

Plan 2009-2010



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Mongolia

Executive summary

Mongolia is climatically and geographically one of the most disaster-prone areas in the world. It experiences a spectrum of disasters ranging from heavy snowfalls in winter, strong winds and dust storms, drought, earthquakes, and animal and human epidemic infectious diseases. The three largest cities in Mongolia are located in magnitude 7 to 8 seismic active areas.

The Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) strives to assist the most vulnerable people in both urban and rural settings, with one of the national society's priorities to build up the resiliency of communities and herders against disasters. This remains a huge challenge for the national society as half of the country, approximately 1.2 million people, are spread out over a territory nearly three times the size of France.

The Mongolian Red Cross Society relies very much on external technical assistance and international funding of its programmes in order to increase its capacity to achieve its objectives and to support and assist those most vulnerable in the country.

In the 2009-2010 programme cycle, the International Federation plans to support the MRCS in the areas of disaster management, health and care, organizational development, and principles and values. The programmes will further integrate the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values that guide Red Cross work.

The total budget for 2009 is CHF 1,129,908 (USD 1,032,823 or EUR 719,687) and for 2010 is CHF 1,160,015 (USD 1,060,343 or EUR 738,863). [Click here for the budget summary.](#)

Country context

Mongolia is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 114 out of 177 according to the human development index¹. Despite the country's increased economic growth in the past several years, many



MRCS responded swiftly in the spring / summer of 2008 to the threat of hand, foot and mouth disease with the support of disaster response emergency funds. These funds enabled them to disseminate important prevention messages to children and their parents. MRCS

¹ 2007/2008 HDI 0.700, UNDP Human Development Report (2007/2008)

Mongolian people have only marginally benefited from it. The most recent estimates indicate that 36.1 percent of the population live below the national poverty line and 18.9 percent of the population live on less than USD 1 per day². Increasing world food prices exacerbate the already dismal situation affecting the poorest in Mongolia, with prices for basic food items such as wheat flour and rice rising over 100 percent during the first few months of 2008.

To cushion the potentially adverse social impact of the country's transition towards a free market economy, the government runs a fairly extensive system of social safety net programmes for society's most vulnerable groups. For example, in 2007 alone, the government's social assistance expenditure was approximately CHF 88 million or about seven percent of the annual gross domestic product³.

Due to several factors, the living conditions of the most vulnerable in Mongolia have declined considerably in recent years. The country's political landscape, along with its undeveloped economic and financial systems, continues to present obstacles in making significant progress to catch up with neighbours in the region. The results of the elections in 2008 put in place a government which has already been in power for the past eight years, but with a clear majority. The government can now pass laws that originally had been blocked by the opposition, such as the mineral law which is anticipated to generate a higher GDP.

General economic hardship is further aggravated by the dzud⁴ phenomena, and a combination of dry summers and harsh winters. Economic necessity and the stress of herding in such conditions have forced thousands of mainly nomadic families to resettle around cities, particularly Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia, in the hope of securing alternative employment. Much of Ulaanbaatar has expanded to absorb over one million of the country's population. Its infrastructure is unable to cope with this growing influx and vulnerable individuals and families, particularly the elderly and disabled who are often socially excluded and lack sufficient government support.

In the past three-five years, Mongolia has experienced some 25-30 disasters, half of which were fatal and destructive:

- Storm winds occurred 57 times causing economic damage totaling MNT 1.3 billion (CHF1.1 million). Thousands of families were affected and more than 300,000 livestock perished.
- Over 28 people have died as a result of floods.
- Three people died in 358 forest fires.
- At least 15 earthquakes were recorded in ten provinces.

Earthquakes are one of the most devastating forms of natural disasters, and in Mongolia, 80 percent of the total land area and 70 percent of urban areas are located in earthquake-prone regions. Ulaanbaatar accommodates more than half of its total population and produces around 60 percent of local products. However, the city is located in a very active seismic zone and, coupled with older infrastructure, building standards are doubtful to withstand earthquakes of above magnitude 5 on the Richter scale. According to the vulnerability capacity assessment, many living in Ulaanbaatar also do not have much awareness regarding earthquakes.

