

ANNUAL REPORT



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

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

14 May 2004

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.67/03; Appeal target: CHF 13,370,909 (USD 9.2 m or EUR 9.1 m); Appeal coverage: 100%.

[\(click here to go directly to the Financial Report\).](#)

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Overall analysis of the programme

The implementation of Red Cross/Red Crescent programmes in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in 2003 was marked by consolidation and by the overcoming and working through of delays. Good working relationships between the various components of the movement who are supporting the DPRK Red Cross were further improved; and the emergence of two coordinated bilateral programmes are examples of how projects implemented within a variety of Movement partnerships can successfully coexist as long as there is strong coordination.

The humanitarian situation in large parts of DPRK did not undergo any significant improvement. Large segments of the population are still dependent on international food aid in order to cover minimum nutritional needs. By the close of 2003, there were only a few examples of increased government investment in the provinces outside Pyongyang in the sectors of health and care, water and sanitation, and basic infrastructure such as power supply and transportation systems.

Some economic reforms continue to be implemented, although the effects of these are still not clear. Analysts of the situation have commented that the reforms could potentially create new vulnerable groups. The identification of these groups continues to pose a major challenge to the international aid community due to restrictions on access to them. Standard and traditional methods for conducting needs assessments cannot be applied in DPRK, a fact that has to be accepted by the agencies operating in the country. Discussions with regards to DPRK's unique

working environment, held between the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva and participating national societies (PNS), have led to a renewed commitment to continue to advocate for more conducive conditions that will allow vulnerable groups better access to urgently needed humanitarian assistance. Nevertheless there is documented evidence that the operating conditions and the working relationships between the DPRK Red Cross and the society's partners are steadily improving, and that the majority of relief items reach vulnerable groups. One of the main challenges facing the DPRK Red Cross and the Federation over the coming years will be to ensure that the achievements made over the past few years are maintained.

Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) dominated East Asia's and many parts of the world's consciousness in 2003. Even though DPRK had no reported cases, the disease imposed considerable constraints on programme implementation due to the preventive measures taken by the government, which restricted travel and movement of goods both between China and DPRK, as well as within the country itself. During the months of May and June, at the height of the SARS crisis, the Federation's delegation staff were working at only 50 per cent of their total capacity due to these restrictions, and all short-term visits were abandoned. The East Asia partnership meeting was postponed twice, and was conducted in the first week of March 2004.

The Federation's health and care programme was implemented (with training delayed 1–2 months), and basic medicine kits for primary health care distributed. The first distribution of medical kits to hospitals, originally scheduled for the spring, was delayed by four months. The distribution of household doctor kits, originally planned to take place in the autumn of 2003, took place during the first two months of 2004. The DPRK component of an emergency appeal launched by the Federation in response to SARS received good coverage. Activities initiated by WHO, the DPRK Red Cross and the Federation were designed to improve hospitals' capacity for preventing the spread of infectious diseases. The project was implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), WHO and UNICEF. Relief items were distributed to all counties. Training of hospital staff in barrier nursing techniques was conducted in all counties in the three provinces and one municipality supported by the Federation, and the lessons learned from the project are now being integrated into the health and care programme.

Although funding of the Appeal reached 100 per cent coverage (if one includes funds left over from 2002), delays in receiving funding, particularly with regards to the water and sanitation component of the health and care programme, prevented the completion of activities according to schedule. It was originally anticipated that funding would be sufficient to complete water and sanitation projects in 40 villages; however, as of the end of 2003, water and sanitation projects were completed in only 10 villages. Funding for implementing the projects in the remaining 30 villages was finally secured at the end of 2003, and attempts to catch up with some of the delays are now being made.

The DPRK Red Cross' disaster management programme entered the second of a two year programming cycle, again strongly supported by the British Red Cross Society and the UK Department for International Development (DFID). No major natural disasters occurred, and the main focus of the programme in 2003 was the replenishing of disaster preparedness stocks after the 2002 floods, increasing stocks, conducting training and implementing the community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) project in nine *ris*.

For the first time, funding for the organisational development programme exceeded the society's and the Federation's capacity to implement activities. Availability of human resources at the DPRK Red Cross headquarters was the primary setback to achieving the programme's objectives. Attempts to strengthen the branches were partially successful, but there were also delays, mainly due to poor planning capacity at the branch level. A more focussed approach and increased attention to this programme from the DPRK leadership are important prerequisites for making progress in the programme. An increased focus on communications was supported both by the Federation's East Asia Regional Delegation and the Danish Red Cross Society, and a continued commitment from these partners has been promised over the years to come.

The DPRK Red Cross has drafted a Strategic Development Plan 2010. The approval of the plan is expected at the society's next General Assembly. It was not possible to convene the assembly in 2003.

