

Mid-Year report



East Asia

Appeal No. MAA54001

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This report covers the period from
1 January 2010 to 30 June 2010.



A child is excited to see his face on the wall together with photos of Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers from all over the world at an interactive section of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement pavilion in the Shanghai World Expo 2010. He is one of the 217 orphans and children afflicted with leukemia organized by the Shanghai branch of the Red Cross Society of China to visit the Red Cross pavilion in conjunction with International Children's Day. Photo: RCSC

In brief

Programmes summary:

The IFRC's East Asia regional office serves to support and build capacities within the national societies of the East Asia region. The region includes China, Mongolia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, and Japan. The IFRC has programmes that support the national societies in China, Mongolia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

A focus of the East Asia regional office during the first half of 2010 has been in supporting disaster relief efforts of the region's national societies. China experienced a string of major disasters in the first half of the year, including a 7.1 magnitude deadly earthquake in Yushu, Qinghai in April, which killed 2,698 people. The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) quickly responded to the disaster by sending relief items, search and rescue teams, medical teams, ambulances and one emergency response team (ERT) and one sanitation ERT, which were used during the Sichuan earthquake operation in 2008. RCSC also responded quickly to other disasters in the country, including snowstorms, drought, sandstorms and floods.

In this reporting period, Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) prioritized its efforts to meet the needs of the thousands of herders who have suffered from harsh winter conditions. A total of CHF 100,000 was allocated from the IFRC disaster relief emergency funds (DREF) to assist MRCS in delivering relief supplies to 1,500 families. After further assessments, an emergency appeal was launched in March for an additional CHF 1,062,295, relief distribution of food and basic non-food items, health education and psychological support to 1,800 families and livelihood support for 1,600 families, communication, logistic support and capacity building for the national society were covered in the emergency appeal.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent pavilion in the Shanghai Expo site has been visited by over 100,000 visitors. More than 160 Red Cross staff and volunteers work at five stations on the Expo site to offer first aid to visitors. Seizing the opportunity of the spot light on this big event, the RCSC and its partners have packed some special-event activities into the pavilion site.

The regional office continues to support national societies in strengthening their capacity in building up the resilience of hazard-prone communities in their respective countries. In China, the office supported the National Society's community-based disaster risk reduction programme in the process of assessment and planning. In Mongolia, assistance was provided to the Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) on its community-based disaster preparedness project proposal and plan of the activities funded by the Norwegian Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross. In the DPRK, the regional office continues to support the DPRK Red Cross on the contingency planning.

The regional health programme successfully organized the second annual regional health team meeting in March. A total of 36 participants attended the meeting, including representatives from four regional national societies, WHO China, Global Road Safety Programme (GRSP), British Red Cross and the IFRC health, water and sanitation as well as disaster management delegates and officers from the region, Asia Pacific zone and global health and care department.

The regional office supported two regional national societies, Mongolia and China in developing proposals on TB prevention and control for the first time. In addition, the regional health unit continued to provide extensive technical support to the DPRK Red Cross and MRCS on a master facilitator community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) workshop in Mongolia and a pre-planning workshop on CBHFA in the DPRK.

Financial situation: The total 2010 budget is CHF 764,599 (USD 718,390 or EUR 573,158), and is 102 per cent covered. Expenditure over income received from January to June 2010 is 32 per cent

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

No. of people we help: During this reporting period, the headquarters and branches of the Mongolian, Chinese and DPRK Red Cross Societies directly benefited through support of the IFRC's initiatives. Indirect beneficiaries include branch staff, volunteers and communities that gain further knowledge and better services through the workshops and trainings held at the regional level. Furthermore, through support from the regional office, the national societies were better able to reduce risks in the communities they serve both from disasters and public health concerns.

Our partners: The IFRC's East Asia regional office works closely with the national societies in the region, their governments, and local communities. Other partners include the American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross/Australian government, British Red Cross/British government, Canadian Red Cross/Canadian government, Danish Red Cross/Danish government, Finnish Red Cross/Finnish government, German Red Cross/German government, Japanese Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross/Netherlands government, Norwegian Red Cross/Norwegian government, Spanish and Swedish Red Cross/Swedish government. The United Kingdom Department of International Development (DFID) is also a supporter in the region. Close coordination with other Movement partners, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (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 United Nations system continues to be important, especially with partners such as World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNFPA and other international and non-government organizations. Furthermore, the regional office 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 IFRC supports the national societies in their coordination with partner national societies, specifically the CAS established in the DPRK and the Global Alliance on HIV in both Mongolia and China.

The IFRC, on behalf of the national societies in the East Asia region, would like to thank the abovementioned partners for their generous support.

