

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

China

Appeal No. MAACN001

6 January 2009

This report covers the period
1 July to 31 December 2008.



"One Goal One Dream – of a World without Stigma" was the theme of this year's World's AIDS Day in Beijing, China, the host of the recent Olympic Games. Volunteers and participants gathered in front of the iconic National Stadium known as the Bird's Nest to fly kites of awareness. (Sultan Ahmed/International Federation)

In brief

Programme summary:

More than six months have passed since the devastating earthquake in Sichuan province affected some 45 million people, killing an estimated 90,000 and leaving five million homeless. The International Federation has continued to support the relief and recovery efforts of the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) by coordinating international Red Cross partner support, and launching a revised emergency appeal based on the outcomes and findings of technical assessments in the earthquake zone.

Building on the opportunities to support and guide the RCSC during this disaster response operation, the International Federation's disaster management team has worked closely with the RCSC headquarters to see how best to build capacities in disaster response. At the same time, the community-based disaster preparedness projects have begun to move forward after being postponed due to the earthquake.

Likewise, health programmes that were initially delayed due to the earthquake have now been reinitiated. After the March launch of the RCSC's scaled-up HIV programme under the Global Alliance, projects in most provinces are underway, and many of the activities were publicized during World's AIDS Day across the nation. Avian influenza programmes have commenced once again in two provinces, with the training of trainers and dissemination activities through Red Cross volunteers.

The RCSC has marked 2008 as the year of grassroots organizational development, following up on the focus in 2007 on volunteer management development. A nationwide conference on the subject has brought together

all provincial branch leaders to discuss the plans for rolling out new initiatives to strengthen the grassroots of the Red Cross in China. Coincidentally, the pilot project supported by an intensified capacity building grant is underway with links to HIV programming and volunteer development.

Humanitarian values and Red Cross principles are at the heart of all activities of the RCSC. The International Federation continues to support this through programme planning, trainings and workshops, and the particular support of the communications delegate, who has joined the office as a full-time position as of this autumn.

Financial situation: The 2008 budget has been reduced from the original appeal amount of CHF 2,087,551 (USD 1.95 million or EUR 1.28 million) to CHF 932,939 (USD 854,590 or EUR 621,379), of which 57 per cent is covered. Due to a lack of support in funding for HIV programming and organizational development, these two programme budgets have been reduced. Expenditure from January to November 2008 was 68 per cent over total income.

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report¹.](#)

See also: China: [Floods \(MDRCN002\)](#), [Interim final report](#); and
: China: Sichuan Earthquake (MDRCN003), [revised emergency appeal](#) and [operations update no. 18](#)

No. of people we help: It is difficult to estimate the total number of beneficiaries in RCSC programmes supported by the International Federation. During this reporting period, branch staff and volunteers directly benefited from support of the Federation through multiple training sessions and capacity building initiatives. Beneficiary numbers have not been properly assessed due to the attention put on the earthquake operation during these months.

Our partners: These programmes are supported through the generous donations of partners that include the American, Australian, British, Finnish, and Swedish Red Cross. The RCSC has active programmes of bilateral cooperation with other members of the Movement, including its special autonomous branches in Hong Kong and Macao, the American, Australian, Canadian, Netherlands, Norwegian, Swedish and Swiss Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The RCSC coordinates closely with the ministry of health and civil affairs at local and national levels, ensuring that Red Cross activities are focused in areas where they have greater impact and cooperation from the local governments. Local organizations and community groups are important local partners for implementing activities, as well as reaching groups that might otherwise be difficult to access, such as minority communities. The RCSC also participates in collaborative efforts with other stakeholders and organizations working in related fields, such as The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO).

On behalf of the Red Cross Society of China, the International Federation would like to thank all partners for their support.

Context

More than six months after the 8.0 magnitude earthquake hit the Sichuan basin and neighbouring provinces, the RCSC and International Federation turn their attention towards recovery in the earthquake-affected areas. Careful planning, including a number of detailed technical assessments, and meetings with partners, were the foundation of a revised appeal, launched on 21 November for a total of CHF 167.1 million. While the relief and recovery work in the earthquake zone continues to be a priority for the national society, regular programme activities are slowly resuming in the provinces around the nation. In an outstanding show of solidarity and coordination, Red Cross branches across the country lent their resources (human, financial and goods) to the branches affected by the earthquake. Due to this, many regular programme activities were delayed or cancelled until relief teams returned to their branches.

All too shortly thereafter, the Olympic Games claimed the attention of the Chinese people, and those around the world. The Games proved to be a big success for the RCSC, as they were able to train hundreds of thousands in first aid and awarded thousands of "Medals for Life" in a campaign to bring in blood donations during the Games.

