

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

Date 17 December 2003

Appeal No. 11/03; Operations Update no. 03

Appeal launched on 7 May 2003 for CHF 2,016,000 (USD 1,515,405 or EUR 1,330,467) for 10 months. Appeal budget was decreased to CHF 1,236,425 based on the projected activities and budgets submitted by operational national societies.

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 100,000;

Period covered: Period covered 30 May to 30 November 2003

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: 102 %; See attached Contributions List.

Outstanding needs: none

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: East Asia Region (01.69/2003)

Operational Summary: While the immediate threat of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) may be over there is growing concern of the possible re-emergence of this disease in the coming autumn and winter months in countries that were affected in the first half of this year. With this in mind many national societies having been working to improve local capacity to handle health emergencies as well as develop and implement health education initiatives to prevent another outbreak and have as such prompted a budget revision.

Operational developments

Overall during the period 1 November 2002 to 31 July 2003, there were a total of 8,098 reported cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and 774 deaths in 29 countries and special administrative regions according to statistics published by WHO. The majority of the cases were reported in China where there were a reported (5,327 cases and 349 deaths; with 1,002 of cases among health care workers) and Hong Kong SAR (1,755 cases, 299 deaths). Although the majority of the reported cases were concentrated in Asia, a significant number of cases were reported in Canada (251 cases, 43 deaths) and the United States (29 cases, 0 deaths).

On 5 July 2003, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that outbreaks of SARS were contained worldwide. On 8 September, one new case was diagnosed in Singapore. The route of transmission has been attributed to accidental laboratory contamination and the WHO considers this to be a single isolated case, with no public health implications.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS); Appeal no. xx/03; Operations Update no. 03

There is some concern that SARS may re-emerge in the coming autumn and winter months in the countries that were affected in the first half of the year, although it is not possible to make predictions with any certainty. What is clear is that the public authorities in all these countries are now much more aware of the risks and have put in place contingency plans to cope with new outbreaks. WHO continues to facilitate information-sharing worldwide and publication of updated information on its website at www.who.int/csr/sars/. Recent postings include; *Alert, Verification and Public Health Management of SARS* (14 August), *Consensus on the Epidemiology of SARS* (17 October), *Laboratory Standardisation and Quality Assurance of Diagnostic Tests* (5 November), and *Vaccine Development* (6 November).

The Federation made additional fund allocations to the operating national societies at the end of July as new contributions were received from donors. However the timing of these contributions has resulted in a delay in the implementation of planned programmes in some countries.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

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

CHF

National Society	Appeal Budget	Revised Appeal Budget
RC Society of China	-	571,947
DPRK RC	-	377,749
Philippines RC	-	142,780
Cambodia RC	-	32,881
Indonesia RC	-	13,463
Lao RC	-	12,789
Mongolia RC	-	39,879
Myanmar RC	-	6,856
WHO SARS Conference in KL	-	3,758
Regional Health Unit	-	34,322
Total	2,016,000	1,236,425

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Red Cross Society of China (RCSC)

Distribution and use of medical barrier supplies

In light of the very large in-kind donations to the RCSC (see below) and other designated recipients of aid, the RCSC and the Federation regional delegation decided not to proceed with the procurement and distribution of the 7,400 barrier medical kits for health workers as originally foreseen in the operational plan. Instead it was agreed to use the available funds to procure additional household kits for rural populations in six provinces.

Distribution and use of Household Hygiene Kits

87,000 hygiene kits (instead of the originally planned 52,000), were procured, packaged, and distributed to 87,000 households in six provinces which were severely affected by SARS. Each kit contained one thermometer, one bar of soap, and four towels, all packed in one kit marked from RCSC and the International Federation.

27,000 kits were distributed in Beijing; 10,000 kits in Hebei; 10,000 kits in Tianjin; 20,000 kits in Guangdong; 10,000 kits in Inner Mongolia; and, 10,000 kits in Shanxi.

Beneficiaries have given positive feedback to the local Red Cross chapters that distributed the kits.

