

ANNUAL REPORT



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

EAST ASIA REGION

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 178 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

Appeal No. 01.37/2002; Appeal target: CHF 2,542,226; Appeal coverage: 24.6%

Operational Developments

The Red Cross Society of China's (RCSC) long history of cooperation with the International Federation was mainly in response to natural disasters and other calamities. From 1935 to 2002, 19 Emergency Appeals were launched in support of the National Society's emergency operations. More recently, however, there has been greater cooperation in other core Red Cross/Red Crescent programmes such as: development; capacity building projects such as finance systems development; training; and, disaster preparedness information networking. In 2002, the RCSC worked with the Federation on releasing the first Annual Appeal on behalf of the National Society.

For several decades, the RCSC operated under the Ministry of Public Health's (MoPH) organisational and operational umbrella. The RCSC is evolving into an organisation independent from the MoH. The separation process has been achieved at Headquarters level, and within 29 of China's 31 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. The process, however, has yet to move forward within the prefecture, county and township level branches.

The RCSC's development into a strong autonomous organisation, capable of providing effective and high quality programming, will not only benefit the people of China, but the Movement as a whole. RCSC's programming will reflect the four core areas outlined in Strategy 2010. In order to develop and effectively manage these programmes, the RCSC will continue to improve upon its organisational structure and operating systems, and its capacity for strategic planning and human resource management.

In the wake of RCSC's organisational restructuring, the Executive Board would like to see steps taken by the Society to further engage with the international community. It is vital to the RCSC's success that the Society is supported throughout its transition so that it may develop its own institutional capacities to their maximum potential. The establishment of the Regional Office in Beijing in February 1999, and the clear intent of the RCSC to become a more active and influential member of the Federation has resulted in an agreement to expand and intensify cooperation between the RCSC and the Federation with the Society's organisational development programmes.

During the latter half of 2002, the Federation's East Asia Regional Delegation's ability to provide support to the five National Societies in the region has increased. In addition to the existing Head of Regional Delegation and a Disaster Management delegate two regional core delegates were recruited to support RCSC's Health-HIV/AIDS and Information activities. Over the reporting period however, the first phases of two important RCSC/Federation projects, which

were added after the Appeal, were completed. These were a sanitation project in Guanxi Autonomous Region and the RCSC DP/DR computerization project

The People's Republic of China is one of the most disaster prone countries in the world. During the last ten years, the country has suffered from a number of major flood disasters. In 2002 the flood season started earlier and lasted longer than usual. According to statistics issued in early September by China's Ministry of Civil affairs, the 2002 floods claimed 1,532 lives across China and affected some 190 million people. One million houses were destroyed, and 13.15 million hectares of crops were damaged. As a precaution, local governments temporarily evacuated more than 2.4 million people from several flood-prone areas. Direct economic loss of the 2002 floods amounted to approximately 68 billion Yuans (8.2 billion US dollars).

At the request of the RCSC, in response to the flash floods that hit China in June 2002, the Federation launched an *Emergency Appeal (16/2002)* seeking support to provide humanitarian assistance to a portion of the affected population.

While heavy downpours, storms and hailstorms were repeatedly registered between June and September in the Central and Southern provinces, a prolonged drought and high temperatures were affecting large areas in northern China. The State Fire Prevention Office reported that bush fires raging in Inner Mongolia, for more than 20 days in August, were the worst in the last 53 years.

In August, an earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale was felt in Sichuan. Heat waves, claiming several lives, swept across the country in July and August .

At the end of August, a State of Emergency was declared by the authorities of Southern China's province of Hunan, due to the threat of rising water levels of Dongting Lake, posing a threat to the safety of some 10 million people living in densely populated surrounding areas.

HIV/AIDS awareness continues to increase in China as a result of the continued coverage by the media, and increasing transparency of the government. The RCSC is responding to the increasing prevalence of the disease and has been working in cooperation with the Australian Red Cross Society since 1994 on HIV/AIDS prevention and care projects.

Objectives, Achievements and Constraints

Disaster Response

The 2002 Annual Appeal did not include Disaster Response (DR) activities. However at the request of the RCSC, in response to the June 2002 flash floods that swept through China, the Federation launched *Emergency Appeal (16/2002)* seeking support for RCSC relief activities.

