

Annual report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Kyrgyzstan

MAAKG001

30/April/2011

This report covers the period 01/January/10 to 31/December/10.



Red Crescent volunteers cleaning the streets in village Akmanand affected by mudslides.
Photo: Kyrgyzstan RC

In brief

Programme outcome: The National Society programmes are aligned with the strategic aims of the Strategy 2020 to save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises; enable healthy and safe living; and promote social inclusion and culture of non-violence and peace. The capacity-building efforts are in line with the enabling action one to build strong National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Programmes summary: Within the disaster management programme the National Society built its own capacities to respond to emergencies by improving the staff and volunteers' knowledge and skills in disaster management, building emergency stocks, strengthening partnerships with public authorities and other stakeholders and establishing effective mechanisms for emergency response and recovery assistance. Also, the programme strengthened the coping capacities of the populations living in disaster prone areas by increasing community awareness on actions to take in a disaster situation. Schoolchildren act as key change agents and ensure wider dissemination of information. In order to facilitate improving the national legal base in case of the international disaster response the Red Crescent started promoting the International Disaster Response Laws (IDRL) in front of the government of Kyrgyzstan.

Over the year the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent received funds from the International Federation's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) thrice to provide humanitarian assistance to people affected by mudslides; in response to the civil unrest in the south of the country; and to support the National Society's community mobilization and monitoring activities during the immunization against poliomyelitis.

The Kyrgyz Red Crescent Society disseminated information about HIV among vulnerable youth, key populations at higher risk and general public. The tuberculosis prevention component targeted the most vulnerable people with tuberculosis (TB) on the continuation phase of treatment and who are likely to default, their family members and general population. The services provided included direct observation of treatment and psycho- social support to clients with TB, raising awareness of TB and promoting adherence to treatment. The community-base health and first aid (CBHFA) remained focused on health education and first aid sessions for rural communities. Pregnant women, women

of reproductive age and schoolchildren also improved their knowledge of reproductive health issues. The National Society also received a contribution to support Influenza A (H1N1) pandemic preparedness. This component implied raising awareness of the infection among the populations through relevant educational sessions and information campaigns.

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent general assembly re-elected the National Society's president for the second term and approved the new strategy 2010 - 2018. The external audit of 2008 accounts was completed and the recommendations were taken into account when revising the finance development action plan. The audit of 2009 accounts also started. The salary grading system that was developed in 2009 started to be gradually introduced by the National Society. The work continues on the further improvement of staff Job Descriptions and person specifications at all levels. Development of the system of motivation requires greater attention and support and will be looked at in 2011.

The humanitarian principles and values were promoted among vulnerable communities, decision-makers and the public. The position of the information officer had been vacant in the National Society until April 2010 and as a result some planned activities were not implemented during that period. The information and education centres and mobile teams that are part of the regional labour migration network continued rendering assistance to migrants and their families. Tolerance, respect for diversity and the need to oppose xenophobia, discrimination and social exclusion were promoted through public campaigns, information materials, publications in media sources, debates and round tables for partners and the general public.

The civil unrest that ousted the president of the country in spring and triggered further violence in the south of Kyrgyzstan negatively affected the programmes implementation for a number of reasons. These include significant government staff reshuffles, serious security concerns, population movement from project sites and involvement of key programme staff in response operations.

Financial situation: The total 2010 budget is CHF 1,228,249 of which CHF 1,006,413 (82 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 861,132 (86 per cent) of the funding. The disaster management programme budget was revised to accommodate excessive contribution.

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

See also:

[Mudslide DREF Operation Bulletin](#) (MDRKG005)

[Poliomyelitis DREF Operation Bulletin](#) (MDRKG006)

[Civil unrest Emergency Appeal](#) (MDRKG007EA)

No. of people we have reached: In total 117,974 people benefited directly from the secretariat-supported programme with the funds provided by the donors.

