

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

CENTRAL ASIA

1 February, 2002

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.62/2001

Appeal Target CHF 6,797,517

Programme Update No. 2; Period covered: July - December 2001; last Programme Update (no. 1) issued 31 July, 2001.

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 83.1%

Related Appeals: 27/01; Uzbekistan: Drought; 26/01; Tajikistan: Food Deficit

Outstanding needs: None, donors encouraged to provide support to the 2002 Central Asia Annual Appeal (no. 01.52/2002)

Operational Developments:

Since the beginning of the war in Afghanistan, Central Asia became the focus of political and military interest of the world. This rising interest for the region is, however, focused mainly, if not exclusively, on the direct effects of the Afghanistan crisis and does not contribute to the improvement of the Central Asian countries' long lasting economic and social difficulties. Nevertheless, efforts to increase regional cooperation on the state level have increased. Presidents of four Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan) met in December in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, to discuss regional security and other issues. They reiterated their shared commitment to expand political and economic ties and to work together to counter threats to regional security posed by a number of external and internal factors. They also offered humanitarian and other assistance to building a democratic state in Afghanistan.

In the last quarter of the year, the Federation and Central Asia National Societies (CANS) developed a contingency plan to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Ongoing activities include provision of radio communication in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, delivery of relief commodities, and delegate support. Regular updates on the humanitarian crisis emergency appeal are available at the Central Asia regional delegation and on the Federation web site.

While the world's attention was focused on the war in Afghanistan, drought in the region lasting for the recent 3 years has created famine conditions which threaten neighbouring Central Asian countries. As a result, the International Federation launched emergency appeals to assist the population affected by drought and related food shortages in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. For more information on those two operations, please refer to operations updates on the appeals 26/01 - Tajikistan food deficit, and 27/01 - Uzbekistan drought, respectively.

The regional delegation finalised a long-term strategy for its assistance in this region focusing on health, disaster management and promotion of humanitarian values with programmes to be carried out by CANS with support of the Federation, ICRC and partner-National Societies. These programmes will address vulnerability of groups at high risk such as the youth, refugees and migrants, those affected by HIV/AIDS and TB, and will also pay attention to geographical areas at high risk of natural disasters and instability. This strategy was formally adopted at the October 2001 Partnership Meeting held in Almaty. It will contribute to a reduction of vulnerability and to efforts to build security and stability in the region.

Disaster Response

Objective 1: To assist and monitor the CANS in running effective relief activities, reporting on them, and improving their knowledge and skills of the Federation's relief procedures.

The concept of disaster management was introduced to the CANS at the regional co-ordination meeting in Tashkent in September 2001. Its adoption will bring about a closer integration of disaster preparedness and response activities, as well as increased links to other aspects of the disaster management cycle, such as mitigation and recovery. In the second half of the year, plans for a disaster management training were developed and the training carried out in the autumn for a core group consisted of representatives of all five National Societies, including the coordinators of relief, disaster preparedness, population movement, logistics, health, as well as CANS leadership. The training covered aspects of disaster assessment, updates on the Federation's disaster response mechanisms, working in accordance to the *Sphere* standards, and more specialised areas for specific programme sectors.

In addition to the strategic development of CANS' disaster management capacities, the Federation provided support to the implementation of four emergency operations in the region, Kazakhstan floods, Uzbekistan drought, Tajikistan food deficit and the Afghanistan humanitarian crisis. For details, please refer to separate operations updates.

Objective 2: To improve logistical capacity of the CANS, provide support and promote communication and use of good policy in all aspects of logistics.

The implementation of the logistics development plan, which started in the beginning of the year, continued with close cooperation between the Federation delegations and the five National Societies. Training of the CANS logistics managers has started through their working visits to the country delegation in Dushanbe, the practice which will continue in 2002. Also, plans were made for further training in the English language and procurement procedures, scheduled to take place in early 2002.

Objective 3: Aral Sea project

The American Red Cross continued the implementation of the project aimed at improving food dietary intake of the target beneficiaries in the Aral Sea region, in order to reduce the level of infection from TB among the beneficiary population. Throughout the year, a total of 7,120 tonnes of food were distributed. The effectiveness of the programme was improved through an introduction of a computerized distribution database.

Population Movement

Objective: To facilitate and promote integration and support for the most vulnerable amongst the displaced.

CANS continue their efforts to improve the identification of the most vulnerable groups among displaced people, and to provide them with legal protection and psycho-social rehabilitation. Thousands

of displaced persons benefit from the National Societies' training centres, social rehabilitation and adaptation centres, self-reliance, agriculture, health, education and income-generating projects. Social centres help refugees to maintain their cultural links and values. Children refugees attend computer classes, amateur theatres, traditional music and dancing classes. Language courses and vocational training are operational in Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan to allow people to integrate better in local communities and seek employment opportunities. Tajik, Chechen and Afghan refugees receive necessary health assistance throughout the region, and are included in health education campaigns, jointly with local residents. Displaced children are assisted with text books in their native language and are included in social events and preventive health campaigns, jointly with local school children. Through joint programmes for local and refugee children, the aim is to develop tolerance and understanding of refugee issues among host communities.

