

Appeal 2003-2004



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

CENTRAL ASIA REGION

Appeal no. 01.87/2003

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	2003 (In CHF)	2004 ² (In CHF)
1. Health and Care	2,189,828	2,970,000
2. Disaster Management	1,575,206	1,300,000
3. Organizational Development	1,054,307	1,037,000
4. Humanitarian Values	182,938	100,000
5. Federation Coordination	278,909	215,000
6. International Representation	17,369	100,000
Total	5,298,557¹	5,722,000

Introduction

The region of Central Asia consists of five countries, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, with an approximate size of western Europe and a population of 50 million people. The regional delegation provides support to the national societies in these countries. The countries of Central Asia struggle with transition issues that are common to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Despite a high average GDP in the region, large sections of the population are living below the poverty line. Central Asia suffers from high unemployment and inflation rates resulting in deteriorating living standards and increasing disparities between rural and urban areas as well as between high-income and low-income population. Educational standards in general are declining due to reduced government expenditure in this area that fell from 7 per cent of the GDP in 1990 to 3.3 per cent in 2000. Many qualified teachers and other specialized professions are leaving their jobs because of the low salaries and poor working conditions.

The three oil and energy rich countries of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan will have good prospects for a recovery of the economy in the long-term future. However, at present, public expenditure on health, education and other social support is lower than it was before the break up of the Soviet Union and is likely to remain so for the coming years. In Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan two exchange rates exist, creating further difficulties for the economy of these countries. The economic situation also leads to increased child labour. According to a UNICEF assessment from 8,459 interviewed children in Uzbekistan aged between 5-15, 23.4 per cent are currently working.

The economic outlook for Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan is less optimistic for the future than for their energy rich neighbours. Tajikistan (see also separate country appeal no 01.80/03) is a mountainous country with less than 10 per cent cultivable land but with rich water resources. In addition, Tajikistan is characterised by a poor infrastructure and poor health access rates. The food deficit situation in the

¹ USD 3,635,082 or EUR 3,597,293.

² These are preliminary budget figures for 2004, and are subject to revision.

country has created further dependencies on food aid from abroad. Both Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan remain water-exporting countries, but are relying in return on gas imports from Uzbekistan. This also is a potential for political tension in the region.

The attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York in September 2001 and the following political changes in Afghanistan impacted on the Central Asian countries. The presence of foreign military forces in the region has increased and borders towards Afghanistan were opened in order to facilitate the reconstruction of the country. This has however led to increased trafficking of narcotics through Central Asia to Russia and Western Europe, resulting in reduced drug prices and thereby increasing access and consumption of narcotics and an accompanying growth of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS rates. According to official statistics, Uzbekistan for example has had 27,000 I/V drug addicts in 2002, though other sources report 12,000 cases alone in the capital city of Tashkent that would infer much higher overall figures nation-wide.

The health situation in the region remains a major concern. Infant mortality is average for the region (Tajikistan excluded) 57.2 per 1,000 live births, access rates to treatment in hospitals in rural areas are low and costly, and health reforms focusing on the set-up of primary health institutions in local communities have not yet impacted on improved services. In rural areas, diarrhoea, tuberculosis and increasing malaria rates are the main diseases. Tuberculosis and increased HIV/AIDS rates are perceived as the major health challenges in the region. Poverty, malnutrition, lack of access to free and quality services and medicines are exacerbating the situation of TB patients. In the Karakalpakstan Autonomous Republic of Uzbekistan for example 100,000 people had a confirmed TB infection during the last three years.

In addition, the region inherited serious environmental problems: Nuclear plants with nuclear waste, the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, and the Aral Sea bordering Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, are just some sites that need further attention. The sea levels of the Aral Sea have dropped between 1960 to 1989 from 53 metres to 39 metres and are slowly drying up. The water itself is also contaminated by the overuse of fertilizers and pesticides which caused major health problems. According to the National Children's Rehabilitation Centre in the Aral Sea Region (URPAK), 90 per cent of children presented were suffering from ear, nose or throat infections with 96 per cent showing signs of iron deficiency anaemia. Additionally, the scheme which was intended to provide water for irrigation has ironically caused food and water supply shortages coupled with severe droughts in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan in two consequent years of 2000 and 2001.

The health status of the population in Semipalatinsk area demonstrates the environmental and social impact of the nuclear testing programme which lasted from 1949-1991. In 1992 it was recognized by the government that 1.6 million people living in the Semipalatinsk test site area were affected either directly or indirectly from the test programme. Infant mortality rates, at 28/1,000 live births, are higher than the national average. Congenital birth defects continue to rise and are at 104.3/1,000 live births, and maternal mortality ratio is 156/100,000 live births as compared to the national average of 64/100,000 live births.

Finally, migration remains still high in the region. According to the Population Movement Assessment Report carried out by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Central Asia (based on information from IOM, UNHCR) approximately 70,000-80,000 refugees from Chechnya, Afghanistan and Tajikistan and around 360,000 repatriates (UNDP HDR, 2000) are living in the region. Due to inadequate migration legislation and the economic hardships, the Central Asian host countries are not able to address all the needs of moving populations in housing, jobs, social, health and education services. In addition, internally displaced persons are not sufficiently acknowledged as a vulnerable group.

