

# 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

4 July 2003

**Appeal No. 01.87/2003**

**Appeal Target:** CHF 5,298,558 (USD 3.9m or EUR 3.4m)

**Programme Update No. 1**

**Period covered: January- May, 2003**

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

### ***In Brief***

**Appeal coverage:** 69.3%; (As of 4 July, for current coverage please click on weblink below)

[http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3%20-%20ap018703.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3%20-%20ap018703.pdf)

**Outstanding needs:** CHF 2,095,524 (USD 1.55m/ EUR 1.35m)

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:** Tajikistan 01.86/2003

### **Operational developments**

The regional delegation continues providing support to the national societies (NS) in the region according to the needs and priorities identified by them in the Regional Assistance Strategy.

Regional Disaster Preparedness Programme (DP) proceeded according to plan with no major changes. A Regional Disaster Preparedness Training (RDRT) aimed to establish a regional team of 11 people out of 60 trained from different areas of expertise, to be deployed in times of disasters.

National Societies with the support of the regional delegation continue development of their DP plans, policies and procedures to strengthen their disaster preparedness/response capacities. Roles and responsibilities between branches and headquarters as well as the link of NS DP plan with national DP plans are being identified through this process.

In Kazakhstan, an earthquake, 5.4 on the Richter scale, killed three people and left over 20,000 homeless in the southern Zhambyl province. Kazakh RC is meeting needs in response to the emergency thanks to assistance from the Federation's disaster response emergency fund (DREF). The Kazakh RC's effective response was acknowledged by the government, local authorities and communities.

(Link for Information Bulletin <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/03/03052603/>)

Regional multisectoral meeting took place in Almaty in May. Counterparts from all Societies presented the first drafts of 2004/2005 plans with the emphasis on integration of activities and measurable results. Programme staff (health, disaster management, organisational development and youth) had a separate meeting to discuss their sectoral activities, achievements and problems. The aim was to adopt a more coordinated approach to future engagement.

## Health and care

### Goal:

The role of the Central Asian national societies in health care of respective countries is increased.

### Objective:

In 2003, the capacities of the Central Asian national societies to address the main health problems of communities are improved through health promotion, first aid, complementing national tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and mother and child care programmes.

*Expected result 1: By the end 2003, 1,600 TB patients have been targeted to decrease their burden of TB through direct observation and social support (food parcels or hot meals, hygiene kits and homecare) and TB awareness has been raised among 20,000 people.*

In the region tuberculosis control programme has been initiated in 2000 in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and gradually expanded to all five countries. The programme includes direct observation of selected patients under DOTS (Direct Observation of Treatment Short Course) by visiting nurses, health education and social support components (food parcels or hot meal at soup kitchen and hygienic kits). In most programmes, TB patients under the RC supervision are selected among those who already defaulted from the regional TB services. Visiting nurses visit the patients and their families at homes. Out of 15 projects, three are implemented without food incentives (two in Kazakhstan and one in Turkmenistan). These programmes are cost effective and the role of home care services is increasing. At the same, the time food incentive component plays a significant role in the patient's compliance to the treatment. This project also bolsters the image of National Societies (though it consumes 70-80% of the total budget).

The following activities have been implemented during the reporting period to achieve the expected result:

In total 1,327 patients are under Red Cross supervision

- 1,867 food parcels were distributed
- 458 hygienic kits were distributed
- 140 patients attended RC soup kitchens in Kyrgyzstan and Dushanbe, monthly

Activities focused on raising awareness on TB and its prevention have been implemented through 1200 education sessions for schoolchildren at schools and 12000 individual sessions during home visits by RC nurses, in all five countries.

**Impact:** The Red Crescent Projects cover in average 45% from total number of patients treated under DOTS with home care and social support as well as 32% of schools with health education campaigns in operational areas. The role of visiting nurses in the region is increasing among communities and local health authorities. Their efforts in counselling / psychological support, direct observation of the treatment as well as case detection are making a difference. In summary:

- number of defaulters dropped from 20% to 4% in Ustkamenogorsk / Kazakhstan,
- 65% of patients under RC supervision completed treatment,
- 1.5-2.0 kg of weight increase owing to 3-4 months of feeding is observed in soup kitchens.
- knowledge on TB prevention among population has increased within two years of programme implementation and is measured through pre and post tests.

*Expected result 2: Involvement of Central Asia National Societies in HIV/AIDS prevention in their respective countries is increased through extensive efforts in raising awareness among 30,000 young people, commercial sex workers and IV drug users.*

The programme is being implemented in two countries under the annual appeal, in Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan, both targeting youth. Activities to implement the expected results both at national and branch level included printing and distribution of 7000 posters to the local communities, organising round tables, running concerts, discotheques, drawing competitions, testing schoolchildren on HIV/AIDS knowledge. Over 6,000 young people participated in HIV/AIDS sessions conducted by the RC trainers and volunteers. All activities in both countries have been well highlighted by the media. Kazakh and Uzbek RC societies are planning to soon work with commercial sex workers and I/V drug users.

