

PROGRAMME UPDATE



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

CENTRAL ASIA

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.84/04; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: 1 January to 15 June, 2004; Appeal coverage: 80.6 % ([click here to go directly to the Contributions List](#))

Appeal target: CHF 4,152,109 (USD 3,299,660 or EUR 2,718,115);

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Central Asia Regional Programmes Annual Appeal 2004. For details, please see the website http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018404.pdf

Programme summary: For the second consecutive year, the appeal received good response enabling the National Societies (NS) to reduce communities' vulnerabilities through four programmes: health and care, disaster management, humanitarian values and organizational development. Three main programmes (health and care, disaster management and organizational development) are, with funds from the last year, fully funded. This enables implementation of planned activities and programme adjustments to take account of new realities. For example, in health and care, the number of tuberculosis (TB) target groups will be increased to address multi-drug resistant forms of TB and a peer education system in HIV/AIDS prevention will be developed. In disaster management, the population movement component will be supported in two countries – Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan – to provide support to returnees in Kazakhstan and Afghan and Chechen refugees in Kyrgyzstan. This will increase sustainability through vocational training and agricultural projects. The youth program has received funding confirmation and will start activities in July 2004.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Kazakhstan:** Vadim Kadyrbayev, Vice-President, Kazakh Red Crescent, email kazrc2@yahoo.co.uk, phone 8 3272 916291, fax: 8 3272 918172.
In Kyrgyzstan: Rosa Shayakhmetova, Vice President, Kyrgyz Red Crescent, email redcross@elcat.kg, phone 810 996312 664866, fax: 810 996312 662181
In Turkmenistan: Berdy Molloyev, Vice President, Turkmen Red Crescent, email nrcst@online.tm, youth@online.tm, idnrcst@cpart.org, crescent@cpart.org, pmcoor@online.tm, nrcst_med@online.tm, phone 810 99312 351750, fax 810 99312 351750
In Uzbekistan: Ozoda Mukhitdinova, Vice President, Uzbek Red Crescent, email rcsuz@uzpak.uz, phone 810 99871 563150, fax 810 99871 1308812
- **In Geneva:** Sylvie Cheavelley, Regional Officer for Central Asia, Geneva; email: sylvie.cheavelley@ifrc.org; Phone 41 22 730 42 76; Fax 41 22 733 03 95

This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

This report highlights activities implemented during January – May 2004. Some funds have arrived late, causing a delay in activities. This is the main reason for the existing under-spending problems within the programmes in addition to other reasons related to the political / social context. Any carryover of funds to next year will only be done with donor approval.

The coverage of the four core areas in the appeal

Appeal	Coverage
Health and Care	122,8%
Disaster Management (DM)	112%
Organizational Development (OD)	122%
Humanitarian Values	19%

Main donors supporting Central Asia programmes over the years are the Austrian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Department for International Development (DFID) and European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO).

In the recent years, there are an increased number of bilateral programmes. For example, the Netherlands Red Cross is supporting the TB programme in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan and the Community Based First Aid (CBFA), HIV/AIDS and branch development programmes in all five Central Asia countries. In addition, the Spanish Red Cross is supporting TB and the Japanese Red Cross is supporting Mother and Child project in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan.

Health and Care

Overall goal: The general health of targeted population in Central Asia is improved.

Objective: Major community health problems of targeted population are reduced through increased national society capacity to implement focused, relevant and effective programme in health promotion (including HIV/AIDS, First Aid and TB).

Expected result 1: By the end of 2004, a total of 1,500 TB patients have been supported by national societies in 14 sites through the monitoring of Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS) treatment and social support of TB patients and the raising of awareness among 20,000 people.

The TB programme of this year is a continuation of the TB programme in 2003 and is implemented in five Central Asia countries through seventeen projects: five projects in Kazakhstan, three in Kyrgyzstan, four in Uzbekistan, three in Turkmenistan and two in Tajikistan. Likewise, in 2004, the programme is designed to focus on three components: direct observation of regular drug intake by target groups, social/nutritional support and raising awareness. The programme is supported by the British Red Cross and all the adjustments, due to the changing realities, have been approved by the donor.

The first phase of the regional TB study, to assess the impact of the programme and to plan future model projects based on lessons learned, has been finalized during the reporting period. The preliminary results made national societies adjust their TB programme implementation in relation to the changing realities, in order to better respond to real needs. One of the findings of the study was the need to continue nutritional support (food parcels) and organize support groups among TB patients, in order to provide social events and comfort TB patients who need to talk to someone who knows and shares their problems and concerns. Among other findings, the need to work with marginal groups such as Interior and army officers and soldiers was identified and already uninitiated by Turkmenistan Red Crescent society.

Achievements and challenges

The table below shows progress in programme implementation during the reporting period and includes information about the number of visiting nurses who provide direct supervision of TB drug intake, number of target beneficiaries, amount of distributed items and number of public covered by TB awareness campaigns.

Table of operational activities during January – May 2004

Country	No. of visiting nurses	No. of patients		Patients receiving Food par./Hot meals	Hygienic kits	Vit.	No. of printed material	Coverage with awareness		No. of patients compl. the treatment
		Planned (for a year)	Actual (for 5 months)					Planned	Actual	
Kazakhstan	21	800	431	250	431	431	N/A	5000	732 session	70
Kyrgyzstan	10	700	347	150/ 87	n/a	347	2552	5000	1669	147
Turkmenistan	6	1500	534	234	234	234	1120	10000	5401	314
Uzbekistan	17	1500	1212	687	326	713	4256	10000	10323	112
Total	54	5500	2524	1408	991	1725	7928	30000	18125	643

During the reporting period of five months, the total number of beneficiaries under Red Crescent visiting nurses observation was 2524, despite the 5500 planned for the year. The number of food parcels/hot meals was 1408 and number of hygienic kits was 991. The total number of TB patients and general public covered by awareness activities is 18,125, in spite of the 30,000 planned for the year. All three components of the programme are run by 54 visiting nurses in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Raising awareness to promote health education on TB issues among general population, to reduce TB growth and to decrease discrimination against people living with TB has been implemented according to the plan, through distribution of information materials, campaigns during the International TB Day, press-conferences, round tables, competitions on best anti-discrimination drawing, best knowledge on TB, best article, radio/ TV report on TB for journalists.