Mongolia is also vulnerable to the spread of diseases and epidemics. Both agricultural and wild species transmission of diseases, such as avian influenza, is of serious concern to the people of Mongolia. Avian influenza and other communicable poultry diseases occurred in 41 sub-provinces, killing 679 wild birds. Although the virus transmission to humans has not been problematic as of yet, it is of ultimate importance that the population is aware of how to prevent the spread of the virus. This was particularly evident in the rapid spread of hand, foot and mouth disease in the first half of 2008. By mid- year, at least 3,000 cases had been reported, mainly in children below the age of five.

² http://www.adb.org/Documents/Fact_Sheets/MON.pdf

³ Mongolian Ministry of Social Welfare, 2006 Report

⁴ Extremely harsh winters in which the land is frozen and cannot sustain grazing livestock.

National Society priorities and current work with partners

The MRCS aims to serve the most vulnerable communities through its extensive volunteer-based network by providing key services to the targeted population, while promoting the values of humanitarianism and volunteerism. With 37 mid-level branches and 902 primary-level branches covering all 21 provinces, as well as the capital, the MRCS network extends to communities nationwide. Through an integrated system of programmes, the MRCS addresses all four of the International Federation's Global Agenda goals.

Following a stakeholder analysis and mapping assessment amongst the various programmes, the MRCS has identified and coordinates with relevant local government agencies in implementing its programmes. Through partnerships with agencies such as the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), social welfare agencies and family hospitals (in social care), the traffic police (in first aid), the national blood centre (in blood donation), border troops and prison authorities (in HIV/AIDS and social care), the ministry of justice and the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and others, programme activities are scaled-up with increasing local support. MRCS participates in local coordination committees in order to avoid duplication. All efforts, as set by the national government, are aligned with the Millennium Development Goals.

Partners in health and first aid programmes include Positive Life (a community-based organization for HIV positive people), Youth for Health (a community-based organization for men who have sex with men), UNICEF, Global Fund, World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), National AIDS Foundation, National Centre for Communicable Diseases (NCCD) and the National Journalists Association/Journalists Union. The Australian Red Cross Society and Japanese Red Cross Society are partners within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

The social care programme of the MRCS is in partnership with Voluntary Service Overseas Mongolia, an international NGO focused on helping volunteer-based organizations. With their help, the MRCS is looking to further improve its management of volunteers and provide updated manuals and brochures on volunteering. As a result of this current partnership, the management of the volunteers of MRCS has been greatly strengthened.

In disaster management, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners are mainly the Australian Red Cross and the Finnish Red Cross. Other active partners include the British government's Department for International Development (DFID), the National Emergency Management Agency, Mongolian National Radio and the National Centre for Infectious Foci.

The humanitarian values information department works closely with the media, which benefits all programme areas of the MRCS. One example of this is the HIV/AIDS programme, in which journalists have been invited to workshops where the focus has been to train them on how to inform the public in a constructive way about HIV/AIDS and how to fight stigma and discrimination about the disease in Mongolia. It has been noted that the quality of reporting has increased at national and provincial levels. During disasters, humanitarian values have been efficiently disseminated in the media, often by informing the public about the MRCS's action in reaching the affected people.

The International Federation will continue to support the MRCS in 2009-10 with support to disaster management, health and care, organizational development and principles and values. The MRCS has its own Strategy 2010, with the following mission: *"Recalling the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, the MRCS wishes to focus on its core activities, identifying the most vulnerable in the community, and to contribute in building civil society, and becoming a well-functioning national society"*.

Given the country's situation, its needs and the national society's own long term development perspective, the International Federation's planning for 2009-10 focuses on maintaining and further supporting the MRCS's clear commitment to the International Federation's "Global Agenda", "Strategy 2010", recommendations in the "Strategic Review", and "Establish the Way Ahead: Mongolian Red

Cross”, in order to move towards a well functioning national society, while addressing and reducing vulnerability in targeted areas around the country.

The overall focus of this two-year programme is to support MRCS to implement its core programmes with a community-based, volunteer-led approach to ensure the sustainability of achieved outcomes. The volunteer management policy is being developed specifically for the national society to scale up programmes to meet the rapidly increasing needs of the vulnerable among the urban and rural population by reviewing and developing strategic policies in core programmes such as health and care, and disaster management. The enhancement of the capacity building of mid-level Red Cross branches and the upgrading of staff and volunteers will be a primary focus for MRCS in its efforts to become a well functioning national society.