¹ Please note that the interim financial report attached reflects income and expenditure up to November 2008 only.

Although the Olympics symbolize a major step forward in China's development and role in the international scene, there are many who are still struggling in poverty. While the government recognizes this and attempts to provide assistance, it is never enough when faced with disasters of this magnitude. Those hit by disasters – for some, three times in a row this year – are either thrown deep into poverty with the loss of their home, loss of livelihood, loss of income-generating family members, and no land on which to rebuild. It has been estimated by several officials that the people in the earthquake-affected areas have lost an equivalent to 15 years of income due to this disaster. Recovery from this massive disaster may not be possible for some more vulnerable people, especially if they do not receive assistance from the Red Cross or other non-government actors in the region.



Earthquake survivors to clear the rubble on the site of their destroyed homes in Jiulong county, Sichuan province. Sho Huang / International Federation

The reconstruction of thousands of family homes, as well as community-based programming, which includes livelihood recovery, health and psychological support, water and sanitation, and disaster risk reduction are all part of the recovery plans of the International Federation supported programming of the RCSC. (See [revised emergency appeal](#) and [six-month consolidated report](#).)

At the same time that the nation has been focused on both the earthquake and the Olympics, the economic crisis has begun to show its toll on the Chinese economy that has been growing at exponential rates for decades now. Much worse than originally anticipated, the effects ultimately mean a cut in social services and massive job losses that will most seriously affect the most vulnerable people within China for several years.

Exports have not been helped by the recent food product quality scares, especially in the milk powder scandal that resulted in numerous deaths and thousands of children being hospitalized. At the same time, China has released plans for its new health care reform, which seems to indicate significant improvements of the existing systems, especially for rural communities.

Still, marginalized groups, such as those suffering from HIV, continue to need specialized care that is not provided in the system. A key area of concern for the Red Cross is prevention in high-risk populations, and the reduction of stigma and discrimination that is not covered in any government HIV-related activities.

Five years into the continued epizootic of avian influenza (H5N1) in poultry, avian influenza remains a constant public health threat to China, with sporadic transmissions to humans. According to the WHO, as of 31 August 2008, China has reported a total of 30 cases of avian influenza (H5N1) in humans with 20 of those cases resulting in death (case fatality rate 67 per cent).

On 5 September, 2008, the vice president of the ministry of agriculture warned that there will most likely be serious animal influenza outbreaks during the autumn and winter. This has already been seen in Hong Kong and the ministry has called for a step-up in prevention work across the nation.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component	Component outcome
1. Disaster response capacity building	RCSC disaster response capacity is strengthened
2. Community preparedness and mitigation	Vulnerable communities have the capacity to plan and implement appropriate risk reduction initiatives

Achievements

Disaster response: Close collaboration between the RCSC and the International Federation during these past months has been critical as the earthquake operation has turned from relief to recovery activities. A revised appeal was launched in November to specifically address the long-term needs of the affected population, including disaster risk reduction plans and capacity building. (See [earthquake revised appeal](#) and [operations updates](#) for details on the operation.)

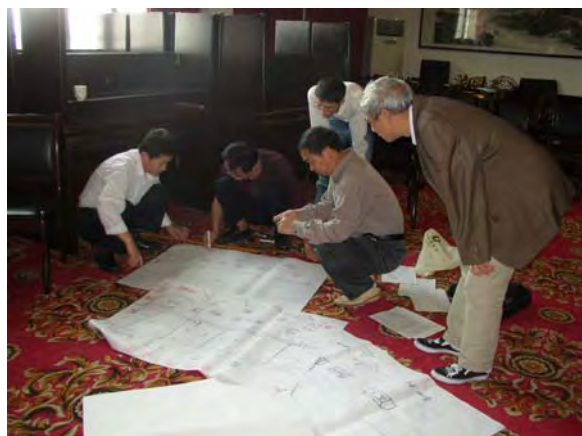
The emergency operation for the floods of 2007 continues to move forward. Due to this year's snow disaster and earthquakes in Sichuan, the community-based disaster preparedness projects for five flood-affected counties in Chongqing, Anhui and Henan provinces were postponed and have fallen behind schedule due to a lack of personnel resources due to focus on the overwhelming earthquake. Since September 2008, all community-based disaster preparedness projects have resumed with the return of the disaster management staff sent to attend to the Sichuan operation. All five project sites have rescheduled their plan of activities. According to the new schedule, all community-based disaster preparedness projects will be completed by May 2009.

Community-based disaster preparedness: From October 2008 to April 2009, the two core components of the community-based disaster preparedness projects, namely raising awareness about disasters and construction on selected mitigation measures, will be conducted by the local Red Cross branches and village disaster committees. At this point, all sites have set up village committees and developed village education and training plans. Mitigation measures have been selected by villagers and are already in the process of being constructed.



