

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

EAST ASIA REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

16 September 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.70.2004; Programme Update no. 01; Period covered: 1 May to 31 August, 2004; Appeal coverage: 47.5%; Outstanding needs: CHF 600,577 (USD 472,933 or EUR 388,989).
([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List \(also available on the website\)](#)).

Appeal target: CHF 1,143,957 (USD 857,968 or EUR 732,132).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [East Asia Annual Appeal \(01.70/2004\)](#)

Programme summary: During this period, there were serious floods, typhoons and other natural disasters affecting all the societies in the region, including notably China and Japan. Although none were sufficiently severe to warrant the launch of an international appeal, the regional delegation has been actively involved in providing information on these events through Red Cross Red Crescent channels and responding to the high degree of interest from the international media.

In line with the East Asia delegation's regional strategy, the delegation continued to work closely with the societies of the region and several of their partner national societies (PNS) by helping them develop new cooperation programmes in disaster management and human immunodeficiency virus / acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

The delegation could use opportunities presented in several events during this reporting period to further its contacts and build relationships outside the organisation to raise its profile and build a better understanding of Red Cross Red Crescent work in the region.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Overall context

At the height of the disaster season over May to August in East Asia, tens of thousands of people lost their homes to frequent and powerful typhoons, severe and massive flooding as well as earthquakes that struck China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan and the Republic of Korea. Additionally, a tornado that swept through Mongolia's Darkhan-Uul *aimag* at the end of August damaged or destroyed hundreds of homes while 300 families living in the most impoverished sections of Ulaanbaatar were ordered to move due to high risk of flooding.

The disasters happen quickly and publicity fades overnight but recovery for individuals who lost everything they own is an entirely different matter. Regardless of where one stands economically the traumatic loss of home and belongings and the effort required to cope with natural disasters, be it in preparedness, evacuating individuals, establishing temporary shelters, or providing food and water when water sources are contaminated, requires extensive finances, human resources and energy from the victims, their neighbours, local governments and the Red Cross.

In August the World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) released the findings of a joint report entitled *Meeting the Millennium Goals* about the progress made on meeting the target of halving the percentage of people around the world without safe water and sanitation by 2015. Although progress seemed relatively encouraging in meeting the goal for water, the outcome of the study regarding sanitation was less positive as findings revealed only a relatively slight percentage improvement. In particular the report emphasised the need to improve access to sanitation in China, as some 1.5 billion of the total 2.4 billion people currently without access to safe sanitation are living in India and China.

With relatively few cases of HIV/AIDS in most of the East Asian region as compared to South and South East Asia or Africa, governments, educators and the general population did not give the issue high priority on the region's agenda. This attitude however now changes as HIV/AIDS begins to attract more action from country governments, exemplified by recent legislative amendments made in China, and attention from the general public. The relevance of HIV/AIDS awareness and activities in Asia, home to one quarter of all new infections in the world each year, was underscored by the convening of the 15th International AIDS Conference in Bangkok. More than 80 Red Cross and Red Crescent representatives joined 20,000 delegates from 160 countries at the conference organised by the International AIDS Society (IAS) and numerous health and humanitarian partners.

Health and care

Goal: National societies in the East Asia region will contribute to the prevention/care of HIV/AIDS.

Objective: The national societies and the communities they serve will have improved awareness of HIV/AIDS and knowledge of transmission and prevention.

Progress/Achievements

Statistics at the 15th International Aids Conference in Bangkok confirmed that young people are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection as of the estimated 14,000 new HIV infections that occur each day, about half are among young people aged 15-24. Lack of access to HIV prevention information and health services as well as the failure to promote educational messages in a manner that engages young people's interest were two specific obstacles identified by several of the conference's speakers.

National societies in China and Mongolia already recognised this and, with technical support from the Federation's regional HIV/AIDS health delegate, are expanding the reach of their ongoing youth peer education (YPE) activities this year. In this reporting period, the delegate continued to provide technical assistance in the form of training, monitoring and assessments in response to requests from participating national societies (PNS) working bilaterally in China and Mongolia. This work is reported on in the separate country programme updates.

There was less focus on the situation in the Republic of Korea (ROK) where some 8,000 cases of HIV/AIDS were reported. The ROK Red Cross organises ongoing youth peer education activities in each of the society's 14 chapters, with each chapter having a team of anywhere from 20 to 30 trainers. In August, the Federation's regional HIV/AIDS delegate was invited to work with the ROK Red Cross to evaluate the current YPE programme focusing on school age adolescents. However, the society now plans as an outcome of the evaluation to extend its YPE activities to include university students, juvenile offenders, people living with HIV/AIDS, single mothers and homosexual men. The regional delegate will follow up with the national society in the coming months in regard to developing new educational material suitable for the newly added target groups.

