

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Uzbekistan

Appeal No. MAAUZ001

31 August 2010

This report covers the period 01/01/10 to
30/06/10.



The National Society Andijan branch engaged with children in refugee camps during the response operation.

Photo: Uzbekistan 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: Since January 2009 all external funding channelled through the International Federation and other partners to the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society is subjected to inspection by the commission of the Ministry of Finance. This led to obstacles in human resources and project implementation and the majority of the planned activities had to be cancelled or postponed this year.

The Red Crescent endeavoured to retain its disaster management structure and the capacities to respond emergencies through training and exercises in close cooperation with state agencies in the field. The available staff in the headquarters and branches was also part of the regional capacity-building initiatives. Improving capacities of communities was limited to raise awareness of schoolchildren and students about disaster risks in 7 out of 15 regions of the country.

In June following the refugee influx from Kyrgyzstan the Uzbekistan Red Crescent was engaged in the provision of relief assistance to the affected people. The International Federation deployed a field assessment and coordination team (FACT), issued a revised emergency appeal, allocated CHF 300,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and arranged for the delivery of emergency non-food items to Uzbekistan to support the relief operation.

As a consequence of limitations in the national strategy on combating HIV in Uzbekistan regarding the participation of non-governmental organisations in HIV prevention, the National

Society discontinued the HIV prevention programme. In TB prevention the National Society will focus on raising awareness of the disease among the population to facilitate early diagnosis and treatment and to decrease stigma associated with the disease.

Within the organizational development programme the National Society made arrangements to select the most appropriate provider of audit services. PricewaterhouseCoopers started the audit in June and the report with recommendations will be shared with the National Society and the Federation regional representation in the second half of the year.

Selected activities were implemented within the principles and values programme through volunteers and staff of other programmes. Most of the planned activities on anti-discrimination and violence prevention, including assistance to migrants, were postponed. The two centres for migrants are formally set up in Uzbekistan but the services on the project sites were limited to dissemination of information on health and care and disaster preparedness issues among potential migrants and returnees.

Financial situation: The total 2010 budget is CHF 1,044,595, of which CHF 501,304 (48 per cent) covered. The budget was reduced because of changes in the health and care programme. Expenditure overall was 36 per cent of the funding. The funds were used to cover some regional level expenses as well as the expenses related to Uzbekistan Red Crescent staff participation in the regional programme events.

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

See also [Population movement preliminary emergency appeal](#) (MDRUZ002PEA)
[Population movement revised emergency appeal](#) (MDRUZ002EA)

No. of people we have reached: In total 2,451 people benefited directly from the secretariat supported programmes.

Our partners: The donors supporting the programmes multilaterally through the International Federation are the Japanese, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies, Elly Lilly, the European Commission (EC), the UK's Department for International Development (DfID) and the IFRC's Capacity Building Fund.

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

Since January 2009 all external funding received by the Uzbekistan Red Crescent was subjected to inspection by the commission of the Ministry of Finance. This rule concerned all organizations receiving funds from abroad. Despite strong efforts of the leadership the funds were not released and the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society has had no access to its foreign currency bank account since then. Because not receiving the salary support, almost all key programme managers had left the National Society by the end of 2009. In the first half of this year the Red Crescent Society implemented limited activities and the majority of the planned activities had to be cancelled or postponed.

Violent clashes in the south of Kyrgyzstan starting on 10 June 2010 resulted in massive population movement towards and across the Uzbekistan border. An estimated number of 92,000 refugees were registered in Uzbekistan and were accommodated in camps in the areas of Andijan, Namangan and Fergana. The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan, acting as an auxiliary to the public authorities engaged immediately in the provision of relief assistance to the affected people.

In response to the quickly developing crises, the International Federation deployed a field assessment and coordination team (FACT), seconded senior Europe Zone Office personnel to

Tashkent, issued a preliminary emergency appeal, made a DREF allocation of CHF 300,000 and arranged for the delivery of emergency non-food items to Uzbekistan. However, the situation changed quickly and on 24 June the Government of Uzbekistan informed international organisations involved in the support the refugees from Kyrgyzstan that their contributions had been highly appreciated, but no further assistance was needed as all refugees, with some minor exceptions, had returned to Kyrgyzstan.

