

Programme Update 2007



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central Asia

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Programme Update No.4

This report covers the period of 01/01/2007 to 30/06/2007.

In a world of global challenges, continued poverty, inequity, and increasing vulnerability to disasters and disease, the International Federation with its global network, works to accomplish its Global Agenda, partnering with local community and civil society to prevent and alleviate human suffering from disasters, diseases and public health emergencies.



For vulnerable people suffering from tuberculosis food parcels from Red Crescent become a source of much needed nutritional support and an incentive to continue the treatment. Photo: Turkmenistan Red Crescent.

In brief

Programme Summary: From January through June 2007, four Central Asia National Societies – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent – with support from the regional representation¹ for Central Asia have worked to reduce vulnerabilities and build capacities towards the Global Agenda goals. Targeted programmes in health and care, disaster management, organizational development and humanitarian values areas progressed basically according to the plan with few changes outlined in the programme sections below.

National Societies from the region participated actively in the 7th European Regional Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference, which was held in Istanbul from 20-24 May. The Conference concluded with the adoption of the *Istanbul Commitments*, centred on the Conference's two main themes of health and care, and migration.

Political instability in Kyrgyzstan slowed down the Red Crescent programme implementation processes in spring. Also, there have been few developments in Turkmenistan linked to the change of leadership in the country. The government decided to establish a separate department for emergency situations, which before was under the Ministry for Defence. The separation will prove an opportunity for the Turkmenistan Red Crescent to collaborate more closely with the government in the disaster management sector. Meanwhile local authorities have increased their attention to Red Crescent community-based disaster preparedness and mitigation projects. At the same time, Turkmenistan Red Crescent faced financial restrictions in the beginning of the year that delayed planned activities, namely in the health and care programme.

¹ From 1 July 2007, the regional delegations have been renamed regional representations as part of the new operating model of the Federation Secretariat. The new name is used throughout this report.

Reshuffles have taken place in National Societies over the period. In Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan Red Crescent societies new health coordinators have been appointed, and though official handover was arranged for new staff it will apparently take time for them to get into their new jobs. New staff also joined the humanitarian values programme of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent societies, at branch and headquarters level respectively.

To date 66 per cent of the two-year budget for 2006-2007 has been covered. Some funds within the disaster management and health and care programmes have been carried over to 2007 following a donor funding cycle that is different from the appeal timeframe.

However, more funds are needed for disaster management to support the part of its 2007 budget that would expand the response capacity of Central Asia National Societies with disaster preparedness stocks for up to 5,000 families. Department for International Development (DfID) funds allocated this year for disaster management activities in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan can possibly develop into future long term commitment.

The community-based first aid (CBFA) project of the health and care programme was suspended because no funds came until late May when the Finnish Red Cross contribution arrived. Only the Turkmenistan Red Crescent managed to sustain CBFA in border areas of the country using funds remaining from 2006. The HIV project in Kyrgyzstan has been funded by the British Red Cross bilaterally since May.

Youth activities under the organizational development programme had to be strictly prioritized due to very limited funds received for this purpose so far. Poor response forced the humanitarian values programme to postpone some planned activities in the first half of 2007 as well.

Needs: Total 2006-2007 budget CHF 10,530,471 (USD 8,707,715 or EUR 6,416,830), out of which 66% covered. [Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

Related Emergency Appeal: Kyrgyzstan Earthquake, revised target CHF 657,055 (USD 540,725 or EUR 406,670). [Click here to go directly to see the latest Operations Update.](#)

No. of people we help: 311,614 people in four countries of Central Asia benefited directly from Federation supported programme interventions from January to June 2007.

Project title	Target population	Total number of people we help	% Women	% Men	% Children under the age 18	% Elderly
Health and care: TB control	TB patients	2,046				
	general public, patients' families	22,710				
Health and care: HIV and AIDS prevention	youth, military men, labour migrants, risk-groups	46,898				
Health and care: CBFA	rural communities in Turkmenistan	2,000				
Disaster management	communities in disaster prone areas, RC staff and volunteers	201,300	30	26	38	6
Humanitarian values	vulnerable communities served by RC, RC staff and volunteers, general public, media, government bodies	15,410	47	43	1	9
Organizational development	RC staff and volunteers	21,250	40	30	24	6
Total		311,614				

Our Partners: Between January and June the regional representation and National Societies worked with 131 partners.

Progress towards objectives- by sector

Health and care

Objective: Central Asia communities' health has improved through increased knowledge and skills in health prevention, first aid and nutritional and social support to most vulnerable groups.