Secretariat supported programmes in 2009-2010

Logical frameworks are available on FedNet⁵ or [upon request](#).

Disaster Management

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose- Global Agenda Goal 1
To reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.

The total budget for the disaster management programme in 2009 is CHF 557,062 and for 2010 is CHF 539,487.

Programme component 1: Organizational preparedness
Component outcome: Improved capacity for rapid disaster response at the regional level

The key activities of the disaster management programme are designed to further strengthen the disaster response capacity of the seven regional disaster preparedness centres. This includes strengthening the technical capacity of both staff and volunteers, and improving the necessary transportation and storage capacity for relief goods.

Programme component 2: Community preparedness/ disaster risk reduction,
Component outcome 1: Improved community-based disaster prevention and preparedness for areas most at risk for disasters
Component outcome 2: Improved efficiency of dissemination activities

Building on and supporting the development of response preparedness within the seven regional disaster response preparedness centres, the MRCS will strive to develop capacity within vulnerable communities in the areas of disaster response and preparedness. These initiatives will be undertaken through community level activities including the preposition of emergency stocks (including feed for livestock) and the dissemination of information focused on disaster reduction utilising local media and the MRCS's volunteer base.

Following up on a successful vulnerability capacity assessment workshop in the spring of 2008, and in order to further map the direction and strategies of the national society in the area of disaster management, social care and health and care, it has been determined that regional vulnerability capacity assessment workshops will be held in three different provinces during 2009.

⁵ FedNet is an intranet and available to Movement members only.

Supporting the efforts in hazard awareness and integration across sectors, the MRCS first aid team members will be provided with more practical training, including issues related to disaster preparedness in the event of earthquakes. The first aid teams will then disseminate this information within communities living in urban centres such as Ulaanbaatar.

b) Profile of target beneficiaries

The disaster management programme will target herding and disaster-affected families whose income is less than USD 1 per day. Approximately 70 percent will be rural residents, with equal support for all family members both men and women (approximately a ratio of 50:50 men to women). A total of 53,500 beneficiaries will receive relief goods, including hay for livestock as well as information on disaster preparedness and emergency stockpiling. This knowledge will help families reduce the loss of income during disasters, as well as increase their capacity to prevent future losses.



MRCS's disaster response during surprise snow storms that hit the eastern part of Mongolia at the end of May, provided life saving supplies to the affected people. MRCS managed to respond quickly with the support of the Red Cross Society of China, through their embassy in Ulaanbaatar, and the American government. MRCS

Beneficiaries are mainly made up of herders who face natural disasters, communities in rural areas, and students from universities and secondary schools. First aid team members will be provided with more practical training, while trainings on disaster preparedness in the event of earthquakes will be given to more than half of the population living in Ulaanbaatar.

Following up on a successful vulnerability capacity assessment workshop in the spring of 2008, and in order to map down further the direction and strategies of the national society in the area of disaster management, social care and health and care, regional vulnerability capacity assessment workshops will be held in three different provinces during 2009.

c) Potential risks and challenges

Mongolia's high number and frequency of disasters means the MRCS is regularly being depleted of its relief stock. This creates huge challenges for the national society when responding to disasters. In addition to the lack of stock of relief items, MRCS also does not have a centralized warehouse. While the MRCS stocks four to six kinds of relief items such as blankets, mattresses, clothing, and tents, it does not stock pile food. As the pressing food situation becomes more urgent, a stock of food items is urgently needed to meet the needs of those affected by disasters. This is an issue which MRCS is determined to work on.

Within the hay preparation project, hay production is highly dependant on weather conditions. The project can be adversely affected by drought or flooding. In 2007, participating Red Cross branches managed to only produce 20 percent of their planned amount due to the severe drought that year.

Health and Care

Programme purpose – Global Agenda Goal 2
Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

The total budget for the health and care programme in 2009 is CHF455,163 and for 2010 budget is CHF 525,217.

Programme component: Health and first aid**Component outcome 1:** Public knowledge of community based first aid as well as safety and health is increased

This programme component is comprised of both first aid and water and sanitation activities. The main activities of the first aid programme focus on building up first aid knowledge among the public by targeting specifically drivers, police and children in schools and kindergartens. Activities in the water and sanitation programme focus on vulnerable communities in the *ger* areas of Ulaanbaatar city by providing clean water and disseminating hygiene information. Avian and human influenza preparedness and response is also a priority funded through the global avian and human influenza appeal.