**Impact:** All National Societies are concentrated on training youth volunteers and peer education at schools to increase their knowledge and influence safe behaviour and plan to expand activities on other risk groups as well.

***Expected result 3. The Red Crescent Societies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan take an active part in Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM) of the Global Fund to control HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.***

The Red Crescent Societies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are members of CCM in their respective countries. After the second call for applications for the Global Fund, three countries - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are expected to receive funding for HIV/AIDS and TB (only Kyrgyzstan) control activities. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health in Uzbekistan was preparing an application to the Global Fund for the most recent call for proposals (deadline 31 May). Uzbek RC and the regional delegation participated in a special meeting organised by WHO for the stakeholders in Tashkent in April 2003 and has prepared its fund application.

***Expected result 4. By the end 2003 the quality of health promotion and first aid training to 16,000 volunteers and community members at branch level has been improved through training based on common regional curriculum. 10 health staff from selected branches have improved their technical skills in health aspects of disaster management with the main focus on vulnerability assessment, epidemic control and first aid.***

To coordinate first aid activities in the region, the regional First Aid (FA) focus group consisting of FA coordinators from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, was established. It conducted an assessment of the FA programmes in all five countries. As a result, it was agreed to conduct a training of trainers (TOT) refresher, to develop the regional FA manual and common curriculum for FA trainings in the region.

Turkmen RC in cooperation with health and education authorities continued activities in preventive health/First Aid programme. The training curriculum includes prevention of infectious diseases (diarrhoeal, respiratory infections, TB, HIV/AIDS) and elements of first aid. The programme provides increased coverage in 2003. During the reporting period, 146 RC volunteer trainers conducted 1,876 sessions for 12,000 schoolchildren and 781 sessions for 3,940 adults in the above-mentioned topics.

**Impact:** Rural communities in Turkmenistan with low access to health services, as well as schoolchildren, have increased their knowledge from 36% to 80% in basic signs of and preventive measures against diarrhoeal diseases, respiratory infections, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS and TB.

***Expected result 5: By the end 2003, maternal health services have received better assistance from six Red Crescent branches through increased knowledge of 2,000 pregnant women of safe pregnancy and deliveries, potential complications, risk factors and infant care.***

The health education component for pregnant women is integrated into other activities of national societies:  
Kazakhstan: Semipalatinsk (integrated with TB prevention); Karaganda (integrated with health promotion/FA)  
Uzbekistan and Tajikistan (integrated into MCH programme supported by the American Red Cross)

245 pregnant women attended training organized by Kazakhstan RC Society in Semipalatinsk, Abai and Karaganda. The main topics were:

- prevention of infectious diseases
- baby care

- importance of breast feeding
- elements of family planning

The increase in knowledge is measured by pre and post-tests - from 40% before the training to 89% after its completion.

The Red Crescent Society printed and distributed information material to pregnant women on major prevention measures during pregnancy (around 9,000 information leaflets).

### ***Impact***

Number of women regularly using the RC fitness center - 153  
 Number of deliveries at maternities (women attended the RC training) - 142  
 Number of deliveries without complication - 103 (72%)  
 Number of women receiving home care from RC trained midwives - 170  
 Number of training sessions at homes - 85

### ***Constraints***

The issues raised during the reporting period were related to the need of quality information material produced by the NS, financial management and reporting. The area of integration with other activities was partly addressed during the regional meeting.

## **Disaster Management**

### **Goal:**

**The suffering and vulnerability level of high risk groups in Central Asia is reduced through effective disaster management system of Central Asian national societies and other stakeholders in the region.**

### **Objective:**

**By the end of 2003, the disaster management capacity of the Red Crescent Societies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan has increased through improved planning capacities, increased volunteers recruitment and training, logistical support for programmes and increased community participation in mitigation projects and activities, matching the characteristics of a well-prepared national society.**

### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

#### ***Expected Result 1:***

***By the end of 2003 each of the four Central Asia NS have developed, disseminated and started implementation of the disaster preparedness plans at all levels, linked to the country national DP plan, where available.***

Central Asia NS have different progress in the development of disaster preparedness (DP) plans. Turkmen RC held negotiations with the government to set up disaster preparedness/response information system and started data collection. Kyrgyz RC initiated a meeting for branches to discuss the structure and content of the disaster preparedness plan and identify roles and responsibilities in planning. Kazakh RC has prepared draft disaster preparedness policy and a glossary of terms used in the DP plan.

