Toronto, where more than 70 new cases have been reported since 26 May, underscores the risk of a resurgence of cases and the constant need for vigilance. A single imported case can reignite an outbreak or bring cases to a previously unaffected area, if preparedness measures are weak.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action - Objectives, Progress, Impact

Appeal Objective 1: To support Asia national societies to implement emergency epidemic prevention and response projects, including stigma reduction and anti-discrimination activities.

Table 1:

Activities	Progress
Funding criteria established for SARS/epidemic prevention and response projects, including capacity Building	<p>Criteria is as follows:</p> <p>Health education is a key component of the proposed activities maximising the comparative advantage of the Red Cross/Red Crescent network in providing health education activities.</p> <p>There is evidence in the proposal of the involvement of volunteers in planning and implementation.</p> <p>Capacity building of the national society in longer-term epidemic prevention and control is a component of the proposed activities.</p> <p>There is complementarity between the proposed activities and the activities of the MoH/Government and WHO/other key players.</p> <p>Technical and logistical suitability of the proposed activities.</p>

National Societies invited to apply for funding	Proposals were received from the following national societies: China, DPRK, Lao, Cambodia, Mongolia, Philippines, Indonesia and Myanmar.
Proposals assessed and selection of projects completed	The selection committee, comprising representatives from the International Federation Secretariat Asia Pacific Regional Department and the Health and Care Department met 4 June. The results of the meetings are available in Table 2 and more detailed information regarding each project is available in narrative form below.
Funds disbursed	The Secretariat is in the process of the disbursing the funds.
Project implemented and monitored	See updates below by country.
Participatory project evaluations	No progress as of this date

Table 2:

National Society	Total Request including PSR	Approved Funds	Variance request - approved
RC Society of China¹	572,417	572,417	0
DPRK Red Cross²	380,625	380,625	0
Philippines RC	232,912	42,780	190,132
Cambodia RC	41,310	32,085	9,225
Indonesia Red Cross	11,462	0	11,462
Lao Red Cross	13,082	12,418	664
Mongolia Red Cross	49,710	6,885	42,825
Myanmar Red Cross	6,885	6,885	0
WHO SARS Conference in KL	5,348	5,348	0
TOTAL	1,351,184	1,059,442	291,741

Progress/Achievements by National Society

Red Cross Society of China

The Red Cross Society of China and the Regional Delegation in Beijing continue to meet frequently to ensure a coordinated SARS response.

Earmarked and unearmarked funds raised through the International Federation Appeal will cover the following:

- Production and distribution of a SARS prevention/public health and hygiene video and written material. The video consists of 10 discrete sections: hand washing, ventilation, garbage disposal, use of face masks, environmental sanitation and disinfection, diagnosis and treatment of SARS, coughing and sneezing, spitting, food and water hygiene. The educational video will be broadcast throughout the country via local television stations and schools.
- Distribution of 52,000 household hygiene kits comprising four towels, bar of soap, a jar of alcohol-based hand disinfectant, and a thermometer. Kits will be distributed in Beijing and to rural households in Hebei, Inner Mongolia, Shanxi, and Guangdong.
- Distribution of 7,400 sets of medical barrier supplies (gloves, masks, gowns, goggles) to health facilities in Beijing, Hebei, Inner Mongolia, Shanxi, Guangdong and Tianjin.
- Five monitoring visits 2-3 months after household distributions to evaluate usage and impact.

Cambodia Red Cross

¹ 344,500 CHF of total approved funds was earmarked to China by donors

² Fully covered by ECHO proposal. We are awaiting ECHO SARS decision.

In early May the National Society held joint discussions with the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF to look at the possible role of the Red Cross in supporting the authorities. The Ministry of Health (MoH) recognises the national society's strengths in public awareness and community mobilisation and has mandated the Cambodia Red Cross to support SARS prevention and control activities especially targeting high-risk groups. These groups have been identified by the MoH as students, garment factory workers, sex workers and border communities.

The funds allocated through this appeal will be utilised by the Cambodia Red Cross to: Develop, in conjunction with WHO and the MoH, education materials for distribution to 35,000 people in 11 provinces.