Programme/ project	Target group	Number of people reached	% of women	% of men
Disaster management	populations in disaster prone areas	42,130		
HIV prevention	young people	13,278		
	sex workers	372		
	IDUs	1,547		
	military men	1,780		
	track drivers	333		
	migrants	1,348		
	general population	7,500		
TB prevention	people with TB	1,358	37	63
	family members	4,368		
	general population	19,500		

CBHFA	rural communities, internal migrants	12,840	67	33
Principles and values	migrants, young people, vulnerable children, community leaders and partners	11,620		
Total:		117,974		

Our partners: The donors supporting the programmes multilaterally through the International Federation are the British, Finnish, Japanese, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies, the European Commission, and the UK's Department for International Development.

The total number of partnerships between the Federation regional representation, the National Society and community-based, national, government-based, international organizations, UN and developmental agencies exceeded 10.

Context

Violent unrest in early April ousted the president of the country. In the end of June a referendum on a new constitution restored powers to parliament and approved a caretaker president until 2011. A caretaker government run the country until parliamentary elections in October, when a new government was formed. However, there were repeated demonstrations by the political opposition that questioned the legitimacy of the new political establishment.

Following the 2010 spring civil unrest, internal violence flared up in southern Kyrgyzstan in June, causing a massive exodus of people from Osh and Jalal-Abad cities and the surrounding rural areas. In total, 92,000 people fled to Uzbekistan and stayed there until the situation had stabilized in Kyrgyzstan allowing them to return back. At that time the total number of internally displaced persons and returnees in Kyrgyzstan was estimated at 375,000 people.

The disruption caused by political instability in the country has had a devastating effect on the economy, particularly on trade, agriculture and services sectors. Destruction and damage to shops, markets and businesses, disruption of agricultural work, closure of borders and consequent loss of trade have all contributed to severe economic losses. According to the Ministry of Labour at least 20,000 jobs were lost in the south of Kyrgyzstan due to damage or loss of business assets and revenues. Direct losses of economic assets (especially shops and agricultural output) and job losses have had dire impact on household income levels and food security in particular.

The interim government requested international support to cope with the humanitarian consequences of the violence: Kyrgyz officials estimated it had caused some 71 million US Dollars worth of damage. The UN launched a Flash Appeal for Kyrgyzstan in June for urgent humanitarian support to address the needs of more than one million people. The Appeal was revised in July; the revision sought revised financial requirements of 96.4 million US Dollars.

The Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement response to the humanitarian crisis in Kyrgyzstan was prompt and comprehensive. The ICRC provided medical supplies to hospitals in and around Osh to help them cope with the large number of wounded people and launched a preliminary appeal. In mid-July the ICRC launched a full Budget Extension Appeal. The IFRC DREF allocated 171,625 Swiss francs to support the National Society's efforts to provide assistance at transit-points near the border with Uzbekistan. Complimentary to the ICRC Budget Extension appeal the IFRC supported the activities and operations of the National Society through IFRC emergency appeal on amount of 965,069 Swiss francs.

Kyrgyzstan faced the destructive effects of mudslides resulting from heavy rains in the south of the country in early June. The DREF allocated 100,044 Swiss francs to support the Kyrgyzstan Red

Crescent in delivering immediate assistance to affected people and to replenish the emergency stocks.

Following an outbreak of poliomyelitis in Tajikistan, the National Society engaged itself to assist the National Immunization Days in summer through community mobilization in Bishkek city with a focus on migrant communities and in Jalalabat province. The DREF allocated 81,579 Swiss francs to support the response provided by the Red Crescent Society.

Political turbulences and violence negatively affected the regular National Society programming. Challenges faced by the Red Crescent are detailed in respective programme sections of the report.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

Programme component 1: Disaster management planning

Component outcome: Improved ability to predict and plan for disasters to mitigate their impact on vulnerable communities, and respond to and effectively cope with their consequences.

Achievements:

Following the civil unrest in April the National Society reoriented the contingency planning work to conflict preparedness and participated in the elaboration of a civil unrest response plan coordinated by OCHA. From June, the UNHCR had had the cluster lead role in the conflict response operation in the country. The National Society took active part in the inter-cluster coordination mechanism activated by OCHA during this operation. The UN agencies, international, government and non-governmental organizations met weekly to harmonize the humanitarian assistance to the population affected by the crises. As a convener of the shelter and non-food items cluster the Red Crescent participated in the development of the country and regional inter-agency disaster preparedness and response plans.