The International Federation continues to play an active role on several Beijing based health and HIV/AIDS related committees and working groups including the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) expanded theme group, United Nations (UN) theme group on health, UNAIDS sub

theme group on adolescents and youth, the country coordinating mechanism (CCM) of the Global Fund and the CCM working group on HIV/AIDS.

Disaster management

Goal: National societies in East Asia and the Federation are better prepared for disasters and are improving the ability of communities at risk to cope with disasters.

Objective: Existing systems are refined and new and innovative ways of working are introduced ensuring that both the national societies and the Federation have improved capacities to respond to disasters.

Progress/Achievements

The Federation's regional disaster management (DM) delegate works with national societies and country delegations in China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Mongolia to ensure programme support from the Federation and national societies such as the Australian, Danish and Norwegian Red Cross is delivered in the most effective and coordinated manner possible. The Federation continues to strengthen links with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and UNICEF in Beijing and maintains frequent contact with representatives of donor country embassies, providing regular updates and information regarding the Red Cross response to disasters.

In May, the regional DM delegate supported the DPRK Red Cross and the country delegation in developing the strategy for response to 22 April's train explosion in Ryongchon and formulating the appeal. Following discussions with the national society and local government officials and based on the findings from the assessments, a three pronged strategy for immediate, medium and longer term assistance developed encompassed: the replenishment of the disaster preparedness (DP) centre stocks which were released immediately within 24 hours of the emergency; medium term support with winter items for families who lost their homes and who's homes were damaged; and long term support with water supply systems and the reconstruction of a polyclinic.

A subsequent facilitated participatory review workshop engaged the Red Cross Society of China's (RCSC) senior management, headquarters staff, representatives from the nine operating branches and delegates from the East Asia regional delegation in review of the strengths and weaknesses of the 2003 emergency flood response operation in China. The meeting provided an opportunity for participants to reflect upon tangible improvements made, based on the incorporation of recommendations in previous reviews, and look ahead to formulating a strategy and model appeal which could be used for future disasters.

In terms of providing support to PNS activities in the region, Norwegian Red Cross (NRC) requested help from the Federation to develop a new water and sanitation project with the RCSC Jilin provincial branch. The Federation's programme coordinator for the community vulnerability reduction (CVR) programme in southern China joined two NRC assessment/planning missions to the province in this period to help with the design of the new project and to make sure that experience from the well established Federation-supported programme could be incorporated.

The regional DM delegate and China programme coordinator also worked with the Danish Red Cross disaster preparedness advisor who visited the project sites of the CVR programme in Hunan province in August. This was part of a project design mission conducted in preparation for the introduction of community based disaster preparedness (CBDP) activities which will be integrated into the existing European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) supported programme. During this period, new project proposals to extend the CVR programme to two additional provinces in China were developed and submitted to potential donors. Additionally the regional information delegate and the CVR programme coordinator met with the branches to gather information that will support the development of materials to increase the programme's visibility.

The Netherlands Red Cross is developing an interesting new approach focusing on water and sanitation, health and education with the Mongolian Red Cross Society, while the DPRK Red Cross is seeking ways to further integrate water and sanitation, health and disaster management activities. Additionally, following recommendations made during a recent review conducted by the British Red Cross, the DPRK Red Cross is looking into the feasibility of creating national disaster response teams.

Over the reporting period, further work done to improving the region's capacity for logistics and a first proposal for improving the Federation's financial procedures for relief operations in China was completed. Following the financial proposal, there are plans with all relevant parties to go ahead with the process. Finally, the regional delegate maintains daily contact with country delegates in China, DPRK and Mongolia to provide technical advice on country level disaster management programmes.

Humanitarian values

Goal: The Red Cross is seen as a primary, credible source of information on humanitarian issues and disasters in the East Asia region. The awareness and application of humanitarian values is enhanced across the region.

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

Visibility and capacity building go hand in hand, and the regional policy of working side by side with national societies on the practical acquisition of visibility clearly paid off in the reporting period.

In the aftermath of the 22 April rail explosion in Ryongchon, DPRK, the Red Cross was, through May to June, the primary credible source of information for the international media. A full and timely flow of information from the national society through the Federation's country delegation was managed by the regional delegation in Beijing.

For the first three days after the explosion, the Red Cross as the only humanitarian source dominated what was then the top international news story in both broadcast and print media worldwide. The profile of the Red Cross in DPRK remained high throughout the month as the media continued to cover the story and use the Red Cross as its prime source. When a top level Federation/PNS assessment team (led by the Federation's secretary general) went to DPRK on June 5-7, media coverage not only for Ryongchon but for the long term needs addressed by Red Cross programmes peaked again.