Human Development Indicators at a glance

	<u>Kazakhstan</u>	<u>Kyrgyzstan</u>	<u>Tajikistan</u>	<u>Turkmenistan</u>	<u>Uzbekistan</u>
<i>HDI Rank (HDI index), 2000</i>	79 (0.75)	102 (0.712)	112 (0.667)	87 (0.741)	95 (0.727)
<i>Life expectancy at birth (years), 2000</i>	64.6	67.8	67.6	66.2	69
<i>Adult literacy rate (per cent age 15 and above), 2000</i>	98	97	99.2	98	99.2
<i>Combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (per cent), 1999</i>	77	68	67	81	76
<i>GDP per capita (PPP\$), 2000</i>	5.871	2.711	1,152	3,956	2,441
<i>Life expectancy index, 2000</i>	0.66	0.71	0.71	0.69	0.73
<i>Education index, 2000</i>	0.91	0.87	0.88	0.92	0.91

Source: UNDP HDR 2002

Regional Strategy

The key strategic document in the region is the regional assistance strategy (RAS) which will be revised in 2003/2004 in order to reflect adequately the changes in the strategies of the five national societies in Central Asia. The nature of assistance has changed over the past few years and the overall number of beneficiaries has increased. The challenge for the five national societies in Central Asia will be to maintain activities which lead to an impact on the poverty level of the vulnerable groups.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are newly emerging in each country to different extents. At the moment they remain small but significant actors in the humanitarian field. The branch network of the five national societies in Central Asia however provides an opportunity to reach out effectively to the rural areas and local communities, as well as to assist their governments in community-based activities. The capacities of the national societies were strengthened in the past years which allows the it to play a major role in preventive health or disaster mitigation through dissemination activities. This enables a flow of information from the centre to the districts, as well as from the local communities back to the centre. In this way, the national societies may bring the needs and concerns of the vulnerable rural population to the attention of decision makers in the humanitarian field and therefore exercise an important advocacy role.

The regional delegation is building on these potentials in order to strengthen and widen them. This will be especially important in areas of organizational development, health, disaster, information and the promotion of humanitarian values. The delegation will continue to deliver technical expertise through provision of delegates, regional staff and consultants. Additionally, funding will be sought on behalf of the societies for their programmes aimed at beneficiaries and for their internal strengthening.

National Society Priorities

The priorities of the Central Asian national societies are built upon the Federation's Strategy 2010 and they implement activities in all four core areas: health and care in the community, disaster preparedness and response, promotion of fundamental principles and humanitarian values, and organizational development. p

Priority health programmes are tuberculosis control, HIV/AIDS prevention, first aid/health promotion and safe motherhood. Disaster management aims to increase local capacities to cope with disaster through community-based preparedness, and both, minimize and prevent disaster effects through mitigation projects. In the field of humanitarian values the Central Asian national societies work with

partners of the Red Cross, UNHCR, IOM and other stakeholders improving living conditions of displaced people.

In the regional conference of the European Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Berlin 2002, the Berlin Charter was adopted and national societies committed themselves to implement the plans of action on migration and health. Both themes were relevant for the Central Asian national societies and calls for new forms of partnerships and alliances in order to generate the necessary resources to implement the commitments made. As a concrete result of the RAS and the Berlin Conference, a pilot project on anti-discrimination started in all five Central Asian national societies in 2002.

Sustainability is a further challenge for the Central Asian national societies which is closely linked to a revision of the organizational structures and statutes. Effective and transparent financial management is a prerequisite for fundraising and good management practices and for enabling these structural changes. All five Central Asian national societies started a process in 2002 aiming at the division of governance and management by their next congresses between 2004-2006. Branch development continues to be a priority for all five Central Asian national societies and is one element in reaching better sustainability.

National self-assessment was carried out by the Red Crescent Societies of Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan following the Governing Board's call to the national societies in November 2001 to use the national self assessment as an institutional tool and process of monitoring their performance and integrity. The other three national societies in Central Asia will undergo this same process in 2003.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Priorities

The Central Asian regional assistance strategy (RAS) 2002-2004 aims to increase the effectiveness of the national societies in reducing the level of vulnerability in Central Asia through a policy framework to coordinate the partners in the region.

A regional review on RAS and organizational development (OD) priorities, capacity building and sustainability was carried out in 2002. All partners active in the region were asked to provide input to this review. Despite the low response rate a specific report was published in 2002. The review enabled the Central Asian national societies to recognize the need for continuous strategic planning. The challenge remains to link the strategic plan to the implementation of activities. The 2003/2004 RAS in its revision will become the cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) and should define action plans, time schedules and responsibilities agreed between all partners.

The cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) is a process to enable the priorities of a national society, as expressed in its strategic/development plan, to be fully supported by partners (both Red Cross Red Crescent and external). Through this process commitment to a shared strategy can be developed that will strengthen the impact of the national society's work in improving the lives of vulnerable people.

The International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) is represented in the region through its regional delegation based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and the country mission in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The main activities of the ICRC in the region concern the dissemination of humanitarian values and international humanitarian law together with the Central Asian national societies, as well as visits of detention prisoners. The Federation and the ICRC are increasingly participating in activities of each other, such as the regional leadership workshop, the anti-discrimination kick-off workshop and the planning meetings. The mutual understanding and cooperation are expected to be further strengthened in 2003.

A number of participating national societies (PNS) is supporting the Central Asian national societies multilaterally through the Federation, among others the British, Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian and Korean Red Cross societies; and the main focus of their support is the regional cooperation activities,

delegate support, general organizational development and focused programme support in health, disaster preparedness/disaster response (DP/DR), humanitarian values (HV).

The biggest bilateral partner is the American Red Cross Society with the Aral Sea programme implementing however its food relief for TB patients under the legal umbrella of the Federation. Other partners, such as the British, German, the Netherlands, and Spanish Red Cross Societies are working bilaterally without any service support from the Federation, mainly in organizational development and health-related activities.

Unfortunately, lack of communication occurring among some bilateral partners and the Federation may result in unplanned overlapping and donor-driven projects beyond the capacities of some national societies. This calls for more efforts by the Federation to effectively coordinate the different partners and to provide an inclusive framework for the cooperation in the region.