An irrigation channel in Dong Liu Village in Cha Ling County, Hunan province, has been constructed through support of the Red Cross community-based disaster preparedness project. By October of this year, this mitigation measure was already well in use. International Federation

Provincial Red Cross branches will conduct mid-term monitoring in the next few months. The East Asia regional office and the headquarters of the RCSC have continued to give technical support to provincial and county branches. Particular support has been given to strengthen county branch Red Cross capacity in managing community-based disaster preparedness projects through the organization of a study trip for Anhui branch staff in October 2008. The International Federation hosted four staff from county and village Red Cross branches and one staff from Anhui Provincial Red Cross to attend a vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) training in Hunan and visited the Hunan community-based disaster preparedness projects. This study tour helped the Anhui Red Cross project staff gain a clearer understanding of community-based disaster preparedness concepts and project management.



In October, the Anhui Red Cross visited a community base disaster preparedness project in Hunan to further learn about vulnerability and capacity assessments, and community base disaster preparedness project management. International Federation

In October 2008, the International Federation along with the headquarters of the RCSC and the Hunan Provincial Red Cross conducted a joint final evaluation trip to four community-based disaster preparedness project sites in Hunan. The four projects were supported by the British Red Cross in two villages in Cha Ling county and two villages in You Xian county of Zhu Zhou, Hunan. The projects started in July 2007 and finished in May 2008. But due to the earthquake, the final evaluation trip was postponed until October. The evaluation found that all villages successfully finished the projects as planned. The mitigation measures, including embankments, evacuation roads, and irrigation channels are in use and have shown effective in 2008's rainy season. Local villagers reported that they were happy to see positive changes in their livelihoods from these projects.

The Hunan Red Cross organized a vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) training workshop in October 2008. Prefecture and county level Red Cross staff from disaster prone areas in Hunan attended this five-day participatory training workshop. The Hunan provincial Red Cross facilitated the workshop with support from the International Federation and RCSC headquarters. This workshop also provided an opportunity to consolidate the previous community-based disaster preparedness experiences and spread knowledge from the project sites to more areas.

The community-based disaster preparedness project in Hubei province supported by the Finnish Red Cross and the American Red Cross has formally started as of October 2008. A project agreement and plan of action were signed between the International Federation regional office and the RCSC headquarters after the second assessment trip in Enshi prefecture of Hubei was conducted jointly by the International Federation and RCSC headquarters. This 13-month project aims, through community mobilization and risk reduction measures, to improve disaster preparedness and the response capacity of the local community and grassroots-level Red Cross branches in Jianshi county, located in Enshi prefecture, Hubei province. Target beneficiaries are the communities of two rural villages in Enshi prefecture, namely Tai Ping Long and Ba Jiao. The targeted communities include a high percentage of vulnerable groups such as women, children, and elderly people.



A group of trainees practiced household interviews during a vulnerability and capacity assessment training held in Zhu Zhou, Hunan, in October. International Federation



Students and their families of the Qun Li village in Hunan face the danger of serious floods each year because of the location of their village along the lowland side of a river. The community-based disaster preparedness project in 2008 has given them new hope for safety in future disasters. (International Federation)



The Qun Li village of You Xian county, Hunan, chose to establish a good quality evacuation road out of their village as their mitigation measure supported by the Red Cross community-based preparedness project. International Federation.

The Hubei provincial Red Cross organized a participatory vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) and community-based disaster preparedness project management training in October. Following the recently developed model for community-based disaster preparedness in China, the project will have both software and hardware parts. The software will focus on awareness raising and capacity building; while hardware will focus on mitigation measures voted upon by villagers through the VCA process. A big element of this project is to introduce a safe school model to both Gaoping School and Li Jia Ping School. Through education and simulation, the project managers will ensure local teachers and students have a certain level of disaster preparedness knowledge and skills. Also the two schools will serve as local community centres to disseminate and promote knowledge and skill sharing within the local communities.

Constraints or Challenges

Although the RCSC's capacity to respond to disasters is high, severe disasters, such as the ones to hit China in the first half of 2008, challenge the RCSC's ability to continue implementation of annual programme activities. The RCSC does put great importance on these disaster preparedness programmes, and will continue to look at ways to use these disasters as an opportunity to increase knowledge and capacities within the organization.

While the RCSC has well accepted the community-based disaster preparedness programme, there is much room for the national society to take a more

leading role to further develop the community-based disaster preparedness nationally and gain recognition for its effective model.

