

Mid-Year report



Kazakhstan

Appeal No. MAAKZ001

31 August 2010

This report covers the period 01/01/2010 to 30/06/2010.



During the regional training in Kazakhstan new members of the regional disaster response team practised an assessment after a disaster.

Photo: Kazakhstan Red Crescent

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.

Programme summary: The disaster management programme has strengthened the coping capacities of the populations living in disaster prone areas by increasing community awareness of actions to take in case of a disaster. The Kazakhstan Red Crescent continued to build its own capacities to respond to emergencies by improving the staff and volunteers' knowledge and skills in disaster management, building emergency stocks and maintaining technical resources, strengthening partnerships with public authorities and other stakeholders. The National Society provided assistance to people affected by small-scale disasters, namely domestic and wide fires, floods and severe weather conditions. Over the period the International Federation's disaster response mechanism was activated once to provide funds from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to the most vulnerable people affected by the floods in the southern Kazakhstan.

Within the HIV prevention programme, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society disseminated information about HIV among youth, key populations at a higher risk and general public. The peer to peer approach has been actively used in the programme to target the beneficiaries. The tuberculosis (TB) prevention programme targeted people with tuberculosis on the continuation phase of treatment, their family members and general population. The services provided include

direct observation of treatment, social support to the clients with TB and raising awareness of TB. The National Society has been also providing services for the people with multi-drug resistant forms of tuberculosis (MDR TB) and TB/HIV co-infection. There was no funding received for the National Society community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) programme. However, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent 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.

Following up the commitment to revise the statute and establish effective governance and management structures, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent developed amendments to the statute in line with the recommendations of the Joint Statute Commission received in 2009.

The IFRC regional human resources manager held a number of consultancy meetings with the National Society in regard to the HR management cycle and a plan of action on the improvement of human resources management systems have been agreed. Branch leaders scrutinised the plans at the meeting in May 2010 and expressed strong commitment to take part in the process of human resources management system development.

The position of information officer, who covers the principles and values programme, has been vacant in the National Society since 2009. As a result, there was no proper coordination and many planned activities were not implemented. Tolerance, respect for diversity and the need to oppose xenophobia, discrimination and social exclusion were promoted at public campaigns, information materials, publications in media sources, and during round tables for partners and the general public within the migration component. Astana, Almaty and Taldykorgan branches were the most active promoters. Three information and education centres for migrants and their families rendered social assistance to 1,500 labour migrants.

Financial situation: The total 2010 appeal budget is CHF 1,911,608 of which CHF 1,050,675 (55 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 618,214, 58 per cent versus funding.

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

See also Kazakhstan Floods [DREF Operation Bulletin](#) (MDRKZ003)

No. of people we have reached: In total, 80,648 people benefited directly from the secretariat-supported programme interventions during the reporting period with the funds provided by the donors.

Programme/ project	Target group	Number of people reached	% of women	% of men
Disaster management	Population in disaster prone areas –	16,500		
HIV prevention	Sub-total: From them:	25,823		
	• young people	12,507	51	49
	• sex workers	1,524	100	--
	• IDUs	2,930	31	69
	• military men	7,013	15	85
	• truck drivers	1,754	--	100
	• people with HIV	95	42	58
TB prevention	• Clients with TB	792	34	66
	• Family members	1,750		
	• General population	20,078		
CBHFA	Schoolchildren, students, labour migrants, refugees,	14,205	51	49

	families with many children			
Principles and values	Migrants	1,500		
Total		80,648		

Our partners: The donors supporting the programmes multilaterally through the International Federation are the British, Japanese, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies, Ely Lilly, the European Commission and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Also, the UK's Department for International Development (DfID) covers some regional level expenditures of the disaster management programme, mostly born in Kazakhstan.