The International Federation proposed to the National Society that part of the goods delivered to Uzbekistan should be relocated to the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan while keeping the rest in Uzbekistan to replenish the National Society's preparedness stocks and strengthen its preparedness capacity in areas prone to a renewed refugee influx.

The International Federation has initiated the re-opening of its country office in Tashkent in order to enhance coordination of the Movement actions in time of crisis and to monitor the development of the situation with refugees after they have returned. Sufficient resources which have been made available in response to the emergency appeal will allow intensifying support to the Uzbekistan Red Crescent in implementing priority development and capacity building activities. Permanent Federation presence will contribute to strengthen the representation and auxiliary role of the National Society to the state authorities.

In the first half of the year of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent responded to 6 small-scale emergencies and provided humanitarian aid to 80 people (15 families) affected by domestic fires and mudslides.

In April 2010 the government of Kazakhstan decreased the period of residence permit to 30 day from the initial 90 days. This change concerns citizens of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. In this situation migrants have to cross the border every month to get a new entry (migration) card and registration. As a consequence many migrants stay even illegally at their workplaces without prolonging the registration.

The national strategy on combating HIV has introduced new regulations that limit the participation of the non-governmental organizations in HIV prevention. Following this the National Society discontinued the HIV prevention programme.

Progress towards outcomes

As the National Society's capacities to progress with the plan were limited the achievements are presented along few respective outcomes. If no activities were implemented towards the outcomes such outcomes are not listed in the report.

Disaster management

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 Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society made efforts on maintaining its previously developed disaster management structure and the disaster response capacity without the external financial support. 12 disaster response teams (DRTs) participated in 4 re-fresher trainings with search and rescue teams of the Ministry of Emergency. In total 120 members of the National Society strengthened their skills in disaster response area. 98 members of the disaster response teams and volunteers in Karakalpakstan, Bukhara and Khorezm regions took part in 7 simulation exercises in response to natural disasters and industrial accidents organized by the regional emergency ministry structures. However, the number of National Society branches and people interacting with the government during such joint events decreased comparing to the same period of last year, which means weakened Red Crescent ability to maintain the structure and capacities.

In February four staff members were present in the regional harmonized regional disaster response team training in Kazakhstan. They used the gained knowledge and skills during the operation in response to massive population movement.

The National Society, acting as an auxiliary to the public authorities, lead the provision of relief assistance to refugees who fled violent clashes in the south of Kyrgyzstan in the beginning of June. Starting from first hours of the refugees' influx the staff and volunteers of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society provided tents, used clothing and mattresses and began offering hot meals. As part of the emergency appeal, capacity building in core areas of disaster management planning, organisational preparedness, community preparedness and disaster risk reduction will be prioritized in Andijan, Fergana and Namangan branches.

Programme component 3: Community preparedness and disaster risk reduction

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

Achievements: Community capacity-building was limited to first aid training for 48 members of the local disaster management committees in four communities preparing for a simulation exercise in Bukhara region. Also, disaster management officer of the Bukhara regional branch facilitated the development of risk maps and contingency planning for these communities. No other planned activities in community based disaster preparedness and structure and non-structure mitigation projects were carried out.

The branches of Samarkand region and Karakalpakstan provided integrated disaster preparedness and first-aid training to secondary school students. The Red Crescent conducted 14 education workshops for teachers on rules of behaviour in case of disasters and first aid. Further trainings covered 1,820 schoolchildren and students of 36 schools and colleges.

As part of the National Society traditional activities not included in the secretariat plan, the Red Crescent staff of seven branches conducted trainings for 12 sanitary brigades (118 people) in enterprises.

Constraints or Challenges

The National Society was unable to implement most of the planned activities because the financial operations on programme funds were suspended. As no salary support was paid over the year disaster management officers at the headquarters and 50 percent of staff in branches left the National Society.

Health and care

No planned activities were implemented over the period because of no access to programme funds. This year the National Society discontinues the HIV prevention programme.