Health and care

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component	Component outcome
1. HIV/AIDS	At least one per cent of targeted population (youth, people living with HIV, injecting drug users, men who have sex with men, and men and women sex workers) have skills and knowledge to prevent HIV
	At least one per cent of the targeted population have demonstrated reduced stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and their families by showing greater compassion and social acceptance for those affected by HIV
2. Avian influenza	AI activities are mainstreamed into existing RCSC health activities in provinces increasing the level of awareness on AI prevention among the general population
	Communities who are particularly at risk to AI in some 21 villages in seven provinces possess increased knowledge about AI prevention through targeted health education
	RCSC has increased capacity to carry out AI prevention programmes, monitoring and evaluation

Achievements

The International Federation's support to the RCSC in health focuses on HIV and avian influenza. But, the regional health delegate also provides support in other areas as needed. The regional health delegate made a presentation on the Federation health and care priorities to the RCSC branches at the annual meeting on health and care held in Guizhou in mid-October. The regional health programme also supported the RCSC in the facilitation of a capacity building workshop on community-based health programming for the countries from developing countries in Africa and Asia. This is the third in a series of workshops hosted by the RCSC and has been supported by the ministry of commerce of China.

In addition, the International Federation's regional delegate, HIV delegate, and health officer all continue to support the earthquake operation as needed.

HIV/AIDS

Operational alliance developments:

Over the last six months the RCSC has a number of activities in relation to building capacities of its HIV staff and volunteers, and to improve the overall quality of its nationwide HIV work. The RCSC and the HIV delegate of the International Federation have continued to develop the HIV programme, under the framework of the HIV Global Alliance. Communication with partners has been maintained while also extending the network of partners, especially through outreach to corporate partners. Many have shown interest in the alliance, including the Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis.



Student volunteers of the Red Cross Society of China handed out HIV prevention materials to migrant workers in Suzhou, a city of Jiangsu province. (International Federation)

The RCSC headquarters has introduced specific formats for reporting, monitoring,

evaluations and work plans to all provinces. Some provinces have already adopted them while others are still in process of adaptation.

Training of Olympic volunteers in HIV knowledge: The RCSC, in partnership with UNAIDS, UNV, Youth League and Marie Stopes International, conducted a series of training sessions on HIV prevention, including stigma and discrimination, for 7,500 Olympic volunteers in China. The training was part of the overall capacity building effort for the Olympic volunteers. The HIV training was conducted with a view to sensitize volunteers on the potential risks of HIV transmission and to give them adequate understanding on how to deal with stigma and discrimination. This also helped volunteers to understand HIV and its relation to other cross-cutting issues, and prepared them adequately to be able to work as peer support volunteers for HIV prevention during the Olympics. In addition, approximately 100,000 volunteers were reached through information, education and communication (IEC) materials. Most of the volunteers were from colleges and university students, from within and around Beijing.



Combining the goal of spreading HIV prevention knowledge with the unique opportunity the RCSC had in being a key information provider during the Olympics, the RCSC developed a two-sided fan that with basic HIV prevention and anti-stigma and discrimination messages. These fans were handed out to thousands of sports fans in Beijing during the Olympic Games. RCSC.

Joint assessment on cross-border and HIV project: A joint assessment and partnership meeting was held on the cross-border and HIV prevention among sex workers and their clients between the Mongolia-China border. The mission developed a work plan for the project, which will be implemented in 2009 and 2010. The purpose of the project is to prevent HIV and STIs among sex workers and their clients, and to promote voluntary and confidential HIV testing services. The project will be funded by the government of Luxembourg through the UNFPA country programmes in China and Mongolia. The International Federation's regional office has provided extensive support to the Mongolian national society and RCSC in cross-border assessment and in formulating a plan of action for the project.

Training of facilitators (TOF) on HIV and behaviour change communications: The RCSC has organized a training of facilitators (TOF) in Harbin, Heilongjiang province, in November. A total of 20 HIV project staff from 14 provinces attended the three-day training to get equipped with appropriate knowledge of HIV prevention among various high prevalence groups as well as the general population. The importance of behaviour change communication (BCC) along with challenges of fighting stigma and discrimination were the core objectives of the training event.

Fundraising workshop in Shanghai: A fundraising workshop was organized with the help of the Netherlands Red Cross and the International Federation's regional office in mid-November. About 18 HIV project staff from eight project sites in four provinces, including Shanghai, attended the workshop. The workshop was an effort to increase RCSC's staff fundraising capacities in the area of HIV prevention, care and support. The workshop shared important skills and information on fundraising from various sources including local Chinese companies. How to develop strong and long-term partnership with business community on HIV was greatly discussed in the training.



