

# **EAST ASIA**

## **REGIONAL PROGRAMMES**

CHF 1,321,000

Programme no 01.32/99

### Introduction

The East Asia region comprises five countries (China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea) and is the most populated region in the world. It is characterised by important social, political and economic diversities, and has several large language groups. The entire region is extremely prone to disasters: floods and earthquakes are frequent and typhoons the main life threatening seasonal occurrence and these have important economic consequences.

These common characteristics give this part of Asia great potential for sub-regional co-operation. In addition, the many relief operations in the region and the need to increase Federation support to institutional and resource development and disaster preparedness have clearly shown the necessity of a more sustained Federation presence in the region. The Federation will open an East Asia Regional Office (EARO) in Beijing, China, in early 1999. The Regional Office will provide support to and co-operation with the National Societies of China, Japan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Republic of Korea (RoK), Mongolia and the Macao Red Cross (currently a branch of the Portuguese Red Cross).

### Objectives

The Regional Office objectives for 1999 are:

- To establish the Office, with the necessary support staff, by the end of January.
- By July, to complete an assessment of what support the National Societies require in terms of institutional and resource development, disaster preparedness, communications, programme development and regional co-operation.
- Based on the regional assessment, to draw up a comprehensive regional plan of action, with specific country programmes.
- Ensure ongoing support to operations in China, logistics to DPRK operations and support to programmes in Mongolia.

### Functions and activities

The East Asia Regional Office will encourage and promote co-operation between national societies, support the developmental work of the societies in the region, contribute to the mobilisation and development of human and financial resources and provide logistical support to operations in the region. These functions will be carried out with specialised technical support from the Regional Delegation in Kuala Lumpur as required.

The Office will be staffed by two delegates, a Head of Regional Office and a regional logistics delegate. It will be accommodated in the premises of the national headquarters of the Red Cross Society of China, where office space and communications have already been organised.

## Mongolia

An evaluation in late 1998 of the Mongolian Red Cross Society's three year Development Programme strongly recommended continuing external support, to sustain its achievements. The main ongoing activities for which funding is sought are summarised below.

### Objectives

- To strengthen the capacity of the National Society at Headquarters and Branch level.
- To further reinforce the Society's disaster preparedness and response capacity.
- To improve the general health situation in the country, especially amongst the most vulnerable, through training and support for community based Health and First Aid volunteers and the development of blood donor recruitment.
- To increase public awareness of the Movement and the activities of the Society, to increase membership and donations.
- To improve and expand social services for the most vulnerable.
- To continue establishing a strong Red Cross Youth in the Branches.

### Programmes

#### Institutional and Resource Development

Creation and publication of financial guidelines. Seminars for Branch accountants on their use.

To generate domestic funds, seminars on Revenue Generation will target HQ staff Branch Secretaries and selected Branch committee members. The Federation handbook on Revenue Generation will be translated into Mongolian.

Other projects include: helping branches acquire a building; supporting the decentralisation of the Ulaanbaatar branch; salary support for 10 headquarters staff; and completion of the livestock programme.

#### Disaster Preparedness

DP training seminars will be held, some linked to Health and First Aid seminars to minimise travel costs.

The Central Warehouse in Ulaanbaatar will supply 16 Branches with relief goods. It will expand its stocks to cover 500 people. Six Branches, located in the most disaster prone areas of Mongolia, will increase their emergency capacity from 30 to 50 beneficiaries. Three Branches in plague and flood prone areas will receive relief goods to enable them to assist up to 30 beneficiaries.

Disaster prevention information materials will be standardised, printed, distributed to Branches and sold to interested NGOs and organisations.

#### Health, First Aid, Blood

Training courses will be held, targeting instructors and volunteers and reflecting the results of a needs assessment among the most vulnerable.

A working group comprising the Ministry of Health, Aids Project Team, Civil Defence Board and the Ministry of Environment, will elaborate a Strategic Work Plan on health for the MRCS.

Production of: publications on preventive health care; a training video on First Aid; an Aids prevention TV programme.

Initial funds are sought for 5,000 first aid kits which will be sold to new drivers who by law must purchase a kit from the MRCS in order to obtain a licence.

The MRCS, assigned responsibility for Blood Donor recruitment by the Ministry of Health, will conduct training seminars for staff of Blood Centres with the assistance of the Federation.

#### Dissemination/Information

In 1999, MRCS will celebrate its 60th anniversary. Planned events include a one hour TV programme; a public opinion poll on the Society over the radio; an anniversary poster; reprints of Fundamental Principles posters. Red Cross souvenirs will be sold to generate funds. The last 10 Branches will be equipped with overhead projectors, copy machines and white-boards for dissemination purposes and training of volunteers.

#### Community Services

Services for the increasing numbers of vulnerable in Ulaanbaatar will be expanded and be free or low-cost.

To ensure their financing, a bakery, a leather workshop and a canteen will be established.

#### Youth

First Aid training, now included in the Mongolian schools curriculum, will start in the next school year. Red Cross Youth will be responsible for training trainers.

The Street Children programme will continue.

Training programmes for RC Youth in the provinces and at educational institutions will include Aids Awareness.

A summer camp for Junior RC Youth members is planned, with international participation.

Delegation Capacity

The Federation representation will continue to assist the Mongolian Red Cross in its institutional development. It will need a consultant for the Health and First Aid programme, the strategic work plan and nutritional survey.