

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

East Asia

Appeal No. MAA54001

9 August 2008

This report covers the period
01/01/08 to 30/06/08



The Japan Red Cross Society donated tents to the Red Cross Society of China after the 12 May earthquake devastated much of Sichuan province. Malu Village, Qingchuan County, Sichuan. **Japan Red Cross Society**

In brief

Programmes summary: The International Federation's East Asia regional office serves to support and build capacities within the national societies of the East Asia region. The region includes Japan, China, Mongolia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea. The International Federation has programmes that support the national societies in China, Mongolia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Disaster management programmes of the International Federation have supported the national societies in further development of their disaster management strategies and contingency plans. A vulnerability capacity assessment workshop was conducted with Mongolia Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the reciprocated exchange visit of the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) to the DPRK Red Cross Society enabled the two to share experiences on community-based disaster preparedness programming.

The successful launches of the HIV Operational Alliances in Mongolia and China will move each national society towards massive scale-up and better services to meet the needs of vulnerable and marginalized populations in their respective countries. Further collaboration on HIV has brought about important partnerships, such as the UNFPA cross-border project between MRCS and RCSC.

With hand, foot and mouth disease (Enterovirus 71) affecting thousands of children across the region, the MRCS has taken action to bring important prevention messages to the public through disaster relief emergency funds (DREF).

The International Federation's regional office has also continued to support the national societies in the region

with increased communications and information sharing, both within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and with domestic and international media sources. This has helped to spread the values and principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement within the region and beyond.

Financial situation: The total (2008) budget is CHF 1,208,775 (USD 1,126,675 or EUR 742,944), of which 54 per cent was covered. Expenditure overall was 62 per cent.

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

See also China Earthquake Emergency Appeal and Operational Updates, Mongolia DREF Bulletin and Update.

No. of people we help: It is difficult to estimate the total number of beneficiaries for the East Asia programmes supported by the International Federation. During this reporting period, branch staff of the Mongolian, Chinese and DPRK Red Cross Societies directly benefited through support of the International Federation's initiatives. Project implementation was low in the first half of the year, and beneficiary numbers were not gathered in time for this report due to the earthquake operation.

Our partners: The International Federation's East Asia regional office works closely with the national societies in the region, their governments, and local communities. Many partner national societies, including the Netherlands Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, the Japanese Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross, contribute to the national societies in the region through multilateral annual programming. DFID is also a supporter in the region. Close coordination with other Movement partners, such as ICRC and the Asian Red Cross Red Crescent Network on HIV (ART) is a key element of our work. Maintaining and building relations within the UN system continues to be a priority, especially with partners such as WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNFPA and other international and non-government organizations. Furthermore, the regional delegation works with international media agencies and other partners to promote the work of the Red Cross national societies in the region. The national societies in the region have many Red Cross partners engaged in both bilateral and multilateral projects. The International Federation supports the national societies in their coordination with partner national societies, specifically the cooperation agreement strategy process that has been established in both DPRK and Mongolia and the Global Alliance on HIV/AIDS in both Mongolia and China.

Context

The first half of 2008 has brought a barrage of serious disasters to the region, most of which have been earthquakes in Japan and China and unusual cold weather in China and Mongolia.

At the beginning of the year, a storm of snow and wind hit the western regions of Mongolia, affecting 3,025 families and causing the death of over 578,412 head of livestock. Then, in late May, an unexpected and heavy snowstorm hit the eastern provinces killing 52 people and another 500,000 livestock.

In China, an unusual snow storm with extremely low temperatures blanketed 20 out of 31 of the country's provinces in the southern and central region. Basic infrastructure such as roads, communication lines, water supplies and electricity facilities were damaged or destroyed during the most important travel holiday of the year.

In contrast, the DPRK experienced a very dry and partly very cold winter without snow. The lack of rain and snow during the winter months has increased concerns about a potential serious food shortage. This could lead to malnutrition and thus increase the need for drug provision support from the Red Cross.



The International Federation's East Asia regional office has focused its attention on assisting the RCSC in the relief and recovery operations for the 12 May earthquake that struck south western China. Sho Huang/Federation

Geological activity has increased in the region this year, resulting in a number of serious earthquakes in both Japan and China. The earthquake in China on 12 May has killed more than 70,000 and left five million homeless, spread out over a 440,000 square kilometre area of south-west China. (See China earthquake emergency appeal and updates.)

The ongoing regional outbreak of hand, foot and mouth disease (Enterovirus 71) in China and Mongolia has led to thousands of children being affected across the region. Disaster relief emergency funds were given to the Mongolian Red Cross Society to enable their prevention response activities in Mongolia. (See MRCS hand, food and mouth DREF bulletin.)

