

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

CHINA: SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (SARS)

29 April 2004

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

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 01/2004) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

A representative from the Beijing Centre for Disease Prevention and Control reported that some seven hundred people are under quarantine in Beijing. The quarantine comes following the identification of eight individuals who have either been diagnosed with the disease or are being monitored for possible severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) infection. Six of these individuals are in Beijing while two cases, one of which has already died from the disease, were identified in Anhui Province. Some 353 individuals are currently under observation in Anhui province. The World Health Organisation has established guidelines for the global surveillance of SARS where cases of SARS are confirmed through an external international reference laboratory. Earlier this week at the request of the Chinese government, the WHO sent teams to Beijing to work with Chinese counterparts on addressing the issue.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) branches in Beijing and neighbouring city Tianjin (100 km from Beijing) have stepped up SARS prevention activities. The Beijing branch of the RCSC is an active member of the multisectoral SARS prevention working group. The RCSC's branch in Tianjin has updated its public website and has once again posted information designed to increase community awareness about the role good health and hygiene practices play in preventing SARS. The branch is also reintroducing educational materials prepared by the RCSC and the Federation in response to the outbreak of the disease in 2003. Additionally the branch is conducting

information sessions and distributing educational materials in local hospitals. The International Federation's Regional HIV/AIDS-Health delegate and representatives from the RCSC's national office in Beijing are communicating regularly with the WHO and monitoring the situation as it evolves.

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For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

[Click here to return to the title page or contact information.](#)

Guidance for Information Bulletins

The following guidance is intended to complement the revised Information Bulletin stylesheet. Please also refer to and use the Disaster Response Checklist (available on the Federation's FedNet at www.etc).

The situation

Briefly describe the situation or disaster, providing as much factual information as possible.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Depending on the type of disaster/situation, briefly give details of the effectiveness and impact of Red Cross and Red Crescent action in responding to the humanitarian needs, particularly focusing on common emergency sectors such as health, water-sanitation, relief distributions, logistics, & shelter. Coordination: it's critical that the Federation be seen as closely coordinating with other key operational agencies or organizations (UN, NGO, and others); the coordination text should indicate what other agencies or organizations are doing to respond (including bilateral PNS, the ICRC, and the operating national society itself), how the Federation is responding in facilitating humanitarian efforts, whether the main areas of needs are covered, and/or where gaps exist or where the programme/activities have been adjusted to avoid overlapping or duplication. Also, identify (list) specific coordination activities.

Contact details: these should be as comprehensive as possible (name, phone, fax, and email), and in the following hierarchy:

- National Society (relevant branch if relevant); contact name, title, phone, fax, and email.
- Federation delegation (regional or country) focal point; contact name, title, phone, fax, ad email.
- Geneva Secretariat focal point; contact name, title, phone, fax, and email.

Formatting: Main headings are Times New Roman 14pt bold. All other text is Times New Roman 11pt. Sub-headings should be in bold. All other formatting and presentation should be limited – while the appropriate and effective use of bullets to concisely and effectively list activities undertaken is encouraged; the use of under-lined and/or italic text should be minimized.

Photos and maps: Because all of the Federation's appeals and reports products are now distributed via the Federation's website, digital photos and maps inserted into the documents present a key advantage and opportunity to market the Federation's operation to donors and the public. We therefore encourage you to make full use of the web by sending photos to be incorporated in these updates. Please take the following rough parameters into account when including photos: they should be sized at a maximum of 250 pixels wide and 72 dpi (the same size as pictures on the Federation's website); in terms of maintaining a reasonable overall size of the final pdf. document only 2 or 3 photos should be placed in one report (preferably on the first 1-3 pages); the Red Cross or Red Crescent involvement (emblems on flags, shirts, armbands, signs) should be visibly apparent in the photo, and a brief explanatory caption should accompany each photo.