

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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In Brief

Appeal No. 01.84/04; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: 1 July – 31 December, 2004; Appeal coverage: 98, 3 %; (*Please click here to go directly to the Contributions List*)

Appeal target: CHF 4,152,110 (USD 3,533,830 or EUR 2,680,620)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Central Asia Annual Appeal 2004 (For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/018404.pdf)

Central Asia Annual Appeal 2004- Programme Update no.1 (For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/01840401.pdf)

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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 (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). 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 aims to cover operational activities carried out from June to December 2004. During the reporting period, there were no external events that produced major effect on the humanitarian situation in the region.

Within the Health and Care programme, Red Crescent societies for the first time introduced harm reduction activities. The "Staff on loan" position was advertised among European Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies to coordinate the regional health programme next year, after the current delegate successfully completed her mission in Central Asia.

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Regional Red Crescent youth network was established as a result of the youth camp initiative that brought together young volunteers to enable intercultural communication, learning and sharing activities and ideas.

Intensive logistics training for all five national societies¹, which started in 2003, was finished. Regional logistics trainer position within the regional delegation will be closed by the end of the year.

Health and care

Programme Objective: Major community health problems of targeted populations are reduced through increased national society capacity to implement focused, relevant and effective programmes in health promotion (including HIV/AIDS, first aid and Tuberculosis).

Expected result 1: By the end of 2004, a total of 1,500 Tuberculosis (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.

TB programme is focused on direct observation of regular drug intake by target groups, social/nutritional support and raising awareness. The programme was implemented in five Central Asia countries through twenty projects: five projects in Kazakhstan, three in Kyrgyzstan, six in Uzbekistan, four in Turkmenistan and two projects in Tajikistan. The programme is supported by British, Norwegian, Austrian and Japanese Red Crosses, and all adjustments to changing realities have been approved by donors.

During the regional TB study of the programme impact, the need to continue nutritional support was detected. The activities to provide social and psychological support proceeded, which resulted in much better treatment outcomes: cure rate for patients under Red Crescent observation was 48.9%, comparing to 18.6% in the control group. Food parcels appeared to be the most appropriate type of social support. The other findings of TB study reflected high level of stigma towards TB patients (89% of general public would isolate TB patients for the length of treatment course). Television was named to be the most effective means to use in TB awareness raising campaigns, with radio in the second place, and individual or group educational sessions with medical professionals in the third.

The progress in programme implementation during the reporting period is reflected in the table below. The table contains information on the number of visiting nurses providing direct supervision of TB drug intake, number of target beneficiaries, amount of distributed social support and vitamins, and number of general public covered by TB awareness campaigns.

Operational activities during June - November 2004

Country	No. of visiting nurses	No. of patients		Patients receiving food parcels/ hot meals	Hygienic kits	Vitamin	No. of printed material	Coverage with awareness		No. of patients completed the treatment
		Planned (for a year)	Actual (for 6 months)					Plan	Actual	
Kazakhstan	21	800	129	310	343	343	5,000	5,000	9,560 (1,085 sessions)	70
Kyrgyzstan	10	700	235	150/ 87	n/a	740	5,903	5,000	3,346 sessions	342
Turkmenistan	7	1,500	1,175	170/ 200	270	270	6,000	10,000	8,937	299

¹ The five national societies in Central Asia consist of Kazakh Red Crescent, Kyrgyz Red Crescent, Turkmen Red Crescent, Uzbek Red Crescent and Tajik Red Crescent Societies

Uzbekistan	25	1,500	553	586	348	235	4,791	10,000	10,902	129
Total	63	4,500	2,092	1,216/287	961	1,588	21,694	30,000	29,399	840
									people	

The programme was run by 63 visiting nurses in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The number of beneficiaries under Red Crescent visiting nurses observation during the period of six months was 2,092 (a total of 4,616 for a year). Total number of TB patients and general public covered by awareness activities was 29,399 (against 30,000 planned for the year).

To attract public attention to problems of stigma and its impact on national TB control programme, **Kazakhstan Red Crescent**, together with Federation, conducted a conference with the slogan “No Respect – No Hope”. The conference proved to be a successful event, and the Red Cross/ Red Crescent message on reduction of stigma was broadcasted through all TV channels in Kazakhstan.

Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent successfully implemented the part of TB prevention and control programme which is focusing in encouragement of former TB patients to actively participate in support group activities and in peer education. In Bishkek and Kara-Balta cities, active volunteers from former prisoners arranged home visits together with nurses or by themselves. They were also responsible for the outreach educational component of the programme for people in communities that were inaccessible for visiting nurses.

In response to the request from Uzbekistan state TB institution, **Uzbekistan Red Crescent** initiated TB programme in Almalyk and Chirchik cities to provide Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS) treatment and nutritional support for 200 TB patients from July till the end of the year. The programme became possible due to additional funds available from Norwegian Red Cross. After three months of programme implementation, each makhali (local community administrative units) identified three volunteers to assist the national society visiting nurses with educational programme in respective communities.

The support groups for TB patients were organized in all six project sites of Uzbekistan and patients actively participated in a new initiative. Lack of means to cover cost of transportation to group meeting sites was the only difficulty, encountered in course of implementation of this component.

During the reporting period, all Red Crescent visiting nurses attended two trainings on implementation of DOTS strategy and on provision of psychological support. Both trainings were conducted in close collaboration with republican DOTS center and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF, international humanitarian aid organisation). Training module on TB was translated into Uzbek, printed and distributed.

Following the trainings, Uzbekistan national society visiting nurses provided psychological support to 1,014 TB patients and their family members (1,568 family members). The educational component of TB programme contributed to reduction of stigma and discrimination towards TB patients, advocating for rights of TB patients and their families.

Global Fund allocated a grant for Uzbekistan Red Crescent, admitting the effectiveness of national society TB control and prevention programme. The provided grant is meant for nutritional support programme in six districts of Samarkand province.