Achievements:

At the 7th European Regional Conference held in Istanbul, National Societies committed firmly to scaling up their actions to address increasing and changing needs in health and care services caused by ageing population, migration, socio-economic crises, HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis. Strong focus was given to fighting stigmatization, and on involving marginalized people, youth and volunteers in the design and implementation of programmes.

During first half of the year Tuberculosis (TB) control interventions continued to address the needs of the most vulnerable groups in communities – single elderly, multi-children families, the homeless, alcohol and drug users, former prisoners – providing social and psychological support to people with TB and educating their families.

Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent revised its programme design to increase efficiency and effectiveness of the intervention: the charity canteen was closed and food is instead provided in parcels; nurses are to work more closely with TB facilities to get information on patients' visits and laboratory checks. The latter will allow a flexible schedule of home visits to patients that depend on treatment adherence.

Uzbekistan Red Crescent received allocations from the Global Fund for TB, Malaria and HIV and expanded its TB control programme with a primary focus on nutritional support to an additional 21 districts of the country. Kazakhstan Red Crescent also got the Global Fund's funding and will be increasing the outreach of its TB programme in the near future. Over time, an average 90 per cent treatment success rate was registered among patients under direct observation of treatment provided by Red Crescent nurses in the four countries. The default rate did not exceed one per cent.

In spring, all National Societies organized a number of public events devoted to World TB Day in cooperation with partners. Among them were drawing competitions for school children, running races for students, think-tanks and radio programmes.

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan official statistics reflects positive dynamics in TB morbidity and mortality, and the respective National Societies have contributed to this achievement. At the same time, the number of multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB and TB/HIV co-infection cases in these two countries is growing. On request from local authorities to support MDR patients in Tashkent, Uzbekistan Red Crescent will be expanding services to this beneficiary group soon. Kazakhstan Red Crescent served 133 MDR TB patients and 95 people with co-infection during the reporting period. There is a request from the state TB service to include MDR TB patients in Red Crescent beneficiary groups on all programme sites and the National Society is considering that option for future programming.

Table 1. Data on TB patients served by Red Crescent Societies disaggregated by sex and age.

National Society	Total # of TB patients served	% Women	% Men	% Children* under the age of 18	% Elderly*
Kazakhstan RC	725	33.5	66.5	-	-
Kyrgyzstan RC	433	34.1	65.9	3.7	1.1
Turkmenistan RC	339	16	84	1.5	1.5
Uzbekistan RC	549	37	63	2	31

* Children and elderly people have also been calculated as male or female beneficiaries.

The HIV and AIDS prevention activities of Red Crescent societies scaled up in all countries targeting those at highest risk of infection and its transmission – youth, military men, labour migrants, sex workers, and intravenous drug users (IDUs). Increase in the number of target population varies between countries from ten to 40 per cent. Peer education is used as the main approach to increase knowledge and promote safe behaviour.

Currently, all four National Societies in the region are working with hard-to-reach groups – sex workers and IDUs. Two of them – Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent societies – managed to significantly increase the number targeted and those who work as peer instructors.

Pre-tests conducted by National Societies show that military men and youth from rural areas have almost zero knowledge on HIV and its prevention. In Kyrgyzstan, 91 per cent of respondents in rural areas believe that HIV can be transmitted by sharing household items. The results of the programme monitoring in Kazakhstan show that military men and long-distance drivers are the least informed categories, while people living with HIV (PLHIV) respond correctly to 94 per cent of test questions. Behavioural changes in target groups have been revealed through focus group discussions arranged by Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan Red Crescent societies – 10-20 per cent increase in condom use was reported.

The regional representation supported participants from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent societies during training on behaviour change communication that was organized by British Red Cross for Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent programme staff in Bishkek. The training was a follow-up of a review of peer education programmes in these National Societies, conducted by British Red Cross earlier this year. The review report was shared with all National Societies in the region and its recommendations were discussed at the regional health meeting.

Harm reduction activities continued in three countries. In Uzbekistan a 75 per cent increase in the number of visits to Red Crescent harm reduction points was registered in comparison with the same period of 2006. This demonstrates that the National Society has managed to build a rapport with IDUs and that Red Crescent services are appreciated by target communities.

Table 2. Data on beneficiaries of HIV and AIDS programme disaggregated by sex.

