

Appeal 2004



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tajikistan

Appeal no. 01.83/2004

The International Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. The Federation is the world's largest humanitarian organization, and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. All international assistance to support vulnerable communities seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, according to the SPHERE Project.

This document reflects a range of programmes and activities to be implemented in 2004, and the related funding requirements. For further information concerning programmes or operations in this or other countries or regions, please also access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Below: click on programme title to go to relevant text and figure to go to programme budget

Programme title	2004 in CHF
Strengthening the national society	
Health and care	1,671,796
Disaster management	2,298,837
Organisational development	656,465
Total	4,627,098¹

¹ USD 3.53 million or EUR 2.98 million.

Context



The majority of Tajikistan's 6 million people are poor and vulnerable. The break-up of the Soviet Union in 1990 and the ensuing civil war had a devastating impact on the welfare of the population. The armed conflict and a succession of natural disasters – drought in 2000, food deficit in 2001, floods in 2002 and several small-scale disasters in 2003 – have ruined lives, livelihoods and infrastructure. For more information on these disasters and Red Cross Red Crescent response, please click below:

<http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=167>

Tajikistan also faces natural barriers to development. Only 7 per cent of this land-locked and mountainous country is suitable for agricultural cultivation. Before 1990, Tajikistan relied heavily on imports of fuel, capital, equipment, subsidies and expertise from other Soviet republics. Now that this link has gone, the readjustment has often been painful.

World Bank figures indicate that: the general income of the population is below 10 USD per month; the unemployment rate is 33 per cent; and about 85 per cent of the population cannot meet its basic needs. Pensions are as low as USD1.6 per month. Significant economic growth, up to 7 per cent per annum over the last few years, has helped but it will probably take Tajikistan another generation before it reaches the same standard of living as at the beginning of the 1990s.

The population in both in rural and urban areas remains vulnerable. People have little money and not much opportunity to grow their own food. Social welfare, water and sanitation and overall health care services are mal-functioning or non-existent. Consequently, there have been outbreaks of malaria, tuberculosis (TB), HIV/AIDS, brucellosis, diarrhoea, dysentery and other illnesses over recent years.

The threat of natural disaster – such as flood, earthquake, avalanche and mud/land slide – is ever present. UNOCHA estimates that there have been more than 65 small-scale disasters since the beginning of 2002, affecting over 200,000 people. Floods and mud/land slides threaten tens of thousands in both mountainous territories and on the agricultural plains. Several minor earthquakes in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBO), Khatlon province and Rayons of Republican Subordination (RRS) have been recorded. Although, many of the disasters are small scale, communities are not well prepared to deal with them.

The challenge for the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, with the support of the Federation and partner national societies, in 2004-2005 is to strengthen communities so that, step by step, they can build their own capacity to be better prepared for and able to all types of crisis.

The indicators below reveal the extent of the humanitarian challenge to improve the lives of the country's most vulnerable people.

Development indicators for Tajikistan (comparison Year 1999 & 2002)

Indicators	1999	2002
Population	6.1 million	6.5 million
Life expectancy at birth	68.4 years	N/A
Percentage below poverty line	83	N/A
Detected cases of those living with HIV/AIDS	5	200*
Infant mortality per (1,000 live births)	23.4	36.7
GDP per capita	USD178.5	USD187.90

Source: UNDP, Human Development Reports 2001, 2003. <http://www.undp.org/hdr2001/indicator/>

* According to WHO, UNAIDS epidemiological report for 2002.

Red Cross Red Crescent Priorities

National Society Strategy:

In accordance with Strategy 2010 – the Federation's main programme priority statement – and the Central Asia regional institutional and resource development review, carried out in summer 2000 and followed-up in mid-2001, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has defined a clear strategy that prioritises the following:

- Capacity building in all areas of disaster preparedness and response;
- Volunteer recruitment (youth programmes and branch development);
- Organisational development (diversification of methods to achieve financial sustainability);
- Health promotion and community-based first aid.

The national society has demonstrated its capacity to assist people in need on several recent occasions. A flood in the southern part of Tajikistan in March 2002 was typical of the type of emergency that can quickly arise. It was also typical of the effective action the national society regularly displays. In response to the flood – which destroyed 72 houses, damaged 130 and left 1,500 people homeless – the Red Crescent, with Federation, support, was quickly on hand to provide much needed relief. For further information, click below:

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts02/tajikflo02a1.pdf

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts02/tajikflo02a2.pdf

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts02/tjkfl3.pdf

Such a proven track record of response derives from experience and strength on the ground from a network of 5,191 volunteers and 5,831 members in communities across the country.

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Context:

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan was set up in 1927 and has consistently supported communities over the ensuing decades. Since 1992 it has acted as a humanitarian organisation on the basis of the

Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In 1997, it became a member of the International Federation. The national society has depended on external assistance to implement programmes because of a lack of local resources and national society capacity to fundraise. The greater part of support is through the Federation and partner national societies, with the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) also contributing.

The Federation has been in Tajikistan since 1994. Most partner national societies run multilateral programmes through the Federation, with some acting bilaterally. The Norwegian Red Cross supports organisational development, health and care (TB) and disaster management. Finnish Red Cross has supported disaster mitigation in GBAO for three years. In addition, it is the contract holder for the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) relief programme being implemented by the national society and Federation. The Netherlands Red Cross is supporting the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and Federation by holding an ECHO contract in health. The Swedish Red Cross continues to back 13 soup kitchens, organisational development, health and care and disaster preparedness. German Red Cross, through German Government funds, has been supporting relief. Canadian Red Cross has been a partner in disaster preparedness.