#### ***Expected Result 2***

***By the end of 2003 Central Asia NS have established one regional disaster response team (RDRT), conducted one exchange visit per each NS and carried out practical training for 80 - 100 staff and volunteers in each Central Asia NS with a focus on branch rescue and sanitary teams.***

The second Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) workshop held in Almaty, in January 2003, for 36 participants (NS headquarters and branch disaster preparedness / response, health, information, first aid, youth, finance) from five Central Asia NS. The workshop was run in Russian language and facilitated by local resources. The nine-day RDRT training included key disaster management topics and practical exercises. This is the second RDRT training in the region, which aims to establish a regional team of 11 people out of 60 trained from different areas of expertise, to be deployed in times of disasters. The first RDRT workshop took place in Kyrgyzstan in 2002.

Two meetings of NS disaster preparedness officers took place in January and May, to discuss the five NS plans, agree on structure and content of NS DP plans, and design a format for the DP policy. The second meeting made a greater focus on RDRT team formation, including selection criteria, topics for refresher course and procedures.

Four NS (Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkmen and Uzbek) conducted both internal and external coordination meetings for branch staff and other partners in their respective countries. The discussions highlighted the need for further community based DP programmes, volunteer recruitment and training, vulnerability, capacity assessment (VCA) and included practical training and field exercises in disaster management.

#### ***Expected Result 3***

***By the end of 2003, the four Central Asia NS (Kazakh RC, Uzbek RC, Kyrgyz RC and Turkmen RC) have developed a minimum of two participatory community based projects, in a gender balanced manner, to address issues of mitigation and early warning. In Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, the NS have also implemented one recovery project based on the results of the VCA conducted in these countries.***

In 2003, Kyrgyz RC initiated two mitigation projects in two branches. Both projects are aimed to prevent seasonal flooding through cleaning channels and drainage systems in two provinces of Kyrgyzstan and incorporate an awareness element on environmental issues.

Uzbek RC, based on the last year experience, will continue tree planting in three other areas of the country that are prone to landslide. In March, NS staff, volunteers and local communities have planted thousands of trees in each of three selected provinces. Local community committed to ensure further care for the trees.

Turkmen RC have finalized a desertification mitigation project to reduce the adverse effects of sand drifts in the project area. Local authorities acknowledged Turkmenistan RC role in project implementation and showed interest in further cooperation. Another mitigation project aimed to protect the area from landslide - through the construction of a dam - was only finalized in May 2003 because of technical difficulties. The society is carrying out a feasibility study to initiate another mitigation project in landslide and floods prone areas.

Kazakh NS has completed a project on traffic accidents prevention in Zhambyl province through setting traffic safety awareness billboards at heavy traffic areas. Kazakh RC has implemented community based disaster preparedness projects (CBDP) in 13 communities, (5 urban and 8 rural) covering 3,000 people with practical training in disaster preparedness. The society works on the community level in disaster preparedness to build local capacities in preparedness and mitigation, and coping mechanisms through awareness and practical training.

#### ***Expected Result 4***

***By the end of 2003, an integrated and collective approach is developed by the Central Asia NS to address disaster management issues through coordination efforts with local authorities, United Nations (UN), ICRC and other partners and through the integration of relevant Central Asia NS programmes, such as OD and health, with the DM programme.***

NS in the region continue cooperation and integration with internal programmes as well as with other NGOs and partners. Kyrgyz RC disaster preparedness integrates with the health programme in training and ICRC on tracing in emergencies.

In March 2003, NS disaster preparedness officers from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan participated in the Regional Initiative Forum for Natural Disasters, organized by UNDP in Iran with the view to examine opportunities for new initiatives on disaster risk management in the Southeast and Central Asia region.

In April 2003 Uzbek RC participated in “Fergana 2003” field exercise, organized by the country’s Ministry for Emergencies with support from UN and NATO. During the earthquake response exercise Uzbek RC demonstrated its response capacities (first aid, camp deployment, tracing and relief operation).

Kazakh RC DP programme closely integrates its activities with other programmes, such as international humanitarian law (IHL), Tracing and Youth. The round table was held with NGOs on formation of Disaster Preparedness Coordination Committee in two cities in Kazakhstan to discuss capacities of different NGOs to respond to disasters locally.

***Expected Result 5***

***By the end of 2003, the logistical capacity of Central Asia NS in responding to emergency and ongoing needs has increased through the support provided to construct warehouses in selected NS, through vehicle support, logistics training, and four exchange visits.***

With funds allocated through Afghan Crisis to increase response capacities of neighboring national societies, Turkmen RC continues warehouse construction. A prefabricated building was purchased and construction process is underway.

A number of activities had been carried out to improve logistics management in the national societies. These include translation and use of the Federation logistics regulations, procedures and manuals, on the job coaching and sharing good practices among national societies. These activities have been acknowledged by the NS presidents at their annual meeting. Future plans include developing standard logistics approach adapted to local legislation.