A tree planting programme, supported by the Red Cross Societies of the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Norway, was officially launched through a joint tree planting ceremony held at Mount Kumgang in March. Ten Red Cross youth from both of the Korean National Societies participated. This was the first jointly held event for Red Cross youth from both parts of Korea since the Korean War over fifty years ago. The programme further includes support for rehabilitating five tree nurseries in Kujang country and providing them with seeds and 300,000 seedlings.

The Netherlands Red Cross Society launched an organisational development programme with the DPRK Red Cross which concentrates on supporting two provincial branches in South Hamgyong and North Hwanghae. These are provinces currently not supported by the main Federation programmes and are seen as a significant step towards providing greater support to all segments of the DPRK Red Cross.

Bilateral cooperation between the ROK and DPRK Red Cross continued with the main focus on providing support to families separated by the Korean War, and the formation of an agreement to build a permanent family reunion centre. Construction of the centre commenced in 2003 and is ongoing. Some relief materials were also received from the ROK. As in previous years, governmental support for food and fertilizer was channelled through the DPRK Red Cross.

Objectives, Achievements and Constraints

Health and Care

Background

Providing adequate health care to the population is the sole responsibility of the government, however, the humanitarian agencies operating in the DPRK recognise that there remains the need for a substantial level of support.

The Federation has supported health institutions in DPRK since 1995. The drug and medical equipment distribution project supports health institutions with basic medicines, basic medical instruments, dressing materials and other items. Although the situation observed in the health institutions supported by the Federation through DPRK Red Cross improved in 2003, the situation remains unsatisfactory.

The DPRK Red Cross/Federation supported the Health and Care programme. This included activities in the areas of community-based first aid (CBFA), health promotion concerning different topics, a substantial community-based water and sanitation project, and a winterisation project where coal was distributed to health institutions to allow them to continue functioning during the DPRK's notably harsh winters.

Overall Goal: To improve the health and well-being of vulnerable women, men and children in three provinces and one municipality (North Pyongan, South Pyongan, Jagang, and Kaesong).

Programme Objective 1: To strengthen the capacity of at least 1,762 institutions (provincial, county, city, industrial, ri hospitals and clinics, polyclinics) in three provinces and one municipality, with provision of medical relief items so that the vulnerable have access to basic health care services.

Expected results

By the end of 2004, all supported health institutions are able to provide basic medical services to their catchment populations, including provision of essential drugs and improved diagnostic and monitoring capacity.

Achievements

The DPRK Red Cross/Federation supported drug distribution project reached a population of an estimated 6.13 million people in 51 counties throughout three provinces and one municipality. The municipality of Kaesong changed its status in 2003 and is now part of North Hwanghae province, its previous 4 counties having been merged into 3 counties. The programme is now covering a total of 50 counties, but the same population.

The 50 counties have 1,762 general health institutions, which are receiving drugs and medical supplies on a regular basis.

Basic kits containing a selection of essential medicines have been distributed every three months as planned to 1,759 institutions. The three provincial hospitals do not get these since they do not have section doctors (household doctors) but are only working as referral institutions. In total 25,005 basic kits were distributed and 10 counties have already received kits for the first quarter of 2004 because of the possibility they would not be accessible during winter. In summer 367 supplementary medicine kits for industrial, city/county and provincial hospitals were distributed.

Additionally 2,500 medical kits with basic medical instruments and dressing material for household doctors were distributed for the first time at the beginning of 2003 with funds from the 2002 Appeal. New household doctor kits for the 2003 appeal, with some more equipment (stethoscopes and sphygmomanometers), but without bandages, were distributed at the beginning of 2004.

Also 1,515 delivery kits were distributed. There were three types of kits: for county hospitals (51); for industrial or ri hospitals (158); and for ri clinics (1,306).

Anti-malaria drugs chloroquine and primaquine were supplied to anti-epidemic centres for the treatment of some 110,000 patients. Additionally 16,000 mosquito nets and screens were distributed as part of the society's malaria prevention activities. Before the distribution in the villages, 128 DPRK Red Cross volunteers from the villages were trained in the use of the nets and then attended the actual distributions to instruct the beneficiaries on proper use.

Drug manuals were procured together with WHO and UNICEF, but due to delays in the printing they were not received until January 2004.

Impact

All 1,762 health institutions are better prepared to provide basic medical services.

Constraints

Due to late funding, supplementary kits have only been distributed once in 2003. The new supply will arrive in 2004. Only half of the 2003 Appeal's originally anticipated 54 orthopaedic kits were funded and are expected to be delivered in the spring of 2004.

Given the seven month average delivery time for medical kits to arrive in DPRK, funding for this activity needs to be secured very early in the year to meet anticipated deadlines. Timeliness in meeting this objective improved over 2003, however deliveries of the kits are still sometimes late.