In Turkmenistan, following the request from state TB dispensary, it was decided to provide 240 patients in Dushak TB hospital (200 km away from the capital for TB patients in Ashgabat) with protein support (meat, milk, butter) as of July 2004. Because of insufficient nutrition, the patients of the hospital were forced to interrupt treatment and leave. Turkmenistan Red Crescent, like other national societies in the region, is involved only in the continuous phase of TB treatment, and the initial plan was to provide nutritional support in Dushak until the end of the year. Still, local authorities failed to renew sufficient nutrition supply for the TB patients residing in the hospital. To prevent treatment interruption for patients in intensive phase, the national society prolonged the programme till July 2005. However, recognizing the government responsibility, Turkmenistan Red Crescent officially informed the Ministry of Health that nutritional support would cease then.

Additionally, the Turkmenistan national society provided nutritional assistance to 30 most vulnerable patients among lonely elderly and disabled with no source of income in Mary and Dashoguz, starting from July 2004. In Dashoguz, 106 TB patients received hygienic parcels over the treatment course.

Expected result 2: By the end of 2004, targeted populations 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.

As a component of the HIV prevention programme, Harm Reduction (HR) centers were opened in July in two sites in Kazakhstan, one in Tajikistan and two in Uzbekistan. This is for the first time that Red Crescent societies undertook Harm Reduction activities. All nurses and volunteers involved in the Harm Reduction programme for Intravenous Drug Users (IDUs) completed trainings on peer education and on Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT). Currently, there are nine needles and syringes exchange centers and one hotline functioning.

National societies collateral activities included work with former and current drug users in order to reach the IDUs communities, deliver information about accessibility of sterile injecting equipment and educate the IDUs about prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis. Another component of work with IDUs is teaching them to behave in case of overdose, as well as first signs of vein infection, etc. This was achieved also through printing materials for IDUs on harm reduction topics.

The table below gives an overview of the scale of Harm Reduction centers' operations.

	Number of outreach volunteers	Number of syringes distributed	Number of condoms distributed	Number of distributed vitamins	Number of constant clients
Kazakhstan	6	34,298	8669	N/A	80
Tajikistan	5	4,296	1,075	N/A	1,082
Uzbekistan	50	24,750	2,800	134	212
Total	61	63,344	12,544	134	1,374

One of the objectives of the Harm Reduction programme is to encourage IDUs to pass a voluntary test on HIV. IDUs are also encouraged to return used needles and syringes to the center. In average, in Kazakhstan, IDUs return about 30-40% of used injecting equipment, while in Uzbekistan the number amounts to 40-50%, and in Tajikistan it equals to 15-20%.

Central Asia national societies continued the implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention programme based on peer education approach. 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 information materials	Number of actions/campaigns
Kazakhstan	138	64	1,330	25,000	25 actions – 2,760 people
Kyrgyzstan	167	385	4,799	N/A	N/A
Uzbekistan	447	308	5,500	11,400 – booklets 2,000 – posters RC information desks on HIV, STD, drug addiction prevention in 70 schools and 100 community units	24 actions – 8,950 people
Turkmenistan	N/A	586	13,673	17,000 booklets 320 back-packs 300 T-shirts	23

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Regional Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop on Voluntary Concealing and Testing, conducted in Almaty in August, taught the participants from five Central Asia national societies the basics of work with beneficiary groups of risk behavior and marginal (soldiers, truck drivers, migrants) groups. HIV programme coordinators from Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan Red Crescent Societies also participated in an HIV/AIDS working group to learn new methodologies of work with marginal communities and improve the knowledge of monitoring and evaluation. The group meeting was organized by the British Red Cross in London, in July.

In accordance with the plan, **Kazakhstan Red Crescent** HIV programme coordinators from branches, trainers and volunteers-instructors passed the training in peer education methodology. The gained skills are being applied to conduct further prevention activities among their peers. Five provinces of Kazakhstan were covered by HIV/AIDS prevention programme (Astana, Karaganda, Kokshetau, Taldy-Kurgan and Ust-Kamenogorsk), with focus groups being soldiers, commercial sex workers (CSW) and IDUs.

Additionally, Kazakhstan national society filmed a video on HIV prevention and responsible behavior, which was demonstrated by the national TV channel.

Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent continued implementation of the programme in Southern provinces (Osh, Batken, Jajal-Abad) with support from the British Red Cross. In November, the national society also received a small grant from the Global Fund for HIV prevention programme component focusing on youth. In the North of the country, the programme was supported by the Norwegian Red Cross as of July 2004, under the current appeal.

After the work with commercial sex workers (CSW) and IDUs began in May, the number of trainings for volunteers involved in activities with these target groups was elaborated. During the summer period, six instructors from three Red Crescent branches attended ToT workshop on peer education.

In Turkmenistan, the HIV prevention programme was implemented in accordance with the plan. The programme is running in Ashgabat city, Abadan district and Turkmenbashi. Since April 2004, national society included new beneficiary groups – IDUs, CSW, street children and people in temporary detention centers in Ashgabat – in addition to existing ones (school children, students, and organizations). Ministry of Internal Affairs gave an official approval of trainings in temporary detention centers and set up a training schedule.

Expected result 3: By the end of 2004, in total 50,000 Red Crescent volunteers and community members (20% youth among them) 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.

Training sessions on prevention of communicable diseases and various injuries related to disasters and accidents for community members and Red Crescent volunteers were conducted according to the plan to achieve this expected result.

Table of operational activities

January-December	Number of sessions	Number of adults trained	Number of children trained	Number of volunteers
Kazakhstan	369	2,501	904	88
Kyrgyzstan	N/A	1,186	N/A	N/A
Turkmenistan	9,250	35,459	25,669	116
Uzbekistan	424	4,968	2,460	1,023
Total	10,043	44,114	29,033	1,227

A total of 10,043 sessions were held to cover 44,114 community members and 1,227 volunteers with practical skills in first aid and prevention of communicable diseases.

Kazakhstan Red Crescent run the programme in the areas affected by highest HIV/AIDS incidence in the country. Firemen, police officers, road construction workers, miners, university and high school students are focus groups

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identified for the programme implementation. Three national society branches in Karaganda (Karaganda city, Shahtinsk and Temirtau towns) were involved in programme activities.

In **Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent**, road safety became a component of the programme. A set of materials (training curriculum, posters, T-shirts for instructor-volunteers, colour-books with road safety rules for children) was developed.