From early June to the end of August some 25 provinces/autonomous regions/municipalities across China were affected by the floods. The Federation Emergency Appeal initially targeted beneficiaries in seven central and southeast provinces: Shaanxi, Sichuan, Guizhou, Guanxi, Hunan, Fujian, Jiangxi and in one municipality-mega city Chongqing, which were classified as being the most seriously affected. However increased vulnerabilities in regions that were subsequently or repeatedly affected by floods have resulted in the revision of the Appeal to target two additional provinces: Hubei and Yunnan and an increased number of beneficiaries.

In China, the central government, through its Ministry of Civil Affairs (MoCA) takes the lead role in emergency response co-ordination, as well as in creating disaster preparedness strategies. The role of RCSC is complementary, as an auxiliary to this response. RCSC branches, along with the MoCA, were the first to respond to the flash flood and subsequent disasters by releasing emergency funds and available Disaster Preparedness (DP) stocks from

both the Society's Headquarters and Disaster Preparedness centres. Dozens of joint Ministry of Health/Red Cross Medical teams were deployed and volunteers were mobilised.

Based on information provided by MoCA offices in the provinces and directed by RCSC national Headquarters through RCSC provincial branches, ten Red Cross assessment teams were dispatched in the affected areas. Subsequently, the RCSC launched a national appeal for solidarity and support to the flood victims.

RCSC's DR strategy has been more reactive than proactive. Due to low levels of emergency stock at both headquarters and in the branches, and to a lack of funds to pre-finance the procurement of relief items, RCSC's interventions were dependent on external assistance. The capacity of the National Society in terms of skilled relief staff-members both at the headquarters in Beijing, and in the branches was also limited in regard to their ability to respond to the flooding.

Following the release of an Appeal and the positive donor response, the RCSC and the Federation delegation jointly developed a Plan of Action identifying beneficiaries in eight seriously affected regions for assistance. RCSC, with support from the Federation, provided flood victims with essential food items such as rice, and non-food items such as tents, quilts and water purification powder.

In mid-July, the Regional Delegation in Beijing was reinforced with two short term Field delegates, a Reporting delegate and a Finance delegate. The arrival of the Regional Information Delegate has contributed substantially to garnering a higher profile in the media for RCSC during August's flood alert regarding Dongting Lake.

Disaster Preparedness

***Objective 1:** To train 400 staff at provincial and prefecture level in basic disaster response and 100 provincial and prefecture level staff in intermediate disaster response by the end of 2003.*

Disaster management training builds on the RCSC's "Five Year Strategic Plan for Disaster Response." The restructuring of the RCSC, and the large number of newly hired staff without previous Red Cross and/or DP/DR experience has posed challenges for the National Society.

Bearing in mind the complexity of the Red Cross structure in China, such as the long lasting legacy of working under the umbrella of the Government Ministry and dimensions of the country, the change process is expected to last over several years.

Ongoing and expanded training for relief staff at all organizational levels is required in order to enable the National Society to equip the RCSC with:

- basic DP/DR knowledge;
- improved speed and effectiveness of its local and national response mechanisms;
- improved quality and standards in disaster response,

The 2002 training programme is a continuation of the 2001 programme where Secretaries General, presidents and relief officers from thirty one provincial branches, and from 6 RCSC Disaster Preparedness Centres were trained.

In June 2002, RCSC organised two Disaster Preparedness/Disaster Response workshops for a total of 240 participants from 145 RCSC branches at the prefecture level. The main topics covered during each five-day training event were: disaster management, logistics, finance and reporting procedures, and Federation standard operating requirements for relief operations.

Currently, the teaching style for the courses is mostly through lecturing. The National Society is not yet familiar with a participatory, interactive methodology.

“Rules for the RCSC in Acting in Natural Disasters and in Emergency Relief Operations ” is a reference document used during training workshops, and disseminated by the RCSC throughout the organisational structure. The document has 34 articles and incorporates many of the International Federation's standards.

While "Rules for the RCSC in Acting in Natural Disasters and in Emergency Relief Operations" set a framework for compliance with national and international standards, related procedures are yet to be developed.

The RCSC has established a special Committee with the task of developing a relief and disaster preparedness strategy for the National Society. Once produced, the National Society DP/DR Strategy will be an essential asset for better defining RCSC's mandate within the National Disaster Preparedness and Response System. However, due to the Flood Emergency and limited capacity of the relief department at the RCSC headquarters in Beijing, the committee has only met once during the first half of the year. The same type of constraints also resulted in the postponing of an assessment of long-term RCSC Disaster Preparedness.