Context

Weather-related disasters and seismic activities have affected most of the areas in the region. China was hit by a string of disasters caused by extreme weather. The worst snow disaster in 60 years in northern China caused 30 deaths, seriously affected 1.88 million people, destroyed up to 19,000 houses and killed up to

87,100 livestock. A once-a-century drought started last autumn in southwest China affecting over 60 million people in five provinces, and has left 20 million people and more than 11 million livestock with drinking water shortages. It is estimated that about five million hectares of farmland have been affected and over 1.1 million hectares would yield no harvest¹ as of 23 March. Some of the drought-affected regions have been eased by rainfall in April and May, but up to eight million people in Yunnan and Guizhou still faced drinking water shortages² as of the middle of May. The drought has pushed at least 2.18 million people back into poverty³, with direct economic losses of over RMB 35 billion (approximately CHF 5.48 billion).

The floods in south China in April is also the worst in the past 100 years. Since 1 April, fierce rainstorms ravaged 16 provinces in southern China. Up to 102 people have died of weather-related disasters and 21 are still missing. Over 13 million have been affected. The extreme weather has brought down 74,000 homes and caused direct economic losses of 10 billion yuan (USD 1.4 billion)⁴. The fresh storms have already triggered flash flooding and mud-rock flows, swollen rivers and bursting dikes, as well as threatened reservoirs and damaged highways, bridges and power and telecommunication facilities.

Following the devastating 7.3 magnitude earthquake in Haiti in January and the 8.8 magnitude quake in Chile in February, China experienced a succession of earthquakes including a 7.1 magnitude deadly earthquake in Yushu, Qinghai in April, which left 2,698 people killed, 270 missing⁵, more than 12,000 were injured, 15,000 houses collapsed and an estimated 100,000 were homeless⁶. Reconstruction began on 4 May in the quake-hit area, 20 days after the disaster happened. The discussion on how the RCSC can contribute to reconstruction is ongoing. Japan was also hit by a dozen earthquakes, with one measuring 6.9 magnitude on the Richter scale. Fortunately, no casualties were reported.



Yunnan branch of the RCSC distributes water to the drought affected people.
Photo: RCSC

In response to the disasters in the country, both RCSC branches and headquarters mobilized food and non-food relief items to the affected areas. In the Yushu earthquake, the National Society also dispatched search and rescue teams, medical teams, ambulances, a water emergency response team (ERT) and sanitation ERT, which were used during the Sichuan earthquake operation in 2008. The water ERT from RCSC's Hunan branch operated from 25 April to 20 May to provide potable water to over 20,000 people in total in the major relocation centre. The sanitation ERT from Yunnan province installed 100 environmentally friendly portable latrines. The Taiwan Red Cross Organization also deployed a 20-member medical team stationed at Xining hospital in Qinghai province to support RCSC's response. Approximately 200 injured people were treated in their mission on 19-27 April.

RCSC has not sought an international appeal in response to the earthquake in April, but welcomes cash contributions from partners to support its efforts in response and recovery. IFRC can receive donations on behalf of the RCSC through its annual support plan in China. Click [here](#) for IFRC's revised plan and budget for its support to RCSC in 2010.

Mongolia experienced an unprecedented cold and prolonged winter since December 2009, preceded by a dry summer and followed by an unstable spring with well below average temperatures and snow storms. The rural population of Mongolia, consisting mainly of nomadic herding communities, suffered severely under this extended and extreme winter weather conditions, locally known as "*dzud*". The *dzud* is a natural phenomenon that describes these extreme weather conditions which can see a sharp drop of temperature and recurrent and

¹ Ministry of Civil Affairs - Xinhua News

² Source: Chinanews

³ According a survey of China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation in First Financial Daily 21 May

⁴ Source: Xinhua News, 20 May

⁵ Chinanews, 31 May

⁶ Released in the press conference held on 25 April 2010 by the vice governor of Qinghai

prolonged snowfall that has a devastating effect on the livelihood of herders by causing a serious loss of livestock as well as affecting their own health. Latest official reports indicate that around 8,500 households or 45,000 individuals lost all, or most, of their livestock and face a grim future in the coming months. More than 8.5 million heads of livestock are reportedly lost.

Herding is the main livelihood for up to 80 per cent of the rural community throughout Mongolia. The herding practices have been followed through generations and most families involved are subsistence herders whose animals provide hope and security for present and future generations. The danger in the current situation, if unattended, is that these families which have no other alternatives for livelihood will move to Ulaanbaatar, the largest city in Mongolia which is already overcrowded and has insufficient social structures to cope with more arrivals.

MRCS was one of the first organizations to react when winter conditions started to worsen and the first livestock loss was reported. In response to the *dzud*, MRCS launched a national appeal to assist the herders directly impacted by the disaster. The National Society headquarters and mid-level branches mobilized volunteers and dispatched relief items including mattresses, blankets, ger canvas, boots and warm clothes to affected people from its disaster preparedness stocks. The relief package included a box that contained leaflets with general health recommendations, psychosocial support messages and tips on traditional herding practices, as well as comics on first aid.

In the DPRK, the winter lasted longer than usual, hampering work at the community level due to the cold and frozen ground. This caused the rice-planting season to be postponed up to mid-May.

