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China

Mid-year report against Long-Term Planning Framework 2012 - 2015

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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**This report covers
the period 1 January
to 30 June 2012**

Earthquake affected people get the relief items from the distribution point of Yunnan Red Cross. A 5.7-magnitude earthquake jolted two counties in the border of southwest China's Yunnan and Sichuan provinces on 24 June.

Photo by Yunnan Red Cross



Overview

In the first half of this year, China has mainly been hit by natural disasters of earthquake, drought, storm and heavy rainfall.

Xinjiang earthquakes - On 9 March, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region was hit by a 6.0 magnitude earthquake, leaving 144,000 people in two counties affected, 37,000 people evacuated, 5,200 houses collapsed and 85,000 houses destroyed.¹ The provincial level Red Cross branch had allocated 300 pieces of cotton clothes, 300 pieces of cotton quilts and 200 family kits to affected areas.

On 30 June, a 6.6-magnitude quake jolted Xinjiang, leaving over 150,000 people affected, 48,000 people displaced and 7,500 houses collapsed.² After the disaster, Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) headquarters immediately dispatched 4,000 pieces of quilts and 200 tents to relieve the emergency needs of affected people.

Earthquake in Yunnan and Sichuan border - A 5.7-magnitude earthquake jolted two counties in the border of southwest China's Yunnan and Sichuan provinces on 24 June. It was followed by 53 aftershocks and the strongest one was measured at magnitude 3.8. The earthquake resulted in split roads and disrupted water supplies in the two affected counties.

¹ Source: Ministry of Civil Affairs March 13, 2012

² Source: Ministry of Civil Affairs 1 July 2012

As of 25 June, the earthquake has left 130,000 people affected, four people dead, 153 people injured, over 50,000 people evacuated to safe places, and 4,577 houses toppled. (Source: Ministry of Civil Affairs, 25 June, 2012).

In response to the needs of the disaster-affected area, Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) headquarters launched a Level III contingency plan. A total of 300 tents and 2,000 quilts were mobilized from the Disaster Preparedness Centre of the Yunnan Red Cross to the most affected area, and a disaster relief emergency fund of CNY100,000 was also allocated to provide food items for affected people. For Yunnan Red Cross Branch, an assessment team was dispatched on 24 June, and 400 quilts, 400 cotton-padded clothes and another 20 tents were delivered.

Drought - A severe drought parching the Yellow River and Huai River regions has affected normal agricultural production since March. As of 21 June, 5.17 million hectares of arable land in Henan, Anhui, Shandong and Inner Mongolia have been suffering drought conditions. The drought has also left 4.28 million people and 4.85 million heads of livestock in Yunnan, Hubei and Inner Mongolia short of drinking water.³



Hunan Red Cross staff are distributing relief items for the floods affected people. Photo by Hunan Red Cross

Floods - With the rainy season coming in May, heavy rains, storms and floods continue to strike Northwest (Gansu) and Central and Southwest part of China (Hunan, Jiangxi, Guizhou, Chongqing, Sichuan). At least 80 people have died, 200 injured with 300,000 people evacuated.⁴ RCSC had raised response level III and IV to respond to the disaster. A total of 300 family packs and CNY 100,000 emergency relief fund were mobilized to Jiangxi; 1,500 quilts and 1,500 clothes, 1,500 family packs to Hunan; 1,000 quilts, 1,000 jackets as well 400 tents were sent to Gansu.

In June, a new round of torrential rains began to hit southern and central China. A total of 399 counties in 11 provinces were affected by the torrential rains with Hunan, Jiangxi, Guangxi, Guizhou, Guangdong and Fujian as the most seriously affected provinces. As of 29 June, floods triggered by the torrential rains had killed 50 people with 42 still missing, affected the lives of over 10 million people, destroyed some 30,000 houses and inundated over 900,000 hectares of cropland.⁵ RCSC national headquarters immediately activated its level IV contingency plan to respond to this disaster. A total of 2,000 family kits and 1,661 family kits had been mobilized to Jiangxi and Guizhou respectively and at the same time a disaster relief emergency fund of CNY 100,000 was allocated to buy rice for affected people. A total of 2,000 pieces of quilts and 1,500 family kits were dispatched to Hunan.

The regional office is also closely monitoring the situation and has released updates on DMIS.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) regional disaster management team, with contributions of experts from the zone office, have been able to support the RCSC in developing capacities in both planning and organizational preparedness. There have been great strides in the past months on further consolidating and supporting the RCSC's emergency relief team development and agreements on establishing national disaster response teams at the headquarters level. Further work has been done on the grassroots level of community disaster risk reduction in Shaanxi and Gansu.