Priority Programmes for Secretariat Assistance

The regional delegation of Central Asia continues to support five national societies in the region in accordance with the Federation's Strategy for Change 2002 through strengthening national societies in the four core areas, international coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships, and international representation and advocacy.

- ***Health and Care***

Limited access to health care and the branch network of the Central Asian national societies will allow the implementation of community-based activities in tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, first aid and maternal health. Dissemination on the role of the Red Cross and humanitarian values is an integral part of these activities.

- ***Disaster Management***

Due to the high exposure to the severe affects of disasters, such as drought, floods, landslides and earthquakes, increased capacities of the national societies to provide effective disaster preparedness, mitigation, and disaster response are essential. Community participation in these activities through extensive training of volunteers, raised awareness, distribution of information material and are established upon the provision of communication equipment and maintenance of DP stocks.

- ***Population Movement***

Despite constant under funding, the national societies of Central Asia consider activities in this area as essential and are referring to the outcomes of the Berlin Regional Conference. Both disaster preparedness and humanitarian values are aiming to address the importance of the issue in the region, particularly in reducing vulnerability, increasing coping mechanisms and promoting tolerance and respect towards refugees, migrants and repatriants.

- ***Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values (HV)***

The focus of the activities is to promote tolerance and respect in the region among different vulnerable and stigmatized groups. Promotion activities are included in all the different core areas, as well as are an integral part of the information and communications activities of the regional delegation.

- ***Organizational Development***

The regional programme is setting objectives in order to have a better impact on the national societies of Central Asia and on its beneficiaries. Improving technical capacities, revising the organizational structures and addressing the issue of sustainability are important components of the programme. Branch, youth and volunteer's development will focus on areas of organizational development work of the regional delegation.

1. Health and Care w [<Click here to return to the title page>](#)

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The public health structure in the Central Asian countries inherited most of their characteristics from the former Soviet Union. At that time, the health care facilities were widely available and well accessible to the population. After the dissolution of the USSR, however, the severe economic decline and the continuous deterioration of the public health sector contributed to the increase in chronic poverty in the five countries. Over 80 per cent of the population in Central Asia is living below the poverty line with increasing inequality between urban and rural communities.

Limited financial resources for health care services lead to insufficient health care provision at community level despite the under-utilized primary health care structures. Lack of primary health care specialists, disruption in epidemic control, declining preventive and curative measures, deteriorating living standards, poor nutritional status and low immune defence further deteriorate the health situation in Central Asia. The impact of this is mostly felt among mothers and children under five, where tuberculosis, acute respiratory infections, diarrhoeal diseases are the most prevalent diseases.

The Red Crescent Societies in Central Asia are in a unique position to complement the public health structure through community-based health education. A network of Red Crescent branches with highly committed volunteers can contribute to improvements in the health status of the population.

In early 2002, national health authorities in Central Asia initiated a country coordination mechanism (CCM) to access the global fund to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (GFATM). The Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan Red Crescent Societies were accepted by their governments to join the CCM in their respective countries as a member.

- ***Tuberculosis control***

In all five Central Asian countries, nation-wide in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and with pilot projects in Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, the Ministries of Health (MOH) are implementing tuberculosis (TB) prevention programmes with the support of the World Bank and World Health Organization (WHO). These programmes follow the implementation of the directly observed treatment short course strategy (DOTS) as recommended by the WHO. Nevertheless, TB is increasing in all five countries with the following notification rates:

- Kazakhstan - 187 cases per 100,000 population;
- Kyrgyzstan - 137 cases per 100,000 population;
- Turkmenistan - 93 cases per 100,000 population;
- Tajikistan - 127 cases per 100,000 population; and
- Uzbekistan - 53 cases per 100,000 population

Due to the high percentage of poorly nourished people (10 per cent of total population in Kyrgyzstan, 11 per cent in Kazakhstan, 9 per cent in Turkmenistan and 4 per cent in Uzbekistan) and the declining economic situation, tuberculosis post-care became a main activity area for the five national societies of Central Asia. All of them have now initiated tuberculosis programmes with a similar approach to complement the MOH in their countries: visiting nurses of the Red Cross target an average of 1,000 TB patients per year under DOTS therapy by providing observance of standard treatment implementation at homes or DOTS Central Asia and public canteens. All TB patients receive hygienic kits, food parcels or a hot meal as an incentive to complete the TB treatment. In 2003, this programme is expected to continue and expand as an activity of the national societies of Central Asia.

- ***HIV/AIDS prevention***

In Central Asia, the first HIV/AIDS cases were registered in Kazakhstan and by 2001 the number of officially registered HIV positive persons increased to 2,256 people. About 70 per cent of all sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and HIV/AIDS registered cases are young people. The intravenous drug users and commercial sex workers are considered as main risk groups. The level of awareness about these diseases remains low.

Latest official statistics on people living with HIV/AIDS show the following figures:

Kazakhstan - over 2,300 registered

Kyrgyzstan - 276 registered

Tajikistan - over 40 registered

Turkmenistan - 2 registered

Uzbekistan - 1,200 registered

In order to reduce the rate of HIV/AIDS infection effectively, the promotion of accurate knowledge on the ways of transmission and prevention of HIV/ADS is needed. The work of the Red Crescent Societies on HIV/AIDS prevention is mainly related to youth activities. Youth departments at national societies of Central Asia regularly train volunteers as peer educators. Once trained these volunteers run health promotion campaigns at schools, colleges and public places to cover the information dissemination on the prevention of HIV/AIDS. In 2003, national societies of Central Asia will expand their activities in HIV/AIDS prevention and for the first time will target the groups at highest risk, commercial sex workers and intravenous drug users.

