

Mid-Year report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Turkmenistan

Appeal No. MAATM001

31 August 2010

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



During the road safety campaign young volunteers of National Society distributed information materials among drivers in all regional centres.
Photo: Turkmenistan 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: The disaster management programme of the Turkmenistan Red Crescent 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 (with a focus on earthquakes, floods, domestic fires and road accidents) and through small-scale mitigation projects preventing wild and domestic fires, floods/mudslides and water-born diseases.

The National Society continues to strengthen its own capacities to respond to emergencies by improving staff and volunteers' knowledge and skills in disaster management areas. New climate change adaptation elements were included in the programme to improve understanding of climate change risks among Red Crescent staff and volunteers with the aim of integrating risk awareness into their programmes and address the related humanitarian impact. Also, the National Society has been improving its national disaster preparedness/ disaster response and contingency plans. Besides, the Red Crescent worked to improve their disaster response capacities and mechanisms for emergency response and recovery assistance. Over the period the Red Crescent provided humanitarian aid to people affected by domestic fires.

The Red Crescent Society disseminated information about HIV among youth, key populations at

a higher risk and general public, increased the awareness of the harmful effects of drug use and promoted healthy lifestyle. The tuberculosis prevention component targeted people with tuberculosis (TB) 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 community-based 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.

In February 2010, the Turkmenistan Red Crescent hosted the Central Asia Leadership Forum that discussed the developments since the last year forum, follow-up of the International Federations statutory meetings and preparations for the European Conference.

The National Society developed salary scale and operational activities were discussed with the Red Crescent finance manager and head of organisational development department during their visit to the regional representation. Financial sustainability of branches was assessed through questionnaires, mapping of potential donors and the analysis of agreements concluded locally.

Financial situation: The total 2010 appeal budget is CHF 1,332,501 of which CHF 659,458 (49 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was 53 per cent versus funding. The organizational development and principles and values programmes implementation rates are lower as major expenses are planned for the second half of the year. The health and care programme budget increased to accommodate higher contributions to the HIV prevention and CBHFA components.

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

No. of people we have reached: In total 90,912 people benefited directly from the secretariat-supported programmes with the funds provided by the donors.

Programme	Target groups	People reached	% of women	% of men
Disaster management	Populations in disaster prone areas	5,850		
HIV prevention	Key populations at higher risk of HIV, youth	13,670	55	45
Drug demand reduction	Rural populations at schools, military units, in organizations and households	5,123	46	54
TB prevention	People with TB	370	45	55
	Family members, general population	22,283	45	55
CBHFA	Youth, women of childbearing age, general population	11,366	47	53
Principles and values		32,250		
Total		90,912		

Our partners: The donors supporting the programmes multilaterally through the International Federation are the British, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies, the US Government Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. Also, the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) covered 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

The government of Turkmenistan is committed to fight tuberculosis and increasingly allocates financial, human and infrastructural resources for disease control. However, substantial programmatic and financial gaps exist, especially in regard to the complex and costly interventions in multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) management. To sustain the National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP) achievements, improve the quality of directly observed treatment (DOTs) and expand its framework the Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM) has decided to solicit support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the Round 9. Until now, Turkmenistan has not benefited from any Global Fund grant. The Global Fund financial resources will be additional to domestic resources that will be allocated to cover substantial costs of the staff, medical interventions and facility expenses.

The project objective is to reduce the burden of tuberculosis in Turkmenistan by consolidating the DOTS framework and expanding it, by introducing and scaling up the management of drug-resistant tuberculosis and strengthening the health system performance for effective TB control. While further strengthening essential DOTS interventions remains the key requirement for preventing resistance, it has become clear that, in conditions of high MDR-TB burden, timely diagnosis and proper treatment of MDR-TB cases are necessary for the overall success in combating the epidemic and achieving TB control targets and disease-related Millennium Development Goals.

The United Nations Development Programme Turkmenistan has been nominated as the Principal Recipient for the grant. The start date is set at 1 July 2010 as it provides for the best possible alignment with the national fiscal cycle and, at the same time, is feasible to provide for relevant grant negotiation processes. The duration of the project is five years. The Turkmenistan Red Crescent Society will have an opportunity to take its own niche in these integrated efforts to struggle with disease.

