

ANNUAL REPORT



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

3 May 2006

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA075; Annual Report; Period covered: January - December 2005

Appeal target: CHF 3,770,246 (USD 3,043,425 or EUR 2,415,170); Appeal coverage: 125.2 % (*Please click here to go directly to the attached Financial Report*).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Central Asia Annual Appeal 2005. For details please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA075.pdf

Central Asia Annual Appeal 2005 – Programme Update no.1. For details please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA07501.pdf

Central Asia Annual Appeal 2005 – Programme Update no.2. For details please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA07502.pdf

Annual Appeals 2005 for Europe and Central Asia region. For details please see the website at <http://www.ifrc.org/where/europe.asp>

Central Asia Annual Appeal 2006-2007. For details please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAA70001.pdf

Bridge Magazine - Autumn 2005. For details please see the website at <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/pubs/insight/bridge-autumn05.pdf>

Programme summary:

The response¹ to the Central Asia appeal covered 125.2 per cent of the annual budget, but the arrival of funds was somewhat irregular during the year. Delayed confirmation of funding from some donor National Societies put the activities within the disaster management and health and care programmes in the second half of the year at risk of cancellation. Few pledges signed in late 2005 allowed for extended programme operating timeframes different from the appeal and consequently there will be a high carry-over of funds for 2006.

Over the year, Central Asia Red Crescent Societies² proceeded with focused programmes targeting health and disaster risks, fighting stigma and discrimination and developing the societies' capacities to address vulnerabilities more efficiently.

The National Societies have contributed to the reduction of multi-drug resistant and chronic forms of tuberculosis through social support and direct treatment observation rendered to the most vulnerable patients. This year the Red

¹ Total income includes the funds carried over from 2004.

² Central Asia Red Crescent Societies are Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan National Societies. The Central Asia appeal covered the programmes in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. There is a separate appeal for Tajikistan.

Crescent Societies ensured the continuity of treatment among these sick people at their 19 TB prevention programme sites with defaulter rate being less than one per cent. In 2006 more attention will be given to increasing the number of patients who restart the treatment after interruption (II category), which was not universally achieved during 2005.

The number of the population reached by the community-based first aid programme was approximately 95,000 people. The improved knowledge of basic first aid reduces the vulnerability of the targeted population to the effects of emergencies. The lack of proper recognition of the Red Crescent first aid training course certificates among the public and other actors at country level however, prevents the societies from effective fund-raising through paid courses. This issue will be closely looked into in 2006.

Peer education approach in HIV/AIDS prevention worked out well among youth and working adults. However, access to high risk groups was limited. The lack of experience in communication with these categories of beneficiaries among Red Crescent staff hampered the activities as well. Though, positive behaviour changes in people from high risk groups have been achieved by the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society. The HIV/AIDS prevention programme will build on this success and invest in staff specific communication training in 2006.

Introduction of a social support system for people with HIV/AIDS appeared to be an overambitious objective for the region so far but the efforts will continue.

As in previous years, in 2005 the Red Crescent Societies responded to small and medium scale disasters in their countries. They will now focus on development of a general plan of response coordination in case of a possible large-scale disaster in Central Asia.

The regional competition between the National Societies' disaster response teams showed that certain changes need to be introduced in the teams training. The Red Crescent staff in charge of response operations will be further strengthened.

Increased numbers of communities feel more confident about their capacities after Red Crescent community-based disaster preparedness training and take ownership of disaster mitigation projects with minimum support from the National Societies. Over the year, about 184,000 people were involved in community-based disaster preparedness projects and 87,000 were covered by mitigation projects. However, to ensure the relevance and sustainability of these projects in future the Red Crescent Societies will work on selection and sustainability criteria of such projects.

There have been positive changes in improving Red Crescent dissemination and information capacities at branch level. Three National Societies recruited additional communication staff which resulted in increased media coverage.

The National Societies in the region continued gradual progression towards achieving the characteristics of well-functioning National Societies. Some steps have been made in the direction of governance and management functions division, branch development and active involvement of youth in the Red Crescent key programmes and youth specific activities.