Train 1,225 volunteers in 11 provinces and 2,347 Red Cross youth in eight provinces in information dissemination.

- Develop train 22 trainers in health in emergency surveillance and basic epidemiology thereby enhancing the National Society's ability to respond to future disease outbreaks.

Indonesia Red Cross

The national society mobilized local resources to produce over 100,000 information pamphlets on SARS and SARS prevention and distribution and trained nine provincial chapters to disseminate the information to the public.

Unfortunately, the Appeal funds raised to date are not sufficient to cover the proposal submitted to the Secretariat by Indonesia Red Cross. Should more funds become available this decision will be reviewed.

Philippine National Red Cross

The Appeal coverage has only allowed an allocation of 18 percent of the national society's requested funds. The Philippines National Red Cross (PNRC) will now review the proposal submitted to the Secretariat and make an assessment as to whether it is able to proceed with the project based on the allocated funding. The decision will be made by senior management of PNRC and will be communicated to Federation Regional office within the week.

Lao Red Cross

The Lao government has called on all local organizations, international agencies and international NGOs to assist with SARS information dissemination.

With the funds allocated through this Appeal the Lao Red Cross is:

- Establishing SARS mobile teams in Vientiane and its branches to work with the MoH health teams in responding to suspected cases of SARS.
- Developing education materials in cooperation with MoH and WHO.
- Integrating SARS information reflecting national policies and WHO messages and recommendations into its community based first aid training programme.
- Mobilizing volunteers to take part in person-to-person education on the SARS information.
- Mobilizing volunteers to assist in operation service centres where patients or suspected cases are isolated. Through these centres volunteers are providing services to affected families such as delivering messages and supplies.

Myanmar Red Cross

The Myanmar National Health Committee established guidelines for the control and prevention of SARS in Myanmar in March 2003. At that time the National Society was mandated to support the authorities in the dissemination of information dissemination on SARS to the community.

With the funds allocated through this Appeal the national society is:

- Printing educational leaflets in local ethnic languages and distributing this to households who have little or no access to mass media.

- Assisting health authorities with surveillance.
- Incorporating SARS into their ongoing community based first aid training.
- Developing resources to enhance the national society's capacity to respond to future disease outbreaks.

Mongolia Red Cross

The allocation to Mongolia Red Cross from this Appeal will be used to cover: The costs of the production of 1,000 pocket size calendars containing information about SARS. A radio programme on SARS prevention.

Appeal Objective: To reduce the vulnerability of DPRK health care staff in 240 institutions caring for SARS

Whilst there is no SARS reported in the DPRK, the proximity to China and the present status of health services continues to make the country vulnerable to SARS. The strong measures introduced by national authorities to try to prevent the introduction of SARS to the country are still officially in place, however, some relaxation of the quarantine regulations and travel restrictions have been reported by the Red Cross Delegation in Pyonyang. Since the outbreak of SARS in China, WHO has raised the health alert and worked with the Ministry of Public Health informing on SARS preparedness. This has been particularly important because of the rapid development and spread of SARS, and the fact that health officials do not have access to updated international health information resources.

An update on the progress of the joint MoPH, Red Cross, UNICEF and WHO SARS project for improvement of hygiene and infection control in hospitals nationwide is provided below. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is supporting Premiere Urgence to improve the isolation facilities in Anju County Hospital, a designated SARS hospital.