In TB prevention the National Society will focus on raising awareness of the population to facilitate early diagnosis, treatment and decrease stigma associated with the disease. The National Society approach changed as the national TB programme provides services to people with TB on the continuation phase of treatment all over the country with funds from the GFATM. The programme budget was reduced accordingly.

Organizational development/Capacity building

Programme component 1: National Society organizational development and capacity building (headquarters and branches)

Component outcome 1: Effective governance and management structures.

Component outcome 2: Effective and transparent human resources management and financial management systems.

Component outcome 3: Proper and effective financial management in line with clear procedures, guidelines and leadership commitments.

Achievements: The Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society received funding from the Capacity Building Fund's first round of the Specific Organisational Development Support initiative for activities aimed at strengthening the financial management of the National Society in September 2009. Because of the problems with access to external funds the National Society was unable to implement the planned activities and the external financial audit was re-scheduled for 2010. Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society made arrangements for a comparative bid analysis among auditing companies. The only company that agreed to the audit was Uzbekistan office of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC). PWC started the audit in June and the report with recommendations will be shared by an extended deadline with the National Society and the Federation regional representation.

Constraints or Challenges:

Due to the situation of access to funds the majority of planned activities have been postponed. Also, key trained staff – programme coordinators and officers – left the National Society.

Principles and values

Programme component 1: Promotion of humanitarian principles and values

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

Component outcome 2: The image and profile of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society improved.

Achievements: The Red Crescent Society continued to distribute information about the mission of the Movement and National Society activities – with a special focus on fundamental principles, humanitarian values, and international humanitarian law – through mass media sources and during meetings with partners. Within the framework of the close cooperation with higher educational institutions, 102 primary organisations were established in such institutions all over the country that also promoted principles and values with the agreement of the Ministry of Education.

Programme component 2: Anti-discrimination and violence prevention

Component outcome 1: Ability of the 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: Two information and education centres for migrants are established in Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regional branch offices, due to no access to funding those are slightly operational.

Although, 55 volunteers distributed information to migrants and their families about HIV, TB and other diseases prevention, healthy life style, psychological and protection issues and disaster preparedness. In total, 131 people have been served by the Red Crescent. In cooperation with the tracing programme, the National Society received 16 tracing requests from migrants and their family members. Out of them three tracing requests were from Tajikistan, the country whose National Society is also part of the Central Asian Red Crescent Labour Migration Network.

Constraints or Challenges:

Most of planned activities under the humanitarian values programme were not carried out because of the situation with access to funds.

Working in partnership

In the field of disaster management the Uzbekistan Red Crescent collaborated with non-governmental organizations like "Makhallya" fund and the national youth movement "Kamolot". Close cooperation with the emergency ministry gave an opportunity for the National Society to participate in workshops and field trainings organized by the government. The key partners of the principles and values programme are the media, which play a great role in improving the image of Red Crescent Society and changing behaviour towards vulnerable groups served by the National Society.

From the onset of the population movement crisis the National Society, the International Federation and the ICRC have been in close dialogue, and established effective coordination mechanisms to ensure a well-coordinated Movement response. Coordination commitment based on the *Memorandum on Partnership and Coordination* signed between the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society, the ICRC and the International Federation in May 2010.

Contributing to longer-term impact

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 were at all times promoted in disaster management awareness materials. In disaster response, the distribution of assistance was made on the basis of impartiality.

The finance development initiative to audit the National Society funds will contribute to better accountability and effectiveness, and build managerial skills of National Society staff.

Looking ahead

As soon as the situation with funding is settled the programme plans will be revised. The programmes will concentrate on induction training for new staff to be recruited to substitute those who left. New staff of the National Society will require specific technical and programme management skills (including planning, monitoring and reporting).

The staff of the National Societies in the region requires additional training in humanitarian diplomacy and possibilities of organising relevant training will be considered by the principles and values programme. The Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society will be part of the capacity-building initiative.

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 EC-supported migration project beyond 2010 without extra costs will be a subject of discussion with the donor this autumn.

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.

Contact information

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