Distribution and use of Health and Hygiene Video and Poster

One hundred thousand (100,000) copies of a video disk on SARS, health, and hygiene were produced and distributed to all 31 provinces of China. The video was shown on local television in some provinces while others sent the video to schools, clinics, workplaces, and Red Cross chapter offices.

Activities	Progress to date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of health promotion video to 31 provincial branches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100,000 copies were produced and distributed to 31 branches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of 7,400 barrier care supplies for medical staff in six worst affected provinces/cities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancelled. Budgeted fund was reallocated to procure more household hygiene kits.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of 52,000 household hygiene kits in the six worst affected provinces/cities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 87,000 kits were procured and distributed in Beijing, Hebei, Tianjin, Guangdong, Inner Mongolia and Shanxi
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five monitoring visits -3 months after distribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled for mid-December

RCSC Activities beyond the appeal

The RCSC had an active role in national SARS prevention activities and raising public awareness about the disease. Mirroring the sense of acute crisis and fear of the unknown that prevailed for many weeks throughout China, there was a massive public response to the RCSC's national SARS appeal. By the end of July 2003, the society had received SARS donations of more than RMB 685,000,000 (equivalent to approximately CHF 114.1 million) in cash and kind donations. Of this total, RMB 128,000,000 (CHF 21.3 million) was raised in cash and kind donations by the society's national headquarters and RMB 557,000,000 (CHF 92.8 million) was raised by the provincial branches. Of these donations approximately one half came in the form of in kind donations. Donations received by the national headquarters were distributed to Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shanxi, Inner Mongolia and Guangdong. Donations received by the provincial branches were mainly used for local SARS prevention activities.

As noted previously in the second operations update, the donations were used in accordance with donors' requirements, including providing medical equipment and barrier supplies to medical facilities and cash support to people affected by SARS. This last activity was funded by a Hong Kong-based SARS foundation and provided RMB 10,000 (CHF 1,666) to families of those who died of SARS, and RMB 2000 (CHF 166) to those who recovered from the disease to compensate for loss of income.

Impact

The RCSC leadership and staff carried out a number of monitoring visits to provinces where SARS supplies were distributed. Additional monitoring visits with Federation involvement are planned before the end of the year, in particular to assess how hygiene messages have been passed on and used at the local level. One of the positive aspects of the sense of crisis engendered by the SARS epidemic has been an increased awareness amongst the population of the importance of simple hygiene measures. In this light follow up will also be given to assess how the SARS video disk has been used, and to what extent it can be used in more general health education and promotion work, even if SARS does not re-appear in the coming winter season. Questionnaires to monitor the use of this video have been designed and distributed to the participating branches; and telephone and on-site monitoring is being carried out November-December 2003.

Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS)

Radio and TV awareness coverage concerning SARS awareness and prevention has been revised with the assistance of qualified medical practitioners. The principle concept for coverage will focus on personal and public hygiene in order to mitigate infection. Programs are about to be aired daily by the national radio and television throughout the country. Statistics suggest approximately 90% of the population of Mongolia has access to the national radio channel, while 70% has access to television.

Ten thousand copies of a card promoting methods to reduce exposure to the virus including and the importance of using face masks, have been distributed through local Red Cross branches to nine districts of Ulaanbaatar and *soums* of the provinces that abut the railway line from and to China. It is expected that upwards of five thousand people will receive this important information within the regions mentioned.

Publicity for promoting awareness to the SARS virus, focusing specifically on personal hygiene among the elderly and young children was given through interventions made by Red Cross youth volunteers from RC branches within the nine districts of Ulaanbaatar. Operatives from Red Cross branches along the railway line to and from China have also given talks to secondary school students regarding the mitigation of contracting the SARS. During these visits, pamphlets entitled *How to prevent SARS* were widely distributed.

Billboards on hoardings surrounding buildings sites have also been utilised to carry the message *Be aware of infectious diseases. SARS*. Many of the citizens in the three largest cities of Mongolia, and passengers alighting from trains along the railway line to and from China, can not fail to see these posters giving this important message. The most populous cities of the nation have been targeted for this purpose.