Deterioration of the TB situation in some countries resulted in a timely adjustment by national societies to respond to the new needs. While in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan there are signs of stabilization of TB situation, in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan the situation has deteriorated. The deterioration is caused by insufficient government resources (drugs, facilities, proper nutrition for in-patient TB institutions, quality services) to effectively address the problem and stop TB growth.

The table below shows clear signs of reduction in number of TB incidence and TB mortality rate in two countries.

	<i>TB infection rate / 100.000</i>		<i>TB mortality rate /100,000</i>	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
Kazakhstan	165,1	160,4	24,2	22,4
Kyrgyzstan	126,4	123,2	13,8	11,8

Uzbekistan state TB institution approached the Uzbekistan Red Crescent with official request for assistance to address the desperate TB situation in two cities (Almalyk – population 114,000, TB patients 559; Chirchik – population 141,383, TB patients 1110). In response to the request and with additional funds available from Norwegian Red Cross, the Uzbekistan Red Crescent plans to initiate the TB programme in Almalyk and Chirchik, in order to provide DOTS treatment observation and nutritional support to 200 TB patients from July until the end of the year.

In Turkmenistan, the lack of sufficient provision of drugs in TB institutions since October 2003 led to the use of expired medicines (which is allowed in critical situations) and to forced interruption of treatment, also among TB patients under the supervision of the Red Crescent. In Ashgabat, for example, the lack of medicines since April - May caused a six week interruption of treatment among 142 TB patients under the Turkmenistan Red Crescent supervision. This has a very negative impact on successful TB treatment.

Turkmenistan state TB dispensary also requested Turkmenistan Red Crescent to assist Dushak TB hospital (200 km away from the capital) with very much required nutritional support, as TB patients have interrupted their treatment and are forced to leave hospital because of very poor nutrition. Although Turkmenistan Red Crescent, like other national societies in the region, is involved only in the continuous phase of TB treatment, it was decided to provide 240 patients in Dushak TB hospital with protein support (meat, milk, butter) as of July 1 until the end of the year. In addition to the planned activities, Turkmenistan Red Crescent will provide nutritional assistance to 30 most vulnerable patients in Mary and Dashoguz as of July 2004.

All these changes in the plans, in order to provide more TB patients with lacking basic nutrition and in request for assistance from the state health institutions, have been approved by British Red Cross funding the programme.

Observations

Over 20% of the national society's target group is represented by former prisoners and this group presents special concerns. Up to 25% of prisoners develop resistant TB forms caused by lack of resources, late diagnosis, late referral and delays in treatment, inadequate treatment, frequent moving from one prison to another and overcrowded prisons. In Kazakhstan, out of 66.715 TB patients, 8.000 are current prisoners (which constitutes 10% of all prisoners in the country). This raises a serious concern, as this is a large group of a permanent source of multi-resistant TB form in the country.

Penitentiary systems in Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan have not adopted DOTS strategy in TB treatment and only in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan it has been recently adopted. TB dispensaries have access to prisons to start TB control.

Expected result 2: By the end of 2004, targeted population at risk have improved their knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention, transmission and reduction through the active involvement of national societies in HIV/AIDS awareness, psychological support and home care.

All Central Asia countries are experiencing an escalating HIV/AIDS epidemic that is concentrated among Intravenous Drug Users (IDUs), with the potential to spread to the general population. In an effort to make the HIV/AIDS prevention programme in Central Asia more effective, peer education approach was adopted in awareness activities in a wider sense than solely age criteria.

The social stigma attached to drug addiction makes HIV/AIDS prevention very difficult for "at-risk groups". Most IDUs suffer from police prosecution and, as a result, are unlikely to be proactive and participate in HIV/AIDS programme activities.

As a component of the HIV prevention, two Harm Reduction (HR) centers will be opened in July in two sites in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The national societies, for the first time, undertake Harm Reduction activities. Necessary trainings are foreseen and planned to start soon.

The following table demonstrates activities implemented to achieve the expected result during the reporting period:

	Number of Trainers	Number of Trainings	Number of Trained People	Number of distributed Materials	Number of actions/campaigns
Kyrgyzstan	190	562	9401	750 posters, 125 T-shirts	N/A
Kazakhstan		312	2782	4026 booklets, 1886 condoms	6 actions -423 people 5 quizzes -137 people
Uzbekistan	25	16	376		Press-conference -70 people Action on May 8- 200 people Drawing competition- 40 children
Turkmenistan	40	404	6870	N/A	10 actions
Total	378	1294	19429		24

Kazakhstan has the highest rate of HIV/AIDS incidence in the region with 4.172 HIV positive people, out of whom 1,227 reside in prisons and 168 are in terminal stage –AIDS. 80% of the infected are IDUs.

The HIV/AIDS prevention programme is run in five provinces: Astana, Karaganda, Kokshetau, Taldy-Kurgan, Ust-Kamenogorsk. The focus groups on HIV/AIDS prevention in these branches are the soldiers, Commercial Sex Workers (Karaganda) and IDUs (Ust-Kamenogorsk, Karaganda, Taldy-Kurgan). They will be trained on peer education methodology and will conduct further prevention activities among their peers. Training of Trainers (TOT) is planned to start in July, in each project site.

A new Harm Reduction (HR) programme was initiated in June in Ust-Kamenogorsk. At the beginning of the programme, the main activity is the exchange of needles and syringes. The programme is conducted together with the City AIDS Center. The Kazakh Red Crescent branch supplies needles and syringes and the AIDS center supplies condoms and information materials.

Future plans:

In July, Almaty city Red Crescent branch will expand its cooperation with city harm reduction centers through set up of telephone hot line, Voluntary Concealing and Testing (VCT), needles exchange, individual HIV/STD prevention education.

