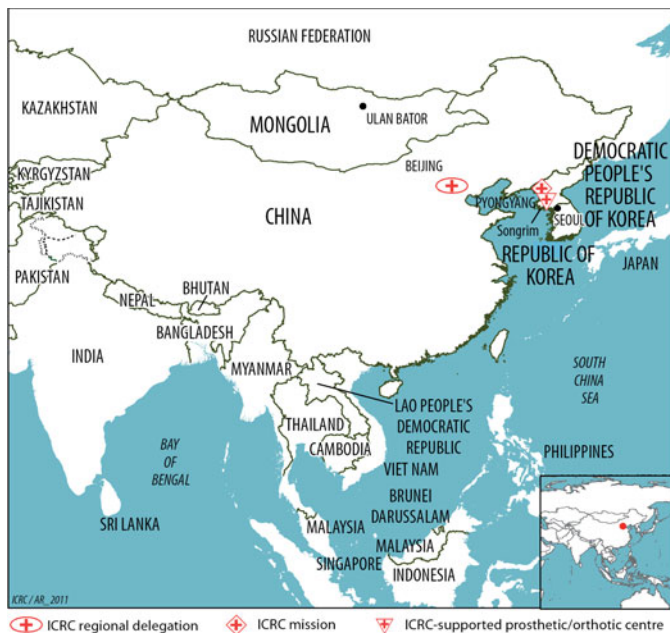


# BEIJING (regional)

COVERING: China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Mongolia



EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)	
Protection	938
Assistance	1,556
Prevention	3,118
Cooperation with National Societies	1,240
General	-

► **6,852**  
of which: Overheads 418

IMPLEMENTATION RATE	
Expenditure/yearly budget	68%

PERSONNEL	
Expatriates	15
National staff (daily workers not included)	33

## KEY POINTS

In 2011, the ICRC:

- started implementing a cooperation agreement signed with the Ministry of Health and the National Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) regarding assistance for provincial hospitals
- supported physical rehabilitation centres in China and the DPRK in providing services to 1,018 people
- continued to develop its dialogue with the Chinese authorities on detention issues, including through a tour of 10 Chinese detention facilities and the holding of a seminar on health and prison management
- strengthened dialogue with the Chinese authorities through meetings with high-ranking Foreign Affairs Ministry officials and members of influential think-tanks, notably during a visit by the ICRC president
- briefed police and military personnel from China and the Republic of Korea (ROK) before their deployment on UN peacekeeping operations
- especially in China, increased knowledge of the organization's activities and concerns using interactive social media platforms; promoted IHL and humanitarian principles and issues among young people in China and the ROK

Present in the region since 1987, the ICRC moved its regional delegation for East Asia to Beijing in 2005. The delegation fosters support for humanitarian principles, IHL and ICRC activities, in the region and worldwide, among governments, experts and National Societies. It promotes the incorporation of IHL into national legislation, military training and academic curricula. It also supports the region's National Societies in developing their IHL promotion and tracing activities. In partnership with the National Society, it supports hospital care and contributes to meeting the need for affordable, good-quality prostheses in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

## CONTEXT

Political and military tensions between the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) remained relatively high, despite the resumption, after a 19-month interruption, of talks between Pyongyang and Seoul on the one side and Pyongyang and Washington on the other. The six-party talks addressing the issue of the DPRK nuclear weapons' programme remained on hold. Following the sudden death of the DPRK leader Kim Jong-Il in December 2011, his successor Kim Jong-Un was elevated to the rank of supreme commander.

Reports of an ever-worsening humanitarian situation in the DPRK persisted, with the vulnerable population living in rural and peri-urban areas facing a major food shortage. The Korean peninsula was again severely hit by floods, forcing people from their homes and causing widespread destruction and damage to houses and infrastructure. The ROK continued to strengthen its role in international affairs and increased its humanitarian aid budget.

Given the continuing global financial upheaval, maintaining internal stability through economic and social development remained a key challenge for China, which had emerged as the world's second largest economy.

Tensions generated by territorial claims between States bordering the South and East China Seas were sources of international concern.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

Promoting IHL and humanitarian principles and securing support for ICRC operations in the region and beyond remained an important focus of the Beijing regional delegation. In China, dialogue was strengthened with the authorities at various levels, notably through visits by the ICRC president and director of operations, which led to an exchange of views on current IHL issues and the need for neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action. The ICRC continued to encourage the authorities in China, the ROK and Mongolia to ratify and implement key IHL treaties.