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

Kazakhstan Red Crescent responded to 68 small-scale and one mid-scale emergencies in response to domestic and wide fires (39), floods (6) and severe weather conditions (24) in 8 regions of Kazakhstan. The International Federation's disaster response mechanism, DREF, has been activated to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to the most vulnerable people affected by the floods in the southern Kazakhstan in spring. In total, more than 6,540 disaster affected people received humanitarian aid from the National Society pre-positioned emergency stocks and through DREF operation (4,500 people).

The role of the state in the Kazakhstan economy has increased as the government continues to implement its Action Plan for 2009-10, which aims to stabilise the financial sector and to support the wider economy through the use of funds from the National Fund of the Republic of Kazakhstan (the sovereign oil wealth fund). This policy will be supported by a five-year industrial development and diversification plan, which began this year. The plan is designed to increase the diversity of the economy, improve labour productivity through investment in training, and make improvements to infrastructure. The country economic performance outside of industrial production which is primarily driven by mining, and is overwhelmingly composed of oil and gas, and agriculture has been weak. Although, there has been an increase in export revenue largely owing to higher global oil prices. Higher import duties related to the customs union between Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus in effect since January 1, 2010 are likely to raise prices for some goods.

In April 2010 the government of Kazakhstan decreased the period provided for migrants in residence permit. This concerns citizens of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. In the past citizens of these countries were allowed to stay in Kazakhstan up to 90 days following the registration, now the period is limited to 30 days. In this situation migrants have to cross the border every month to get a new entry (migration) card and consequently the registration. It is costly and occupies their working time. Thus, many migrants stay at their work places without prolonging the registration, which makes their status completely illegal.

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 to respond to and effectively cope with their consequences.

Achievements: Based on the lessons learned from the earlier and recent floods response operations the National Society revised the principal standard operating procedures of the disaster response plan.

Continuing the work on contingency planning the most feasible scenario of floods and issues of coordination during response were discussed among the Red Crescent branches in the eastern zone (sub-national) and Karaganda region branch. The structure of the contingency plans of the eastern and central zone disaster response centres were discussed at the national planning meeting in April.

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: The National Society is willing to maintain a regular pool of disaster responders. In February the Kazakhstan Red Crescent together with the IFRC regional representation hosted the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) training. Out of 17 representatives of the National Society participating in the course 10 were new members of the team. All participants shared their knowledge with colleagues during the training events and field exercises back in their regions. In total 10 trainings were conducted for 250 staff and volunteers at the regional branch level in Kazakhstan; the zone DRT training targeted 37 members including 18 new participants. The trained DRT members from Karaganda and South-Kazakhstan region branches demonstrated their knowledge and skills during the joint field exercises with the emergency ministry in response to severe winter weather, floods and influx of refugees. Members of the NDRT from the southern Kazakhstan effectively assisted Almaty region branch during the emergency relief operation following the floods in March-April.

Training of staff and volunteers in first psychological aid and psycho-social support has been also organised; over the period 19 new volunteers from branches of the central zone received relevant training.

Aiming to strengthen the mechanisms for effective emergency response and recovery assistance the Kazakhstan Red Crescent, with support from the IFRC regional representation and Geneva secretariat, elaborated the International Disaster Response Laws (IDRL) promotion project, which will bring up new law initiatives regarding adopted regulatory issues at country level and regional agreements focused on regional relief depot¹. The National Society makes efforts to obtain a written commitment from the government in support of the Red Crescent work.

To improve the Kazakhstan Red Crescent material capacity for disaster response, the emergency stocks of basic relief supplies in five branches has been partly replenished with mattresses, pillows, blankets, bed linen, buckets, and hygiene supplies. All branches except those in the west zone have emergency stocks additionally replenished with contributions from local donors.

With technical support from the regional representation the National Society finalised the inventory and technical services of all its radio stations (Almaty, Chymkent, Karaganda, Semey) and all relevant staff has refreshed their communication skills in case of an emergency.

