

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

7 July 2005

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In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA075;

Programme Update no. 1,

Period covered: 1 January – 31 May, 2005

For latest contributions list:

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/1-2-3%20-%2005AA075.pdf

Original Appeal target: CHF 4,224,790 (USD 3,258,360 or EUR 2,724,950) revised to CHF 3,770,246 (USD 2.9 million /EUR 2.43 million)

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)

Latest reports from Tajikistan:

<http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=167>

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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

Over the period of five months the response to the Central Asia regional appeal allowed the Red Crescent societies to proceed with planned activities. The initial appeal budget has been revised: its section under the programme title Coordination and implementation was reduced. This emerged from the fact that part of the regional delegation management costs in 2005 will be covered from the Federation Secretariat core budget which is a practice from previous years. The table below shows the revised appeal figures and current financial situation: income received (including June), operational expenses, and balance. Total income includes the balance from the year 2004, pledges that have been paid and hard pledges.

Programme title	Initial appeal budget (CHF)	Revised appeal budget (CHF)	Total income (CHF)	Revised appeal coverage %	Total expenditure (CHF)	Balance (CHF)
Health and care	1,706,912	1,706,912	986,368	58%	-225,550	760,818
Disaster management	1,054,606	1,054,606	1,034,065	98%	-243,832	790,233
Organizational development	650,174	650,174	749,537	115%	-119,951	629,586
Humanitarian values	99,996	99,996	70,572	71%	-15,804	54,768
Coordination and implementation	713,102	258,559	126,235	48.8%	-31,824	94,411
Totals	4,224,790	3,770,247	2,966,777	79%	-636,961	2,329,816

The available funds have been utilized to address vulnerabilities through health, disaster management, organizational development and humanitarian values programmes.

The events in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in spring have revealed serious challenges for the national Red Crescent societies as they seek to implement their humanitarian mission in time of conflicts. The change of government in Kyrgyzstan in March 2005 strained the social and economic situation in the country. For that reason Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent undertook additional activities - food distribution programme - in response to changed realities affecting the capacities of vulnerable population.

After the social unrest in Uzbekistan in May and the following events on the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border, Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent acted in close cooperation with the governmental emergency and health structures in assisting Uzbek refugees. Uzbekistan Red Crescent supported the affected region by providing medical supplies from stocks to state health authorities.

Although immediate medical and relief assistance was directed to the victims of the social calamities, access to people in need was limited.

Health and care

Objective: Central Asian communities' health has improved through increased awareness and skills in health prevention, first aid and social support to target groups.

Expected result 1: Central Asian national societies have contributed to the reduction of TB multi drug resistant (MDR) and chronic TB forms through promotion and support of the implementation of the Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) strategy.

The TB incidence rate in Kazakhstan reduced moderately in 2004 but the situation is complicated by the growing number of patients with MDR forms of TB, currently 5,000. In Kyrgyzstan the spread of TB infection has stabilized over last two-three years. The incidence and mortality rates show a tendency to decrease. This became

possible due to adoption of the national TB programme and introduction of the DOTS treatment strategy all over the country. Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent has its place in the TB Coordination Committee as a member of the education working group.

According to the data released by Ministry of Health the number of TB infected in Turkmenistan in 2004 grew nearly twofold in comparison to 2003. The TB epidemiological situation presents serious concern for the country. The DOTS treatment strategy has been adopted by the state authorities to control the spread of disease. The national programme of TB prevention and control for 2005-2009 was presented at the first meeting of the established Interdepartmental Coordination Committee in June. The programme stipulates the subsequent introduction of DOTS strategy in cooperation with international and non-governmental organizations on the whole territory of Turkmenistan by 2009. At present, only 42.5 % of the country is covered by the strategy. The Red Crescent society is a member of the Committee and the key partner of the Health Ministry on the strategy implementation.

The epidemiological situation with TB in Uzbekistan remains complicated though there was a slight decrease in the number of those infected and who have died of disease in 2004 comparing to previous year. It is worsened by degrading living standards, rise in births and deterioration of ecological conditions.

Table 1. Statistical data: number of TB patients and people died of TB¹

Countries	Number of sick people				Deaths of TB			
	Total		Per 100,000		Total		Per 100,000	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Kazakhstan	N/A	N/A	160.4	152.2	N/A	N/A	22.4	20.6
Kyrgyzstan	6,172	5,756	123.2	113.6	592	569	11.8	11.2
Turkmenistan	1,938	3,336	39.5	67.5	266	495	5.4	10.0
Uzbekistan	19,725	19,507	77.2	75.4	2,937	2,617	11.5	10.1

Red Crescent societies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan contribute to the reduction TB MDR and chronic TB forms by supervising the patients under post hospital treatment predisposed to interruption. Increasing the number of patients who completed the treatment course is the most effective way of prevention of chronic and MDR forms of TB.

Unlike the previous year the target group includes more sick people who returned to the treatment after an interruption. The national society visiting nurses continue to monitor drug intake and motivate the patients to continue the treatment by providing psychological support, distributing social support items and disseminating information about the disease.

The TB awareness is raised among TB patients, their relatives and general population. The ways of presenting the information vary between beneficiary groups – schoolchildren, students, adults - and include lectures, interviews, training sessions, interactive workshops, games etc. The printed materials are distributed by nurses to visualize the teaching process and provide the reference tool for the future.

¹ The data is available from the country health structures.

Table 2. The Red Crescent societies' TB prevention programme in figures

RC society of	No. of visiting nurses	No. of patients	Social support			No. of distributed printing materials	People covered with TB awareness activities
			Distributed food parcels/ hot meals	Distributed hygienic kits	Distributed vitamins		
Kazakhstan	23	373	950	1,528	1,242	6,121	9,354
Kyrgyzstan	10	453	750/ 12,600	N/A	2,460		25,974
Turkmenistan	5	624	733/ 33,220	1,623	1,623	6,000	9,298
Uzbekistan²	23	2,087	1,961	633	261	18,531	45,235
Total	61	3,537	4,394/ 45,820	3,784	5,586		89,861

Kazakhstan RC society runs the TB prevention programme on five sites. Additionally, a new project destined for MDR TB patients commenced in Almaty city in April. The project is covered from funds available outside of the annual appeal and aims at creating a model of Red Crescent intervention in DOTS-plus control programme.

Another new element introduced by the national society in April is a support group that unites people in the recovery stage and their relatives to resolve possible conflicts and help overcome communication barriers. This component is in its introduction phase.

In March Kazakhstan RC held a month campaign to mark the World TB Day. During roundtables in the regions RC staff discussed the issues of disease prevention, treatment, cooperation models and met with the National Centre for Healthy Lifestyle and the National TB Centre. Traditional drawing contests and panel games for children and radio contests for a broad audience were arranged as well.

Kyrgyzstan RC continued implementation of the programme on three sites. There is a plan to expand RC operations to the south regions of the country when another long-term funding cycle begins later this year.