The political situation was relatively quiet on the Korean Peninsula until March, when a South Korean naval ship sunk with 46 soldiers dead. The international community is highly concerning about the tense situation caused by this Cheonan case.

Hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) Both China and Mongolia are experiencing annual surges of HFMD cases. The outbreak of the disease this year is much earlier than last year in China. By 4 May, up to 260 children had died of the disease nationwide, according to Ministry of Health figures. Nearly 430,000 cases were reported from January around the country during the same period, a rise of more than 40 per cent from the same period of last year. In Mongolia, the outbreak of HFMD this year is far worse compared with the previous two years. As of 28 May, Ulaanbaatar health authorities confirmed that more than 450 cases of HFMD have been reported and around 80 per cent occurred among children aged from 1 to 4.

Sichuan earthquake, 2-year anniversary Two years after the massive earthquake struck the Sichuan province, RCSC and IFRC continue to provide significant humanitarian assistance to those affected. More than 62,000 families (approximately 310,000 beneficiaries) received funds totally CNY 363.6 million (CHF 58.9 million) under the shelter programme. Completed reconstruction supported by RCSC, IFRC and partner national societies include 81,882 houses, 329 schools, 258 township clinics and 1,149 village clinics. IFRC continues to provide support in livelihoods, health and care including psychosocial support, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, disaster management and overall organizational development. For more information, click here for the [Sichuan Earthquake Two-Year Consolidated Report](#).

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Pavilion in World Expo in Shanghai The RCSC has taken on the responsibility of running a pavilion and providing first-aid services to ensure a Red Cross Red Crescent Movement presence at this high-profile, prestigious event. The Expo provides the Movement with a valuable platform to highlight some major social and humanitarian issues to which the RCRC Movement responds. In particular, the theme of the Expo, "Better city, better life," fits perfectly with the Movement's focus on issues relating to urbanization, this year's World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day theme.

The Red Cross Red Crescent pavilion allows visitors to experience, through images and film, the range of contexts that the different Movement partners work in and the vulnerabilities and issues addressed in that work. It also shows visitors how they themselves can get involved. Volunteers are stationed throughout the pavilion and guide visitors and answer questions as well as provide additional material on the Movement. Printed materials to provide more information about the Movement's aims and activities are distributed at the entrance and exit area of the pavilion. On 23 May, the Red Cross pavilion welcomed its 100,000th visitor.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component	Component outcome
Disaster management planning and organizational preparedness	National society disaster management strategies and contingency plans are developed and implemented, promoting national societies as respected humanitarian organizations with effective disaster management capacity in their country
	Capacity of the three national societies in the region to respond to disasters is strengthened.
Community preparedness/disaster risk reduction	The capacity of East Asia national societies is strengthened to support hazard-prone communities in reducing the impact of disaster through increased awareness and preparedness activities.
Coordination and cooperation	The East Asia disaster management programme is supported through the effective coordination and cooperation with international and external groups.

Achievements

During the past six months, the regional office has put much emphasis on supporting national societies' disaster relief operations. Technical support for capacity building is ongoing, through review in emergency response system, contingency planning, as well through supporting the community disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities in this region.

In China, the IFRC East Asia regional office closely monitored the numerous disasters together with the RCSC. Updates were regularly issued on the disaster management information system (DMIS) and six information bulletins on the Yushu earthquake were released⁷. IFRC is prepared to provide any assistance that the national society may need to cope with the difficult situation.

Significant progress has been made on drafting plans on the set up of disaster preparedness centres and a strategy review for establishing water and sanitation emergency response teams in China. Together with the National Society, sites for the disaster preparedness centres were identified.

In Mongolia, the regional office supported MRCS in conducting emergency assessments for the *dzud*. The regional health delegate, joined by an operations coordinator from the Asia Pacific zone office, completed the assessment together with MRCS. A total of CHF 100,000 was initially allocated from DREF to assist MRCS in delivering relief supplies to 1,500 families. Further assessments on this slow-onset disaster resulted in the launch of an emergency appeal in March for an additional CHF 1,062,295, to support relief distributions of food and basic non-food items, health education and psychosocial support to 1,800 families and livelihood support for 1,600 families. Support in communications, logistics and capacity building for the National Society were also covered in the emergency appeal.

The regional office also continues to support national societies in strengthening their capacity in building up hazard-prone communities in their country. In China, the office supports the community-based disaster risk reduction programme in the process of assessments and planning. Through the process, capacities of local Red Cross staff were enhanced through participation in workshops hosted by IFRC and on-site practices for various assessment tools. About 30 villages were already identified for further community-based disaster risk reduction programme planning as part of the 2008 earthquake appeal,



MRCS distributed food and non-food items to herder families in Bayangol *soum*, Uvurkhangai province on 17 March. Photo by MRCS.

⁷ Information bulletins for China are available on <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=47>

with additional communities undertaking vulnerability assessments supported by the Finnish Red Cross. Climate change adaptation elements were also introduced into the process in collaboration with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.