The American and Netherlands Red Crosses run bilateral programmes in support of the Red Crescent but cooperate with the Federation delegation to coordinate humanitarian action. The American Red Cross programme aims to improve the health and reproductive health of women and children through better services and more involvement of local organisations. The objective of the Netherlands programme is to strengthen the Red Crescent in GBAO and Khatlon provinces, particularly regional and local branches.

In the second quarter of 2003, in line with the Federation secretariat's four-year plan for Central Asia, a planning document, Strategic Direction 2+2 (2003-2006), was drawn up. This strategy articulates national society priorities and focuses on:

- Strengthening community-based disaster response and preparedness through material support, and training; and development of partnership with other organisations and government departments; and reducing risk through mitigation activities;
- Assisting vulnerable communities through preventive health education and awareness on HIV/AIDS, TB, and other communicable disease, in liaison with respective health organisations and the communities themselves;
- Strengthening the Red Crescent's capacity through: training and empowerment of staff and volunteers (including youth); community-based activities that develop branches; and financial and logistical development of the national society headquarters.

Strengthening the National Society

1. Health and Care [<Click here to return to title page>](#)

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The health situation in Tajikistan has continued to deteriorate since the country became an independent state. The civil war exacerbated the crisis as have a shortage of medicines, diagnostic material, trained personnel, as well as poor water and sanitation. The government care system is unable to ensure basic provision for much of the population.

UNICEF reports that the infant mortality rate is 89 per 1000 live births while the rate for under-fives is 126 per 1000 live births, the highest rate in former Soviet countries.² Eighty-five per cent of births in

² UNICEF: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, (2000)

rural areas are at home, often without professional assistance.³ The need for increased community health awareness and improved quality of mother and child health care is acute.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) reports that the rate of tuberculosis in 2001 was 127 per 100,000. This is expected to increase to 170 per 100,000 in 2004. The acute respiratory infection (ARI) rate was 4,217 per 100,000 in 2001 (a 25.4 per cent increase from 1998), according to the government.

Compared to other Central Asian countries, the number of adults living with HIV/AIDS (200 in total) and estimated HIV adult prevalence (< 0.1 per cent) is not high. Transmission is concentrated among injecting drug users but the number of addicts is rising, increasing the risk of HIV spreading. 5,000 addicts are registered officially but many more are thought to exist.



Getting the message across: Red Crescent volunteers give a play to highlight dangers of TB

To address major health issues, the Ministry of Health embarked on a reform of care, a process supported by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. Though change is at an initial stage, achievements have already been made, including better supplies of medicine and medical equipment to selected institutions, rehabilitation of facilities and introduction of family doctor practices. Humanitarian organisations and partners are supporting change by focusing on rehabilitation and health system development with less emphasis on emergency distributions. This includes community health, where the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has, through its countrywide network of volunteers, traditionally played an active role.

Since 1997, Federation assistance to the national society has been based on emergency health, especially distribution of essential medicine and basic medical supplies as well as training of health personnel. Recently, however, the Red Crescent decided to build its strategy on public health education, social support to different targeted groups and community first aid training. Direct assistance to health care facilities will be decreased and activities will focus more on prevention. Better hygiene awareness and practice will be integrated more closely into health promotion. All health projects will work closer with water and sanitation initiatives. Federation engagement will align itself with this new focus.

Tajikistan has benefited from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (See <http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/>). The Red Crescent is a member of the related Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM) and works through this to secure more support for HIV/AIDS programming. The national society is also a member of European Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies network on

³ UNICEF: Humanitarian Action, Tajikistan, (2002)

HIV/AIDS (ERNA) and other communicable diseases, which was founded in 1998. The Red Crescent participates in all ERNA events and benefits from this regional knowledge sharing.

TB Prevention: Tuberculosis treatment, according to the WHO-recommended Directly Observed Treatment Short course (DOTS), takes on average six to eight months (two months intensive phase/hospital care and four to six months continuation phase/outpatient care). Red Crescent programmes include: direct observation by visiting nurses and Red Crescent volunteers of selected patients in the continuation phase; health education; and psychological and social support to those patients who need encouragement to adhere to the programme. In July 2002 the Ministry of Health adopted DOTS, so it is in its early stages in Tajikistan. The Red Crescent has been monitoring compliance of treatment through social support and providing hot meals to vulnerable patients. This approach is combined with health education that targets families of patients, schoolchildren and the general public (20,000 beneficiaries) to increase awareness of TB prevention and the importance of completing treatment. In 2004 the TB programme will be expanded to cover Leninsky rayon and Dushanbe city. Visiting nurses will monitor treatment for 200 patients. (For more information on WHO's DOTS strategy, please see: <http://www.who.int/gtb/dots/>)

HIV/AIDS Prevention: HIV/AIDS activities will remain a Red Crescent priority in 2004. The national society will work closely with the youth department in schools. It will work with people living with HIV/AIDS and explore means of starting harm reduction activities among drug users. 100 Red Crescent volunteers will be involved in various HIV/AIDS initiatives. Campaigns through dialogue with young people, public leaders and other selected groups will target 50,000 people.