There have been problems with the quality of medicines (aluminium hydroxide, ferro sulphate) several times, and medicines had to be removed and replaced later. Labelling on the boxes has also been wrong sometimes.

The bed nets and screens for the malaria project arrived at the end of June which is already the malaria season, diminishing the activity's potential impact.

The funding for coal to heat some of the vital health institutions in winter came only in December, so distribution occurred in January, 2004, already well into the winter season. The project is difficult to monitor, and there is no sustainability. The coal is, however, highly appreciated by the DPRK Red Cross.

Programme Objective 2: To improve the capacity of the DPRK Red Cross to increase the knowledge of health workers and Red Cross volunteers in prevention and care related to community primary health care priorities.

Expected results

By the end of 2004, 2,180 DPRK Red Cross trained health professionals, community health workers and volunteers will be conducting health promotion in their communities in: the prevention and care of waterborne diseases, acute respiratory infections/tuberculosis (ARI/TB), malaria, and HIV/AIDS; aseptic and rational drug use; and safe delivery/breast feeding.

In 2003, 1,000 health professionals, community health workers and Red Cross volunteers were trained in conducting health promotion activities; and 180 health professionals, community health workers and Red Cross volunteers were trained in the CBFA programme.

Achievements

Workshops were conducted on:

- Waterborne diseases: two days for 100 volunteers from villages, which are getting new water supply systems (objective 3);
- ARI and TB: one day for 200 volunteers and community health workers. SARS was a new topic included in this workshop;
- Malaria: one day for 200 nurses and midwives;
- Aseptics and rational drug use: two days for 200 nurses and midwives;
- Safe delivery: two days for 100 midwives and one day for 100 volunteers. The workshops were held in the same place and a midwife participant facilitated a lecture on antenatal and postnatal care for the volunteers' workshop.

Training material for these workshops was developed and printed, and all participants received handouts and flipcharts at the end of the workshops to enable them to do further dissemination in their communities.

Planned HIV/AIDS awareness workshops were not conducted in 2003 since this topic was not initially regarded as a priority by the authorities in DPRK. In October the Federation, WHO, UNICEF and UNDP organised a two-day workshop for national staff from international organisations on HIV/AIDS. One of the DPRK Red Cross Society's doctors also attended this workshop. Although MoPH reports that there are no cases of HIV/AIDS in the country, it was agreed to increase activities to raise awareness on this topic. Under the Federation's 2004 Appeal, the DPRK Red Cross is planning workshops on HIV/AIDS for household doctors.

In November and December, the DPRK Red Cross and the Federation conducted 10 workshops about hospital infection control with a special emphasis on SARS for 160 doctors and nurses from 78 county and provincial hospitals. Training material for the workshops was developed in cooperation with WHO and approved by MoPH.

In October, two of the society's health staff went on a study tour to Malaysia, Thailand and Mongolia to learn from experiences with health programmes in those countries.

Impact

The knowledge of health workers and DPRK Red Cross volunteers is improving;

- DPRK Red Cross is becoming more familiar with key issues surrounding HIV/AIDS; and
- There is improved understanding about how to prevent malaria.

As discussed during the 2003 health review, current operational conditions in the country make it extremely difficult to assess the impact at the community level.

Constraints

The decision regarding the new ECHO water and sanitation programme was made later than planned, so training of volunteers from the villages will commence in the spring of 2004.

As there are not enough trainers in the national society, only a limited amount of training can be conducted. There is a lack of trainers who possess sufficient knowledge to teach about HIV/AIDS. To date, no clear programme has been established regarding HIV/AIDS, although the implementation of the jointly sponsored workshop in October was a step forward. This workshop was initiated by WHO together with MoPH, with Red Cross participation.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Appeal no. 01.67/03; Annual Report.

During the winter, lack of heating at the venues where workshops are held creates a significant difficulty. The scheduling of the workshops continues to pose significant obstacles.

Expected results

By the end of 2004, 80 per cent of target CBFA posts (510) are functional (basic supplies and manual available and at least two staff) and are conducting at least three health education activities per month.

Achievements

The curriculum for all three levels of CBFA workshops was upgraded and now includes a section covering first aid in disaster situations and the prevention of waterborne diseases. Training-of-trainers workshops were conducted to train 11 master trainers, 11 trainers and 220 volunteers in 11 counties which had not received first aid training before.

Eleven training sessions for volunteers were conducted in August and September by the county trainers trained during the spring, resulting in 1,020 volunteers, representing 51 counties, being trained since the beginning of the programme. Newly trained volunteers from 11 counties received a backpack with supplies for their first aid posts, including a first aid manual and flipchart, at the end of their training.

Ten first aid posts are being run in each of the counties by two trained volunteers each, making basic first aid services readily available to communities. Medical supplies were replenished at 400 first aid posts in 40 counties in June.