Despite the high profile media coverage, the authorities informed the national society that it considered Red cross information on the operation to be accurate and responsible. Hopefully the degree of trust created will allow the Red Cross to increase the flow of information on DPRK humanitarian issues to an international audience, meeting the communication needs of partner national societies and the media.

The DPRK Red Cross, enthused by the profile, continues to strengthen communication capacity and heighten its domestic exposure. In a June communications workshop facilitated by the Danish Red Cross and the Federation's regional delegation, it brought in participants from the provinces as well as headquarters.

The RCSC also acquired international media attention for Red Cross operations and concerns during the summer flood season, particularly in the week the national society launched a 9 August national appeal. Simultaneous and coordinated domestic and international media activity showed the potential of Federation networking.

Other work in the period included assistance to the Japanese Red Cross in preparation for a Movement pavilion at the 2005 exposition in Aichi, Japan, an event expected to attract some 15 million visitors. Following a visit to Japanese Red Cross and discussions with JRCS and media advisers working on this project, the Federation's regional information delegate produced a draft scenario for a visual presentation for the pavilion's theatre. It includes major contemporary issues in the categories of natural and man-made disasters as well as diseases that were agreed on as the main themes for the Movement pavilion. Further preparations for this event will be made in the months ahead.

Implementation and management: cooperation, coordination and international representation

Goal: The International Federation is a widely known and respected partner in the humanitarian field in East Asia.

Objective: Strong coordinated and diversified partnerships with long-term stakeholders have led to sustainable and cost effective national society programmes targeted at those most in need of assistance.

Progress/Achievements

Promoting good cooperation and effective coordination between national societies of the region and the different partner societies that support their programmes is a key part of the Federation's East Asia delegation's regional strategy. Building on commitments at the regional partnership meeting held in Beijing in March 2004, the delegation focused considerable effort during this reporting period in working closely with partner national societies to help them develop and further consolidate their cooperation programmes with the different societies of the region.

The delegation could use opportunities presented in several events during this reporting period to further its contacts and build relationships outside the organisation to raise its profile and build a better understanding of Red Cross Red Crescent work in the region. This is of particular importance in a city like Beijing where there are over 150 embassies, 50 international or regional organisations and some 200 international media representatives.

In China, one activity collects consolidated data on current programmes and future plans from the eight societies that have bilateral programmes with RCSC. This information will be made available to all partners via the Federation's FedNet extranet and will also be used as the basis for a meeting organised in Beijing in mid-September aimed at sharing experiences and lessons learnt in implementing these programmes and developing a common strategy for long-term cooperation with RCSC.

An important event during this period was the celebrations organised to mark the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Red Cross. A large scale event was organised in the Great Hall of the People on 8 May and attended by the People's Republic of China's (PRC) vice president, other government dignitaries, the vice president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Federation's secretary-general and leaders from many societies with which RCSC has close relations. The following day, the RCSC Beijing branch organised a seminar on urban disasters at Qinghua University, one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the country. Several guest speakers from American Red Cross chapters were invited, including those directly associated with Red Cross response to the New York 9/11 and Atlanta Olympic Games attacks. Both events provided good opportunities for networking with prominent representatives from national and international organisations and raising the profile of the Movement. The Qinghua University seminar also served to highlight the importance of urban disaster preparedness in China and the region at large by authorities and the Red Cross in future.

In Beijing at the end of May, the UN and the Chinese government's Ministry of Civil Affairs organised a regional conference on disaster reduction. This conference was one of a series of similar events held to prepare for the major international strategy for disaster reduction (ISDR) conference at Kobe, Japan in early 2005. This regional meeting brought together representatives from government ministries dealing with disaster management in 15 Asian countries. A limited number of international and non-governmental organisations were also attended, including the International Federation and the RCSC. The Federation's regional DM and reporting delegates as well as members of the RCSC relief division actively participated in the conference's working groups, and raised awareness about the work of the Red Cross and its role in supporting the development of preparedness strategies for urban disasters and the promotion of inter-agency cooperation.

The main event in DPRK that involved the regional delegation was the Ryongchon train disaster. Apart from the operational and media assistance provided in the immediate aftermath of the disaster outlined in the DM and humanitarian values sections above, the delegation helped organise a high level visit to DPRK and the disaster site in early June, some six weeks after the disaster. This visit led by the Federation's secretary-general was composed of leaders from several PNS including Canada, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden and the United Kingdom (UK). This was the first time such a high level Red Cross/Red Crescent mission was allowed to visit the country and gain access to a major disaster site. At the well-attended press conferences organised in Beijing and Seoul, members from the mission advocated the humanitarian needs still faced by large sections of the DPRK population and the importance of maintaining international support for major long-term assistance programmes in the country.