***Expected Result 6***

***By the end of 2003, disaster preparedness and response within the four Central Asia NS, namely Kazakh RC, Uzbek RC, Kyrgyz RC and Turkmen RC has improved by propositioning of non-food items in six DP centres in Uzbekistan, three in Kyrgyzstan, four in Kazakhstan and four in Turkmenistan. Communication facilities and awareness on disasters preparedness and response at different levels has increased through media, printed materials and public sessions.***

On May 23, 2003 the southern province of Kazakhstan was hit by a 5.4 Richter scale earthquake. Three people were killed and 70% of residential houses in the area were destroyed. Over 20,000 people were left homeless. Children and elderly endured heavy rains and low temperatures. Although the Government started reconstruction of social and administrative buildings, there is a threat that thousands of people will remain homeless in the coming winter. Kazakh RC has issued an information bulletin highlighting needs and RC action (see <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/03/03052603/>), and responded to the urgent needs during the emergency phase with funds available from DREF funds, and is seeking opportunities for local donations.

The Uzbekistan Drought operation has been extended from February to April 2003 after consultation with donors. It will continue meeting needs in the region. These include community based health education, first aid and medicines/syringes for medical institutions to provide free services to poor communities, children footwear for poor, large families and maintenance of an Early Warning System.

The DP stock procurement has been done in all four national societies. Kazakh RC aims to replenish stocks used for earthquake response operation. Kerosene stoves, part of the Afghan Crisis appeal procurement, were declined in Uzbekistan because of concerns over the fuel tank.

***Expected Result 7***

***By the end of 2003, access to material and non-material support for vulnerable forced migrants in five countries of Central Asia has improved. The nutritional status of 600 vulnerable refugees and IDP families has improved Hygiene awareness among 3,500 families has improved 60% as has vocational training to selected refugee and IDP families.***

In March 2003 Kyrgyz RC has implemented activities to improve hygiene and educational among Afghan refugees and their children through distribution of hygiene sets, school stationery sets and school sportswear as well as two three-day trainings for women-refugees on hygiene, disease prevention, family planning and issues of

birth delivery. Refugee communities, RC volunteers have been involved in the activities, which covered 560 refugee families and were covered by local media.

### ***Impact***

- All National Societies in CA region identified the schedule and content for DP plans, policies, including operational guidelines, early warning and risk mapping to ensure effective disaster management in the region.
- It is expected that RDRT teams will be established and operational in times of disasters at regional, national and province levels to provide effective response. Each NS has already identified team members according to their own countries' criteria and, through these activities, have contributed to building local capacities in disaster management at local, and national level.
- Community based disaster mitigation projects implemented by national societies in the region demonstrate real impact on desertification, landslides and floods prevention through seven mitigation projects (two in Kyrgyzstan, three in Uzbekistan, and two in Turkmenistan) as well as appreciation of communities and Governments.
- National societies are strengthening their disaster response capacities through accumulating DP stocks to be able to respond to localized disasters immediately and effectively, (most recent example, earthquake response operation by Kazakh RC)

### ***Constraints***

- The need for improved communication practices, in particular, disaster early notification was highlighted during regional DM meeting (May 2003) and decision was made to ensure regular information flow.
- Disparity of internationally used and locally existing quality requirements has prompted the need for standardization.

## **Organisational Development**

### **Goal:**

**The Central Asian national societies become well-functioning national societies which are relevant, effective and efficient in providing services to the vulnerable people in their countries.**

### **Objective:**

**The Central Asian national societies are initiating a process to adopt and adjust their governance, management and functional structure to better fulfil their mandate to serve the vulnerable.**

*Expected result 1: By the end of 2003, 1) the overall management - including leadership, staff and volunteers of the Central Asian national societies - has improved through training and coaching on human resource management, 2) financial management and 3) fundraising emphasising the link between activities, structure, statutes and regulations.*

1 Two-day leadership and management workshops were run by the regional organisational development (OD) delegate within Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan national societies. The third day was offered for the national societies themselves for working with statutes and structure and membership. Half a day was allocated for governance and management. During one and a half days, participants explored, by using special tools and tests, each NS leadership and management practices and staff's personal abilities and qualities. Findings were not only discussed but organizational development tasks were agreed and responsible managers for them named.

2 Plans to develop financial management of the national societies were based on the experience of the successful cooperation between Dushanbe delegation, Tajik RC and a consultant (a local audit company) last year. This year the project will be implemented in the HQs of each national society. The project includes accounting computer software in Russian, computer and coaching by a consultant for each NS. Procurement procedures for computers had started. Tenders for training are also in the pipeline. Most likely, the Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan RC will have training in their own countries whereas the chief accountants from Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan will go to Dushanbe for one week practical training on new computer software.

3 The OD unit of the Regional Delegation launched an application process looking for a regional resource person to develop fundraising. One NS applicant - the deputy head of the OD department of the Uzbekistan RCS - was

accepted. He and the regional OD officer went for a one-week training and planning to Moscow (in May) where the plans for the Central Asia were developed together with the Russian Red Cross fundraising trainers. The resource person will carry out the regional activities on a voluntary basis. The regional resource person will work with each interested national society after they have established a fundraising taskforce, maximum 10 people.