The national society conducted a training on First Aid (FA) for the participants of the regional youth camp and a four-day media camp at Issyk-Kul lake in August 2004.

In **Turkmenistan**, Community Based First Aid (CBFA) programme was implemented nation-wide in schools. Red Crescent society printed 1,200 manuals on FA and health promotion for instructors and trained volunteers and 6,000 booklets on HIV and STDs prevention for general public.

Additionally, the national society ran a programme in regions bordering Afghanistan. During the year, six instructors conducted education campaign on First Aid and communicable diseases in six regions (42 villages), located along the Afghan border. Monitoring of the programme in August-September revealed a number of difficulties, related to recruitment and quality training of volunteers, limited access to distant villages and permanent involvement of community residents in all-year agricultural activities. To overcome the difficulties, the national society is providing incentives for 10 best volunteers in each district and limiting the targeted number of people trained in First Aid and preventive health.

The monitoring also detected that 88% of the population considered educational programmes on FA and preventive health needful, while 29% admitted that they used the gained knowledge and skills in practice. Drugs demand reduction was indicated as the most important topic for health promotion programme by 58 % pollees. The rest 42 % made an emphasis on prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

As a result of programme implementation, trained population improved their knowledge on FA and preventive health by 36.3%.

Expected result 4: By the end of 2004, the role of Central Asian national societies has 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



A Rapid Response Training was conducted by the Kazakh Red Crescent in Semipalatinsk

Project 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

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achieved through training personnel and volunteers (i.e. regional disaster response team) and ensuring development of national society disaster preparedness plans and the provision of technical support.

Activities to achieve this expected result progressed according to the plan with no major changes. The table below provides the overview of the situation with disaster preparedness (DP) programme in the region and the latest activities.

Upon completion of disaster preparedness plans, national societies (NSs) now need to test them at branch level for effectiveness. Six national rapid response team (RRT) field exercises were held during the reporting period in the region: three in Kazakhstan, one in Uzbekistan and two in Turkmenistan. Uzbekistan has established three more rapid response teams, in addition to the existing five, and is equipping them with uniforms.

Disaster preparedness officers meetings, workshops and training sessions took place according to the plan, as indicated in the table.

Activities	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan	Turkmenistan
NS DP plan development	Finalized	Finalized	Finalized and distributed among branches	Finalized
National rapid response field exercise	3 in cooperation with state emergency structures	----	1	2 for staff and volunteers 100 DP sessions at schools done by volunteers-instructors
Rapid response equipment/uniforms	20 uniform sets purchased for RRT at national and branch levels	----	3 rescue teams being equipped and uniforms procured	----
Disaster preparedness workshops	5	3	6	6
Warehouse	Warehouse is maintained, new warehouse constructed in one branch (RC own resources)	Warehouse is maintained	Warehouse is maintained	Warehouse is maintained according to the plan
Disaster preparedness stocks	Procured for two DP centers	Procured during the previous reporting period	Stock purchased according to the plan: 300 blankets, 300 mattresses and 300 bed linen sets	Procured during the previous reporting period
Disaster preparedness information system	Functioning, is regularly updated	No information system	No information system	Finalized, needs demonstration and distribution

Turkmenistan Red Crescent (RC) conducted a national disaster management workshop, covering also the importance of applying SPHERE² standards during relief and response operations. Another workshop was conducted for volunteers in the national society branch, discussing improvement of mitigation projects and community based disaster preparedness. Volunteers-instructors of Turkmenistan Red Crescent continue to conduct disaster preparedness sessions for 4100 children at schools and orphanages.

Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent conducted a training for national society branch staff on vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) and community-based disaster risk reduction management. The training focused on sharing the knowledge obtained by Red Crescent coordinators from international trainings this year.

² For details on the SPHERE project, please access the website at <http://www.sphereproject.org/>

Uzbekistan Red Crescent also conducted a national disaster management meeting, discussing the effectiveness of different mitigation projects and plans for 2005. Five branch level workshops were conducted as well. In addition, the national society arranged two exchange visits between its branches, aiming at sharing experience and knowledge on implementing and managing mitigation projects.

The renovation of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent warehouse was completed.

Turkmenistan Red Crescent disaster management staff facilitated sessions of the workshop, organized by Counterpart Consortium in one of the provinces of the country. Their input was highly appreciated by participants and organizers.

Disaster management coordinators from Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan participated in the International Disaster Management Conference, organized by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Iran.

Turkmenistan has finalized its disaster information system. Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent and Uzbekistan Red Crescent plan to produce the similar information systems next year.

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

Activities	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan	Turkmenistan
Community based disaster preparedness	114 communities	5 communities	45 communities (9 provinces)	7 provinces
Number of target population in disaster risk areas	300,000	7,500	13,500	60,000
Volunteers involved	1400	300	4590	115
Type of activities	Community training Establishment of community DP groups Risk mapping Awareness materials development for communities	Training Development of community DP plans Establishment of community DP groups	Training for community leaders, volunteers-instructors Field exercises Awareness campaigns	Training for community leaders Field training Risk mapping Community DP plans
Disaster awareness activities	World Disaster Report (WDR) presentation at national level Participation in exhibition "Eurasia-2004" Radio quizzes TV presentations	WDR presentation in Osh province with participation of different partners Video shots on mitigation projects	Local TV presentations Newspaper articles Road safety campaign for children	Banners, billboards in public places (railway stations, airports, administrative buildings in provinces, public places)
Printing disaster preparedness materials	1800 brochures on earthquake preparedness 20 000 leaflets on different types of disasters		Red Crescent files with emblem DP plan issue 200 000 DP brochures	4000 posters on fires, earthquakes and landslides 15000 booklets on the same topics, plus gas threats

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All above listed activities were implemented according to the plan. In May this year, Uzbekistan Red Crescent initiated a road safety campaign for children in Tashkent city, adopting the experience of Kazakhstan Red Crescent. A large scale competition called "Traffic lights-2004" was conducted among school children. In total, 352 schools (36,000 senior students) participated in the competition. Performances and quizzes were organized for junior children as well. Road safety messages, reflected on banners, were placed on busiest roads of the city. In addition, Uzbekistan Red Crescent issued 7000 road safety brochures in national and Russian languages.