Programme component: Social care programme**Component outcome 1:** Beneficiaries will be assisted through social care centres including psychosocial support by volunteers

The key activities of the social care programme will continue to expand and reach out to the most vulnerable in the communities through the volunteer base of the national society, targeting elderly people, single parents, disabled persons and prisoners, in close cooperation with the HIV/AIDS programme. The programme activities target the general community in order to strengthen its volunteer base to be able to meet more extensive needs of the communities by involving the local media, and directly recruiting volunteers, etc. Many inhabitants of the *ger* districts of Ulaanbaatar and the provincial capitals have migrated from the rural areas, and in many cases have been victims of disasters which caused them to lose their livestock and thus their only source of income. Moving from being beneficiaries of the disaster management programme, they become beneficiaries of the social care programme. The social care programme at the Red Cross branch level helps these migrating people and beneficiaries to register with the authorities, as many of them have no registration cards and cannot receive social security.

In 2009 and 2010 more attention will be given to build up knowledge in the area of psychological support to volunteers. This build up of knowledge will be carried out with support from the regional office in Beijing, the Asia Pacific zone office and possibly bilateral partners as well.

Programme component: HIV/AIDS**Component outcome 1:** Vulnerability to HIV and its impact in Mongolia has been reduced

MRCS is a member of the International Federation's Global Alliance on HIV. The key activities of the MRCS HIV/AIDS programme for 2009 and 2010 aim to focus on the scaling up of its programme, through the extensive branch network of the MRCS. The activities will be expanded to the most vulnerable communities, targeting single mothers, sex workers, men who have sex with men, mobile workers as well as male prisoners. This will be implemented by the training of trainers, peer education (face-to-face) and by using media to fight against general stigma towards the target groups, which still remains very strong in Mongolia. With strong financial and technical support from MRCS HIV alliance partners, as well as other partners of the national society, such as the UNFPA, and United National Volunteers, the national society has every intention to reach the target groups in the communities with its extensive volunteer base.

Programme component: Voluntary non-remunerated blood donation**Component outcome 1:** Community involvement will be improved in blood donation through voluntary non-remunerated blood donation and media promotion

As per the mandate of the MRCS and according to the law of Mongolia, the national society is responsible for blood donor recruitment. The activities focus on target groups such as students and age groups which are considered able to donate blood, through Red Cross groups such as Club 25 which targets students.

One of the most important activities is to target the media and have them report on the importance of donating safe blood through television, radio and newspapers. While the government of Mongolia – specifically, the ministry of health – has not contributed funding towards these activities, the national society is striving to lobby officials to allocate more available funds in the future for these important blood donor recruitment activities.

b) Profile of target beneficiaries

MRCS has undertaken a survey to assess the application of first aid services during accidents and emergencies. According to the survey, 150 out of 920 injured people involved in the survey (50.8 percent of the total injured) were between the ages of 20-39, of which 62 percent were men. Most of the target beneficiaries will be drivers, passengers, police and traffic police personnel, schools and kindergarten children.

The social care programme will be implemented in four *aimags* (Dornod, Dornogobi, Zavkhan and Selenge), focusing on provincial towns selected through the following criteria: remoteness of geographical location, poverty rate, migration pattern, and gaps in social care service coverage (government and international donor-funded programmes). The primary target groups are the elderly living alone, disabled people, impoverished persons, and prisoners at maximum security prisons. Secondary target groups consist of Mongolian Red Cross staff and volunteers who will be trained and whose capacity will be built. The programme aims to reach community members and raise their awareness of the social care system and social assistance.



The MRCS donated 100 books for the library at prison number 427 and distributed HIV/AIDS prevention materials, along with general health and hygiene materials and packages. MRCS

If the social care programme's application with the European Union is successful (expected to be known by October 2008), there will be scaling up of activities within the social care programme in ten branches from 2009 to the end of 2012 focusing on poverty reduction as well as sustainability of the programme. The branches are both in Ulaanbaatar city as well in rural areas. Part of the target beneficiaries are the unemployed, and which involve vocational training activities.