In Mongolia, the regional office continues to support MRCS on its community-based disaster preparedness project proposal and plan of activities funded by Norwegian Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross. In May, the regional disaster management programme helped MRCS to define their community-based disaster preparedness programme in a localized context; a number of discussions were held with herder families badly affected by the recent *dzud* disaster and to seek solutions as a community and ensure that the communities are more resilient to disasters.

A national emergency assessment was also carried out in early June, where the regional disaster management team supported MRCS to facilitate the workshop.

In regards to the DPRK, the regional office continues to support the DPRK Red Cross in contingency planning and devise a plan of action for contingency planning at the provincial level. Support is also provided to the community based disaster risk reduction programme through documenting best practices and good case studies.

During this reporting period, the regional disaster management programme worked closely with the Asia Pacific disaster management unit and other regional offices in the region to coordinate and share experiences as a part of cross-regional learning. The regional disaster management team are also working with the Republic of Korea Red Cross on preparations to participate in the 4th Asia minister conference on disaster risk reduction, which will be held in Korea in October 2010.

Constraints or challenges

The scope of the region in terms of size and vulnerabilities to disaster puts pressure on IFRC to meet the needs of the region in its current capacity. Frequent and diverse disasters in the first half of the year also focused much of the time and efforts of both the regional office and the national societies in emergency response and relief. While recovery support is still in the planning stage for a particular disaster, another deadly disaster hits, and national societies with its limited capacity including human resources are forced to swiftly respond on further emergency relief operations. As a result of these ongoing disasters and national societies' focus on internal relief efforts, a greater regional approach to knowledge-sharing between countries is hindered.

Health and care

Outcomes

Programme component	Component outcome
HIV prevention	Capacity of national societies to design, implement, monitor and evaluate effective HIV programmes has increased
Health and water and sanitation in emergencies	Capacity of national societies to respond to public health and water sanitation issues in emergencies has increased.
Blood donor recruitment	Capacity of national societies to manage non-remunerated voluntary blood donor recruitment programmes has increased.
Community-based health and first aid	Capacity of national societies to provide quality community-based health and first aid services has increased.

Achievements

HIV prevention

With the support of the Australian Red Cross, MRCS has completed a comprehensive review of its HIV programme. The regional health delegate has been involved in the design of the review as a member of the critical reference group. Based on the recommendations from the review, the Australian Red Cross plans to revise its support strategies towards the MRCS HIV programme.

The regional office's health and care programme continues to provide regional coordination and facilitation in the implementation of the China-Mongolia cross border project on HIV prevention in this reporting period. Regional health staff participated in the project's steering committee meeting on behalf of IFRC and organized a half day Red Cross regional coordination meeting between RCSC and MRCS on 16 March. However, the

East Asia Global Alliance meeting on HIV planned as a half day event following the regional health team meeting in March was cancelled due to the lack of interest from the regional and partner national societies.

The health and care programme coordinated regional participation to the International AIDS conference to be held in Vienna in July 2010. A total of four posters including one from the regional office were accepted for presentation at the conference (the highest number per region in Asia and the Pacific), and a total of eight representatives will attend the conference and related Red Cross Red Crescent side meetings.

In the first half of the year, the regional office supported the national societies of Mongolia and China in developing proposals on tuberculosis prevention and control for the first time. MRCS is applying for a tuberculosis-prevention grant from the Stop TB (tuberculosis) partnership. If successful, this grant will enable the National Society to add a tuberculosis prevention component for beneficiaries of the current MRCS social care programme. For more updates on the tuberculosis project by the RCSC, please click [here](#) for the China plan and budget's programme update no. 2.

Health and water and sanitation in emergencies

In connection with the ongoing *dzud* disaster in Mongolia throughout winter and spring of 2010, the regional health delegate completed two field missions to Mongolia to assist MRCS and the IFRC Mongolia office in the start up of the operations. The health delegate participated in two assessments, including a rapid assessment conducted in January - February and the follow-up detailed assessment focused on recovery needs in March-April. This also provided opportunity for the delegate to mentor the MRCS' health staff on how to conduct health and psychosocial sectoral assessments in disaster situations and design appropriate health and psychosocial interventions for the affected communities.

As the A (H1N1) pandemic subsided, it was decided to drop the regular email updates to all regional pandemic focal points, but the regional office continued to provide technical support to RCSC and MRCS in consolidating their pandemic communication campaigns. While fortunate that the pandemic turned out to be mild, it does not diminish the importance of revisiting the timeliness and appropriateness of different response and mitigation interventions undertaken during the pandemic by the national societies and IFRC secretariat structures in the region and document the lessons learnt. This issue was raised particularly by some national societies at the regional health meeting and the regional office is discussing with the Asia Pacific zone health colleagues on follow-up actions.

After consultations with other regions with similar training needs in the zone, it was decided that the instead of organizing an individual regional workshop on emergency health planned for 2010 for East Asian countries, the zonal health and care unit will organize a bi-regional workshop in the second half of year where the East Asian national societies will be invited to attend. This will enable the East Asian national societies to benefit from the rich experience of other regions in emergency health.