The national society is also: producing public health education material on HIV; facilitating youth peer education; distributing condoms; organising round tables together with different partners; running events such as concerts, discotheques, drawing competitions and marching; and testing schoolchildren on HIV/AIDS knowledge. The Red Crescent will distribute 100,000 condoms to vulnerable population groups. To increase awareness, information materials on HIV/AIDS-related topics – including leaflets, posters, brochures, AIDS ribbons, T-shirts and badges – will be prepared and distributed.

The Red Crescent will continue to address issues related to stigma and discrimination and will work with people living with HIV/AIDS/TB and others – including families and neighbours – on these topics, as part of the Federation global anti-stigma campaign. In a pilot project, the national society will work with 20 people living with HIV/AIDS in Sughd region.



Drug wise : Red Crescent volunteers discuss use of medicines during a drug distribution.

First Aid: The Red Crescent, with its comparative advantage of being a community-based organisation with nationwide reach, has the potential to play a major role in this low-cost, high-coverage activity to reduce community vulnerability. First aid training includes prevention of infectious disease, such as diarrhoea, respiratory infections, TB and HIV/AIDS. The Red Crescent's role complements other national and local efforts. Health promotion is a vital part of efforts to rebuild institutional and operational capacity. In line with other Central Asian national societies, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will adopt a regional approach to first aid. This will include: use of a common training module; improving standards via a training of trainers refresher course; and development of a regional first aid manual.

The Red Crescent, together with colleagues from Uzbekistan, is a member of the regional first aid focus group, which coordinates approaches in Central Asia. The group will develop common guidelines and standardise training.

First aid teams will be set up in coordination with disaster management initiatives so that volunteers and communities are better prepared for health emergencies/ disease outbreaks and other disasters.

Relief Health Programme: This includes: regular distribution of essential medicine and other medical supplies to 763 primary health care facilities and 23 hospitals (786 facilities in total); training health staff in rational use of essential drugs; and monitoring the proper use of medicines. Community-based first aid training as well as broader public health education is another component.

From 2004, based on its strategy, the national society plans to scale down and exit from direct assistance to health care facilities. Instead, the focus will shift to training Red Crescent volunteers in public health education and community-based first aid. This will enable the national society to be involved in projects that are more sustainable and effective in reducing vulnerability. Pending an evaluation at the end of 2003, the Red Crescent will exclude hospitals from its programming and transfer responsibility to the Ministry of Health. Primary health care institutions, 763 medical houses, known as Feldeshersky Akushersky Punkt (FAP), and rural ambulatories, known as Selskaya Vrachebnaya Ambulotora (SVA), will continue to receive assistance and act as referral points. (The number of facilities may reduce depending on the evaluation) As such, the health programme will reflect a combined approach of curative and preventive care, implemented through a community-based philosophy. This will enhance the capacity at the grassroots, the most vital level of sustainable action, and contribute to Tajikistan addressing its public health problems.

The Federation delegation in Dushanbe will continue to assist the national society to better define its health strategy as well as advocate for recognition of priorities at country level. As such, formal agreements with the Ministry of Health will be reviewed to recognise the mandate of Red Crescent societies in health promotion and community-based first aid.

Overall Goal:

The general health of the targeted population in Tajikistan is improved.

Objective:

By the end of 2004, the health status of the population is improved through: preparing volunteers and communities to respond to disease prevention and outbreaks; responding to health emergencies through first aid training; providing medicine and basic medical supplies to selected primary health care institutions; focusing on TB, HIV/AIDS; and providing social support for vulnerable people through the visiting nurses programme.

Expected results:

1. The Red Crescent observes 200 TB patients in Dushanbe/ Leninsky rayons to ensure they complete their DOTS treatment and provides health education to families (20,000 people) on TB prevention and control.
2. Red Crescent branch volunteers conduct awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS targeting 50,000 people (including 24,000 youngsters) and address issues related to stigma and discrimination through working with 20 people living with HIV/AIDS.
3. The capacity of volunteers and communities to prevent disease, respond to outbreaks is increased through training of 1,400 volunteers – who will in turn target 800,000 people – on community-based first aid.
4. The population's access to essential health care is improved through the: provision of medicine and medical supplies to 763 primary health care institutions; and development of health staff in Khatlon and RRS to improve their rational use of drugs, case management and record keeping.

Water and Sanitation**Background and achievements/lessons to date**

Tajikistan is rich in water resources and heads Central Asia in terms of hydro-energy, which produces 90 per cent of the republic's electric. There are 947 rivers (more than 10 km long), with a total length of 28,500 km and 1,300 lakes. Arable farming is the republic's major water consumer, using 90 per cent of supplies. The remainder is used by industry and the municipal sector (including drinking water).

Water: UNICEF reports that only 10 per cent of the rural population has access to piped water. 70 per cent of water supply systems need to be replaced. Because of the lack of coverage, the population, especially in rural areas, often uses water from other sources, such as irrigation canals or ditches. Groundwater is one source of supply. The water distribution system needs to be vastly improved with a focus on approaches that rely on low maintenance and operation costs. The involvement of communities, especially poor ones, in this will also be crucial.

Sanitation:

Excreta disposal. Sanitation practice in rural communities, combined with the fact that more than 95 per cent of the population have unsatisfactory sanitary facilities (e.g. inadequate or improperly located latrines), leads to increased transmission and spread of water-borne disease. Generally, the quality of ground and surface water in Tajikistan is high, notwithstanding some pollution.

Bacteriological pollution. The quality of some water sources (regarding bacteriological indicators) is poor with a serious bacteriological threat in some rivers. The deterioration of sewage treatment facilities is a factor. At present, the use of pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals is not widespread.