Activities	Progress on activities
Effective hygiene and barrier care supplies identified according to WHO standards.	Complete. See items to be purchased below.
Federation releases DREF to commence procurement.	100,000 CHF released from DREF.
Procurement and transport of supplies to DPRK by the Federation.	<p>Tenders completed for international (3 items) and local (5 items) procurement Purchase orders sent Awaiting delivery of items</p> <p><u>International Procurement</u> of the following items: Anti-microbial soap: 85% alcohol, 2802 litres Surgical masks: 280,000 pieces Examination gloves: 630,000 pieces</p> <p><u>Local Procurement</u> of the following items: Bleaching powder: 70,000 Kg Soap bars: 140,000 /110 grams pieces Liquid Soap /Plastic dispensers: 5,600 / 1 litre bottles Garbage bags: 140,000 /100 piece packs Plastic water containers with lid: 2,800 /50 litre containers</p>
Distributions, monitoring and training support to MoPH by the Red Cross in Kaesong Municipality and Jagang, North and South Pyongan Provinces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No progress this reporting period
Distributions, monitoring and training by UNICEF/MoPH throughout the rest of the provinces/municipalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training modules being developed by MoH, Red Cross and WHO. • Training of staff in 60 institutions scheduled for

	August.
MoPH and WHO continue to monitor the incidence of SARS suspected and affected cases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reported cases in DPRK.

Other Updates

Singapore Red Cross

The Singapore Red Cross is providing an ambulance service for suspected SARS cases, the Red Cross is one of the private ambulance service providers that has been designated to provide transportation to people who show any SARS symptoms from their home to the hospital - usually people who are already in quarantine. This is to deter them from using the public transport and risk spreading the virus to others.

The national society is not part of the national awareness campaign on SARS as this is the sole responsibility of the ministry of health. Instead the National Society is involved in a parallel campaign, aimed at garnering public support to appreciate healthcare professionals currently in the frontline in the battle against SARS. The awareness part of this campaign is to educate the public on the fact that the healthcare professionals who are risking their lives are safe to be around with, as they are responsible individuals who took precautions. The campaign was initiated following media reports of nurses and doctors who were being discriminated against in public, particularly on the transport system, which is a cornerstone of Singaporean life. Among its initiatives to promote the campaign, the Singapore Red Cross produced a CD – the song 'Thru Your Eyes' was written as a tribute to healthcare professionals. The CD is sold to the public at 4.90 (Singapore dollars) and all funds raised will be channelled towards the Courage Fund.

Red Cross Society of China

In addition to the activities to be covered by the international Appeal, RCSC has been designated by the Government, as one of four agencies authorized to receive donations from individuals and businesses. Ongoing activities supported by local contributions include a 24-hour hotline, distribution of informational booklets, and a regularly updated SARS website.

By June 5, Red Cross Society of China had received donations totaling of RMB 511 million in cash and in kind. Supplies and cash are distributed to the six priority provinces, with RCSC leaders making high profile presentations. In addition to providing medical equipment and supplies to hospitals and clinics, and thanks to a Hong Kong-based SARS foundation, RCSC has established a fund for people affected by SARS. The families of people who have died of SARS will receive a grant of RMB 10,000 (CHF 1666), while those who have recovered from the disease will receive RMB 1000 (CHF 166) to compensate for loss of income.

Federation and RCSC continue to participate in international coordination efforts, including the United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDMT).

Taiwan Red Cross Organization

The Taiwan Red Cross Organization (TRCO) established two service centres at hospitals with SARS patients in Taipei, to provide patients and their families various services, including:

- Psychological support by the professional staff made available by the Armed Forces to these service centres.
- Channelling the family presents to the quarantined patients.
- Accepting the donations in kind from the general public to the patients in these hospitals.

One of these service centres has now been handed over to the hospital and the other was closed at the end of May.

The TRCO Head Office in Taipei has set up a 24-hour SARS Hotline to provide information to the public and has procured 30,000 surgical masks and 58 ear thermometers. These were distributed to Chapters and Branches for SARS related activities. Twenty thousand education pamphlets on SARS were printed by Head Office and distributed to the 23 Chapters and Branches for further distribution to schools.

Taiwan Province Chapter, with the help of professional psychotherapists and Red Cross volunteers, extended their call counselling service to include the provision of SARS-related information to elderly patients without families. Red Cross volunteers were also mobilised to distribute dissemination materials in public places and to assist authorities with surveillance including taking temperatures.

WHO's International Conference on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

The International Federation is sponsoring three participants, including one from the Red Cross Society of China, to attend WHO's International Conference on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in Kuala Lumpur 17-18 June.

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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 Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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