Blood donor recruitment

World Blood Donor Day was widely celebrated by the regional national societies on 14 June. In conjunction with Shanghai World Expo 2010, RCSC organized a high-profile World Blood Donor Day celebration under the theme of "Celebrating the gift of blood", featuring a month of celebrations which culminated at the Shanghai Expo on 14 June. The activities were organized by China's Ministry of Health, the RCSC headquarters, the People's Liberation Army, the World Health Organization, IFRC and the Shanghai Municipal Government.

Community-based health and first aid (CBHFA)

The regional health programme has successfully organized the second annual regional health team meeting on 11-13 March. A total of 36 participants attended the meeting, including representatives from four regional national societies, WHO China, GRSP, British Red Cross and the IFRC health, water and sanitation as well as disaster management delegates and officers from the region, Asia Pacific zone and global health and care department. Based on the feedback of participants, the meeting provided a good opportunity for key health and water sanitation people in the region to take stock of the main regional developments in health, share experiences and learn about the global health developments. Compared with the 2009 meeting, it was good to see key health managers from regional national societies on more familiar terms and thus, were networking and exchanging experiences outside of the meetings sessions and continued communications after the meeting. The three-day regional health meeting also included a one-day workshop on road safety, co-organized together with the GRSP China office.

In the first half of the year, the regional health unit continued to provide extensive technical support to the DPRK Red Cross and MRCS who were going through similar steps in localizing the new CBHFA approach. The regional health delegate conducted two missions to Mongolia and DPRK in late March up to May, acting as the main facilitator for the first master facilitator CBHFA workshop (in Mongolian, conducted by MRCS) in

Mongolia and as a backup support to the facilitators' team in the pre-planning workshop on CBHFA (in Korean) conducted by the DPRK Red Cross. By being closely involved in country-level CBHFA processes, the regional health programme helps to ensure more effective cross-learning among regional countries and avoid potential pitfalls inherent in such new piloting processes. The good learning experiences from these countries were also fed to the IFRC's collective learning on CBHFA at the global level through regular teleconferences.

The vulnerability and capacity assessment of Gobi provinces planned in the Mongolia CBHFA project will be completed by the respective Red Cross branches that were trained on using vulnerability and capacity assessment methodology during the master facilitator workshop.



Introduction of vulnerability and capacity assessment tool during the CBHFA workshop in Pyongyang. Photo by DPRK Red Cross

Constraints or challenges

Mongolia faced severe dzud disaster for the most of the first half of the year and this required urgent deployments of the regional health delegate to Mongolia to support the emergency assessments. Despite this, the other regional activities were conducted as planned, although under very tight schedules.

Organizational development

Achievements

Programme component	Component outcome
Tailor-made organizational development and capacity building initiatives	Organizational issues have been addressed in individual national societies through tailor-made organizational development and capacity building initiatives.
Integration with health, disaster management and principles and values	Increased integration of organizational development and capacity building aspects within health and disaster management programmes.
Information sharing and knowledge management	Lessons learned and best practices shared and peer support provided by skilled national society practitioners in organizational development and capacity building across all Movement components in Asia Pacific.

While organizational development is not a separate programme sector within the IFRC's regional support plan, it is a critical component of the IFRC's work. With specific input from the Asia Pacific zone organizational development coordinator and the regional programme coordinator, national societies continue to receive tailored support from the regional office. Further coordination with the ICRC office in Beijing, and other partners taking active roles in the region, will ensure that capacity building initiatives are optimally utilized.

The regional programme coordinator delivered a two-day planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting training to the programme management office and disaster management and first aid department of the RCSC headquarters in May. The final session also included an interactive discussion on skills in communications and media relations. A total of 12 people participated in the workshop. The workshop was a hands-on approach in four half-day sessions to enable participants who are also staff of the headquarters to apply the daily learnings directly to their current projects. The workshop also aims to build up the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting capacity based on adapting tools and knowledge to the current projects of the participants.

A similar workshop will be carried out with DPRK Red Cross and the IFRC country office in July. Furthermore, the regional programme coordinator will plan for additional support to MRCS on planning, monitoring, evaluations and reporting as part of a follow-up to the workshop organized in late 2009.

In coordination with the disaster management and health and care programmes, organizational development aspects are incorporated into respective activities, including principles and values. For further information, please refer to respective sections.

Also as part of the IFRC's support in organizational development, the annual leadership meeting provided an opportunity for the leaders of the national societies in the region to gather together and share their experiences in management and governance.

Constraints or challenges

This component of the IFRC's support receives no separate direct funding, and thus is incorporated into programmes as much as possible. The coordinated support between programmes and on cross-cutting issues such as PMER, communications and finance development, as well as governance and management, is provided by the regional office whenever opportunities arise. The national societies prioritize these areas of support, and it is the challenge of the IFRC's regional office to find creative ways to incorporate cross-cutting organizational development work in every aspect of our work, regardless of funding limitations.