Supplies to refresh existing stocks were distributed to 200 first aid posts in 20 remote counties together with the fourth quarter basic kits at the beginning of October. New refresher supplies for 2004, numbering 1,020, arrived in November, and 310 of them were distributed to the remaining 31 counties, together with the first quarter basic kits at the beginning of 2004. Locally procured stretchers (110) for the newly-included first aid posts were distributed at the same time.

Impact

The DPRK Red Cross is improving its capacity to plan and manage CBFA.

Constraints

Delivery of the standardised CBFA programme throughout the country remains a challenge. The Federation has thus far been limited to providing first aid training only within its operational area which is creating a two-tier system of first aid practices within the national programme.

The planned refresher training for trainers who were trained in previous years had to be postponed since the materials were not ready in time. The timely half-yearly distribution of materials to the first aid posts has been problematic sometimes.

Water and Sanitation Project

Programme Objective 3: To contribute to sustainable improvements in the health and well-being of men, women and children in 80 ri and dong communities through the provision of clean water, locally appropriate sanitation facilities and hygiene education by the end of 2003-2004.

Expected results

Eighty per cent of installed water supplies and sanitation systems meet Sphere standards for water supply and drainage by the end of 2004.

Background

The Health and Care Programme's water and sanitation (wat/san) project is a three year project covering 100 villages. This year's project has two components. The first component, funded by the Swedish Red Cross Society, proceeded according to schedule in 10 villages. The second component, funded by ECHO and targeting 30 villages, was delayed and implementation of activities will start in 2004 after the winter season. Eco-san latrines were introduced early in 2003 and the first latrines have been well received. There is also a demand for more latrines from villages covered during the previous phases of the project. Waste water collection systems have also been implemented according to schedule.

The project's strength lies in the fact that it is being implemented in a manner whereby construction activities are complemented by community education initiatives.

Achievements

Construction

The wat/san project is intended to reach 100 villages over the period 2002–2004. The 2002 phase of the project consisted of providing assistance to five villages with funding from the Swedish Red Cross Society, and 15 villages with funding from ECHO. The ECHO contract was extended until 15 June 2003 due to a delayed start last year.

Installation of all 20 water supply systems for the 2002 project phase has now been completed and the systems were handed over to the 20 villages in June 2003. Additional data on water quality has been received, covering the period from February to December 2002 for the 20 villages (Phase 1). This data will be used as an indicator to analyse the impact of the programme. Water quality data for the period from February to April 2003 for the same villages was presented as well.

Final construction was completed on 200 eco-san latrines including: 180 single household latrines in four villages; and 20 triple latrines at health institutions. The stool component imported from China arrived in DPRK mid-September, delaying the finalisation of the latrines. Monitoring of the latrines was finalised by mid-November. Some minor improvements are needed for a few latrines in institutions. The overall result is, however, according to the planned construction.

The joint Swedish Red Cross Society/SIDA funded 2003 project phase includes the installation of water supply systems in 10 villages, waste water collection systems in 5 of the villages, as well as installation of eco-san latrines in clinics in 10 villages and households in 5 villages. The villages were selected according to selection criteria agreed upon with DPRK Red Cross following the 2002 wat/san review. Materials for this component were procured and distributed together with those villages funded by ECHO by the end of May 2003.

More eco-san latrines will be constructed and a smaller number of biogas systems will be built as a pilot project. Plans concerning these additional activities are expected to be finalised during the spring of 2004.

The selection of 30 villages where activities are funded by ECHO began in May. Once again selection criteria were based on the agreed criteria, including data supplied by MoPH on the number of patients with waterborne diseases. Cement and steel bars were distributed to the 30 villages, and the construction of wells and reservoirs has started. Pipes and material for the water supply systems arrived in DPRK in December and distribution to villages started at the end of December.

Training

Workshops about the use of eco-san latrines were conducted for DPRK Red Cross branch and health staff and volunteers in parallel with their construction. In addition, workshops were conducted on the maintenance of water supply systems for branch water technicians, pump housekeepers and volunteers in both North and South Pyongan provinces. One water quality monitoring workshop was conducted in June for 20 participants including National society staff and water quality monitors from epidemic prevention centres.

Seven technical workshops were presented for the 40 villages where work was done during the 2003 phase of the project. This involved 133 participants including DPRK Red Cross branch staff, village managers, technicians and wat/san officers representing all the villages involved. A brochure about "Water, Sanitation and Health" is published and distributed to the villages involved in the training.

A study trip to China's Guangxi province for four members of the DPRK Red Cross wat/san team and one Federation wat/san delegate was conducted in September.

A study trip to Posok ri in Unjon county, North Pyongan was organised to view eco-san latrines combined with biogas. Approximately 65 people participated including Korean and expatriate representatives from donor embassies, NGOs, ECHO and UN agencies.