In general, Red Crescent Societies initiative of implementing community-based disaster preparedness programmes is highly appreciated by the Central Asian communities. The population started to understand the trainings, offered by Red Crescent Societies, which gave an opportunity to develop skills to cope with community disaster problems more effectively. One of the community members in Kyrgyzstan province Djalal-Abad said: "People in my village will not be able to feel resilient without making efforts by themselves. This is a common truth, which is often forgotten by people".

Opinions on programmes direction in different communities may vary from that addressing the immediate needs of the population (food, heating system during winter season) to disaster preparedness of the community to potential disasters. In such cases, the determinative role rests on community leaders, and the effectiveness of community-based disaster preparedness projects depends on leaders' position. Accordingly, Red Crescent strives to work more with community leaders, conducting trainings for them before initiating the programmes.

Expected result 3: By the end of 2004, the Red Crescents 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.

Within the reporting period **Turkmenistan Red Crescent** completed two mitigation projects:

1. Mitigation project "Clean drop" in Birata settlement (Lebap province) aimed at cleaning of drainage collector, which supplied communities (50,000 people) with watering and potable water. Around 105 km of the channel was cleaned with the help of local authorities and communities. This considerably decreased the risk of salinity and desertification of lands which is one of the most dangerous disaster threats in Turkmenistan. It also improved water quality and decreased hepatitis and intestinal infections incidence rate.
2. The project in Turkmenbashi town aimed at establishing water rescue team of Red Crescent volunteers to render first aid and rescue in the summer period.

Kazakhstan Red Crescent implemented five mitigation projects:

1. Setting water rescue mobile teams in 4 areas (Karaganda, Almaty, Aktobe and Zhezkazgan provinces)
2. Repair of roads destroyed by floods in Karaganda province. 22 new volunteers out of local communities were involved in the project.
3. Construction of reinforcing structure to prevent medical centre from further destruction (non-structural mitigation) in South Kazakhstan province.
4. Forest fire prevention project (cleaning the forest area from old burnt wood) to protect surrounding settlements (Semipalatinsk)

In total, 14 settlements were involved in projects' implementation. The analysis of the projects shows its considerable impact with more Red Crescent branches involved and taking initiative. It also reflects a clearly seen auxiliary role of Red Crescent to governmental structures, improved coordination between Red Crescent and government, good cooperation between Red Crescent branches and increased branch capacities. The latter became possible through forming more skills and knowledge in terms of planning, implementation and monitoring of similar projects, as well as training of newly recruited volunteers and involving them into this initiative.

Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent completed five mitigation projects with total targeted population being 15,395 people:

1. Three riverbank reinforcement projects in Osh and Issyk-Kul provinces mainly aimed at mitigating landslides and floods in spring time. They were implemented with an active participation of local communities in gathering stones, netting gabions, as well as in awareness campaigns for mitigation projects. Technical facilities (bulldozers, tractors, fuel etc.) were provided by local authorities.
2. One tree planting project in Djala l-abad province.
3. One project aimed on cleaning of landslide off-take in Naryn province.

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

Due to late funding (April 2004), this component started in May 2004. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are part of the component. As no incidents of migration were officially reported by Uzbekistan government, consequently, no state migration legislation exists. The following achievements can be reported:

Country	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan
Target group	Returnees and vulnerable local community (178 people) in Taldykorgan and Baktybai areas (Almaty province)	Tajik refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Djailyk district, Chu province (agricultural project) Afghan, Chechen, Tajik young refugees in Bishkek province (computer and language courses project)
Project	Vocational training for returnees (computer course and bakery course)	Agricultural project: 100 targeted families were supplied with vegetable seeds Computer and language course project: 200 young refugees took computer literacy and English language courses
Activities	<p>Computer literacy course: lessons on Microsoft Office, graphical programmes, Internet and record keeping for 48 people in Baktybai and 150 people in Taldykorgan</p> <p>Bakery course: theory and practice lessons for 30 people in Taldykorgan city</p> <p>- on completion of course every trainee passed the examination and those passed successfully received certificates - monitoring project coordinator visited courses in Taldykorgan and Baktybai village, and - monitoring project coordinator met Baktybai village, Eskeldinsky district and Taldykorgan city social security departments</p>	<p>Agricultural project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. target groups selection criteria development (80 families of refugees and 20 families of IDPs) 2. land and agricultural facilities selection (land rent agreement) 3. tillage (land planning, cultivation, fertilization) 4. land distribution (0,4 hectares for family to plant potatoes, onion and beetroot) 5. seeds procurement 6. planting, watering and cultivation 7. harvesting and trade (mid August to mid October) 8. monitoring <p>Computer and language course project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. course tutors employment 2. training curriculum 3. preparation of trainees list 4. handouts and training materials development 5. selection of volunteers-instructors from trainees to conduct further training in

	<p>Fundraising: Two fundraising actions were organized in Baktybai and Enbek villages with 98 participants. The raffle and concert collected 70 000 Tenge (538 USD) for New Year party for 30 children from most vulnerable returnee and local families (Baktybay, Enbek villages). International Organization for Migration (IOM) is contributing with second hand clothes, while Women's center in Enbek provides 6000 Tenge (46 USD) and Children oblast ensemble arranges a concert.</p>	<p>communities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. examination and certification of trainees 7. monitoring (including project coordinator regular visits to check the attendance and quality of training)
<p>Comments, conclusions</p>	<p>After December 2004, vocational trainings will be continued on paid basis. However, 20 % of the vulnerable returnees and local communities will be trained free of charge.</p>	<p>In total, 692 tones of vegetables were gathered and sold, while 13,300 kg were distributed among families involved. The income amounted to 6000 USD. Young people trained in computer and language courses demonstrate improved knowledge and increased interest in further education. The skills multiply the chances to find decent jobs.</p>

Humanitarian Values

Programme Objective: Central Asian 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.