While other bilateral partners of MRCS will cover various activities under the HIV/AIDS alliance launched in Mongolia in April 2008, funding for HIV/AIDS activities through the International Federation to MRCS will benefit the following key affected communities and or partner communities:

- Male prisoners – 1,200 (39 percent of total target group)
- Single mothers – 3,600 (27 percent of total target group)
- Mobile population – 4,300 (7 percent of total target group)

The blood donor recruitment programme will target 3,000-5,000 people in 2009-2010 within the framework of the programme activities as follows:

- Students aged 17-25
- Healthy individuals aged 17-35 who are able to donate their blood
- Media staff and journalists
- Staff of the armed forces
- Decision makers that influence policy and practice in blood donation
- The community

c) Potential risks and challenges

Because of the high turnover of government counterparts due to political changes in the country, a main challenge is maintaining the coordination momentum when cooperating with other health and care related government and civil society organizations.

Regular disasters, a lack of technical and financial capacity, and the resources exhausted in responding to the needs of those affected, continue to hinder the progress and efforts made by the MRCS in implementing its programme. The MRCS also faces challenges in integrating its programmes to enable a more robust approach, which will lead to a better understanding on how each programme can be linked in helping the target population.

Specific to the scale up of HIV programming, the MRCS has identified a number of constraints and challenges in the coming years. Both a shortage of HIV professionals at the provincial level and a shortage of sustainable long-term funding may affect the success of the programme. There is also a need for better integration with other MRCS core health programmes and advocacy for an enabling legal environment for affected communities.

More awareness about the voluntary-based blood donation system is still needed in Mongolia. While there is little financial support from the government, MRCS has still managed to reach out to the public and increasing their knowledge about the importance of getting tested prior to donating blood. If more financial resources can be allocated from the government, MRCS would be better able to increase the number of blood donors and blood deferral rates. Due to the high rates of infectious diseases among the communities, cases such as Hepatitis C, B and sexually transmitted diseases would be reduced. The government has not made blood issues a priority and in 2009, the role which MRCS plays in blood donor recruitment nationally may be revised in order to protect the image in the future of the national society.

Organisational Development

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose – Global Agenda 3
Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

The total budget for the organizational development programme in 2009 is CHF 117,683 and for 2010 is CHF 95,311.

Programme component 1: To enhance further programme integration of Red Cross mid-level branches
Component outcome: A more integrated approach to programme implementation to increase the impact of programmes on targeted communities.

The key activities focus on creating more synergies between programmes in order to better utilize human resources, namely the valuable MRCS volunteer base, as well as equipment. In order to reposition the national society within the communities for better effectiveness, the plan is to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment survey. Depending on the results of this survey, the national society will adjust its future plans.

Programme component 2: Ensuring a well functioning national society with sustainable systems, procedures and staff with desired level of management and technical competencies.
Component outcome: Through improving capacity building for financial and human resources management areas of all the middle and primary level Red Cross branches, to contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of the beneficiaries.

One of the most important activities of the organisational development programme is strengthening the finance management of the national society by enhancing the finance software system and training finance personnel at headquarters, including the branches. The main activities surrounding human resource management will be to continue to develop systems and procedures in order to develop further staff retention.

The national society relies on valuable organisational development expertise from the International Federation's country, regional and zone offices. In 2009 and 2010, the plan is to have continuing support in the areas of volunteering, finance development and organisational preparedness, including further advice on cross-programme capacity building of branches.

b) Profile of target beneficiaries

The MRCS organisational development programme plays a significant role in building the national society's capacity in the key areas of the Global Agenda and the International Federation of the Future Framework for Action. The organisational development programme continues to carry out trainings to develop professional competencies for key staff and managers as well as promote the principles and values of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Senior management are also engaged and encouraged to become more active and effective in identifying important strategies and challenges for the national society, and directions for programmes, all taking into consideration the potential for funding and human resources in the future.

In the next two years, the national society will work towards enhancing cooperation with external and internal partner organizations by developing a cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) in order to give the MRCS a more equal footing with bilateral and multilateral partners, as well as the government. The MRCS will scale-up its resource mobilization and income generation activities to reach out to target beneficiaries. All mid-level Red Cross branches will set up a model mid-level Red Cross branch based on best practices and outcomes of activities. The planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting system will be strengthened further to reflect the ever-increasing needs and demands placed on the national society. This strategy will ensure that all projects will fall in line with the overall direction of MRCS programmes.