National Society	Total # of people covered	% Women	% Men
Kazakhstan RC	20,950	42	58
Kyrgyzstan RC	9,941	40	60
Turkmenistan RC	6,697	45	55
Uzbekistan RC	9,310	50	50

The CBFA programme evaluation finished in January and the evaluation report was shared with the National Societies. Its findings and recommendations have been presented and thoroughly discussed at the regional health meeting. As a result, the National Societies have been reviewing the programme design and methodology to make the programme more responsive to existing needs of local communities. Thus, in 2007 the priority is given to health education on mother/child health, communicable diseases and hygiene promotion. First aid component is still incorporated in the programme but only basic skills will be taught. Also, programme activities will be centred in rural areas where the population has very limited access to professional medical care. However, direct work with beneficiaries was suspended because of no funds until late May when the donor contribution arrived.

Extensive negotiations between the Uzbekistan Red Crescent, the European Reference Centre for First Aid Education (EFAC) (<http://www.firstaidinaction.net/en/index.php>) and the regional representation resulted in the regional training of trainers on first aid in April and a follow-up monitoring of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent programmes, covered bilaterally by Spanish Red Cross. After the monitoring, European standard certificates were awarded to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan programmes. This is acknowledgement of the quality of

the programmes, which will help National Societies to fundraise in country through commercial first aid sessions.

Within the framework of the Operational Alliance in Kyrgyzstan an assessment of health issues and Red Crescent capacity to address them was carried out by a team of consultants in May. The report on the assessment mission recommends concentrating on three main areas of concern – TB, mother health and child health – and on building National Society staff technical and managerial capacities.

Constraints or challenges: Lack of clear funding perspectives presents a challenge for health programmes, particularly when long-term planning is pursued. Also, National Societies' knowledge and skills in the areas of behavioural change communication, mother and child healthcare, programme planning/management and monitoring and evaluation need to be improved and in this respect further technical support is absolutely required. More technical workshops and training sessions on the subjects will improve the quality of health programmes.

Disaster Management

Objective: The disaster preparedness and response capacities of vulnerable communities and Central Asia National Societies (CANS) have been increased through improved community based disaster preparedness (CBDP), community based mitigation projects and improved disaster management capacity in the region.

Achievements: By March the regional contingency plan (RCP) had been finalized. The RCP incorporates Central Asia risk maps in order to visualize typical disaster risks in the region. A number of follow up actions were also developed, including signing of two Memoranda of Understanding on mutual assistance between Central Asia National Societies in time of disaster and on regional disaster response team (RDRT) deployment planned for the second half of the year. The RCP was presented to the National Societies' leaderships at a president's meeting in June. Meanwhile, the five National Societies have also been revising their national contingency plans, applying standard operating procedures to the country context. In the second half of 2007 the plans will be tested by each Red Crescent at national level, while a regional simulation exercise will test the regional contingency plan.

Further steps have been made to developing the RDRT structure. The RDRT electronic database – a part of the RCP – was finalized and presented to disaster management staff of National Societies during a regional planning meeting in June. The list of team members comprises Red Crescent staff and volunteers and Federation regional and country representation personnel. The database makes part of a newly launched website of the regional representation (www.ifrc.kz) that publishes news and articles of the regional National Societies and the representation and important documents issued by the Federation.

A focus group has been set up of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan Red Crescent disaster management coordinators to develop steps on International Disaster Response Law advocacy in the countries. The Federation guidelines for domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance have been already translated and shared with National Societies.

About 80,000 community members have been involved by Red Crescent Societies in CBDP projects over six months. As a result, 66 local disaster committees are established, target community members received basic knowledge of first aid, developed risk maps and response plans for their communities and conducted simulation exercises.

Though National Societies took a systematic approach to planning and implementation of their CBDP projects, further monitoring of communities covered by these projects in previous years is an issue. To improve the situation, a focal point from Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent was appointed who by the end of the current year will develop an effective mechanism to follow up CBDP projects in post implementation phase, their impact and effectiveness. This mechanism should include standards and key indicators of successful work with communities and consequent steps to take for effective mobilisation of communities in time of disasters.

Another example of Red Crescent work with communities has been risk reduction. Risk reduction projects are closely related to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, particularly in ensuring that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation and its key

components: developing and committing resources for the implementation of risk management policies and programmes; and promoting community participation. In total, 15 mitigation projects have been carried out by National Societies over the period: four by Kazakhstan, six by Kyrgyzstan and five by Turkmenistan Red Crescent societies, with a focus on floods and landslides risk reduction, fire prevention and drinkable water supply. More than 100,000 community members benefit or are to benefit from these projects.

This year Turkmenistan Red Crescent's mitigation project in Karaul, implemented in 2005, won the nomination of *The best practice in the area of sustainable development in Central Asia* in the competition of community projects organized by United Nations Development Project (UNDP). The project reduced the vulnerability of the community to landslides and floods and provided extra arable lands thus contributing to sustainable livelihood development.