Programme activities within the reported period have been implemented as planned with focus on:

- promoting humanitarian values and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Fundamental Principles
- developing national societies' public relations capacity
- taking actions against discrimination, violence and intolerance in the communities

Promoting principles and values internally

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

Central Asian national societies have conducted a series of training sessions for new staff and volunteers, concentrating on youth at branch level. This training has been based on Federation materials, such as the 'From Principles to Action' and 'Seven Steps to Seven Principles' modules, translated into Russian. The aim was to ensure that Red Crescent volunteers and staff know and act according to the Fundamental Principles. The national societies selected branch youth centers as the most relevant sites for pertinent approach to train youth. Young Red Crescent leaders have had training of trainers' sessions so that they are more effective in disseminating humanitarian messages.

In the Balkan area of **Turkmenistan**, young volunteers that successfully passed the introduction training have conducted seminars to present the Movement and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) basics to 60 soldiers in military hospital. Principles and values presentation has been done for participants of a disaster management training and "Save the environment" action held in Chuli branch.

In **Kazakhstan**, three seminars on “Seven steps to Seven Principles” were held for 25 volunteers and 9 Red Crescent staff in Chimkent, Zhambyl, Taldykorgan branches. Kazakhstan Red Crescent programme officer has conducted induction sessions for editorial staff of the six national newspapers and two radio channels. As a result, six journalists expressed their willingness to assist the Kazakhstan Red Crescent information department voluntarily.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, a four-day media camp was organized to introduce the three Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement parties – the national society, the Federation and the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) – to journalists of national newspapers, TV and Radio as well as correspondents from seven areas of the country. In total, 20 journalists and information officers from five Central Asian national societies, through field exercises, have been shown how Principles and Values are getting transformed into actions within community based activities in disaster management, first aid and HIV/TB prevention. Ever first experience in communication with media in such interactive way proved its effectiveness as journalists appreciated knowledge about the Movement and profound update on core Red Crescent programmes and activities, including HIV and TB related anti-discrimination campaigns.

In **Uzbekistan**, 15 trained volunteers have conducted a series of Principles and Values promotion sessions for the five Red Crescent branch staff. Due to Red Crescent Law adoption in Uzbekistan, a number of introduction sessions on Emblem use have been arranged for the Ministries of Health, Emergency, Defence and Education and employees of the main state enterprises, together with the national society dissemination officer.

Developing national societies’ public relations capacity

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 communication for selected branch staff; consequent development of branch communication plans based on national society priorities; updating external contacts databases, and establishing regular dialogue.

The Red Crescent Societies of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan initiated a training in a number of branches, which has already proved its worth and resulted in increased media interest and coverage of Red Crescent activities. This activity has also been carried through the reported period in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

In **Turkmenistan**, communication capacity development was being carried in four out of five branches. New contacts with local media have been established on branch level, which resulted in better coverage of the Red Crescent main activities through press. In total, about 50 news reports appeared in the country media.

In **Kazakhstan**, 10 Red Crescent staff, 7 volunteers of the four branches and 6 representatives of the Red Crescent district committees have been introduced to basics of effective communication with media. The similar presentation was held within the regular workshop on tracing for 11 Kazakhstan Red Crescent branches. The newly produced video, “There is always a place for hope”, was also demonstrated for participants.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, a workshop for 7 branches’ leadership and disaster management coordinators was conducted to train communication basics and skills in photography. This training aimed to improve communication skills on branch level and assist staff in their external communication and work with media in time of disasters.

The third edition of the “Compass”, regional national societies’ newsletter produced by the Delegation, has been printed and distributed among the national societies and their partners. It covered articles on HIV/AIDS prevention from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Societies, activities of regional rapid response teams from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, as well as population movement project activities from Kyrgyzstan.

The Delegation translated the Federation media kit into Russian and distributed it to the National Societies, in order to assist the launch of the World Disaster Report (WDR) 2004 in the respective countries. According to the National Societies’ reports, the WDR was highlighted by national media with focus on Central Asia National Societies’ activities in community resilience development, including lessons learned from Zhambyl earthquake (2003).

Improving visibility of Central Asia national societies

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

Activities in 2004 have been concentrated on further improvement of Red Crescent capacity to promote humanitarian principles and values. Respective Central Asian governments, public and international organizations have been identified as the target audiences. Regular publications and direct mail campaigns of information kits on issues like human dignity protection have helped put humanitarian issues on to the agenda of the media as well as in other forums.

The national societies have continued to use web sites, publications and information campaigns integrated into the core programs of health, disaster management and organizational development, in order to promote issues relevant to vulnerable people. These efforts have improved the visibility of the Red Crescent's humanitarian work. All four national societies have continued regular production of their newsletters, giving an overview of main activities run throughout respective countries.

Three national societies in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have been updating their web sites bi-monthly. The Turkmenistan Red Crescent Society's plan to open its own web site hasn't succeeded yet. The country exclusive internet provider has not furnished a registration and continuous negotiations have not brought any progress during five months.

Reducing HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination in communities

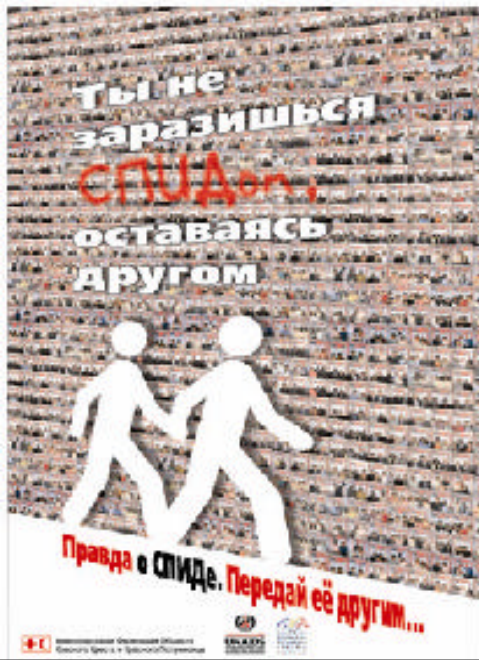
Expected Result 4: By the end of 2004, Central Asian national societies have, through an integrated approach with all core programmes, developed new ways to address stigma related to HIV/AIDS and TB, and promoted respect to cultural and social diversity in communities living with ethnic minorities and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

Based on Red Crescent awareness of the most pressing needs and national society experience and expertise, the humanitarian values programme in Central Asia is trying to introduce international experience on reduction of stigma related to HIV/AIDS. This initiative is part of the Federation Global Action to reduce Discrimination and Violence in the Community, which engaged in the region in September 2002 and focuses on people living with AIDS, TB patients, ethnic minorities and repatriates.