The Chinese authorities, the Red Cross Society of China, the International Federation and UNAIDS jointly kicked off an anti-stigma campaign surrounding HIV and AIDS in China on World AIDS Day, 1 December 2008. Around 8000 individuals including senior government officials, members of AIDS service organizations and famous celebrities gathered on the Olympic Green, next to the iconic National Olympic Stadium, known as the 'Bird's Nest', to celebrate the event. Sultan Ahmed/International Federation.



RCSC officials and staff gather to celebrate World AIDS Day. Sultan Ahmed/International Federation.



RCSC volunteers create a red ribbon on the Olympic Green as part of the World AIDS Day activities. Sultan Ahmed/International Federation.

Programme review and capacity building workshop in Xinjiang: The regional office and Australian Red Cross jointly conducted an HIV programme assessment and capacity building workshop for the Xinjiang Red Cross. The purpose of the programme assessment was to understand the strength (good practices and lesson learnt) and weakness of the HIV programme of the Xinjiang Red Cross, which has been supported by the Australian Red Cross over the last ten years. During the programme review, the staff of the Xinjiang Red Cross also attended a session on team building and effective behaviour change communication programmes for HIV prevention among people most at risk.

Programme review and capacity building needs assessment in selected provinces: The regional office has supported the RCSC in reviewing its HIV programme in Guizhou, Guangxi, Xinjiang, Sichuan, Shandong and Heilongjiang provinces, and in assessing the growing capacity building needs among its HIV project staff and volunteers. In October-November, the International Federation HIV delegate travelled extensively in the selected provinces to review the current HIV and to prioritize the future areas of work. A range of capacity building needs were assessed and identified.

World AIDS Day: The RCSC, the International Federation, and UNAIDS were the key organizers of the World AIDS Day 2008 in China. A joint event called "One Goal One Dream – of a World without Stigma" was organized on 30 November at the Olympic Green just next to the iconic National Olympic Stadium known as the 'Bird's Nest'. The aim of this activity was to create wide awareness of the HIV issues in China, mobilize leaders in various sectors and generate funds to support AIDS work. Around 2,000 individuals and selected celebrities participated in the event that featured performances and activities on a main stage. Government, UN and RCSC leaders gave opening speeches. A signature board displaying the event's theme decorated with red ribbons was signed by participants.

Avian influenza

The three provinces that were to commence new avian influenza projects in 2008 included two of the worst-hit provinces in the 12 May earthquake: Sichuan and Gansu. The earthquake greatly affected the targeted community of Deyang prefecture, in Sichuan province, and thus the project had to be suspended. The project was able to be implemented in both Gansu and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, although delays were inevitable because of the participation in relief activities by all branches after the devastating earthquake.

Branch capacity building: The provincial Red Cross branches held coordinating meetings to specify the responsibilities of the Red Cross at each level and to arrange for the implementation of project activities together with the prefecture and county Red Cross branches. Details were shared on how the projects should be managed, including how to carry out the activities and allocate funding. The provincial and prefecture level Red Cross branches are taking the responsibility of management and coordination. The monitoring is being carried out in various ways, such as through field visits, gathering statistics, correspondence, discussions and communications, etc.

Baseline survey: In Gansu, two county Red Cross branches sent professional technical experts and trainers who have already received training to the project sites to conduct a baseline survey. The survey covered 20 per cent of the total targeted households and the results are now being analyzed.

Training of trainers: Gansu and Xinjiang Provincial Red Cross branches held a training of trainers in the provincial capital cities. About 50 facilitators from prefecture Red Cross branches attended each of these training sessions. The participants included project managers from the local Red Cross, government officials from project-implementing townships and villages, and doctors from township clinics. Experts from the provincial CDC and the provincial health education institutes gave lectures about avian influenza prevention knowledge and rural health education. Knowledge about the Red Cross movement, participatory health education skills, project management, monitoring and evaluation skills, financial management, baseline surveys and reporting formats were also included in the training content.

Volunteer recruitment and dissemination: Following the training of trainers, approximately 200 volunteers were recruited from senior high schools, clinics and village communities in the two provinces to continue passing on the knowledge. These volunteers from the community will disseminate information to the public on how to take precautions against being exposed to the disease in the market places, and to enhance the ability of the grass roots level branches of the Red Cross to implement activities. Dissemination activities include private home education for targeted populations.

The first round of private home education has been conducted in Gansu, and 646 posters and 800 leaflets have been distributed to the county level for health promotion. In Xinjiang, dissemination activities are underway and the Xinjiang Red Cross has translated posters, leaflets, and CDs into the local language.

Constraints or Challenges

The ongoing operations of the RCSC in response to the earthquake of May 12 has diverted RCSC staff working on avian influenza and HIV programmes at both the national headquarters and provincial Red Cross levels. The health delegate for the International Federation also continues to be involved in the earthquake operations, particularly as part of the assessment team that visited all three provinces in July.