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 implementation of

¹ In November 2007 in New Delhi the Ministers of Emergency of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan agreed to explore the idea of the establishment of a Central Asia Disaster Response and Risk Reduction Centre through a working group consisting of representatives from all countries and with the support from UN-OCHA. Several warehouses in the region would need to be affiliated to the regional centre.

mitigation projects.

Achievements: The majority of the community-based disaster preparedness projects were postponed to the second half of year due to the floods emergency response operation in Almaty region. Over the reporting period only Karaganda and Kokchetav branches targeted three urban and two rural communities. The projects included the establishment of local disaster committees (LDC), training, distribution of information materials and basic equipment to support their possible response actions as well as simulation exercises of the population. After relevant training for five committees and community members (44 people), all communities developed risk maps, 4 of them worked out response plans for their communities and conducted simulation exercises that reached more than 500 people. The trained people shared information on disaster preparedness among 2,040 community members.

Two disaster awareness campaigns were dedicated to the World Civil Defence Day and the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day. Thematic disaster awareness campaigns were held to prevent water accidents in winter, floods, domestic gas explosions, fires and the spread of tick encephalitis among broader communities in nine regions and in the capital city of Astana. The campaigns included television and radio broadcasts, round tables with local authorities and relevant government bodies in the regions, contests on disaster preparedness and photo exhibitions for 7,500 people. It is estimated that the disaster awareness campaigns and events reached around 211,200 people indirectly.

The National Societies used all events and actions to spread messages on disaster risks, and to promote risk reduction and Red Crescent activities among schoolchildren. The east zone branches were particularly active and arranged more than 40 information sessions on disaster preparedness and first aid topics for 160 school and college teachers and tutors in summer camps. Other actions included disaster preparedness trainings and sessions for about 4,760 schoolchildren and students, drawing and poster competitions and radio quizzes

Activities aimed at disaster risk reduction through structure and non-structure mitigation will be carried in the second half of the year in accordance with the plan.

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 Kazakhstan Red Crescent included standard presentation on early recovery in the obligatory disaster response team training last year. This year 37 members of the disaster response teams have been targeted with the early recovery session.

Also, Almaty region branch elaborated and started implementation of the agricultural recovery project in the areas affected by spring floods. The funds for the implementation of this project were raised from local donors.

Constraints or Challenges

There is a lack of disaster management staff in disaster prone regions, as currently, there are only four staff supported by the programme at the branch level within the current funding available.

The disaster management programme of the National Society was not fully covered and because of that the stocks were only partly replenished. Also, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society reported a slow-down or delay of activities in risk reduction and community based disaster preparedness (CBDP) in branches that were not involved in the DREF response operation because the headquarters staff was preoccupied with the operation. The process of response operations is needed to be revised in order to be able to provide the support to affected population in time.

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 has been implementing the HIV prevention programme in Almaty, Astana, Aktobe, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Taldykorgan cities. The target groups of the programme are sex workers (SWs), injecting drug users (IDUs), people living with HIV (PLHIV), clients of SWs – schoolchildren and students, military personnel, truck drivers. Peer education was provided by 280 peer educators through training, education and information sessions. The programme reached 1,524 SWs, 2,930 IDUs, and 32,235 people from general population. Dissemination of produced information materials and mass media campaigns were also part of the programme. Thus, 14,542 units of information/education materials (IEMs) have been distributed while 18 public actions covered 15,300 people.

Around 77 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, 86 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 two Red Crescent harm reduction points in Almaty and Ust-Kamenogorsk exchanged syringes, distributed condoms, disseminated information materials, and provided consultations; outreach services were also available for SWs and IDUs. The points were visited by 169 permanent clients and 229 people were targeted by out-reach activities. Out of 30,400 distributed syringes 55 per cent have been returned.

Constraints or Challenges

As less than half of the HIV programme budget was covered this year the scale of the activity has been reduced under the fourth outcome.