Dialogue and cooperation on detention issues continued to develop with the Chinese Ministries of Justice and Public Security. The ICRC toured 10 Chinese detention places run by the ministries, while Public Security Ministry officials took part in an ICRC-facilitated study tour of Peruvian and Swiss prisons, enhancing mutual understanding and exchange of experiences. A seminar on health and disease control in prisons was organized in China with the Ministry of Justice.

Main figures and indicators	ASSISTANCE	Total	Women	Children
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>				
<b>Economic security, water and habitat<sup>1</sup></b>				
Food	Beneficiaries	1,000		100%
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>				
<b>Hospitals<sup>1</sup></b>				
Hospitals supported	Structures	1		
	<i>of which provided data</i>	Structures	1	
Admissions	Patients	122	16	15
	<i>of whom other surgical cases</i>	Patients	122	
Operations performed		122		
<b>Physical rehabilitation<sup>2</sup></b>				
Centres supported	Structures	4		
Patients receiving services	Patients	1,018	160	46
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	319	36	7
Prostheses delivered	Units	744	96	32
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	Units	24	
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	11	3	4
Orthoses delivered	Units	25	9	10
Crutches delivered	Units	409		
Wheelchairs delivered	Units	23		

1. DPRK 2. China, DPRK

Together, the National Societies and the ICRC continued to play a key role in the provision of physical rehabilitation services in China and the DPRK. In the DPRK, the authorities, the DPRK Red Cross and the ICRC signed two memoranda of understanding: one extending ICRC support to the physical rehabilitation centre in Rakrang until October 2012; and the other on a new cooperation programme regarding assistance to the three provincial hospitals of Hamhung, Pyongsong and Sariwon. The latter, signed in April, paved the way for an ICRC project to rehabilitate the infrastructure of these facilities and provide training, drugs and medical equipment to their surgical departments over the next two years. By end-2011, project details had been agreed with the authorities, preparatory work had been completed and work to improve sanitation and power systems had begun in the three hospitals.

Raising awareness of IHL, ICRC activities and humanitarian principles and issues among specific audiences and the wider public included the production of additional documentation in Chinese and Korean, the posting of information in Korean on the National Society's website and the increased use of social media. The ICRC continued to promote the teaching of IHL in major universities in China and the ROK, co-organizing IHL events for academics and moot court competitions for students, including the 9th Red Cross IHL Moot for the Asia-Pacific region, and delivering lectures on the subject.

Secondary school pupils in China, Mongolia and, by year-end, the ROK learnt about basic IHL and humanitarian principles through the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme. The National Societies and education authorities adapted and translated materials and held workshops for teachers, student competitions and coordination meetings, with ICRC support.

Cooperation with the region's National Societies focused on the promotion of IHL and the Fundamental Principles and on building their family-links capacities. Following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, the Chinese and ROK Red Cross Societies promoted the Chinese and Korean versions of the family-links website and acted as focal points for tracing requests. The Chinese and the DPRK Red Cross Societies and the ICRC initiated work for particularly vulnerable people: in China, joint missions were conducted to the Yanbian

Autonomous Prefecture and the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region; and the DPRK Red Cross provided food assistance to 1,000 orphans particularly affected by severe winter conditions.

## CIVILIANS

Owing to the tensions between the DPRK and the ROK, no progress was made in resolving the issue of family members separated since the 1950–53 Korean War. The ICRC nevertheless stood ready to assist in finding a long-term solution to the plight of the families and raised its concerns with the authorities and respective National Societies whenever appropriate.

Following a particularly harsh winter and the suspension of a large part of external food aid, with ICRC material support and guidance, the Sinuju branch of the DPRK Red Cross provided three months' worth of food assistance to 1,000 orphans in North Pyongan province.

The Chinese Red Cross and the ICRC conducted joint missions to the Yanbian Autonomous Prefecture in Jilin Province and the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region to assess the capacities of the local Red Cross branches in dissemination/communication and emergency preparedness and to better understand the needs of vulnerable people belonging to minority communities.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Dialogue between the Chinese authorities and the ICRC on detention conditions in prisons continued to develop. Ministry of Justice representatives, prison managers and doctors from 11 provinces discussed health and prison-management issues with ICRC staff and experts from Beijing and abroad at a seminar held in Chongqing. They reviewed specific problems related to the prevention, control and treatment of TB and HIV/AIDS, prison management and overcrowding. The event enabled discussion between participants who otherwise had few opportunities for such an exchange of experiences.