The World TB Day campaign arranged by Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent included: a themed poster contest for the youth, a disco for schoolchildren, a race among cadets of the national military school, and a panel game among students. The campaign was highlighted on TV. In addition, the video footage about the work of the health nurses with patients and food parcels distribution was broadcast through TV news programmes in March. The TB programme coordinator voiced the role of the RC TB prevention programme on the radio.

The number of project sites covered by **Turkmenistan RC** remains unchanged. They are three cities on the territory that is part of the DOTS-based TB control programme and a TB hospital where the patients under intensive phase are treated. The analysis revealed that the number of defaulters among TB patients from the hospital decreased nearly twofold following the introduction of the additional nutritional support from the Red Crescent society.

Addressing the degrading situation with monitoring of drug intake in Ashgabad clinics the national society suggested the Ministry of Health to involve Red Crescent nurses in drugs distribution. For this purpose Turkmenistan RC intends to hire three additional staff in July which is expected to produce a positive effect on the project activities.

Over the reporting period the national society health programme participated in the RC actions dedicated to calendar events like World TB Day and Red Cross Red Crescent Day. A roundtable with state TB service and medical personnel from clinics was organized in Mary town. The schoolchildren in the regions were involved in 'think-tanks' on related topics, and volunteers assisted with distribution of thematic booklets in public transport.

² Uzbekistan RC visiting nurses do not provide direct observation of drug intake as this is the responsibility of state TB services.

The TB prevention programme is implemented by **Uzbekistan RC** on six project sites. Five sites are the same as the previous year while the new sixth site was included in January. The decision to replace a district previously covered with the RC programme was taken after consultations with state TB service. The new (Koshkuyr) district is characterized by a heavy TB incidence rate, low living status of the local population, poor awareness of basic hygiene and large number of defaulters.

The patients under RC observation actively participate in support group meetings, which help them to overcome fears and negative effects of stigma and discrimination.

Uzbekistan RC capacity to run effective programmes for the benefit of vulnerable populations became recognised by international organizations which resulted in a new project within the TB prevention programme outside of the annual appeal. This year the national society has expanded the social support activities to another six districts of Samarkand region. The project is funded by the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria and will be carried out in cooperation with the National DOTS Centre.

Raising awareness of TB issues the national society widely uses radio and TV to communicate the information to large numbers of community members. Radio is also exploited to reach people in public places like markets.

The drawing contest dedicated to World TB Day in March attracted children treated in TB clinics. The event was organized with support from the Project HOPE and the World Health Organization. In addition, in Tashkent city the national society arranged distribution of second-hand clothing among sick children from multichildren families.

Expected result 2: The vulnerability of communities towards the effects of emergencies has reduced via implementation of community based first aid programmes in the region.

The key programme efforts of the **Kazakhstan Red Crescent** society within the reporting period were focused on creation of an effective network of well-qualified trainers. This year the project runs in two areas – Karaganda and Semipalatinsk – where communities living in disaster prone zones are targeted. The programme design was also changed to include junior schoolchildren and their parents in road safety education. For this purpose four training programmes have been adapted to the needs of each beneficiary group.

The first aid trainers were involved in training for rapid response teams of the Red Crescent society. In addition, the national society made contracts with local oil enterprise, regional police and emergency departments on first aid training for personnel on a paid basis. Thus, the programme adds to building the capacity through fundraising opportunities.

The **Red Crescent society of Kyrgyzstan** runs the programme at three sites – Bishkek, Karabalta and Talas - through well-trained instructors. The road safety component is part of the training, especially those provided to children. The national society has made arrangements for the issue of books: on first aid for instructors; and on road safety rules for children. It has also developed a special programme for preschool children covering norms of safe behaviour at home and in the streets.

The programme of **Turkmenistan Red Crescent** on preventive health education and first aid skills building has been carried out in all regions of the country. It runs among senior schoolchildren, students, personnel of fire brigades, military commands. The programme instructors cooperate with the disaster management programme through joint training sessions for disaster response teams, communities and field exercises. The effectiveness of the education has been measured by means of testing which demonstrated the increase in knowledge of the covered population by 35 per cent.

Additionally, the national society operates in six bordering Afghanistan regions. Six instructors of the Red Crescent cover 42 settlements in the area to develop first aid skills and raise awareness on preventive health. In April the national society undertook a participatory rural appraisal in Lebap region aimed to study the needs of the communities and determine local preventive health priorities. It is anticipated that the results of the assessment – which are being processed - will allow measuring the impact of the programme on beneficiaries. However,

Turkmenistan RC already plans to expand the project to other bordering regions and include displaced persons in the target group.

The road safety component targeting preschool children and junior schoolchildren was introduced in Turkmenistan this year. The national society is currently involved in developing training modules and information materials for this category of beneficiaries.

Uzbekistan Red Crescent has been implementing the community-based first aid programme through 16 first aid posts as well as in organizations. In addition, the programme runs in three new selected districts of Bukhara region and two pilot districts of Tashkent city. On average, the increase in the level of knowledge of covered population was 39 per cent.

In Tashkent the programme focus is made on road safety that helps reduce vulnerability of children to traffic accidents. The analysis of the statistical data allowed the national society to choose the districts of the city with the highest burden of affected children and make them project targets. Currently, the national society develops the teaching materials and books on road safety that will be used during educational sessions in kindergartens.

Table 3. Community -based first aid programme activities.

January-May	Number of education sessions	Number of trained population	Number of volunteers among them
Kazakhstan	95	2,800	20
Kyrgyzstan	N/A	882	N/A
Turkmenistan	2,675	18,555	156
Uzbekistan	445	11,431	1,705
Total	3,215	33,668	1,881

Expected result 3: Marginalized groups have knowledge and skills on safe behaviour through peer education to prevent HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STD).

The HIV/AIDS prevention programme continues to be based on peer education approach. This year the Red Crescent national societies involve volunteers from at-risk groups to conduct peer education and build skills in safe behaviour among intravenous drug users (IDUs) and sex workers (SWs). Similar to previous years, the health educational activities are also carried out among marginal groups – youth, labour migrants, military personnel.

Table 4. HIV/AIDS prevention programme activities.

RC society of	Number of prepared trainers	Number of training sessions/discussions	Number of covered population	Number of distributed information materials	Number of distributed condoms	Number of public actions/ campaigns
Kazakhstan	218	1,179	10,539	6,855	5,051	35 actions – 4,700 people
Kyrgyzstan	5	389	6,624	2,100	N/A	N/A
Uzbekistan	170	79	1,600	74 RC information desks	4,024	7 actions – 1,095 people
Turkmenistan	N/A	218	6,023	2,550	N/A	6 actions - 703 people

Kazakhstan Red Crescent arranged programme monitoring to reflect the achievements, possible constraints and adjust accordingly. The programme is carried out at six sites focusing on dissemination of information about the disease, encouraging and building safe sexual behavior skills. The results of the monitoring show that distribution

of handout materials of anti-discriminating character on HIV/AIDS and condoms is an effective way of intervention to prevent the spread of infection.