Raising awareness of potential risks is high on the agenda of Red Crescent involvement with communities. Awareness actions are held in close cooperation with government structures and other organizations. Examples of such cooperation this year are joint campaigns for schoolchildren by Uzbekistan Red Crescent, dissemination of disaster preparedness and first aid brochures and booklets among communities by Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent, round tables and television programmes arranged by Kazakhstan Red Crescent, and joint campaign with traffic police during the Global Road Safety Week by Turkmenistan Red Crescent.

As for the actual disaster response, more than 2,500 people affected by different small scale disasters (domestic fires, landslides) received food and non-food relief assistance from National Societies. This figure does not include beneficiaries of the earthquake response operation in Kyrgyzstan between January and June 2007. For that particular operation an emergency appeal was launched to assist 6,660 affected people with food, hygiene kits and construction materials (*For detailed information please see the latest Operations Update*).

Constraints or challenges:

- It is necessary to strengthen logistics skills and knowledge as most National Societies have new logistics officers and also taking into consideration changes in the Federation structure. It is planned to conduct a regional training on relief and logistics in the second half of 2007, involving facilitators from the Federation Secretariat headquarters and Dubai Logistics Unit.
- Motivation and retention of volunteers is still an issue for National Societies. It is necessary to develop new forms and methods to sustain the volunteer base for the programme.
- More focus should be paid to strengthening the material and technical base at branch level. This could be done through improved local fundraising.
- Monitoring systems should be strengthened for the programme as a whole. Regular monitoring of CBDP and mitigation projects is needed to better analyse their effectiveness and sustainability.

Organizational development

Objective: Capacities of Central Asia National Societies to provide services for vulnerable population have been strengthened through organizational development process and capacity building.

Achievements: National Societies made further steps towards division of governance and management functions. In March Kazakhstan Red Crescent held its General Assembly where the revised statutes and the strategic plan for 2007-2011 were adopted and the governing bodies elected. Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent's organizational development department monitored the implementation of the new statutes adopted last year through visits to branches and presented the results of the monitoring at the presidium meeting for further actions. Turkmenistan Red Crescent got its statutes approved by the Ministry of Justice in May and this opened a gateway for the National Society towards statutes implementation at all levels. Uzbekistan Red Crescent has already revised management structures of three regional and 40 district branches. A round table was organized for newly elected branch chairpersons in May where they discussed common issues of the branch level governance.

Kazakhstan Red Crescent headquarters and branches started developing a new human resources (HR) management model based on existing practices and recent training. Turkmenistan Red Crescent continues making improvements to its HR management system: selection criteria and job descriptions for all positions as well as a unified contract

form for staff are being developed. The programme for training and retraining of branch chairpersons and programme managers in headquarters is functioning. Following the HR management training, organized by the Federation last year, Uzbekistan Red Crescent introduced newly developed HR regulations. The structure of Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent headquarters was rearranged so as to encourage a more integrated approach to programming and better coordination of resources staying at the same time responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations. Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent committed itself to better planning and, starting from January, the society held training sessions on country plan development in all branches. As a result the National Society has a comprehensive annual work plan and budget for 2008 that incorporates contributions from branches. That was the first attempt to develop a country plan in the region and consequently many issues emerged, specifically those related to coordination with current partners.

Tajikistan Red Crescent has undergone a finance audit and received a report on the outcomes that has also been submitted to the Federation. A plan of action is being developed based on the results. The audit in Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent is scheduled for September.

National Societies in Central Asia clearly see that improving public fund-raising is essential. In May Uzbekistan Red Crescent launched a three-day SMS fund-raising action dedicated to the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day. Although the amount raised was not so large, it showed that being inventive about fund-raising gives opportunities not only to serve more people in need but also to improve the image and involve the wider public in Red Crescent activities. In the first half of 2007, Uzbekistan Red Crescent raised around 400,000 Swiss francs through membership fees, private donations, and paid services. Using its own funds, the National Society involved legal experts to develop the Red Crescent Law.

Red Crescent Youth in Central Asia made some progress towards strengthening regional integration and knowledge sharing. Uzbekistan Red Crescent Youth has revised approaches to volunteer recruitment and volunteer development. To reinforce the capacities of youth volunteer leaders the National Society also organized training on needs assessment and invited the Turkmenistan Red Crescent youth coordinator as facilitator. Following the training, Uzbekistan Youth held needs assessments in six regions. There were two regions bordering Turkmenistan among them and the results showed that needs of local youth are quite similar to those in the neighbouring country. Youth from both National Societies are currently discussing possible cooperation in addressing the needs.