Based on the lessons learned from 2010 response operations the National Society started elaborating a contingency plan with a civil unrest scenario. By the end of year the Red Crescent revised¹ and complemented the national disaster response/contingency plan (DR/CP). The National Society also contributed to the revision of the regional DR/CP of the Central Asia National Societies that started from the regional workshop organized for that purpose in November 2010.

Programme component 2: Organizational preparedness

Component outcome: Strengthened capacity of the National Society in disaster preparedness and response through increased skills and knowledge of Red Crescent staff and volunteers, strengthened financial and technical resources, effective mechanisms for emergency response and recovery assistance.

Achievements:

Following the regional disaster response team (RDRT) training in Kazakhstan in February the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent disseminated the knowledge further through the national and branch level DRT trainings that covered 77 people. The National Society database of NDRT members includes 146 trained staff and volunteers available for deployment. All seven branch DR teams were supplied with equipment (electricity generator, oil stove, thermos, portable torches etc.) and winter uniforms. Besides, the National Society replenished the emergency stocks of its five provincial branches -- used to respond to small-scale disasters at branch level -- with bedding and hygiene supplies for 1,000 people.

Training on psychosocial support targeted 46 staff and volunteers, who applied their new skills during the civil unrest response operation and in regular programmes. Over the year five programme staff

¹ The revision of the plan was supported by the German RC within the DIPECHO-VI project.

improved their knowledge and skills through international trainings and workshops in shelter (Tajikistan), CBDP (China), disaster risk reduction (Hungary), non-structure mitigation (Kazakhstan).

The National Society arranged a national workshop on promotion of International Disaster Response Laws (IDRL) to build a common understanding of IDRL among the Red Crescent and the emergency ministry staff from the provinces. As a follow-up the National Society completed a brief review of existing laws and their congruence with the IDRL guidelines that will be used as a base for further study of national legislation.

Programme component 3: Community preparedness/Disaster risk reduction

Component outcome: Strengthened capacities of communities in disaster-prone areas to respond to future disasters through community-based disaster preparedness and the implementation of mitigation projects.

Achievements: The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society carried out 20 community-based disaster preparedness projects in Chui, Issyk-Kul, Naryn and Talas provinces. In Chui rural communities were targeted while in other three provinces local disaster committees were formed in schools and children became agents of disaster preparedness education for their peers and parents in urban setting. Training for trainers-volunteers from the involved communities, leaders of LDCs and members of public response teams build knowledge in a range of issues, including in preparing and conducting participatory rapid assessment, in basic first-aid skills and rules of behaviour in disasters, risk maps and community response plans development in more than 600 community members. The knowledge was disseminated among 27,700 people. The schools also carried out non-structure seismic strengthening activities and rural communities were supplied with basic emergency equipment.

Because of security concerns related to civil unrest the National Society conducted only one disaster awareness campaign dedicated to the World Disasters Report launch and the World Disaster Risk Reduction Day in October 2010. The campaign included radio broadcasts, round tables with local authorities and relevant government bodies in the regions, and contests on disaster preparedness for more than 1,000 people.

Messages on disaster risks and behaviour rules in case of disasters were also spread through information materials – booklets, leaflets, posters. In total 23,500 pieces of informational materials were produced that are estimated to have reached no less than 94,000 people.

Within the framework of the winter preparedness project, the National Society reached 297 older people, people with disabilities and with low income with daily hot meals. Besides, the Red Crescent distributed coal to 703 families (around 4,000 people) from rural areas to ensure they had heating in winter period.

Programme component 4: Recovery

Component outcome: Increased capacity of the National Society to restore or improve pre-disaster living conditions and reduce the risk of future disasters.

Achievements: The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent included the standard presentation on early recovery session and reached more than 40 members of the disaster response teams at the national training. Early recovery elements, like restoring and strengthening livelihoods through skills and vocational training and distribution of shelter construction tool kits, and promoting tolerance, respect for diversity and non-discrimination, were included in response operations on mudslides and civil unrest in Osh and Jalalabat provinces.