Avian influenza continues to be a concern throughout the region, especially in the Republic of Korea and in China, where three cases of avian influenza in humans occurred in February this year, in three Southern provinces of Guangdong, Hunan and Guangxi, all resulting in death.

To compound these disaster and health issues, the region's political climate has had some significant developments. The six party talks in the DPRK have moved forward, while the changes in government in the Republic of Korea have shifted relations slightly. Mongolia encountered political unrest and riots when the Democratic Party claimed the election results were tainted by fraud. Meanwhile, in China, the upcoming Olympics has taken the country's attention, and attracted the eyes of the world as well.

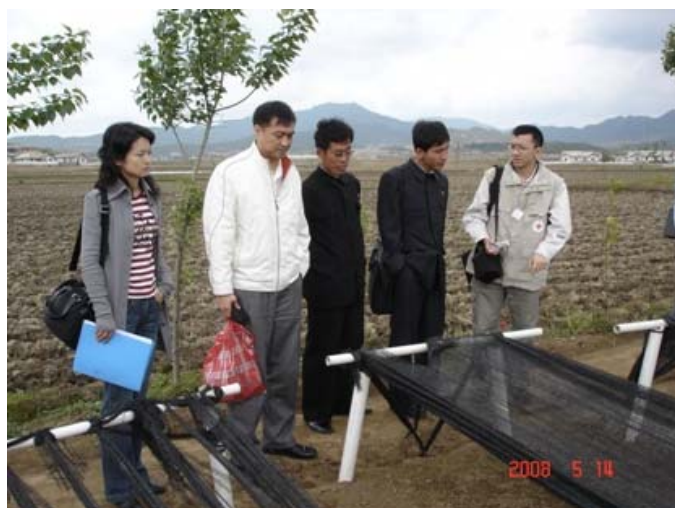
The Red Cross Societies within the region have been responding rapidly to the disasters and health concerns within their borders. With the support of the International Federation, the DPRK, China and Mongolia Red Cross Societies have been able to increase their capacities in disaster management and health and care and continue to serve the most vulnerable populations in their countries.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component	Component outcome
Disaster management capacity building	Capacity of national Red Cross societies in the DPRK, Mongolia and China to respond to disaster is strengthened.
Disaster and emergency contingency planning	National society contingency plans and disaster management strategies are developed and implemented, making the national society a respected humanitarian organization for disaster in their country
	Linkages to the International Federation's regional and global response systems are reinforced through an integrated regional disaster management approach.



The RCSC visits a community-based disaster preparedness project in the DPRK, visiting Jongju Seedling Nursery in South Phyongan. Photo by Li Rong, May 2008. **International Federation.**

Achievements

Through the various regional disasters that have occurred in the first part of 2008, the International Federation's East Asia regional office has supported the region's national societies in building their capacities in responding to disasters.

The earthquake in China on 12 May has been a particularly good opportunity for the International Federation to support the Red Cross Society of China in its disaster response. Through coordination of the distribution of tents, procurement of relief supplies and the establishment and hand-over of emergency response units, the RCSC's capacity has been increased. (See the China programme update and China

earthquake emergency appeal and updates for more information.)

In the first half of 2008, the International Federation's East Asia regional disaster management programme has supported both the MRCS and the DPRK Red Cross to improve their disaster management strategy by introducing and developing contingency plans.

The final version of the contingency plan of the Mongolia Red Cross Society has been completed and is in the process of being translated into Mongolian. The MRCS will introduce this contingency plan to the government to be incorporated into the government's overall contingency plan. In the coming years, the MRCS will support the branches in the provinces to develop their own contingency plans according to the overall risk mapping.

A national vulnerability, capacity assessment workshop was conducted in March 2008 supported by the regional disaster management programme. A total of around 20 MRCS staff from headquarters and branches have been trained on how to conduct vulnerability, capacity assessment in the community. The vulnerability, capacity assessment workshop focused on learning by doing, providing participants an opportunity to actively be involved in actual vulnerability, capacity assessment activities. This was a very practical way of putting their learning to use immediately, and by the end of the workshop, all the participants stated that they had the confidence to be able to conduct vulnerability, capacity assessment themselves.



Group discussion during the vulnerability, capacity assessment training, March 2008. **International Federation.**

Contingency planning has been introduced to the DPRK Red Cross and the national society is in the process of translating the documents into Korean. As the contingency plan develops, the DPRK Red Cross will be discussing with the government how to integrate the contingency plan into the overall government plan.