4 Project Planning Process (PPP). The regional delegation conducted training for staff and volunteers of five NS headquarters and branches. Regional delegation has translated the PPP module into Russian to facilitate learning process. On average, 20 people from every NS went through the training held in Russian during one and a half months.

### ***Impact***

1 Leadership and management. The impact is probably close to zero according to interviews in late May at the regional programme meeting. The agreed tasks were not fulfilled and clear plans to do so were not introduced. The only positive and possible impact mentioned was the statutes and structure change process, which leads to some decentralization and listening to members in a more active way.

2 Financial management. After the training the NS financial managers and accountants of the NS HQ will be able to use modern software, which also makes it easy for them to transfer their financial information into the Federation system. The new practice will also facilitate better transparency. Tajik RC has had an external audit, and the others are planning to have one next year.

3 Fundraising. The impact will not be known this year. More guidance from the Federation and donors would help this process. More work in this area, in terms of OD and generally, is required before progress can be made.

4 Project Planning Process: NS staff and volunteers acquired skills in project planning based on the logical framework matrix and used their knowledge in planning their country and programme appeals for 2004. Facilitation in Russian and training material translated into Russian helped the learning process. Also the NS people trained in the regional PPP workshop helped facilitate and are now PPP resource people for their societies.

### ***Constraints***

1 Leadership and management. Much work is needed in this area. Genuine desire to change and long term engagement are both pre-requisites. There is a difficulty in translating a regional Central Asia vision into a living and meaningful strategy at the country level.

2 Financial management. Regional Delegation support has not been as strong in this area because of the workload elsewhere. The OD unit was occupied with PPP and management training during the three first months.

3 Fundraising. Past external funding of national societies has contributed to a lack of local fundraising. Again much work is needed in this area and a genuine desire to change and long term engagement are again required. New funding opportunities, ie commercial interests in Kazakhstan, need to be explored.

***Expected result 2*** *By the end of 2003, Central Asian national societies have introduced the draft versions of their new statutes and structures clarifying the role of governance and management and taking into account the need for more accountability and transparency.*

The joint commitment for the revision of the statutes and structure was signed between the Federation and five national societies in the weeklong leadership workshop in June 2002. All NS presented the statutes and structure process as a priority programme in their appeals, and consequently it appears in the regional appeal. At the end of the last year the Armenian Red Cross worked with all NS, which work resulted in NS action plans adopting a division between governance and management. The process has gone more or less according to the time schedule, which is following:

National society	Adoption of new statutes in general assembly	Elections in oblast and rayon levels	Elections in national level, general assembly
Kazakhstan RCS	March 2006	Apr. 2006 – Feb 2007	March 2007
Kyrgyzstan RC	July 2004	?	First quarter 2005
Tajikistan RCS	Oct. 2005	Nov. 2005- Apr.2006	July-Aug. 2006
Turkmenistan RCS	March 2005	March. 2005 -	Nov. 2005
Uzbekistan RCS	Nov. 2004	Dec. 2004- June 2005	Nov. 2005

### **Impact**

The most imminent impact is a new way of thinking about members, members' rights and registration of members, in short - that the members are owners of a national society. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan RC are aiming to build new approaches to membership.

One consequence of the change process is initial moves on the issue of a division between governance and management. NS have been working with lawyers, who provided services on voluntary basis, on statutes issues in cooperation with state authorities.

The Kazakhstan RC is working towards membership of the RC Movement. A draft of the presidential decree is under negotiation with the government. An ICRC/Federation Joint Commission plans to visit Kazakhstan at the end of July as work continues towards Kazakhstan RC recognition.

### **Constraints**

Difficulties remain in terms of progress on the separation of governance and management. The prospect of change has prompted uncertainty. Negotiations are underway on the role of the existing board and its relation to the management structures as well as to the membership.

***Expected result 3*** *By the end of 2003, most branches of the Central Asian national societies have increased their capacity in service delivery by developing their management, fundraising and community involvement through well targeted, planned and integrated programmes which will lead to an improved image in the public and a developed civil society.*

To accelerate support to branch initiatives, the OD unit established the regional branch development fund. Fifteen grants of 1 500 USD were made available. Branches were required to contribute 15% of the total budget and no salary support would be granted. Fundraising is a compulsory component through the 15% component. A focus on disaster mitigation programmes will help as these are already good development programmes.

### **Impact**

Not known yet

### **Constraints**

In the regional programme meeting in May some national society representatives were concerned about the 15 % contribution and no granting of salary support. They believed most branches would not be able to raise the needed finance. It was recommended that applications should be made for a lower amount to reflect local ability to contribute the required 15%.

