

# 2021



Mongolia © Benjamin Suomela

# EAST ASIA

## IFRC COUNTRY CLUSTER

Appeal number  
**MAA54001**

Funding requirement in Swiss francs  
**1.5 million**



Countries

**4**



Staff

**19**



Volunteers

**2.6 million**



People to be reached

**18 million**

This document details the IFRC's support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this country/cluster plan listed here as funding requirements.



Mongolia © Mongolian Red Cross

## SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

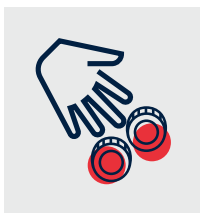
### Population

**109.6 million**

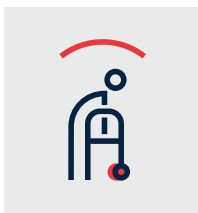
### 2019 Human Development Index Ranking

**106**

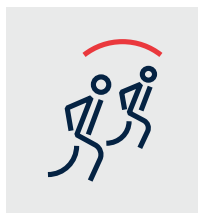
## Vulnerabilities



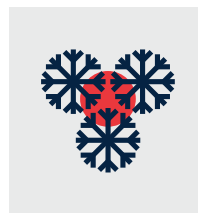
Poverty



Aging population



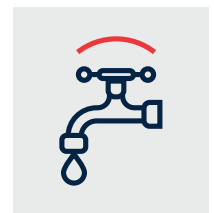
Migration



Extreme weather



Climate change



Water scarcity

The four countries supported by the Beijing Country Cluster Office make up 21 per cent of the world's population. The socio-political situation in these countries is diverse, yet stable, while the situation in the Korean peninsula remains of concern. The vulnerabilities in these countries come from a combination of socioeconomic conditions and disasters.

More than half of China's population is estimated to live in areas vulnerable to floods, tropical cyclones, earthquakes and drought. Japan is situated in a volcanic zone where there are frequent low-intensity earth tremors and occasional volcanic activity. Undersea earthquakes also expose the coastline to tsunamis. The Republic of Korea is prone to numerous natural hazards, including typhoons, floods, droughts, landslides, snowstorms, tsunamis, earthquakes and, since 2018, heatwaves. Heavy rainfall and typhoons are frequent and destructive. Mongolia is susceptible to dzuds (usually a summer drought followed by a severe winter, generally causing serious loss of livestock), dust storms, droughts, floods, wildfires, and earthquakes. Of these, dzuds, droughts and fires have caused catastrophic damages due to their complex interaction with the steppe ecosystems and livelihoods.

The region is home to four of the ten biggest disasters in modern history, claiming many lives and causing extensive destruction. Severe weather and climatic disasters are both rapid and slow onset in this region, with many people exposed to the dangers created by their immediate impact and the after effects, often including water scarcity, lack of shelter and access to medical care.

Poverty, unprecedented aging of the population, urbanization and migration contribute to increased vulnerability.

The population is also exposed to increased health risks due to disease outbreaks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, communicable and noncommunicable diseases, as well as a wide-spread lack of access to safe water.



Japan © IFRC / Rob Few

## ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES

### Established

The Republic of Korea  
National Red Cross  
**1905**

Japanese Red Cross  
Society  
**1877**

Red Cross Society  
of China  
**1904**

Mongolian Red Cross  
Society  
**1939**

The National Society in China is an active partner of other National Societies with emergency response and development support and has the largest number of volunteers of all National Societies and has established the International Academy of the Red Cross Red Crescent to promote humanitarian education. It is recognised by the Chinese Government and is a major partner in the planning for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games. It is also the first National Society to receive an International First Aid Attestation (IFAA).

The Republic of Korea provides 95 per cent of blood supplies in the region and is the host of the Asia Pacific Disaster Resilience Centre. It has a strong ambition to be a humanitarian actor both domestically and internationally and play an active role in inter-Korean cooperation.

The Japanese Red Cross Society is one of only a few National Societies with the capacity to deal with nuclear disasters and preparedness in this region. The National Society is well established in providing medical care to vulnerable people in the country, with 86 Red Cross emergency hospitals, 30 medical emergency and critical care centres, 4 advanced medical emergency critical care centres and 54 blood centres under its management. It has over 1.2 million active volunteers supporting its programmes and services.

The Mongolian Red Cross Society has a strong relationship with the Government. It aspires to enhance its capacity in terms of logistic development, financial sustainability and resource mobilisation, as well as its response and preparedness to large scale disasters.

# MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

## Movement coordination

Name of Partner	Climate	Crises	Health	Migration	Inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
Noregian Red Cross		✓	✓		✓			
Australian Red Cross		✓	✓		✓			
ICRC					✓			
British Red Cross					✓			
Swedish Red Cross		✓						
Italian Red Cross			✓					
Red Cross Society of China			✓					
Japanese Red Cross Society								✓
Korean Red Cross Society								✓
Finnish Red Cross								✓

The IFRC organises the East Asia Five Plus Leaders' Forum in which the heads of the five East Asian National Societies meet annually to exchange experience and ideas, to share best practices and to set their targets for regional cooperation.

The IFRC is dedicated to connecting youth groups in East Asia with the East Asia Youth Network. The Network provides a platform for youth volunteers of the National Societies of East Asia to: interact, for mutual understanding; build capacity; share best practices; foster youth action; and promote young people in decision making processes

Together with the Mongolian Red Cross Society, the IFRC initiated the East Asia Youth Camp Gathering. Through the camp, young people explore their engagement with the Red Cross Red Crescent as a real-life changing leadership experience that encourages them to be the agents of change, give back to their communities, and champion decision-making that leads to collective community advancement.

Every year, the East Asia National Societies jointly hold campaigns to celebrate World First Aid Day and World Blood Donor Day. With support from the Global First Aid Reference Centre, the IFRC held the East Asia First Aid Challenge and Seminar. The IFRC organized a forum in collaboration with the National Society of China to provide a platform on Cooperation on Large-Scale Disasters Preparedness and Response. The forum envisaged renewing the agenda of humanitarian response by encouraging the East Asia National Societies to commit to joint actions for large, emerging and complex emergencies in the region. The IFRC and the ICRC issued a joint appeal to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China for the prevention and management of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Japan © Japanese Red Cross Society

## CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**200,000**

People to be reached

**130,000**

Some disasters caused by climate change can be forecast and dealt with in an anticipatory way to reduce the negative impact on people. Science and data based anticipatory approaches, including forecast-based financing, can play a crucial role in enhancing the effective preparedness for and response capacities of National Societies to climate-induced disasters.

Reducing and adapting to the rising and evolving risks from climate and environmental crises can be achieved by enhancing the technical capacity of staff and volunteers in close collaboration with the Climate Centre on Climate Change Adaptation.

Mobile data collection of community knowledge, attitudes and practices are crucial to understanding the community and the climate and environmental crises risks people face. Preparing communities for better climate action, creating a supportive policy environment and developing joint funding proposals with internal and external expert entities for heatwaves, and severe winters are important aspects of this strategy.

The IFRC is making a continuous and measurable contribution to improved environmental management and climate change mitigation. It is supporting National Societies to reduce their carbon footprint, promote environmentally sustainable practices in their offices and implement their environmental policies.

Building the National Society's sustainability capacity, including for assessments, policy framework development and implementation and promoting innovative pilot nature-based solutions has proven beneficial.

### **ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will support National Societies to introduce, pilot, and promote anticipatory approaches, including forecast-based financing.
- The IFRC will support National Societies to build the assessment and implementation of climate smart livelihood capacity of staff and volunteers.
- The IFRC will support East Asia National Societies to become climate ready through assessment, strategies, and carbon footprint commitments.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to organise a climate forum and the East Asia Five Plus leaderships to commit to their climate actions.
- The IFRC will create a green National Society office and green community model in China and Mongolia.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to address livelihoods and food production strategies, including livelihoods diversification and natural resources management to improve communities and vulnerable households to cope with climate change effects.



China © Red Cross Society of China / IFRC

## EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs  
**380,000**

People to be reached  
**92,500**



The preparedness for and response to emergencies has been and will continue to be complicated by health factors, especially the current COVID-19 pandemic. Evolving crises, such as climate change and heatwaves are likely to lead to more disasters with greater frequency, intensity and impacts.

East Asian countries, prone to natural disasters and with large populations, will need to be better prepared at different levels for emergencies with compounded risks.

The capacities of the National Society in China and the communities need to be further enhanced to continue to reduce the impacts of the compounded risks of natural disasters and health emergencies, and to provide effective and timely assistance to the affected population.

Unlike Japan or the northern provinces of China, the Korean Peninsula is geologically stable. There are no active volcanoes, and there have been no strong earthquakes. The greatest threat comes from monsoons and typhoons. South Korea can expect between one and three typhoons every year in late summer causing flooding and landslides. There is also low-level seismic activity in the southwest.

The poorest people in Mongolia are especially vulnerable to the extreme winters, flash floods and storms. The Mongolian Red Cross aims to increase and strengthen its Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) activities in disaster response to ensure readiness and resilience among vulnerable communities.