- ***First Aid /Health Promotion***

In the past two years the first aid training provided by Central Asian national societies could gain visibility through increased partnerships with external partners. For example, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan worked in cooperation with the UNHCR and the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan has signed an agreement with the Central Asian Medical Group on joint first aid training conducted for different commercial companies in the country.

The main component of the first aid training curriculum is health promotion, primarily focussing on prevention of emerging communicable diseases (diarrhoeal diseases, respiratory infections, as well as malaria), hygiene and use of drinking water. In 2003, first aid and health promotion activities will be continued and expanded in all five national societies of Central Asia, focussing particularly on branches implementing these activities.

- ***Safe Motherhood***

According the UNDP Human Development Report 2001, the infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate are 60/1,000 and 65/100,000 live births in Kazakhstan, 52 and 65 in Turkmenistan, 51 and 21 in Uzbekistan, and 53 and 65 in Kyrgyzstan which are comparatively high to other CIS countries (for example, Russia with an infant mortality rate of 18/1,000 and a maternal mortality rate of 44/100,000 live births, Belarus with 17 and 20).

The safe motherhood pilot projects implemented in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan target 400 pregnant women who are regularly supervised by nurses Red Cross in their homes and health Central Asia at regional branches to provide consultations on nutritional and health issues. Within one year of implementation, over 1,000 women increased their knowledge of safe pregnancy and delivery, the importance of breast feeding and immunization. In coordination with local health authorities, the programme provides special training for family midwives. In 2003, more than 100 family midwives and volunteers of the Red Crescent will be trained in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan focussing their activities towards the village population whose access to health care services is extremely limited.

All programmes described above will prioritize the following approach in 2003:

- Coordination between the health structures of the five national societies in Central Asia is improved.
- Building capacities of the Central Asian national societies will undertake community-based activities at the branch level.
- An approach with other programme areas within the Central Asian national societies is integrated.

Overall Goal

The role of the Central Asian national societies in health care of respective countries is increased.

Programme Objective

In 2003, the capacities of the Central Asian national societies to address the main health problems of communities are improved through health promotion, first aid, complementing national tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and mother and child care programmes.

Expected Results

- By the end of 2003, a total 1,600 TB patients were targeted in six districts to decrease their burden of TB through direct observation and social support (i.e. food parcels, hygienic kits, or hot meals) and TB awareness was raised among 20,000 people.
- The involvement of Central Asian national societies in HIV/AIDS prevention in their respective countries is increased through extensive efforts in raising awareness among 30,000 young people, commercial sex workers and intravenous drug users.
- The Red Crescent Societies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan take an active part in the CCM of the global fund to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.
- By the end of 2003, the quality of health promotion and first aid training of 16,000 volunteers and community members at branch level was improved through first aid training based on a common curriculum. A total of ten health staff members from selected branches has improved their technical skills in health aspects of disaster management with the main focus on vulnerability assessment, epidemic control and first aid.
- By the end of 2003, maternal health services have received improved assistance from six branches of the Red Crescent through increased knowledge of 2,000 pregnant women in safe pregnancy and deliveries, potential complications, risk factors and infant care.

2. Disaster Management w [<Click here to return to the title page>](#)

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The region of Central Asia is prone to different types of disasters, such as floods, landslides, drought and earthquakes and their impact on the population is aggravated by the poor economic situation in all five Central Asia countries: In East Kazakhstan, the floods in 2001 affected more than 4,500 people with damages worth US\$ 2 million. In Kyrgyzstan, over 3,000 earthquakes are registered every year affecting an average of 8,000 people. The Uzbekistan drought severely affected 200,000 people of a total population of 1.4 million. The Uzbekistan drought operation consequently targeted 20,000 people with food assistance and 150,000 people with essential drugs and health promotion activities. In Turkmenistan, the Red Crescent Society responded to floods, landslides and seismic activities assisting 676 families (5,238 persons), including 56 refugee families. All Red Crescent Societies respond to local disasters through community-based preparedness and mitigation projects, increasing local capacities to cope with disasters and to minimize their effects.

Poverty in Central Asia is fuelling ethnic tensions and migrations resulting in economic hardships and discrimination of displaced communities in the receiving countries. The two-decade civil war in Afghanistan, the post-conflict situation in Tajikistan and in the Ferghana Valley, led to increased number of refugees and displaced people. There are approximately 70,000-80,000 refugees from Afghanistan, Chechenya and Tajikistan and around 360,000 repatriates in Central Asia.

Disaster preparedness (DP) programmes initiated in the region in 1996 focused on the establishment of the DP structure within the Central Asian national societies and aimed to strengthen their cooperation with relevant government authorities. An evaluation of the disaster preparedness programme was carried out in 1999 and the 'Specialist Module of National Society Self Assessment

on the Characteristics of a Well Prepared National Society (WPNS)' identified the need to address disaster management issues collectively. The achievements and lessons learned from these activities are as follows:

- Mitigation projects were initiated.
- Community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) activities were expanded, including a component on community participation and community contribution.
- Volunteer recruitment and mobilization among young people and pensioners was improved.
- An early warning system (EWS) was established.
- Community awareness on DM related issues was provided.
- Practical disaster management training was provided.
- The link and cooperation between the programmes of the national societies were strengthened.
- Coordination and harmonization with the ICRC on DM relevant activities was maintained.
- Partnerships with government ministries and international organizations were initiated.

The Afghanistan crisis affected the branches of national societies bordering Afghanistan. The situation in Northern Afghanistan requires the Central Asian national societies to be well prepared in regard to their disaster response capacities. The Central Asian national societies have developed contingency plans to address the impact of the Afghanistan crisis in their countries. The affected Red Crescent Societies participated in the voluntary repatriation of Afghanistan refugees organized by the UNHCR. The support by the regional delegation to the population movement programme of the national societies is part of the activities of DM.

The vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) activities, including recovery and mitigation projects, in the region and their implementation is implemented under the umbrella of the disaster management programme, even though the VCA are coordinated by the regional OD programme. Logistical support to the Central Asian national societies is provided through the DM programme.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will participate in regional activities, such as regional training workshops and exchange visits, even though support is received through the Tajikistan Annual Appeal

Overall Goal

The suffering and vulnerability level of high risk groups in Central Asia are reduced through effective disaster management system of Central Asian national societies and other stakeholders in the region.

Programme Objective

By the end of 2003, the disaster management capacity of the Red Crescent Societies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan has increased through improved planning capacities, increased volunteers recruitment and training, logistical support for programmes and increased community participation in mitigation projects and activities, matching the characteristics of a well-prepared national society.

Expected Results

By the end of 2003, each of the four national societies in Central Asia has developed, disseminated and started implementation of the disaster preparedness plans at all levels, linked to the country national DP plan, where available.

- Central Asian national societies have established one regional disaster response team (RDRT), conducted one exchange visit per each national society and carried out practical training for 80 - 100 staff members and volunteers in each Central Asian NSs with a focus on rescue and sanitary teams of the branches.
- The four Central Asian NSs (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan Red Crescent Societies) have developed a minimum of two participatory community-based projects, in a

gender balanced manner, to address issues of mitigation and early warning. In Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, the national societies have implemented one recovery project based on the results of the VCA conducted in these countries.

- An integrated and collective approach is developed by the Central Asian NSs to address disaster management issues through their coordination efforts with local authorities, UN, the ICRC and other partners and through the integration of relevant Central Asian national societies programmes, such as OD and health, with the DM programme.
- The logistical capacity of the Central Asian NSs in responding to emergency and ongoing needs has increased through the support provided to construct warehouses in selected national societies, through vehicle support, logistics training, and four exchange visits.
- Disaster preparedness and response within the four Central Asian NSs, (Kazakh RC, Uzbek RC, Kyrgyz RC and Turkmen RC) have improved by prepositioning of non-food items in six disaster preparedness areas in Central Asia in Uzbekistan, three in Kyrgyzstan, four in Kazakhstan and four in Turkmenistan. The communication facilities and level of awareness on disaster preparedness and response at different levels have increased through the media, printed materials and public sessions.
- Access to material and non-material support for vulnerable forced migrants in five countries of Central Asia has improved by an enriched nutritional status of 600 vulnerable refugees and IDP families, and by a 60 per cent increase in hygiene awareness of 3,500 families as a result of the vocational training provided to these selected refugee and IDP families.

3. Organizational Development w [*<Click here to return to the title page>*](#)

Background and achievements/lessons to date

In 2000/2001, a regional assistance strategy (RAS) was developed with the participation of the five national societies and partners in the field. A follow-up process to this review was undertaken in the summer of 2001 and resulted in a document entitled “Central Asia organizational development 2001” (CAOD 2001). These two documents set the direction and priorities for organizational development in the region and for capacity building work. In parallel, the five national societies in Central Asia developed their own strategic plans.

Priorities for 2002–2004 based on the “CAOD 2001” include:

- branch development;
- management skills and approaches;
- financial sustainability;
- communication;
- programme focus, roles and priorities; and
- coordination of assistance

The RAS is a useful tool for the Central Asian national societies and the Federation’s regional delegation in Central Asia to attempt to coordinate assistance of all partners, whereas the CAOD 2001 has a more practical approach towards the OD work. The strategies of the Central Asian national societies developed in a participatory way and followed the general guidelines provided by the Central Asian regional delegation. These strategies remain the main document for the national societies and they have recognized the need to further revise them using their own guidelines based on the situation, experience, needs and overall plans. The Central Asian national societies have taken ownership of this process and the development of their national societies.

The Central Asian national societies signed a joint commitment to initiate a process to revise their structure and statutes and to clarify the role of governance and management which should lead towards accountability and transparency, including external audits, within their national societies. This revision process has started in 2002 and is expected to be carried out over the next two-three years resulting in the adoption of new statutes and organizational structure.

The development of Central Asian national societies is limited by the lack of financial sustainability. Therefore, the regional delegation will focus its support on financial management and fundraising development. The support in financial management shall contribute to a better overall performance and enables the national societies to achieve transparency and accountability. In addition, a regional fundraising resource person from the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan has started her work in late 2002 and will continue in 2003 to support all the five national societies.

In 1997, youth activities within the Central Asian national societies stopped due to the lack of external funding but could be re-established in 2001. In 2002, the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society had seven youth in Central Asia with 200 active young volunteers and 11 Central Asia with 2,600 young volunteers, and the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society has 20 Central Asia with 1,000 active young volunteers. The commitment of the Central Asian national societies leadership towards the youth movement as the future of the Red Crescent Society is crucial and includes the role of the leadership to enable the participation of the youth in decision making, i.e. use of the funds which were raised by the youth activities.

Organizational Development support is focusing on branch development and the Central Asian national societies are currently in the process starting to register their members and distributing membership cards. At the moment however no reliable data is available and this provides an indication of the progress in branch development. Bilaterally supported branch development programmes will however be analysed and shared regionally in order to learn from these experiences. In 2002, the Central Asian regional delegation established a special fund for supporting branch development: a sum of ten grants each of US\$ 1,500 was made available with a precondition of 15 per cent self-financing and no salary support. If this pilot project proves a good example, the programme will be extended to 15 branches. Branch activities are particularly important to reach out to the vulnerable section of society and local communities are mobilized to carry out the VCAs.

Overall Goal

The Central Asian national societies become well-functioning national societies which are relevant, effective and efficient in providing services to the vulnerable people in their countries.