As the strengthening of the RCSC relief department's capacity is a precondition for the implementation of other planned activities, the Federation expressed its readiness to support the RCSC with additional personnel and training.

Objective 2: *To explore the role of the RCSC in disaster preparedness mechanisms at the community level and to develop a pilot Community Based disaster Preparedness (CBDP) project in two provinces.*

Progress with reaching this objective was delayed partially due to the flood operation. During the reporting period however, two important RCSC/Federation projects were completed. These were the first phase of the ECHO funded Water-Sanitation project in Guanxi Autonomous Region, and the first phase of the RCSC DP/DR computerization network project.

The establishment of a computerised RCSC DP/DR information network, linking RCSC national headquarters with all of the provincial branches and DP centres laid the foundation for increasing the speed of the flow of information, and improving standards in reporting on disasters and the disaster response between local branches to the RCSC national headquarters and *vice versa*. The software system application, consisting of 13 reporting forms, already in use within the RCSC for almost a decade has been designed and installed in new computers delivered to branches and DP centres. Users of the application were provided with basic training in computer literacy. Additional training in both computer literacy, reporting and data processing is required to enable the Relief Department in Beijing to better co-ordinate the Society's relief efforts through a series of information databases and computer generated reports.

Health and Care

HIV/AIDS

The Youth Peer Education project, based on the model developed by the Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent AIDS Task Force (ART), has been identified by UNAIDS as best practice in China.

The model consist of four components which are:

1. Training of Youth Facilitators.
2. Youth Peer Education training.
3. Post-workshop evaluation.
4. Post-workshop informal Peer Education.

The Peer education manual has been developed and produced in the Mandarin language and translated into the Uygur language.

Objective 1: To map RCSC capacities and vulnerabilities in implementation of HIV/AIDS interventions in China.

Since the arrival of the Federation's Regional Health-HIV/AIDS delegate in Beijing, in mid-July 2002, progress has been made in mapping out the International Federation's collaboration with the RCSC, and projecting a way forward towards gradually expanding HIV interventions within China.

The RCSC is demonstrating a growing sense of ownership of the HIV/AIDS programs in Yunnan and Xinjiang, increasing enthusiasm to participate in worldwide events to promote HIV awareness and to decrease stigma, such as World AIDS Day and International Red Cross Day, and an increasing willingness to develop appropriate programmes in other provinces.

The Headquarters of the RCSC and the Delegation have established a cooperation working model by defining the roles and responsibilities of different organizational layers in the National Society. The model incorporates the existing RCSC's organizational structure, existing expertise at the provincial RCSC branch level, and in the Delegation.

According to the model, RCSC headquarters will facilitate identification, communication and cooperation with provincial RCSC branches. The RCSC will actively participate in planning, monitoring, and evaluating the projects. Through RCSC, a project can request assistance from already experienced provinces (Yunnan and Xinjiang) for planning, training, etc.

Identified provincial RCSC branches will plan and implement the project, in conjunction with their local partners (other Chinese grass-roots mass organizations such as Women's Federation and/or Youth League) and government agencies (Health Dept., Public Security, Education Commission, Anti-drug office, Industrial and Commercial Bureau, etc.). The Federation's East Asia Regional Delegation will provide technical assistance in project design, training, monitoring, evaluation and facilitate communications and activities with international stakeholders.

Objective 2: To develop a RCSC five year Strategic Plan to scale up HIV/AIDS activities and build nationwide programme on the Yunnan Model.

Strategic planning in the field of RCSC's involvement in HIV/AIDS interventions did not begin in 2002. The Strategic planning process which should lead to a core guidance document requires considerable preparation and a full consensus and commitment from all stakeholders.

Objective 3: To support youth peer education programmes in Hainan, Fujian and Guangxi provinces drawing on Red Cross lessons learnt in Yunnan and Xinjiang.

Initial assessment missions were carried out in Hainan, Fujian and Guangxi provinces by a Federation/RCSC team. The findings of the assessments were used for planning of the activities to be carried out in 2003.

Objective 4: To design and implement a community based prevention and care and support programme in two pilot locations in Hunan Province.

In 2002, the focus of activities was placed on establishing and designing general patterns of cooperation between the RCSC and the Federation. Specific, community based projects will follow in the period to come.