In accordance with an agreement signed with the Ministry of Health, a number of qualified health workers have been assigned to assist the MRCS in conducting SARS mitigation training. Medical practitioners who had first hand experience of attending to suspected cases of SARS in May of this year will be involved in a SARS awareness training campaign during November. Doctors will be sharing their experiences with the medical staff of the stations along the railway line to and from China.

SARS public awareness materials in the form of posters, cards and brochures are being printed in readiness for distribution by Red Cross operatives in the most populated urban areas of the country, and to every railway station. As the winter approaches, members of Red Cross youth are training for a concerted SARS awareness campaign. They are to be involved in half-day training on SARS awareness, and the campaign will be implemented by the end of November 2003.

Cambodian Red Cross (CRC)

The Ministry of Health (MoH) had requested CRC to support its work in health promotion. Working closely with technical advisers from the WHO, the MoH and CRC have developed a campaign of health promotion that will reach out – through Red Cross volunteers and school-based Red Cross youth – to key groups most likely to be in contact with the virus. Drawing on their considerable experience in dengue fever prevention, CRC will work within the government’s three-pronged strategy, to deliver messages on basic hygiene practices as well as on infection control. CRC, MoH and other partners maintained a very collaborative working relationship to fight against SARS. So far these are no confirmed SARS affected patients in Cambodia.

Monitoring of the projects was done by the deputy director of the Programme Dept of the CRC, who frequently travelled to the provinces.

Activities	Progress to date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of 35,000 SARS education materials in 11 provinces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,000 posters and 21,997 leaflets have been distributed to the target group members by the Red Cross volunteers in nine provinces at the time of SARS awareness workshop • Nine provinces are; Kandal, Siem Reap, SHV, Takeo, Phnom Penh, Koh Kong, BTB. Kg-Cham, Svay Reing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train 1,225 volunteers in 11 provinces and 2,347 Red Cross youth in eight provinces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The training sessions were organised by nine branches in close cooperation with local authority, MoH and Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. • 650 volunteers and 1,650 Red Cross Youth members were trained for SARS awareness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train 22 trainers on health in emergency surveillance and basic epidemiology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained 15 trainers on SARS awareness from nine provinces.

Indonesian Red Cross (PMI)

PMI conducted a half-day workshop on SARS awareness for the Red Cross volunteers in and surrounding Jakarta in cooperation with Ministry of Health. Eighty thousand (80,000) copies of SARS awareness leaflets were produced and distributed to five branches in Jakarta and three branches outside the city. They were further distributed in the public areas such as in the street, shopping malls, airport and hospitals, by 150 Red Cross volunteers.

Lao Red Cross (LRC)

The initial support given to the Ministry of Health, through the provision of thermometers for screening of incoming passengers at Lao National Airport, Vientiane, was carried out at the initial stages of the operation. As the SARS crisis began to lessen, the LRC began to prepare itself to respond to future health emergencies and recently gained significant experience in addressing an outbreak of dengue and dengue hemorrhagic fever in the northern province of Luang Prabang.

Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC)

The cumulative number of SARS cases in the Philippines since 25 February 2003 is fourteen. The PNRC started its operation on SARS Prevention and Control Project in August aimed at strengthening the capability and capacity of the volunteers in SARS emergency response.

One project coordinator in charge was hired in August. Since then, a series of coordination meetings with the Department of Health (DoH), the lead agency in SARS Prevention and Control, were undertaken. The initial meeting with the DoH focused on the operation of the project, target participants, trainings to be conducted, training guidelines, and information materials such as posters and brochures. The DOH provided the national society with the posters and brochures to be used as a reference for further reproduction. The September meeting with the DoH highlighted the coordination between the DoH and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) on training on the Barangay Health Emergency Response Team (BHERT) and their action plan to tackle SARS. Based on this information, the national society and the Federation met with the DILG to discuss matters regarding BHERT, its composition, functions, activities, and roles during an emergency crisis.