Capacity building

The capacity of the National Society's wat/san team has increased with the employment of two additional technicians who are based permanently in the field to assist with supervising the projects, as suggested by the 2002 wat/san review. Since June 2003, the Federation's wat/san team has been operating with one wat/san coordinator and two delegates.

Equipment for eight water quality monitors has been received and they are now fully operative.

Impact

People in 20 villages have improved access to a safe water supply. Health data on the occurrence of waterborne diseases in two of the project's villages demonstrates a significant decrease in the number of patients affected by waterborne diseases in January 2003 as compared to January 2002.

Due to limited access to the beneficiaries, it is difficult to assess the impact on people's lives now that less time is spent on carrying water. The installation of water supply and sanitation systems has been very much appreciated. Initially there was little interest in eco-san latrines in many villages and the DPRK Red Cross wat/san team had to vigorously advocate for the installation of the 200 latrines in the pilot project phase. However, during the construction period and after finalisation of the latrines there is a very positive attitude and several requests for more household latrines have been received. Agreements have been made on safer routines for handling the composted material from the latrines, and future health statistics will show how well this part has been implemented.

Water quality tests show a decreased amount of bacteria after the improvements of the water supply systems.

Constraints

After significant delays with the recruitment of new wat/san delegates, partially due to SARS travel restrictions, the wat/san team is complete and comprises three delegates and six DPRK Red Cross technicians. A planned study visit to China by wat/san staff concerning construction and experiences with eco-san latrines was also delayed from April to September due to SARS travel restrictions.

The decision by ECHO to fund water and sanitation systems in 30 villages was made by the end of September. However, administrative procedures following the decision were not finalised until the end of November and although procurement of materials started immediately, no major activities were able to be implemented prior to the onset of winter.

Pumps purchased in DPRK for 10 villages had to be monitored after improvements before they finally met the standards set forth in the purchase agreement for the items.

The planned wat/san review in November had to be postponed because the DPRK Red Cross was unable to receive the team due to a heavy workload and participation in the Federation's General Assembly in Geneva.

Disaster Management

Background

The British Red Cross Society's report, issued after the September 2002 disaster management review, acknowledged that the national society is respected for providing assistance in a timely manner directly to the victims of natural disasters to alleviate suffering and expedite recovery. It was, however, also acknowledged that the number of people at risk, measured by the human suffering and the economic loss, was unacceptably high. Based on the 2002 review, a plan for 2003 was developed aiming to alleviate vulnerabilities to these risks, and improving the resilience of communities to natural disasters.

The Disaster Preparedness (DP)/Disaster Response (DR) Programme received funding from DFID for the period from June 2003 to May 2005, and implementation of planned activities has started according to plans.

Programme objective: To reinforce the status of the Red Cross Society of the DPRK as a leading organisation in disaster management in the country by strengthening its management capacity in disaster preparedness and response activities, and by helping to reduce the vulnerability of communities. It will do this by improving communities' coping mechanisms through a coherent and coordinated disaster preparedness programme in coordination with governmental authorities and other international organisations in the country.

Expected result 1

The national society will have strengthened its capacity to effectively prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters.

Achievements

With a view to preparing for an effective DP/DR plan, the National Society drafted a five year (2003-2007) strategic work plan for disaster management (DM), as well as its disaster preparedness and response policies. The policies and strategy are likely to be discussed and approved by the forthcoming General Assembly scheduled for April 2004. The DM strategic plan outlines a comprehensive approach to reducing the occurrence and effects of disasters by proactive measures as well as effective response actions. It also defines the roles and responsibilities of the DPRK Red Cross branches in improving and sustaining effective disaster management.

A national DP working group meeting held in July centred on better coordination, lessons learned from previous experiences, and the role of the DPRK Red Cross in disaster and emergency management. Furthermore, the establishment of DP working groups at provincial levels were also thoroughly discussed. At provincial level, five DP working groups were formed in North and South Phyongan, Jagang and Kangwon provinces and Kaesong municipality. In April, the DM department arranged a field trip for members of the national and provincial DP working groups to visit CBDP pilot project areas in Sunchon and Dokchon. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the first step taken and, in particular, with the close cooperation between all parties concerned in the community and agreed to continue supporting this process in the future.

A new training curriculum proposed by the DM coordinator and discussed with health and wat/san delegates was translated by the national society into Korean and used in workshops. Five basic DM workshops were held to train 140 community volunteers from high-risk areas. The topics covered in the workshops included: the Movement; roles and responsibilities of Red Cross; overview of disaster management; disaster response with reference to DPRK Red Cross; disaster assessment and methodology; the Sphere Project; relief management; community based disaster preparedness; and vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA).