The first six months (July-December 2002) of cooperation between RCSC and the Federation over HIV/AIDS activities were spent building a constructive relationship between the partners and laying foundations for future cooperation.

With support from the Australian Red Cross Society and DFID, however, three HIV related care and self help manuals (*AIDS Home Care Manual* (WHO), *Positive Development* (GPN+) *Lifting the Burden of Secrecy* (APN+) were translated into Mandarin and put into circulation at the end of the year.

World AIDS Day (1 December) was marked in six branches (Beijing, Xinjiang, Hainan, Fujian, Guangxi, Jilin) through various activities and public awareness campaigns, to include distribution of publicity materials such as RCSC pins, pamphlets, posters and jackets which were designed and produced for the occasion.

Institutional and Resource Development

Within the context of China's opening-up and separating from the MoPH, the RCSC has developed an Organisational Development programme for implementation over the next three years. The main programme components are training in International humanitarian Law (IHL), Leadership and Resource development, Finance development and English language training courses.

Leadership Training

In 1999 the leadership of the RCSC changed substantially. Since then RCSC at both the headquarters and provincial levels has been undergoing an internal restructuring and a "separation" from the Ministry of Public Health leading to increased institutional independence.

The process of "separation" from the Ministry of Health has resulted in a high turnover of Red Cross officers and officials. It is estimated that as much as one third of some 180 Red Cross officials country wide have been newly appointed, and are in general terms new to the Red Cross. Therefore the RCSC has designed an appropriate leadership training module aimed primarily at improving the overall understanding and knowledge about the Red Cross Movement and its components and at enhancing the skills of RCSC branch officials in their capacity of providing community based social services and relief as an autonomous organisation

Resource Development Project

This is a new project developed by RCSC based on the Society's aim to develop its fund raising capacities. In light of the gradual but obvious separation of the RCSC from the Ministry of Health, the Society is currently engaged in assessing opportunities, which up until now were not possible for raising funds outside disaster operations.

The RCSC is at present almost entirely dependent on the Government for financial support. It is in the interest of both the RCSC and the Government that the Society broadens its funding base. Given current economic growth, an overall increase in wealth of individuals and the establishment of more businesses throughout China, the opportunities for resource development are considerable. In addition, the RCSC's increased institutional independence will raise the profile of the Society which has positive implications for dissemination and resource development.

During 2001, the Federation helped facilitate a visit to European Red Cross societies for both staff from the headquarters, and counterparts in the Government. Following this visit, the management of the RCSC asked the Regional office for financial assistance to initiate a series of training seminars, which will increase the knowledge and skills of headquarters staff and branch managers about the various options open to them to raise funds locally.

Anticipating further developments in which government support is likely to gradually reduce over the next decade, the RCSC has been looking for ways to ensure its future sustainability. A special emphasis has been placed therefore on resource development issues.

RCSC has assumed the initiative of carrying out activities which will result in improving skills of headquarters and branch officers and officials, thus innovating its programmes and providing quality services to beneficiaries.

Objective 1: *To develop the leadership skills of 186 RCSC staff in the 31 provincial branches.*

Objective 2: *To develop a RCSC resource development strategic and operational plan and to strengthen the resource development skills and knowledge of 120 RCSC staff in headquarters and 31 provincial branches.*

Both objectives were partially achieved through the single annual training workshop designed for both participants from RCSC headquarters and the provincial branches.

The seven-day training, held in Beijing from September 12 to September 19, 2002, was organised by the Red Cross Society of China in cooperation with the International Federation, as a part of the RCSC Organisational Development Programme.

For the first time, 78 senior Chinese Red Cross official and officers from the headquarters and 29 provinces and municipalities took part in this kind of training workshop.

The participants were updated on issues related to the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and their National Society. The lectures (*please see the annexed table*) included presentations on the ICRC and the International Federation. Special attention was given to topics such as the Federation's Strategy 2010, Governance and Management and Well-functioning National Society.

Some presentations had a greater impact than others. A full-day session on resource generation, given by PACT-China, an NGO specialised in capacity-building, was very successful. Throughout the session, the participants learned how to improve their fund-raising activities with internal and external stakeholders. PACT-China received requests for follow-up sessions from several branches. The first of these follow-up sessions focusing on fund-raising was held by PACT-China on 8 November as part of a four-day workshop organised by the Beijing Red Cross branch.