The Asia Pacific Disaster Resilience Centres (APDRC) will continue to strengthen capacity of the National Societies by providing technical and financial support, facilitating knowledge sharing and enhancing partnership.

### **ACTIVITIES**

- Support the National Society's disaster management emergency responses through an Emergency Appeal and the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund.
- Develop a guide to strengthen the recognition of the National Society's auxiliary role through case studies and dialogue with government and humanitarian partners.
- Strengthen disaster management strategic documents, including shelter and livelihood guidelines.
- Deliver early action and response to vulnerable people using disaster risk financing.
- Strengthen capacity to deliver humanitarian assistance through cash and voucher assistance.
- Develop and maintain dialogue with the military for preparation and response to a disaster.

# GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**180,000**

People to be reached

**2,100,000**



First aid is a fundamental activity in all East Asia National Societies. In 2020, all of the East Asia National Societies celebrated the World First Aid Day to promote the importance of first aid training, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disproportionately affected marginalised, vulnerable populations across the region.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support has become a growing priority in emergencies and disasters for the East Asia sub-region, particularly in the National Societies COVID-19 operations.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, ensuring sufficient blood supply and addressing public concerns on the safety of blood donation are growing challenges for National Societies.

The first COVID-19 cases were reported in Wuhan City, China. Given the profound impact of the pandemic there is an urgent need to build infrastructure and strengthen capacity in epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response. Meanwhile, China's population is rapidly ageing. This requires an increased need for integrating health promotion and healthy ageing activities into existing community health programming. Since first aid was recognised as one of the focus areas in 2018, the National Society in China has made outstanding achievements and remarkable contribution to the agenda of first aid development in the East Asia sub-region. IFRC support to the National Society in China in first aid over the next five years will generate more favourable health and social impacts in China and the region and help to position it as an outstanding first aid training provider in China.

The Korean Red Cross operates five hospitals, 14 chapters, 131 blood donation centres and rehabilitation centre providing medical services to the vulnerable people at an affordable cost. It is the country's largest blood supplier and, as of 2018, provided 93% of blood in the Republic of Korea. It offers professional, certified public health training, such as in first aid; water, mountain, and road safety; youth peer education; psychosocial support; and senior health care management.

The average life expectancy in Mongolia has recently increased to 69.57 years, with women living almost 10 years longer than men. The non communicable disease burden is increasing and Mongolia continues to have the world's highest rates of illnesses and of death due to liver cancer, mainly associated with hepatitis B and C infection. There is limited capacity in Mongolia to detect communicable diseases and to monitor treatment, which results in delayed access to health care, treatment failure and a large number of patients who do not receive follow-up care. Mongolia has faced emerging diseases resulting from environmental events such as influenza outbreaks, dzud (severe winters) and flooding.

Air pollution in Ulaanbaatar is among the highest in the world and water, sanitation and hygiene remain a challenge. Many health-care facilities are not connected to central water supplies or sewer systems and soil contamination, the poor management of wastewater treatment and disposal, and open-pit latrines are of particular concerns. The management of medicines also needs to be improved to ensure correct pricing and appropriate availability. Surveillance of essential drugs and antimicrobial resistance are also needed.

## ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will organise a panel on 'Role of Community in Epidemic Preparedness and Response' at the second Boao Global Health Forum for National Societies to share their experience and expertise.
- The IFRC will organise the first East Asia Regional First Aid Competition.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to develop business plans and to strengthen private sector partnerships, especially in Mongolia and China.
- The IFRC will promote the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support initiative through the Asia-Pacific Regional Training and Learning Collaborative.
- The IFRC will collaborate with the National Societies to facilitate the organisation of an East Asia Public Health in Emergency training.
- The IFRC will support of the National Societies in China and Mongolia on epidemic and pandemic preparedness.



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## MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

People to be reached  
**2,000**



In recent years, international migration from Mongolia has grown dramatically. An estimated 130,000, or one in eleven Mongolians, mostly young, educated men, live abroad primarily for economic reasons. The main destinations are China, Russia, Korea, and Japan.

Internal migration within Mongolia has a long tradition. Recent trends, however, are exceptional in the large proportion of households moving from rural to urban areas, resulting in urbanization and depopulation of rural areas. Ulaanbaatar has attracted an average net inflow of around 21,000 people per year.

The National Society in Mongolia is planning to conduct an assessment of internal and international migration issues in Mongolia with the support of IFRC.