Wastewater. Most rural settlements do not have sewage treatment constructions at all. For those that do, treatment facilities in many villages and cities are often poor, with more than being 60 per cent obsolete.

Solid waste disposal. Population growth and economic development in the republic have been accompanied by increased use of natural resources as well as a rise in waste. Management of this waste needs to be improved. Most, 77 per cent, is the result of mining. Annually about 4 million tonnes of communal waste is disposed in 70 landfills. About one-third of these landfills are less than 3km from populated areas; and of the landfills, 65 have no technical control of waste. Currently, there is no recycling factory in the republic. The problem is compounded by a lack of systemised removal of communal waste prompting the formation of local dumps inside many towns.

Hygiene. Tajikistan is extremely vulnerable to water-related disease, such as typhoid, malaria and diphtheria. Between 1992 and 1998, cases of typhoid increased 210 times in the capital, Dushanbe, and between 4.5 to 32 times in other regions. Malaria in the capital increased 300 fold, and between 54 and 76 fold elsewhere. These statistics reflect the lack of good water/sanitation facilities. More sustainable and appropriate technologies need to be used and changes in behaviour are required to improve community health.

The water and sanitation programme aims to link the ‘hardware’ activities (ie engineering) to ‘software’ initiatives such as health education and behavioural change. The Federation uses the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) methodology in its software approach. This sanitation and hygiene education project is the first of its kind to be implemented by the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, with Federation support.

Governmental response. The Government and public sector have undertaken measures to monitor and improve the quality of water. Water in towns is chlorinated. However in 1996 and partly in 1997 chlorination was not carried out. Underground water tests are frequently made around large enterprises, towns and cities. But these measures are inadequate because of the: enormous amount of communal waste amassed alongside water basins; lack of financing; and poor state and small of sewage treatment equipment.

National Society response. In accordance with the Red Crescent’s strategy, the main activity related to the “purity of drinking water” initiative is to continue support of rural population, via increased involvement of volunteers as well as local and foreign investors.

The national society, with Federation support, gained extensive experience during the programme. Since 2001, the Red Crescent has: increased its knowledge and skills in rehabilitation of water systems; improved sanitation conditions; and promoted safe hygiene in 12 communities of RRS, GBAO, Sughd and Khatlon provinces.

In the beginning, water systems that require technology – submersible pumps, transformers, etc – were installed. Since last year, low technology systems are now promoted instead. The advantage is low construction, operation and maintenance costs and more sustainable community use.

The Federation’s water and sanitation department supported local Red Crescent branches in the construction of spring catchments, small-scale irrigation systems, latrines at schools and rehabilitation of boreholes. The communities were trained in latrine construction techniques, hygiene promotion in communities (with UNICEF staff and Ministry of Health), and operation and maintenance of hand pumps. Beneficiaries were encouraged to create water user committees.

Programme Objective:

The health condition of targeted communities is strengthened through better access to clean water, improved sanitation, and increased hygiene promotion via the Red Crescent network and active community involvement.

Expected Results:

1. 7,500 households in 25 villages of four regions have access to clean water through the construction of 25 low-cost (spring catchment) water supply systems and community mobilisation.
2. Sanitation conditions of 300 families are improved through the construction of 300 individual hygiene latrines in four regions and community mobilisation.
3. Hygiene practices are improved 30 per cent in 25 villages, using community based participative methods through the Red Crescent network.

2. Disaster Management

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Background and achievements/lessons to date

Natural disasters frequently blight Tajikistan. The impact on vulnerable communities, whose coping capacities are already depleted, is significant. Disaster management is a national priority and the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan – as a government auxiliary (formalised in 2002) and a community-based organisation – is playing a key role in strengthening people's capacity.

The Red Crescent has consistently supported people in need during times of crisis and has extensive experience in emergency response. Many of its branches in the country's 69 rayons have helped support internally displaced people during the civil war of 1993 and assisted in their subsequent repatriation after the secession of hostilities. The national society has also played a significant role in providing humanitarian assistance to those affected by frequent floods, landslides and earthquakes.

Please see: <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=167>

Nine small to medium emergencies that killed 15 people affected Tajikistan between January-July 2003. The national society, together with the Federation, rapidly responded to each crisis. Earthquakes, in particular, are a major threat. Every year, 3,000 tremors are felt. Dushanbe is rated as one of the world's most at-risk urban areas. Red Crescent and Federation assessments show that even small-scale disasters devastate because of poor construction, urban planning and a lack of building standards. The flood in northern Tajikistan on 6 June 2003 illustrated some of the above. What was classed as a moderate emergency had a major impact: three deaths, 156 homes destroyed, 195 damaged and 854 people homeless. The potential for a more devastating disaster is constant.



***Training in the field:
the national society
keeps sharp through an
emergency simulation.***

Among the lessons learned by the national society is the need for a more consolidated and comprehensive approach to disaster preparedness and response planning including water-sanitation, health and logistics components. As such, the Red Crescent and Federation are working hard to improve disaster preparedness planning.

Public awareness on disaster management is low. The Red Crescent, with its community presence, is shifting its focus towards a more strategic approach based on enhancing its own capacity and that of the community. Part of this process to reduce vulnerability is structured institutional development in branches (rayon and oblast) and at headquarters. Staff, volunteers and communities will be better trained and community mitigation initiatives strengthened.