A second key activity involving the regional delegation was the initial planning for starting a cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) process in DPRK. Following the adoption of a new long-term development strategy by the DPRK Red Cross general assembly in May, the society is keen to work with its partners to develop a CAS. First discussions on this topic were held during a visit to DPRK by the Federation's Asia Pacific OD coordinator based in

Kuala Lumpur, followed by more detailed planning discussions held during a visit to Beijing by the society's programme coordinator.

An agreement that adequate time was needed to move this process forward was made, and that it need planning for both an internal and external dimension. In terms of the external dimension, it is important to take a holistic look at all the different programmes underway and to then scope out how they can best evolve in the coming years. It would be important to associate all the PNS in support of the current humanitarian operation in DPRK in this process, which would probably take a period of six to nine months to complete. To ensure full ownership of the CAS by the DPRK Red Cross, the society will now prepare a draft plan for the work ahead and further information will be shared with all concerned PNS shortly. In the meantime planning for the 2005 annual appeal is well underway and will be finalised shortly.

In Mongolia as in China, the accent was on facilitating cooperation between MRCS and several PNS partners. Medium-term development programmes and related agreements established with five PNS was based on the strategic development plan of the MRCS adopted last year and recommendations from the 2002/03 external review commissioned by the Federation. The new strategy of the MRCS focuses in particular on some of the key vulnerabilities facing the country, namely the problem of increasingly large numbers of displaced herders and the new urban poor.

This process progressed for the past several months, and PNS that have now confirmed longer-term programmes with MRCS include Australia (HIV/AIDS and DP), Finland (health), Netherlands (branch development and water sanitation), Britain and Germany (urban social welfare) as well as Japan (youth and health). Most of the above bilateral programmes shifted the role of the Federation's country delegation to a coordinating and advisory one although health and some DP support is provided multilaterally. The main support to facilitating the cooperation between MRCS and the PNS partners was provided by the country delegation, with the regional delegation playing a back-up and guidance role particularly in the area of formalising trilateral programme agreements. In this period these agreements were made in regard to the Australian Red Cross-supported DP programme and the British/German social welfare one. The next steps in the coming months ensures that learning from programme implementation is shared and that any critical missing gaps in MRCS programme and capacity building needs are identified and addressed.

Over and above these specific country-focused activities, the regional delegation maintained a programme of regular contacts with various Beijing-based international and donor organisations. In this period, visits were paid to the European Commission, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), UNHCR and the Ford Foundation. There appears to be little immediate scope for building up any funding relations with these organisations for RCSC, other societies in the region or the Federation. There is, however, clear interest in maintaining a continuous dialogue and search for areas of potential cooperation. UNHCR, for example, has an established disaster management training programme in the region, and in June organised a workshop in Mongolia attended by MRCS, RCSC and the country delegation.

Finally, the regional delegation maintained its dialogue with the ICRC regional delegation. For the time being, this continues to be based in Bangkok whilst contacts with the Chinese authorities continue for the setting up of an office in Beijing. The respective heads of delegation attended an international humanitarian law (IHL) seminar in Hubei province at the end of May organised as part of the ongoing ICRC-supported IHL programme with RCSC.

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

East Asia Regional Programmes

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.70/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

14/09/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,143,957	TOTAL COVERAGE 47.5%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				168,625		
AUSTRALIAN - RC				10,000	05.02.04	IN-COUNTRY COSTS HIV/AIDS COORDINATOR
BRITISH - RC/PRIVATE DONOR		15,000	GBP	34,298	28.01.04	HEALTH & CARE
KOREAN - RC				50,000	25.08.04	FEDERATION DELEGATION
NETHERLANDS - GOVT		144,249	EUR	21,886	22.03.04	HIV/AIDS DELEGATE
NETHERLANDS - RC		6,168	EUR	9,474	24.06.04	CHINA REGIONAL
NEW ZEALAND - RC		1,400	NZD	1,113	30.06.04	CHINA
NORWEGIAN - RC				22,400	28.01.04	HEALTH DELEGATE
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC				10,000	09.06.04	INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION
SWEDISH - RC		500,000	SEK	84,250	26.03.04	HIV/AIDS PROGRAMME
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				412,046	CHF	36.0%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATES			58,400		
DENMARK	DELEGATES			73,200		
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				131,600	CHF	11.5%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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APPEAL No. 01.70/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

14/09/2004

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