The level of knowledge on HIV/AIDS among target groups covered with education sessions was tested during the monitoring process as well. Youth and sex workers appeared to possess the highest level of knowledge on the subject - 90 and 98 per cent accordingly – and both groups indicated that they apply the acquired skills in practice. The use of skills was also confirmed by 85 per cent of IDUs (disposable syringes) and 80 per cent of truck drivers and military men (condoms).

Two harm reduction centres run by the national society proceeded with its activities. During five months 35,398 syringes (86 per cent of them returned) and 4,018 condoms were distributed to IDUs. However, due to the ‘closed’ nature of this beneficiary group, most work is performed by outreach volunteers who contact the clients out of centres. This circumstance also creates difficulty to track the changes in the beneficiaries’ behaviour influenced by RC preventive measures.

Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent has been implementing the programme at eight sites. The dissemination activities have been carried out by trained volunteers among schoolchildren, students, soldiers, truck-drivers, taxi and shuttle-bus drivers, firemen and customs officers.

In May the Red Crescent society undertook a pilot express evaluation among IDUs in Chu region which is characterized by large number of drugs addicts. The outcomes of the evaluation will be used to plan the most effective ways of involvement to prevent HIV/AIDS and drugs abuse spread. Based on the results the national society will also consider opening the syringe exchange centres and hospices for IDUs and people living with HIV/AIDS.

The national society’s education activities for sex workers were run in the form of lectures and discussions in small groups accompanied with distribution of printed materials and condoms. In order to build contacts with the target group the Red Crescent cooperates with local partner organizations working with SW and AIDS Centres. The society also manages good partnerships with organizations supporting IDUs.

The national society participated in - and hosted - few public campaigns in Bishkek city, Osh and Issyk-Kul regions to mark the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day. It was also part of the international festival “Hip-Hop against AIDS” organized jointly by the Global Fund’s office and city AIDS Centre in Bishkek in April.

Additionally, TV and printed media were used to broadcast the issues of HIV/AIDS prevention in the regions – for instance the Red Crescent volunteers in Issyk-Kul region held a life quiz on local channel and through a news paper.

Uzbekistan Red Crescent has been focusing the HIV/AIDS prevention programme on two regions of the country – Namangan and Fergana – where the operations took place last year. The format of the programme remains the same: dissemination was carried out in schools, colleges, higher educational institutions and community administrative units. On request from local authorities the workshop on HIV/AIDS and sexually-transmitted diseases prevention was held in a penitentiary facility of Fergana city.

The work with IDUs and SWs continued through RC outreach volunteers of harm reduction centres. Over the reporting period 16,319 syringes were distributed (some 70 per cent were returned).

In April the Red Crescent society Namangan branch supported a karate championship jointly with regional authorities, the AIDS Centre and youth organizations. The sports action called “We choose life without drugs” attracted an audience of 350.

The same month the Fergana branch participated in telethon dedicated to AIDS and drug abuse prevention. A Red Crescent video on promoting tolerance towards infected people was shown during the programme as well.

The **Red Crescent society of Turkmenistan** proceeded with the programme activities according to the plan. The workshops, lectures and campaigns on prevention of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and drug abuse

were carried out among senior schoolchildren, working adults, military personnel and at risk groups at three sites. As in 2004, the national society reached sex workers and IDUs at the temporary detention facilities and police points.

In May the programme staff in Abadan town introduced new training sessions at schools. The testing sessions - based on a painting book designed in partnership with Peace Corps³ - received positive feedback and the book edition will be arranged by the national society in the near future.

In addition, the Red Crescent society is in the process of negotiating the agreement on a joint plan of action with Abadan juvenile delinquency inspection. The agreement stipulates the role of the society in work with unmanageable children and adolescents through arranging summer training camps and workshops on HIV/AIDS, drug abuse and STDs prevention.

Expected result 4: An effective social support system is organized to target HIV infected and people living with AIDS.

Organization of the social support system for HIV infected and people living with AIDS is a new component of the programme that started in 2005. To achieve this, the four national societies – with exception of Turkmenistan - are supposed to identify the pilot project sites and study the needs of the beneficiary group, train the RC nurses in psychological support and specifics of care for infected people, and arrange for support groups activities.

Over the period of five months little was done in this direction. Kazakhstan RC created a group of master-trainers comprising four people that will be responsible for organizing a system of social support. The trainers passed the Training of Trainers.

The Red Crescent society of Uzbekistan initiated the development of a workbook on home care and medico-social support for HIV infected and people living with AIDS.

Due to late arrival of funds, the national society of Kyrgyzstan postponed the planned activities for the second half of the year.

Disaster management

The main issues that continue to be a focus of the regional disaster management (DM) programme in 2005 are the following:

- Increasing disaster preparedness knowledge and skills among communities at high risk through implementing community based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programmes.
- Increasing disaster preparedness knowledge and skills among RC staff and volunteers through systematic training at all levels.
- Reducing disaster risk and strengthening the capacity of communities and local RC branches through implementing various mitigation projects.
- Raising disaster risk community awareness through development and dissemination of disaster preparedness (DP) materials (brochures, posters, information campaigns, billboards etc).
- Strengthening response capacity of the national societies at national and local level through:
 - a) pre-positioning DP stocks;
 - b) further developing, training and equipping national and branch disaster response teams; and
 - c) maintaining field fleet and communication facilities (radios).

Implementation of community-based disaster preparedness programmes demonstrates a clear rise in disaster awareness among communities. The community members take more initiative in DP activities approaching the RC branches with new ideas and projects described below. It is also the case in some places that community members

³ The agency of the US federal government devoted to world peace and friendship. (Website: <http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=Learn.whatiscpc.mission>)

become active RC volunteers. However, the national societies need to develop a systematic approach to retaining the volunteers.

It is evident that training provided by the national societies in the region meets the needs of staff and volunteers in terms of strengthening their DM capacity in preparing and responding to disasters (field training for disaster response teams, planning meetings etc).

The mitigation projects initiated and implemented by the Red Crescent societies contributed to reduction in vulnerability and disaster risk in project areas, which is recognized by local communities and authorities. However, the national societies need to improve their integrated approach to RC activities at all levels and conduct relevant assessment, especially during the planning phase, before designing the projects and staff / volunteer's training. The RC branch chairpersons and staff should develop systems of incentives for volunteers to ensure their retention and promotion.

Objective: Central Asian national societies and communities, living in high disaster risk areas, have increased their capacities to prepare for and respond on disasters.

Expected result 1: By the end of 2005, national society staff and volunteers have improved disaster management skills and their material base.