The World AIDS Day was marked as part of the global campaign "Truth about AIDS. Pass it on..." A spectacular public action, "Art and sport against AIDS", took place in Ashgabad (Turkmenistan), while Almaty (Kazakhstan) hosted a regional conference named "Respecting human dignity, giving hope" for press and Red Crescent partner organizations. Through this conference, the Federation delegation, together with Kazakhstan national society, drew attention to regional Red Crescents' activities to tackle stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV and those affected by tuberculosis.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, the Bishkek city drama troupe performed a play in memory of people living with HIV/AIDS. This play was part of a fundraising campaign by Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent and the Bishkek city AIDS center to help women living with HIV/AIDS.

Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent information officer and medical coordinator participated in a popular national talk show to send a message against stigma and discrimination related to HIV. With the same purpose, the round-table "Together we fight drugs addiction and HIV/AIDS" was organised in the southern part of the country, which has the highest prevalence of injecting drug use and HIV incidence. Local health and educational departments' authorities and media participated in the meeting. During the period, five press-releases were distributed to national media in order to cover the "Truth about AIDS. Pass it on..." charity concert; the World Elderly People Day and TB control programme update.



Posters produced by the Regional Delegation aimed to attract the attention of the public on HIV/AIDS

In the Balkan area of **Turkmenistan**, the Red Crescent branch has established a productive relationship with the Turkmenistan Youth Union. Together with young people from this organization and in cooperation with the national AIDS center and “Healthy Life Style” non-governmental organization, Red Crescent arranged few actions for the tuberculosis dispensary patients, children in boarding school and aged people in mercy house. During the actions, the national society distributed information materials on prevention of killing infections and talked about respectful attitude to people already affected by stigma due to TB and HIV.

The Regional Delegation produced 1,000 copies of a poster “You cannot get AIDS by being a friend” in Russian language, as well as 6,000 copies of stickers “You can get HIV – use condoms” and “You can get HIV – never share needles” and distributed them to five national societies.

A feature “Uzbekistan: reducing harm through sport and safe fixing” by the regional information officer has been released on the Federation’s web site.

Activities to tackle intolerance towards populations on the move have been seized in 2004, due to the lack of funds.

Organizational development

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 Red Crescent societies is enhanced through adoption of financial development plans, and developing and applying fundraising skills within programmes at local level.

Installation and adaptation of accounting software in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan have finished. National Societies’ finance staff was trained to make proper use of the newly developed system and applied acquired skills in daily practices.

Uzbekistan Red Crescent society was identified as the most advanced in accounting software application and was given a leading role in peer knowledge sharing. However, the planned regional meeting in Tashkent, to summarize the outcomes of adaptation projects and to share the experience with other National Societies, was postponed until January next year.

Despite the difficulties with the accounting software installation project at headquarters level, Uzbekistan Red Crescent decided to initiate the software introduction in two pilot branches.

“Best fundraising initiative” was developed and launched at regional level in July 2004 aiming to encourage those Central Asian National Societies’ branches successful in implementing on-off and long-term fundraising projects. Three selected initiatives were granted small funds for branch projects in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

A series of exchange visits was organized between Central Asia and sister national societies in order to introduce practices and share experience in fundraising and branch development (Kyrgyzstan RC/Byelorussian RC, Uzbekistan RC/Swedish RC, Turkmenistan RC/Mongolian RC; Kazakhstan/Uzbekistan RCs).

Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society continued with internal audit. The analysis of activities with respect to application of fundraising methods within local programmes was carried out in four branches (Pavlodar, Kostanai, Akmola and Zapadny Kazakhstan). Practical support in terms of work with legal documents and financial reports was also provided to the branch staff.

The improved financial management system and financial plan have been developed by Kazakhstan Red Crescent. The documents are in phase of adaptation by national society Executive Council, due in the end of the year.

Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent adopted the fundraising strategy at the Presidium meeting in September 2004. A database of grant and NGOs was set up in national society branches and the work on primary organizations continued. There are some positive achievements observed in terms of fundraising, however no major progress can be reported due to insufficient experience of branch chair persons in application of fundraising tools.

The fundraising strategy of Turkmenistan Red Crescent is approaching completion. Red Crescent developed financial plan for 2005 taking into account the results of fundraising activities in 2004.

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.

The process of governance and management structure division in Central Asian national societies continued according to the plan. During the reporting period, another consultancy mission was arranged to support the process. As agreed before, the consultant within the Movement visited Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent national societies in October - November 2004. The detailed report on the third mission is being finalized.

After revision of the structure and contents of the **Kazakhstan Red Crescent** draft statutes and discussion of statutes provisions were finished, the statutory commission approved the changes. National society Executive Council members expressed their eagerness to learn from experience of sister national societies which have shifted to a new structure with clear division of governance and management functions.

Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent forwarded a draft version of the revised statutes for consideration of the Joint Statutes Commission (joint International Federation and International Committee of Red Cross commission on national society statutes). Although the Commission allowed the compliance of the statutes with the minimum requirements outlined by Guidance on National Society Statutes, it also provided comments to the draft statutes. As a next step, some appropriate corrections and changes to the draft statutes were made during the Presidium meeting in September.

Following the conferences aimed to clarify the forthcoming changes in statutes and structure, the extraordinary congress of delegates from each oblast branch was held in Kyrgyzstan on the 23rd of November. The congress ratified the revised Red Crescent statutes, procedures and regulations.

After another consultancy mission in November, **Turkmenistan Red Crescent** society prepared the draft version of statutes. The version will be further discussed and agreed across the national society.

Uzbekistan Red Crescent received comments from Joint Statutes Commission on the draft statutes submitted for consideration. The national society statutory commission made the necessary amendments and it is anticipated that the extraordinary congress will gather early next year to ratify the new statutes.

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 only).