The ICRC gained a deeper understanding of the structure and functioning of detention facilities in China during two study tours organized by the authorities respectively to two prisons run by the Ministry of Justice in Chongqing municipality and eight run by

the Ministry of Public Security in Zhejiang province and Beijing municipality. ICRC delegates and prison managers discussed health care issues. Delegates provided written feedback on the second tour to the authorities. Meanwhile, high-ranking Chinese Ministry of Justice officials learnt more about prison management and detainee health care in other countries during an ICRC-facilitated study tour of prisons in Peru and Switzerland, while a visit to ICRC headquarters helped increase their understanding of the organization's humanitarian mandate and provided an opportunity to further discuss various detention topics. Overall, the tours provided important opportunities to share expertise and confirmed both parties' interest in further developing the dialogue on detention issues, including beyond health-related matters.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### DPRK physical rehabilitation centre enhances its capacity

A total of 490 physically disabled people in the DPRK received appropriate treatment at the Rakrang physical rehabilitation centre. With financial, material and technical support from the ICRC and the DPRK Red Cross, the centre continued to produce high-quality prostheses and orthoses, as well as crutches and wheelchairs, and building work started with a view to doubling the centre's bed capacity from 30 to 60 patients. Meanwhile, health staff enhanced their professional skills through on-the-job training by an ICRC physiotherapist and a prosthetist/orthotist, who also monitored the quality of services provided. Two of the centre's technicians and two physiotherapy assistants were sponsored to attend training courses abroad, in Cambodia and India respectively. In January 2011, a new memorandum of understanding was signed, extending ICRC support to the centre for a further two years.

In addition, the Rakrang centre's surgical annex carried out stump revisions for both military and civilian amputees with the help of ICRC expertise. In 2011, a total of 122 surgical procedures were performed. ICRC-trained surgeons continued to perform stump revision operations and provide training to other hospitals throughout the country.

### Three DPRK hospitals set about improving orthopaedic surgery standards

A tripartite agreement was signed in April between the DPRK Ministry of Health, the DPRK Red Cross and the ICRC on a new cooperation programme regarding assistance to the three provincial

referral hospitals of Hamhung, Pyongsong and Sariwon. This paved the way for the ICRC to help rehabilitate the infrastructure of these facilities and provide training and medical/surgical materials to their surgical departments in the coming two years.

The construction/rehabilitation part of the project required a lengthy fine-tuning process involving hospital management and engineering staff. It was agreed that the first phase would focus, among other things, on rehabilitating the main water supply and wastewater treatment system. The construction of septic tanks in all three hospitals started in November/December.

By year-end, preparatory work for the health elements of the project had been completed with the three hospitals, before the planned arrival of the ICRC surgical/medical team in 2012. This included: an assessment of operating facilities and sterilization standards; an evaluation of priorities in pre- and post-operative patient care; and preparation of training and translation of ICRC protocols and guidelines into Korean.

### Disabled people in China have access to physical rehabilitation services

A total of 249 disabled people living in China's south-western Yunnan province received physical rehabilitation services provided in Kunming by the Yunnan branch of the Chinese Red Cross. The majority of patients had their worn-out prostheses replaced. Meanwhile, 279 amputees had their artificial limbs repaired or adjusted at the workshops in Kaiyuan and Malipo, near the Vietnamese border.

The provision of prosthetic components, related consumables and in-house practical training by the ICRC helped the centre further strengthen its capacity to deliver high-quality devices and services to patients. The Yunnan Red Cross branch and the ICRC agreed that the latter support would continue as part of broader cooperation with the National Society and its branches from 2012 to 2016.

## AUTHORITIES

Dialogue between Chinese political decision-makers and the ICRC was strengthened by missions to Beijing by the ICRC president – during which he met President Hu Jintao and had a discussion with the Minister of Foreign Affairs – and by the director of operations and three heads of regional operations. The director of

WOUNDED AND SICK		China	DPRK
<b>Physical rehabilitation</b>			
Centres supported	Structures	3	1
Patients receiving services	Patients	528	490
	<i>of whom women</i>	96	64
	<i>of whom children</i>	22	24
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	61	258
	<i>of whom women</i>	6	30
	<i>of whom children</i>	2	5
Prostheses delivered	Units	250	494
	<i>of which for women</i>	38	58
	<i>of which for children</i>	12	20
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	24	
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients		11
	<i>of whom women</i>	Patients	3
	<i>of whom children</i>	Patients	4
Orthoses delivered	Units		25
	<i>of which for women</i>	Units	9
	<i>of which for children</i>	Units	10
Crutches delivered	Units		409
Wheelchairs delivered	Units		23

operations also met senior Foreign Ministry officials in the ROK. In addition to briefings on ICRC operations worldwide, discussions in both countries focused on the need to maintain a space for neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action and the importance of increased support and funding for ICRC work.