Activities to achieve this expected result progressed according to the plan with no major changes. The table below provides an overview of the situation with disaster management programme in the region:

Activities	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan
Disaster management workshops/ meetings	6 meetings and 8 workshops for RC staff, volunteers and partners to finalize RC DP plan (228 people participated) 28 branch workshops (900 people) and 1 zonal workshop Five joint coordination meetings with emergency, health, education structures and different NGOs at national and local levels	Planned for 2 nd half of the year	National workshop for all RC branches and local authorities (on future mitigation projects, CBDP, response teams training)	40 workshops for - sanitary teams - communities - branch staff
International training/meetings/ joint projects	Joint project with UNDP and Emergency Ministry on disaster risk management at community level is being implemented Participation in Central Asian disaster risk reduction meeting, organized by UN/ISDR ⁴ (International Strategy	Participation in a joint coordination meeting (UNDP, UNICEF, TICA, ICRC, UNHCR, WHO, DFID, UNFPA) on issues of potential humanitarian assistance to the south regions of Kyrgyzstan in response to the social unrest		

⁴ The UN/ISDR is the focal point in the UN System to promote links and synergies between, and the coordination of, disaster reduction activities in the socio-economic, humanitarian and development fields, as well as to support policy integration. (Website http://www.unisdr.org/eng/about_isdr/isdr-mission-objectives-eng.htm)

	for Disaster Reduction)			
Disaster response teams' (DRT) training/ field exercises	Planned for 2 nd half of the year	Planned for 2 nd half of the year	Regular training (twice a week) for four response teams at national and local levels Two joint field exercises with fire brigades on fire response and evacuation (first aid techniques)	Camp management exercise for six DRT
Exchange visits	1 exchange visit between the branches within the country to share project management issues (and improve the skills of a new DP officer in Northern Kazakhstan)	Postponed for 2 nd half of the year due to social unrest in the country in March	Planned for 2 nd half of the year	DP branch team visit to Tajikistan RC branches to share CBDP experience Hosting DP branch team from Tajikistan RC in two branches
Disaster awareness activities and printed materials	10 awareness campaigns at national and local levels devoted to the International Day for Civil Defence and RC Day 1,500 booklets on floods, fires and food poisoning were issued as part of CBDP project in Central Kazakhstan 12 DP stands were set up in medical and educational institutions covering four regions in Central Kazakhstan	An information campaign devoted to RC Day which included: - schoolchildren competition in first aid - competition among students on RC Fundamental principles - radio programmes on DP issues - dissemination of RC booklets in public places	10,000 posters on fire prevention and 4,000 posters on floods, landslides, earthquakes and debris flows were issued 10 DP banners on road safety were renewed and set up at the most high risk roads of Ashgabad city and regions	Development and issue of Earthquake Preparedness Manual jointly with governmental structures and Geology Institute; 7,000 copies were printed and distributed among RC branches and communities 110 sets of DP posters for RC branches' stands (visibility) were developed and made ready for distribution
Warehousing and fleet management	Warehouses and DP vehicle maintained regularly	Warehouses and DP vehicle maintained regularly	Warehouses and DP vehicle maintained regularly	Warehouses and DP vehicle maintained regularly
Disaster preparedness stocks	Planned for 2 nd half of the year	400 mattresses, 400 bed linen sets, 400 blankets, 400 first aid kits, 400 kitchen sets procured for Southern DP zone	55 mattresses , 55 bed linen sets, 55 blankets, 100 pillows additionally procured for 5 branches	500 mattresses , 436 bed linen sets, 360 blankets, 150 picks, 450 shovels procured and distributed evenly for six DP centres
Equipment for RRTs	Procured last year, plan to upgrade in 2006	Procured last year, plan to upgrade in 2006	Procured last year, plan to upgrade in 2006	Upgrade is planned for 2 nd half of the year
Disaster	Regularly maintained	Planned for 2006-07	Regularly maintained	Planned for 2006-07

information systems				
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The regional DM planning meeting took place in January 2005 and focused on a disaster management programme review of 2004. The agenda included discussions on: future mitigation projects and monitoring; working on effective response teams and their mission; information management (global visibility of Central Asia, information systems, video, printing materials, and World Disaster s Report); well-prepared national society - compliance with standards, partnership with other agencies, problems, solutions, trends; and integration of SPHERE training into other training sessions conducted in the region. A Plan of Action was developed to address these issues.

During the reporting period the regional DM coordinator participated in two global disaster management meetings and international Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) training.

To enable the national societies to respond immediately to localized disasters their disaster preparedness centres were provided with limited basic needs items (blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, jerry cans, detergents), including the Swedish RC contribution of 420 tonnes of second hand clothing for the region.

The regional delegation provided regular maintenance and upgrade of HF radio network throughout the region as part of communication enhancement in case of emergencies and disasters. As a result, the national societies' headquarters were enabled to improve daily and emergency communication with their respective disaster preparedness centres, neighbouring national societies and the regional delegation.



The RC food parcels allowed multi-children families in Kyrgyzstan to meet vital nutritional needs in time of instability

The national societies continue to run awareness activities in the region including production of printed materials. The quality of materials improved over the years and serves as a good basis for raising awareness to complement education and training. In 2005 the national societies keep the focus of the disaster awareness activities on road safety, at the same time addressing other typical natural disasters in the region such as floods, landslides, fire and etc.

Outside the planned activities **Kazakhstan RC** organized two small scale localized response operations. In winter the national society provided hot meals during one month to 22 most vulnerable people (single elderly, invalids) affected by consequences of an industrial accident in Karaganda region. The project was implemented by RC branch in cooperation with USAID who

supplied the beneficiaries with construction materials, warm dothing and heaters. Another project involved nutritional assistance to 51 people evacuated from the area in Kyzylorda region affected by floods.

Some additional activities took place in Kyrgyzstan in response to changed realities affecting the capacities of vulnerable population. The change of government in the country in March 2005 strained the social and economic situation. Addressing the growing vulnerability and after making a needs assessment **Kyrgyzstan RC** procured and distributed food parcels for 500 households – single elderly, veterans, invalids - who were not able to serve even basic food needs. At a later stage the national society developed and implemented a three-month food distribution programme for 800 multi-children families in three most affected areas of Osh and Djalal-Abad regions and Bishkek city.

The unrest in Andijan region of Uzbekistan in May caused more than 500 people to flee into neighbouring Kyrgyzstan. The Kyrgyzstan government accommodated the refugees in tents and provided them with basic items - water, food, blankets, electricity – as well as rendered medical assistance to the injured through local hospitals. Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent assisted those in camp with tents, blankets and first aid kits supporting the government's response.

Uzbekistan RC assisted the affected Andijan region by transferring medical supply and bandages from neighbouring DP warehouses in Fergana and Namagan to local state health department. There is a plan to assist most vulnerable people in seven bordering districts with used clothing and to replenish the stocks of Andijan branch with first aid kits and printed materials (on first aid, IHL). The materials will be further disseminated among the communities.

Expected result 2: By the end of 2005 targeted communities have community based disaster preparedness knowledge and skills to increase participation in mitigation activities.

Community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programmes - including community leaders' training, field exercises, establishing local disaster committees (LDC) at community level – remain the priority for the region, aiming at strengthening community's capacity to cope with local disasters.

