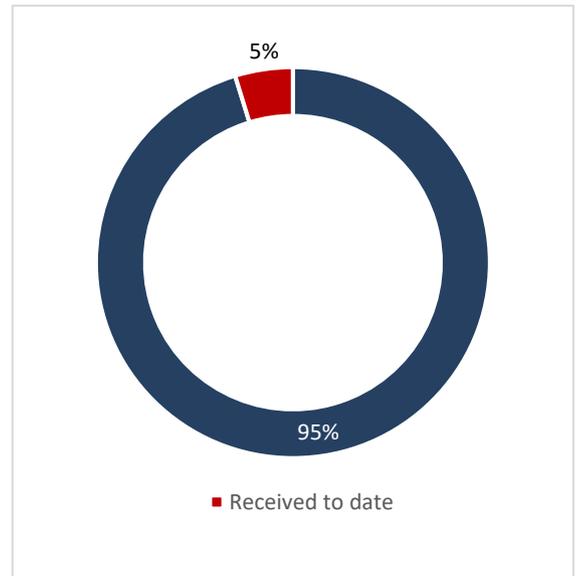


COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Operations update #3

21 February 2020

Emergency appeal: MDR00005
GLIDE: [EP-2020-000012-CHN](#)
Operation timeframe: 31 Jan - 31 Dec 2020
Funding requirements: CHF 32,000,000
Funding gap: CHF 30,406,024



A. SITUATION UPDATE

As of 11:00 a.m. ET February 20, 2020



75,748
cases globally¹



DATE	EVENT
18 Feb 2020	Revised Emergency Appeal was published in French , Spanish , Russian and Arabic



[Click here](#) FOR THE DETAILED UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION ON GO.

B. OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Response by Red Cross Society of China and National Societies in East Asia

Red Cross Society of China (RCSC)

From 12th – 17th February, the RCSC transport team has dispatched ambulance 221 times, transferring 722 patients, among which 380 were seriously or critically ill. A 156-member medical team covering respiratory, emergency critical care, cardiology, medical psychology, and other medical specialization fields has also been deployed from the Shanghai Red Cross Hospital to Hubei province. In order to facilitate the prevention and control

¹ [WHO Situation Report #31 of 20 February 2020](#)

of the epidemic in Wuhan, RCSC and while coordinating the procurement of donated negative pressure ambulances, the RCSC has also called up competent forces and established a convoy for the rescue and transfer of critically ill patients. It assisted the local 120 emergency centres and the designated hospital for the treatment of patients to carry out the patient transfer work.

Red Cross emergency rescue teams in Chizhou and Anhui provinces have also set up 20 tents for the detection points of epidemic prevention and control at highway intersections and communities, have set up temporary offices for front-line workers, and have assisted in checking the temperature of persons within vehicles. In the rescue team WeChat platform, an "Epidemic prevention works, start from me" knowledge contest was established, actively promoting the dissemination of epidemic prevention knowledge.

RCSC developed and launched the online course of "Guideline for COVID-19 Public Prevention" on 17th February. The course includes models on knowledge of COVID-19 infection, personal protection, home protection, travel protection, and related knowledge of medical treatment. The course is designed to help the public learn about epidemic prevention and control, self-protection, as well as supporting the volunteers to conduct health promotion and education in communities. All offline training activities at the training centre of RCSC have been suspended since 15th February.

RCSC National Headquarters (NHQ) has encouraged branches to help with mobilizing recovered patients to donate plasma for treatment of those infected by the virus. As of 19 February, 86 people from 11 places² who had recovered from the NCP had become "anti-epidemic" plasma donors, actively joining the "blood donation to save lives" campaign.

RCSC Guizhou branch has also launched an appeal seeking for resources to provide counterpart support to Ezhou City of Hubei in fighting against the epidemic. Harbin branch paid tribute and showed appreciation to families of those providing medical services in Wuhan for their support. By 17th February, Beijing RC Emergency Response Centre (999) has provided 445 ambulance services, of which 30 services were receiving patients with fever.

Hong Kong branch of RCSC

The distribution of relief materials to the government's quarantine camps continue in response to the needs of quarantined people evacuated from the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship, in accordance to the service agreement with the Social Welfare Department. In addition, up to 1,000 infection control kits have been distributed, together with masks, hand sanitation gels, information leaflets and dissemination of health messages to the elderly and people with disability and minority groups through community partners.