Programme component 2: Tuberculosis
Component outcome 1: Clients with TB received support from the Red Crescent.
Component outcome 2: TB referral among people living HIV increased.
Component outcome 3: TB awareness increased and stigma associated with TB/HIV reduced through advocacy, communication and social mobilisation.
Component outcome 4: Participation of community members in the Red Crescent TB programming increased.

Achievements: The National Society TB prevention programme tackles TB, MDR TB and TB/HIV co-infection. The Red Crescent has been serving clients with TB in Kokchetav, Semey and Ust-Kamenogorsk cities, clients with MDR TB – in Almaty, Kyzylorda and Taldykurgan – and clients with TB/HIV– in Almaty, Karaganda and Temirtau. The programme aims at improving treatment outcomes by encouraging treatment adherence. To achieve this, visiting nurses of the National Society provided programme beneficiaries with direct observation of treatment (DOT) in clinics, with education and social support (food parcels and hygiene kits). Clients with MDR TB also received psychological support from professional psychologists individually or in a group. The National Society reached 470 clients with TB and MDR TB over the period. Out of them 448 benefited from direct observation of

treatment and the treatment success rate among these beneficiaries was 97 per cent. Out of 185 served clients with MDR TB 30 completed the treatment; others continue and there was no default registered over the period.

The TB/HIV co-infection programming uses integrated approach comprising services provided by multi-disciplinary teams of social workers, psychologists and lawyers, social support and educational activities. In total, 320 clients with TB/HIV co-infection were targeted; default rate was about 1.1 per cent. Psychological support has also been rendered through five self-support groups facilitated by the clients of the programme volunteering in the Red Crescent TB service and a psychologist. Twenty one former beneficiaries of the programme volunteer in the Red Crescent TB services basically assisting with outreach work.

The Red Crescent visiting nurses and volunteers delivered information and education sessions in secondary schools and organisations. The sessions included information on tuberculosis symptoms, measures of prevention, treatment, and where to refer in case TB is suspected. The monitoring revealed that 85 per cent of targeted population was aware about the signs of TB, measures to prevent the disease and that TB is curable.

After the visit of the WHO core TB/HIV group to the Kazakhstan Red Crescent co-infection project site in May the National Society was invited to present the project at the international conference “Accelerating the implementation of collaborative TB/HIV activities in the WHO European Region” in July.

In June 2010 TB coordinator of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent and the IFRC regional health officer participated in the training on TB, MDR TB, HIV/TB related advocacy issues and the development of advocacy conception within health programmes held in Geneva.

Programme component 3: Community-based health and first aid

Component outcome: Communities empowered through skills to prevent the most frequent diseases, to provide care to newborns and basic first-aid.

Achievements: The human pandemic preparedness has been introduced to the programme as a new element. The activities run in three directions – communication and advocacy, planning for business continuity in case of pandemic (BCP) and trainings for staff and volunteers – and aimed to increase community preparedness and mitigate the impact of potential pandemic of Influenza A (H1N1) on excess morbidity and mortality. Last year during the pandemic Kazakhstan registered imported cases of Influenza A.

The human pandemic preparedness targeted schoolchildren, students, labour migrants, refugees, families having many children in Almaty, Astana and Pavlodar cities and reached 6,070 people. Besides, public actions with sessions and quizzes covered 7,588 people.

In order to strengthen the National Society preparedness personal protection equipment – masks, gloves and disinfectant gel – was procured and stockpiled in the headquarters and in branches. The protection equipment was also distributed among beneficiaries.

The Red Crescent Society held round table discussions about the importance of pandemic preparedness with key stakeholders in all three project sites. Information about influenza prevention measures was published in local newspapers and disseminated through two radio-programmes.

A range of public events dedicated to the World TB Day and the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day covered more than 500,000 people.

Constraints or Challenges

The National Society faces the problem related to support of institutional memory. The analysis of training needs among the health staff demonstrates that they require technical training and further

guidance in programme management (including planning, monitoring and reporting). Further steps on how to overcome the problem are detailed in the *Looking ahead* section of the report.