It was expected that the existing governmental disaster management structure under the defence ministry would change and the emergency ministry would be established in March 2010. However, this has been postponed till the end of the year. The National Society continued cooperating with partners in the area of disaster management on the basis of temporary agreements re-signed annually with relevant stakeholders in government structures. The government called on the National Society to support the state efforts in raising public awareness of domestic and wild fires and in road accidents prevention, which is a usual practice. Over six months the Red Crescent Society assisted 28 families (130 people) affected by domestic fires and floods with resources from the National Society emergency stocks.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

Programme component 1: Disaster management planning
Component outcome 1: 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: In the first six months of 2010 the Turkmenistan Red Crescent conducted 28 consultation meetings with about 120 staff of relevant government bodies to improve their national disaster preparedness and disaster response and promote contingency plans to be recognised by the government, and renew the annual collaboration agreements at region and national levels.

All five existing contingency plans of the regional branches were updated with the recent disaster data, risk maps and the latest key contacts details. Also, in cooperation with relevant

stakeholders all five regional branches started elaborating additional contingency plans using scenarios of the disasters specific for each region.

Programme component 2: Organizational preparedness

Component outcome 1: 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 disaster management programme continued reinforcing National Society's response mechanisms, including the development of disaster response teams (DRTs), and maintaining existing technical and material resources to be able to respond effectively when disaster strikes.

Eight representatives of the Turkmenistan Red Crescent attended the harmonised regional disaster response team (RDRT) training held in Kazakhstan in February. Dissemination of experience covered 75 people through five three-day re-fresher trainings based on the harmonised RDRT course. NDRT database was updated by the National Society with new members.

Special focus was put on reducing the vulnerability to natural hazards and preventing loss of human lives by enhancing understanding of the global warming issues and consequences of the climate change. Based on the climate change study¹ results the Red Crescent developed a draft education session module. The module covers the climate change adaptation (CCA) issues – DRR, DM, public awareness, health and care – that need to be mainstreamed in the Red Crescent programmes for population and consists of three products: a presentation, information for short lecture and facilitator's notes. The first interim workshop (of the planned series) on CCA for staff of the National Society's headquarters was held in May.

Red Crescent made preliminary preparations for a round table titled "Role of the governmental, non-governmental and international organisations in tackling the consequences of climate change in Turkmenistan", which will take place in Ashgabat in July. Besides, following the discussions with the government the National Society has preconcert to be involved in the elaboration of the second national report within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The National Society central emergency stock was replenished with bedding for 220 people that can be used to respond to small-scale disasters at national and branch levels. Also, three regional branches (out of five) replenished their emergency stocks with local donor's contributions. The current stock has enough relief items for about 300 families. Until the end of June 2010 the National Society distributed bedding, hygiene items, kitchen sets and cash among 28 families (more than 130 people) affected by domestic fires from its own resources .

In addition, the Red Crescent Society has equipped the national disaster response team with a computer for field work. The IFRC regional representation's radio specialist provided technical assessment of the radio stations for communication in case of a disaster in Ashgabat and Mary. The results show the need to reconstruct the emergency radio communication network, which be addressed in the second half of the year.

Programme component 3: Community preparedness/ Disaster risk reduction

Component outcome 1: Strengthened capacities of communities in disaster-prone areas to respond to future disasters through community-based disaster preparedness and the implementation of mitigation projects.

¹ The study was conducted in Turkmenistan by a consultant in the end of 2009 within the framework of bilateral cooperation with the Netherlands RC.

Achievements: The work with local disaster committees (LDCs) in 18 communities continued with the community-based disaster preparedness projects and expanded to two new communities. In total 24 working meetings for 250 community members and local officials facilitated the development of community contingency plans and mitigation measures. Thus, 19 communities have developed or updated their disaster response plans. The LDC members further shared information on disaster preparedness and response among community members. 10 communities elaborated their mitigation projects that would reduce the risks of underflooding, mudslides, fires and water-born and water-related diseases and improve access to hard-to-reach inhabited areas; they will be implemented in the second half of the year.