Constraints or challenges: Monitoring and evaluation capacities in the National Societies require improvements. Consultations and training is needed to develop comprehensive monitoring and evaluation systems that would contribute to better programming and accountability.

The regional youth programme is under funded this year. Therefore, this the programme scaled down and Red Crescent Societies had to prioritize the most important activities. The situation is forcing National Societies to think seriously of diversifying the funding sources so as to become less dependent on external resources.

Humanitarian Values

Objectives: The Central Asian Red Crescent Societies have capacity to promote Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values, so as to avert discrimination and stigmatization in communities.

Achievements: In February the issue of the regional newsletter Compass covering 2006 was printed in Russian and English and distributed among all Central Asia National Societies, partner National Societies, Tajikistan representation and Federation Secretariat headquarters. The production was supported by the regional disaster management programme. In order to save funds and to include more Red Crescent activities in the region in the newsletter it was agreed that only one issue of Compass will be prepared in 2007 as well.

The production of seven distinctive cartoon videos on Fundamental Principles following the example of the German Red Cross Help-man cartoon, but capturing regional features, is underway in Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent. It will be finished in July–August for further education of Red Crescent staff and volunteers, partners and communities in the region.

The regional representation has been encouraging National Societies to contribute actively to the Federation's global information sources, which resulted in the increased number of publications from the region. Also, in April the web-site of the regional representation was launched with support from the disaster management programme (www.ifrc.kz). The web-site gives National Societies wider access to important regional information.

This year Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent published a detailed report about the Red Crescent annual fundraising decade, carried out in December 2006, in a national newspaper and on the National Society's web-site. Greater accountability and transparency help the Red Crescent Society to raise more money from year to year that are used to assist children in need.

Through close contacts with mass media and state agencies in all countries Central Asia National Societies improved their profile and image as open humanitarian organizations that counter intolerance and violence in communities. Media partners readily highlighted Red Crescent services to vulnerable groups, public events, and actions to celebrate calendar events including 8 May, the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day. Information officers in four National Societies participated in thematic training of other core programmes, also facilitating training and promoting humanitarian principles and values among newly hired staff and volunteers.

National Societies involved state agencies and other organizations in joint implementation of activities aimed to address vulnerability in target communities. For instance, Uzbekistan Red Crescent organized an action titled *Fighting TB – the objective of all and everybody* through Tashkent regional branch and in cooperation with the city administration, the youth movement, and a local NGO. Turkmenistan Red Crescent information officer worked with the department of state insurance, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Energy and Industry to increase their awareness of humanitarian principles and Red Crescent activities.

To date all five Central Asia National Societies - Tajikistan Red Crescent launched one in spring 2007 - maintain their own web-sites. This year Turkmenistan Red Crescent also plans to launch web-pages of its branches. Presentation kits of selected National Societies have been supplemented with video films on key operations and events: earthquake response operation in Kyrgyzstan, and the 70th anniversary of the Kazakhstan National Society.

Red Crescent provincial branches provided communities broader access to key Movement messages and activities at the grass-root level. Branch information colleagues supported programmes in organizing relevant actions on the spot and integrating non-discrimination and respect for diversity elements. Due to good relationships established by branch humanitarian values/information focal points with local mass media, Red Crescent activities were widely highlighted on TV and in printed press. Branch staff receives regular technical assistance and information essential for effective operations on the ground level from the Red Crescent headquarters, including Federation messages and consultations on effective implementation of the programme at the local level.

Constraints or challenges: Continuous lack of funds is still a constraint of the humanitarian values programme. Because of that in the first half of 2007 planned activities like a regional meeting, experience exchange visits, assessment of the level of awareness among relevant state agencies on the Movement role and National Society commitments were postponed. Also, due to funding problems, the salary support for branch National Society staff in four countries was cancelled. However, some planned activities have been successfully implemented thanks to support from the disaster management and health and care programmes both at regional and National Society level. It is planned that with the support of other core programmes the newsletter production and public relations training in National Societies will be carried out in the second half of the year.

The programme also faced staff turnover at National Society headquarters and branch level and newly hired staff should now be trained.

Coordination and Implementation

The regional representation continued the capacity building support to the National Societies through core programme areas. In March, Tajikistan Red Crescent held the third Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) meeting with the Federation, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Netherlands, Finnish and American Red Cross societies participating. After the meeting working groups have been following up the

issues requiring further consideration, namely volunteer policy, the fundraising strategy and the first aid programme.