In Kyrgyzstan, the British Red Cross supports the programme in the three Southern provinces: Osh, Batken, Jajal-Abad, while the North of the country has been supported by the Netherlands Red Cross bilaterally. The bilateral programme will cease in June, due to funding issues. To ensure programme continuation in the North, the HIV prevention programme will be supported by the Norwegian Red Cross under the current appeal as of July 2004.

The Kyrgyz Red Crescent started to work with the Commercial Sex Workers (CSW) in May, in collaboration with other local organizations working in HIV prevention such as Republican AIDS center, Kez Karash (local non-governmental organization)–working with HIV-positive, Population Service International (local international organization) which is growing more active.

Future plans :

During the summer, two instructors from each of three Kyrgyz Red Crescent branches will attend ToT training on peer education. Also master trainers will be trained in Voluntary Concealing and Testing (VCT – pre/post HIV test counseling) to be able to work with new beneficiary groups of risk behavior and marginal (soldiers, truck drivers, migrants) groups. The training will be held in Almaty in August, also for the Kazakhstan Red Crescent.

HIV coordinators from Kyrgyz Red Crescent and Turkmenistan Red Crescent will participate in a HIV/AIDS working group, organized by the British Red Cross in London in July on new methodologies to work with marginal groups and to improve their knowledge in monitoring and evaluation.

Challenges:

The main challenge in programme implementation is volunteer retention, as the major part of activities is run by volunteers. More focus is required to develop volunteer motivation system through incentives and inclusive and participatory planning. Health coordinators, based on volunteer's interests, decided to introduce internet/phone cards instead of hygienic parcels used as incentives earlier. Training on peer education will be used as another tool for volunteer motivation.

In Uzbekistan, according to Republican AIDS Center data released in December 2003, there are 3,500 registered HIV positive people, of whom 46% have been diagnosed while in penitentiary facilities. The most affected areas are Tashkent city and province, Surkhandarya province and Fergana valley.

Preparations are underway to start HIV programme in July 2004 in Fergana valley, which was previously not covered by any HIV/AIDS prevention activities. Fergana has been identified as a project site, due to the high rate of HIV incidence and limited local/ international agencies dealing with HIV prevention. The programme will be based

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on peer education methodology among IDUs, CSW, truck-drivers, military and youth from marginal groups. The programme will be implemented in six sites: two province centers and two rayon centers in Fergana and two rayon centers in Namangan. Activities will be run through organizing two HR centers; one in Fergana and one in Namangen.

In Turkmenistan, the HIV prevention programme is implemented in Ashgabat city, Abadan (rayon) and Turkmenbashi.

In April 2004, the Turkmenistan Red Crescent has included additional beneficiary groups such as IDUs, CSW, street children and people in temporary detention centers in Ashgabat, while previously was only focusing on school children, students and organizations.

Pre/post-test results carried out during the reporting period demonstrate HIV prevention knowledge increase in 70-75%.

Future plans:

- Participation in HIV working group in London in July.
- VCT and ToT training on peer education in Almaty.
- Printing of info-materials.
- Set of trainings for police, prosecution department at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and for the officers in the penitentiary system.

Expected result 3: By the end of 2004, in total 50,000 Red Crescent volunteers and community members (20% youth) have improved their knowledge to prevent major communicable diseases and cope with accidents, injuries and effects of different disasters through provided health education and First Aid training by the Red Crescent Societies.

To achieve this expected result, during the reporting period, training sessions for community members and Red Crescent volunteers on prevention of communicable diseases and various injuries related to disasters/accidents have been carried out, according to the plan.

Table of operational activities

	Number of Sessions	Number of Adults Trained	Number of Children Trained	Number of Volunteers
Turkmenistan	3664	3414	7560	111
Uzbekistan	217	1152	2043	868
Kazakhstan	119	590	843	37
Kyrgyzstan	46	259	270	9
Total	4046	5415	10716	1025

A total of 4,046 sessions have been held to cover 16,131 community members and 1,025 volunteers with practical skills in first aid and prevention of communicable diseases.

In Kazakhstan, the programme is run in three branches in Karaganda (Karaganda city, Shahtinsk and Temirtau towns), particularly affected by the highest HIV/AIDS incidence in the country. The focus groups identified and involved in the programme implementation are firemen, police officers, road construction workers, miners, university and high school students.

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent plans to initiate a new programme on safe behavior for kindergarten children (4-6 years old) is under development, including topics related to road safety and safety in daily life (e.g. use of home appliances).

Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent conducted refresher training for the first aid instructors in April 2004. Road safety materials are being developed and will be incorporated into the CBFA programme in September 2004.

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent focus group for the programme running in Bishkek and Kara-Balta are youth (high school students), firemen, several departments at local city administration, international organizations “TACIS”, “HABITAT”, children village “SOS”, teachers.



The Turkmenistan Red Crescent has a significantly increased role in first aid training

In Turkmenistan, the programme is implemented nation-wide in schools. Two instructors at each province level further trained instructors at district level. All school nurses were laid off in the country, due to instruction of Minister of Health in March, meaning that the role of Turkmenistan Red Crescent in providing first aid training has considerably increased. The national society prioritizes the first aid programme as an important tool to reduce people’s vulnerability to various accidents/disasters and finds opportunity to fund six out of 12 Red Crescent nurses running the project, thus contributing to sustainability of the programme.

Results of pre/post tests in obtaining first aid indicated 43% knowledge improvement among children

In addition to nation wide Community Based First Aid (CBFA) programme, Turkmen Red Crescent runs a special programme in six bordering Afghanistan regions – implemented by six first aid instructors (one in each district)

based on the same CBFA curriculum (the module is a 32 hour training in 18 topics).

Expected result 4: By the end of 2004, the role of Central Asian national societies have been clarified with the respective Ministries of Health resulting in agreements that will enable main community health problems to be better addressed.