The Chinese authorities showed support for ICRC efforts to develop IHL during consultations on a draft resolution on “Strengthening legal protection for victims of armed conflicts”, to be presented at the 31st International Conference.

The national IHL committees of China, Mongolia and the ROK worked on the issues of legal protection of the emblems, the repression of war crimes and the ratification of key treaties, with ICRC guidance and documentation. Six officials from the three countries attended a seminar on the 1977 Additional Protocols in Kyoto, Japan (see *Kuala Lumpur*).

Government officials from 25 countries attended a two-day IHL training course during a three-week seminar on international law organized by the ROK authorities. Others from the region, including the DPRK, participated in a workshop on the Montreux document on private military and security companies, hosted by the Mongolian government and sponsored by Switzerland.

### **ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS**

Military operational decision-makers in the region and the ICRC maintained contact on IHL-related matters, while relations at working level continued to develop. In China, decision-makers showed support for ICRC initiatives, but there was little progress on engaging in substantive IHL integration programmes. At lectures and presentations, members of the armed forces of China, Mongolia and the ROK gained a greater understanding of IHL and the ICRC. Two senior officers from China and one from the ROK took part in the fifth Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Military Operations held in South Africa (see *International law and cooperation*). The DPRK sent a participant to a course at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, which included a briefing at ICRC headquarters.

Military lawyers in China and the ROK discussed issues such as a future arms trade treaty.

Senior military decision-makers in Mongolia and the ICRC discussed tangible steps the country could take to accede to the Mine Ban Convention.

Police personnel from China and military personnel from the ROK attended ICRC briefings before their deployment on UN peacekeeping missions. The China Police Peacekeeping Centre received ICRC advice and documentation for peacekeepers on medical precautions and personal safety. Dialogue developed with the Ministry of Public Security on detention matters and the ICRC’s mandate and role (see *People deprived of their freedom*).

### **CIVIL SOCIETY**

General and specialist audiences enjoyed access to ICRC multimedia material on IHL and operational humanitarian issues in their own languages through the organization’s Chinese-language website and Korean sub-site, various online and social media and some 30 new publications. Journalists worked with the ICRC to cover topical humanitarian themes and received help in contacting ICRC delegations worldwide.

Influential think-tanks took part in debate on humanitarian concerns. The China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations and the ICRC organized a seminar on regional conflicts and humanitarian action in the Horn of Africa and North Africa.

Secondary school children in four areas of China (Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tianjin and Zhengzhou), Mongolia and, from November, the ROK learnt about basic IHL and humanitarian principles through the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme. The National Societies and education authorities adapted and translated materials and held workshops for teachers and coordination meetings. In Mongolia, they organized a student competition on the topic. National Society representatives in charge of Exploring Humanitarian Law and other youth programmes from six countries shared their experiences at an ICRC-organized regional meeting in Shanghai.

University students and lecturers learnt more about IHL and the Movement at ICRC-supported lectures, workshops and regional and national moot court competitions organized by universities and National Society branches in Beijing, Hong Kong, Renmin, Seoul, Shanghai, Taipei, and Urumqi. In particular, 20 teams from the Asia-Pacific region tested their knowledge at the 9th Red Cross IHL Moot in Hong Kong. Four academics from China and the ROK participated in the Sixth Southeast and East Asian Teaching Session on IHL (see *Kuala Lumpur*).

### **RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

Members of the Chinese, Japanese, Mongolian and ROK Red Cross Societies received training at the third regional family-links seminar for East Asia, held in Hong Kong. The Red Cross Society of China assessed needs and gaps in its family-links service and trained 15 branches in restoring family links in disasters. Following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, the Chinese and ROK Red Cross Societies promoted the Chinese and Korean versions of the family-links website and acted as focal points for tracing requests.

Members of 32 Chinese Red Cross branches attended one national and two regional seminars on IHL and the Fundamental Principles. Sub-branches of the Tibetan Red Cross branch also received dissemination training. The DPRK Red Cross facilitated a workshop on basic IHL and the Movement at Kim Il-sung University. Cooperation with both National Societies included work regarding disaster/management preparedness and responding to the potential needs of vulnerable people (see *Civilians*).

Thirty health professionals shared experiences at the third Health Emergencies in Large Populations course, organized with the Peking University School of Public Health and the Chinese Red Cross.

The different Movement components coordinated their activities, including through a partnership meeting for the Mongolian Red Cross and a regional National Society leadership meeting in China.