The Federation delegation continued coordinating support to the Central Asia National Societies. The comprehensive planning meeting, held jointly with the ICRC and partner National Societies present in the region, was the main event to achieve better coordination of efforts at an early stage of programming. In general, it was seen to be successful by all parties. Though, lack of transparency from bilateral Red Cross Red Crescent actors and the regional National Societies is an obstacle to smoother coordination.

Technical support was provided to the National Societies within the four core areas, as well as with their organizational development process. The lack of a health delegate for the first half of the year was a serious constraint in meeting 2005 targets of the health and care programme. This indicates that the Red Crescent Societies in the region are not yet ready to take control themselves. A general constraint with programmes is in reporting. The focus continues to be primarily on which activities were carried out, rather than really measuring the impact on vulnerable people. A change of approach is needed to show whether the Movement is actually making a difference in Central Asia. This issue will be a priority in 2006.

Participation of the regional disaster response team in the large-scale international emergency operation in Pakistan at the end of the year was an excellent opportunity for learning and knowledge sharing. The knowledge gained by the deployed National Society/Federation staff during this mission is invaluable.

The discussion on the Red Crescent Law in Central Asia countries was in the plan for 2005. However, the only country where some progress can be seen is Kyrgyzstan – the interest of the government in this issue is rare and encouraging. This example shows that if governments are approached at the right level (in this case by the Federation president) and in the right way, progress can be made. Progress is often hindered by reluctance of the National Societies' leadership in approaching the governments at the highest level combined with lack of interest from the governments.

The events in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in spring revealed serious challenges for the national Red Crescent Societies as they seek to implement their humanitarian mission in time of conflicts. The months following the change of government in Kyrgyzstan in March had been marked with uncertainty and strained social and economic situation in the country. Some important links between the National Society and governmental bodies at national and local level were lost and had to be restored. In the initial period Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent proved its communication capacity in time of emergency, remaining one of the most reliable sources of accurate and prompt information in the country. Besides, Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent initiated much needed support in response to changed realities affecting the capacities of the most vulnerable groups.

After the social unrest in Uzbekistan in May and the events on the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border which followed, Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent acted in close cooperation with the governmental emergency and health structures in assisting Uzbek refugees. Uzbekistan Red Crescent supported the affected region with medical supplies. Although immediate medical and relief assistance was directed to the victims of the social calamities there, access to people in need was limited.

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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 183 countries.

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. For ore information please access the Federation website at: www.ifrc.org

Programme assessment

Health and care

Goal: Central Asian communities are less vulnerable to health problems.

Objective: Central Asian communities' health has improved through increased awareness and skills in health prevention, first aid and social support to target groups. (*Donors: Austrian RC, British RC, DFID, Japanese RC, Norwegian RC*)

Expected result 1: Central Asian National Societies have contributed to the reduction of TB MDR (multi drug resistant) and chronic TB forms through promotion and support of the implementation of the Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) strategy.

Actual result

The Tuberculosis control programme was implemented by the National Societies in 19 sites: six in Kazakhstan, three in Kyrgyzstan, four in Turkmenistan and six in Uzbekistan. In May 2005 Uzbekistan RC expanded its programme to six additional sites: with financial support from the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria the National Society arranged distribution of food parcels on these sites. Uzbekistan RC used part of the appeal contribution to cover the expenses of extra personnel thus targeting more TB patients. Starting from January 2006 the Global Fund will cover all related expenses of the Red Crescent staff on six additional programme sites.

Beneficiary groups included TB patients of II category³, sick people at high risk of treatment interruption (lonely elderly, alcohol and drug users, homeless people, former prisoners, multi-children or single-parent families) and those who have limited access to regular treatment because they live far from medical facility or suffer poor health condition related to other chronic diseases. Because treatment interruption among II category of patients is most likely to result in MDR TB, this year more beneficiaries from this category were involved.

The programme continued to be implemented by medical nurses of the Red Crescent Societies who provide social and psychological support to TB patients, educate their families, and raise awareness on TB among general public. These activities result in: early case detection; better treatment outcomes; prevention of chronic and multi-drug resistant forms of TB.

Social support included distribution of food parcels/hot meals (13,838/94,690), vitamins (11,336) and hygiene kits (10,241) to TB patients, and work with patients' families. This support aimed to motivate patients to continue the treatment and played an important role in improving nutritional status of the most vulnerable. Therefore, some beneficiaries received food during the whole period of post-hospital phase of treatment and others just as incentives. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan Red Crescent visiting nurses directly observed drug intake, while in Uzbekistan this observation was done by medical nurses from the state TB facilities.