Activities to achieve this expected result are in progress.

Disaster Management

Goal: The risk of vulnerable communities to disaster in Central Asia is reduced.

Objective: Central Asia Red Crescent societies have increased their capacities to strengthen high risk communities to prepare for and respond to disasters through improved planning, increased community participation in disaster mitigation projects, increased volunteer recruitment, organizational development and improved partnerships with government and humanitarian actors.

Expected Result 1: By the end of 2004, Red Crescent capacities to respond to disasters in a timely and appropriate manner have improved through increased disaster management skills, development of sustainable protocols and an improved technical and material base. This will be achieved through training personnel and volunteers (i.e. Regional Disaster Response Team), ensuring development of national societies’ Disaster Preparedness plans and the provision of technical support.

Activities to achieve this expected result progressed according to the plan.

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The following table gives the brief overview of the current status of the disaster preparedness programme and the latest activities in the region. National societies, as planned, have finalized their disaster preparedness plans and now only need to complement them with additional information such as maps, disaster notification plans etc. and approve for further action. Five national rapid response team field exercises- one in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and two in Turkmenistan- were held during the reporting period. Disaster Preparedness officers meetings, workshops and training sessions took place according to the plan, as indicated in the table, except for Kazakhstan, due to funding reasons. National rapid response teams have been equipped with uniforms in three countries except Kyrgyzstan.

Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, bordering Afghanistan, benefited from Humanitarian Crisis project through warehouse procurement. Uzbekistan Red Crescent bought an existing warehouse and is renovating it, while Turkmenistan has purchased a prefabricated warehouse which is now functioning. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent societies have rented warehouses, in order to keep their disaster preparedness stock listed below:

Activities	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan	Turkmenistan
NS DR plan development	Finalized	Finalized	Finalized	Finalized
National rapid response field exercise	1	1	1	2
Rapid response equipment/uniforms	+	-	+	+
Disaster preparedness workshops	Due to late funding, it will start in the third quarter of the year	One national planning workshop	5 workshops for national rapid response team (DP/ first aid)	3 workshops for volunteers and district rapid response teams 34 trained volunteers conducted 100 DP sessions
Warehouse	Provided by the government	Rent	Owned from Afghan crisis (under renovation, not functioning yet)	Owned from Afghan crisis - functioning
Disaster preparedness stocks	200 Blankets 200 Mattresses 200 Bed linen sets 200 Jerry cans 200 Hygienic kits	400 Blankets 400 Mattresses 400 Bed linen sets 400 First aid kits 400 Kitchen sets	5 wagons of second hand clothes	Stocks from local donors
Disaster preparedness information system	Functioning- regularly updated	No information systems	No information systems	Is being finalized

Kazakhstan, in cooperation with state agency for emergencies, had developed a disaster information system which is a database with risk mapping and is regularly updated by the national society in consultation with the agency for emergencies. Turkmenistan is finalizing development of its disaster information system. Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent and Uzbekistan Red Crescent did not produce any information system, however, they plan to do so in the future.

Expected result 2: By the end of 2004, communities in selected high risk areas are better prepared for disasters through increased awareness and community education via participation in community based disaster preparedness programmes and public information campaigns.

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Activities	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan	Turkmenistan
Community based disaster preparedness	2 project sites	Will start in July in 5 sites	6 sites	7 settlements
Number of target population in disaster risk areas	20,000 urban communities		35,000 people	60,000 people
Run by	60 volunteers		220 volunteers	200 volunteers
Type of activities	Sessions on code of conduct in earthquake, gas explosions, fire First aid Set up of community groups to follow-up training Risk maps development by communities in their areas Distribution of printed materials Field exercises		1200 sessions based on special community training module First aid Set up of community groups to follow-up training Risk maps development by communities in their areas Distribution of printed materials Field exercise	Sessions on code of conduct in different disasters and emergencies First aid Filed exercise
Disaster awareness activities 1st of June- child protection day	Two campaigns on 1 March and 1 June Contests, quizzes, radio and TV presentations in two branches	Large safety on the road campaign “Save children’s lives” NS/road police conducted drawing contest in schools and orphanages Set up safety billboards on the roads with highest number of accidents		Drawing contest on disasters/ the best picture will be selected for the design of NS calendar for 2005
Printing disaster preparedness materials	Reprinted existing regionally developed DP materials NS / agency for emergencies produced brochure for Almaty urban population on earthquake	Reprinted existing regionally developed DP materials	Reprinted existing regionally developed DP materials Designed and produced disaster preparedness materials in Uzbek language	Reprinted existing regionally developed DP materials Designed and produced disaster preparedness materials in Turkmen language

All listed activities were implemented according to the plan. National society cooperation with vulnerable communities has clear signs of expansion through implementation of Community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) activities. Community participation in the disaster preparedness projects have a potential to provide a

source of mature and stable volunteers to develop and maintain locally sustainable DP strategies and coping mechanisms.



Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent road safety billboards in Bishkek

Expected result 3: By the end of 2004, Red Crescent have developed structural and non-structural mitigation and prevention activities at community level to protect high risk communities from the impact and damage caused by seasonal small scale disasters.

Mitigation projects initiated and implemented by the national societies in the region contributed to vulnerability and disaster risk reduction in project areas, which are recognized by communities and local authorities.

Turkmenistan RC has been implementing 4 mitigation projects this year. Two of them have been completed within the reporting period.

One of the mitigation projects is the ground water export to drainage channel in Iolotan. This project will mitigate the risk of flooding of the settlement with a population of 1,500 people. The project had additional positive impact by funding a new source of drinking water in this settlement, which was a deficit in this area.

Another mitigation project was the landslide trap construction in Baharden. This project aimed at reducing risk of landslides in the area with a population of 6,200 people. The project was initiated by the community leaders. All construction works were done by the community members themselves. This trap was already tested in May 2004, when a landslide occurred in this area and did not bring any major harm for the population, who suffered constantly in the past.