Seven disaster awareness campaigns on fire and road safety were held in the capital city and in all five regions. Field exercises, competitions, contests and round tables with local authorities and relevant government bodies directly reached 2,980 people. During the campaigns the National Society disseminated information materials and it is estimated that the campaigns covered more than 37,000 people.

The National Society information sessions on fire safety (in Dashoguz and Mary regions), DRR and rules of behaviour in case of an emergency reached about 1,770 people. The fire safety education was provided on request from the fire department that also supplied the list of target organizations. Besides, the disaster preparedness education sessions for schoolchildren covered 720 children in regional centres of Turkmenistan.

Programme component 4: Recovery

Component outcome 1: Increased capacity of the National Society to restore or improve pre-disaster living conditions and reduce the risk of future disasters.

Achievements: The Turkmenistan Red Crescent adapted the standard presentation on early recovery from the RDRT training course and included it in its DRT training. The early recovery session was presented to 75 members of the DR teams during the branch level trainings.

The three-day national workshop on recovery is planned for the second half of the year.

Constraints or Challenges

The promotion of international disaster response laws will take place in 2011. Currently there are planned changes in the disaster management structure of the state and it is not so relevant in this situation.

Lack of technical resources in most of the branches (computers and other office equipment) and limited access to internet services in the country slows down the information flow and affects its quality.

Health and care

Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS

Component outcome 1: Vulnerability to HIV and its impact reduced through preventing further infection and reducing stigma and discrimination.

Component outcome 2: Awareness of the harmful effects of drug use to human health increased and healthy lifestyle promoted.

Achievements: Implementation of the HIV prevention programme continued in Ashgabat, Abadan, Turkmenbashi, Turkmenabat, Mary, Dashoguz and Balkanabat cities. The target group of the programme are schoolchildren aged 15-17, sex workers (SWs), injecting drug users (IDUs), men having sex with men (MSM) and military personnel; reaching them by peer education and awareness raising activities. Dissemination of information materials and mass media campaigns are used to reach wider population. The National Society also distributed

condoms supplied by the Republican AIDS Centre. Thus, 12,000 booklets and 10,000 brochures were developed and disseminated among the population during information and education activities.



The National Society raised awareness of HIV during the public action arranged at the ball for secondary school graduates.
Photo: Turkmenistan RC

Volunteers are a principal force of the programme that carries out peer education and information activities. During the period 190 peer educators were trained, out of them 123 young people, 35 military men, 18 SWs and 14 IDUs. The trained volunteers reached about 3,000 people through information dissemination and 10,663 people by peer education. As a result about 87 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. Moreover, 68 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 drug demand reduction component targets schoolchildren, military men and the general population in Mary, Dashoguz, Lebap, Akhal and Balkan provinces. It comprises sessions to promote healthy lifestyle and raise awareness about the risks of drug abuse. In total, training sessions from the staff and volunteers reached 5,123 people: 2,153 schoolchildren, 875 teachers, 1,231 people in organizations, 580 people in rural communities, and 284 military men. Quizzes, panel games and competitions were arranged in secondary schools and military units to make the education more interactive.

In June the National Society health coordinator participated in the training on harm reduction conducted in Villa Mariani (Italy) to learn about best practice and share her experience.

Programme component 2: Tuberculosis

Component outcome 1: Vulnerability to TB and its impact reduced through preventing further infection, rendering social support to TB patients, reducing stigma and discrimination and integrating with HIV prevention.

The outcome has been changed as initial outcome statements better fit the lower level objectives, i.e. outputs.

Achievements:

The National Society has continued the TB prevention programme in Ashgabat, Dashoguz and Mary cities to improve treatment outcomes by encouraging treatment adherence of clients with TB. In order to achieve the objectives, visiting nurses of the National Society have been providing direct observation of treatment (DOT) in clinics, with education and social support. The National Society reached 370 clients with TB and out of them 276 received social support – food parcels and hygiene kits. Treatment success among 307 Red Crescent clients whose treatment outcomes are defined makes 93 per cent and default rate does not exceed 5 per cent.