The IFRC continues to work very closely with RCSC headquarters to support their initiatives and activities in the areas of health and care. The RCSC has stepped up their advocacy on issues of HIV, and have had a very successful pilot project on tuberculosis in Shanxi province, supported by Lilly

³ Source: Xinhua News June 21, 2012

⁴ Source: Ministry of Civil Affairs 15th May, 2012

⁵ Source : Ministry of Civil Affairs 29 June 2012

China. The community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) initiatives of the RCSC are also expanding and fulfilling a needed role for better integration, capacity building, service delivery and a platform for health interventions at community levels.

Working in partnership

These programmes are supported through the generous donations of partners that include the American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross/Canadian government, Finnish Red Cross/Finnish government, Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) and Swedish Red Cross/Swedish government. RCSC has active programmes of bilateral cooperation with other members of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, including its special autonomous branches in Hong Kong and Macao, the American, Australian, Canadian, Netherlands, Norwegian and Swiss Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The RCSC coordinates closely with the ministry of health and civil affairs at local and national levels, ensuring that Red Cross activities are focused in areas where they have greater impact and cooperation from the local governments. Local organizations and community groups are important local partners for implementing activities, as well as reaching groups that might otherwise be difficult to access, such as minority communities. The RCSC also participates in collaborative efforts with other stakeholders and organizations working in related fields, such as the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO). The launch of a HIV Global Alliance in China will bring together many Red Cross partners, as well as non-Red Cross Red Crescent partners, under one programme strategy and plan of action, devised by Red Crescent RCSC.

On behalf of the Red Cross Society of China, IFRC would like to thank all partners for their support.

Progress towards outcomes

Business Line 1: To raise humanitarian standards

Outcome 1: The RCSC has been enabled and inspired to increase the magnitude, quality and impact of their services

Achievements

Three East Asia national societies (EANSs) participated in the Organizational Capacity Assessment Certification (OCAC) introductory meeting in Manila in May (RCSC, Korea National Red Cross (KNRC) and JRCS). RCSC was the first to start this process in East Asia. With full support and participation of the Executive Vice President, an assessment team was established which comprised of 22 representatives from headquarters, 10 branch leaders, and 20 county/prefecture branch-level participants. A questionnaire was distributed and initial assessments of the results are being collated.

In order to make the online learning platform more accessible to the large non-English speaking population of Red Cross staff and volunteers in China, the IFRC is arranging to launch World of Red Cross and Red Crescent in Chinese. The translation was done by the ICRC and presented to the East Asia Regional Delegation to upload onto the internet. Discussions with technical experts in China are ongoing to find the platform for this course. The hope is that this first launch will open up many opportunities for other learning opportunities in the Chinese language, reaching an extensive and important group of Red Cross staff and supporters in Asia that do not speak English.

The RCSC has established close links with academic professors and researchers as part of a "think tank" advising the RCSC on their current reform process. One of the universities involved has expressed interest in becoming a part of the global academic network. Initial discussions have outlined areas of interest and further exploration of the scope of their involvement will be discussed in July and throughout the year.

Business Line 2: To grow Red Cross services for vulnerable people

Outcome 1: RCSC has an increased role in disaster response both domestically and internationally.

Outcome 2: RCSC has increased its capacity to respond to disasters and emergencies in a timely and effective way.

Achievements

Water and sanitation ERT

Hygiene promotion training

During 20-25 February 2012, a hygiene promotion training was held in Changsha, Hunan province with 18 participants from the three water and sanitation emergency response team (ERT) branches. IFRC East Asia disaster management team, water and sanitation delegate from Asia Pacific zone office and a health officer from Philippines National Red Cross Society were there as facilitators. The topics of this training include Introduction to hygiene promotion in emergencies, assessment and plans of action and the implementation of hygiene promotion interventions. On the final day of this training, a simulation was conducted in a village to give participants a chance to practise what they have learned in the training as hygiene promoters.

Additional equipment support

East Asia delegation supports the development of three national water and sanitation ERTs of RCSC. As one part of the supporting plan, water treatment equipments will be procured by East Asia delegation and donated to the three ERTs. By now, a second round of testing of the prototypes made by the two potential suppliers has been done. After the testing, a second recommendation list was sent to the two suppliers respectively to make the equipment more suitable for emergency response.

To ensure ERT equipment and members can respond promptly after disasters, one ORV (Jeep) and one pick-up truck were donated to each water and sanitation ERT province in Yunnan, Hunan and Hubei by IFRC. The ORV is capable of transporting team members, testing equipment and office equipment. The pick-up truck is capable of transporting clean water and materials for logistics and living needs of members in the field.