Kazakhstan RC implemented eight CBDP projects in Central and Southern Kazakhstan involving more than 9,000 community members from urban and rural areas. The projects aimed at addressing vulnerability reduction to floods, fires and food poisoning – i.e. increasing awareness on poisonous mushrooms among campers in resort areas. As a result, 16 LDCs (128 people) were established launching development of community risk maps and disaster preparedness plans. During the reporting period, five community field exercises were conducted. .



The Kyrgyzstan RC field exercises help community members to consolidate the DP skills by practising

Kyrgyzstan RC implemented eleven CBDP projects in the following regions: three in Talas, one in Issyk-Kul, two in Chu and five in Naryn. The projects covered more than 13,000 community members; some 1,100 of them were trained as CBDP trainers. Following the training, 11 field exercises were conducted with community residents. The exercises reproduced different scenarios to work out the steps of response operation: rendering first aid, evacuation to a safer place, registration of evacuees, distribution of humanitarian aid etc.

The analysis of the previous CBDP projects in Osh and Djalal-Abad regions of Kyrgyzstan showed that communities got more interest in obtaining disaster preparedness and response skills and knowledge. The priority areas of training defined by beneficiaries represent the

following consequence: project design, disaster preparedness, first aid/DP, health, gender issues, youth development. Thus, it is essential to ensure the projects meet the needs of local communities and are based on thorough analysis.

Turkmenistan RC implemented two CBDP projects involving 21,000 community members. Four CBDP workshops were provided for them and two LDCs were established in two settlements. After mapping the community risks, the village residents organized river bank reinforcement with own resources and labour. The established LDCs conduct vulnerability and capacity assessments analyzing the real needs to be addressed in future community-based projects and the resources available or/and required.

Mitigation activities form another major component of the disaster management programme in the region. Over the reporting period, ten mitigation projects were implemented addressing hazards like floods, landslides, earthquakes, forest and domestic fires. The following table gives a summary of the implemented projects.

OPERATING NS	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	TYPE
Kazakhstan RC	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire protection in Akmola region: establishing mineralized forest shelter belts and cleaning the forest tracts from dead and burnt woods. • Safe water access in Karaganda region (Karazhal town): reducing water-borne diseases' risk of 900 people by supplying safe drinking water. • Tree planting in Semipalatinsk region: reducing the risk of 8,000 vulnerable people to lands desertification. • Resident buildings' reinforcement: repairing tumble-down resident buildings to reduce the potential threats to livelihood (collapsing of roofs, staircases, fundament caving, bald wires etc). As a result, 256 potential risks were liquidated.
Kyrgyzstan RC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mitigation activities are planned for the second half of the year.
Turkmenistan RC	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning of drainage collector in Akhal region (Tejen town): reducing the vulnerability of 15,000 local residents to water-borne diseases, flooding as well as to salinity and desertification of lands. Around 5.7 square km of the channel cleaned with the help of local authorities and community. • Protection of water wells in Abadan town: cleaning and constructing the protection belts around the water wells to reduce the vulnerability of 10,000 people to water-borne diseases. The project was implemented jointly with the health programme. • Water rescue project in Turkmenbashi: providing water rescue and first aid for affected people at the Caspian Sea resort.
Uzbekistan RC	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree planting in Djizak, Navoi and Samarkand regions: mitigating the impact of landslides by planting 30,000 fruit trees.
Total	10	

The projects are highly appreciated by the targeted population and government structures. There is also a tendency observed that some communities feel more confident about their capacities and take ownership of the projects with minimum support from RC.

In general, the national societies in the region worked on improving the quality of mitigation projects meeting the real needs of the communities and trying to keep the projects simple, effective and sustainable. However, the Red Crescent societies need greater understanding of needs based planning built on participatory and inclusive approach to project planning and implementation, which was clearly identified during 2003-2004 internal regional monitoring. With this in mind, the regional programme will look into the initiative to develop criteria for assessing sustainability of risk reduction projects and define the factors that may affect projects' sustainability in short-term, mid-term and long-term periods.

However, certain areas require improvement. They are: building focused approach to volunteer management in terms of their motivation and retention; taking a systematic approach in training the staff in weak branches or arranging exchange visits within the country/ region; keeping sustainability of acquired knowledge of CBDP-trained communities via refresher courses; making disaster response mechanisms clear and structured by testing the societies' DP and response plans, putting operational procedures in place, and developing regional approach to respond on large scale disasters.

Humanitarian Values

Objective: The Central Asian Red Crescent Societies have the capacity to influence a reduction in community discrimination and stigmatization.

The programme is being implemented in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The four national societies have information officers who through their daily work contribute to the development of the national societies' public relations as well as to promotion of adherence to main humanitarian values within their organizations and tolerance within communities in respective countries.

The unrest in Kyrgyzstan in March followed by protests in Uzbekistan in May triggered political instability and social uncertainty in both countries. Through that period, the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent proved its well developed capacity in communication and ability to work in time of emergency remaining one of the most reliable sources of accurate and prompt information in the country. In March and May Kyrgyzstan RC was quoted by the international news agencies such as BBC, Reuters and Radio Free Europe.

Expected result 1: Understanding of the Fundamental Principles and a tolerant attitude towards marginal groups among the Red Crescent staff, newly recruited volunteers and partners is developed.

In 2005, the Central Asia national societies (NS) continue to disseminate knowledge about the Movement, its parties and their mandates among the NS staff in branches, newly recruited volunteers and partner organizations mainly at regional level.

Within the framework of the national seminar in February youth leaders and volunteers of **Kazakhstan RC** from 18 branches obtained knowledge and skills essential for further promotion of principles and values in their communities.

In March Kazakhstan RC arranged a presentation of the projects aimed at reduction of vulnerability in the Aral Sea zone for its partners and local authorities in Kyzylorda city. The presentation was preambled with the induction on the Movement and its fundamental principles. The national society also organized seminars covering the same topics for local volunteers-journalists at branch level in Aktobe, Taldykorgan and Taraz cities.

In **Kyrgyzstan** two seminars on RCRC principles were held in March for students and teaching staff of two universities. About 100 people were introduced to the RCRC idea, mission and mandate.

Dissemination of principles and values through the **Turkmenistan RC's** youth centre was carried out in Ashgabat during the celebration of Red Cross/ Red Crescent Day. The "Mystery course" game was used as a tool of building the knowledge on the issue. Additionally, 500 posters on humanitarian principles were published and distributed among regional branches within the reporting period to use for visibility in public actions.

The RC newsletter has been produced monthly by Uzbekistan Red Crescent starting from April when a new information officer joined the national society. For the first half of the year another two newsletters were issued by Kazakhstan and one by Kyrgyzstan national societies. The first edition of the regional newsletter "Compass" is under production.

The attempt to improve web site maintenance was made by Kazakhstan RC who hired a part-time web master jointly with disaster management programme. The site has been updated monthly.