The Operational Alliance process in the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan proceeded. In May, it was supported by the Federation through a consultancy mission to assess the health situation in the country and the capacity of Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent to address the issues of vulnerability in this area. A draft report on the mission findings and recommendations was provided in June. Following the assessment, the National Society is planning to conduct a meeting with donors and potential partners in September. It is expected that the meeting will result in a detailed plan of action for the Operational Alliance in Kyrgyzstan.

In June, the regional leadership meeting took place in Almaty. The forum provided space for National Societies' leaders, the regional and country representations and the ICRC to discuss, among other important issues, a follow-up to the European Conference commitments, preparations for the upcoming International Conference and the General Assembly and development of Red Cross Red Crescent laws.

The regional representation has also been supporting the National Societies in implementing the Federation-wide approach to planning in the region for 2008-2009. The representation team visited two National Societies and arranged intensive consultations and teleconferences with the other two in order to guide and coordinate country-level planning in line with the new Federation Planning and Appeal System. In late June the regional representation hosted a planning meeting for all Central Asia Red Crescent Societies, in cooperation with the ICRC.

There has been no progress with the Red Crescent law in Kyrgyzstan since the National Society declined the amendments proposed by the government to the original National Society's version. This autumn Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society plans to start another round of negotiations with the government.

Working in partnership

Strong working relationships with government ministries, the diplomatic community, the United Nations and other international organizations and humanitarian actors in the region is what the regional representation works towards.

In June, the regional representation disaster management coordinator met representatives of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), who intends to establish a regional office in Almaty (Kazakhstan). This set groundwork for future cooperation in terms of response coordination.

At country level, National Societies in the region coordinate TB prevention activities with Project HOPE and state TB medical facilities. Red Crescent societies are also members of the Country Coordination Mechanisms of the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. In the area of HIV prevention, National Societies cooperate with the United Nations Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS) and local NGOs active in this area.

The disaster management programme has good working relationships with emergency structures in each country. Other key partners are health and education ministries and their structures at national and local level. The programme collaborates with the ICRC; each Red Crescent also has partners in disaster management sector among UN agencies, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and local NGOs.

In organizational development, National Societies are strengthening their partnerships with government bodies, local and international NGOs: Ministry of Justice (Turkmenistan Red Crescent), Ministry of Education (Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan Red Crescent Youth), National Youth Movement (Uzbekistan Red Crescent), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Volunteers, the Global Fund, Age Net, Population Service International and more than 15 local NGOs. For instance, Turkmenistan Red Crescent worked closely with the Ministry of Justice to get its statutes approved and later initiated discussions on development and promotion of the Red Crescent Law.

National Societies also expand their partner network of state agencies and NGOs in the area of humanitarian values and public relations. In this way, Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent has 28 partners from government bodies, NGOs, and international organizations and 22 mass media partners from periodicals, television, radio and information agencies. Uzbekistan Red Crescent enlarged its volunteer network with journalists of two radio channels and a newspaper, and the national information agency. Partners contribute to the programme objectives by supporting Red Crescent press-conferences, publications on National Society operations, and promotion actions – like voluntary blood donation promotion campaign arranged by Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Target programmes of the Central Asia National Societies are aligned with the Global Agenda goals. Red Crescent TB control, HIV and AIDS prevention and CBFA programmes contribute to reducing the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies. National Societies are paying more attention to the issue of gender equity and work to increase men's involvement in health education, information and prevention activities. However, local traditions and the fact that men are often forced to migrate in search of jobs present a serious challenge for the Red Crescent efforts.

The disaster management programme works towards reducing the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters through its CDBP and mitigation projects, awareness activities and response operations. To ensure high quality of Red Crescent services a compulsory session on Sphere standards is included in National Societies' disaster response teams training. All Red Crescent staff and volunteers also sign the Code of Conduct. Special attention is given by Red Crescent societies to women in preparedness as one of the groups most vulnerable to disaster risks. Thus, women make up 65-70 per cent of target groups for CDBP projects.

The commitment to improve human resources management drives National Societies towards better and more advanced approach to capacity development – building capacities of the institution rather than individuals. Mobilization of local resources became critical for the Red Crescent societies as external funding tends to decrease and National Societies are trying new ways of public fund-raising. Finance development works toward strengthening mechanisms and systems within National Societies to report in a timely and accurate manner. Further development of effective financial systems is particularly important for Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan Red Crescent societies where improved accountability mechanisms will contribute to the success of the Operational Alliance and CAS respectively.