Principles and values

Outcomes

Programme component	Component outcome
Promotion of humanitarian values and Fundamental Principles	Advocacy and international representation.
	Capacity-building in principles and values / gender of national societies staff and volunteers.
	All national societies in the region have increased the capacity of their information departments.
	Enhancing understanding and sharing of best practices.
Integration of humanitarian values and gender into operational disaster management and health programming	Further development of tools and mechanisms to enhance principles and values-based programming.
	Further development of gender into programming.
Anti-discrimination and violence prevention/reduction programmes	Mapping of national society programmes which target discrimination, marginalization or exclusion of communities who fall outside the traditional health and disaster management programme areas.

Achievements

Although work on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's representation at the World Expo in Shanghai have taken up a considerable amount of the communications delegate's time over the first few months of 2010, emergency communications around the Mongolia *dzud*/severe winter have also been an important priority.

Despite being overshadowed by the Haiti earthquake in January, the slow-onset Mongolian disaster did gain some attention, with video and photographs produced by MRCS and distributed to international media, including Reuters TV and APTN in Beijing.

The *dzud* provided useful opportunities for communications capacity building. Feedback obtained from Reuters TV on video footage provided after floods in the summer of 2009 and the *dzud* in 2010 indicated that there have been improvements in quality; further feedback was communicated to the MRCS' cameraman to target continued improvements in quality. There was also excellent takeup from Reuters Photo on MRCS *dzud* pictures, with as many as six images from a batch offered to them being selected for publication. Among the other significant media coverage was extensive reporting on Red Cross Red Crescent programmes in Mongolia in the Finnish daily, Helsingin Sanomat, which followed on from contacts with their Beijing bureau, initiated in 2009.

The communications delegate also provided full support to the launch of an emergency appeal in response to the severe winter in Mongolia on 29 March, linking up with a BBC correspondent on the ground in Ulaanbaatar, who pegged his reports on the *dzud* situation to the launch of IFRC's appeal. The appeal was also reported by all three major news agencies, Reuters, AP and AFP and besides multiple BBC outlets, it also generated interviews including Radio Australia. Click [here](#) for a family's story from the assessments carried out.

The communications delegate held discussions with the Finnish Red Cross's information delegate on his initial observations in-country as the first stage of a bilateral project to boost MRCS domestic communications capacity. The delegate is ready to offer further support and cooperation as the project moves forward.

On the DPRK, a significant aspect of communications work has been the production of an information sheet about the DPRK Red Cross's success in humanitarian diplomacy in securing the passage of a crucial new Red

Cross Law in 2007. This case study was among the first series of best practice examples produced by the Asia Pacific Zone and has been studied with interest by national societies in other parts of the world.

Communications on Red Cross Red Crescent programming in DPRK have continued to present more of a challenge, given the relative lack of media access to the country and the prevalence of more politically-charged stories which have hijacked press interest.

The communications delegate has given support to initiatives by visiting partner national society delegations from Norway and Sweden, which resulted in TV and print coverage in the Scandinavian countries. The delegate has also supported the production of information sheets detailing the range of IFRC-supported programming in DPRK.

Work is still ongoing to secure coverage of Red Cross Red Crescent programmes in DPRK by APTN's bureau in Pyongyang, although plans to cover activities such as tree planting have still not come to fruition, because of other priorities in the bureau.

However, interest from Korean-language media outlets such as Voice of America and Radio Free Asia remains lively and both the regional office and the Asia Pacific Zone has been involved in responding to frequent media inquiries on DPRK programmes.

A visit to DPRK by the communications delegate is being planned for July, during which he will provide capacity building workshops at both branch and national headquarters level and will work closely with national society communications staff to explore possibilities for further support as needed.

Working in partnership

Leaders of all five East Asian national societies gathered in southern China in March to discuss topics of concern and current challenges. Topics included implementation of Strategy 2020, new policies on migration and internally displaced people, restoring family links and others.

Following the leadership meeting, partner national societies joined the East Asia national societies for a two-day partnership meeting during which each national society presented their current priorities and challenges. A special session on climate change was led by a Climate Center Senior Programme Officer.

On 8 May, World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, vice presidents of both the ICRC and the IFRC as well as senior representatives of the Japanese and South Korean Red Cross Societies join the RCSC for the official inauguration of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement pavilion at the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai. This was followed by a forum entitled 'City, Disasters and Relief' as well as a gala charity concert jointly organized by the Chinese, Japanese and Republic of Korea Red Cross Societies.

During the reporting period, the regional office worked closely with a number of partners including the Finnish Red Cross as well as the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Change Centre for exploring means of increasing programme diversity and expanding the impact of programmes to all levels, from provincial government to communities. Experiences were shared among other regional offices in the Asia Pacific zone disaster management programme meeting for best practises in various disaster management areas.