CANS population movement units work in close cooperation with UNHCR and IOM. The projects funded by UNHCR and IOM include traditional medical and social assistance, as well as financial aid to refugees.

Disaster Preparedness

Objective 1: To strengthen DP personnel and administrative capacities of the five national societies at oblast and rayon levels and assist CANS in developing clear policies and operational guidelines..

The regional DP programme continues to provide administrative and salary support to the four National Societies in the region on a monthly basis (Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan). Understanding of importance to have clear policies and guidelines in disaster preparedness and response lead the CANS to discuss and develop their strategic work plan for the period of 2002-2003. Disaster response plans were finalised to cover zone-specific disasters.

Objective 2: To improve CANS skills, knowledge and capacities in DP/DR, especially at oblast and rayon level.

Disaster management training workshop held in November 26-30, 2001 in Almaty, when programme coordinators from each National Society (disaster preparedness, population movement, health, Logistics and Deputy chairpersons, representing the leadership) gathered together to upgrade their skills in disaster management for use in the current humanitarian crisis, as well as in future operations. The evaluation of the training demonstrated a high interest of the participants in such topics as camp management, psychological support, health in emergencies and logistics. As a follow-up to the workshop, the national societies will develop their own in-country training plan and disaster management activities with the Federation's support when required.

During the reporting period, 81 workshops were organized throughout the region, with focus on rayon level. The main area for DP training covers improving skills of oblast and rayon Red cross branches, on DP policy planning and disaster management issues. The issue of quality training was taken up with national societies in the region, who stressed the importance of a needs-based training and a proper follow-up.

Objective 3: Increase awareness in communities at risk and in selected disaster prone areas so as to reduce their vulnerability.

CANS are giving more attention to the public awareness and education. Information material related to various country and region specific disasters is being distributed in public places, clinics, schools, enterprises and various organizations. The information material is aimed to raise awareness among general public about potential hazards and how to cope with them.

Based on VCA and recommendations of previous community-based DP projects, CANS initiated DP activities in high-risk communities. This includes training and consultancy services for communities, creating rescue teams working in specific disasters, as well as development and printing of awareness materials.

Objective 4: To improve and maintain good integration/links with other programmes and other organizations.

The disaster management workshop, held in November in Almaty, as well as the humanitarian crisis emergency response, reflected the efforts for better and closer integration of various activities of the CANS. Apart from the cooperation in the humanitarian crisis operation, National Societies integrate their various activities, such as the DP and youth in Kazakhstan, through water-rescue, trauma reduction, and other projects). In Turkmenistan, the National Society gives attention to the recruitment of elderly volunteers into DP activities in the country. These volunteers are receiving additional training to act as trainers on preventive health care at schools within the framework of the regional health programme.

Health and Care

Objective 1: To implement the Federation's TB prevention programme through pilot projects, awareness raising and advocacy of the DOTS treatment strategy.

The tuberculosis projects initiated in the region have gained their momentum. The only exception has been Tajikistan, in view of the lack of government's official acceptance of the DOTS strategy, which is the necessary prerequisite for the Federation's TB project. The first phase of pilot projects has been completed and projects evaluated jointly by CANS health coordinators. The lessons learnt have been used as a base for developing plans for the coming year. In Kazakhstan, the project will be expanded to the second site. In Kyrgyzstan, it will be redesigned and possibly expanded with support of the British and Spanish Red Cross societies. In Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, the expansions are in view, as well. It is expected that the project will also start in Tajikistan, with assistance to TB patients following the DOTS treatment in Dushanbe. Also, possible inclusion of those patients in the RCST public-canteens programme is being considered.

Objective 2: To improve the health of women and their children.

The women's health programme in Semipalatinsk, East Kazakhstan, has already made some good progress and is now considered for expansion. Two leaflets, on women's health issues and on baby care, have been produced and distributed in the operational area. The plan is to expand the project in the rural areas of the district, with possible support of the Japanese Red Cross.

Institutional and Resource Development

During the reporting period training and consultation were provided to the CANS and the final drafts of three of the National Societies strategic plans completed (Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan). Opportunities to support organizational development through programmes continued with components on OD being incorporated into disaster management workshops, considerations of OD built into the response to the current humanitarian crisis, and advice provided on possibilities to incorporate elements into ongoing and other emergency responses (drought, floods programmes etc.).