Organizational Development/Capacity Building

Programme component 1: National Society organisational development and capacity-building (headquarters and branches)
Component outcome 1: Effective governance and management structures.
Component outcome 2: Effective and transparent human resources management systems.
Component outcome 3: Proper and effective financial management in line with clear procedures, guidelines and leadership commitments.

Achievements: In February, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent participated in the Central Asia Leadership Forum meeting held in Ashgabat. The participants discussed the developments since the last year Leadership Forum, follow-up of the IFRC statutory meetings and preparations for the Red Cross Red Crescent European Conference, strengthening the legal base, a safer access framework, good partnership, coordination and harmonization, human resources management, financial development and planning for 2011-2012.

The Forum was followed by the workshop on Strategy 2020 realization. The Kazakhstan Red Crescent expressed its interest in receiving support in updating the National Society strategic plan. Also, leaders shared a vision that peer support from the neighbouring National Societies was highly appreciated due to a common language of communication and cultural similarities.

Following up the commitment to revise statute and establish effective governance and management structures, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent developed amendments to the statute in line with the recommendations of the Joint Statute Commission (the ICRC and the Federation) received last year. In May 2010, the governing board endorsed these amendments.

In order to refresh knowledge on statutory provisions, the structure and roles of governance and management, a seminar was organized for branch leaders in May. The issues around the interrelations between governance and management were clarified during the discussions and some branches shared study of reports as case studies. Also, branch leaders got a brief overview on the International Federation's *Strategy 2020* and discussed the ways it should be implemented in Kazakhstan.

A plan of action on HR management systems improvements have been agreed with the National Society after several consultancy meetings with the regional human resources manager. The plan foresees a study of the existing systems and procedures, recommendations on how to improve and eliminate the identified gaps involving a consultant.

Branch leaders exchanged their views on the plans of the National Society towards improvements in the HR management system at the May meeting. As an outcome of the meeting, branches expressed strong commitment to take part in the process of the HR management system development.

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent was supported in attracting resources from the Empress Shoken Fund in support of its plan of action on improvements in financial management by the end of July 2010. According to the plan the accounting system was procured and is being adapted to the needs of the National Society with support of a consultant. Finance management procedures have also been developed with expert assistance and due consideration to the recommendations of the National Society audit carried out in 2009.

Programme component 2: National Society legal base development
Component outcome: Red Crescent Law developed and promoted for adoption.

Achievements: In the beginning of the year the Kazakhstan Red Crescent involved the national institute for civil and legal research in a study of a model Red Crescent law to obtain comments on its correspondence with the local legislation; further support will be secured in drafting a law. The process has been going slow because of the institute's heavy workload and it is expected that the draft will be developed by the end of 2010.

Programme component 3: Volunteer promotion and development

Component outcome: Nationwide volunteer profile and youth services improved through strengthening volunteers centres and clubs.
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Achievements: Because there is no funding for this component, the National Society includes the related activities in other programmes supported bilaterally and multilaterally.

Constraints or Challenges:

The major constraint for governance and management component is that the National Society branches at the city and district levels do not see clear benefits of the division of the governance and management functions. To address the issue, the National Society held a session on the roles of both structures and involved National Society staff and members in open discussions.

Principles and values

Programme component 1: Promotion of humanitarian principles and values

Component outcome 1: Fundamental principles and humanitarian values of the Movement promoted.
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Component outcome 2: The image and profile of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society improved.
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Achievements:

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent continued to promote principles and values through public campaigns, round-table meetings and mass media sources. Thus, the National Society's Almaty branch promoted the principles and values among 200 students, teachers and representatives of local authorities during the celebrations on the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day in the medical college. Another public campaign was organized together with the central state museum on the International Child Protection Day; 10 children of migrants have been involved in the campaign.