To facilitate VCA application in the region next year, a resource person was trained at a global VCA workshop in July 2004. As VCA practices of the Central Asian national societies vary, there is a need to develop a consolidated approach. Practical application of VCA skills in different programmes is encouraged, making it a general planning tool acceptable for any Red Crescent intervention as well as branch development.

The activities of **Kazakhstan Red Crescent** society on branch development during the reporting period included exchange visits between Almaty oblast committee and Kyzyl-Orda, Mangystau, Zhambyl, Semipalatinsk and Yuzhny Kazakhstan city committees. Branch staff shared knowledge and practices in the following areas:

- branch plan of action development and realization;
- planning, implementation, expansion and development of the programmes on branch level;
- branch organizational structure;
- setting of primary organizations;
- youth and volunteers policy;
- fundraising issues.

Astana branch of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent society initiated a six month project funded by Federation Capacity Building Fund (CBF). The project aims to improve the quality and type of services given to beneficiaries through raising the knowledge and professionalism of the branch staff and volunteers and strengthening the branch material basis. It also focuses on creating the positive public opinion about the Red Crescent mission and activities through improved level of information distribution among the population, mobilization of new members and volunteers and their involvement in the branch activities. Since the branch is based in the capital, it has a potential to further consolidate its position within the national society.

Branch development activities in Talas oblast of **Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent** continued. Round tables with local authorities were arranged and visibility materials (pins, T-shirts, flags etc.) were produced to raise the awareness and highlight the national society activities. The branch staff was trained in project planning, financial and narrative reporting procedures. In addition, basic knowledge of English and computer literacy was provided.

VCA training was conducted for selected Kyrgyzstan national society branch persons and all Talas branch staff in September. Also, the Community Based Development workshop for the Red Crescent branch chairpersons on the base of Talas branch office was held in November in close cooperation with disaster management and organizational development programmes.

After a series of awareness campaigns in new Tejen and Geoktepe district branches of **Turkmenistan Red Crescent**, local authorities provided national society with the premises for branch offices. Later on the personnel was hired, the premises were repaired, and the branches were provided with basic office equipment.

Following the initiative of the local authorities, additional district branches of the national society were set up in Baharden and Ahal regions of Turkmenistan. The new district committees are working on setting primary organizations at schools.

Uzbekistan Red Crescent society proceeded with implementation of its branch development project in Surkhandariya, Bukhara, Navoi and Fergana branches. Training seminars on strengthening the membership system and attracting volunteers were conducted for branch staff. Materials on methodical approach in work with members and volunteers were distributed among the participants.

During the second half of 2004, the national society of Uzbekistan continued creation of primary organizations based on place of residence. Considerable increase (up to 30 %) in the number of primary organizations in Fergana, Surkhandariya, Bukhara and Navoi regions of Uzbekistan can be reported. Recommendations on recruitment, retention and registration of volunteers were developed and circulated among all branches. The branches also commenced to implement newly developed guidelines on clear registration of national society members.

The capacities of Surkhandariya, Bukhara, Navoi and Fergana Red Crescent district and oblast branches were strengthened by provision of some basic equipment (office furniture, telephones) and installation of telephone lines.

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Project planning process workshops were conducted in Bukhara and Navoi regions of Uzbekistan. The trainings were called to resolve difficulties with project design and resulted in two projects – pure water and medical point – being launched.

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

The Red Crescent (RC) youth in the region carried out activities as planned in three main directions: participation in national societies' programmes, targeting youth vulnerability, and improvement of communications between Red Crescent youth.

In **Kazakhstan**, during the reporting period, 14 youth centers in 14 branches continued planned activities. In terms of recruiting volunteers, the focus is changing from quantity to quality. More emphasis is taking place on competence and training. Financial situation requires development of youth fundraising activities and volunteer management issues. The September Youth meeting discussed youth strategy, youth concept, structure and development of youth movement.

Kazakhstan Red Crescent youth participated in all national societies' programmes – health, disaster management and dissemination of International Humanitarian Law – as well as in big events like international HIV/AIDS Day and International Volunteers Day, run by the society in cooperation with other state and international organizations.

Kazakhstan RC youth faces financial constraints to run its activities and therefore is planning to strengthen fundraising strategy in the future. Possible solutions are under consideration. Among achievements, RC youth indicates improved Red Crescent youth image, increased network, new partners, development of volunteer motivation and retention system and youth centers structure. The number of volunteers has not increased since last year, but their competence has improved through training and practice. A total of 3,000 volunteers work in 14 youth centers, seven disaster response teams and 115 youth clubs, including 33 mercy stations and teams. During the reporting period, another 20 new RC youth clubs have been established based on schools and universities.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, RC youth participates in the national societies' programmes. Young volunteers, involved in street children programme, passed the training enabling them to work with vulnerable young children in orphanages. In four national society branches, during two day training, 66 volunteers were trained on Save the Children training module. The training investigates solution of difficult situations children can be found at (e.g. street children) and techniques of working with such children.

Bishkek and Osh youth centers trained 37 volunteers in basic presentation skills. These skills help young volunteers better contribute to dissemination of International Humanitarian Law and other Red Crescent messages such as HIV/AIDS prevention, as well as to provision of first aid training.

During the reporting period, Red Crescent volunteers worked with vulnerable local peers targeting 78 children in different institutions, such as hospitals, schools, orphanages, rehabilitation centers for street children, centers for children with low hearing abilities. The activities implemented include drawing contests, events, celebrations, performances, contests, help in schooling and sewing, teaching reading and writing.

Activities to improve communications included exchange visits of Kyrgyzstan RC branch youth to the headquarters to learn best practices and the youth meeting in December. The meeting gathered 16 Red Crescent youth from branches to discuss the role of youth in the national societies' activities, new statutes, decisions at headquarters level, reporting and planning for 2005, volunteer management, code of conduct for volunteers and other related issues.

In **Uzbekistan**, during the reporting period, the youth assembly elected a new structure of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent youth organization (December 2004). Youth regulation was approved at National Council Plenum in July 2004.