Landslide trap in Karaul village in Baharden

The other two mitigation projects aim to improve the quality of drinking water and water rescue in Caspian Sea project site.

The project “Clean drop” in Birata aimed at cleaning of a drainage collector, which provides clean water to the 5,000 people of this area. This project will help to reduce the risk of salinity and desertification, improve water quality and reduce the level of infectious diseases (hepatitis and diarrheic)

The project “Watch out! Water” in Turkmenbashi town aimed at establishing a water rescue team of Red Crescent volunteers who render First aid and rescue during the summer period. Currently, there are no similar services provided by private

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or state institutions. The Turkmenistan Red Crescent is active in attracting local donors, in order to expand this service in the future.

Kazakhstan Red Crescent has completed two mitigation projects in Karaganda (in the north of the country). One of the projects was the tree planting along the road exposed to seasonal floods by ground and snow waters. This road has an important connection between main towns and settlements. Communities living in this area actively participated in this project.

The other mitigation project was the set up of first aid posts and their equipment along the main highway between Almaty and Astana (1250 km). This project was designed and implemented jointly by disaster management and health programmes. These posts also distribute disaster preparedness and first aid materials to the truck drivers.

Uzbek Red Crescent continued the last year initiative on tree planting in landslide risk areas. During this reporting period, three areas were selected for the project – Fergana, Surhandarya and Tashkent provinces. During March, Red Crescent volunteers and local communities planted 30,000 plants. Further care for the trees is undertaken by local community members. This project also has an income generating component as local authorities allocated few hectares of land for fruit gardens, which income will serve the needs of the local communities and Red Crescent branches.

Mitigation projects are important components of the disaster management programme in the region and is well accepted and recognised by local communities and authorities. In Turkmenistan, local authorities help to open Red Crescent branches following the implementation of mitigation projects. However, national societies need greater understanding of needs based planning built on participatory and inclusive approach in the project planning and implementation, which was clearly identified during 2003 internal regional monitoring. With this in mind, four national societies plan to conduct Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) in selected pilot areas, in order to improve planning based on community participation in assessment, planning and implementation as well as lessons learnt from the past experience.

Expected result 4: Vulnerable population, particularly displaced people, have access to effective support to build their coping mechanisms.

This component includes two countries: Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The Uzbekistan government officially declared no incidents of migration in the country and consequently, does not have migration legislation. Due to late funding (April 2004), this component has started in May 2004. Few achievements can be reported so far in Kazakhstan:

	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan
Target group	10,000 Returnees from Mongolia, Turkey, China	Refugees from Chechnya and Tajikistan
Activities	<p>Based on research by Red Crescent/research agency needs: unemployment</p> <p>Red Crescent in Taldykurgan started vocational education in May</p> <p>Computer-6 persons trained Bakery-10 persons trained 16 found jobs after Red Crescent vocational training</p> <p>The Red Crescent planned first aid and DP activities with returnee communities and youth have made agreements with local authorities.</p>	<p>Vocational training</p> <p>Agricultural project (seeds and tools)</p>

Humanitarian Values

Overall goal: The Central Asia Red Crescent societies are able to fulfill their mandate to alleviate suffering of the most vulnerable.

Objective: Central Asia Red Crescent societies have strengthened their capacities in public relations to obtain a better understanding of humanitarian values, have an impact on community behavior and voice the needs of the most vulnerable groups.

Expected result 1: By the end of 2004, around 5,000 volunteers and newly recruited staff in 233 Red Crescent branch communities in four countries have completed the Federation's introduction course, "Seven Steps to Seven Principles", on humanitarian values.

Activities to achieve this expected result have been minimized or delayed in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, due to lack of funding.

In Turkmenistan, since January 2004, within the HIV/AIDS prevention project, a total of 153 sessions were conducted for 3,500 school students and their tutors, militaries and other adults. All these interactive sessions started with the introduction of the Red Cross/ Red Crescent Movement, principles and values, and distribution of information materials on national societies' activities.

Expected result 2: By the end of 2004, national societies have improved cooperation with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other partners through: training in public relations and communications for selected branch staff; consequent development of branch communication plans based on national society priorities; updating external contacts databases, and establishing regular dialogue.

A series of workshops planned for 2004 were cancelled, due to low donor response. In the meantime, the national societies keep informing their partners about Red Crescent activities through the newsletters produced bimonthly and keep sending Red Cross/Red Crescent messages across through media and public campaigns, funded via other programs.

Expected result 3: By the end 2004, national societies have improved their visibility through publications, websites and regular media coverage of Red Crescent activities.

In Kyrgyzstan, during the reporting period, the national society has produced 21 press-releases, which made a base for about 87 reportages and news columns in newspapers, 20 TV-reports and 15 radio-spots. This list includes the media monitoring findings received from the national and regional levels. The issues highlighted are the following:

- tuberculosis and Red Crescent Societies' programmes on TB control and assistance to the TB-patients;
- gender issue – vocational courses for women;
- HIV/AIDS prevention through youth peer education;
- "Safety Road" campaign; landmines awareness campaign; first aid training.

During the period, five media missions have been organized to the sites of the programmes: HIV/AIDS prevention (3 cities), income generating project for refugees and Red Cross/ Red Crescent Day action in the Boom canyon.

Needs of disabled people and Red Crescent response appeared as a topic of the TV talk-show "Sides". Five videos – "Hot-line for teenagers affected by violence"; disaster mitigation in communities (2 videos); Red Cross Red Crescent Day in Kyrgyzstan; and Red Crescent Societies' tracing have been produced during the reporting period.

A radio programme in order to highlight the Red Crescent visiting nurses care for TB-patients was aired on national radio. A press-conference that announced the results of the fund-raising campaign "Let's grant a joy to children" has finalized the annual charity action aimed to assist orphans and children from the low-income families. "Safety Road" campaign was designed and its implementation is going on the national level.