The reputation and image of the MRCS will be improved by disseminating information of the national society amongst the communities. This, along with the MRCS's focus to establish a resource fund which will be used to implement further capacity building of the national society, will provide more opportunities in creating innovative projects and programmes.

Sustainability of MRCS programmes and activities of the MRCS together with NGOs and governmental organizations at mid-level Red Cross branches is still lacking and can be an impetus for further development of humanitarian work. In order to address this issue, an organizational development component in all programmes will work to include the sustainability of resources and outcomes through internal and external resource mobilization towards a more planned approach to fundraising as well as promoting MRCS activities to other related domestic organizations. The retention and rewards system for special members, donors and humanitarian activities may need to be revised.

In the area of organizational development, MRCS continues to receive cross-programme organizational development support from the International Federation country office, as well the regional office in Beijing and the zone office in Kuala Lumpur. Finding ways to integrate capacity building components as well as sustainability measures remains a challenge.

c) Potential risks and challenges

The organisational development programme can be further strengthened by longer term funding and technical support from the government. The increasing pressures faced by the national society's staff in implementing its humanitarian work are not always reflected in the salary remuneration if compared to other similar organisations. The lack of funding for the organisational development programme of the MRCS means as of July, some 15 percent of total planned activities have thus far been implemented in 2008.

Principles and Values

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose – Global Agenda Goal 4
Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

No funding is being sought for the principles and values programme as the activities are integrated into other International Federation supported programmes of the MRCS.

Programme component: Publications/ mass media/ public events and campaigns, and promotion of Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.
Component outcome 1: Community awareness of MRCS activities is increased.
Component outcome 2: The public image of the MRCS is improved.
Component outcome 3: Community interest and involvement in humanitarian activities is increased.

b) Profile of target beneficiaries

The information and dissemination programme is working to create a common communication strategy, which will include training all staff on effective communication skills, including communication in emergencies. The programme will also continue its work in disseminating information on humanitarian values through public campaigns and anti-stigma / discrimination activities interlinked with the HIV/AIDS programme. Other MRCS programmes also have integrated activities linked to information and dissemination.

MRCS intends to play a stronger advocacy role in terms of ensuring equal human rights for vulnerable target groups, by providing services and support to communities such as prisoners and people living with HIV, and also by advocating for more meaningful community participation in activities benefiting socially excluded groups, such as the elderly, disabled, single-headed households, and internal migrants.

Beneficiaries of the programme will include media staff, journalists and communities who have received aid / social support from the Mongolian Red Cross within all development programmes. While funding is limited, this programme intends to scale up its efforts in working with programme staff to improve dissemination of MRCS activities and information, which will in turn help raise the MRCS public image. Such activities are crucial in attracting support of partner organisations and donors, as well as raising interest and membership in the MRCS.

c) Potential risks and challenges

The information and dissemination programme of the MRCS can be strengthened by more long term funding and relevant human resources. There are competitive humanitarian organisations in Mongolia and the image of the Mongolian Red Cross as a leader in the promotion of humanitarian values is still not common among the community. Many still think of the national society as an organization that distributes relief during disasters only.

Role of the secretariat

a) Technical programme support

The international Federation country office in Mongolia, with support from the regional office in Beijing, the zone office in Kuala Lumpur and the secretariat in Geneva, will continue to provide technical support as well as international resource mobilization for MRCS programmes and projects.

With CHF 2 million of funding through bilateral and multilateral channels in 2008, there is an ever increasing need to monitor the implementation and to provide technical support to the national society. The HIV/AIDS alliance, which was formally launched in Mongolia in April, 2008, will continue to receive

technical and financial support from the regional office in Beijing and the zone office in Kuala Lumpur, including coordinating support through multilateral and bilateral channels.

The focus has been, among others, on self-sustainability and synergies of projects as well as to create supplementary / complementary elements of multi-donor funding of individual projects.