The avian influenza project could not be implemented as planned in Sichuan province, due to the effects of the earthquake in the targeted communities and the consequential alteration of priorities in that area.

Both the HIV and avian influenza projects still have a large gap in funding that result in a limitation on the implementation of activities. The RCSC remains one of the only organizations carrying out avian influenza activities, even though the risks of the disease spreading are still quite high. A lack of funding means valuable information dissemination is not reaching high-risk groups in other provinces.

Likewise, the HIV programme is scaling up all around the nation, but the RCSC seriously lacks the funding to fulfil its goal under the Global Alliance. Due to this, the budget has been revised and scaled down by 42 per cent for 2009. This is unfortunately a contradiction to the massive scale-up the RCSC aims to do in line with the Global Alliance goals.

Organizational development

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component	Component outcome
1. National society capacity development and organizational development (branch and headquarters)	Selected RCSC provincial branches have strengthened capacity to support newly independent local (county level) branches in Red Cross organizational development and programme management issues

2. Financial management	RCSC finance and programme staff at headquarters and branch levels have acquired increased knowledge and skills in project financial management
3. Volunteer promotion and development	RCSC volunteer base strengthened

Achievements

Grassroots organizational development: As announced at the beginning of the year, 2008 has been the year of developing Red Cross grassroots organizations throughout the country. The RCSC held a nationwide conference on the topic in November, at which the president, the executive vice president and the International Federation's head of regional office all outlined the importance of grassroots organizational development to hundreds of Red Cross leaders and staff. They outlined the strategies developed for the RCSC in this area over the course of 2008 and plans for a nationwide roll-out of the plans for 2009. The guidelines and principles build upon the strengths of the volunteer management strategies developed in 2007.

The RCSC conducted a detailed assessment on issues related to grassroots organizational development at branch levels throughout the year. The results of this study have been analyzed and are being incorporated into the guidelines shared with all branches.



RCSC headquarters and the International Federation met with local authorities and Red Cross branches to look over plans for the three-year programme supported by the intensified capacity building grant. RCSC.

The national society's three-year grant on intensified capacity building awarded by the Federation's Capacity Building Fund has also been put into action during this reporting period. The regional PMER delegate accompanied RCSC headquarters staff to Zhumadian county in Henan province, where the project is being piloted. During their visit, the local branch introduced many of the unique branch and volunteer activities that support the HIV programming at the grassroots level. A series of meetings were held to identify how capacities could be strengthened in these communities, to better serve the populations at risk of or already infected with HIV. The meetings were mutually informative and the province submitted revised project proposals shortly thereafter, based on the outcome of the discussions.

continues to move forward in improving their financial management systems. The nationwide "real-time" system of financial management continues to be developed. It is hoped that the headquarters will be able to fully benefit from this new system in monitoring the financial matters of the earthquake operation. In addition, the International Federation's financial manager provides guidance and support to the national society when needed.

Financial management: Although the International Federation's appeal has not received any funding for this component, the RCSC

Past and ongoing capacity building projects funded by various partners, such as the British, Netherlands, Norwegian and Swiss Red Cross, provides the RCSC opportunities to explore models and best practices that can be applied further.

Constraints or Challenges

Organizational development issues are a constant cross-cutting part of RCSC's development and growth. It is recognized by the leadership and programme managers as an important element towards becoming a well-functioning national society, but it is difficult to incorporate new concepts and ways of working, and implementing these concepts, especially when constantly facing capacity challenges due to severe disasters. This year has brought about many challenges in this regard.

Furthermore, this programme has not received adequate multi-lateral funding through the Federation channels, which is critical in pushing forward some of these initiatives. Due to the continuous lack of funding for this programme, the budget has been cut down by 60 per cent.

Humanitarian values

Outcome/Expected result

Programme component	Component outcome
HIV/AIDS	Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values of the Red Cross Red Crescent promoted

Achievements

The RCSC programmes supported by the International Federation all incorporate the Red Cross principles and values at the core of their work. The International Federation is working closely with the RCSC on enhancing this, especially in the HIV alliance programme. Promoting respect and dignity, and reducing stigma and discrimination is a priority area in 2008 activities. One way this is done is by including people living with HIV in training and workshop activities, to provide Red Cross staff, trainers and volunteers the experience of working closely with those living with HIV, and to change their own preconceptions about HIV/AIDS.

Disaster management projects also incorporate the principles and values, especially by working with some of the most vulnerable groups in China to reduce their risk of and exposure to disasters. Due to the increase in urban migration, especially of able-bodied men and women, many of those left in disaster-prone areas of the country are elderly, children and the disabled. The programme works to identify these potential beneficiaries for support through Federation-funded projects.