This community approach has been spearheaded by a series of vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA) aimed at reducing risk through better preparedness, mitigation and response activities. The Red Crescent is planning to institutionalise growing knowledge on disaster issues by creating its own database of findings to provide better information to crisis managers.

The Red Crescent is developing a disaster management plan, policies and guidelines to increase its effectiveness of support to people in need. This will be completed in 2004. The aim is to move away from reliance on external donor support towards national society self-sufficiency.

Major components will include the development of:

- Standard operating procedures and coordination mechanisms for effective response;
- More practical disaster management training programmes (including relief and logistics) for volunteers and staff;
- Five national and local rapid disaster preparedness/response teams (each eight-strong) by December 2007;
- Appropriate logistics planning including establishment of relief stockpiles and distribution plans, relationships with vendors, procurement plans, in-kind donations management, fleet and equipment maintenance programmes and knowledge of customs regulations;
- Community collaboration and partnership agreements with organisations that support disaster management;
- External liaison procedures to coordinate both preparedness and response activities with key governmental and community agencies; and
- Fundraising and media relations capacity during and after disasters.



Meeting needs: the Red Crescent distributes relief to those affected by floods in Penjikent.

The Red Crescent and Federation have also begun community mitigation initiatives to support disaster risk reduction/self-help among communities. Six villages in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) have been supported to manage persistent landslides and flooding. The project has planted trees, isolated old irrigation canals and established water management systems. Similar mitigation activities will be expanded to Ayni, Penjikent and Kurgan-Tube districts, in cooperation with the state emergency committee.

The Red Crescent's part in feeding programmes has been phased out in favour of more community based and institutional development work. This includes the ending of food aid to more than 136,000 beneficiaries, mostly affected by drought, in southern and northern Tajikistan. In addition, assistance to 77,500 beneficiaries in Khatlon and Sughd provinces and involvement in the World Food Programme's (WFP) food deficit programme has finished.

However the supplementary relief food distribution for urban poor population (pensioners, disabled people, orphans and woman-headed households) will continue for the time being because of their great need. But because the programme is not sustainable, the Federation will reduce the number of

beneficiaries each year, eventually finishing the distribution. This will be done through progressively concentrating on the most vulnerable people in conjunction with district authority assessments.

The public canteen assistance to poor town dwellers, especially lonely-elderly people will continue. It will ensure that a significant number of beneficiaries receive hot meals three times a week in eight towns. The Red Crescent is trying to secure local funding, including income generating activities, to make the programme self-sustainable in 2005.

In 2003, progress was made in strategic planning. A draft comprehensive and integrated disaster management policy for the national society was prepared; regular contacts with external organisations including the government, UN, NGOs and media were maintained; and disaster preparedness stocks and emergency response capacity of both rayon and oblast branches were upgraded.

But overall, capacity building in disaster management is a slow process. A strategic approach will continue to be needed it will take some more years before the society becomes more effective as is needed. One vital element of this is the need to recruit and maintain more volunteers for it to be a more effective organisation. More skills development will be part of this attempt and the national society will train volunteers (and staff) in the use of VCA techniques. A better organisational approach to volunteering will be adapted too.

Overall Goal:

The vulnerability of communities in high-risk areas in Tajikistan is reduced

Programme Objective:

By the end of 2004, the Red Crescent's capacity to reduce the risk of vulnerable communities to disaster is improved

Expected results:

1. National society disaster management capacity is improved through: better planning and programming via use of assessment tools; strengthened community capacity to mitigate against and respond to disasters via the dissemination of 20,000 'coaching packs'.
2. The national society's disaster management capacity is enhanced through: a new database system; trained provincial and headquarters staff; renovated central warehouses; and replenished stocks.
3. The effects and threats of landslides and floods in the most vulnerable mountainous areas are reduced through tree planting, riverbank strengthening and reinforcement of mud stream ways in Sughd and Khatlon provinces.
4. 19,950 city dwellers are less vulnerable as a result of supplementary food distributions.

3. Organisational Development

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Background and achievements/lessons to date

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will continue to shift its approach from relief to one that is more development-oriented. The change is part of the organisation's efforts to transform itself into a more effective and sustainable supporter of communities in need.

More programme responsibility will be delegated to branches. Some branches are already implementing integrated programmes, such as: community-based health promotion and first aid; water and sanitation projects; and, to some extent, disaster management and mitigation, where communities have been involved in tree planting as well as in river bank reinforcement.

To support this change, the Red Crescent has recognised it needs to reform its internal structures and processes to enable it to be a more effective humanitarian actor. Better processes lead to better results. These reforms have included a revision of: management structures, with a focus on separating governance and management. At the branch level, this will be supported by: related seminars for chairpersons (this process is in accordance with Federation guidelines); reform of the financial management system (to improve domestic and international partner confidence); and revision of statutes in accordance with the International Red Cross Red Crescent's Strategy for the Movement. A commission for revision of the statutes has been established and terms of reference have been decided upon by the presidium.

This momentum for change was, in part, prompted by a series of reviews that mapped out priorities for institutional and resource development of the five Central Asian national societies. Among the many organisational barriers preventing better support to communities was a lack of: strategic thinking and planning; community ownership of projects; fundraising capacity and consequent donor dependency; effective use of resources; coordination between programmes; and procedures for recruiting and retaining volunteers.

Supplementing this regional process of lesson learning were emerging trends from past organisational development programming in Tajikistan. These included poor involvement and integration of organisational development initiatives at all levels of the Red Crescent, and a need for reform in management structures and consequent devolution of authority towards departments, programme managers and heads of branches. In general, progress is being made but more needs to be done.