In order to better protect the water treatment equipments and promote the capacity of Hunan water and sanitation ERT to respond to emergencies, the bottom parts of some of the storage boxes were renewed, four new storage boxes were made, and new sign plates were made with funding support from IFRC East Asia Delegation. Hubei Branch completed the procurement of personnel response items for team members according to the overall support plan. The items include water proof clothing, safety caps, backpacks, boots, emergency response kits, first aid kits etc. In Yunnan, to ensure necessary work support for the team members, a set of office equipment, including laptops, printers, cameras, external hard disks, USB drives and mobile internet adaptor were purchased with funding support from IFRC.

Challenges

Due to the lack of experienced staff and timely recruitment of additional human resources in the three provinces, the timeframe of ERT development activities were delayed.

Construction in Sichuan earthquake affected areas (Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu)

The construction of one warehouse in the earthquake-affected area has been completed in April. The agreement between IFRC and RCSC for three projects has been signed in March. Another four projects have had substantial progress in recent construction. A final project in Hanzhong, Shaanxi, is still in process of getting necessary ratification by the local government and the agreement between IFRC and RCSC hasn't yet been signed.

All previously agreed school and hospital construction projects in Sichuan have finished the tender process and have started reconstruction. Two new projects have been identified and will commence after a visit to the proposed site.

Challenges

Due to the difficulty of land selection and complicated procedures for the Red Cross branches to apply to the local government, the progress of several projects is behind the initially planned schedule. One of the projects also faced challenges with the tendering process, which caused a slight delay in construction.

Emergency health

One of the approaches included the introduction of the Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) toolkit and training manual which will involve the translation and adaptation of the tools to fit to local context. A dedicated emergency health focal person is expected to lead and coordinate the planning and execution of programme priorities together with other sectors and levels of the organization.

Standard operation procedures of national psychosocial support (PSS) ERT and management policy had been established and enforced by the Yunnan provincial branch.

Business Line 3: To strengthen specific Red Cross contribution to development

Outcome 1: RCSC is recognized as a valuable and essential actor in building community safety and resilience, with tools and methodologies guided by the global community safety and resilience framework and integrated across programmes such as disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, road safety, health, livelihoods and others.

Achievements

Adapted from IFRC planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) toolkit, CBHFA Guide of Household Visiting was developed and delivered to each implementing branch under the support of IFRC. This tool provides guidance on household visiting process and indicators for measurement. A "Form of Volunteer Evaluation" and a "Form of Audience Feedback" were developed from the CBHFA PMER toolkit for setting up and using monitoring and evaluation system for a community health programme. These forms are necessary and helpful for the community volunteers' management in CBHFA implementation.

According to the revised action plan, the trained volunteers have completed the household visiting by the end of June 2012 with total 22,600 households spreading key health messages as well as the first aid knowledge and skills delivered to the beneficiaries. Data collection and analysis will be conducted after the completion of household visiting.

The highlights of CBHFA school activities are focusing on the first aid and life skills trainings to the schools' teachers and the students by the trained volunteers. It is very helpful that the students obtained the key messages and skills on disease prevention and first aid, in return, they will educate their parents. In addition, a variety of activities such as singing contest, paper cutting and handwritten poster competition were organized around the principles and knowledge of Red Cross. Based on the summary of community assessment, hand washing sinks and dustbins were built for training the health habits of the students in the schools.

During the timeframe of programme implementation, a series of activities were conducted by the local implementing branches which strongly disseminated the knowledge of Red Cross movement, the concept of CBHFA and community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP). The events have increased the influence of Red Cross with its humanitarian values and the seven fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and were highly appreciated by the local government.

With the completion of RCSC CBHFA programme, implementing branches have held provincial sum-up meetings for the experiences gained and knowledge sharing during May-June 2012. The RCSC national CBHFA summary meeting has been organized in June-July 2012 with programme trainers and volunteers coming together to discuss CBHFA global mapping, lessons learnt and outline future developments. The participants discussed on linking CBHFA with ongoing health-related programmes in communities.

Challenges

RCSC local branches had limited capacity on financial reporting and project management which affected the effectiveness of project implementation. There was a communication gap between the RCSC headquarters and its branches, which also influenced the implementation.

Psychosocial support (PSS)

RCSC Yunnan and Sichuan branches have actively used and adapted its existing community-based PSS toolkit to fit the various PSS needs of different communities, age groups and contexts.

RCSC has established two resource centers on PSS in Kunming and Mengzi in Yunnan province.