Personal and environmental hygiene knowledge have also been disseminated through weekly online health talks every Monday, Wednesday and Friday on [HKRC Facebook](#) page. More health talk video can be viewed on the [HKRC YouTube channel](#).

Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS)

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, JRCS has been providing necessary medical & PSS support to infected people onboard the cruise ship *Diamond Princess*. With 3,700 passengers and crew on board, JRCS Emergency Medical Teams (EMT), consisting of doctors, nurses, pharmacist, and administrators have been dispatched for two weeks, supporting medical examinations and dispensing medicine in the medical center inside the cruise ship. Safety guidelines have been developed for Red Cross staff involved in the activities inside the cruise ship, stipulating instructions for the preparation and setting up of infection-control measures for Red Cross staff before, during, and after the deployment. JRCS runs 91 hospitals across Japan, and hospitals have been accepting suspected and confirmed COVID patients, and have been providing necessary medical care to them.

JRCS members are in coordination and are part of the Disaster Psychiatric Assistance Team (DPAT) that has been providing psychosocial support (PSS) inside the cruise ship. Using iPhones provided from the Japanese government, PSS leaflets like the "Psychological Coping during Disease Outbreak" developed by the Hong Kong Red Cross have been disseminated in its outreaches to passengers and crew on board *Diamond Princess*. Similarly, PSS has also been provided to EMT members upon their return to their hospitals. Based on [updates](#) from the

² Hubei, Shandong, Sichuan, Hunan, Hainan, Jiangsu, Chongqing, Gansu, Beijing, Henan and Jiangxi

cruise company *Princess*, approximately 600 guests onboard were cleared by the Ministry of Health and were released to disembark the ship on 19th February. A second tranche of medical screenings and clearances is expected to take place on 20th February, with an estimated accumulated total of 1,000 passengers already disembarked. According to WHO, the total number of laboratory-confirmed and clinically diagnosed cases on board the *Diamond Princess* stands at 634.

Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK RCS)

The DPRK RCS, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, has been intensifying a variety of preparedness work through a national network of RC volunteers and local branches in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These activities include health and hygiene promotion, community-based surveillance, psychological first aid, and the supply of PPE kits and referrals through household visits, group gatherings, and individuals. More Red Cross volunteers have been trained on specific COVID-19 awareness and skills, focusing on symptoms, simple preventive measures, psychological first aid and behavioral change.

The Republic of Korea National Red Cross (KNRC)

In close collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and Safety, Local Government and Private sectors, KNRC has provided relief items, masks, and leaflets to enhance community-based surveillance and resilience. KNRC has been preparing more relief kits to be distributed to self-quarantined people due to the rapid spread of local infections in Daegu, and has appealed to both the general public and private sectors for participation in blood donations due to unwillingness and fears to do so in light of the COVID-19 situation.

Response by Red Cross Red Crescent regionally

East Timor Red Cross Society (CVTL)

The Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL) has prepared its initial plan of actions for COVID-19 preparedness and has been actively involved in national cluster meetings together with the Ministry of Health. CVTL has also started to translate and adopt IFRC guidelines and IEC materials for COVID-19.

Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS)

MRCS has been in close coordination with the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) at the national, regional, and township levels, mobilizing a large number of Red Cross volunteers and staff to support MoHS responses in awareness-raising, health education, screening of migrant people, community-based surveillance activities, and has distributed information materials in communities and through social media. The MRCS continues to lead the Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement Task Force which convenes twice a week. Screening and hygiene promotion activities have also been conducted by MRCS at border gates and in various townships. Priority areas of intervention by MRCS, in close coordination with MoHS, will be on community-based epidemic prevention and surveillance activities, services in support of government medical screening activities, and on psychosocial support.

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS)

Every day between 11:00AM and 12:00PM, the NRCS hotline service allocates the prime time for queries related to COVID-19. NRCS has been airing public service announcements through its radio programs and have disseminated awareness-raising messages through other social media, reaching more than 247,000 people so far. Two volunteers have also been assigned by NRCS NHQ to work in the Emergency Operations Centre, contacting district chapters, collecting information, and preparing daily situational reports.