Expected result 2: Communities in Central Asia are equipped with essential knowledge to change attitude and behaviour towards people living with HIV/AIDS and TB as well as women and children affected by violence and gender discrimination.

The World Red Cross Red Crescent Day under the motto "Protecting Human Dignity" once again presented a good opportunity for the national societies to raise their profile on national level and draw attention of

collaborative parties and public to the needs of vulnerable communities in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

In **Kazakhstan**, the national society drew public attention to its proud history and run an exposition devoted to the Red Crescent nurses awarded with the Florence Nightingale Medal⁵ for their bravery and courage in time of World War II in the National Historical Museum.



The stands of Kazakhstan RC in the museum tell the proud history of nurses who saved lives during the World War II

In **Kyrgyzstan**, the national society invited its main partners - Ministry of Health, Education, Defence, Emergency, local non-governmental organizations, students and teaching staff from two major universities - to the celebration of the RCRC Day. The RC key programmes were presented to raise awareness of the parties involved in humanitarian work on the urgent needs of communities in the country.

In **Turkmenistan**, the Red Crescent arranged a charity concert which was aired on national TV.

The raised funds were given to orphanages and boarding schools of Ashgabad city.

In **Uzbekistan** the national society with participation of the Federation and ICRC held a briefing for press in Tashkent to update national

media on progress in key activities in the field of disaster mitigation, TB control and harm reduction linked to HIV prevention, International Humanitarian Law (IHL) dissemination.

The CA NS regularly send anti stigma and antidiscrimination message across communities in their respective countries through public actions and major national and local communication channels – press, TV and radio. The message is based on Anti-stigma Global Campaign concept and best practice from around the world.

Kazakhstan RC announced a contest among the most popular printing media, TV and radio outlets on the most profound research and best coverage on stigma related to HIV/AIDS. Over 20 articles and one TV programme have already been presented during the first six months of the contest. The competition will run throughout the year and finish with an awarding ceremony which is scheduled for World AIDS Day on 1 December.

Uzbekistan RC also involves the media to highlight the plight of people affected by HIV and TB. In May the NS awarded seven journalists who were winners of the media contest that started last year. Over the period, 110 appearances in press, TV and radio programmes highlighted key health issues, such as growing TB and HIV prevalence and the RC endeavors to reduce vulnerability in communities to the major infections and viruses.

The World TB Day traditionally draws attention of the state health institutions, local and international organizations to the Red Crescent activities in tuberculosis control. The WHO has already praised the model of social support to people with TB under Red Crescent supervision as efficient one. Based on findings of the study carried out in Central Asia last year the Federation Secretariat released a statement⁶ for global press with main focus on TB burden in the region and NS response.

⁵ The Florence Nightingale medal is given to people "who have distinguished themselves in times of peace or war". For Regulations for the Florence Nightingale medal please visit the web site at

<http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/iwpList74/83E272D69898E249C1256D8900510173>

⁶ To read the statement entitled "Red Cross Red Crescent caregivers playing vital role in TB control" please follow the link <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/pr05/2205.asp>

To mark the day, press-conferences were held in each national society. In addition, a story⁷ produced by the Kyrgyzstan RC and Federation information officers was released on the web on World TB Day in March. The timed opening of the new project of Kazakhstan Red Crescent aimed to control TB in Almaty city was also reported by national and city media.



Turkmenistan RC volunteers carry a poster, telling peers of the harm of cigarettes, that reads ‘To smoke or to live’

The growing level of cigarettes and ‘light’ drugs consumption among youth creates serious concern in Turkmenistan and other Central Asian countries. Starting anti-tobacco campaign across the country **Turkmenistan Red Crescent** young volunteers in Ashgabad went in the street to talk to people, mainly their peers, about the harm smoking and drug addiction cause.

A photo contest “Protecting Human Dignity” initiated by **Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent** and supported by the Federation was launched in the country on 1 June, Children’s Protection Day. Through the art of photography the contest aims to

reflect the needs of most vulnerable groups who due to stigma related to HIV and TB or poor living status struggle to get integrated into full social life.

Two groups were invited to present their photo essays: professional photographers who compete within the group, and street children being provided with care and shelter by Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent. After a basic training course young participants from the second group were given simple still cameras that were donated by the Kazakhstani company “Unique Trade”. The visual stories will be compiled into a photo gallery called “A day of my life” and exposed to attention of key organizations in charge of children related issues, diplomatic missions and international companies interested in supporting street children through Red Crescent social rehabilitation projects. The contest is planned to be finalized by 1 September.

The visit of the Federation President to Kyrgyzstan in May and his meeting with the Deputy Prime-Minister for social affairs gave a unique opportunity for Kyrgyzstan RC to boost its status in front of the interim Government and call for essential support to humanitarian mission of the national society. During the visit a briefing for national and international press was arranged. The report⁸ on the regional NS Presidents’ meeting in which the Federation President participated was posted on the Federation site.

Expected result 3: Community access to key Movement messages is improved as is Red Crescent dissemination and information capacity at branch level.

A pilot project was initiated in the region to improve the national societies’ communication capacity at branch level. The main objective of the project is to raise awareness of local communities on what the Red Cross Red Crescent does to meet the needs of most vulnerable on the grass root level and around the world. As the RC branches are limited in skills and knowledge about communication with media and public relations, three NS pilot branches were selected in respective counties to develop communication capacities. Individual training programme of selected candidates was designed within the project.

A common approach and a list of materials available for training on communication and public relations on branch level were discussed during the regular meeting of information officers from the Central Asia national societies

⁷ The story “TB in Central Asia: helping on the long road to recovery” may be found at the Federation web site at <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/05/05032301/>

⁸ To read the report named “Red Crescent responds to changing environment in Central Asia” please follow the link <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/News/05/05053101/>

and the Federation regional delegation in February. A training kit provided to the CA NS on CD comprises the Federation Communication Guide produced in 2000 and later translated into Russian.

Three training courses on individual basis have already been conducted for hired staff in pilot branches of Kazakhstan RC. There is an impact already observed - a number of stories and images from the field produced by young talented volunteers have been provided by Aktobe branch.

Responding to the request from three western branches with limited experience in public relations the Kazakhstan national society additionally held a training course on communication in that particular area.

In Uzbekistan, where the new information officer was hired in April, the decision to postpone the planned activity was taken. Currently, the selection process of candidates for communication work in branches is ongoing in Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent societies.

The trained staff of Kyrgyzstan RC branch in Jalal-Abad has been actively involved in communication with regional and national media when refugees from Uzbekistan fled the country and crossed the Kyrgyzstan border. The information received from the branch chairlady over the phone helped produce a prompt story "Concern over health of Uzbek refugees grows"⁹. The branch also hosted journalists who came on a media mission arranged by the Kyrgyzstan RC to report directly from the refugee camp.

The experience of Uzbekistan RC in response to the latest unrest in the country and communication in case of emergency will be analyzed during next regular meeting of the national societies' information officers.