By the end of June 2012, 42,789 people of selected communities and schools in Sichuan and Yunnan provinces have benefited from the community-based PSS interventions.



Students in Deyang Tenth Middle School in Sichuan conducting activities with the PSS toolkit. Photo by IFRC

The Sunshine in Your Heart of RCSC has completed three researches on the localization of PSS toolkit for different communities. A PSS toolkit for the elderly, rescuers and the ethnic minority had been produced.

Challenges

The project had been delayed twice in Yunnan since the RCSC headquarters and the Yunnan branch had limited capacity on project management and reporting.

RCSC's existing finance and reporting systems are different from the IFRC system and as such, submission of narrative and financial reports were often delayed due to the incompatibility of the systems and confusion of the responsible project officers.

Community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) and Community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR)

The programmes in Shaanxi were already completed in 2011.

In the first half of this year, two of the 15 villages in Gansu finished their construction projects. One is the electric drip irrigation project in Longchuan Village Anfu Town and the other one is Shangshui project in Nanqi Village Longcheng Town. As of the reporting date, 12 of the 15 villages had finished their projects. For the last three villages in Qin'an County, they submitted a new proposal which was approved by IFRC in February, and now the projects are in progress.

From December 2011 to March 2012, the Gansu Red Cross had initiated monitoring on hardware construction three times and provided nine training sessions for the three communities. From March to May, the Gansu Red Cross had monitored once and launched 12 disaster preparedness trainings. These trainings, with specific focus identified by the VCA process at the start of the programme, equipped communities with necessary knowledge to cope with future disasters and other vulnerabilities such as poor hygiene and sanitation.

Challenges

The communities lack experience in implementing programmes. They need to strengthen communication with provincial Red Cross, RCSC headquarters and IFRC.

Tight human resources in County Red Cross was a constant challenge to the implementation of the programme. Large amount of migrant workers and harvest time makes it difficult to mobilize villagers to participate in trainings and dissemination.

Livelihoods

Skills transfer component has been successfully completed with the total number of beneficiaries trained: 6,676; out of which 1,480 are disabled. For further information please refer to the Sichuan earthquake final report (<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/Appeals/08/MDRCN003fr.pdf>).

Small loan component: As of the end of June 2012, 289 small loans (totaling CNY 4,842,000) have been released. The average loan amount is CNY 16,754, all in 12-month terms. A total of 39 loans have been re-paid. Eight are partial overdue, and two became bad debts.

Given the nature of the project, it is not a surprise that there are non-performing loans as a result of the vulnerable borrowers not being able to re-pay due to different reasons, e.g. one of the full arrears, the beneficiary has encountered a health problem, and spent quite large amount of money on treatment and medication. This is within the range planned for the bad debt; the ceiling for bad debt rate according to the plan is 15 per cent. All bad debts are being processed according to the "Process of Handling the Arrears in Small Loan Project" as per standard policy and standard operating procedures (SOP).

A small loan project management office (SLPMO) is in charge of the implementation of the project. The team includes a financial controller/internal auditor at the Deyang prefecture branch, a coordination officer and a business counselor/information dissemination officer at the Mianzhu county RCSC branch. They conducted interviews with randomly selected loan recipients to monitor the current loan utilization and status, as well as those who would have upcoming loans due.

A third tracer study was done in June 2012 to 40 first loan borrowers. This is a follow-up interview to the first 40 borrowers that had been visited in the first tracer study. The aim is to have the impact and changes documented to better understand the impact of the programme. The tracer study showed that 33 beneficiaries out of 40 are now successfully engaged in their intended vocations and declared income generating activities for which their loans were utilized. A total of 27 borrowers' income has considerably increased. More tracer studies will be done continuously and regularly to see this dynamic process in action.

Being part of the Small Loan Component of Sichuan earthquake Livelihoods Programme, the intended community-based microfinance project is expected to distribute approximately 300 loans each year, which will contribute towards achieving the project objectives.

Revision of the implementation guide of the training component has been completed and being formatted for printing. Small loans SOPs are being formatted for printing.

Challenges

Initially, the projected disbursement plan had been revised due to a change in the average loan duration (so far all loans are taken out for no less than 12 months vs. the projected average of six months); the average loan amount exceeds CNY 16,000 vs. the initially projected CNY 10,000. Therefore, the loans to be released will be up to 2,000 loans within the course of five years vs. 3,700 initially projected.

Road safety

Sponsored by IFRC East Asia office, RCSC project coordinator attended Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) Asia Road Safety Seminar held in March in Bangkok, Thailand. The seminar offered a unique opportunity for the national societies in Asia to meet each other and learn more about GRSP's current work and future plans in road safety with the Red Cross.