### **Expected result 4**

***By the end of 2003, the youth movement of the Central Asian national societies has consolidated its role and image as an effective actor of Red Crescent work, being fully supported by the leadership of the Central Asian national societies, particularly in fighting stigmatisation of people living with tuberculosis and HIV/IDS, in disseminating preventive messages in these areas through peer education, and in advocating humanitarian values more widely.***

Central Asia Youth Coordinators for the first time participated in the regional meeting attending sessions of health, OD and disaster management programmes. This first experience led to discussion of possible ways of cooperation and integration with other programmes. Youth coordinators have designed a youth programme for 2004 based on

key RC youth activities and discussed reporting as a tool to monitor youth activities. RC Youth in the region run many common activities, with different funding sources.

### **Kazakh RC**

- Expanded the number of youth centres by opening an additional 18 centres throughout the country
- Youth centres conducted 15 peer education on volunteer management for 565 people and 57 on healthy life style for 855 young people
- Actively participated in celebration of World Red Cross Day and raised funds (100 USD in Semipalatinsk, 3.000 USD in Almaty)
- Six youth centres have conducted one fundraising event in May and raised 22.500 tenge (150 USD)

### **Kyrgyz RC**

- organised a youth centre in Osh city with 13 active volunteers
- among raising awareness about the movement and humanitarian values, Batken youth centre is actively involved in mine awareness, IHL and conflict preparedness in potential conflict areas
- training in computer and crafts for children from poor families
- fundraising activities (8872 soms = 180 USD raised during the reporting period)

### **Uzbek RC**

- established two more youth centres in Tashkent city. Total number of youth centres in Uzbekistan is now 22.
- provided youth volunteers with bus tickets monthly
- conducted a number of peer health education and drug prevention events
- ran exchange visits programme similar to other youth centres

### **Impact**

Central Asia youth raise funds to support their activities in orphanages and poor families.

### **Constraints**

Kazakh RC faced reduced support for youth programmes from donors, including 50% reduction of salary support. Funding constraints are already affecting youth exchange visits. The exchange visit plans will be revised to become more cost effective. Kazakh RC youth fundraising depends on decisions of local authorities, who did not allow the conduct of a fundraising action to Almaty oblast RC branch.

Talass youth centre (Kyrgyzstan) is the youth centre that needs most support. It is planned to provide it with office equipment to make it more efficient.

## **Humanitarian Values**

### **Goal:**

**Effectiveness of the national societies to deliver their services in core programmes is increased through promotion of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.**

### **Objective:**

**By the end of 2003, Central Asian national societies have improved their capacities to promote the understanding of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values of the RCRC Movement in the public through influencing behaviour in local communities.**

*Expected result 1. Respect for and implementation of the Movement's Fundamental Principles has increased through a behavioural change in implementing community-based activities on TB/HIV/AIDS prevention, disaster preparedness and response, social, legal and psychological support to migrants.*

Central Asia NS information officers continue their efforts to advocate on behalf of marginalized groups of population, including people living with TB, AIDS, victims of disasters and migrants, through promotion of tolerance and raising community awareness on risks and prevention of diseases, health and mitigation activities together with sectoral programmes.

Programme officers met twice during the reporting period, first to discuss preparations for the World TB Day in order to better raise public interest and awareness on TB risk and possible prevention. The second meeting was focused on effectiveness of communication of NS in the region. As the best tool to measure effectiveness the regional delegation proposed to conduct an image survey which outcomes could become important indicators for NS fundraising capacities. Although not budgeted for in 2003, an image survey is planned for the current year as an important prerequisite for future fundraising activities.

Fundamental Principles promotion is recognised to be more effective when integrated into other programmes. An integrated approach helps better co-ordinate overall planning and allows the running of joint activities in a cost-effective way. For example, in Turkmenistan, distribution of printed material and a training session on RC Principles and mission was incorporated into 65 health workshops on HIV/AIDS targeting 850 people (students, tutors, military personnel and other citizens) helping to reduce information programme costs.

The Federation Principles and Values promotion course materials (1200 copies) have been printed in Almaty, for the RC youth volunteers to disseminate information through youth clubs. Promotion of principles and values targeting the public was run through a permanent photo exhibition in Kyrgyzstan and charity Bazaar for international communities in Ashgabad, Turkmenistan. Other promotion activities targeting Governments, international organisations and NGOs include regular dissemination of newsletters, annual reports, NS promotion booklets and society's websites.

#### ***Impact***

1. Due to better funding for the Humanitarian Values program Principles promotion process throughout the region was shaped in more structured way this year.
2. Kazakh RC benefited from more recognition as a result of its effective disaster response record.

#### ***Constraints***

Due to a lack of funds activities planned for the Appeal 2003 have been reduced (NS web site opening and maintenance; reduced quantity of printed and visual materials).