The Federation's 2010 Strategy as well as the Seville Agreement were translated into the Mandarin language and distributed to the participants.

Given the size of the country, the workshop provided participants with a unique opportunity to share knowledge and experiences, and appeared to be an efficient mechanism ensuring that pockets of expertise benefit the National Society as a whole. The participants and the RCSC leadership were unanimous in formally requesting that such type of training should be continued.

The Leadership and Resource development training was a first and critical step in sharing knowledge and information with and within the RCSC. Acquiring new skills and practices, and assuming ownership for development and capacity building projects, is a long lasting process, that must be tailored to the operational context of a specific country, and to the specific needs and priorities of the National Society, as well as to its ability to absorb, process and put into practice newly acquired knowledge.

In that context, some of the presentations though informative had less impact than expected. Their content was not adapted to the background and the working environment in China, and the language

used was too institutionalised, and therefore poorly understood by participants. As a result, not only were messages not conveyed but poorly communicated ideas resulted in putting off the audience.

It was agreed therefore that in the future, presentations will be selected and carefully prepared to better match the interest of the participants, and the national context of development with "Chinese characteristics."

A workshop, primarily aimed at updating participants on issues relevant to the Red Cross Movement and particularly those relevant for their National Society, proved to be a success. At the end of the first ever Leadership training workshop, participants acknowledged that they gained new knowledge through a training methodology which was evaluated as appropriate in most of the presentations, but also that it has been an important opportunity for all of them, senior branch officials and headquarters' senior officers to gather and share experiences and concerns about their respective challenges.

All participants were unanimous in requesting that this type of training become an annual event. In the new round of Leadership and Resource training, the RCSC wishes to expand both the participation to include an increased number of staff-members at technical management positions, and to upgrade the training curriculum to cover a specific topic of interest for the National Society such as the communication module which is planned to be included into 2003 training event.

In China which is more of a continent than a country, this type of meeting gives a unique opportunity to gather RCSC provincial leaders and National Society leadership with the aim of discussing National Society strategic directions, programme needs, and the RCSC mandate and developing specific management skills.

It is, however, too early to measure the impact of the event, or to analyse it by using measurable and verifiable indicators. A clear interest of the National Society to continue with the same type of training in the years to come should be used as a parameter of its value in planting the knowledge and preparing the foundation for the National Society's development "with Chinese characteristics."

Finance Development

In late 1999, the Federation and RCSC initiated a feasibility study to investigate the most appropriate interventions for strengthening the accounting and reporting capacity of the National Society. Following the study, a Finance Development project was designed with the aim of strengthening the capacity of the RCSC through the development of manual and computerized accounting systems for the production of standardised financial accounts and staff training. The revised accounting system will enable financial information to be presented in a form acceptable to external donors and will also facilitate the process of consolidating financial information received from the branches.

The three main objectives of the project are:

1. To establish an accounting system in the national headquarters and provincial branches.
2. To establish an integration system for financial reports in the headquarters and provincial branches.
3. To provide training to financial staff and management in headquarters and provincial branches.

Objective 1: *To establish an accounting system in the national headquarters and provincial branches.*

The Project commenced in July 2000 and lasted until July 2001. The design and testing of the financial system described in Objective 1 is complete and the system is established in 21 provincial branches. A series of basic training courses have been implemented for headquarters financial staff and staff from the 21 branches.

Objective 3: *To continue strengthening the finance management capacity in 21 branches and to expand the new finance management system to an additional 10 branches.*

The achievements of the project in 2002 were modest. The assessment of the financial system which was meant to be used for streamlining the project in 2002, and further in 2003 has not taken place as planned.

However, following the launching of the Emergency Appeal no.16 in June 2002, sixteen finance officers and leaders from the eight provinces involved with the appeal were invited to Beijing for briefing and training on financial procedures. The training was hosted by RCSC's new Head of the Finance department. A session on Federation procedures was facilitated by a Federation staff member from the RFU (Regional Finance Unit) in Kuala Lumpur.

The continuation of the Finance development project in a planned and structured way which did not happen in 2002, is vital for the finance management and accountability of the RCSC.