Inspired by road safety workshop, RCSC prepared its advocacy project proposal in "Road Safety 10 Countries" programme funded by Bloomberg Foundation. The key objective of this proposal is to strengthen the relevant road safety policies, strategies and legislation for the purpose to reduce the vulnerability and improve the safety of road users by using diplomatic tools and humanitarian actions. The agreement is expected to be signed between GRSP and RCSC soon.

In the CBHFA programme school activities, 40,000 yellow caps for the school safety have been produced based on the result of community assessment and delivered to each implementing branches. These caps are very helpful to increase the awareness of road safety among the students and their parents.

Challenges

RCSC Local branches had limited capacity on financial reporting and project management which affected the effectiveness of project implementation. There was a communication gap between the RCSC headquarters and its branches, which also influenced the implementation.

Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV prevention

Under the support of East Asia delegation, RCSC drafted a new proposal submitted to Eli Lilly Geneva. The purpose of this proposal is in contribution to reduction of TB infection rates in the targeted prefectures in Shanxi Province. Meanwhile this paper is aiming to make a roll-out plan based on the current experiences gained and provide social care by improving adherence to TB treatment protocols to the most vulnerable suspected multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) patients and the enhancement of public awareness on TB prevention knowledge.

RCSC Xinjiang branch has submitted an abstract to the upcoming 19th International AIDS Conference, stressing the collaboration among the partners towards the HIV/AIDS groups in China. RCSC is planning to send four key staff to participate in this international AIDS conference.

Challenges

RCSC local branches had limited capacity on financial reporting and project management which affected the effectiveness of project implementation. There was a communication gap between the RCSC headquarters and its branches, which also influenced the implementation.

Outcome 2: The RCSC has been strengthened through robust organizational structures and systems and a wide representation of its stakeholders

Achievements

An online community of OD practitioners was established. It started from the participants of the volunteering workshop held in Baotou in May 2012, and later expanded as more OD practitioners at branch level joined. On that platform, group members seek advice and ask for specific documents and share experiences. As it is based on a popular instant messaging tool, almost everyone has it running on their computers and mobile phones all the time.

Regular dialogue with RCSC think tank member: The think tank was established in late 2011 to lead the RCSC reform. It is comprised of about five core members from academic institutions with experience in NGO development and is supplemented by smaller working groups run within the academic institutions to research and produce suggested processes and policies for the RCSC to consider in their reform.

The RCSC reform is endorsed by the central government who will issue a policy in the coming months to set the framework for RCSC. Accordingly the RCSC will issue a detailed plan. The plan is now drafted and debated by Dr. Zhao's think tank, which is currently in its 7th draft.

An appropriate server was identified for online courses such as World of Red Cross and Red Crescent in Chinese. As online course platform can be very expensive to maintain, it's been repeatedly proposed and postponed that RCSC should have its own online training system. In March 2012, this was raised again, as ICRC has translated the text of World of Red Cross and Red Crescent into Chinese and handed over to IFRC. After conducting some research in the local market, a social enterprise called ablesky.com was identified as an ideal partner to build the online training system, as it is totally free, has no limitation on space and bandwidth and has user-friendly learning tools. After registration, a domain name has been allocated: rcsc.ablesky.com, where all the Movement videos currently on youtube can be migrated, so that Chinese users can also have access.

Tailor-made and interactive induction was conducted with RCSC branch leaders who are heading to Geneva for a study tour. The induction is a series of conversations in which the participants have a big part in setting the agenda and the facilitator works with participants to clarify the issues, define the

goals and establish the plan to achieve these. The sessions provide an overview of the key characteristics of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and its international components, and how these relate to China context.

The RCSC study tour to Geneva has been ongoing since 2003. The objective is for the branch leaders to have a better understanding of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and to be updated about the latest initiatives of the Movement. In April 2012, the RCSC sent two groups on a study tour. The members include the leaders from the headquarters and six branches.

Youth and volunteer projects are supported, both financially and technically. RCSC is going to have two national youth camps on July 26 – 1 August in Qingdao and the second half of August in Anhui. The theme for this year is 'focusing on children of migrant workers'. IFRC is co-financing the camps and will facilitate sessions on migration and youth leadership, etc.

First aid, blood donor recruitment and organ donation

Achievements

On 22-23 March, RCSC national summary meeting on organ donation was held in Hangzhou city, Zhejiang province. From 2009, the RCSC and the Ministry of Health has piloted a system that focused on increasing awareness of public organ donation. A public organ donation system is undergoing trials covering 16 provinces in the mainland. The official statistics indicated that 207 people have donated organs through the system, saving more than 500 lives by the end of March 2012.