Educational activities formed another component of the programme. Raised awareness of the disease among general public is crucial for early symptoms recognition and timely referral for medical assistance. Information dissemination also targeted the issues of stigma reduction and promotion of tolerance toward sick people.

The table below gives the summary of achievements over the year.

	Kazakhstan RC	Kyrgyzstan RC	Turkmenistan RC	Uzbekistan RC	Total
Total number of beneficiaries targeted by social support and direct treatment observation	1,930	1,227	2,601	2,333	8,091
Number of patients belonging to II category (out of total)	290	75	N/A	710	1,075
Number of patients under direct observation of treatment (out of total)	544	884	525	0	1,953
Number of community health nurses	28	10	9	41	88
Number of patients who completed the treatment	237*	515	758	1,224	2,734
Number of cured patients	135*	446	756	716	2,053
Number of cases with treatment failure	9	12	2	46	69

³ TB treatment categories: I category – new smear-positive patients, new smear-negative PTB with extensive parenchymal involvement, severe concomitant HIV disease or severe forms of extra-pulmonary TB; II category – previously treated smear positive PTB: relapse, treatment after interruption, treatment failure. Source: Treatment of Tuberculosis: Guidelines for national programmes, WHO, 2003

Number of patients who interrupted the treatment	29	0	18	1	48
Number of patients who continue the treatment	144	287	414	341	1,186
Printing materials distributed	16,225	30,800	10,000	14,856	71,881
Number of people targeted through health education and public awareness activities	24,032	48,684	7,171	87,483	167,370
Number of volunteers involved in patients support group	8	13	6	20	47
Number of beneficiaries who received psychological support	720	504	N/A	2,155	3,379

* Kazakhstan RC reported results of treatment only for patients under direct observation

** 1,173 food parcels out of these were procured within the Global Fund's contribution

Impact

- The continuity of treatment was ensured among patients predisposed to interruption. Only 48 TB patients included in the programme interrupted the treatment: defaulter rate is less than 1 per cent.
- The World Health Organization's recommended indicator (treatment success rate⁴ of 85 per cent) was achieved on programme sites. In MDR TB pilot site of Kazakhstan RC all 21 patients accomplished the treatment without interruption.
- All contacts were examined due to work with patients' encirclement.
- Socially vulnerable people received nutritional support that ensured supplementary caloric value and protein intake.
- Patient support groups were created and actively work together with RC nurses.
- Awareness of TB issues among general population increased. Monitoring of educational activities demonstrated significant (between 28 and 70 per cent) increase in the level of knowledge.
- Red Crescent Societies maintained their positive image in communities and strengthened cooperation with partners.

Constraints

The patient registration system is not equally well-functioning within health institutions in Central Asia countries. Therefore, it is often impossible to obtain correct information on the number of registered TB patients, their division by categories and treatment outcomes. This is particularly difficult in Turkmenistan.

In Uzbekistan the programme implementation was challenged by a lack of public transportation in regions. This fact, as well as the state TB medical facilities providing incorrect contact information, meant Red Crescent nurses had to make additional efforts, time was wasted and there were additional transportation expenses.

Lessons learned

Less than 75 per cent of patients belonging to II category were involved in the programme, which is a variance from the original plan. In some cases it resulted from a lack of a well-functioning system of patients' registration.

In general, the criteria for beneficiary selection should be reviewed and made clearer. It is also necessary for all National Societies to improve the system of registration, monitoring and reporting of treatment outcomes. The Red Crescent Societies can not influence registration procedures in the state medical facilities, but internal reporting from the sites to the headquarters is to be improved.

So far the sustainability of the project has not been achieved, though there were some positive changes – for example, financial support from the Global Fund. Still, the National Societies have not identified any local sources of funding and without external funding the programme will cease.

⁴ Treatment success rate is calculated as follows: the summarized number of patients who completed treatment and those who are cured is divided by the total number of patients who received treatment. Those patients who still continue the treatment or died are not included in the total number of patients who received treatment.