English Language Training (ELT)

For partnerships to be effective managing communications in the right language is essential. The quality of the outcome of RCSC programmes will reflect the quality of communication and in turn the quality of the communication will depend upon participants having a command of the relevant languages. Poor communications result in misunderstandings, inefficiency, loss of time and goodwill. Globalisation has vastly increased the use of English, not the least through the Internet where 94 percent of communications are in English.

The ability of the RCSC to access information, to communicate and to form partnerships is severely constrained by the very small proportion of staff and volunteers with English language skills. Furthermore, transferable skills and experience gained by RCSC staff in disaster operations within China, especially flood responses, cannot be employed in other Federation operations due to lack of English skills.

The proposed English Language Training (ELT) project will develop RCSC's ability to communicate in English, and hence its capacity to establish effective dialogue and partnerships with its partners. The ELT Project comprises basic ELT for Headquarter and Provincial Branch employees and advanced ELT for staff with key roles in External Relations at national level.

***Objective 4:** To increase the effectiveness of RCSC communications, learning and co-operation through developing the English Language skills of RCSC staff at headquarters and provincial level.*

The above objective was not implemented due to the lack of funding.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Fundamental Principles and Initiatives

The Federation has been supporting the RCSC with the running of relief operations for many years and during this time there has been no dissemination element incorporated into these programmes. Following the establishment of the regional office in Beijing it was agreed with the RCSC and the ICRC that the Federation's regional office will participate in the regular seminars and workshops on International Humanitarian Law and dissemination run jointly by the RCSC and the ICRC in China. The Federation's input into these events has to date been limited to a presentation on the Federation's role and function internationally and in China. Through 2000/2001 the Federation has made four such presentations, done by the Head of the Regional delegation. Since mid-2002 this function was carried out by a newly recruited Federation information delegate.

***Objective 1:** To make presentations on the role and the function of the Federation in China and if possible to expand this role to include the dissemination of humanitarian values.*

The arrival of the Federation Regional Information delegate in mid-July 2002 allowed for increased cooperation with RCSC and ICRC for dissemination events and training. In this context, the Federation was given the opportunity to make the presentation to 80 legal advisers from the People's Liberation Army of China at the X'ian Military Academy.

The Federation and the ICRC were invited by the Red Cross branch in Tianjing to make a presentation on the occasion of the International Friendship City Year. Representatives of the local authorities, the Tianjin branch of the Red Cross Society of China, the American Red Cross, the Japanese Red Cross and Korean Red Cross who represented the sister city from their country, attended the Red Cross forum's presentations.

At the end of the reporting period RCSC, ICRC and the Federation were in the process of structuring and planning joined activities for the period to come.

Regional Cooperation

This regional cooperation programme is mostly based on priorities identified by the participants in the East Asia partnership meeting, which was held in Beijing between 17 and 21 September 2001. This meeting brought together 53 representatives from 13 national societies from East Asia and beyond, Asia-based Federation delegates, Secretariat staff, ICRC, and several external organisations.

The aims of the meeting were to align East Asia partners' thinking on the Strategy 2010 core areas of disaster preparedness and health; to better understand the programme priorities of RCSC, the Mongolian Red Cross and the DPRK Red Cross, especially in relation to disaster preparedness, health and organisational development; to enable partners to provide feedback on programme approaches in East Asia; to agree on how partners will cooperate in the implementation of programmes; and to develop a more concrete framework for regional cooperation.

A range of participatory learning and action methodologies were used in the preparation and implementation of the meeting. These methodologies facilitated the dissolution of barriers between different groups such as Participating National Societies and National Societies and encouraged open dialogue and true participation.

The participants of the meeting identified four priorities for regional initiatives:

- Promotion of linkages at all levels including increased integration between programmes (DP, health, OD), and increased cooperation between partners nationally, regionally and beyond.
- Increasing awareness and skill in the region about community based approaches.
- Better prioritising of the use of existing resources within the region.
- Promoting the identification, documentation and sharing of lessons learned.

A series of steps for action was also developed.

This regional cooperation programme elaborates on the priorities and action steps developed by the participants in the East Asia partnership meeting, and other strategic issues identified by the regional delegation in Beijing in consultation with Movement partners.

Coordination and Management

In October 1999, the Federation and the Government of China (GoC) signed a status agreement, paving the way for the opening of the Federation's Beijing Regional Office for the East Asia region. The Regional office was formally opened by the Federation's Secretary General in February 2000. The Regional Office, initially situated in the headquarters of the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) moved, at the request of the Government of China, into separate premises in January 2001 and became fully operational in March 2001.