Constraints or Challenges:

At branch level the implementation of the programme was challenged because the disaster management staff of all four branches covered by the programme resigned in the middle of last year and it took time until May 2010 to find replacement due to low salary support under the disaster management programme. Volatile security situation resulting from civil unrest and violence in the south of the country negatively affected the programme implementation. In particular, the recovery, shelter, IDRL, and climate change adaptation knowledge were not disseminated as planned and the

coverage of community based disaster preparedness projects was quite limited. Besides, no wide information campaigns were carried out.

Health and care

Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS
Component outcome 1: Vulnerability to HIV and its impact reduced through preventing further infection.
Component outcome 2: Vulnerability of PLHIV is decreased through expanding HIV support.
Component outcome 3: Vulnerability of PLHIV decreased through reducing HIV stigma and discrimination.
Component outcome 4: The capacity of the National Society to deliver and sustain scaled up HIV programmes strengthened.

Achievements:

The National Society implemented the HIV prevention programme in Bishkek, Takmak, Karakol, Karabalta, Balykchi, Cholponata, Naryn, Talas, Osh, Djalalabat and Batken cities. The target groups of the programme are sex workers (SWs), injecting drug users (IDUs), schoolchildren of 15-17 years and students residing in hostels, military personnel, truck drivers, labour migrants. Over the year 17,111 people were reached with peer education. The self support groups, organized in cooperation with the TB prevention programme, provided 300 people living with HIV with information on HIV/TB co-infection issues and prevention by Isoniazid.

Around 82 per cent of the targeted population aged 15-49 correctly identified ways of preventing sexual transmission of HIV and rejected major misconceptions about HIV transmission. Besides, 81 per cent of targeted SWs, IDUs, and military men who have sexual contacts with more than one partner or with irregular partners reported that they had always used condoms.

The Red Crescent harm reduction point in Karabalta exchanged syringes, distributed condoms, disseminated information materials, and provided consultations; outreach services were also available for SWs and IDUs. The point served 1,547 IDUs and 34 SWs; 254 of them were permanent clients. In addition, 76 people were targeted by outreach activities. About 7,256 syringes were distributed among the clients of the harm reduction points and 65 per cent of them were returned.

In line with the plan of trainings for the National Societies health staff a regional training on minimum standards of peer education was held in October. The training aimed at developing a better understanding of the standards and ability to apply them in HIV programming in Central Asia in order to strengthen the quality and relevance of services. Following the training the Kyrgyzstan RC made a plan of more consistent integration of peer education approaches in the country programme.

Staff of the HIV prevention programme also improved their skills at the regional training that aimed to develop advocacy skills in the area of TB and HIV prevention and the CBHFA. The National Society should prepare an advocacy plan till March 2011. The Red Crescent health coordinator attended the HIV-related proposal writing and project management training in France that will help to develop a long-term project proposal within the framework of the HIV Global Alliance country plan for 2011-2014.

The National Society drafted an HIV workplace policy, but it is still to be approved by the governing board.

Programme component 2: Tuberculosis
Component outcome 1: Clients with TB received support from the Red Crescent.
Component outcome 2: TB awareness increased and stigma associated with TB reduced through communication and social mobilization.
Component outcome 3: Participation of community members in the Red Crescent TB programming increased.

Achievements:

The National Society implemented the TB prevention programme in Bishkek, Karabalta, Osh, and Jalalabat cities and Alamedin and Karasuu districts. The programme expanded to Alamedin district of Chui province because of intense internal migration to the province.

The programme aims to improve treatment outcomes by encouraging treatment adherence in clients with TB. Over the year the National Society reached 1,358 clients with TB and visiting nurses provided direct observation of treatment (DOT) to 242 (18 percent) of them. DOT was provided only for those clients who are unable to come to clinics for medicines. Besides, beneficiaries under DOT received social support – food and hygienic parcels – on monthly basis while other clients received parcels only to stimulate timely check-ups. The treatment success rate among the clients under DOT, whose treatment outcomes were defined over the period, was 89.1 per cent. The default rate did not exceed five percent.