PNRC collaborated with the members of UNICEF's personal hygiene and environmental sanitation programme, using their new flip charts on *Three Steps to Good Health* as a reference in formulating the flip chart and other information materials for SARS prevention.

World Health Organisation made available two videos, *SARS Infection Control Guide for Health Care Workers* and *SARS - A Challenge for the Region* as background material for the PNRC up-coming training on SARS for headquarters, regional and chapter staff. Information materials such as posters, flip charts and brochures were developed and will be disseminated by the national society staff following the training.

With the Philippines now SARS free, the PNRC is still continuing with its work to prepare the national society staff and volunteers in preparation for future health emergencies. The Department of Health has requested PNRC involvement in the national measles eradication programme for 2004. PNRC will take the opportunity in the SARS/emergency health training to provide updated information and data to the staff and volunteers to prepare for the measles campaign in 2004.

Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS)

Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) has been assisting the Ministry of Health in SARS activities since the outbreak occurred early in 2003. The funding proposal submitted to International Federation's regional health unit supported these activities in addition to MRCS initiated activities.

Printing of educational leaflets in local ethnic languages

Existing Ministry of Health SARS pamphlets have been revised by the Deputy Minister of Health in addition to MRCS Executive Committee and health personnel. These pamphlets are now ready for printing with future plans to translate this pamphlet into three ethnic languages.

To conduct educational talks to the vulnerable people

Education talks have been provided country-wide in the townships by medical officers assisted by branch Red Cross volunteers. The MRCS SARS project officer has undertaken to collect reports relating to these activities. To date, 14 townships have reported their activities which include health education talks to hospital staff, village communities, and urban communities. A total of 15,902 people are reported to have received health education relating to SARS. This number would not reflect the total situation across Myanmar, where there are 324 townships, most of which provided health education on SARS. These health education activities have now stopped, but reports are still being received and will be included in the next MRCS SARS report.

To assist health authorities in the surveillance activities

Surveillance activities were undertaken in both Yangon and Mandalay International Airports in addition to four boarder townships. Red Cross volunteers assisted MOH personnel in this surveillance, which has since ceased.

To provide thermometers and masks to the surveillance teams

As surveillance has ceased, the purchase of thermometers and masks will be undertaken to support the first aid kits which are provided to participants of the community-based first aid (CBFA) training of trainers project. A recent purchase of 1000 masks and thermometers has been made but will not be reflected in the financial report of last month.

To incorporate SARS into CBFA training

SARS has been permanently incorporated into the CBFA training, and this has been occurring for many months now. The first aid kits to be provided to all new trainers in 2004 will contain thermometers and masks to support further SARS surveillance if the need occurs.

To develop resources

No extra resources have been developed, and there is no plan to do this.

Activities	Progress to date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Printing educational leaflets in local ethnic languages and distributing them to households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised SARS pamphlets are ready for printing Translation into three local languages is planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting health authorities with surveillance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Cross volunteers assisted authorities with surveillance in Yangon, International Airport as well as four bordering townships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporating SARS into their ongoing community based first aid training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SARS incorporated into the CBFA module Thermometers and masks are included in CBFA kit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing resources to enhance the national society's capacity to respond to future disease outbreaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No progress in this reporting period

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

Objective 2: To reduce the vulnerability of DPRK health care staff in 240 institutions caring for SARS suspected and affected cases.

An update on the progress of the joint Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), DPRK Red Cross Society, UNICEF and the WHO on the SARS project for improvement of hygiene and infection control in hospitals nationwide is provided below.