The work of promoting humanitarian values has further been enhanced by the appointment of a communications delegate in September 2008. The person recruited was working with the International Federation's East Asia office over the past year as a communications consultant, supporting information work on a number of issues, including the HIV global alliance; but the creation of a full-time communications post means that the Federation is now able to position itself much more strongly in creating media opportunities to bring more visibility to the organization's work.

This has been particularly marked in the Sichuan earthquake operation. For the six-month commemoration, the International Federation's media strategy focused on the human interest dimension of psychosocial support programme work. This drew substantial coverage from media outlets including BBC, CBC, Al-Jazeera International, NHK, AFP, Reuters and Radio Australia.

Constraints or Challenges

Cultural perceptions and limited understanding about vulnerable groups are constant challenges in China when promoting humanitarian values. This is true even within the Red Cross itself. That is why specialized training sessions for volunteers that include the participation of all stakeholders, such as people living with HIV, is a critical part of planning. Still, vulnerable groups are understandably cautious towards the media because of their experience of social stigmatization, which inevitably makes it harder to tell their stories in a way that can promote understanding and reduce discrimination.

While the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) is leading the efforts in China on international humanitarian law, in collaboration with the RCSC, the International Federation would like to further explore areas where its support of promoting humanitarian values can be joined up with the initiatives of the ICRC and RCSC in a mutually strengthening approach.

Working in partnership

The International Federation's East Asia regional office coordinates closely with the RCSC and its partners, looking for opportunities to forge new potential relationships and strengthen existing networks for the benefit of the national society.

These efforts have been particularly important in the coordination of earthquake relief and recovery activities, organizing two partner meetings in the second half of the year. In addition, the International Federation and RCSC have been coordinating earthquake relief and recovery efforts with World Wildlife Fund, UNICEF and

other agencies also working in the quake zone. The office's role in coordinating the international support from Red Cross partners will continue in 2009, with another partner meeting scheduled sometime in the early part of the year.

Partnerships with local authorities, strengthened within the auxiliary role framework, have led to an increased impact of the output of the Red Cross in China.

Disaster management: Experiences from the community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) project have shown an integrated programming and cooperation with local authorities, which both have an effect on the appropriateness, efficiency and sustainability of CBDP programming. Integrated programming refers here to programming which integrates components from traditionally separate sectors, such as health, livelihoods and disaster management. Cooperation with local authorities looks at ways in which government and local authority involvement can enhance programme implementation and results. It has been seen that the local government's support covers many aspects, including finance, technical staff for mitigation measures, project management, etc.

Health: The regional office maintains close links with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre based in Bangkok, the UNICEF Asia Pacific regional office, CARE, IRC and other regional bodies and resource centres. With the support from the ADB, the International Federation in Southeast Asia has formed an NGO coalition to foster regional experience sharing and create a regional toolkit on community-based avian and human influenza management. The East Asia regional health programme has lobbied for East Asian countries to be included in the implementation of the next phase of the grant from the ADB starting from 2009. The avian influenza officer of the RCSC headquarters was invited as a participant to the regional toolkit finalization workshop held in Bangkok in December.

The RCSC coordinates its project activities with government authorities at all local levels and relevant UN agencies in China (WHO, UNICEF and FAO). The Chinese government has made the prevention and control of infectious diseases a high priority by putting a legal framework into place. The government also encourages community-based organizations such as the RCSC to participate in disease prevention and control.

The HIV operational alliance has brought an opportunity to strengthen many existing partnerships and develop new ones under the structure of the Global Alliance on HIV. This method of coordination will provide a more unified strategy and a better coordination of partnerships on all HIV related activities of the RCSC. As such, the RCSC will need further financial support to make its intended efforts fruitful.

In communities most affected by the HIV epidemic, support and facilitation of the Red Cross in forming grassroots groups and partnering with them to implement HIV prevention, care and support activities has been well appreciated by the local governments and communities themselves. However, the overall visibility of these partnerships at national level and their sustainability remains challenging and the RCSC HIV programme will continue to work in addressing those challenges.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Disaster management: The recent vulnerability and capacity assessment training activities have strengthened the RCSC's capacity to deliver such training at the local level. Many of the staff trained are able to conduct this training independently and professionally due to the support they have received from the International Federation's support.

The long-term impact of community-based disaster preparedness has been measured in that communities that experience disasters from year to year, have had a success rate of diminishing the impact of the disasters through their mitigation measures. The community-based disaster preparedness communities also report showing more resilience in handling disasters, such as in the unique snow disaster this winter that hit many provinces that are normally not exposed to such weather. As the community-based disaster preparedness model has begun to show a very positive impact on disaster-affected communities, the RCSC has increased its attention on this programme. They hope to continue to share this model with others, including government authorities at the national level, as an adoptable model nationwide.