Working together: Red Crescent volunteers discuss HIV prevention with students.

Revision of statutes and structures: In October 2002, a revision process plan and a new organisation scheme, with a division of governance and management, were developed. Since then, the national society's plenum has adopted the plan and approved the setting up of four commissions. In October 2003, a first progress report was submitted. Alongside this, the national society's organisational development department put together a training module for branch chairpersons and elected committees on governance and management. This module was used at branch meetings in December 2003. During 2004 additional training and meetings will be held with the committees to discuss progress and challenges. By the end of 2004, the new statutes should be finalised.

Branch development: As well as volunteer development per se, branches are being assisted to better assess and, consequently, assist communities via training in the use of vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA) and community based programming.⁴ In 2003, 16 Red Crescent district (rayon)

⁴ The branch development project, which is part of this Federation Annual Tajikistan Appeal 2004, has also been proposed to the Netherlands Red Cross for bilateral support.

branches were supported to conduct VCA. Of these, 10 were assisted to train volunteers and local leaders in implementing community-based projects. Projects chosen will be designed, planned and implemented together with national society technical departments, such as disaster management, health, water and sanitation, and organisational development. During 2004, remaining regions will be assisted in VCA and the planning of some 20 community based projects.

To support the national society, the Federation will produce a branch development framework applicable for Tajikistan. The Federation's three field offices – in Khujand, Kulyab and Khorog – originally set up to support relief programmes will play an increasing role to facilitate branch development. In October 2003, field office staff were trained in organisational development-related issues and given tools for assessing and supporting branches.

Fundraising, financial management and logistics development: Red Crescent fundraising and financial management remains a major concern. Attempts to increase and diversify the funding base have failed. External assistance is still crucial but there is a clear recognition of the need to change the national society's focus and methods of fundraising. A fundraising policy has been discussed with the leadership. A fundraising strategy and guidebook was due to be developed by the end of 2003, but this has been delayed. Opportunities for diversifying local fundraising will hopefully arise through the community based projects. However, their success also depends on raising funds locally in the first place. As more international companies establish in Tajikistan, possibilities for seeking partners and sponsors will arise. A framework for working with this new type of partner is needed to avoid problems concerning misuse of the emblem and the Red Crescent's name.

Logistically, the national society still needs support, as procurement, warehousing and fleet management are still not efficiently managed. During 2004, training will be held in addition to coaching from the Federation logistics department to improve standards.



Having fun: getting the humanitarian message across to young people sometimes requires a little creativity.

Volunteering: The Red Crescent has strengthened the role of volunteers and its management of them. In 2001, it adopted a volunteering policy, which will be revised during 2004 and then shared with all national society chairpersons and coordinators. In 2002, the Red Crescent Volunteer Management Handbook was developed and is now in use in almost all regions. It has led to volunteers being encouraged to take a greater role in community support. This approach increases impact, as volunteers know better the needs and opportunities of the communities that they live and work in.

More than 200 volunteers and staff have been trained in volunteer management. In addition, four refresher trainings for headquarters and oblast committee staff have been held. The number of registered Red Crescent volunteers is 5,191, of which 500 are youth volunteers organised in 46 youth groups. In addition, there are also 5,831 Red Crescent members.

Despite this progress, there is still a lot to do for volunteers to be more involved in planning and implementing programmes. There remains resistance among chairpersons over giving volunteers a leading role in work with communities. To overcome this, refresher training on volunteer management and monitoring of management practice will be conducted during 2004. Progress is vital to prevent the loss of experienced volunteers.

Youth: Young people are one of most powerful agents of change in the Red Crescent and civil society at large. They also represent the future and are a key resource that will help decide how effective the national society will be as a support of vulnerable communities. The Red Crescent already has a majority of volunteers who are young and active in various programmes. The main problem is that youth have a lack of status in the national society and this has stifled their role in decision making. An indication of this is that the role of youth is not yet mentioned in the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan statutes. This should change as a commission on youth – established at the request of the national society president – looks at this issue, among others. A first draft of the amended statutes is ready and was discussed before the October Youth Forum. The input of young volunteers will be submitted to the national society's central committee for review before eventual adoption. Another recent positive change is the admittance of two youth volunteers from Dushanbe to the national society's plenum. As members they can now take part in national society decision-making processes. In addition, between December 2002 and July 2003, the number of youth groups increased from 26 to 46 and the number of youth volunteers from 276 to 500.

Despite the above challenge, Red Crescent youth are currently involved in all national society programmes. They have a particularly important role in HIV/AIDS-peer education and drug awareness activities in Tajikistan's five provinces because of their access to at-risk groups and understanding of many of the issues involved. On the ground, a youth centre, initiated by the ICRC, has been opened in Jirgital as part of a rehabilitation programme for young people who are traumatised by the past civil war. Another one will open in Isfara. There are two other youth centres, funded bilaterally by Netherlands Red Cross, planned for Kulyab and Khorog.

There is, however, more to do to involve young people in decision making and activities as well as making programmes more focused on the needs of vulnerable youth in the community. Recent assessments and community based programme planning in Kurgan Tube will provide valuable experience to learn from.

At the moment all funds raised by the youth are used generally in Red Crescent programmes with nothing specifically allocated to young people. This will change so as to encourage young people to raise funds for their own activities.