In Turkmenistan, 13 articles and nine TV and radio programmes were broadcasted during the reporting period. Turkmenistan Red Crescent runs activities to raise its profile through national media, although there are not so

many of them in the country. Turkmenistan Red Crescent maintains good relations with two international news agencies based in Ashgabat – TRT (Turkish national TV) and Central Asian news bureau of Pakistan. The “Serdar Ely” supplement to the major newspaper the “Neutral Turkmenistan” allocated a regular column under the Turkmenistan Red Crescent emblem for the coverage of the national society activities.

National society’s annual report was launched in March as 1,000 copies and was distributed within and outside the region.

In Kazakhstan, national society profile was raised through TV broadcasted for European countries. National society disaster response and mitigation activities in communities were in focus of a TV talk-show the “Special opinion” and five articles covered other activities in local media.

A video about the Kazakhstan Red Crescent tracing service was produced to raise Red Crescent partners’ awareness on the issue. The video has already been shown during the regional workshop organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for the national societies’ International Humanitarian Law (IHL) dissemination officers.

The regional delegation issued the Review 2003 in April, highlighting main achievements and lessons learned from last year. The brochure is intended to give an overview of the delegation’s operational and management responsibilities for national societies within and outside the region, as well as for the Federation Secretariat.

In March, the Federation promotional kit “Appeal 2004” was translated, published and delivered to the national societies for the distribution to their partners in the region, in order to stimulate local fund-raising.

Two issues of the regional newsletter “Compass” have been issued since January. The Central Asia National Societies’ activities are highlighted on monthly basis, through the Federation website.

Expected result 4: By the end of 2004, Central Asia national societies have, through an integrated approach with all core programmes: developed new ways to address stigma related to HIV/AIDS and TB; promoted respect to cultural and social diversity in communities living with ethnic minorities and repatriates. In terms of collaboration, national societies have extended the number of NGOs supportive to Red Crescent initiatives.

National societies in the region organized special events to celebrate the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Day and to send anti-stigma messages across.

In Turkmenistan, a public activity was organized in a major supermarket in order to draw attention to prevention of HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD), by distribution of information materials produced by the national society. In Kazakhstan, Art Academy students delivered anti-stigma messages through a graffiti contest organised in the most popular park of the Almaty city. Along with the contest, a youth band’s show and quizzes on Red Cross/Red Crescent history took place. In Kyrgyzstan, the Red Crescent beneficiaries – vulnerable women trained in sewing within a gender project - displayed their goods for sell and for the fashion show. Red Crescent staff and volunteers marked the Day by installing the stone-made Red Crescent image on the mountainside of the Bomski Canyon.

During the regional meeting for the national societies’ information officers held in Almaty in February, the anti-stigma campaign activities for 2004 have been discussed and planned.

In Kazakhstan, an article appeared in the national magazine “Refugees in Kazakhstan” and a 10-minute video showing the Red Crescent assistance to the ethnic Kazakh returnees was finalized. Kazakhstan Red Crescent is currently negotiating the possibility of distribution of the video though the major national TV “Khabar”.

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent and Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent intention to continue anti-discrimination activities commenced in 2003 and their project proposals were submitted to the Secretariat for possible funding. So far, the planned activities are cancelled.

Organisational Development

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

Programme objective: Central Asia national societies' capacities to deliver services to vulnerable people are strengthened through an organizational change process and capacity building efforts.

Expected result 1: By the end of 2004, the financial sustainability of Central Asia societies is enhanced through adoption of financial development plans and developing and applying fundraising skills within programmes at local level.

The activities in order to achieve this expected result are the follow-up of the regional fundraising development and financial management initiatives that started in 2003. Emphasis was made on working with external consultancies.

Regional initiative on installation and adaptation of accounting software in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, in order to enable respective national societies to meet both local and Federation financial reporting requirements, took longer time than expected and will be finalized only by the end of June 2004. The external technical companies contracted for the purposes have finalized their job. Now, Central Asia National Societies are expected to transfer all financial data into the newly developed system and start its application in everyday practices. The system provides both a technical tool for accounting processes and a handy tool for overall financial analysis of national societies' programmes. The Regional Delegation is planning to organize a regional meeting, in order to discuss all possibilities of the system and to reach mutual understanding on further steps.

To encourage application of fundraising skills within local programmes, all Central Asian national societies during the reporting period focused their efforts on working with branches including fundraising training for branch staff and volunteers, developing fundraising guidelines and regulations (for details, please see the country specific information below).

The Central Asian national societies are facing difficulties to adopt financial development plans, as the current financial management systems and approaches including budgeting require comprehensive review. However, some initial steps were undertaken in this respect in some national societies of the region (for details, please see the country specific information below).

Constraints:

Financial sustainability remains the priority issue for the national societies in the region. The current experience proved that it is a challenge to achieve any progress in the area, unless there is a clear and shared need and understanding of the problem across the national societies. In addition, internal financial systems of the respective national societies should be appropriate and up-to-date to facilitate the process.

Kazakhstan Red Crescent carried out internal audit to analyze activities of three oblast branches (Kyzylorda, Mangystau and Yuzhniy Kazkahstan), with respect to application of fundraising methods within local programmes. Throughout the process, practical on spot support was provided to the branches' staff in the areas of working with legal documents and preparing various financial reports.

In order to follow up regional fundraising initiative recommendations, some branches carried out training seminars at local level. First positive results of working with money collection boxes were achieved in Astana and Aktubuinsk branches.

Kazakhstan Red Crescent is currently working on the improvement of the financial management system. New methods and forms of financial, management and tax reporting have been developed to date.

In Kyrgyzstan, all oblast branches set up fundraising task forces, as a result of series of training carried out during the reporting period.

Turkmenistan Red Crescent developed standard financial report for branches. The report was designed to meet all reporting requirements of government and the national society. Furthermore, financial management module approved in 2003 was circulated among 5 oblast, respective district and city branches. 3 financial management seminars based on the module and linked to last year's PPP training were carried out.

External consulting company has been contracted by Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society, in order to run comprehensive review of the organization, which included financial procedures, financial planning and monitoring mechanisms. It is expected that the results of the work will be a basis for further development interventions.