Simulation exercises were organised to test the level of disaster preparedness, and an simulated emergency evacuation was held. A first aid competition was held in September in Sunchon city, one of the high risk areas, to mark World First Aid Day, with the participation of 150 Red Cross volunteers from the Sunchon Secondary School in the exercises.

Steps were taken to improve communication between the branches and headquarters by procuring mobile phones and motorbikes. Four people continue to work in the DP/DR department of the national society managing all DM activities.

The DM director of the DPRK Red Cross participated in an organisational development workshop held by the Federation in Spain in September. The DM director and the CBDP officer also attended a Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT) training in Denmark in October which provided an opportunity to acquire necessary DM skills such as using the DMIS. FACT topics are used in DM workshops.

Following heavy rains in August, many parts of South Pyongan, North Pyongan, South Hwanghae and Kaesong were affected by floods. A total of 992 families were affected as assessed by the Kaesong branch. Two national society DP officers visited the South Hwanghae Province and Kaesong municipality from 12 to 14 August for further assessment. The DM delegate visited Kaesong to monitor the distribution of relief items to the 120 most affected families who received 120 water containers, 120 kitchen sets, 517 blankets and 15,510 water purification tablets.

Impact

The five-year DM strategic work plan and DP/DR policies, once approved, will serve as a guideline for all of the society’s DM activities for vulnerable people. With the formation of DM working groups in provinces, it has been possible to coordinate DM activities of local authorities and different organisations in their respective areas, thus contributing to mitigating the effects of disasters on the vulnerable.

The society’s capacity increased through training and has enabled it to more effectively prepare for and respond to disasters. The increased capacity paid off when the country was hit again by the floods.

Constraints

Getting feedback from some of the DP working groups at provincial levels has been difficult.

Expected result 2

The national society ensures adequate and well managed DPRK Red Cross/Federation pre-positioning of emergency relief stocks appropriate to the immediate emergency needs of vulnerable families.

Achievements

- With the support of the British Red Cross Society, the Federation procured and pre-positioned non-food DP items for approximately 2,000 families, which included 2,000 cooking sets, 10,000 blankets, 7,040 20-litre jerry cans, and 600,000 water purification tablets.
- Through the Federation delegation, the ROK Red Cross Society donated to the DPRK Red Cross items such as 6,000 blankets, 3,000 kitchen sets and two Hyundai four-wheel drive station wagons.
- The support from the Hong Kong Red Cross Society allowed for the procurement of 550 kitchen sets which will be used as pre-positioned stock.

Table 1. DP stocks pre-positioned in warehouses

Warehouse	Kitchen sets	Blankets	Water Purification Tablets	Plastic sheeting	Water containers
DP Centre		3,270			
Municipal	4908	29,641	5,023,922	1,079	5,585
Sinuiju	2,500	8,000	720,000	2,000	3,228
Wonsan	2,000	10,000	607,500	1,990	2,000
Kaesong	2,500	9,307	704,490	1,880	2,380
Huichon	2,500	10,000	179,368	2,000	2,500
Chongjin	2,166	9,999	600,190	1,969	2,000
Total	16,574	80,217	7,835,478	10,978	17,693

Warehouse	Waist coats	Helmets	Tents	Cholera kits
DP centre			10	173
Central			12	
Sinuiju	550	449	1	
Wonsan	311	240		
Kaesong	260	246	2	
Huichon	308	220	2	
Chongjin	150	150	2	
Total	1,579	1,305	29	173

Impact

Currently, the DPRK Red Cross is well prepared to respond to disasters. It has seven warehouses located in Pyongyang, Sinuiju, Wonsan, Kaesong, Huichon, and Chongjin cities. The DPRK Red Cross warehouses currently contain pre-positioned stocks that can meet the immediate needs for non-food relief items of 15,000 families.

Expected result 3

The existing nine ri level communities in south Phyongan Province will have built up their coping mechanisms to reduce the impact and mitigate the effects of natural disasters.

Achievements

- All nine ris formed CBDP committees, which have been actively involved in community disaster preparedness. The committees have identified their vulnerability, hazards and capacities and worked out a DP action plan with clearly defined roles and responsibilities of the people concerned.
- The CBDP communities have done a great deal of public awareness campaigning and training by making effective use of training materials provided. A total of 700 people were trained at 30 community workshops.
- The communities identified floods as a main hazard in their respective areas and did the mitigation work by using construction materials to strengthen water channels and river embankments. DPRK Red Cross supplied 200 tons of cement to the CBDB project. The local branches of Red Cross mobilised 4,260 volunteers who participated in building reinforced embankments of about 8,950 metres. A total of 8,678 people benefited from this project. Due to the embankment activities, the heavy rains did not cause any damage. The sites of mitigation work were visited by Federation delegates and the desk officers of the British Red Cross Society and Geneva Secretariat.
- A CBDP review workshop was held 6–7 November with the participation of staff from headquarters and city/county branches as well as members of nine CBDP committees. The participants reviewed the progress made in the project and shared experiences and lessons learned. The CBDP review workshop and ri level workshops provided community members with an opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skills in DP and DR, humanitarian values and first aid, as well as the society profile.
- The national society is developing new DM flipcharts that will be used by Red Cross volunteers in nine ris. A total of 200 flipcharts will be distributed.
- National society DM staff and the Federation DM delegate made regular visits to the CBDP areas to ensure work progresses as planned and to encourage active community participation in the project.
- An annual CBDP review meeting was held in Sunchon city 17-18 December 2003 in the presence of people from communities and headquarters and the Federation DM coordinator. The participants referred to the positive impact of the CBDP project in their respective ris.