In order to promote first aid knowledge and skills in community, a two-day first aid and resuscitation workshop was held on 14-15 March in the RCSC headquarters training center. Some 100 participants from Red Cross system in Beijing attended the training.

RCSC headquarters and Shandong branch organized a celebration event to mark the 'World Blood Donor Day' on 10 June in Qingdao city under the theme "every blood donor is a hero". The event awarded individuals and organizations/companies for their achievements in blood donation over the past years. During the same period, the Ministry of Health has launched a month-long blood donor awareness campaign.

Challenges

RCSC local branches had limited capacity on financial reporting and project management which affected the effectiveness of project implementation. There was a communication gap between the RCSC headquarters and its branches, which also influenced the implementation.

Business Line 4: To strengthen Red Cross Red Crescent influence and support for our work

Outcome 1: The RCSC is better positioned and has a stronger capacity to achieve the vital goal of helping to protect the most vulnerable and increasing and safeguarding humanitarian space.

Achievements

As the EU and Chinese government step-up their cooperation, the RCSC was able to showcase their role, skills and capacities in being a first responder in China—especially in relation to rapid urban response. When the EU Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Civil Response visited Beijing to launch the EU-China Disaster Risk Management Project and inaugurate of the EU-China Institute of Emergency Management, both the IFRC and RCSC participated in the stakeholders meeting and invited the Commissioner to visit the Beijing Red Cross's 999 emergency response center. This provided a valuable opportunity to highlight the strengths of the Red Cross as a key actor in China's emergency response mechanisms: <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/china/eus-top-humanitarian-official-stresses-cooperation-and-learning-with-national-society-58039/>.

The RCSC is holding two major events this year to forge new Red Cross Red Crescent partnerships, all with an interest in strengthening Chinese government support channelling humanitarian support through the RCSC. The first, held in May, was the Sino-Africa Red Cross Red Crescent Forum inviting more than 20 African national societies to China to exchange experiences and explore potential

partnerships. This event was supported by the East Asia regional delegation through close coordination with the IFRC zone office in Africa and others.

With the support of the East Asia regional delegation, the EANSs have had other opportunities for improved dialogue with key stakeholders on critical issues in their country context. Some of these specific examples can be found throughout the other development reports in programme areas, such as on road safety, climate change, and disaster management.

Outcome 2: RCSC and IFRC communications are improved, and better integrated, with focus on advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy, highlighting the areas in which the RCSC and the IFRC needs to stress its competitive advantage.

Achievements

For the first time, the delegation established a social media presence in Chinese, on Sina weibo. The microblog has featured stories both about IFRC's activities in support of RCSC within China and updates on worldwide latest news translated and adapted to the local context from www.ifrc.org.

Another key focus of ongoing East Asia regional delegation support in communications has been the series of activities which the RCSC has been conducting in order to raise their domestic and international profile, such as the Sino-Africa Red Cross Red Crescent Forum in Taicang, Jiangsu on 8 May and the Open Day on 6 June. Also, the communications delegate and the head of delegation have consistently engaged with Chinese media to promote a positive and supportive image of the National Society, its commitment to reform and transparency and its international role and profile. There are several articles published by the Chinese media.⁶

Outcome 3: Potential is maximized through existing and potential resources allowing RCSC and IFRC to achieve their objectives.

Achievements

A mapping of partner support in the region has been conducted in the beginning of this year. The mapping recorded current year's partner support as well as a historical view of partners' support over the years. The mapping will continue to be developed with partner and EANS input. The East Asia regional delegation is also collecting updated strategic plans from partners and potential funders to analyze current funding trends and identify opportunities for furthering partnerships.

Discussions with partner national societies, relevant embassies and corporate donors (such as Lilly and Coca-Cola) have been ongoing in the past months with the aim to raise awareness of the good work of EANSs and funding opportunities and involvement for donors.

Discussions and relations with the EU delegation in Beijing have stepped up in 2012. Our delegation provided valuable advice to the EU team in their preparations for the visit of the EU Commissioner. From that, there is currently ongoing discussions on options for closer collaboration between the EU-government and Red Cross on the project and institute launched by the Commissioner in June.

In addition, staff from the EU delegation in Beijing participated in the EU funding training organized by the East Asia regional delegation, which opened up more discussions between the EU delegation and the EANSs, EU-PNSs and the IFRC delegations on potential funding opportunities.