### ACTIVITIES

- Conduct research on migration and displacement to identify priority focus areas.
- Conduct “pre-departure sessions” for people leaving Mongolia and develop information, education and communications (IEC) materials for them with the cooperation of Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.
- Conduct induction sessions for newly arriving migrants on receiving services from the government, finding work, and on life-skills.
- Provide support to the National Society in Mongolia to define a strategy, policy and key actions on migration and displacement:
- Conduct a workshop on migration capacity building and migration needs mapping with 31 mid-level branches and partner organizations.
- Train 60 staff and volunteers to improve knowledge on migration and displacement and its services with IFRC support.





China © IFRC

## VALUES, POWER, AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**40,000**

People to be reached

**1,700**



Youth engagement and enabling youth via education and engaging youth in decision making are regional priorities agreed during the East Asia Leaders' Forum in both 2018 and 2019. A review of the value-based education conducted in each East Asia National Society through the Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change Program since 2013 will be conducted to scale up and explore innovative methodologies and new partnerships.

### **ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will organise an East Asia-wide working group to develop the Youths as Agents of Behavioural Change online material.
- The IFRC will support the Chinese National Society to renew the Red Cross work guidelines in universities, develop the Red Cross work guidelines in primary and middle schools, and scale up its Youths as Agents of Behavioural Change programme.
- The IFRC will support the Republic of Korea's National Society to develop the humanitarian course.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to establish partnerships with the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders, and to develop the public expenditure analysis policies.



Republic of Korea © IFRC / Rob Few

## ENABLER 1

ENGAGED WITH RENEWED INFLUENCE, INNOVATIVE AND DIGITALLY TRANSFORMED WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**60,000**

### ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will work with National Societies to develop a strategic communication plan and support them to collect disaster risk information.
- The IFRC will enhance its advocacy skills and those of the East Asia National Societies to influence policies and systems for the most vulnerable people through regional, national and policy making and decision-making platforms.
- The IFRC will support the East Asia National Societies in strengthening their auxiliary role to actively engage with the regional, national and local stakeholders.



Japan © IFRC

## ENABLER 2

ACCOUNTABLE WITH AN AGILE MANAGEMENT AND A RENEWED FINANCING MODEL WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**530,000**

### **ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will train both IFRC and National Society staff on fraud and corruption, code of conduct, sexual harassment, child protection, exploitation and abuse and security trainings.
- The IFRC will provide staff development training
- The IFRC will work closely with the East Asia National Societies and other stakeholders in East Asia, such as the China International Development Cooperation Agency, the Korea International Cooperation Agency, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Boao Forum, and the private sector in East Asia, to seek resources and enhance partnerships.
- The IFRC will collaborate with UN and other partners including governments and local partners.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to adapt the global fundraising strategy, guidelines and platform to their needs.



Mongolia © IFRC / Mirva Helenius

## ENABLER 3

TRUSTED BY COMMUNITIES, OWNED AND VALUED BY THE MEMBERSHIP WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**200,000**

The IFRC supports the National Societies to be the trusted humanitarian partners of choice for local action and with the capacity to act in the global network.

The IFRC is supporting the National Societies to assess their development needs, revise their legal base and plan to better provide sustainability services, making local branches robust and will diversify the volunteer base.

The IFRC and the National Societies understand that youth and volunteer engagement is crucial in gaining successful communication with communities. They will prioritise volunteering development and youth action as critical catalysts of behavioural change and local action, ensuring access and nurturing trust. This will allow young people to contribute to decision making, innovation and strengthening the national network. The result of this is a gaining of a better understanding of the backgrounds and needs of young people to participate in discussions and local decision-making processes.

Empowering people in communities will be extended beyond the youth and volunteers to include other people affected by disaster and crises. Community engagement allows people to build trust in the National Societies, to serve their best interests and represent them at higher levels.

To strengthen this empowerment, the National Societies will protect volunteers, promote psychosocial wellbeing and provide greater support to those killed or injured in the line of duty, and their families.

The IFRC will foster a more diverse leadership embodied in increased volunteer and youth involvement, gender parity and equitable geographic representation. The strategy will identify and promote professionals to foster age and gender equality, diversity and cultural and geographic inclusion.

### **ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will organise the East Asia Leader's Forum to support the leadership and Strategy 2030 development of each National Society.
- The IFRC will support the operational capacity building of East Asia National Societies by enhancing the East Asia first aid and large-scale disaster cooperation network.
- The IFRC will support the operation of the East Asia Youth Network, including information sharing, leadership development, exchange and other planned activities of its members.
- The IFRC will develop the East Asia-wide Red Cross youth leadership training programme.
- The IFRC will strengthen the engagement of National Societies with reference centres, hubs and labs to capture evidence and to share knowledge and lessons.
- The IFRC will ensure emergency plans of action are in line with the National Societies plans, capacity and mandate.



**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

### Contact Information

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