Organizational development

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 2006, the Central Asian national societies have shifted to a new structure with clear division of governance and management functions, which ensures effective management of programmes and branches.

The national societies of Central Asia tend to achieve the identified goal to be more sustainable and effective through improving their membership scheme, identifying new roles and status of members and volunteers within governing bodies, developing appropriate qualifications and skills required for new governance members, clarifying the role of primary organizations etc.

The process of statutes revision and further division of governance and management functions was initiated in the Central Asia national societies in 2002. Since then, the process went a long way and was assisted by a consultant from within the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement. The next consultative mission is planned for the second half of the year 2005.

At the beginning of the year the regional Red Crescent societies' leadership and organizational development programme staff benefited from a workshop on human resources (HR) management organized by the regional delegation in Almaty in February.

Kazakhstan RC proceeded with the process in accordance with the plan of action. The work on clarification of the statutes continued; the issues were discussed during the regular meetings, executive council and statutory commission meetings conducted in April 2005. Additionally, a local lawyer has been contracted to review the draft statutes on compliance with local legislation.

⁹ The story was posted on the Federation web site at <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/05/05052001/>

After adoption of new statutes in November 2004 **Kyrgyzstan RC** prepared the documents for re-registration of the regional branches in accordance with the state legislation requirements and provided them to the governmental bodies for consideration.

A new structure of the Red Crescent society is being gradually established. During the presidium meeting in April further steps of the statutes implementation were discussed. Additionally, a draft version of the RC Strategy for 2005-2009 identifying the priorities of the national society was outlined during the meeting of the branch chairpersons in May.

The revision of statutes by **Turkmenistan RC** continued; the draft was being discussed among branches and corrected at the headquarters level. It is anticipated that it will be reviewed by the national society executive committee on the revision of statutes and presented at the congress meeting in October 2005.

The adoption of new statutes of **Uzbekistan RC** by the extraordinary congress postponed earlier for this year was delayed and the date has not been identified yet. This hampers further developments in the division process.

Expected result 2: By the end of 2005, effectiveness of the Central Asian national societies is increased through building capacities of their branches in the areas of financial management and fundraising, human resource management practice, logistics development and practical VCA skills.

The two-year branch development project was launched in 2004 and aims to enhance branch capacities by teaching practical VCA skills, developing clear registration system of members and volunteers to strengthen its work with communities, youth, members and volunteers.

During the reporting period, **Kazakhstan RC** initiated the development of a HR strategy. Devising job descriptions for national society staff at all levels and volunteers marked the first step in this direction.

In order to improve the financial management skills individual coaching was arranged by the RC headquarters for branch finance officers.

To raise the profile of the national society and promote its activities, round tables for public and local authorities were conducted by branch presidium members in Pavlodar region. As a result, the governmental bodies agreed to support RC activities in the field of health, disaster management and developing of local structure (work with communities, members, volunteers etc.).

A meeting for chairpersons of the national society west branches took place in Aktubinsk to allow an exchange of experience. The meeting agreed to organize a visit of more qualified programme staff of West-Kazakhstan region to two branches with new leadership for rendering practical support in their daily work.

Kyrgyzstan RC has been implementing the branch development project in Talas region since 2004. During the reporting period a set of documents for conducting a vulnerability and capacity assessment in Talas branch in the second half of the year was prepared by the headquarters.

The branch fundraising officer supported the actions that were organized to celebrate the Victory Day and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Day in May. An amount equal to 2,350 US Dollars was collected during the charity concerts, competitions, fairs of hand made items etc. The officer also participated in the international fundraising workshop in Crimea.

A draft HR management strategy has been designed by **Turkmenistan RC**. The document will be further introduced and discussed among branches. Attracting a consultant for the strategy upgrade/enhancement remains an opportunity. It is planned to adopt the HR strategy at the presidium meeting later this year.

Following a workshop on VCA for the Red Crescent staff in May a task force was created and a plan of action for 2005 was produced. The planned assessments in regional branches were postponed to the second half of the year.

Improving the membership system the national society branches started to implement the developed guidelines on clear registration of volunteers and members. Over the period 15,000 membership cards have been published and put on distribution.

The workshops on “Analysis, self-assessment and vulnerability assessment” were held in Karakalpakstan and Horezm regional branches of **Uzbekistan RC**. Applying the received knowledge the participants of the workshop - assisted by volunteers - conducted VCA in the selected communities in their areas. The received data will be analyzed and serve as a base for development of projects aimed at reducing vulnerability of local population.

Another planned operation - a workshop tailored to improve reporting and planning methods of the branch accountants in accordance with the latest legislation - was held by the national society within the reporting period.

There is an additional branch development project implemented by Uzbekistan Red Crescent with support from the Capacity Building Fund this year. The purpose of the project is to strengthen the potential of two national society regional organizations in Tashkent city and Djizak region. Until now the branch staff has been trained in vulnerability assessment, management and governance functions division and financial management through a number of workshops. At the same time the material resources have been reinforced with office equipment and furniture.

Expected result 3: By the end of 2005, the youth movement of the Central Asian national societies is actively involved in the activities of their national societies through performing clear role in other programmes (health, DM and humanitarian values) as well as effectively implementing projects to address needs of vulnerable youth.

The role and functions of youth and volunteers are increasing in light of forthcoming changes during the revision of statutes and structure process. It also suggests greater involvement of youth and volunteers in the process of decision making.

Kazakhstan RC held a national meeting of youth and volunteers in February. Basing on the analysis of the youth activities of the previous year and followed recommendations from the meeting the national society youth strategy paper and a plan of action for 2005 were outlined.

Over the reporting period seven district youth clubs have been established in Kostanay, Semipalatinsk and Uralsk.

To improve the level of professionalism among youth and volunteers 12 training sessions on HIV/AIDS were conducted for them in Almaty, Karaganda, Kokshetau, Semipalatinsk and West-Kazakhstan branches.

The Red Crescent headquarters and Almaty city branch organized several youth actions - competitions, concerts, fundraising events etc. - to mark the Red Cross/Red Crescent Day.

Kyrgyzstan RC youth centers have been actively involved in work with vulnerable youth (street children, children from poor families, disabled children) which required specific communication skills. To address that issue Chu regional youth centre hosted a seminar on communication with children who find themselves in a difficult situation.

A number of youth events were carried out by the national society to involve and retain volunteers. As a result of initiative from two youth centers which implied participation of authorities and various non-governmental organizations 30 volunteers were attracted. Other actions aiming also at HIV/AIDS prevention included charity concerts and discothèques at branch level.

The Red Cross/Red Crescent Day was widely celebrated in Bishkek where regional and city youth centers disseminated knowledge of the Movement history and Fundamental Principles among peers in the form of a panel game. 25 students from the teams participating in the event joined the Red Crescent.

To celebrate the Children’s Day Bishkek youth center organized an event with games and contests named “Happiness for children”. The action covered street children, disabled and children accommodated in

rehabilitation and social adaptation facilities. It was supported by sponsors and mass media. The event was highlighted on national TV and in printing media.