In March, a resource mobilization workshop was organized in Beijing for the region's national societies, partners and IFRC team members to learn about EU-funding opportunities. This workshop was facilitated by expert trainers from the EU delegation in Beijing and representatives of EU-NSs (specifically, Sweden, Austria and Finland). The workshop not only introduced the funding mechanisms and process to submit proposals to the EU for both development and emergency response, but also allowed a one-day hands-on workshop for further developing potential project proposals/concepts for both Mongolia and the DPRK.

⁶ http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2012-05/11/content_15265053.htm
http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2012-05/16/content_15302345.htm
<http://www.globaltimes.cn/NEWS/tabid/99/ID/709591/Public-demands-push-greater-transparency-at-Red-Cross.aspx>
http://www.redcross.org.cn/zx/jdbd/201206/t20120606_43986.html

Following that, an intensive planning session was held in Pyongyang with the DPRK RCS and IFRC team to develop a concept/proposal for Food Security.

As a follow up, a half-day mini-workshop was also held in Beijing, using the DPRK Food Security logframe as a tool for gaining a deeper understanding of the process and required content of an EU Grant proposal. Participants of both workshops will continue to stay involved in this proposal drafting to gain hands-on learning throughout the process.

Business Line 5: To deepen our tradition of togetherness through joint working and accountability specific Red Cross contribution to development

Outcome 1: The RCSC works together more effectively in partnerships and alliances within Red Cross Red Crescent and with external partners.

Achievements

The RCSC has submitted its application for the 2014 Asia Pacific Regional Conference. The RCSC and IFRC met with an assessment team to go through the RCSC's proposed plan and locations for the event. The application was officially accepted and approved recently by the committee.

In February, the KNRC hosted the Asia Pacific's Strategic Mentoring Forum to enable senior Asia Pacific National Society leaders to share experiences, good practices and strategies for resource mobilization and corporate partnerships.

Finally, in 2012, the East Asia Regional Delegation has revitalized the quarterly newsletter that is shared with partners and friends of EANSs. This platform will provide more timely information sharing with partners and give an overview of the priorities and challenges of the national societies at more frequent intervals. Partners have been encouraged to share their bilateral project achievements to allow for a more streamlined communication channel between partners supporting in East Asia.

The annual East Asia Leadership Meeting is now scheduled for 6-7 September in Beijing. All five EANSs have confirmed they will attend this important annual event. This will precede the Asia Pacific Forum on Disaster Management, hosted by the RCSC from 8-14 September, which the 5 EANSs will also have representatives in attendance, along with the IFRC (with representatives from region, zone and Geneva levels, including President Kono and Secretary General Bekele).

Outcome 2: RCSC staff have mechanisms and systems in place that support good results-based programme management, transparency and accountability.

Achievements

The EU Funding workshop held in Beijing in March provided a very good opportunity to improve the skills of IFRC and national society staff in logframe design, proposal writing, and reporting skills. Monitoring and evaluation was also touched upon in the aspects of ensuring proposals have monitoring and evaluation plans and have measurable, achievable implementation milestones.

The half-day follow-up workshop focused on IFRC regional staff members to help them better understand partner coordination, donor expectations and quality design of logframes.

The IFRC regional PMER officer attended the training of trainers on project planning process (PPP) in Geneva. She is now working out a plan to roll-out support for PMER skills training in the region.

In addition, the East Asia regional delegation is holding "Wednesday Lunch" trainings on various topics to increase skills for staff. Topics included excel spreadsheet skills, Outlook email organization and tricks, optimal use of Fednet/Sharepoint/ Communities of Practice, and others.

A workshop was held for all IFRC team members to understand new reporting templates and emphasize how to show impact through quality reporting. Individual support was given to the country delegations in the region as needed, including support to the reporting officer of the JRCS.

Tailored support to team members in all aspects of PMER is ongoing and a daily task. The new reporting requirements aligned with the LTPF have resulted in very close coordination between PMER

team members and programme managers/officers. The East Asia regional delegation has worked with the regional team to design user friendly adaptations to the templates that allow for a streamlined reporting system.

All programmes are using standard logframes as part of their 2012 plans of action. These were organized and presented to team members in easy to use formats arranged by project codes for quick reference on targets, indicators, and activity plans. Evaluations are following the IFRC's Guidelines.

With support of the regional office, the IFRC programme officer in Mongolia conducted a training on programme management skills for the MRCS and its branches. The next steps in rolling out more support to the MRCS on PMER issues is under discussion between the zone, region and country delegations.

An integrated planning process was facilitated by a staff on loan of the Swedish Red Cross to the DPRK delegation. This process was not only for the purpose of designing the EU Food Security proposal, but provided an excellent learning opportunity for the IFRC and NS.