The accounting software installation project at headquarters (HQ) level was difficult, especially in terms of adapting it to local requirements. Due to high resource demanding nature of the project and lack of technical expertise, the national society gave up the plans to replicate this software to branch level.

New fundraising officer was appointed within the Organizational Development department. The officer supported fundraising development processes of branches.

All regional and most district and city branches of Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society adopted fundraising plans for 2004 and set up appropriate task forces. To support this work, the HQ designed and published reference materials on fundraising activities in both Russian and Uzbek languages. In addition, grant and NGO organization database was set up in all branches. Regardless of some positive achievements, there was no considerable progress achieved. Mainly, it was caused by passive attitudes of branch chair people, lack of practical experience in applying wide range of fundraising tools, limited number of local projects which can motivate branches to raise funds actively. In order to encourage branch ownership of fundraising level, the HQ developed special monthly reporting form.

Expected result 2: By the end of 2005, Central Asia Red Crescent societies have shifted to a new structure with clear division of governance and management functions, which ensures effective management of programmes and branches.

Division of governance and management structure of Central Asian national societies was initiated in 2002. It is a long-term process based on respective plan of actions of the national societies of the region. During the last two years, the process was supported by a consultant within the Movement, who visited five national societies with two consultancy missions. The report on the second follow up mission (November-December 2003) was received and circulated among all parties concerned including host national societies, Federation delegations and partner national societies active in the region. All Central Asian national societies highly appreciated the consultancy work and therefore, agreed to arrange one more consultancy mission in October-November in the current year. In addition, following the requests of the national societies, the Regional Delegation will organize a regional meeting in August in order to specifically discuss ongoing statutes and structure revision process among OD coordinators and vice-presidents of the societies.

All Central Asian national societies implemented statutes and structure revision activities in accordance with their plans of action. The major areas of concern for all the national societies include improvement of membership scheme, new role and status of members and volunteers within governing bodies, appropriate qualifications and skills required for new governance members, role of primary organizations, etc. Working with members became the main challenge for all Central Asian national societies in the context of the current change process.

Kazakhstan Red Crescent revised the structure and contents of the draft statutes, when procedures and regulations were incorporated into a separate document. New statutes provisions on members and volunteers, organizational structure, regional, district and city branches as well as primary organizations were discussed and agreed across the national society. Some parts of the draft statutes were consulted with the Ministry of Justice. The changes are expected to be approved by the statutory commission in July.

During April-May 2004, conferences aimed to clarify forthcoming changes in statutes and structure were held in all oblast branches of Kyrgyzstan. The process consisted of three stages: first – introduction work with primary organizations within the branch, second – district conference with participation of the respective primary organizations' representatives, third – conference at oblast level. As a result, delegates from each oblast were

elected to the extraordinary congress scheduled on October-November. At the Presidium meeting held on the 11th of May, final comments and changes to revised statutes and adopted regulation on collective membership was discussed.

The recently adopted national law on public associations in Turkmenistan caused the Turkmenistan Red Crescent Society to re-register its current statutes. Due to time constraints, Turkmenistan Red Crescent Society failed to include all expected changes into revised statutes during this re-registration with Ministry of Justice. To support the statutes revision process, a local lawyer was contracted. The draft statutes will be finalized by the end of August.

6 working meetings with leaders of district and city branches, members and volunteers were conducted in Uzbekistan. The main purpose was to clarify the ongoing change process. Most participants of the meetings welcomed the change process and actively participated in all the discussions. There were many unsolved questions, which included the enhanced role of members and primary organizations, practical implications of divided governance and management at district level. A manual named "Governance and management of national society" was designed and published in two languages, in order to support discussions.

Contracted local lawyers reviewed the draft statutes in compliance with the local legislation. All branches also provided their inputs and comments to the draft statutes, which were published and translated into Uzbek and English. Moreover, the draft statutes were submitted to the Joint Statutes commission of IFRC and ICRC as well as the consultant working with the society.

All branches started to implement newly developed guidelines on clear registration of members. Recommendations on involvement, retention and registration of volunteers were circulated among all branches.

Expected result 3: By the end of 2004, capacities of Central Asia Red Crescent Societies' branches are improved by enhancing practical Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) skills; enforcing work with communities, especially volunteers, members and young people; and developing up to date financial management practices (in targeted branches).

Activities to achieve this expected result at the regional level included the identification of a regional VCA resource person who will be trained and will facilitate VCA application in the region next year. Planned replication of the accounting software to selected branches was cancelled, due to delayed progress of the project at Central Asian national societies' headquarters level and all related technical difficulties. It was considered not feasible for this year. In addition, planned evaluation of branch development fund initiative was postponed to later this year, due to limited capacities and time constraints of the Delegation.

A branch development project was initiated in Talas oblast of Kyrgyzstan. The branch was provided with some basic equipment including fax machine, computer etc. along with training of staff. Negotiations with local authorities showed low support to the branch. However, the national societies developed joint plan for key programmes engagement in the oblast during the year. All activities are due to start in July.

In Turkmenistan, the national society faced difficulties to carry out a VCA project in Ahal region, due to political issues. Further branch development plans in the region were discussed during a workshop held with HQ program coordinators and branch staff. As a result, new district branches were set up in Tejen, Serakh and Goktepe city. To raise profile and highlight activities of the national society, round tables with public and local authorities were conducted in respective areas. The rest of the planned activities, including the follow up of local projects in these areas, are postponed till the second half of the year.

Uzbekistan Red Crescent continued its branch development project in two branches (Bukhara and Navoi) with training seminars on analysis of situation, self-assessment and vulnerability study. The branches are expected to carry out vulnerability and capacity assessment by the end of June. In addition, the national Organizational Development coordinator provided on spot coaching to Termez city and related district branches staff. This proved to be a very appropriate and useful way of working with branches. As a result, the national society is currently revising its branch development approach.