Objective 1: To assist the national societies in responding to local vulnerabilities focusing on the core areas.

Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Turkmen National Societies are currently undertaking vulnerability survey projects. The aim of the project is to help branches with planning new activities applying the vulnerability survey. CANS were trained on the VCA methodology and have expressed interest to expand this training to the branches, as it characterized as relatively inexpensive and simple, but very useful tool for project planning for vulnerable people.

Objective 2: To improve the financial sustainability of CANS

Generally, the second half of the year saw substantial changes in the area of financial sustainability. Approval of Turkmen Red Crescent revised statutes by the Ministry of Justice will allow the national society to run income generating activities. The printing center in Uzbekistan, funded by the Korean Red Cross is expected to cover staff costs and generate income by providing photocopying services. Kazakh and Uzbek National Societies attended training to enhance skills in financial sustainability and fund-raising. This important area, however still requires more systematic approach in support to the national societies, training, building new partnerships and finding methods to enhance financial sustainability.

Objective 3: To enhance CANS understanding of the Federation's methodologies and upgrade practical skills and knowledge.

The important training that took place in the region is already bringing results. Training seminars in volunteer management, budget management and fund-raising have been very useful and covered 15 branches in Kazakhstan. In Uzbekistan 4 branch staff attended practical and methodological training on working with local donors. In Turkmenistan, efficient reporting system was established between the national societies headquarters and branches to improve general reporting status.

Objective 4: To promote development of youth activities in CANS.

The regional programme supports 11 youth centres at branches, gathering 250 youth members active in all core areas of the national societies activities. In Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, it was decided to incorporate a section on volunteers into the Society's Statutes and to apply volunteering concept more systematically within the programmes. In Turkmenistan, the Volunteer Right Charter is going to be adopted in the next presidium.

Humanitarian Values

Objective 1: To promote the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values and help the National Societies in Central Asia to extend relations with local authorities and international organizations.

The regional delegation prepared an information kit for general public, national societies and potential donors, containing dissemination information both for raising profile, raising awareness about the Red Crescent activities and raising funds.

CANS information departments focus on developing a communication network. This included induction courses for volunteers, mainly among journalists with skills and interest to work in PR and communication. By the end of the reporting period the workshops have been finalised in Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan at the branch level.

Objective 2: To profile the National Societies' activities in core areas of disaster preparedness, response and health promotion.

In addition to traditional information activities, such as the CANS web site and newsletters, National Societies have continued their efforts to support all programmes through proactive information

campaigns in and outside the region. Particular achievements have been made in promoting Red Cross and Red Crescent interventions in the area of disease prevention and public awareness. In Kazakhstan, the information, youth and health departments have run actions devoted to the world AIDS day, to draw public attention to the problem. In Turkmenistan, the youth disseminated the same message across disco and Red Crescent youth clubs.

Objective 3: To improve local fund-raising capacities of National Societies.

Information officers of all five CANS are actively involved in national societies fund-raising campaigns, through organization of public events and campaigns. As a result of such efforts in Turkmenistan, the British Embassy in Ashgabat supported the publication of leaflets on health prevention. In Almaty, Kazakhstan, the National Society has initiated a media campaign to support the street children rehabilitation center, which resulted in a number of significant donations from the local business community.

Coordination and Management

Objective: To promote coordination between Red Cross and Red Crescent partners involved in the region.

A participatory planning process was finalized involving all CANS, delegations, ICRC and PNS involved in Central Asia. This produced the draft regional assistance strategy (RAS) which was circulated within and outside the region for feedback and comments. The draft paper was discussed with CANS leadership and ICRC during regional coronation meeting in Tashkent, on 19-20 September. PNS input was sought on priorities, areas of interest, views of national society capacity and population's vulnerability suitable for the Red Cross/Red Crescent to address. This aimed to help develop a RAS which would be feasible and which all partners would work according to. In October, at the Partnership Meeting in Almaty, the RAS was formally approved.

In Almaty, press briefings were held on occasion of the ERNA and Partnership meetings. Reuters and BBC representatives based in Almaty have attended the events. The ERNA meeting made a draft plan for working together on communication issues related to HIV/AIDS in the region.

Outstanding needs

The regional programmes of Central Asia have made significant progress in 2001. The changing environment and in particular the humanitarian crisis in and around Afghanistan has seen all partners in the region work effectively together to adapt plans to be ready to respond if and when needed. At the same time, the long-term work has not been deflected. However, lack of long-term commitment to programmes and late pledges have made the planning difficult in some areas. In particular, population movement and health programmes remain in need of significant funds to be able to build on the preparatory steps already taken. Furthermore, a full organizational development process is underway to build the CANS capacity to be able to work effectively in the future with less need of external assistance. To follow through on this process, long-term funds and partnerships are needed in the region. In particular, the OD processes in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, which include the establishment and support of fund-raising activities, information activities and branch level vulnerability and capacity assessments are in need of input.