*Expected result 2. Awareness of government authorities, national and international organisations, as well as the media about the achievements and needs of the Red Crescent Societies in the programme areas has increased through the representation of the Central Asian national societies at national and international levels, through the dissemination of printed materials, regular publications, presentations on different levels and targeted information campaigns.*

The Federation's secretary general visited the region and met top government officials. The secretary general spoke on behalf of national societies on several issues of concern, such as the rapid growth of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. Other issues highlighted included capacity building and interagency cooperation in disaster management and community involvement in major RCRC programmes at regional level. The visit raised the Central Asia NS profiles and media interest and contributed to a better understanding of the Federation's role and importance of NS activities in the region. (Report on the secretary general's visit to Kyrgyzstan RC can be found on the web: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/03/03031001/>.)

World TB Day was organized by the national societies in the region via a variety of activities involving beneficiaries and other organizations. They include:

- joint press-conferences with Project Hope, WHO and Health Ministries in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan;
- a contest on best article, drawing contests, radio programmes, RC nurses in action TV reports as well as youth performance against TB.

World RCRC Day was celebrated through a number of actions:

- Kazakhstan RC, with support from the American Red Cross, initiated a fund-raising event (walkathon) to support RC youth programs in HIV/AIDS prevention and development of youth activities in the region. Funds raised equalled 8,000 US dollars. These will be used to fund a summer camp training for youth leaders as well as for Pavlodar RC branch's provision of care for 125 teenagers living with HIV (see report on the Federation web site: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/03/03052603/>).
- The leadership of Kazakhstan RC was interviewed by the Deutsche Welle and the Radio Free Europe.

- 10.000 “Truth about AIDS” posters were produced in national and Russian languages on AIDS prevention in all five NS prevention campaigns

Central Asia NS received information kits and the Federation press releases adapted to the regional context and translated into Russian prior to the event.

In Uzbekistan, on June 1, Child Protection Day was used to raise awareness about child rights and raise funds to assist children from families with low income.

### **Impact**

1. National media receive improved information helping to ensure that RCRC messages are put across more effectively.
2. State health and emergency officials show increased interest in participation in RC organized events: press conferences, round tables and presentations throughout the region.
3. In capitals and provinces, public interest in RC events and actions is growing, partly attributed to the increased ownership of the NS and new initiatives.

*Expected result 3. By the end of 2003, a total 250 staff members and 500 volunteers of the Central Asian national societies in five countries, at the headquarters and branch levels, have improved their skills in performance, communication and promotion of the Fundamental Principles and values through the distribution and adequate use of existing national societies and Federation’s tools, such as the youth guidelines and the two-day training module “From Principles to Action”.*

“From Principles to Action” modules in Russian (Guide for instructors and Guide for participants) were published and distributed upon the request to Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine and Belarus (300 copies), as well as to five Central Asian NS (115 copies). The module is planned to be used in two-three pilot branches in the second half of the year for NS staff and volunteers to update on RC Movement, key policy documents and implementation of RC Principles.

Training on communication skills - on hold last year due to insufficient funding - was resumed this year in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan for staff of RC branches and journalists volunteering for RC. This is expected to improve communication between the RC and media.

### **Impact:**

- Communication between branches and headquarters have improved significantly and resulted in better coverage of branches activities and initiatives.
- Communication capacities in branches are strengthening through increased number of volunteers trained and involved in dissemination work at branch level.
- Media database created in branches has been expanded with new contacts. It contributed to increased interest in RC programmes and growing media coverage of RC news.

### **Constraints:**

- Lack of visual and printed materials produced by the Federation Secretariat and the regional delegation reduce RC visibility.
- Funding constraints resulted in cutting down communication skills training.

*Expected result 4. By the end of 2003, public awareness campaigns in all five Central Asian countries contribute to the development of conditions leading to more tolerance and respect between migrants and the host communities as part of the follow-up of the 2002 regional action to reduce discrimination.*

Kazakhstan is home for almost 300.000 migrants. In the framework of planned activities to promote tolerance among host communities towards migrants, Kazakh NS conducted a survey in three provinces to identify the situation of migrants and host communities. The findings of the survey show a need for a long term advocacy and careful planning of interventions to avoid creating social inequality as both communities face similar social problems, related to poverty. As a result, a TV company in one province committed to initiate a programme on returnees and integration in Kazakhstan.

In Uzbekistan, tolerance towards HIV+ people has been promoted by youth department through anti-stigma messages in a five-minute video, broadcast on national TV, performances in three big cities and distribution of 400 wall calendars. Activities were praised.

In Tajikistan, within the “Tolerance towards vulnerable people” project the NS organised two interactive radio (questions/answers) programmes and a telephone hot line to provide professional consultations from an NS psychotherapist.

### ***Impact***

The most important achievement in Kazakhstan was resumed attention of authorities, media and other organisations towards migrants needs.