Turkmenistan RC developed and adopted a manual for youth centers on participatory rapid appraisal focused on work with children's community. Over the half of the year the number of RC youth circles at schools increased by seven. The circles participated in youth centers' events such as dissemination of International Humanitarian Law, health education (prevention of tobacco and drugs abuse), fundraising events, and attracting of volunteers.

An agreement was reached between Ashgabat and Abadan branches and the juvenile delinquency department on cooperation in its work with juveniles. Following the agreement a joint plan of action was designed.

Financial sustainability of the Balkan branch youth center was strengthened through a fundraising project that attracted funds sufficient for implementation of centre's activities during two months.

Uzbekistan RC youth held 327 different events on TB and HIV/AIDS prevention, i.e. contests, quizzes etc.

Within the framework of the global exchange programme, Buhara city branch volunteers conducted a joint fundraising action with volunteers from the UK. The collected money will be used for the organization of a charity event in an orphanage.

A new method of experience exchange between youth centers was practised by the national society under the initiative of the Internet Access and Training Programme (IATP)¹⁰. Youth and volunteers from six cities of Uzbekistan – Andijan, Fergana, Gulistan, Namangan, Nukus and Tashkent – took part in on-line discussions of vital youth problems.

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

Objective: Central Asia national societies improve their capacities to serve the most vulnerable through Federation coordination of partnerships within and outside the region, human resource development and technical support.

Expected result 1: By the end of 2005, dialogue and cooperation between partners within the region and beyond are improved.

To achieve better cooperation between partners a planning meeting - a concept last year – was to take place at the end of June. The aim of the meeting was to standardize and assist in coordinating all inputs into the national societies. It is jointly called by the regional delegations of the Federation and the ICRC, and all partner national societies in the region have been invited as observers.

Additionally, the Cooperation Agreement Strategy process was reintroduced at a presidents meeting that brought together the leadership of Central Asia Red Crescent societies in May. All parties have agreed to work in Tajikistan as a pilot project, where the secretary general/vice president will be shown tools to help him take control of the national society partnerships.

Netherlands Red Cross will take a major role in three countries of the region where the national societies run DIPECHO- funded programmes. This work has been coordinated closely to ensure that all disaster management projects complement each other. The regional delegation and Netherlands RC need to continue with the coordination process and attain the same level of complementarities for branch development projects.

Within the reporting period, assistance has been given by the Federation delegation to facilitating missions of Danish, Finnish and Netherlands RC in the region, as the support to Tajikistan RC becomes increasingly bilateral without turning uncoordinated.

¹⁰The Internet Access and Training Programme (IATP) is a programme of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the US Department of State. (Website <http://www.iatp.uz/?id=about&lang=en>)

Expected result 2: Human resource development is improved by providing knowledge sharing opportunities within and outside the region.

Limited activities in meeting this result have been undertaken during the first half of the year. The HR person in the Federation delegation has been supporting the Tsunami operation in the Federation Secretariat in Geneva.

Expected result 3: Coordinated support is provided in developing strategic directions in four core areas identified in the Federation's Strategy 2010.

The Federation delegation staff continues to provide technical information on the core areas to the national societies in the region. The delegation disaster management coordinator attended a global meeting and transmitted the information back to the national society programme specialists.

The regional delegation's health and care capacity has been virtually zero during the reporting period; the open position of the health delegate was to be filled in June. As a result of this recent inactivity a focus will take place in July on updating the national society health coordinators on the latest trends in health issues. There is a plan that the head of health department and health officer of the Federation Secretariat will attend a scheduled meeting along with the former delegate. The Humanitarian values programme enjoys limited technical support. The regional delegation, with the support of the Secretariat, will continue to work on this throughout 2005.

International Representation and Advocacy

Objective: By the end of 2005, the image, profile, visibility and advocacy capacity of Central Asian national societies has improved - through the support of the delegation in advocating at national, regional and international levels - 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: The profile of the five Central Asia national societies continues to increase through more focused work by the regional delegation with government authorities, national and international organisations and the media.

The support given to the national societies has remained mainly technical, including assistance for getting Central Asia national society stories on to the Federation website (more details can be found in Humanitarian values section). The support includes modest staff assistance, which allows national societies to chase the media in their respective countries and get Red Crescent messages out.

Expected result 2: The discussion on the Red Crescent Law continues in all five Central Asian Republics through regular dialogue with the respective governments.

The recent visit of the president of the International Federation to the region in May resulted in assurances from the government of Kyrgyzstan to enact appropriate legislation. Discussions on the matter continue in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.

Expected result 3: The Federation continues lobbying on the Status Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the International Federation in 2005.

The activity against this expected result during the reporting period is also connected to the recent visit of the International Federation's president. The president will address himself on behalf of the Federation to the head of state in Turkmenistan requesting a speedy resolution to the matter.

[Please click here to return to the title page and contact information](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.(s) selected: 05aa075

PROGRAMME:	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Emergency	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	0	106,400	0	0	0	0	106,400
Clothing & textiles	0	64,384	0	0	0	0	64,384
Food	321,000	0	0	0	0	0	321,000
Seeds & plants	0	67,530	0	0	0	0	67,530
Water & Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & first aid	46,320	7,680	0	0	0	0	54,000
Teaching materials	29,820	6,260	0	6,207	0	0	42,287
Utensils & tools	0	16,043	0	0	0	0	16,042
Other relief supplies	112,236	0	0	1,472	0	0	113,708
SUPPLIES	509,376	268,297	0	7,679	0	0	785,351
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computers & telecom	14,150	17,692	0	20,940	0	0	52,782
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENSES	14,150	17,692	0	20,940	0	0	52,782
Warehouse & Distribution	69,852	6,048	3,050	17,241	600	0	96,790
Transport & Vehicules	20,880	48,660	0	10,864	0	0	80,404
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	90,732	54,708	3,050	28,105	600	0	177,194
Programme Support	110,949	68,549	6,500	42,261	16,806	0	245,066
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	110,949	68,549	6,500	42,261	16,806	0	245,066
Personnel-delegates	146,400	0	0	180,400	177,200	0	504,000
Personnel-national staff	409,740	131,754	28,038	78,931	11,880	0	660,343
Consultants	12,700	0	0	768	1,800	0	15,268
PERSONNEL	568,840	131,754	28,038	260,099	190,880	0	1,179,611
W/shops & Training	158,170	298,056	16,850	160,480	0	0	633,556
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	158,170	298,056	16,850	160,480	0	0	633,556
Travel & related expenses	6,120	52,920	4,100	49,198	18,200	0	130,537
Information	173,100	107,501	35,198	54,272	23,000	0	393,070
Other General costs	75,476	55,129	6,260	27,140	9,072	0	173,076
GENERAL EXPENSES	254,696	215,550	45,558	130,610	50,272	0	696,684
TOTAL BUDGET:	1,706,913	1,054,606	99,996	650,174	258,558	0	3,770,246