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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Central Asia Regional Programmes							ANNEX 1
APPEAL No.01.62/2001							PLEDGES RECEIVED
							26.02.2002
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	PLEDGE
CASH							
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				6'797'518		TOTAL COVERAGE	NUMBER
						83.1%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				356'392			
FEDERATION BUDGET				578'760			
AMERICAN - GOVT		581'432	USD	946'571	26.01.01	FOOD AID IN ARAL SEA REGION	0102106
AMERICAN - RC		141'876	USD	251'050	27.06.2001	MEASLES INITIATIVE PROJECT	0106220
AMERICAN - RC		194'041	USD	334'429	25.07.2001	ARA SEA PROGRAMMES	0108025
AMERICAN - GOVT (PRM GRANT)		134'831	USD	223'658	27.09.2001	CENTRAL ASIA	0110093
BRITISH - RC		27'000	GBP	65'070	15.02.01		0103060
BRITISH - RC				11'128	15.02.01	ID REVIEW, DELEGATE COSTS	0103059
BRITISH - RC				98'655	23.03.01	ID DELEGATE, IN-COUNTRY COSTS	0103293
BRITISH - RC		22'472	GBP	55'281	30.03.01	TURKMENISTAN, DPP	0104087
BRITISH - RC		20'225	GBP	49'754	30.03.01	TURKMENISTAN, TB PROGRAMME	0104088
BRITISH - RC		1'686	GBP	4'148	10.05.2001	HEALTH PROGRAMME	0105103
BRITISH - RC		11'240	GBP	27'875	26.03.2001	YOUTH PROGRAMME	0106192
BRITISH - RC		19'670	GBP	48'949	26.03.2001	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	0106193
BRITISH - RC		10'000	GBP	23'900	04.08.2001	TB PROGRAMME	0109060
BRITISH - RC				12'565	02.11.2001	YOUTH PROGRAMME	0111043
BRITISH - RC				44'638	02.11.2001	ID PROGRAMME	0111044
BRITISH - RC		175'843	USD	293'306	07.11.2001	UZBEKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN & KYRGYZSTAN	0111085
BRITISH - RC		1'973	GBP	4'735	28.11.2001	YOUTH, OUTSTANDING COSTS	0112012
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		66'434	EUR	97'871	01.05.2001	YOUTH	0105171
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		90'821	EUR	136'629	02.05.2001	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS	0106007
FINNISH - RC		42'047	EUR	64'101	08.06.2001	REGIONAL COOPERATION	0107121
ICELANDIC - RC				58'534	14.06.2001	REGIONAL INFORMATION	0106219
IRANIAN - RC		2'000	USD	3'284	28.08.2001	PROGRAMME MGT & CONTROL	0109007
JAPANESE - RC		5'000'000	JPY	63'875	18.12.2001	HEALTH	0201076
KOREA - RC		54'729	USD	93'762	03.05.2001	PRINTING HOUSE PROJECT (PH II)	0105169
KOREA - RC		3'375	USD	5'906	12.04.2001	DELIVERY COST	0106104
KOREA - RC		24'511	USD	43'250	28.06.2001	YOUTH PROGRAMME	0107083
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1'078'749	NOK	205'032	13.07.2001	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS	0108002
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1'409'993	NOK	263'367	17.11.2001	HEALTH AND CARE	0111109
NORWEGIAN - RC		201'552	NOK	37'647	28.11.2001	KAZAKHSTAN	0112001
SWEDISH - RC		200'000	SEK	34'740	01.03.01	IDRD SUPPORT	0103082
SWEDISH - GOVT		937'500	SEK	157'969	23.05.2001	IDRD SUPPORT & ID DELEGATE	0106035
SWEDISH - RC				25'000	23.04.2001	OPS SUPPORT	0106086
SWEDISH - RC		175'000	SEK	28'648	09.08.2001	ID REVIEW	0108092
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		87'500	SEK	13'598	08.11.2001	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS	0111042
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				4764'077	CHF	70.1%	
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)							
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	PLEDGE
Great Britain	Delegate(s)			119'917			
USA	Delegate(s)			109'568			
Sweden	Delegate(s)			92'977			
Norway	Delegate(s)			59'959			
SWEDISH - RC				500'000	23.04.2001	500 MT SECOND HAND CLOTHING	0106086
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				882'421	CHF	13.0%	
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET							
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	PLEDGE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF		
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:							
210451, P70001, P70002, P70003, P70004, P70020, P70161, P70503, P70505, P70506, P70507, P70520, P70521, P70531, PKZ003, PKZ504, PKZ506, PKZ508, PT							