NRCS has also conducted Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) training for 24 volunteers from the district chapters and has prepared Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in anticipation of field deployments. Awareness raising events are being conducted by mobilizing volunteers in almost all districts. NRCS NHQs provided copies of IEC materials and standard presentation material for orientation to all district chapters and have mobilized these volunteers. In Kaski district, 10,000 copies of the IEC material were printed and distributed.

Philippine Red Cross (PRC)

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) continues to mainstream COVID-19 competency throughout its HQ and its 104 Chapters, reaching out to staff and volunteers on prevention, preparedness and response messages and

strategies. Currently, the PRC is participating in a major polio vaccination and sensitization operations in Metro Manila and Mindanao and are using all opportunities to raise awareness and share prevention messages in targeted communities. Trainings on Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) were organized, targeting participants from 25 chapters. COVID-19 training was also conducted with chapters in Mindanao and Manila in conjunction with polio workshops. A draft Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the PRC 129 ambulances has been developed, and an initial 15 sets of frontline PPE kits have been made available for priority ambulance crews. Currently, 6,015 prepositioned PPE sets are ready for PRC use in regional warehouses and chapters, in addition to a new batch of 1,500 recently procured sets of PPEs for volunteers.

The NS has maintained close coordination with Philippine General Hospital and San Lazaro Hospital for possible support on Medical Tents. Guidance notes have been shared with the PRC Blood Bank Service and Welfare Unit on blood safety and psychosocial support activities during the outbreak. Information on prevention of COVID-19 has been shared with all chapters and is being circulated on PRC social media platforms including “Virtual Volunteer” which targets the large Overseas Filipino Worker community. On 20th February PRC Welfare Desks were set up at all Manila International Airport Terminals targeting passengers boarding the reintroduced flights to Hong Kong. PRC volunteers will be available to discuss any concerns passengers may have, will emphasize prevention methods and hand out limited number of donated masks emphasizing when and how they need to be used.

Singapore Red Cross Society (SRCS)

SRCS has raised more than CHF 4.2 million (SGD \$6 million) and is sending CHF 1.59 million (SGD \$2.26 million) worth of aid to China as part of the first phase of relief efforts to contain the coronavirus outbreak in the country. These funds will be used for the purchase and distribution of protective equipment like surgical masks for hospital staff and other healthcare workers, to buy medical equipment for three hospitals in Hubei province, and to purchase and distribute hygiene items and conduct health education in seven welfare homes in Tianjin and Nanning. The remaining funds would be used for projects in the coming months as it works with its partners to identify suitable projects that will benefit the most vulnerable of people affected by the outbreak of COVID-19. SRCS is also supporting the multi-country plan of Asia Pacific with an initial contribution of CHF100,000

Locally, SRCS volunteers are visiting the homes of 94 seniors to check on their well-being and has been making weekly instead of fortnightly phone calls to 119 seniors living alone to answer their questions about COVID-19. Local fundraising efforts are still ongoing.

Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC)

A Steering Committee for prevention and control of COVID-19 has been established by the VNRC, and an action plan and guidelines for the prevention and control of COVID-19 have been implemented. COVID-19 prevention and control activities, including organizing events and distributing 736,200 masks and 52,160 soaps to around 324,790 people, have been carried out in nine provinces and cities, including Hanoi, Vinh Phuc, Lao Cai, Lang Son, Quang Ninh, Thanh Hoa, Da Nang, Khanh Hoa, and Ho Chi Minh. These activities are augmented by health messages, and on proper handwashing with soap techniques, and on using masks properly and reasonably.