In addition, the visiting nurses and volunteers of the Red Crescent Society carry out informational and educational work among family members of TB clients, schoolchildren, students and staff of organizations. About 80 per cent of 9,813 people reached by key messages on TB transmission and early detection knew about at least four signs of TB, measures to prevent TB, and that TB is curable. Besides, 9,170 was informed about the disease through household visits.

The Red Crescent attracted 12 former beneficiaries of the programme to support the National Society TB service. They rendered support to clients during the meetings of three self-support groups operating at the programme sites.

Public campaigns dedicated to the World TB Day, the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, the Health Promotion Day and the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking are estimated to have covered 3,300 people. They were highlighted on the national television, radio and in newspapers further targeting about 100,000 people.

Programme component 3: Community-based health and first aid
Component outcome 1: Population health improved through diseases prevention, health promotion, trauma reduction and basic first-aid training.
Component outcome 2: Reproductive health improved through education and promotion of women's health and antenatal care.

There has been an additional outcome on reproductive health introduced in line with the recommendations of the consultant who worked with the Turkmenistan Red Crescent Society last year on strengthening the reproductive health programming within the framework of the community based health and first aid.

Achievements: The Red Crescent's community-based health and first-aid programme (CBHFA) is focused on rural populations and aims at improving their health status. Health education targets the communities having limited access to public health services due to their remote location from district centres in Yolatan, Tagtabazar, Serhetabad, Atamurat, B.Turkmenbashi, Koytendag, Magdanly, Etrek, Esenguly and Baharly districts. 404 community volunteers were trained to carry out educational sessions on the most common diseases and ways to prevent them and trainings on the first aid skills. The programme reached 11,366 people; 79 per cent of the targeted knew symptoms of the most common diseases and prevention measures and 37 per cent of them had basic first-aid skills.

About 2,560 women, out of them 303 were pregnant women and 324 breast-feeding after child-birth (post-natal period) received information about reproductive health, antenatal and post-natal care, and nutrition. Around 78 per cent of targeted women knew rules of behaviour and nutrition and used them during pregnancy and in the early post-natal period. Moreover, 87 per cent of targeted pregnant women regularly visited antenatal clinics. Educational sessions in secondary schools and communities also reached 6,246 girls and boys. As a result, 78 per cent of them knew main health risks in their age and practises safe behaviour.

On request from local authorities the National Society conducted a series of educational sessions on road safety for 530 children of pre-school and school age in all ten sites of the programme. The Red Crescent also arranged public events dedicated to the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day and Day of the National Flag that covered more than 11,000 people.

Constraints or Challenges

The National Society faces the problem related to support of institutional memory. This year HIV and TB coordinators of the National Society changed. 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 organizational development and capacity building (headquarters and branches)
Component outcome 1: Governance and management bodies at all levels established; the

system of their interrelations established.

Component outcome 2: National Society capacities increased through the introduction of human resources management system, improved finance management, planning, monitoring and evaluation system, and the implementation of branch development projects.

Component outcome 3: Volunteer capacity improved through relevant training and participation in core activities.

Achievements: In the beginning of the year the National Society organized a workshop on statute implementation at the headquarters involving the leadership, heads of departments and members of the national governing board. Further communication between the governance and management structures including participation of governance in the development and the National Society plans at the headquarters and branch levels were discussed.

In February, the Turkmenistan Red Crescent hosted the Central Asia Leadership Forum meeting, where issues like developments since the last year's Leadership Forum, follow-up of the Federation's statutory meetings and preparations for the Red Cross Red Crescent European Conference, strengthening the National Societies legal base, a safer access framework, good partnership, coordination and harmonization, human resources management, financial development and planning for 2011-2012 were discussed.

Regarding Strategy 2020 realization the Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan National Societies expressed their interest in receiving support in updating National Society strategic plans and stimulating an internal dialogue by the involvement of branches. Peer support from the neighbouring National Societies was highly appreciated due to common language of communication and cultural similarities.

The National Society developed the rules and procedures for human resources management to be adopted by the governing board later this year. The Red Crescent elaborated a salary scale for its staff. To support this initiative the regional representation invited National Society finance manager and head of organisational development department to Almaty to discuss in depth the implications of the salary scale for the operational activities of the National Society.