To improve its image and profile the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society has maintained the flow of publicity – including press-releases, photographs, and video footage – with the international and national media: 35 publications about Red Crescent activities and humanitarian principles and values appeared on radio, TV and in printed periodicals at local and national levels.

The Red Crescent staff and volunteers strengthened cooperation with public organizations and state authorities through round tables advocating for non-discrimination, respect for diversity and anti-xenophobia. Two round-tables on problems and needs of labour migrants were conducted for partners in Almaty and Astana that gathered both 27 representatives of state structures, NGOs and beneficiaries.

Programme component 2: Operationalisation of fundamental principles and humanitarian values
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Component outcome: Fundamental principles and humanitarian values are integrated into National Society operational programmes.

Achievements: Continuous cooperation with other core programmes and integration of diversity and non-discrimination elements and principles is proven by the presence of those elements in all Red Crescent activities and services. In particular, the principles guide the distribution of humanitarian assistance, the National Society attracts peers and volunteers from beneficiaries like PLHIV, migrants

and others. All staff of the National Society gained knowledge of principles and values and understands the necessity to involve vulnerable people in the Red Crescent programmes at planning, implementation and monitoring stages.

The number of volunteers from labour migrants who are trained on principles and values and how to distribute information about the Red Crescent services, reaching migrants as peers at their work places, has increased from 20 in the end of 2009 to 35 in June 2010.

Programme component 3: Anti-discrimination and violence prevention

Component outcome 1: Ability of communities to combat discrimination, intolerance and violence and to promote respect for diversity enhanced.

Component outcome 2: Understanding of the necessity to prevent and fight sexual and gender-based violence within communities increased.

Achievements:

Three information and education centres established by the Kazakhstan Red Crescent under the European Commission supported project in the capital city of Astana, Almaty city and Taldykorgan town (Almaty region) continue to provide services to labour migrants and their families. The centres served about 1,500 irregular migrants from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. About 800 most vulnerable from them received humanitarian assistance in kind of food parcels and hot meals, bedding, clothes and first-aid kits. Others were trained on first aid, HIV, TB and other diseases prevention and consulted on legal, social and psychological issues.

Over the first six months Almaty, Astana and Taldykorgan Red Crescent branches held 7 information campaigns involving community leaders, state agencies, commercial and public organizations to tackle discrimination, xenophobia and social exclusion and to promote respect for diversity. Mass media has been actively attracted to voice the needs of marginalized groups through articles and television blocks. Messages on gender-based violence and discrimination have been spread as part of the National Society's promotion activities within the migration project.

Constraints or Challenges:

The position of the information officer in the National Society, who covers the principles and values programme, has been vacant² since the beginning of 2009. As a result, there was no proper coordination and many planned activities beyond migration, including gender-based violence training, principles and values training, or information support for the society, were not implemented.

The starting phase of the information and education centres for migrants took longer than planned in 2009. Due to this reason the regional labour migration network development was delayed till the end of 2009 and continued in the first half of 2010, when each member was ready to present needs and suggestions to other partners within the network. Consequently, some activities like the internal evaluation and the regional information campaign have been also delayed.

Working in partnership

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent maintains good working relationships with the government bodies, local authorities, community and non-governmental organizations and media.

To enhance cooperation in disaster response the National Society signed an agreement with the emergency ministry in 2001 which is regularly re-signed. The Red Crescent Society maintains partnerships in the disaster management sector with UN agencies and is involved in UN and interagency training events and workshops. The National Society sustains close links with the diplomatic community in Almaty on disaster preparedness facilitated by the USAID.

Community-based disaster preparedness activities and disaster preparedness and first-aid education among schoolchildren are carried out in cooperation with the Netherlands Red Cross. The activities

² The position was filled only in July 2010.

are 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 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 RCRC projects and harmonization of approaches in the areas of the International Disaster Response Laws (IDRL) promotion, contingency planning and RDRT training. Besides, the Red Crescent has recently engaged with the American Red Cross into the urban earthquake preparedness initiative that is focusing on earthquake preparedness in Almaty.