Impact

The CBDP project helped to increase the number of volunteers participating in mitigation activities.

- With increased awareness amongst local Red Cross staff and communities, together with the disaster mitigation work, no major damage was reported despite heavy rainfall in the CBDP areas this year.
- The cooperation and coordination with local authorities were improved at the community (ri) level.
- Regular CBDP committee meetings, together with the training programme, enhanced relations between the Red Cross volunteers, local authorities and the communities.

- Stationing volunteers in areas at high risk of flood made a significant difference and simplified communication with communities.
- CBDP was combined with CBFA, wat/san and other Red Cross activities.
- The project implementation laid a foundation to expand it to broader areas in 2004.

Constraints

Funding of the 2003 programme was not secured before the last days of May, making it difficult to plan the implementation of ongoing activities. The recruitment of a new DM delegate took longer than expected. A new delegate arrived at the end of June. Difficulty in communication with the branches affected the flow of information.

Organisational Development

Background

The Federation's country delegation in DPRK has been supporting the change process of the national society which started in 2002. In this second year of support, the delegation had five main objectives: to finalise the National Society Development Plan (NSDP) and Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS); to improve the financial management of the National Society headquarters through finance training; to improve the skills of volunteers and staff through workshops and a study tour; to support the National Society's income generation activities; and to strengthen six provincial and city branches.

Programme Objective: To increase the capacities of the National Society to provide relevant and effective services to the most vulnerable people in the DPRK.

Expected result 1

A three year development plan is reviewed and finalised in 2003, and a revised CAS is used as a basis for ongoing cooperation activities.

Achievements

The National Society Development Plan (NSDP 2010) was drafted in the first half of the year and shared with ten selected provincial and city/county branches for field testing and participation in policy making. Valuable comments and recommendations from more than 600 volunteers and branch workers enriched the document. Together with NSDP, the DPRK Red Cross' Policy Framework, which includes policies for disaster relief, disaster preparedness, healthcare, volunteering, youth, and gender, was also revised and tested in the field. The NSDP 2010 and the society's policy framework will be officially adopted in the forthcoming Society Congress. The CAS will be revised after final approval of the NSDP 2010.

Impact

The NSDP 2010 was drafted in line with the Federation Strategy 2010 and will give the National Society a much longer-term vision and new approaches to achieve its ambitious objectives. The participatory method was introduced to the policy making process and this was appreciated by volunteers and branch workers.

Constraints

It was expected to adopt these documents by the end of 2003 but the National Society's congress was postponed several times due to technical reasons. This delay also affected the revision of CAS.

Expected result 2

Financial staff are trained and the Federation's standard financial manual is used in headquarters by the end of 2003 and in the budgeting process for 2004.

Achievements

Three staff members from the society headquarter's finance department benefited from 11 sessions of on-the-job training in the delegation, and one staff member worked with the Federation's regional finance unit in Kuala

Lumpar and the Malaysian Red Crescent during a study tour in August. Also in August, there was a planning session for the 2004 Appeal and six senior officers from the society's headquarters participated in the budgeting process. The finance department was upgraded with a computer network. The Federation's finance delegate facilitated the process with support from the Federation's Capacity Building Fund (CBF) and the Netherlands Red Cross Society.

Impact

The DPRK Red Cross' finance staff and senior officers are more familiar with the Federation's finance standards, including budgeting and reporting, and this enhanced the role of the society in the planning and reporting process. The training, however, was not successful and out of 11 sessions five were only for vocabulary study for finance terms.

Constraints

Different concepts of financial management in DPRK and the Federation are a main constraint. DPRK has just recently started to implement careful economic changes, and a pure money-based economic system is not implemented in DPRK. The language barrier is therefore significant and there is a need to develop financial concepts that can bridge the gap between the different economic systems.

Expected result 3

Human resource development is integrated into DM, health and care and other local programmes and human resource management skills are improved by the end of 2003.