In order to improve the financial management the National Society finance manager received a comprehensive briefing on financial procedures, approaches to budgeting and got acquainted with the Federation accounting system while in Almaty. The received knowledge was used for developing the National Society finance plan for 2010.

In May and June a taskforce consisting of head of organizational department and finance manager visited branches to study capacities in regard to financial sustainability. According to the results of the study major issues that influence effective local fundraising are: lack or little knowledge of the role and activities of the Red Crescent in local government officials, corporate sector and public organizations; little knowledge about fundraising techniques among National Society staff; insufficient visibility; and poor planning of fundraising activities. Based on the study results, recommendations have been developed that will be considered and incorporated into the National Society finance plan for the rest of 2010 and in future finance plans.

Based on analysis of Ahal regional branch in 2009 a branch development project has been developed that will be implemented in the second half of the year.

Early this year the National Society established a working group on monitoring and evaluation system development. The group has defined major gaps in monitoring and evaluation and will apply to all partners for support to the plan of action that is being developed.

Activities that fit under component outcome 3 are funded bilaterally by the British Red Cross.

The Federation supported the development of two projects submitted by the National Society to the Empress Shoken Fund: one targeted the development of the youth and volunteering resource centre in Mary branch; another targeted road safety training among schoolchildren through volunteer recruitment and training. However, the projects were rejected.

Programme component 2: National Society legal base development

Component outcome 1: Red Crescent Law developed and promoted for adoption.

Achievements: A draft law has been revised in accordance with the comments from the interagency commission that includes representatives of the parliament, ministries and public organizations. The National Society key staff and governing board members will meet to consider and endorse the changes before the revised draft will be sent to National Society partners for possible feedback.

Constraints or Challenges:

The implementation of the new statutes is continuing with as much speed as possible. A slight delay was encountered as a result of consultation process, including with representatives of the public authorities, regarding candidacies for the position of Executive Director taking somewhat more time than originally foreseen. As soon as the appointment has been made, progress is expected to resume.

Principles and values

Programme component 1: Promotion of humanitarian principles and values

Component outcome 1: Fundamental principles and humanitarian values of the Movement promoted.

Achievements: In May the National Society organized exhibitions devoted to calendar dates like the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day and the World TB Day. Public campaigns promoted principles and values under the slogan “Urbanization” in five schools and an exhibition of children’s drawings “Let’s make our world better” in the state library for children in Ashgabat city. The actions covered 1,000 people.

Moreover, classes on Red Cross and Red Crescent mission, principles and values have been included into the 2010-2011 syllabus of the Pushkin Turkmen-Russian School.

Over the first six months 71 information materials about the Movement and the Red Crescent Society were aired on TV, radio or published in national and local printed editions and electronic media. Estimates suggest that messages on the principles and values reached about 4,216,000 people. Besides, the National Society distributed 1,200 copies of the 2009 annual report among its branches and partners.

Programme component 2: 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 the communities increased.

Achievements: The Turkmenistan Red Crescent held 8 campaigns to tackle discrimination and to voice the needs of marginalized groups, attracting state agencies and local authorities, educational institutions, military units, commercial and public organizations.

In May 20,000 secondary school graduates in Ashgabat were reached with messages about the Red Cross Red Crescent, tolerant attitude to vulnerable and marginalized groups as well as the necessity to fight discrimination and violence during the ball for graduates.

For the period a total of 500 people have been covered by the Red Crescent training and workshops in educational institutions, public and military entities. For that sessions on the Red Cross Red Crescent values of non-discrimination, tolerance and respect for diversity were held within the other core programmes' training for targeted groups. Messages on gender-based violence were included in each session.

Constraints or Challenges:

Continuous lack of funds remains the main challenge of the principles and values programme. For that reason some planned activities were not implemented, namely gender-based violence specific activities and the National Society presentation kit production. The effects of this were partially mitigated by integrating selected activities, like round tables for partners, under the other core programmes.