The Red Crescent Society managed to reach 19,500 people with key messages on TB transmission and early detection in secondary schools and organisations. The visiting nurses also referred people with suspicion of TB to health facilities for medical check-up. The monitoring revealed that 78 per cent of targeted population is aware about the signs and measures to prevent TB and that TB is curable.

A range of actions including sport and drawing competitions and round tables with stakeholders was organized to mark the World TB Day and covered 31,500 people. Dissemination of information/education/communication materials in public places, broadcasting of audio and video materials on radio and TV added to a total coverage of 60,000 people over the year.

The National Society attracted former beneficiaries of the programme who successfully completed the treatment and people reached with information activities as volunteers: 27 former beneficiaries and 150 schoolchildren volunteered in the TB service and helped visiting nurses. Former TB clients assisted with self-support groups activities that targeted 400 people.

Programme component 3: Community-based health and first aid
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Component outcome: Population health improved through diseases prevention, health promotion, trauma reduction and basic first-aid training.
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Achievements:

The National Society has been continuing community-based health and first-aid programme targeting rural population in Chui, Issyk-Kul, Naryn, Talas, Osh, Djalalabat provinces of the country and people living in the outskirts of the capital city of Bishkek. It focused on health education in the communities that have limited access to health services because of their remote location. The educational sessions were conducted by trained volunteers from the selected communities. The provided education contributed to raising awareness of the communicable diseases and ways to prevent them and of sexual/reproductive health, promoting hygiene practices and building first-aid skills. In total, 9,273 people were reached with educational sessions on the most common diseases. Among them 76 per cent knew symptoms of the most common diseases and prevention measures and 85 per cent had basic first-aid skills.

The National Society's campaign on prevention of Influenza A (HINI) pandemic reached 3,342 people with information on pandemic preparedness.

A number of workshops for staff were also arranged to promote the CBHFA *in Action* approaches in work with communities.

In the period of tense security resulted from political turbulences the Red Crescent Society provided training on first aid in emergencies to voluntary police groups targeting in total 255 people.

Constraints or Challenges

Political turbulences and civil unrest in spring and summer negatively affected the programme activities. The programme lost two thirds of HIV peer trainers and volunteers in Jalalabat province who left the country. Besides, public events were postponed because of security concerns and

restrictions on public actions. The TB prevention programme visiting nurses were unable to provide DOT in Osh and Jalalabat provinces after the violence as access to TB clients was restricted. Inner migration processes intensified and some beneficiaries moved to other provinces. However, the nurses promoted uninterrupted treatment in shelters for displaced people.

Organizational development/Capacity-building

Programme component 1: National Society organizational development and capacity building (headquarters and branches).
Component outcome 1: Management and governance effectively support the delivery of the National Society programming.
Component outcome 2: Increased capacity for programme development and management.
Component outcome 3: Volunteer capacity improved through relevant training and participation in core activities.

Achievements:

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent general assembly in March re-elected the Society's president for the second term. The forum also approved the National Society strategy 2010-2018 that was further disseminated in branches and among partners.

In the area of HR Management and Development significant progress has been made with a number of new HR policies and procedures being introduced and used that in turn are having a positive impact on the quality of HR practices within the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society. In particular, notable achievements are: establishment of a HR function; more organised system based on centralised HR function; standardised way of recruiting people that has led to a generally higher standard of people recruited; greater understanding of need for a strong, well functioning senior management team and Heads of Department; introduction of a well structured and effective induction and orientation package; progress with some partners in implementing the grading system; job descriptions being amended in response to events in June 2010.

Towards the end of 2010 the British Red Cross conducted a Mid-Term Review of the HR Development process. The full report is available in the Federation Office in Kyrgyzstan and in the Red Crescent Society upon request. The findings and recommendations of the report make 66 detailed recommendations that will need further consideration and discussion in order to inform the next phase of the programme. The priorities for consideration are: Development of an HR strategy; Increasing the diversity of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society; Establishment of a senior management team, development of organisational management culture and increased delegation; Introduction of an appropriate performance appraisal scheme; Agreement with partners on implementation of pay grading scheme; Additional provision of management and leadership development training.