A head of regional office started work in May 2000, and made familiarisation visits to DPRK, Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea. Additional working visits were carried out in the region throughout 2000/2001. Following the closing of the Federation's representative office in Mongolia in December 1999, the Regional Delegation manages support to the Mongolian Red Cross and the Federation's office in Ulaan Baatar in accordance with existing development plans, and in support of ongoing relief operations. The Regional Office also continues to provide logistical support to the Federation's operations in the DPRK.

In addition to the Regional Office's direct programme support to the RCSC, it is also positioned to provide services and assistance to the Participating National Societies conducting programmes through bi-lateral co-operation in China.

The Regional Delegation is well placed to serve as a focal information point for embassies, media and international organisations in Beijing, many of which also cover Mongolia and DPRK. The priorities are to raise awareness of Red Cross activities in China and the region and to intensify contact following natural disasters and the launching of appeals. The regional office has been particularly successful in this regard in contacts with representatives of the international media networks.

The Regional Office maintains links with the Federation's Regional Delegation in Bangkok, particularly with the regional information, health and finance units (in Kuala Lumpur) who have provided support to the delegations and national societies within the East Asia region. The office also works closely with the ICRC Regional Delegation (Bangkok) in programmes run with the Red Cross Society of China.

In September 2001 the RCSC, supported by the Regional Office, hosted a partnership meeting, followed by a Secretary Generals meeting for the five National Societies in the East Asia region.

In 2002 the Regional Office's capacities were expanded to cover information and HIV/AIDS. The Regional Office is currently staffed with a head of regional office, and three regional core delegates: a disaster management delegate, an information delegate and an HIV/AIDS delegate.

A mission of a short term finance delegate recruited during the 2002 Flash Floods operation was extended beyond the reporting period. Four national support staff members are assisting in the functioning of the Delegation.

***Objective 1:** To provide efficient management and co-ordination of Federation and participating national societies' assistance to national society development and programmes.*

The *Country Agreement Strategy* (CAS) process has been taken forward in Mongolia and DPRK. The aim of the CAS process is to come to an agreement within the components of the Movement and with other national and international stakeholders on the areas of support to be provided to the National Society by respecting its strategic priorities and its capacities.

China, Mongolia, DPRK, RoK and Japan are among the countries covered by the ICRC Regional Delegation for South-East Asia based in Bangkok. The International Federation Regional Office in Beijing enjoys an excellent cooperation with the ICRC. The cooperation which has been implemented through a joined participation at events organised/hosted by the ICRC and vice versa has been limited so far to China only. With the arrival in Beijing of the Regional Information delegate in mid-2002, the cooperation between the Federation and the ICRC has good prospects to expand both in terms of the number of activities but also in terms of the number of countries in the region to be covered through these activities.

In China, the International Federation does not have a coordination role. This role is fully assumed by the RCSC. Given the size of country, its administrative and identical Red Cross structure consisting of 34 Administrative Units (23 provinces, 4 municipalities, 5 autonomous regions and 2 special

administrative regions) varying greatly in capacities and activities, the CAS process for and by RCSC has not been pursued so far.

RCSC and the ICRC have concluded a Cooperation agreement (2001-2004) which is focused on the implementation of RCSC dissemination programme.

RCSC has welcomed however the initiative of the Regional delegation in Beijing to arrange and co-chair with the National Society information sharing meetings with the Participating National Societies working in China.

In 2001, such a meeting was held under the umbrella of a wider Partnership meeting while in 2002 a separate meeting is planned to take place in last quarter of 2002 in Chengdu (Sichuan Province).

Most of the National Societies working in China were present in the country for a number of years, and have built an extensive and constructive cooperation with the RCSC and its branches.

National Society	Activities	Geographical area	Period
Australian RC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIV/AIDS Youth Peer Education and peer education by/for PLWHA Wat/san project and primary health care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xinjiang and Yunnan (plans to extend activities) Tibet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 1992 onwards From 1997
Canadian RC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to township Clinics Eye care (cataract) programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xinjiang, Sichuan, Gansu, Inner Mongolia Qinghai, Gansu, Inner Mongolia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1999-2004 2001-2003
Netherlands RC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DP Primary Health Care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tibet (Naqu) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1999-2001
Norwegian RC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutional Development, including Disaster Preparedness, First Aid, Primary Health Care and dissemination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sichuan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2001-.2003
Swiss RC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary community based Health Care (HIV education included) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tibet (Xigaze) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1989-2002

HIV/AIDS

Other partners working in China such as Canadian Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross Societies as well as World Bank Health IX and UNICEF are contributing to HIV/AIDS prevention efforts. However apart from the Australian Red Cross supported activities, other projects are not yet well developed. Most of them are nascent; some are add-ons to primary health care projects.