Achievements

The CBF also funded this activity. In January, there was national level leadership training for branch leaders. Eleven branch chairmen and 18 branch secretaries and staff participated in the training. In May, 34 headquarters staff participated in the Federation Project Planning Process training. In December and February 2004, training was held for 240 branch board members from 10 provincial branches on "a well functioning branch." Two staff members from the society's headquarters participated in an organisational development workshop facilitated by the Federation Secretariat in Spain, and two headquarters staff participated in the Federation's Basic Training Course (BTC) conducted by the Norwegian Red Cross Society. A three-member delegation, including the DPRK Red Cross' Deputy Secretary General, branch Vice Chairman and a project manager, visited Belarus, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan and exchanged valuable experiences and lessons, some of which were introduced in enriching NSDP and policies. During the project period two training modules were created on branch development and the "Well Functioning National Society".

Impact

Most of the society's staff at headquarters, as well as key workers in the branch, have enough of an understanding about institutional development to play a decisive role in the change process. The society's organisational structure was streamlined, including both headquarters and throughout the provincial branches, while new ideas enriched the DPRK Red Cross' statutes, development plan and policies

Constraints

There was a very strict travel restriction launched by the government during the SARS outbreak from April to August, causing a delay in holding the provincial organisational development workshops. Poor planning and staffing for the implementation of the project was also one of the constraints.

Expected result 4

At least one income generation project is breaking even by the end of 2003.

Achievements

In October, with financial support from the Canadian Red Cross Society, one bottling machine was purchased and delivered to the DPRK Red Cross spring water factory in Huichon.

Impact

This activity may serve as an impetus for future income generation activities.

Constraints

Refer to comments on financial training.

Expected result 5

By the end of 2003, six pilot branches are not dependent on local authorities providing them with adequate facilities.

Achievements

Construction of one pilot branch office was finished in Kaesong and another 3 county branches were also refurbished through CBDP projects. This was an example of the integrated approach of DP and organisational development. The Netherlands Red Cross Society supported the refurbishment of South Hamgyong and North Hwanghae provincial branch offices. All the branches are striving hard to have a higher profile and better resources so as to be independent of the local authorities.

Impact

Funding for the organisational development programme was successful thanks to contributions from the Swedish, Canadian, and Australian Red Cross Societies and the Federation's CBF. The Netherlands Red Cross Society started its bilateral support in the areas of resource mobilisation and branch development during the second half of the year. It was strongly recommended that branches and volunteers be involved in the preparation of the National Society's policies and projects. More and more community-based projects were conducted by branches. The focus is shifting from the provincial branches to the city/county branches.

Constraints

Refurbishment of four other branches was suspended with the delayed construction of Kaesong and Anju branches. Integration of CBDP and CBFA with branch development requires greater effort and cooperation between the departments.

Federation Coordination

Programme Objective: All staff members experience the value added by the Federation and the ICRC.

Achievements

The partnership management conference was postponed until March 2004. The revision of the CAS was scheduled to start after approval of the DPRK Strategic Plan at the 2003 DPRK Congress. As the congress has not taken place yet, there is no progress on this issue. To achieve good coordination between the programmes, several delegations have visited the Red Cross projects, and open communication between the Secretariat and donor partner societies has been maintained throughout the year, facilitated also by DPRK Red Cross senior management visits to Geneva and some of the European capitals.

Logistical support to both the ICRC and the Norwegian Red Cross Society projects has been provided, the latter formalised through a partnership service agreement signed in November. A revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Federation and the DPRK Red Cross was signed in November.

Impact

Heavy workloads associated with key persons at headquarters and delegation had a negative impact this year. There is no overlap in projects implemented by different partners as far as it has been possible to observe by the Federation delegation. Bilateral activities between the two societies on the Korean peninsula are considered to be separate from ordinary Federation activities and are not regularly reported.

Constraints

National restrictions on information sharing remain the most important constraint to efficient programme coordination and implementation in DPRK. Lack of human resources in both professional and language skills is a limiting factor in international cooperation.

International representation

Programme Objective: The international community has an increased awareness of: the humanitarian situation resulting from the unresolved political issues on the Korean peninsula; the increased risks of epidemic outbreak of infectious diseases; and the effects of natural disasters.

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Achievements

The Federation and the DPRK Red Cross are considered to be active partners in the international humanitarian community based in DPRK. The humanitarian situation is still precarious in large parts of the population. The low priority given to health and care is of special concern to the agencies working in the country. The DPRK Red Cross benefits from continuous support from the EU embassies in Pyongyang and the full coverage of the Appeal indicates that the Red Cross Movement so far has not been affected by the linkage between political and humanitarian issues in DPRK that was severely affecting the food aid given through the World Food Programme in 2003.

Constraints

Travel restrictions related to the SARS outbreak in Asia, as well as travel restrictions both to and within the country giving limited access to the beneficiaries, has caused some donors to refrain from increasing their support to DPRK.