Activities	Progress to date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective hygiene and barrier care supplies identified according to the WHO standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed. List available on request.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federation releases DREF to commence procurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHF100,000 released 5 May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement and Transport of supplies to DPRK by the International Federation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Procurement Surgical masks: 184,000 arrived on 3 and 17 July 186,800 arrived on 7 July 93,200 arrived on 9 Aug., 12 Sept. Examination gloves: 315,000 arrived on 17 July 315,000 on 9 Aug., 12 Sept Anti-Microbial soap: 2,735kg arrived on 25 Sept. Local Procurement: Bleaching powder: 70,000kg Soap bars: 140,000 pieces Liquid soap: 5,600 Garbage bags: 140,000 Plastic water containers with lid: 2,800

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributions, monitoring and training support to MoPH by the Red Cross in Kaesong municipality and Jagan, North and South Pyongan provinces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of all items apart from the disinfectant soap was completed between 26 August and 5 September. The distribution of liquid soap was done from 3 October on together with the fourth quarter basic kits, apart from in North Pyongan, where the basic kits had already been delivered earlier. This last disinfectant soap will be distributed by mid-December. Monitoring of item distribution was conducted in 16 city/county/Provincial/ and special hospitals in Kaesong, Jagan, North and South Pyongan. • Training of doctors and nurses is starting 19 November and will continue until the middle of December - in total nine two-day workshops will be conducted.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributions, monitoring and training by UNICEF/MoPH throughout the rest of the provinces/municipalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a training module has been delayed due to delay in getting approval from WHO SEARO office and MoPH having doubts about the capability of the DPRK RC trainers, so for now the society and Federation are only training in the four above-mentioned provinces. • Training of staff in 60 institutions scheduled for August was postponed due to the reasons mentioned up above.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoPH and the WHO continue to monitor the incidence of SARS suspected and affected cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reported cases in DPRK

Southeast Asia Delegation - Regional Health Unit

The International Federation's regional health unit in Bangkok has been supporting and monitoring planned activities of the national societies in the Southeast Asia region. Preparation is underway for a lessons-learned meeting in early 2004, where national societies involved in the SARS response will share experiences, lessons learned and develop mechanism for capacity building of national societies in the area of national health emergencies while also considering possibility of cross-border responses.

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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.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

SARS in Asia

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 11/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

16/12/2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,236,000	TOTAL COVERAGE 102.0%	
CANADIAN - GOVT		300,660	CNY	47,859	15.05.03	DIIRECTLY TO DELEGATION
PRIVATE DONORS		169,100	CNY	26,846	14.07.03	
ECHO (09001)		250,000	EUR	385,750	30.06.03	
FINNISH - RC		30,000	EUR	45,675	22.05.03	TEACHING MATERIALS & MEDICAL & FIRST AID
JAPANESE - RC		75,800	USD	103,088	22.05.03	
JAPANESE - RC		133,089	USD	177,208	31.10.03	ACTIVITITHE RCS CHINA
LUXEMBOURG - GOVT		100,000	EUR	152,250	23.05.03	
MONACO - RC		10,000	EUR	15,430	14.07.03	
NEW ZEALAND - GOVT		150,000	NZD	112,425	06.06.03	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1,000,000	NOK	193,500	04.06.03	
PRIVATE DONORS		160	EUR	244	26.06.03	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,260,275	CHF	102.0%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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

REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY

APPEAL No. 11/2003

SARS in Asia

TYPE	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
RELIEF NEEDS			
	IN CHF		
Medical & first aid	300,000	680,000	380,000
Teaching materials	150,000	118,000	-32,000
Utensils & tools	470,000		-470,000
Other supplies / equipment	250,000	4,000	-246,000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	1,170,000	802,000	-368,000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme support (6.5% of total)	131,000	80,000	-51,000
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>			
Transport and storage	100,000		-100,000
Vehicle costs	50,000	52,000	2,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
National staff	200,000	12,000	-188,000
Consultants		15,000	15,000
Workshops & Training	150,000	175,000	25,000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>			
Travel & related expenses	15,000	28,000	13,000
Information expenses	150,000	52,000	-98,000
Administrative & general expenses	50,000	20,000	-30,000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	846,000	434,000	
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	2,016,000	1,236,000	-780,000
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		-1,260,275	
NET REQUEST		NIL	