Increasing partners and communities' awareness of the Fundamental Principles, the Movement role and Red Crescent commitments, National Societies in the region contribute to averting discrimination and stigmatization in communities.

Looking Ahead

Following the successful 7th European Regional Conference, the regional representation will work closely with the National Societies of the region as they set about the implementation of the *Istanbul Commitments*.

Current health priorities will remain largely the same for the rest of 2007, However, National Societies plan to scale up HIV and TB programming in 2008-2009 to ensure wider coverage of people in need. They will also look into better integration between HIV and TB education to increase the efficiency of interventions.

Within the health and care more support is needed for Red Crescent branches to improve their communication and presentation skills in order to get better public recognition, revamp networking and cooperation with local partners and gain access to resources and donors at country level.

In the second half of the year the disaster management programme will be prioritising a follow-up of regional and national contingency plans, specifically:

- Dissemination of RCP among key partners (emergency ministry, UN, donors, ICRC);
- Fundraising activities to scale up disaster response stocks for more effective response at all levels;

- Approaching the governments of Central Asia on International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) to advocate on cross-border issues when response operations take place (staff and volunteers, stocks);
- Logistics and procurements (framework agreements, operation alliances);
- Regular maintenance of the RDRT electronic database and creation of database of national and branch disaster response team members;
- Developing National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) regulations in each National Society (NDRT deployment procedures)

Monitoring of the implementation of the Federation guidelines on developing national disaster preparedness and response mechanisms is also foreseen. Besides, standards and key indicators for CBDP sustainability and post implementation monitoring and improvements in coordination of activities with other stakeholders and key partners will be aimed for.

By now National Societies in Central Asia have adopted their revised statutes and entered the phase of implementation, as part of their capacity building effort. This phase will take about two years depending on peculiarities of each National Society and their countries. Throughout 2007, Red Crescent societies will continue establishing governance and management structures at all levels and clarifying their functions and principles of interaction. Further improvement of human resources management and new fund-raising approaches will be sought as well. In terms of finance development, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan Red Crescent need to follow the plan of action based on the result of external audits (still to happen Kyrgyzstan).

Strong regional partnerships between National Societies in organizational development will be encouraged and supported by the regional representation in 2007 and beyond. Initiatives to improve planning, performance management and accountability systems within National Societies need to be explored and pursued.

The priorities in the humanitarian values programme will be given to activities suspended earlier this year because of under funding, if the financial situation allows. Activities addressing discrimination and changing public behaviour through new and creative projects will guide plans for 2008-2009 to consolidate the progress in clarifying the true nature of humanitarian values. Addressing gender issues, including equity promotion and prevention of sexual and gender based violence, will be a new component of the programme in the coming two years.

For further information please contact:

**Regional Representation in Almaty: Mladen Milicevic, Acting Regional Representative,
Telephone: + 7 327 291 80 63; Fax: + 7 327 291 42 67; Email mladen.milicevic@ifrc.org**

**Europe Zone office, Budapest: Leon Prop, Deputy Head of Zone,
Telephone: + 36 1 248 3300; Fax: + 36 1 248 3322; Email: leon.prop@ifrc.org**

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA70001 - CENTRAL ASIA

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/01-2007/06
Budget Timeframe	2006/01-2007/12
Appeal	MAA70001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	3,669,898	4,431,103	280,667	1,972,845	175,957	10,530,471
B. Opening Balance	858,115	545,564	21,384	221,765	36,999	1,683,828
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>British Red Cross</i>	780,083	29,794	0	28,433	0	838,310
<i>Capacity Building Fund</i>				23,000		23,000
<i>DFID Partnership</i>	166,598	320,690	40,402	317,778	73,526	918,994
<i>ECHO</i>		125,687				125,687
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	85,020	8,080		135,043		228,143
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	104,000					104,000
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>	708,668	594,784		121,200		1,424,652
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>	80,872	371,299	42,925	302,043		797,139
C1. Cash contributions	1,925,242	1,450,334	83,327	927,497	73,526	4,459,925
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>British Red Cross</i>	-358,223	-6,754				-364,978
<i>DFID Partnership</i>		230,614				230,614
<i>ECHO</i>		-125,687				-125,687
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	57,167			39,768		96,935
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>	78,126	70,651	17,361	86,806		252,944
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	-222,931	168,823	17,361	126,574		89,828
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
<i>ECHO</i>		0				0
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>		0				0
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or		0				0
<u>Inkind Goods & Transport</u>						
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		90,858				90,858
<i>Other</i>		181,395				181,395
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>		409,114				409,114
C4. Inkind Goods & Transport		681,366				681,366
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Miscellaneous Income</i>	188			13	112	313
C6. Other Income	188			13	112	313
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	1,702,499	2,300,523	100,688	1,054,084	73,639	5,231,432
D. Total Funding = B + C	2,560,614	2,846,087	122,073	1,275,849	110,637	6,915,260