The regional disaster management programme also supports the region's national societies to integrate community-based disaster preparedness activities and mitigation measures into their own disaster management programmes. The DPRK Red Cross visited a community-based disaster preparedness project of the RCSC in 2007 and a return exchange visit of the RCSC to the DPRK took place in May 2008. The Chinese team included staff from the RCSC headquarters, the Hubei and Hunan Red Cross branches and the Hong Kong Red Cross branch. The team visited the DPRK Red Cross community-based disaster preparedness projects in Jonju, Anju and Sunchon prefectures. The exchange visits provided a great opportunity for mutual learning as well as developing a stronger relationship between the two national societies.

Constraints or Challenges

The disasters that have struck the region have caused delays in the implementation of regular programme activities. The heavy snow storms in both China and Mongolia affected the work of the national societies, which results in added challenges to completing various tasks of regional priorities.

The International Federation's East Asia regional office has been fully engaged in the China earthquake operations. The regional disaster management delegate has been functioning as an interim earthquake operations and Chengdu office manager during this time, which has meant he has not been able to carry out any of his regional duties. While this provides an excellent opportunity to build capacities and work closely with the national society on their disaster management operations, it also means specific planned activities and priorities are not met as planned. Thus, the East Asia regional damage assessment workshop, which was scheduled on May 25, has been postponed to September.

Health and care

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component	Component outcome
HIV/AIDS	Capacity of national societies to design, implement, monitor and evaluate effective HIV programmes has increased
Public health in emergencies	Capacity of national societies to respond to public health issues in emergencies has increased.

Achievements

General

A one-day regional consultation meeting on voluntary, non-remunerated blood donor recruitment, in collaboration with the global advisory panel on blood, was organized on 2 June. This meeting was originally planned as a part of the regional health team meeting. Representatives from the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Korea and the Red Cross Society of China have attended the meeting and discussed the regional strategies on voluntary, non-remunerated blood donor recruitment.

With technical support from the regional office and the Finnish Red Cross, the Mongolian Red Cross Society has successfully secured large multi-year funding from the European Union to provide social care services for the most vulnerable people in Ulaanbaatar and impoverished and remote provinces.

During the first six months of 2008, the regional health delegate made one introductory visit to the DPRK Red Cross Society, completed two missions to Mongolia and three missions to different provinces in China.

HIV/AIDS

In the first half of 2008, the major achievements included the successful launches of the HIV programmes of the RCSC and MRCS under the International Federation's Global Alliance on HIV's framework (the first two national societies to launch an HIV alliance outside of Africa). The regional office has provided extensive support to the two national societies in preparation of these events and the regional health delegate attended the MRCS's HIV alliance launch ceremony and workshop in April. Also, on behalf of the regional office, the Australian Red Cross delegate provided in-country technical support to the MRCS HIV programme for a period of three weeks in March. The launches were widely featured in national media, and in international media in China.



A participant at the RCSC's launch of their HIV alliance programme in March reviews posters that outline the programmes purpose and strategy. **International Federation**

The regional health programme's major focus in the past six months has been to support the region's national societies in mobilizing resources and building partnerships for scaled up HIV programmes under the umbrella of the Global Alliance on HIV. The national societies of the DPRK and China have applied for the eight round of the global fund on aids, tuberculosis and malaria. The MRCS has been actively involved in proposal writing working group at national level for the eight round and it will apply for the upcoming ninth round in the third quarter of 2008. Capitalizing on the comparative advantages of regional Red Cross network, the MRCS and RCSC have accessed two year funding from the UNFPA offices in China and Mongolia to implement a HIV prevention cross-border project on the Chinese – Mongolian border.

Public health in emergencies

Due to the earthquake in China, a regional workshop on public health in emergencies planned to be conducted in June in Hong Kong has been postponed until later in 2008. Similarly, the first East Asian regional health team meeting, planned in May, has been postponed until a later date. As a part of the preparations for the regional health team meeting, the regional office has developed a concept paper for regional health mapping and analysed existing relevant data sets within the International Federation's secretariat at different levels collected so far from East Asian national societies.

In response to the outbreak of hand, foot and mouth disease affecting almost entire country since 8 May, the MRCS has accessed the International Federation's DREF funding and launched a quick public risk communication campaign in most affected areas. This will be ongoing into the second half of the year. For more information, see the MRCS hand, foot and mouth DREF bulletin.



Herding families were interviewed for the MRCS avian influenza review that was held in Khovd province from June to July, 2008. **MRCS.**

Constraints or Challenges

The China earthquake has required the attention of the regional health delegate full time since the earthquake struck on 12 May. A health delegate has been recruited for the Chengdu operation office which should allow her to resume many of her regional duties.