The performance appraisal mechanism was systematized and unified through an introduction of a new appraisal system and training for staff. The staff, department, reward regulations, the volunteer policy and manual, and an agreement with volunteers were developed and approved by the end of the year.

The external audit of 2008 accounts was carried out and the audit report recommendations were taken in account when revising the action plan for finance development. The audit of 2009 accounts also started.

By the end of 2010, the NS with support from a consultant started a process of building good governance and developing stronger links between the governance and management and establishing of a regular and constructive dialogue between Governance and the rest of the Organisation. Indicators on a sliding scale were developed, and self-assessment was conducted; a plan of action was also developed. This work was guided by the findings and recommendations made in the 2008 Review that was conducted with facilitation from the Federation.

Constraints or Challenges

The most significant challenge faced by the National Society over the period became the response activities in time of the conflict. The situation required the highest attention to the safety issues of the human resources, new to the operational management. Besides, in the long term there is a need to address the social consequences of the conflict. The National Society has been looking at the ways to meet the identified needs including the development of the volunteer and staff strategy with the emphasis on acting in emergency situations.

The burden of the work on responding to the consequences of the conflict laid heavily on branch and headquarters staff of the National Society. The ongoing programmes were affected at both levels as the implementation of planned activities was delayed.

Principles and values

Programme component 1: Promotion of humanitarian principles and values

Component outcome: Fundamental principles and humanitarian values of the Movement promoted.

Achievements: Over 70 new Red Crescent volunteers in the headquarters and branches received knowledge about the fundamental principles and humanitarian values and used it while rendering humanitarian assistance and delivering services to vulnerable people, including the period during and after the civil unrest and ethnical clashes.

The Red Crescent actions reached partners and general public through campaigns on calendar dates – the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day, the World AIDS Day and others – and mass media sources. More than 30 media sources were engaged in highlighting activities of the Red Crescent.

The public campaign titled “Give happiness to children”, that run from October till the end of the year, aimed to support vulnerable children. Funds raised through the campaign allowed the National Society to reach 4,714 children with New Year presents.

Programme component 2: Operationalisation of fundamental principles and humanitarian values

Component outcome: Fundamental principles are integrated into National Society operational programmes.

Achievements: The principles and values, promoted during the training for volunteers in other core programmes like disaster management, social programme and health and care, were successfully applied in the National Society response operations including conflict prevention activities.

Over the period 20 volunteers, 12 chairpersons of residential area’s councils and 40 leaders from 10 new communities were trained and involved in the promotion of principles and values and Red Crescent services in the communities.

Programme component 3: Anti-discrimination and violence prevention

Component outcome: Ability of communities to combat discrimination, intolerance and violence and to promote respect for diversity enhanced.

Achievements: In 2010 the information and education centres for migrants and mobile teams of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent provided services to 5,384 people in 20 communities of internal migrants in Bishkek city and intending migrants in Jalalabad, Osh and Batken regions. The services included legal consultations, psychological support, HIV, TB, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and other diseases prevention, first-aid training, tracing services. Out of all reached 4,760 people got knowledge from training and consultations of the mobile teams’ trainers and 624 people were individually consulted during home visits and visits to the centres or through the hotline available for beneficiaries in Bishkek and Osh.

The panel games among four educational institutions of Osh city covered over 200 young people from intending migrants. Local authorities, civil society organisations, representatives of Kyrgyz diaspora in Novosibirsk, Russian Federation, and other partners attended the competition, which highlighted problems and needs of migrants and different aspects of migrants' life.

Anti-xenophobia and respect for diversity were highlighted during the debates in urban and rural areas. The final debates reached 250 community leaders, volunteers, and specialists of Osh city committee on migration and employment of population.

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent's advocacy group promoted migrants' rights through a number of bilateral and multilateral meetings with parliamentarians, experts on migration issues, sociologists, and civil society activists and round tables with stakeholders in Bishkek. Deputies of the parliament decided to consolidate joint efforts on solution of migration issues as well as to amend the existing legislation.

A concert for young people, organized in Bishkek to promote non-discrimination to people living with HIV, targeted about 1,000. PLHIV participated in the event.