Youth centers and clubs, established at universities and schools, continue activities on raising awareness in health and disaster preparedness issues. During the reporting year, two youth centers have been equipped with furniture and office equipment, increasing the total number of Uzbekistan RC youth centers to 28. One of the main objectives of these youth centers is to coordinate activities of the increased number of youth clubs (from 40 in 2003 to 142 in 2004). With sufficient number of RC youth centers, the focus is now made on development of youth strategy, including youth own activities in addition to participation in national societies' programmes and events.

In their work, Red Crescent youth centers cooperate with social institutions, providing psychological support to children in orphanages of Tashkent, Gulistan and Khiva cities.

In Khiva and Namangan, youth centers are running puppet shows to disseminate International Humanitarian Law and health education (TB, other infections) to school children and students.

In their work with target youth, Red Crescent volunteers involve children and youth in their activities, shows and concerts. This allows children to express themselves and demonstrate their talents, join the RC volunteer teams and continue contributing to the dissemination of RC messages at schools, among friends and families.

To improve communications and exchange of knowledge and experience, national youth coordinators working meeting was organized during the reporting period in Uzbekistan. The meeting approved the agenda for youth assembly and discussed the issues of concern, as well as agreed on future focus change from increasing number of youth centers to identifying strategies and youth own programmes.

Regional youth activities included participation in the planning meeting in June 2004, where youth coordinators from five countries discussed the structures, policies and strategies in their societies and developed plans for 2005. In August 2004, the regional youth camp aimed to bring together young volunteers active in work of the youth centers in respective countries, enable intercultural communication, training and learning from each other. Regional RC youth network is established as a result of the camp initiative, facilitating youth centers communication, learning and sharing activities and ideas.

Federation youth materials to promote Fundamental Principles and Values, as well as Federation global activities were disseminated during the camp to all five national societies in the region.

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

During the reporting period, on the spot logistics coaching was provided to Central Asia Red Crescent societies to achieve this expected result. A report on national societies' logistics assessment, conducted in the first half of the year by the Federation delegation, was issued and shared with the parties concerned.

In addition, logistics mapping of five national societies in the region was carried out. A manual for warehouse management was translated and distributed to all national societies by logistics trainer, and new forms of warehouse monthly reports were installed in Red Crescent societies' logistics computers.

An exchange visit of two logistics staff from Uzbekistan Red Crescent to Dushanbe Delegation logistics department was organized in December 2004 to share the experience.

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

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 the national society strategies and the RAS/CAS (regional/country assistance strategy) 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.

A visit to all national societies' Vice Presidents/ Secretary Generals was implemented in August/September 2004, as a follow up of the Vice Presidents meeting conducted in April 2004. The goal of the visit was to identify needs for their further training in the light of changing role within the process of national societies' governance and management structure division. The ways to improve cooperation and coordination between the national societies and Regional Delegation have been discussed as well as regular update on donor requirements, reporting and application of Federation information tools (FedNet, Disaster management information system, etc.).

Regular Presidents meeting was held in Almaty on 8 - 9 November 2004. All five national society leaders, head of Dushanbe delegation, regional officer from the Federation Europe Department, representative of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and regional delegation senior staff participated in the meeting. The following issues were discussed and agreed during the meeting: salary scale and administrative support for five national societies programme staff of the Federation funded projects, introduction of audit into the programme implementation agreements in 2005, drafting of annual reports, preparation of Central Asia national societies for the next General Assembly, International Conference and Partnership meeting, sustainability issues, etc.

In addition, the Almaty delegation hosted a two day meeting for Dushanbe delegation staff, Federation Secretariat technical departments staff and regional officer in November 2004. The key problems addressed during the meeting were regarding strengthening working modalities, team and relationship building, knowledge and information sharing.

One day meeting for Red Cross/Red Crescent societies' partners working in the region was also conducted in November in Almaty. This time, representatives of Almaty regional and Tajikistan country delegations met representatives of Netherlands, American, Danish Red Cross societies, currently implementing bilateral projects in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The discussion focused on issues of further better cooperation and coordination, as well as on issues of salary and administrative support to national societies, running projects funded on multilateral or bilateral basis.

Head of regional delegation, together with regional reporting officer, participated in the ICRC planning meeting for 2005. The decision was made to organize a joint national societies, IFRC and ICRC planning meeting for 2006.

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.

The Regional delegation agreed with the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent society on hiring its development programme officer as a "staff on loan" for the position of regional organizational development programme coordinator for three months. The period of the mission was October – December 2004. This was in line with the delegation long term strategic plan to involve more national societies' staff in multilateral programme implementation and national society capacity building.

Regional reporting officer conducted a two months mission in the Caribbean as a sub-regional reporting delegate. The delegate covered reporting on programmes assisting the population affected by the hurricane. On return from the mission, the officer moved to the delegation organizational development department.

The regional health delegate successfully finished her mission and left the delegation at the end of December 2004. The "staff on loan" position has been advertised among European Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies to coordinate regional health programme next year.

Regional logistics trainer position will not be extended after the end of 2004 as intensive logistics training for all five national societies, started in 2003, has finished. During past two years, national society logistics departments in the region received sufficient training and necessary materials. The further focus will be made on work with the national society leadership to insure that the acquired skills are being applied and utilized in logistics practice.

In December, a Monitoring and Evaluation seminar was held in Almaty for disaster management, health and organizational development programme managers from five Central Asia national societies. The seminar was

conducted by an external trainer from Oxford University (United Kingdom) working with major non-governmental organizations like Oxfam, Save the Children, etc. Additionally, the Monitoring and Evaluation booklet translated in Russian was distributed among national society staff.

Seven staff members from four national societies in the region have started the “Effective Writing” course. The course was funded from the regionally secured funds and aims in contributing to the capacity building of the national society’s staff.

International Representation and Advocacy

Programme 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 continues to be part of core programmes – health and care, disaster management, organizational development and humanitarian values.

Regional delegation maintains relations with relevant government structures and diplomatic corps in the region, through attending various diplomatic functions. Participation in regular annual briefing for the diplomatic missions, organized by the President of Kazakhstan in Astana in December 2004, was among activities to achieve this expected result.

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.

The discussions on the Red Crescent Law continue, though little progress has been made in order to achieve this expected result.

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 to lobby the Status Agreement continued.

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