Working in partnership

At country level the National Society works in close cooperation with the government bodies and local authorities. 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 an active participant of inter-agency meetings discussing the development of the national programmes on TB and HIV. The Red Crescent maintains relationships with the international agencies like Project HOPE, USAID, UNAIDS, UNODC by sharing relevant information on TB and HIV issues. The OSCE supports the HIV prevention project in Dashoguz, Mary, Turkmenabat and Turkmenbashi cities on bilateral basis. It is similar to the multilateral programme and higher number of trained peer instructors allows scaling up the coverage.

There exists a bilateral partnership between the Turkmenistan Red Crescent Society and the Netherlands Red Cross in the area of capacity building for branches.

The Turkmenistan 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 International Disaster Response Laws (IDRL) promotion, contingency planning and RDRT training.

The main partners of Turkmenistan Red Crescent in organisational development are the International Federation and the ICRC. The Central Asia Leadership Forum has been organized in cooperation with the ICRC.

The key partners of the principles and values programme are the media, which play a great role in building the image of the Red Crescent and changing behaviour towards vulnerable groups served by the National Society. The National Society's project on human trafficking prevention is supported by OSCE.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The monitoring of the programmes is carried out by the National Society staff by means of visits to the field, and regular communication with the staff and volunteers working in the programme sites. Information on the progress comes from visits to beneficiaries, observation, and meetings

with the representatives of partner organizations, local communities and local authorities. The Federation regional disaster management coordinator visited Ashgabat in June to monitor the programme and met relevant government partners and a local NGO working with the National Society on contingency planning and climate change.

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.

The disaster management programme spotlighted disaster awareness of women and children in communities as these groups of the population have limited access to such information. The Turkmenistan Red Crescent reported that the number of women involved in disaster management projects had increased and was close to the number of men. There is general understanding among staff and volunteers of the National Society that women and men should share the responsibilities for disaster response and advocate for meeting their special needs.

Work through trained Red Crescent volunteers who disseminate knowledge and skills in the community-based disaster preparedness projects also helps to mobilize communities and contributes to sustainability.

All structure mitigation projects on disaster risk reduction that can affect the environment are conducted by the Red Crescent Society under the supervision of relevant specialists and principles of the better programming initiative are applied.

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.

The introduction of the salary grade system for all National Society staff alleviated the misbalance in staff remuneration thus contributing towards improved human resources management. The study of National Society financial sustainability capacities is a step towards achieving the characteristics of a well-functioning National Society.

Looking ahead

The National Society will further develop improved understanding of climate change risks among the Red Crescent staff and volunteers with the aim of integrating risk awareness into the programmes and addressing the related humanitarian impact.

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 knowledge gained at the advocacy training in Geneva by the Kazakhstan Red Crescent and IFRC staff² will enable the National Societies in the region to develop the 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 National Society HIV coordinator will also attend the HIV-related proposal writing and project management training in Strasburg in December.

² 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.

This year the National Society will be developing/updating its current strategy targeting the period from 2011 to 2015. The Federation support will be provided in a form of a consultancy and coordination of the draft document discussion with the partners.

The National Society chairperson and head of volunteering department (established in 2010) have been accepted for the Movement Induction Course (former Leadership Development Course) in Russian to be held in Geneva in November 2010.

The Turkmenistan Red Crescent is willing to become a part of the Central Asian Red Crescent Labour Migration Network in 2011. The National Society is a part of the IFRC proposals for donors intending to support activities of different organisations in migration sphere in central Asia.

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

How we work	
<p><i>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.</i></p>	
<p>The IFRC's vision is to:</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	
<p>For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Turkmenistan Red Crescent Society: Shemshat Mamedova, Chairlady; email: crescentinf@online.tm; phone: +99312 35 17 50; fax: +99312 39 43 49 • In the Regional Representation for Central Asia: Drina Karahasanovic, Regional Representative; email: drina.karahasanovic@ifrc.org; phone: +7727 291 80 63; fax: +7727 291 42 67 • In the Europe Zone Office: Leon Prop, Head of Operations; email: leon.prop@ifrc.org; phone: +36 1 8884 500; fax: +36 1 336 15 16 	