Constraints or Challenges

There were certain delays in implementation of the migration activities through the information and education centre for migrants in Osh and the mobile teams in southern Kyrgyzstan. Because of civil unrest and violence in the country in April and June 2010 regular activities in the south of the country had to be suspended. Travelling of staff and volunteers, regular communication and training for beneficiaries were impossible during that period. Moreover, the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent staff were unable to participate in the planned regional events like the internal evaluation of the labour migration project and the first working groups meetings focusing on the development of guidelines on work with migrants.

Working in partnership

The National Society continues to coordinate the activities with members of the shelter cluster in the country, led currently by UNHCR, through regular meetings, information sharing and inter-agency contingency planning following the sector approach.

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent is also part of the project "Building sustainable community resilience through Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia" implemented by the consortium of the American, German and Netherlands Red Cross Societies, the central Asia Red Crescent Societies and IFRC and funded by DIPECHO in 2010-2011. In the consortium the Netherlands Red Cross is a lead agency and applicant and the IFRC has a designated role in ensuring overall coordination with other Red Cross/Red Crescent projects and harmonization of approaches in the areas of the IDRL promotion, contingency planning and RDRT training. The project targets southern provinces of the country – Osh, Jalalabat and Batken. In 2010 the German and American RC supported the Kyrgyzstan RC's national contingency planning, first aid education, community early warning system in case of floods, and volunteers management and fundraising.

Within the framework of bilateral cooperation with the Swedish Red Cross the National Society all 7 provincial branches and Bishkek city branch received 80 tonnes of second-hand clothes for their prepositioned emergency stocks and further distribution among the most vulnerable populations.

The ICRC expertise was also used to incorporate tracing and management of dead bodies in emergencies in the Red Crescent contingency planning and disaster management education, as well as in time of a civil unrest.

In addition, the Turkish Red Crescent assisted the National Society's capacity building efforts by expanding the emergency stock in the south of the country (Osh province). The American Red Cross supported the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society to elaborate a new long-term project starting in 2011 to prepare at-risk population centres to survive and thrive following a catastrophic earthquake within the framework of the Central Asia Urban Earthquake Preparedness Initiative.

The National Society is an active member of the country coordination mechanism on TB and HIV in the country and regularly participates in the inter-agency meetings discussing the developments in the national TB and HIV prevention programmes.

The Red Crescent Society maintains working relationships with international agencies like WHO, Project HOPE, Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, AIDS Foundation East-West, Soros Foundation, USAID, UNDP and UNICEF as well as local non-governmental organisations.

Data on TB and HIV is obtained from the health ministries, local authorities often facilitate access to communities and TB dispensaries provide the National Society with information about the target group of the programme.

The National Society is a member of the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Alliance on HIV. Within the GA HIV programme the American Red Cross allocated additional funds for the National Society to expand HIV prevention in the country by introducing social, legal and psychological services to PLHIV. For that purpose an information/consultancy centre started operating in Karabalta in July. The National Society TB prevention was bilaterally supported by the Spanish RC.

The transition programme of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent is supported by bilateral and multilateral partners within the Movement through various programmes. These are multilateral programmes like organizational development, HIV prevention that tested the salary grade, and disaster management, that allocated some funds on agreement with the donor. The bilateral programmes involved are the Netherlands Red Cross branch development and disaster preparedness programmes. There have also been separate contributions channelled by the British and German Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The key partners of the principles and values programme are the media, which play a great role in improving image of Red Crescent and changing behaviour towards vulnerable groups served by the National Society. The partnership with EC, IOM, UN family agencies, local NGOs and local authorities strengthened under the migration project through information sharing, participating in regional and national conferences and meetings.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The International Federation's secretariat and the National Society carried out routine monitoring of the programmes through field visits, observations, meetings with local authorities, community leaders, volunteers and beneficiaries, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, internal staff meetings with branch staff and progress reports. The progress and constraints of the programmes were discussed at working meetings at country and regional levels. During the summer the Red Crescent Society, among few other National Societies in Europe, collected and reported data for the Federation-wide reporting system² (FWRS). This was the FWRS pilot to test the FWRS guidance, training and data collection for the first time with National Societies to identify key challenges and lessons to better prepare the system for its full implementation.