Programme objective:

The Central Asian national societies are initiating a process to adopt and adjust their governance, management, and functional structure in order to better fulfil their mandate to serve the vulnerable.

Expected results

- By the end of 2003, the overall management, including leadership, staff and volunteers of the Central Asian national societies has improved through tailored training and coaching on human resource management, financial management and fundraising emphasising the link between its activities, structure, statutes and regulations.
- By the end of 2003, the Central Asian national societies have introduced the draft versions of their new statutes and structures clarifying the role of governance and management and taking into account the need for more accountability and transparency.
- By the end of 2003, most branches of the Central Asian national societies have increased their capacity in service delivery by developing their management, fundraising and community involvement through well targeted, planned and integrated programmes which will lead to an improved image in the public and a developed civil society.
- By the end of 2003, the youth movement of the Central Asian national societies has consolidated its role and image as an effective actor of Red Crescent work, being fully supported by the leadership of the Central Asian national societies, particularly in fighting stigmatization of people living with tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, in disseminating preventative messages in these areas through peer education, and in advocating humanitarian values more widely.

4. Humanitarian Values w [<Click here to return to the title page>](#)

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The activities to promote the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values serve the purpose "[...] *to ensure that people - staff or volunteers, public or private authorities, or the community in general - know of these principles and values, but to influence their behavior*". While the Central Asian National Societies have worked to disseminate the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Fundamental Principles, the promotion of humanitarian values is perceived as relatively new. Nevertheless, within the Regional Assistance Strategy (RAS) 2002-2003, the National Societies have defined a goal "*to develop Central Asia NS' capacity to build up civil society and develop a supportive environment for vulnerable people such as those affected by HIV/AIDS and TB, ethnic minorities, migrants, internally displaced people, refugees and the young*" in order to promote fundamental principles and humanitarian values.

This challenge adds responsibilities to the national societies of Central Asia in advocating these issues to their respective governments and the general public and keeping neutrality at the same time. While the information and communication departments of the national societies of Central Asia remain an important source of technical expertise in implementing the programme successfully, the commitment and the support of the national societies' leadership to initiatives in the area of promoting humanitarian values is crucial.

In order to effectively implement the activities, the Central Asia national societies need to continue to integrate the programmes and share not only human and financial resources, but also knowledge and experience. Common objectives in these programme areas provide a good opportunity for the Central Asia national societies to start their cross-border cooperation. Exchange visits between Central Asia national societies can be an initial kick-off to a wider knowledge sharing practice.

The Red CrossRed Crescent Movement in its 27th International Conference adopted a plan of action which encourages the Federation, its member national societies, and the ICRC, with the support of states where applicable, to develop innovative ways to explain and communicate the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, inside the Movement and externally to local authorities and the community, as a means of: ..."*developing mutual understanding and fostering initiatives in the community, taking into account of the cultural, religious and other representative features, to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being*". Along these lines and following the regional conference of European Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Central Asia national societies make efforts to scale up their support to the vulnerable groups among population on move.

Ten years ago after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, all five Central Asian countries faced the problem of forced migration. Since then, internal and regional conflicts (Afghanistan, Chechenya) and the ongoing instability in Tajikistan and the Ferghana Valley in Uzbekistan have propelled tens of thousands of refugees across the region, initiating a debate on the socio-political and legal aspects of the problem. However, given the lack of financial support from the government, almost half million displaced persons, refugees, repatriates and other migrants are currently struggling for survival in the five Central Asia republics.

Socially, the situation in the region has changed dramatically in the past three years. Whereas in the early 1990s the population on move was perceived as victims and welcomed, today they are rejected and taken to be potential drug-dealers, terrorists or religious extremists. In the eyes of the public, the image of the refugee has become extremely negative.

However, socio-political issues are only one part of the problem. In the Central Asian republics, as in most CIS countries, there is a gap between the law and its implementation. Despite the fact that all these countries, except for Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, have ratified the UN Convention on Refugees

1951, there is a legal vacuum, even in Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan, where the states adopted laws on refugees.

Given the difficult economic situation in Central Asia, displaced communities are the most affected, suffering economic hardship and frequently being discriminated. A report produced by the Regional Migration and Refugee Centre stated some 62 per cent of the interviewed persons (212 families) perceive being discriminated in different ways. The discrimination is manifested through offensive behaviour of local communities, rejecting the refugees as neighbours or rejecting jobs.

Taking into account the problems of the displaced communities (negative image, low or no income, lack of social protection, poor access to health and education), the Central Asia national societies were making efforts to improve the living conditions of the vulnerable people among the displaced since 1993, mainly through a focused and coordinated approach with the IFRC, UNHCR, IOM and other stakeholders, providing thousands of vulnerable people with legal, social, psychological, education, food and other forms of assistance.

Overall Goal

Effectiveness of the national societies to deliver their services in core programmes is increased through promotion of fundamental principles and humanitarian values.

Programme Objective

By the end of 2003, the Central Asian national societies have improved their capacities to promote the understanding of the fundamental principles and humanitarian values of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement in the general public through influencing the behaviour in local communities.

Expected Results

- Respect for and implementation of the Movement's fundamental principles has increased through a behavioural change in implementing community-based activities on TB/HIV/AIDS prevention, disaster preparedness and response, social, legal and psychological support to migrants.
- Awareness of governmental authorities, national and international organizations, as well as the media about the achievements and needs of the Red Crescent Societies in the programme areas has increased through the representation of the Central Asian national societies at national and international levels, through the dissemination of information through printed materials, regular publications, presentations on different levels and targeted information campaigns.
- By the end of 2003, a total 250 staff members and 500 volunteers of the Central Asian national societies in five countries, at the headquarters and branch levels, have improved their skills in performance, communication and promotion of fundamental principles and values through the distribution and adequate use of existing national societies and Federation's tools, such as the youth guidelines and the two-days training module 'From Principles to Action'.
- By the end of 2003, public awareness campaigns in all five Central Asian countries contribute to the development of conditions leading to more tolerance and respect between migrants and the host communities as part and follow-up of the 2002 regional action to reduce discrimination.