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	858,115	545,564	21,384	221,765	36,999	1,683,828
C. Income	1,702,499	2,300,523	100,688	1,054,084	73,639	5,231,432
E. Expenditure	-1,894,575	-2,044,320	-100,455	-918,864	-110,318	-5,068,532
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	666,040	801,767	21,618	356,984	319	1,846,728

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		3,669,898	4,431,103	280,667	1,972,845	175,957	10,530,471	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	21,795		15,146				15,146	6,649
Construction Materials	295,719		60,221		24,571		84,791	210,928
Clothing & textiles	1,260,244	4,692	586,953				591,645	668,599
Food	679,690	372,387	22,479				394,865	284,825
Water & Sanitation		425			602		1,027	-1,027
Medical & First Aid	110,732	45,764	9,550				55,314	55,418
Teaching Materials	37,910	6,754	8,060		5,065		19,879	18,030
Utensils & Tools	46,047	1,982	15,216				17,198	28,849
Other Supplies & Services	1,064,392	45,021	21,587		775		67,383	997,009
Total Supplies	3,516,529	477,025	739,212		31,013		1,247,249	2,269,280
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	6,300							6,300
Computers & Telecom	53,165	12,534	14,074	1,110	18,452		46,171	6,994
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	14,100		2,975	7,389	4,625		14,989	-889
Others Machinery & Equipment	1,950							1,950
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	75,515	12,534	17,050	8,499	23,077		61,160	14,355
Transport & Storage								
Storage	24,435	284	14,646		147		15,076	9,359
Distribution & Monitoring	291,480	12,540	162,154	585	4,060		179,339	112,141
Transport & Vehicle Costs	165,688	20,233	52,883	218	11,064	-2,032	82,367	83,321
Total Transport & Storage	481,603	33,056	229,683	803	15,271	-2,032	276,782	204,821
Personnel Expenditures								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	365,602	201,828	5,918		199,684	18,034	425,464	-59,862
Delegate Benefits	336,228							336,228
Regionally Deployed Staff	122	305	118	61	122	305	911	-789
National Staff	467,968	218,903	81,981	23,941	118,830	28,271	471,926	-3,958
National Society Staff	1,263,302	338,506	164,164	20,145	94,209	488	617,512	645,790
Consultants	121,100				5,941		5,941	115,159
Total Personnel Expenditures	2,554,321	759,541	252,182	44,147	418,786	47,098	1,521,754	1,032,568
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1,392,557	123,119	216,165	2,228	138,253	36,394	516,160	876,397
Total Workshops & Training	1,392,557	123,119	216,165	2,228	138,253	36,394	516,160	876,397
General Expenditure								
Travel	339,312	97,238	56,235	2,690	78,927	23,474	258,564	80,748
Information & Public Relation	816,243	103,654	221,103	28,253	58,997	4,226	416,233	400,010
Office Costs	307,558	15,617	16,202	1,147	45,461	12,467	90,894	216,664
Communications	87,172	14,918	13,772	3,278	22,531	10,446	64,945	22,227
Professional Fees	112,263	10,271	20		6,856		17,147	95,116
Financial Charges	54,645	52,830	36,945	3,056	2,968	-35,336	60,464	-5,819
Other General Expenses	103,127	57,867	43,966	2,673	14,859	10,238	129,604	-26,476
Total General Expenditure	1,820,321	352,396	388,243	41,098	230,600	25,514	1,037,850	782,470
Depreciation								
Depreciation					3,183		3,183	-3,183
Total Depreciation					3,183		3,183	-3,183
Program Support								
Program Support	689,625	123,147	120,304	6,530	59,726	7,171	316,878	372,747
Total Program Support	689,625	123,147	120,304	6,530	59,726	7,171	316,878	372,747
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		13,756	81,481	-2,850	-1,043	-3,827	87,516	-87,516
Total Operational Provisions		13,756	81,481	-2,850	-1,043	-3,827	87,516	-87,516

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
	A						B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		3,669,898	4,431,103	280,667	1,972,845	175,957	10,530,471	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	10,530,471	1,894,575	2,044,320	100,455	918,864	110,318	5,068,532	5,461,939
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,775,324	2,386,783	180,212	1,053,981	65,639	5,461,939	