The regional health programme fosters good working relationships with other organizations at regional and national levels. For example, the regional team meeting conducted in March was co-organized jointly with the Global Road Safety Partnership, and representatives from WHO China and Western Pacific regional office were some of the key note speakers and facilitators of the meeting and road safety workshop. Through these contacts established at the meeting on road safety, the MRCS were later approached by WHO Mongolia for further collaboration on this important public health issue which is becoming even more critical in Mongolia's context. The World Blood Donor Day celebrations in the region are co-organized with the WHO offices in countries. The cross-border HIV prevention project works very closely with UNFPA China and Mongolia offices.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Through continuous support in capacity building of national staff in assessment, programme planning and evaluation through workshops, the national societies in the region are able to lead and manage community disaster risk reduction programmes. Constant reviews in the national strategy and contingency plan, and building up the respective national disaster response teams, allows national societies to better respond to disasters, contributing to saving more lives in the long run.

The road safety workshop, co-organized together with the GRSP China office as a part of the regional health team meeting, led to a better understanding of road safety critical issues and the role of Red Cross Red Crescent societies in addressing them. Regional level attention to this growing public health concern in East Asia triggered better programming of road safety at the country level. For example, following this workshop, both DPRK and Mongolia Red Cross societies printed road safety commitment cards and other communications materials for public distribution. In addition, Mongolia Red Cross successfully lobbied to its own government for funding support for first aid training for traffic police and vulnerable road users.

Looking ahead

In the second half of the year, the regional office will continue to follow up with the emergency operations in response to the severe winter in Mongolia, as well as review the strategy and operation of the RCSC emergency response team which has gained their first experience during the Qinghai earthquake. The finalized plan for the disaster preparedness centre in China will be confirmed and implemented. In addition, the community-based disaster preparedness programme in China and Mongolia will be in the implementation stages, and it is expected that some impact from the programmes will be seen as early as the end of the year.

The main focus of the regional health programme will be continued support to the national societies in localizing the CBHFA approach and supporting them in response to emerging outbreaks and disasters, as required.

How we work	
<p>The IFRC's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the IFRC'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	
<p>For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFRC East Asia regional office in Beijing: phone: +86 10 65327162, fax: +86 10 65327166 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ms Nicolle LaFleur (acting head of office and regional programme coordinator), email: nicolle.lafleur@ifrc.org – Mr Gu Qinghui (regional disaster management delegate), email: qinghui.gu@ifrc.org – Ms Amgaa Oyungerel (regional health delegate), email: amgaa.oyungerel@ifrc.org • IFRC Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur: phone: + 60 3 92-7 5700, fax: +60 3 2161 0670 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr Jagan Chapagain (head of operations), email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org – Mr Alan Bradbury (resource mobilization and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) coordinator), email: alan.bradbury@ifrc.org • Please send pledges of funding to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org 	

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

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA54001 - East Asia region

Mid-year Report 2010

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/1-2010/6
Budget Timeframe	2010/1-2010/12
Appeal	MAA54001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	200,963	197,968	0	214,866	150,802	764,599
B. Opening Balance	115,901	101,032	0	147,503	244,099	608,534
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>British Red Cross</i>		-0				-0
<i>DFID Partnership grant</i>	21,678					21,678
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	-205					-205
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	0	0				0
<i>Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)</i>	13,904					13,904
<i>Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)</i>	0	0		0	0	0
<i>Other</i>	205	0				206
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>		-0		0		-0
C1. Cash contributions	35,582	-0		0	0	35,582
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>DFID Partnership grant</i>	21,315					21,315
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	36,530	42,619			30,442	109,591
<i>Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)</i>	-14,879					-14,879
<i>UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund</i>		369				369
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	42,966	42,987			30,442	116,396
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Services</i>					21,657	21,657
C6. Other Income					21,657	21,657
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	78,548	42,987	0	0	52,098	173,634
D. Total Funding = B + C	194,449	144,019	0	147,503	296,197	782,168
Appeal Coverage	97%	73%	#DIV/0	69%	196%	102%

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	115,901	101,032	0	147,503	244,099	608,534
C. Income	78,548	42,987	0	0	52,098	173,634
E. Expenditure	-70,217	-62,436		-76,045	-40,792	-249,489
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	124,232	81,583	0	71,458	255,406	532,679