5. Federation Coordination w [<Click here to return to the title page>](#)

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The regional assistance strategy (RAS) 2002-2004 was the first attempt to determine the framework within which the assistance to the five national societies should be coordinated. Even though the document is based upon the strategic plans of the national societies in Central Asia, due to the changing context it does not reflect appropriately the way the Federation shall fulfil its role. The RAS shall now be remodelled into a more comprehensive and inclusive cooperation agreement strategy. This process started with the partnership meeting in October 2002 and the regional delegation will lead the continuation of this process throughout 2003. The aim is to put the strategies and programmes

of the national societies at the centre of a region-wide planning process, including all partners and the ICRC. A CAS document however cannot be an end in itself but can only be considered as part of a common framework of cooperation. Planning, implementing and monitoring of the objectives and activities will be facilitated through the CAS and a better impact on the beneficiaries will be achieved. The Federation's role is to facilitate this activity in the region and to turn the strategy document into a practical and feasible project. This will include project advice on partnerships with a focus on their context-specificity and sustainability.

This CAS coordination will be complemented by regional planning meetings, including the five CA national societies and the ICRC, in order to ensure a coherent approach in the implementation of activities. The annual partnership meeting with all regional partners involved provide another opportunity to plan and monitor the support to the national societies. The delegation, together with the ICRC, will support 2-3 meetings with the Red Crescent leadership in the region to enable the exchange and share learning among the Central Asian national societies to identify common problems within the region, to exchange knowledge on best practices and the different approaches in the region. The role of the regional delegation is to promote and facilitate this process among the national societies. Along this process, the strategies of the five national societies will be revisited in line with the focus of the OD programme to support the determination of the new organizational structure. This is anticipated over a period of at least two years and started already in the end of 2002. Furthermore, the delegation will promote agreed policies, strategies, resolutions of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement related to effective coordination and cooperation.

Overall Goal

All components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other partners agree upon a framework of cooperation which will be reflected in the RAS/CAS document in order to strengthen the five national societies and effectively reduce the suffering of the vulnerable.

Programme Objective

By the end of 2003, the programme focus and its relevance in each country is improved through the ongoing dialogue between all partners, the improved exchange between Central Asia national societies, and through the ongoing revision of the RAS/CAS document.

Expected Results

By the end of 2003, the coordination efforts by the Federation are reflected in improved and transparent communications among all partners, a participatory and inclusive planning process, the effective use of resources, in appropriate human resources development, and more focussed programme implementation respecting the needs of the five national societies of Central Asia and their beneficiaries.

6. International Representation w [<Click here to return to the title page>](#)

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The Central Asian national societies, supported by the regional delegation, will form partnerships to respond to the needs of the vulnerable, to promote their interests at the national, regional, and international levels, and to mobilize support for their activities and development. The mandate of the Central Asian national societies and the Federation are therefore to give a voice to those sections of society who otherwise are not able to articulate their needs in these fora. The Federation was requested by the leadership of the national societies to provide more support in raising their profiles towards national and international partners.

This should enable the Central Asian national societies to be more visible towards their governments as a key national partner. National technical policies sometimes limit the possible involvement of the Federation. Nevertheless, special efforts will be undertaken in 2003 to improve the support to the

national societies by the regional delegation in the public sphere. The Central Asian NSs, as an auxiliary to their governments has the opportunity to engage with their respective government authorities at national level in promoting their activities and to define their role as a Red Crescent society domestically. The Federation will support the Central Asian NSs in this and efforts will be made to advance these discussions towards the respective governments in 2003. In addition, special efforts to sign the status agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Federation will be undertaken in Turkmenistan.

International recognized events, such as the World RC/RC Day and the World Aids Day, will provide an other opportunity to raise the awareness with the authorities and in the general public about the activities and needs of the Red Crescent Societies in the region. Advocacy towards other international organizations, the UN agencies, diplomatics, but also towards the private sector, particularly Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, will be expanded in 2003 and will aim to enable new partnerships to emerge.

At the same time, water is a valuable natural resource in Central Asia. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are water-exporting countries, while Uzbekistan is lacking sufficient water at times. Therefore, the year 2003 as 'International Year of Freshwater' is adopted by the UN General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/55/196 at its 55th session in 2001 will be of particular importance for some of the Central Asian countries. The Central Asian national societies, with the support of the Federation, can build on the proclamation of the International Year of Freshwater to raise the international awareness about problems related to clean water and health in Central Asia. This will provide an opportunity to mobilize resources for activities related to health and care, including water/sanitation.

The role of the liaison officers in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan must include a component of international representation in order to effectively support the Central Asian national societies in their efforts. Therefore, the role and function of these offices will be revised in 2003 to reflect the expressed needs of the Central Asian national societies. Similarly, the information officers in national societies, as well as the information officer within the regional delegation will play a supportive role in these efforts to raise the profile of the national societies, to advocate for the above described issues, and to disseminate effectively in the media.

Overall Goal

The mandate of the Central Asia national societies as part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is well disseminated among the various governments, UN agencies, international and national organizations, as well as other stakeholders in the field.

Programme Objective

By the end of 2003, the image, profile and visibility of the Central Asian national societies has improved through the support of the delegation in advocating at the national, regional and international levels and among different actors on the activities of the Central Asian NSs, also their major issues of concern and the needs in the country.