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The national society considered setting up of primary organizations based on place of residence as strategic direction for branch activities. Therefore, training seminars on working with members and volunteers were conducted in Surkhandariya and Fergana oblast branches. Furthermore, during the first half of 2004, 6 primary organizations were set up in Fergana, 4 in Surkhandariys, 5 in Bukhara and 6 in Navoi. However, clear registration of members still remains an issue.

PPP training initiative started last year and continued this year in Surkhandariya and Fergana oblast branches, which resulted in small local vulnerability projects initiated by some branches such as pure water projects in Termez city. It was detected that regardless of formal training on project design, some braches, especially at city and district level, require further on spot support from HQ staff.

Expected result 4: By the end of 2005, Central Asia Red Crescent societies' youth structures are defined and functioning.

Budget revision, based on the latest appeal income, confirmed the start of the youth programme in three national societies: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Funding was available, though it was late. This affected the main activities needed to be conducted in order to achieve this expected result.

Expected result 5: By the end of 2004, efficiency, effectiveness and economy in logistics procedures within the national societies' logistics has been achieved through training for relevant staff.

A follow up on the national societies' logistics assessment was carried out in April –May 2004 in all five countries, in order to assess the practical application of logistics procedures, as well as warehousing, procurement and transport issues. On the results of the assessment that was finalized at the end of May, an assessment report will be issued and distributed in the third quarter of the year.

Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships

Goal: All components of the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and other partners have an agreed framework of cooperation that will be reflected in the RAS/CAS planning process to strengthen the five national societies in their work to reduce suffering of vulnerable people.

Programme objective: The programme focus in each country is improved through ongoing dialogue between partners, continued knowledge exchange between Central Asian National Societies and the ongoing revision of national society strategies and the RAS/CAS planning process.

Expected result 1: By the end of 2004, Federation coordination results in: improved and transparent communications among all partners, and a participatory and inclusive planning process, balancing the interests of Central Asia national societies with those of donors.

In line with the 2+2 strategic direction, the regional delegation continues focusing on building capacities of the host national societies.

The regional delegation conducted a project planning process workshop for the representatives of Netherlands Red Cross based in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, American Red Cross staff and Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan Red Crescent staff who, by different reasons, did not attend previous trainings. Following the workshop, an informal meeting took place in Almaty in order to share the activities run in the region by different stakeholders.

Regarding the preparation of the appeal planning for 2005, the regional delegation, together with the Regional Reporting Unit head based in Ankara, facilitated a PPP training for Tajikistan delegation and the Netherlands Red Cross delegate who has not attended a PPP training so far. This makes the Central Asia region trained in PPP methodology used for appeal planning.

The 2005-2006 planning meeting was held during the second week of June. Key national societies' programme coordinators, together with the regional delegation and ICRC, spent four days to discuss future planning and other operational and management related issues. As a result of the collective work during the meeting, a preliminary plan

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of action for 2005 has been identified, regional matrixes based on country matrixes have been produced and areas of integration between core programmes have been discussed

The regular Central Asia national societies' vice-presidents meeting was held in April 2004 in order to discuss progress, achievements, problems and plans for the future. The regional delegation presented an annual review in order to update on the changes in the delegation's structure and internal procedures and to highlight regional delegation's functions in service delivery to the national societies.

The regional delegation is invited to the ICRC planning meeting for NS presidents in Almaty, in the end of June 2004.

Expected result 2: By the end of 2004, appropriate human resources are developed, and implementation of a programme that respects the needs of the five Central Asia national societies and their beneficiaries is more focused.

Two delegates, organizational development and disaster management, left the region during the reporting period. Regional delegation structure was adjusted by promotion of respective programme officers to programme managers with budget holder responsibilities.

A new health delegate arrived in the region and is making good progress in getting familiar with the region, improving health coordinators' programme management skills and planning for the next appeal.

The regional delegation staff went through a budget holder training conducted for programme managers and finance people, which was a good opportunity to refresh on the budget holder concept and raise financial management issues.

International Representation and Advocacy

Overall goal: The mandate and the programmes of Central Asian national societies, as part of the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, are well disseminated among the various governments, United Nations agencies, international and national organizations, the private sector in Central Asia as well as among other stakeholders within and outside the region.

Objective: By the end of 2004, the image, profile, visibility and advocacy capacity of Central Asia national societies have improved through the support of the delegation in advocating at national, regional and international levels and among different actors on the activities of the Movement. In each country, the national societies will be accepted by their governments as a reliable interlocutor on humanitarian issues.

Expected result 1: By the end of 2004, the general profile of the five Central Asia national societies has increased though more focused work by the regional delegation with government authorities, national and international organizations and the media.

Raising national societies' profiles is an integral part of all core programmes- health and care, disaster management, organizational development and humanitarian values.

During his visit to Uzbekistan, head of the Regional Delegation (HORD) visited the Uzbek Ministry of Health, in order to represent the national society together with Vice-President of Uzbekistan Red Crescent, who was lobbying funding from Global Fund (to fight against HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria). The Uzbek Red Crescent received the funds, shortly after the HORD's visit.

Celebration of the International Red Cross/ Red Crescent Day, International Volunteer Day, World HIV/AIDS Day, TB Day, launch of World Disaster Report and public holidays are used as good opportunities to inform general public on national societies' activities.

Regional delegation maintains relations with relevant government structures and diplomatic corps in the region, through attending various diplomatic functions such as the Kazakhstani President annual briefings for embassies, trips to provinces organized by MoFA in Kazakhstan.

Expected result 2: By the end of 2004, the discussion on the Red Crescent Law has been initiated and progressing in all five Central Asia republics through regular dialogue with the respective governments.

There is very little progress in order to achieve this expected result, as the objective is seen too ambitious at this stage. In Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, discussions are underway though with little progress. The national societies' leadership is undertaking discussions in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

Expected result 3: The Federation continues lobbying on the Status Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the International Federation in 2004.

Visits to Turkmenistan in order to lobby the Status Agreement continue at this stage.

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