Another challenge with the HIV alliance has been the confusion surrounding how to implement the guidelines at the local level. This is especially true in the context of low HIV prevalence/low donor priority countries for HIV response. However, the national societies were able to successfully adapt those guidelines to their context.

Humanitarian values

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component	Component outcome
Promoting Red Cross Red Crescent principles and values	The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in the region is recognised by national and international media as a primary of information on disasters and humanitarian response
	All national societies in the region have increased the capacity of their information departments
	Partner national societies are supported in promoting awareness of their programmes, which impacts programmes implementation and evaluation
	Professional non-Red Cross and Red Cross information resources and allies are identified and used to support International Federation information work in the region.

Achievements

The International Federation's East Asia regional office continues to work closely with the national societies in the region to raise their capacity in information sharing and promoting awareness of their activities. The most significant success has been in the launching of the HIV alliance programmes of both the MRCS and RCSC. The communications specialist for the East Asia office was able to help promote both programmes through web-story write-ups and assisting with media coverage for the launch events. This has been successful in promoting the humanitarian values of the organization and raising the image of the Red Cross. This is especially important in demonstrating the national societies' role in reducing intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion within their communities.

Further coverage in the media has been provided with the assistance of the communications specialist and the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting delegate for the region's disasters, specifically the China earthquake and snow disaster. Reporting on the disaster has been supported by both the regional and zonal planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting teams.

Constraints or Challenges

Although the specialist filling the communications position is a very experienced media professional and fluent in Mandarin Chinese, due to a lack of funding, this position is currently only kept on a contractual, short-term basis, as project needs arise. This results in missed opportunities to further promote the positive work of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in East Asia.

Working in partnership

The International Federation's East Asia regional office works closely with the region's national societies and their partners to help coordinate Red Cross activities in the region. There are a number of coordination mechanisms now in place in the region, namely the cooperation strategy agreement lead by the DPRK Red Cross in the DPRK, the HIV alliances in both Mongolia and China, and now the International Federation's emergency operation in China for earthquake relief and recovery. The MRCS has expressed potential interest in forming a cooperation strategy agreement in Mongolia as well, and the International Federation will further look into this in the coming months.

In April, the East Asia office hosted the annual East Asia partnership meeting in Beijing at the RCSC training centre. This meeting brought together many Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners from all over the world to discuss current issues in East Asia, and look at coordinating our partnerships and funding mechanisms.

Both before and after the partnership meeting, the East Asia office coordinated an intensive planning meeting for the country delegations to gather and discuss 2008 as well as 2009-2010 plans, and formulate how it can better serve the national societies in the region.

The regional disaster management team continues to develop partnerships in the region, both between the national societies in the region, as well as with other stakeholders in the region. The regional team often meets with UN partners, as well as other those representing other NGOs and potential funding sources for the region.



Representatives from all five national societies in the region and partner national societies of East Asia programmes gathered in Beijing, China, in early April for the annual partnership meeting. **International Federation.**

Using the advantage of existing partnership with the UNFPA at the global level, the regional office has successfully facilitated a regional level cooperation on HIV prevention through the cross-border initiative between Mongolia and China. The global advisory panel on corporate governance and accountability in blood is the key partner for national societies' blood programmes at the international level.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The establishment of operational alliances on HIV is anticipated to have a significant impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of HIV programming in the region. It is also expected that the focus on marginalized groups will further the Red Cross's impact on reducing stigma and discrimination, as well as building stronger partnerships with local communities and vulnerable target groups.

A good start was made towards instituting the “one accountability and reporting mechanism”, which is one of the seven key principles of the Global Alliance on HIV in Mongolia and China. National HIV programmes of the RCSC and MRCS have developed a set of common monitoring indicators and a reporting system aligned with the global alliance on HIV.

The size and scope of the earthquake emergency operation supported by the International Federation in China will provide opportunities for increased capacity of the national society, as well as potential for forging new partnerships.

Looking ahead

As a part of the earthquake operations, the International Federation regional office is recruiting various delegates to be based in Sichuan and this additional support will facilitate the resumption of annual programme activities.

To meet its goals in the humanitarian values programme area, the East Asia office is looking to bring on a communications delegate for the second half of the year, primarily to focus on the China earthquake, but to also provide continued support to all national societies in the region in information sharing and communications.

Furthermore, the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting delegate is working with the RCSC to identify a staff person to be seconded to the International Federation office for the remainder of 2008, specifically for intensive training in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting issues. Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting workshops will also be scheduled for the region and individual programmes in the coming months.

How we work	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. • Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies. • Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability. • Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.
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