Conclusions

The Appeal document appeared to be over ambitious lacking a realistic consideration for the scope of tasks to be executed, the time needed for the sensitisation process, National Society capacity and putting mechanisms in place, the vast territory to be covered and the availability of Federation human resources to support the programme implementation.

Building constructive relationships with partners and covering to the extent of possible, a vast country such as China, is a lengthy process especially in areas such as HIV/AIDS interventions. Moreover, this appears to be a common denominator for all programmatic initiatives in China. A high degree of flexibility with regard to time-frame needed for programming and at lesser degree for implementing projects should be taken into consideration as an operational ground rule.

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

Interim report	
Annual report	X
Final report	

Appeal No & title: 01.37/2002 East Asia regional

Period: year 2002

Project(s): PCN002, 163, 401, P54160, 54301, 54900

Currency: CHF

I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Comments	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget	2,542,226				
less					
Cash brought forward					
TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT	2,542,226				
<u>Contributions from Donors</u>					
Canadian Red Cross (DNCA)	2,393				2,393
Danish Government (DGDK)	4,710				4,710
Danish Red Cross (DNDK)	2,105				2,105
DFID - British Government (DFID)	82,500				82,500
DFID 3- British Government (DFID03)	89,555				89,555
Donor - Capacity Building Fund (DCBF)	106,290				106,290
Donor - Unidentified (D000)	500				500
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Red Cro (DGNNO)	21,350				21,350
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO)	58,650				58,650
Singapore Red Cross (DNSG)	279,673				279,673
Swedish Govt.via Swedish Red Cross (DGNSE)	3,241				3,241
United States - Private Donors (DPUS)	6,573				6,573
DENMARK				62,094	62,094
AUSTRALIA				1,971	1,971
TOTAL	657,539			64,065	721,604

II - Balance of funds

OPENING	
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	657,539
CASH EXPENDITURE	-331,305

CASH BALANCE	326,234

Appeal No & title: 01.37/2002 East Asia regional

Period: year 2002

Project(s): PCN002, 163, 401, P54160, 54301, 54900

Currency: CHF

III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures

Description	APPEAL Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
<u>SUPPLIES</u>						
Shelter & Construction	80,000					80,000
Clothing & Textiles						
Food & Seeds						
Water & sanitation						
Medical & First Aid						
Teaching materials	8,400					8,400
Utensils & Tools						
Other relief supplies	50,000					50,000
Sub-Total	138,400					138,400
<u>CAPITAL EXPENSES</u>						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles	80,000					80,000
Computers & Telecom equip.	168,067	1,659			1,659	166,409
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures	12,000					12,000
Sub-Total	260,067	1,659			1,659	258,409
<u>TRANSPORT & STORAGE</u>	15,800	3,973			3,973	11,827
Sub-Total	15,800	3,973			3,973	11,827
<u>PERSONNEL</u>						
Personnel (delegates)	652,200	322,884		64,065	386,949	265,251
Personnel (national staff)	142,361	16,229			16,229	126,131
Sub-Total	794,561	339,113		64,065	403,178	391,382
<u>GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION</u>						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts						
Travel & related expenses	108,402	21,896			21,896	86,506
Information expenses	74,722	33,093			33,093	41,629
Admin./general expenses	98,114	16,615			16,615	81,499
External workshops & Seminars	772,516	54,261			54,261	718,255
Sub-Total	1,053,753	125,864			125,864	927,889
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>						
Programme management	171,422	24,014			24,014	147,409
Technical services	51,315	7,190			7,190	44,125
Professional services	56,908	7,976			7,976	48,932
Sub-Total	279,645	39,179			39,179	240,466
Operational provisions		-200,667			-200,667	200,667
Transfers to National Societies		22,183			22,183	-22,183
TOTAL BUDGET	2,542,226	331,305		64,065	395,370	2,146,856