Health: Due to the massive scale up of HIV programming by the RCSC, most provinces in the country now have HIV related activities. Capacities of these branches are continuing to increase, and the knowledge of HIV programming has had a ripple effect deep into the grassroots areas of the country. With support of the HIV delegate and the regional communications delegate, both media advocacy and corporate fundraising have

improved. Much more effort and funding are going to be needed in order to reach the goals set out by the RCSC's framework under the Global Alliance.

The HIV delegate has also recently visited the Sichuan office to further discuss how to incorporate "HIV in emergencies" into the earthquake recovery activities. Capacity building in this area of concern will be developed in the coming year.

Looking ahead

The International Federation will continue to support the RCSC in their efforts to rebuild homes and strengthen communities as part of the earthquake recovery programme. As visa restrictions have been greatly alleviated in recent months, additional delegates will be brought in to join the Chengdu office team, reducing the strain on human resources at the regional office.

The earthquake operation provides an opportunity to further strengthen the RCSC and build capacities nationwide in both emergency response and health in emergencies. Regular programme priorities have been integrated into earthquake plans, and the teams continue to look for the cross-cutting issues that can be shared across programme areas.

The national society is looking to the International Federation to assist in organizing a national disaster response team training in China early next year. This, along with other capacity building initiatives within the emergency appeal, will greatly empower branches and staff of the headquarters in improving disaster response activities.

In 2009, community-based disaster preparedness activities will be continued in Hubei, and a working group which will include Hong Kong Red Cross branch, the Australian Red Cross and the RCSC headquarters will look into how to further develop this model within the China context.

At the request of the RCSC, the China HIV delegate's position will continue in 2009 to support the scale-up of China's HIV programming under the umbrella of the Global Alliance on HIV. The long term future of this position and required exit strategy needs to be further discussed with the RCSC.

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.
Contact information	
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[<Interim financial report below; click here to return to title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAACN001 - China

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2008/11
Budget Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
Appeal	MAACN001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	383,743	454,821	94,374		0	932,939
B. Opening Balance	118,050	24,918	38,557		0	181,525
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>American Red Cross</i>	50,000					50,000
<i>Australian Red Cross</i>		20,771				20,771
<i>British Red Cross</i>		31,416				31,416
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	9,600					9,600
<i>Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)</i>	54,400					54,400
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>		167,904				167,904
C1. Cash contributions	114,000	220,091				334,091
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>Canadian Red Cross</i>		20,700				20,700
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		20,700				20,700
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	114,000	240,791	0		0	354,791
D. Total Funding = B + C	232,050	265,709	38,557		0	536,316
Appeal Coverage	60%	58%	41%		#DIV/0	57%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	118,050	24,918	38,557		0	181,525
C. Income	114,000	240,791	0		0	354,791
E. Expenditure	-139,374	-220,376	-6,391			-366,141
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	92,675	45,333	32,166		0	170,175

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Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		383,743	454,821	94,374		0	932,939	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles		-10,429					-10,429	10,429
Other Supplies & Services	240,000							240,000
Total Supplies	240,000	-10,429					-10,429	250,429
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	3,000		1,306				1,306	1,694
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	3,000		1,306				1,306	1,694
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring			85				85	-85
Total Transport & Storage			85				85	-85
Personnel								
International Staff	127,800	226	93,544				93,770	34,030
National Staff	6,000	577	3,698				4,275	1,725
National Society Staff	3,387							3,387
Consultants	10,000							10,000
Total Personnel	147,187	804	97,242				98,046	49,141
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	368,796		3,135				3,135	365,662
Total Workshops & Training	368,796		3,135				3,135	365,662
General Expenditure								
Travel	42,100	2,191	14,283				16,474	25,626
Information & Public Relation	46,940			5,975			5,975	40,965
Office Costs	6,800		2,931				2,931	3,869
Communications	4,800	7	1,612				1,618	3,182
Professional Fees	4,800	10,659	8,379				19,038	-14,238
Other General Expenses	7,874	-1	126				125	7,749
Total General Expenditure	113,314	12,856	27,330	5,975			46,161	67,153
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies		125,931	85,692				211,623	-211,623
Total Contributions & Transfers		125,931	85,692				211,623	-211,623
Programme Support								
Program Support	60,641	10,212	14,324	415			24,951	35,690
Total Programme Support	60,641	10,212	14,324	415			24,951	35,690
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			-8,737				-8,737	8,737
Total Operational Provisions			-8,737				-8,737	8,737
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	932,939	139,374	220,376	6,391			366,141	566,798
VARIANCE (C - D)		244,369	234,445	87,984			566,798	