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA54001 - East Asia region

Mid-year Report 2010

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/1-2010/6
Budget Timeframe	2010/1-2010/12
Appeal	MAA54001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		200,963	197,968	0	214,866	150,802	764,599	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	5,000							5,000
Construction Materials	412,966							412,966
Clothing & textiles	110,003							110,003
Seeds,Plants	93,921							93,921
Water & Sanitation	2,321,962							2,321,962
Medical & First Aid	3,482,394							3,482,394
Teaching Materials	178,763							178,763
Utensils & Tools	53,398							53,398
Other Supplies & Services	379,799							379,799
Total Supplies	7,038,205							7,038,205
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Land & Buildings	2,000							2,000
Vehicles	44,000							44,000
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	46,000							46,000
Transport & Storage								
Storage	31,184							31,184
Distribution & Monitoring	405,417							405,417
Transport & Vehicle Costs	108,061							108,061
Total Transport & Storage	544,661							544,661
Personnel								
International Staff	1,131,216	45,509	31,415		56,802		133,726	997,490
National Staff	232,165	8,872	12,665		10,521	2,118	34,176	197,989
National Society Staff	204,668							204,668
Consultants	70,643							70,643
Total Personnel	1,638,693	54,381	44,080		67,324	2,118	167,902	1,470,791
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	596,578	2,028	9,796			25,331	37,155	559,423
Total Workshops & Training	596,578	2,028	9,796			25,331	37,155	559,423
General Expenditure								
Travel	114,360	7,467	4,453		3,059	10,682	25,661	88,699
Information & Public Relation	134,130	6			211		217	133,913
Office Costs	44,866		180			59	239	44,627
Communications	9,000	270	548		422	83	1,323	7,677
Professional Fees	3,600							3,600
Financial Charges	0	3				3	5	-5
Other General Expenses	140,656	51			195	3	249	140,407
Total General Expenditure	446,612	7,797	5,181		3,886	10,830	27,694	418,918
Programme Support								
Program Support	673,429	4,888	4,299		4,836	2,513	16,536	656,893
Total Programme Support	673,429	4,888	4,299		4,836	2,513	16,536	656,893
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		1,122	-920				202	-202
Total Operational Provisions		1,122	-920				202	-202
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	10,984,178	70,217	62,436		76,045	40,792	249,489	10,734,690
VARIANCE (C - D)		130,746	135,532		138,821	110,010	10,734,690	

Red Cross helps Mongolian herders as they struggle to get back on their feet

by Dr. Amгаа Oyungerel, IFRC East Asia regional health coordinator

It is April in Mongolia's Gobi Desert. But all day long, fierce winds whip up dense sandstorms followed by icy gales and dropping temperatures, as we travel to visit Ulam-Ornokh's family. They are one of nearly 9,000 herder households across the country that have lost all their livestock during the devastating extreme cold weather disaster, or *dzud*, during the winter.

Ulam-Ornokh together with his wife, daughter and grandchild greet members of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies/Mongolian Red Cross Society *dzud* assessment team warmly at the doors of his *ger* (Mongolian felt dwelling). They share what little they have, as he tries to show the famous hospitality of Gobi people.

Whole herd destroyed

He has been herding animals all his life and has overcome many *dzuds*, but this one has brought to an end his life as a herder. "I have not dreamed that I will end up like this", he said sadly, "this is the worst *dzud* one can experience". With no animals left from his 200-strong herd and no other employable skills, he has no other option but to move to the nearest county town. There, he and his family will have to rely on his humble pension with disability allowance, and maybe occasional support from his children who struggle to get any kind of odd jobs in this tiny mining district in the middle of the vast desert.

All hopes pinned on daughter

"She is my all hope now", says Ulam-Ornokh, pointing at his daughter who is hoping to get a job as a cleaner in the local mining company, "and my wife and I can look at our little grandchildren" so that their parents can work.

"It is hard for these young people to get jobs in mining, because they do not have the required skills to fill the jobs available," adds Enkhjargal, head of the local Red Cross branch. "Any extra skill helps them to get ahead of many others who are in the same situation, and first aid training offered by the Red Cross is one of them", she says.

Ulam-Ornokh and his family tried every possible means to save their livestock. As the winter started, they moved all their animals in search of better pasture, over a distance of 200 kilometers to the neighboring Dund-Gobi province. This took them a full six days on foot and with all of their other belongings loaded in a small van. The new place had better pasture, but since all other herders from the neighboring areas also moved there with their herds, soon there was not enough grassland left for animals. The herders call it "*tuurain dzud*" in Mongolian, which literally means "hoof *dzud*". This is when they started to lose their animals every day.

Resourcefulness and humour in adversity

As Ulam-Ornokh described how sometimes, they had to transport the animals one by one dangling across their backs while simultaneously trying to maneuver a motorcycle when their weakened animals could not make it home at the end of their daily grazing session, the people in the *ger* chuckled. One cannot help but admire the resourcefulness and sense of humour of these people, who struggle to make a living in some of the world's harshest climatic and terrain conditions.

As remote it may seem, this harsh spring will fade away and will be replaced by summer and sun. Life goes in cycles, as does the life of Ulam-Ornokh's family. The MRCS, with support from the IFRC, plans to assist herders such as Ulam Ornokh with cash assistance, psychosocial support, first aid training and other support to ease their journey back to recovery.

For further information on MRCS and IFRC response to the *dzud* disaster, click [here](#) for the latest operations updates.



Mongolian Red Cross Society, supported by IFRC, deployed a team in April 2010 to assess the severity of the ongoing *dzud* disaster in affected areas, including Omnogobi province. IFRC