Within the framework of bilateral cooperation with the Swedish Red Cross the National Society 12 regional branches and Almaty city branch received 260 tonnes of second-hand clothes for their pre-positioned emergency stocks and further distribution among the most vulnerable populations.

The National Society is an active member of the country coordination mechanism on TB in the country and regularly participates in the inter-agency meetings discussing the developments in the national TB programme. The Kazakhstan Red Crescent has secured funding for information, education, communication mobilization activities in TB prevention all over the country and social support to TB clients in four sites as a sub-recipient of the grant of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for 2008-2010.

The National Society is a member of the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Alliance on HIV. Within the framework of the HIV Global Alliance programme the American Red Cross allocated additional funds for the National Society to expand HIV prevention in the country by adding a new target group and increasing the range of Red Crescent services.

The Red Crescent Society maintains working relationships with international agencies like Project HOPE, KNCV (Dutch Tuberculosis Foundation), Aids Foundation East-West, USAID and UNICEF. 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 major partner within the organizational development is the ICRC that is engaged in the process of the Red Crescent Law development, mainly by providing expertise. PWC that carried out the audit can become a partner in the finance management capacity building, for instance, PWC agreed to help the Kazakhstan RC with the development of the finance procedures.

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

Regular monitoring of the programmes has been carried out through field visits, observations, interviews, meetings with local authorities and community leaders, internal staff meetings with branch staff and progress reports. The disaster statistics and their impact on the sites where risk reduction projects have been implemented are followed up with the emergency structures at local level. Regular field visits and monthly reports from the regional branches feed the programme management at national level.

The Federation regional representation’s team visited the migration project sites in April and June 2010 to evaluate the progress. The results of evaluation will be discussed with the National Society and the report will be shared with all stakeholders. The progress and constraints of the migration project were discussed at working meetings at country and regional levels. Best practices were promoted among colleagues at the working groups’ meetings to allow learning from experience.

The SPHERE standards and the Code of Conduct for Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers in Emergency 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.

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 follow the principle of diversity in the composition of staff involved.

Clear division between governance and management will contribute towards the increase of the National Society effectiveness to the effect that being rooted in the communities and elevating the needs from local to national level promotes greater attention to the needs of the most vulnerable people. Finance development seeks to improve the National Society capacities in finance management as well as to position it stronger among partners.

Looking ahead

The international disaster response law promotion project aiming to bring up new law initiatives regarding adopted regulatory issues at country level will hopefully roll out after the commitment from the government is obtained.

Following the analysis of training needs among the health staff a draft plan of trainings for the National Society staff has been developed and according to that plan two technical training – in HIV peer education and advocacy – will be provided by the end of the year. The National Society HIV coordinator will also attend the HIV-related proposal writing and project management training in Strasburg in December.

The knowledge gained at the advocacy training in Geneva by the National Society and IFRC staff will enable the Kazakhstan Red Crescent to develop advocacy component within the health programmes. This will imply identifying and prioritising advocacy challenges in the country, finalising advocacy plans for the next year, finalising training plans and a follow-up process.

The staff of the National Society requires additional training in humanitarian diplomacy and possibilities of organising a relevant training will be considered by the principles and values programme.

The funds to continue and to strengthen the services provided by the Central Asian Red Crescent Labour Migration Network will be sought at regional and national levels among stakeholders who have an interest in assisting migrants in the region. A possible six-month extension of the European Commission supported migration project beyond 2010 without extra costs will be a subject of discussion with the donor this autumn.

In the second half of year, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent will share the amended statute with Joint Statute Commission for agreement and then submit it to the Ministry of Justice for approval. Conferences will be held in the branches to form the governing bodies and to appoint branch directors. Preparatory work will be done in order to compile all relevant information for the upcoming general assembly of the Society in 2011.

How we work

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.

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