Migration project staff of the National Society was encouraged to use of the Most Significant Change story method as a monitoring and evaluation tool of the project to assess the effect and identify unexpected changes at beneficiary level.

An evaluation of peer education and harm reduction components of the HIV prevention programme was conducted with support from the British Red Cross and the IFRC in February. In line with the recommendations of the evaluation report the programme introduced changes, focusing Red Crescent peer education on the most vulnerable population. To do so the National Society made mapping of target groups and services available for them in each province using approaches offered by the CBHFA *in Action*.

² The Federation-wide reporting system is a system for National Societies and the Secretariat to reliably monitor and report on key data on an annual basis to improve the performance and accountability of the Federation as a leading global actor in the humanitarian field.

As part of experience exchange migration coordinator of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent facilitated an induction course for migration staff of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society in December 2010 to assist in effective implementation of the migration project by that member of the regional migration network.

Promoting and respecting the fundamental principles and humanitarian values, including promotion of gender equity, are indispensable if the Red Cross Red Crescent is to be perceived as an impartial, neutral and independent actor, and furthermore to facilitate the Red Cross Red Crescent to carry out its mandate. The National Society does not take sides of diverging population groups and follows the principle of diversity in the composition of staff involved.

The SPHERE standards and the *Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief* guide the Red Crescent disaster response and the fundamental principles and the value of respect for dignity and equality are at all times promoted in disaster management awareness materials, during training and work with the communities. In disaster response, the distribution of assistance is made on the basis of impartiality. Actions are solely guided by needs, proportional to the degree of suffering and prioritized on the basis of urgency and vulnerability.

Looking ahead

The Red Crescent Society will continue the work on IDRL promotion and advocate for the revision of relevant legislation in cooperation with UN OCHA and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) offices for Central Asia. It will also support the government in the establishment of the national disaster risk reduction platform to ensure efficient response to major disasters.

Within the framework of the HIV Global Alliance the Red Crescent Society will be supported in preparing a country programme for 2011-2014. The focus of the programme will be on most at risk populations; approaches of the CBHFA *in Action* will be used to adjust the programme. There will also be a four-year programme plan on TB prevention developed, including scaled up activities on MDR-TB and TB/HIV co-infection prevention in 2012-2015. Relevant training of the National Society staff in planning, monitoring and reporting will be considered to improve the quality of programming and to ensure proper accountability. The advocacy component will be strengthened within all health programmes of the Kyrgyzstan RC as well as other National Societies in the region.

Due to civil and ethnical unrest humanitarian needs in the country dramatically grew up and the National Society, in order to be able to respond to the needs, will have to identify, mobilise, train and engage much more volunteers for all their activities. The unrest also highlighted some significant gaps in the skill-set and profile of volunteers and the need to develop and strengthen volunteering in emergencies in order to be able to respond in a more effective and efficient manner through volunteers whose profile, skills and availability match the response needs. A project aimed at volunteering in emergencies will be implemented in 2011 across the whole country with a special emphasis on south regions.

It is planned that the operational alliance will be created around the integrated programme increasing the impact and allowing long-term planning. The next important step in the introduction of the integrated programme approach is the piloting of the integrated programme at the branch level. The piloting would allow the National Society to see how the concept would work in reality and address possible shortcoming before rolling out the concept within the whole National Society. In May 2011, the Red Crescent Society will organize a partnership meeting to update all partners on achievements and challenges and to share further plans and needs.

The National Society is expected to move to a cash transfer system by mid 2011. The IFRC regional representation, country representative and Europe zone office have been developing a course of actions move forward together with the National Society finance/accounting department.

More attention will be paid to humanitarian diplomacy – one of the areas identified during the conflict as requiring further development.

The European Commission supported the migration project that has been extended till June 2011 without extra costs. The funds to continue and to strengthen the services provided by the Central Asian Red Crescent Labour Migration Network will continue to be sought at regional and national levels among stakeholders who have an interest in assisting migrants in the region.

All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to:

Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

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