Visibility and promotion of fundamental principles and humanitarian values: A visible (and credible) humanitarian organisation is better placed to advocate for and with vulnerable people as well as on the issues that most affect them. In Tajikistan these issues include access to fresh water, a safe environment, health related topics and discrimination for whatever reason. Progress has been made to increase the visibility of the Red Crescent and its work. The 2004 organisational development programme aims to build on this.

The importance of a strong voice and presence, both locally and internationally, can be seen around the success of past events such as International Red Cross Red Crescent Day, which put the issue of

humanity firmly in the spotlight. In addition, advocacy work – with the help of media, poster and leaflet campaigns – is helping to encourage a more tolerant and caring environment for people living with HIV/AIDS and TB. This approach benefits from the existing Federation global action to reduce discrimination.

A communications policy in this area has been developed and is being discussed by the Red Crescent's leadership as the organisation seeks to build on progress. The policy aims to strengthen the national society's information work with other organisations and media. It also looks to improve internal communication between different levels (vertically) as well as rayons and provinces (horizontally). The policy will be enacted by a strategy that includes seminars for journalists and Red Crescent staff and elected committees. These seminars began in 2003 and will continue in 2004. An anti-discrimination initiative, started in 2002, will also continue.

Overall Goal:

The assistance delivered to vulnerable people is high quality, accurate, efficient, cost effective, transparent and accountable.

Programme Objective:

By the end of 2004, the capacity of the Red Crescent is strengthened through revised management structures and statutes, branch development, continued support in fundraising and financial management, logistics development, the promotion of humanitarian values and fundamental principles, as well as an increased volunteer base and engagement with youth.

Expected Results:

1. The Red Crescent has progressed towards establishment of a new structure with a clear division between governance and management contributing to effective programme and branch management. The final draft of the revised statutes is ready for adoption by the end of 2004.
2. Regional and local branches can better assess community vulnerability and capacity and consequently plan and implement responsive programmes, using local resources. This will lead to a nationwide assessment of communities resulting in community-based initiatives in 20 branches.
3. Financial sustainability is improved through adoption of a financial development plan that includes a fundraising strategy. A guidebook is developed and in use in 20 branches, leading to a 20 per cent increase in local programme funding.
4. Systems and procedures for development of human resources, management of staff, finances and logistics have improved, leading to: a 5 per cent increase of volunteers in branches; efficient use of staff, finances, warehouses and the national society fleet; and improved procurement procedures saving time and money.
5. Red Crescent youth have taken a lead in developing two programmes to assist vulnerable young people and have strengthened their support to other national society initiatives.
6. The ability of the Red Crescent to advocate for and with vulnerable people and on the issues that most affect them is increased via greater organisational visibility and credibility. A minimum of 10,000 people is reached through various dissemination activities, and one-third of the population through the media whenever the national society is responding to a disaster or representing vulnerable people.

4. Federation Coordination

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The Federation has been active in Tajikistan since 1994 supporting the national society in its work with vulnerable people. The structure of this assistance has evolved to adapt to new circumstances and changing conditions and priorities within the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan.

Initially, Federation engagement was channelled through its regional delegation in Almaty. In May 1997 the country delegation was set up to provide closer interaction to achieve better national society development. The delegation now comprises nine delegates working in the Federation's core areas – disaster management, health and care and promotion of humanitarian values – as well support services. Since June 2002 the Tajikistan delegation has reported to the Almaty regional delegation as it seeks to add a regional (knowledge sharing) dimension to its national society support. The two delegations work closely and, depending on the needs, share resources. Since December 2002 a finance/administration delegate has supported both delegations.

In the second quarter of 2003, in line with the Federation secretariat's Europe department plan, the Tajikistan delegation drew up a strategic direction 2+2 (2003-2006) plan. This will act as a roadmap to coordinate effective support to the national society to empower communities. The Europe plan acknowledges that secretariat support has to provide a framework of assistance but at the same time be flexible enough to be relevant to Tajikistan. A meeting involving the national society, Dushanbe and Almaty delegations, Geneva secretariat and partner national societies agreed on the strategy. The delegation maintains close contacts with the ICRC and partner national societies engaged in Tajikistan to ensure that respective efforts within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement provide coordinated support to Tajikistan.

Good relations with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan continue, especially at headquarters and regional level. There is a need to work more closely with branches and the delegation is progressing in this direction. Regular coordination/management meetings for all levels of leadership have been introduced. Topics have included governance/management, integrity, accountability, decentralisation, the fundamental principles and humanitarian values.

Currently more than a dozen partner national societies are funding Red Crescent programmes either through the Federation or bilaterally. The Federation has a vital role in coordinating this assistance to ensure the needs of the vulnerable people are met in an appropriate way (see Red Cross and Red Crescent Priorities section). The delegation has provided support services and advice on how partner societies can best engage in changing the focus of the Red Crescent from relief to development. The strategic direction 2+2 plan acknowledges the need for long-term and community-based commitments as well as the transition from relief to development. Effective support of this process will depend on transparency among all components of the Movement.

The Federation, together with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, is recognised as an important humanitarian actor and plays a significant coordination role among partners. This is important, as there is a big in-country presence of international organisations and UN agencies. Regular exchange among these organisations has enabled better understanding and avoidance of duplication of activities.

Agreements with the European Community's Humanitarian Office (ECHO), World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN's children's agency (UNICEF) on different programmes (food, health and water/sanitation) will be reviewed so that they are in line with strategic support of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan.

Overall goal:

Effective assistance is provided to the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan to develop into a better functioning national society.