<p>ASIA PACIFIC</p>	<p>As of 20 February, there have been 75,748 laboratory-confirmed and clinically diagnosed cases, and 2,129 deaths reported globally. Of these, 2,121 deaths were reported from China alone. In collaboration with public health and pandemic preparedness specialists, constant monitoring and analysis of these statistics vis-à-vis the geographical and demographical challenges have been conducted at the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO).</p> <p>APRO continues to provide guidance and coordination support to National Societies through five Country Cluster Support Teams (CCSTs) and eight Country Offices spread across East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific geographical areas. APRO continues to lead Joint Task Force calls with the global headquarters in Geneva and has been in constant communication with partnering National Societies and Country Offices through weekly meetings.</p>
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	<p>Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) Beijing continues support the RCSC where this is asked for and actively monitor and update the situation in-country. IFRC offices across Asia Pacific continue to actively support and provide technical guidance to National Societies that have also been actively involved in risk communications and preparedness activities.</p>
<p>AFRICA</p>	<p>The Africa Regional COVID Coordination Team has been set up with a Coordinator, 2 Technical Surge, and a Risk Communications/Community Engagement surge as of the week of 17 Feb. an IM platform (Slack) has been established with 104 users as of 20th Feb</p> <p>2 coordination calls (French and English) with the National Societies and IFRC CCST/CT are organized to share information about the COVID risks and vulnerabilities, DREF and Appeal application process. The Regional Health and Care coordinator are actively participating in external Regional Coordination meetings.</p> <p>At the Country level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 countries (Guinea, Uganda, Mali, Cameroon and Kenya) are actively participating in the development of Event based surveillance and Community based surveillance signals with their MOHs - • 10 NS³ are attending the National COVID preparedness meetings regularly. With representation from technical- and leadership teams of the NS. • Some NSs have been designated specific roles in the National COVID Task Force like the Social Mobilization pillar, RCCE, Community based surveillance, • The African NSs received the IEC materials sent out from IFRC Headquarters. Plans are ongoing to reproducing these materials. The COVID-19 guidelines are circulated from the NS headquarters to the branches and chapters.
<p>THE AMERICAS</p>	<p>Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS):</p> <p>CRCS with support from IFRC is working on repatriation of 16 citizens of Colombia back to country. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China has authorized their departure since they were tested negative for the virus. Precautionary measures are being taken in China to limit exposure. Teams of Medical Surveillance of 5 people (two doctors, two nurses and clinical psychologist) from the CRCS have been trained in COVID-19 response, as well as specialists from the Ministry of Health. This work is being coordinated with IFRC in Panama, Geneva and Asia-Pacific.</p> <p>Honduran Red Cross (HRC):</p> <p>HRC has been monitoring the situation about suspected case of COVID-19 in Tegucigalpa. Members of HRC participate in the meetings of the COE SS (Emergency Operations Center of the Health Sector) led by the Ministry of Health, where they are officially informed about the status of the epidemic, are provided with the technical documents produced in the country and the measures taken in this regard; as well as the commitment to work together as a single team.</p> <p>Canadian Red Cross (CRC)</p> <p>The Canadian Red Cross, at the request of the Government of Canada, is sending a team in coordination with the Japanese Red Cross to Japan to support Canadians being treated for coronavirus in Japanese medical facilities, those in quarantine and their families. The team will work with JRCS to support Canadians by helping them access available services from the</p>

³ Sierra Leone, Guinea, DRC, Uganda, Mali, Cameroon, Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia

Government of Canada. Canadian Red Cross support will augment consular services already being provided by the Government of Canada in-country.

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Three profiles for surge deployment are identified as priority; two pandemic preparedness (health) profiles (to be based in Budapest and in Central Asia CCST) and one risk communication / CEA. Webinar on Corona COVID-19 epidemic updates for ROE NSs and partners is planned to take place in the week of 24 February in Russian.

German Red Cross (GRC):

On the national level, in its role as auxiliary to the German authorities, the German Red Cross (GRC), funded by the federal Ministry of Health provides accommodation and care for returnees and their family members from the quarantined city of Wuhan in China. The commissioning of GRC through the Federal Ministry of Health is based on a joint decision of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Federal Ministry of Defence, the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry of Health.

GRC runs accommodation for German citizens returning to the country in order to bridge the incubation period and has provided its services to 114 family members, including:

- Ensuring that returning families stay together
- Returnees have access to means of communication to be in contact with family and friends outside the accommodation
- Returnees have opportunities for leisure activities and psychosocial support
- Returnees have access to medical services if needed

For the purpose of more efficient coordination, GRC's situation room has been activated on February 6th. The successful cooperation within the GRC's structure, with the authorities as well as the dedication and hard work of GRC volunteers are acknowledged. The GRC branches, which are not directly involved in the reception and accommodation of returnees are closely monitoring developments with regards to the COVID-19 epidemic and are enhancing their readiness for a potential response.