### ***Constraints***

In Uzbekistan, circulation of any HIV related information remained poor after almost a decade, limiting the Uzbek RC in HIV/AIDS prevention and antidiscrimination.

## **Federation Coordination**

### **Goal:**

**All components of the RCRC Movement and other partners agree upon a framework of cooperation, which will be reflected in the regional/cooperation agreement strategy (RAS/CAS) process to strengthen the five national societies and effectively reduce the suffering of the vulnerable.**

### **Objective:**

**By the end of 2003, programme coordination and in each country is improved through ongoing dialogue between all partners. In addition improved exchange between Central Asia national societies through the ongoing revision of RAS/CAS.**

*Expected result: By the end of 2003 the coordination efforts by the Federation are reflected in improved and transparent communication among all partners, a participatory and inclusive planning process, the effective use of resources, in appropriate human resource development, and more focused programme implementation respective of the needs of the five national societies of Central Asia and beneficiaries.*

The five NS president met in Dushanbe early May to discuss:

- communication protocol,
- reporting procedures to the NS counterparts and to the regional delegation,
- 2 + 2 Strategic Plan,
- current situation with income generation,
- coming partnership meeting,
- image survey for the NS in the region
- NS staff rotation.

The idea of National Society staff rotation was welcomed by all participants. The staff rotation idea is based on the need for effective use of resources and need for appropriate human resources development. The objective is to train additionally counterparts from the NS from the region through their work in the Regional Delegation. The Regional Delegation, together with the HR Department from the Secretariat, is working on ToR for the staff rotation practice. There is still, however, much work to be done on this.

At the end of May 2003 a regional meeting in Almaty gathered Disaster Management, Health and Organisational Development counterparts from all five Central Asia national societies to discuss programmes and draft appeal proposals for 2004. Societies discussed relevant issues such as integration, RDRT and community based mitigation projects.

## **International Representation**

### **Goal:**

**The mandate of the Central Asia national societies as part of the International RCRC Movement is well disseminated among the various governments, UN agencies, international and national organisations, as well as other stakeholders in the field.**

### **Objective:**

**By the end of 2003, the image, profile and visibility of the Central Asia national societies has improved through the support of the delegation in advocating at the national, regional and international levels and among different actors on the activities of the Central Asia national societies, including their major issues of concern and the needs in the country.**

*Expected result 1: The general profile of the five national societies in Central Asia has increased and their relations to government authorities, national and international organisations and to the media improved through the support of the Federation.*

The visit of the Federation Secretary General in March 2003 gave an opportunity to the National Societies of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan to promote the Movement and their work in contacts with their respective government authorities.

Intensive support to the Kyrgyz and Kazakh RC in disaster response during the reporting period led to improved relations with their respective governments. Effective and timely response to the earthquake in Kazakhstan allowed Kazakh RC to gain the role of a leading agency in this disaster response operation, through increased recognition by the Government.

The Kazakh RC Vice President was invited by the Minister of Health and participated in the meeting organised by the Global Fund held in Kiev, Ukraine.

**Expected result 2: The discussion on the Red Crescent law was advanced in all five Central Asia national societies.**

Discussions are ongoing.

## **Field Management programme**

### **Goal**

**The assistance and the strengthening of Central Asia national societies is carried out by the regional delegation more effectively and efficiently.**

### **Objective:**

**By the end of 2003, the Central Asian national societies will be supported by the Federation's structure in the region via quality services.**

*Expected result 1: By the end of April 2003 a revision of the strategic purpose, and therefore the shaping of the Federation's structure in the region in regard to human resources, is carried out in order to improve service delivery.*

The draft Strategic Plan 2 + 2 has been finalised and shared with all five NS leaderships. The next phase will be sharing this document with partner NS. In relation to this draft plan regional delegation structures has undergone changes.

*Expected result 2. By the end of April 2003, a revision of functions of the liaison offices is undertaken and the recommended structure for the region established.*

According to the revised structure the liaison office positions in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan have been closed. There is now one staff member in Tashkent on DIPECHO project implementation and one staff in Turkmenistan on warehouse construction.

**Expected result 3. By the end of 2003, the new service function in Europe in regard to finances, reporting, communication and human resources impacted by the regional delegation in Almaty and have led to the appropriate local capacities in these areas and to appropriate service delivery to the Central Asian national societies according to their needs.**

The new regional Finance Unit based in Ankara has become operational. The Regional delegation has started to report through it since beginning of January 2003. The RFU representatives visited Regional Delegation in April 2003. The main objective of this visit was to discuss future work.

The Regional Reporting Unit based in Ankara has been recently established. The Regional Delegation is working now with RRU on issues related to reporting.

The Regional Administrator attended a yearly HR seminar held in Geneva in April. During this meeting a concept of establishing regional HR departments was discussed. The regional HR unit for Europe will be established later this year.

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

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