Programme objective:

The Federation has facilitated better coordination between the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and partners both within and external to the Movement.

Expected Results:

1. Federation coordination contributes to improved and transparent communications among all partners, resulting in effective use of resources and more focused programmes.
2. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, the Federation and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's profile in Tajikistan is strengthened resulting in further programme support from donors.
3. The operational capacity of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will be strengthened through quality financial, material and technical support from the Federation delegation.

5. International Representation and Advocacy

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The Federation delegation's main role, apart from coordination and building the capacity of the Red Crescent society of Tajikistan, is to represent its global membership internationally. Where possible, this activity is aligned to the needs of the national society to raise its profile with governments, international forums, the media and other influential actors and bodies. The government's work to lift Tajikistan's international profile – e.g. through the promotion of the International Forum on Fresh Water in Dushanbe in August – has been used by the Federation and the national society to build the importance of its humanitarian work. Please click here:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/03/03091501/>

Federation work with the Red Crescent has included assistance towards the development of national society representational capacity and advocacy on various issues on behalf of vulnerable people both locally and internationally. This has, for example, included the building of a productive relationship with the President of the Republic, the UNDP Resident Representative, and many elements of government and civil society. In a country such as Tajikistan, where there are numerous organisations active in the humanitarian field, it is vital for the Federation to represent and promote the policies and work of the Movement and the national society. Together with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, the Federation will continue this role in 2004.

The national society, as an auxiliary to the government, has the opportunity to engage with various government authorities to promote its humanitarian work and issues and to define the Red Crescent's role domestically. The Federation will continue to support the national society in these efforts. A Red Crescent Law has to be agreed at the national level and the Federation is engaged in this process, including consequent revision of national society statutes.

Events to mark World Red Cross/Red Crescent day, World TB day, World AIDS day, and World First Aid day are among the many occasions that raise the profile of the national society and its work with vulnerable communities. The International Water Forum was a good example of bringing issues that affect deprived communities to a global and influential audience. Such a presence and voice will continue in 2004 at major events such as this, as well as less high profile meetings in embassies, with partner organisations etc.

Overall goal:

The national society and Federation better represent the work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and continue to provide a strong voice and presence among influential forums on behalf of vulnerable people and the issues that affect them.

Programme objective:

By the end of 2004, the profile of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is stronger through Federation national and international advocacy

that particularly strengthens government relations and awareness of the humanitarian responsibility of the authorities.

Expected Results:

1. Partnerships with other organisations are strengthened and increased in number, benefiting the national society and its programmes
2. Networking with the government, UN agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders is increased through better coordination and exchange of information.
3. Advocacy materials, drawing from community assessments, are produced and influence the authorities and various partners and organisations in their approach to humanitarian work.
4. Government relations are strengthened leading to a reinforcement of the Red Crescent's role and mandate, enshrined in a Red Crescent Law and new national society statutes.

Tajikistan appeal 2004

This appeal highlights the main aspects of the Federation's assistance programme in Tajikistan. It draws on a more detailed plan of action, guiding international support to the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan. The plan is constructed along the lines of a logical framework whereby activities feed into expected results, which feed into project objectives (where relevant), programme objectives and designated goals. The plan of action includes all activities, indicators, means of verification, assumptions/risks, detailed budget plans, timetable of implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

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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.

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BUDGET 2004

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 01.83/2004

Name: Tajikistan

PROGRAMME:

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Emergency	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	0	95,624	0	0	0	0	95,623
Clothing & textiles	0	8,218	0	0	0	0	8,218
Food	0	907,885	0	0	0	0	907,885
Seeds & plants	0	3,727	0	0	0	0	3,726
Water & Sanitation	301,100	0	0	0	0	0	301,100
Medical & first aid	32,200	566	0	0	0	0	32,765
Teaching materials	6,600	0	0	0	0	0	6,600
Utensils & tools	0	51,169	0	0	0	0	51,169
Other relief supplies	17,700	22,430	0	9,120	0	0	49,249
SUPPLIES	357,600	1,089,619	0	9,120	0	0	1,456,338
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	12,090	0	0	0	0	12,090
Computers & telecom	2,438	21,311	0	28,046	0	0	51,794
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENSES	2,438	33,401	0	28,046	0	0	63,884
Warehouse & Distribution	5,940	71,029	0	566	0	0	77,535
Transport & Vehicules	260,411	105,121	0	32,087	0	0	397,619
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	266,351	176,150	0	32,653	0	0	475,154
Programme Support	108,667	149,424	0	42,670	0	0	300,761
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	108,667	149,424	0	42,670	0	0	300,761
Personnel-delegates	355,500	526,507	0	161,993	0	0	1,044,000
Personnel-national staff	291,213	145,299	0	84,204	0	0	520,716
Consultants	10,000	3,062	0	0	0	0	13,062
PERSONNEL	656,713	674,868	0	246,197	0	0	1,577,779
W/shops & Training	50,309	5,814	0	156,697	0	0	212,820
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	50,309	5,814	0	156,697	0	0	212,820
Travel & related expenses	15,280	9,491	0	32,270	0	0	57,040
Information	134,478	59,953	0	53,704	0	0	248,134
Other General costs	79,960	100,117	0	55,108	0	0	235,185
GENERAL EXPENSES	229,718	169,561	0	141,082	0	0	540,360
TOTAL BUDGET:	1,671,796	2,298,837	0	656,465	0	0	4,627,098