On the international level, the GRC has supported the COVID-19 MVT outbreak response with a donation of Personal Protective Equipment amounting to 200.000 EUR (6t, 49m³, 35 pallets) to the Wuhan Branch of the Red Cross Society of China (in 2 shipments, one with 25 pallets on 31.01.2020 and another one with 10 pallets on 18.02.2020).

French Red Cross (FRC):

The French Red Cross has accepted the State's request to ensure the logistics of the reception center for French nationals repatriated from the Chinese province of Hubei currently affected by the epidemic of viral pneumonia. Volunteers from the French Red Cross have been mobilized for more than a week. They provide the telephone response on behalf of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and since January 25, they are present at the arrival of passengers from China on the Roissy-CDG airport, to welcome, inform, reassure and guide travellers.

Since January 31, the mobilization has intensified with the participation of around thirty volunteers in the preparation of the reception center based in Carry-Le-Rouet and in the airport reception of returnees. For the entire duration of the scheme, the FRC will also distribute meals and run the center to best meet the needs of the confined.

Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent has been directly involved to the response actions: staff and volunteers of Red Crescent with local Chinese language skills provided support to the MoH in

the medical checkpoints established in the international airports (Including Manas International Airport) and car road points. MoH officially requested support from Kyrgyzstan RC on conducting public campaigns among the general population, printing out informational materials (Kyrgyz language, Russian language, Chinese and English), disinfection and hygiene materials.

Joint/inter agency contingency plan is being developed with the facilitation of WHO Country Office and with support of all relevant partners. Main focus areas of the Joint/inter agency contingency plan will be: 1) capacity building, 2) provision of relevant PPE, 3) risk/emergency communication, 4) revision of Early Warning System (EWS). National Society requested funding assistance for preparedness and response activities. NS planning country -wide awareness campaign in all 7 regional branches of Kyrgyzstan. RC Staff and volunteers will conduct family and community sessions for general population and distribute Information and Education Communication (IEC) materials.

MENA

Arabic translation ongoing on Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) including the guidance note and RCRC prevention and key messages documents, in addition, the Introduction for Psychological First Aid (PFA), Social Stigma and Rapid Training for community response and guidance for NS teams.

NS preparedness mapping was shared with the NSs in MENA for capacity assessment on epidemic response with deadline to be shared by next week.

Webinar on Corona COVID-19 epidemic updates for MENA NSs and partners in cooperation with WHO EMRO was conducted to share information about the epidemic and the IFRC response. 6 NSs, ICRC and 3 PNSs attended the Webinar.

At Regional level Business Continuity Planning has started and developed the Risk Assessment matrix.

Response by Red Cross Red Crescent globally

RCCE guidelines are part of the global guidance material on how to ensure community priorities, perspectives and concerns are heard and responded to. Specific inter-agency guidance has been developed by IFRC for volunteers, social mobilizers, and frontline workers as well as a guide on how to prevent and address social stigma associated with COVID-19. IFRC and its membership continues to amplify and share timely and trustworthy information and address misinformation through media platforms. A Rapid Response Global Risk Communications/Community Engagement delegate will be part of the Coordination Cell in Geneva as of 24 February. IFRC is also co-leading with UNICEF and WHO risk communication and community engagement coordination efforts globally.

The IFRC secretariat is focusing on a support and coordination function while leveraging resources within the membership for the various Rapid Response roles to mobilize the network in an inclusive manner while deploying the right person to the right place as local as possible.

With the evolving nature of the outbreak, the IFRC mobilized quickly resulting in a large scale up of Rapid Response personnel. The focus is on putting preparedness measures in place including developing and refining tools and resources based on best practices and disseminating them to National Societies so that they can both prepare and respond effectively.

To date 29 Rapid Response positions have been requested at national, regional and global level and have been supported by Australian RC, British RC, Burundi RC, Danish RC, Finnish RC, Netherlands RC, New Zealand RC, Norwegian RC, Singapore RC and Swiss RC. Profiles requested include logistics, risk communication, health inclusive of pandemic preparedness, operations coordination, psychosocial support, communication and PMER.

C. FUNDING UPDATE

[Donor response to the Appeal MDR00005](#)

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