The country office in Mongolia plays a key role in advising MRCS, and also in the coordination of international development support and the facilitation of all ongoing and future partner national society support. The present head of country office has been providing technical support in the area of organisational development and in particular finance development. Due to this guidance, the national society now uses a powerful finance management software tool in managing its accounting and financial systems. This work will continue in 2009 and 2010 with the ownership being within the finance department of MRCS.

b) Partnership development and coordination

The International Federation country office in Mongolia has actively been providing professional support to MRCS programmes and projects which are being implemented both through multilateral funding and as well with bilateral partners. The International Federation country office has a key role to play in coordinating both elements in order to avoid duplication of implementation, and to facilitate that the programmes are supplementing/ complementing each other. This is also to ensure that certain conditions and procedures are, as far as possible, standardised within MRCS.

While funding support through multilateral channels is based on country appeals, MRCS has worked with long standing bilateral partners, both regionally and internationally, which continue to support the national society with funding and technical support. These partner national societies are the Australian Red Cross, the Finnish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross and German Red Cross.

MRCS and the International Federation will strengthen global and regional cooperation within and outside the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, as well as building on existing partnerships, and exploring new ones. This will include:

- Working with local and national authorities to have the auxiliary role of MRCS more recognized, including receiving more programme support.
- Actively form more partnerships with other international organisations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) where common grounds can be met, including synergistic implementation of programmes to include supplementary/complementary approaches where possible.
- To develop partnerships which will increase further funding and technical support, in turn increasing the provision of services to the most vulnerable communities, and contribute to the success in the implementation of the programmes.

c) Representation and Advocacy

The International Federation country office in Mongolia has been and is actively linking the Mongolian Red Cross Society with the government of Mongolia and its various ministries, and with embassies and international donors represented in-country. This is carried out by formal and informal contact with interlocutors, attending regular meetings, and providing up to date information on MRCS programmes.

With support and assistance from the MRCS information officer, the media is used extensively, e.g. television, newspapers and radio, in promoting the work of the MRCS in order to get the humanitarian message through to the public and other stakeholders. MRCS programmes and projects are covered regularly in the local media as well as newspapers which are printed in the English language. Good access to the media has been a key to successful dissemination and advocacy work of the national society on a national level.

The International Federation country office in Mongolia has been encouraging the MRCS senior management to play a greater role in representing the national society within the international community, which includes the UN and other international organisations.

While the face-to-face advocacy work of MRCS is and has been successful on the provincial level with active participation by the Red Cross branches, the national society is striving for better access to local government ministries, and better recognition of its auxiliary role in Mongolian society.

Promoting gender equity and diversity

The HIV programme of the Mongolian Red Cross Society will focus on gender equality issues at national headquarters by creating working teams that are balanced between men and women volunteers and staff, while implementing projects.

While it has developed quickly, particularly since the end of the Soviet era, gender equality remains an issue. While 80 percent of MRCS staff are women; 80 percent of the governing board is comprised of men. This may be related to the fact that governing board members are generally also government or business leaders. Nevertheless, while women are obviously involved in MRCS work, their role needs to also include more decision making and leadership responsibilities.

At the implementation level, 95 percent of volunteers are women, and target groups are generally women-headed houses and vulnerable women. While part of the issue lies in the fact that social work has traditionally been seen as the work of women, men must also be engaged and encouraged to participate more actively as volunteers and staff at local levels.

Gender equality is not only about statistics; while the national society has no gender officer, no gender department, and no workplace policy related to gender, it is essential to train key staff and instructors on gender issues and how they can integrate them into programme activities. The MRCS will promote the International Federation's Fundamental Principles and values, as well as respect for dignity and equity by ensuring gender equality for further project implementation, and balancing gender issues among the volunteers and staff as well.

Quality, accountability and learning

All development programmes will focus on identifying branches with best practices, mainly in disaster response and social care services where well-functioning branches will share their experiences and lessons learned with others through national-level meetings and conferences to create a model for all other branches to follow. As for quality standards, the MRCS consistently strives to follow SPHERE standards across all of its programmes.

As for accountability—the MRCS has always been open to feedback from beneficiaries and donors, using both externally and internally conducted monitoring visits to assess beneficiary satisfaction, volunteer satisfaction and effectiveness, and staff performance. Financial accountability will be enhanced with the continued strengthening of MRCS financial management and reporting mechanisms over the next few years, as well as the greater participation and involvement of governing leaders and increased public awareness/monitoring.

[Click here for a map of Mongolia](#)

How we work	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. • Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies. • Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent

situations of vulnerability.

- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this plan, please contact:

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Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, GRUMP, Federation