Expected Result

- The general profile of the five national societies in Central Asia has increased and their relations to government authorities, national and international organizations and to the media improved through the support of the Federation.
- The discussion on the Red Crescent law was advanced in all five Central Asian national societies.
- The status agreement will be signed between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Federation.
- The health and care related issues related to the International Year of Freshwater were made known to the different partners of the Central Asian national societies and to national and international actors in the region so resources could be mobilized on this basis.

- The Central Asian national societies together with the Federation advocate their concerns in meetings at regional and international levels to improve feedback from the beneficiaries and the vulnerable section of society.

7. Field Management programme

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The regional delegation in Almaty has a key function in managing and coordinating the multilateral activities in Central Asia. While the coordination role of the delegation is focussing on all partners, the management function of the delegation will ensure the appropriate delivery of services to the Central Asian national societies. The regional support structure is mainly characterized by the regional delegation in Almaty, a country delegation in Tajikistan and liaison offices in Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

In 2002, the regional delegation in Almaty was staffed by seven delegates and 18 local staff members, all of them working in the specific programme areas such as logistics and administration. The regional delegation will undertake a revision of human resources in early 2003 in order to better streamline the needs of the delegation of programme and service activities. This revision can be seen in response to the new change strategy of the International Federation and its attempt to refocus towards the needs of the Central Asia national societies and to respond to those.

The Secretariat's change process of the Federation will result in the establishment of new service units on a European-wide basis. These units will include a finance unit, a reporting unit, a communications unit, and a human resource function. These four units will be located throughout Europe but shall provide specific technical support to the regional delegation in Almaty; and within the delegation's local capacities in these areas, will enable the transfer of knowledge towards the national societies and at the same time sharing knowledge from the national societies to all of Europe. The regional delegation with its liaison offices and the country delegation in Tajikistan will therefore be a key in ensuring resources and expertise will benefit the national societies and a learning process can result in the Central Asian national societies.

The function of the liaison offices in Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, currently staffed by one to two persons each, will be revised in 2003 and shall then determine their role towards the national societies in the different countries. The liaison offices have an important function in international representation, but also in coordinating the activities in the region. Therefore, the estimated costs of the liaison offices are included in the section on 'Federation Coordination.'

In 2002, the country delegation in Tajikistan was the biggest relief operation within Europe with 11 delegates and 98 local staff members. The country delegation changed its reporting lines into the Almaty regional delegation in mid-2002 and from an operational and strategic perspective will undergo a major transition from relief towards development in 2003. The delegation in Tajikistan has an established structure and therefore will manage all their activities independently. However, the reporting line to the regional delegation in Almaty will enable a coherent approach in Central Asia towards all programme activities.

Overall Goal

The assistance and the strengthening of Central Asian national societies is carried out by the regional delegation more effectively and efficiently.

Programme Objective

By the end of 2003, the Central Asian national societies will receive and be supported by the Federation's structure in the region which provides quality services to all national societies in the region.

Expected Result

- By the end of April 2003, a revision of the strategic purpose, and therefore the shaping of the Federation's structure in the region in regard to human resources, is carried out in order to improve service delivery.
- By the end of April 2003, a revision of functions of the liaison offices is undertaken and the recommended structure for the region established.
- By the end of 2003, the new service functions in Europe in regard to finances, reporting, communications and human resources impacted by the regional delegation in Almaty and have led to the appropriate local capacities in these areas and to appropriate service delivery to the Central Asian national societies according to their needs.

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BUDGET 2003

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 01.87/2003

Name: Central Asia Regional Programmes

PROGRAMME:	Organisational Development	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Federation Coordination	International Representation	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	0	0	267,558	0	0	0	267,558
Clothing & textiles	0	0	7,350	0	0	0	7,350
Food	0	459,720	0	0	0	0	459,720
Seeds & plants	0	0	70,381	0	0	0	70,380
Water & Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & first aid	0	89,370	0	0	0	0	89,370
Teaching materials	1,500	40,304	8,682	0	0	0	50,485
Utensils & tools	0	0	29,259	0	0	0	29,258
Other relief supplies	0	63,960	113,586	0	0	0	177,546
SUPPLIES	1,500	653,354	496,816	0	0	0	1,151,670
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	9,336	0	0	0	0	0	9,336
Computers & telecom	23,400	47,815	22,725	8,115	0	0	102,054
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	15,750	0	9,360	0	0	0	25,110
CAPITAL EXPENSES	48,486	47,815	32,085	8,115	0	0	136,500
Warehouse & Distribution	0	56,735	14,740	0	0	0	71,474
Transport & Vehicules	0	20,800	55,483	0	29,520	0	105,802
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	0	77,535	70,223	0	29,520	0	177,277
Programme Support	68,530	142,339	102,388	11,891	18,129	1,129	344,406
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	68,530	142,339	102,388	11,891	18,129	1,129	344,406
Personnel-delegates	144,000	288,000	206,740	0	72,000	0	710,739
Personnel-national staff	94,110	371,360	141,374	42,280	58,500	0	707,624
Consultants	68,250	0	49,305	0	5,400	0	122,955
PERSONNEL	306,360	659,360	397,419	42,280	135,900	0	1,541,319
W/shops & Training	466,700	158,545	238,460	15,970	0	0	879,674
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	466,700	158,545	238,460	15,970	0	0	879,674
Travel & related expenses	78,800	29,100	66,236	10,250	88,640	11,040	284,066
Information	71,725	359,820	120,634	87,992	2,160	3,000	645,331
Other General costs	12,206	61,960	50,945	6,440	4,560	2,200	138,311
GENERAL EXPENSES	162,731	450,880	237,815	104,682	95,360	16,240	1,067,708
TOTAL BUDGET:	1,054,307	2,189,828	1,575,206	182,938	278,909	17,369	5,298,557