As follow up to the PPP Training of Trainers in Geneva, the regional delegation will begin to roll out a more targeted plan for PMER skills training and support in the region for the latter part of 2012.

The regional delegation is coordinating with the Asia Pacific zone office on the Federation-wide monitoring system (FWMS) and how it will be utilized and rolled-out in the future within the region.

Stakeholder participation and feedback

Disaster Preparedness Centers

Most of the DP Center have been jointly planned and constructed with government-affiliated organizations including local governmental warehouses managed by the Civil Affairs department or Fire Defense department, etc. Monitoring and supervising construction sites shall also be done by both local Red Cross branches and concerned government authorities.

Livelihood Support Programme

The Project Management Committee (PMC) comprises of RCSC Deyang Prefecture branch, Mianzhu County branch and Postal Savings Bank of China Mianzhu Sub-branch that established under Livelihood Programme Small Loan component, organizes and holds the PMC meeting on a monthly basis. This has been proved to be an efficient management platform.

Water and Sanitation

This hygiene promotion is implemented through community-based approach. Community volunteers are recruited to receive training and implement the hygiene promotion works. The community volunteers involved medical professionals, and health care workers.

Volunteers were able to receive trainings and serve the community through home visits; they also participated in volunteer sharing session in order to share their work experiences and challenges.

During the volunteer-sharing session, most of the volunteers reflected that the challenges they are facing including low educational level of the villagers which disable them from understanding the content of hygiene promotion. Some households cannot be reached due to lack of coordination by the village leader thus multiple visits to the same household had to be made. The recommendation in tackling these situations include using simple tools for hygiene promotion and providing relevant trainings to the community volunteers; liaise with village leaders in advance for better coordination; not only recruit professional volunteers for hygiene promotion works, but also mobilize more villagers to receive training and conduct hygiene promotion activities in their own villages (since they understand the local context better and able to use simple language with other villagers).

PSS

Since this PSS project is a community-based approach, community volunteers are recruited to receive training and implement the PSS in rescue and community works. The community volunteers involved teachers in schools, university students, medical and psychological professionals, rescuers, media workers, retired persons and housewives etc.

Volunteers were able to receive trainings and serve the community through regular activities; they also participated in several volunteer sharing sessions in order to share their work experiences and challenges.

During the volunteers' sharing session in Yunnan and Sichuan, most of the volunteers reflected that the challenges they are facing include lack of capacity or skills on coping with practical questions, limited service opportunities and insufficient support from the community. The recommendation in tackling these situations include strengthening and providing more trainings to the community volunteers; provide more service opportunities in order to accumulate more service experiences; advocate the community leaders and other organizations on the significance of PSS so as to get their support; mobilize and utilize all the possible resources in their own communities; and strengthen the PSS network with other provinces or organizations in order to work together.

Lessons learned and looking ahead

The capacity of the local Red Cross branches can be improved when overseeing construction projects. Changes to the projects need timely communication between the construction firm, Red Cross branch, RCSC headquarters and the IFRC.

In order to prevent any delays or misunderstandings in the process, it is important to communicate clearly all of the expectations and concerns from all sides in advance of any decisions taken, preferably even before the signing of the project agreement. This is sometimes difficult to do, as many unexpected situations arise during implementation. Thus, good communication channels agreed upon in advance will support a fluid decision making process for all stakeholders.

Branch interest in capacity building is critical in order to incorporate livelihoods recovery activities as part of its service package. To date, this concept is new and foreign to the existing experience and mandates of the RCSC. This livelihood programme is an opportunity to test a new approach of recovery for the RCSC, building its ability to respond to future disasters while meeting the needs of the affected communities. The capacity-building element of the National Society, especially its implementing branches, was successful. However, a stronger role of the RCSC in the actual implementation of the programme will be important for future livelihood initiatives. Defining the roles and responsibilities of each partner more clearly at the start of future operations will be beneficial for all stakeholders.

The process of recovery needs assessments is an important step, which may be made easier if there is a greater understanding of communities and how the political and administrative system is organized before disaster strikes.

The IFRC support and training content of PSS ERT in Sichuan, Yunnan and other four designated provinces needs to be better linked with the overall process of ERT developments of the RCSC such as water sanitation ERT and other ERT teams in development. There are existing emergency response teams in some of the strong Red Cross branches such as the Beijing Red Cross. Integration of emergency PSS response to the existing resources (Blue Sky Rescue teams) should be further considered.

Financial situation

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

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations](#) (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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