Approach for 2006

Social and nutritional support will remain important components of the programme in 2006. More attention will be given to increasing the number of II category patients under Red Crescent observation. Additionally, the National Societies will make efforts to activate the work of patient support groups as their involvement contributes to stigma reduction within the communities. Kazakhstan RC will continue to work with MDR TB patients and will pilot support to patients with HIV/AIDS/TB co-infection.

Expected result 2 The vulnerability of communities towards the effects of emergencies has reduced via implementation of community based first aid programmes in the region.

Actual result

The community-based first aid (CBFA) programme was implemented through the network of trainers and volunteer-instructors. Over the year more than 95,000 people were targeted by health education and about 39 per cent of them learned basic first aid skills. The four Central Asia National Societies conducted knowledge testing prior and after educational seminars. On average, the level of knowledge of targeted population has increased by 40 per cent.

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan RC programmes are more oriented towards city population and covered youth, fire brigades, and municipal agencies. Turkmenistan RC additionally continues to implement the programme in regions bordering Afghanistan, where the National Society targeted mainly the rural population.

Through the Road Safety component of the CBFA programme four National Societies reached 9,784 pre-school children.

Over the year Uzbekistan RC led the development of a standardized First Aid course curriculum in the region, as currently each National Society has its own training modules for instructors that are reviewed on a regular basis.

	Kazakhstan RC	Kyrgyzstan RC	Turkmenistan RC	Uzbekistan RC	Total
Number of trainers involved	6	16	18	17	57
Number of volunteer instructors	18	25	156	69	268
Number of population targeted by educational activities	9,040	5,000	43,993	38,198	96,231
Number of children involved in Road Safety campaign	5,400	2,000	1,215	1,169	9,784
Number of informational materials distributed	5,500	25,964	29,000	1,740	62,204

Impact

The number of population targeted by the programme in 2005 almost twice exceeded the planned figure. This became possible thanks to active participation of trained volunteer-instructors. The target percentage (35 per cent) of people who learned basic first aid has also been achieved.

In addition, more than 50 per cent of children involved in the Road Safety campaign demonstrated knowledge of five major rules of road safety.

Constraints

The lack of a certificate for Red Crescent FA trainers that is accepted by national authorities significantly decreases the National Societies' chance to render commercial FA courses – a stable source of funding. The other issue is that there is no standard approach to FA education at country level and several agencies offer FA courses. To overcome this situation, the National Societies initiated discussions with respective ministries in order to get proper recognition. Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent Societies are preparing the documents necessary to apply for European FA certificates⁵.

⁵ European FA certificates are first-aid diplomas recognized throughout Europe. To ensure equal standards and to have recognition throughout Europe, a minimum programme was determined. The certificates are awarded by the European Reference Centre for First Aid Education that brings together today 52 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies. (Web site: http://www.firstaidinaction.net/en/php/centre/centre_histoire.php)

Lessons learned

CBFA programme heavily depends on community mobilization and volunteer's involvement. Although in each National Society new volunteers are trained every year, high turnover hampers successful activities as devotion adds to success. To address that issue, a better system of volunteer encouragement needs to be developed.

In addition, the National Societies need to work actively on getting recognition of the Red Crescent training course certificate among public and other actors within the countries. Finally, development and use of the unified curriculum by all Red Crescent Societies in the region will save funds and time that is now used by each of them for existing modules revisions.

Approach for 2006

- A regional meeting will be organized at the beginning of 2006 year to discuss the project results, lessons learned and future options.
- Development of a unified curriculum should be finalized and training approach should be standardized in 2006.
- More attention should be given to volunteers to keep these people operating.
- Extra efforts are needed to get additional funding through provision of paid FA courses. The National Societies have to negotiate with the respective authorities in their countries to get official recognition as FA courses providers.

Expected result 3: Marginalized groups have knowledge and skills on safe behaviour through peer education to prevent HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STD).

Actual result

HIV/AIDS transmission was reduced through promotion of safe behavior, raised public awareness and harm reduction (HR) activities. Central Asia National Societies used peer to peer approach for educational activities targeting youth, military men, labor migrants, long-distance drivers and working adults of reproductive age. The programme also targeted "hard-to-reach" high-risk groups – commercial sex workers (CSWs) and injecting drug users (IDUs).



The knowledge of HIV/AIDS among college students was tested by Kazakhstan RC during a competition on the World AIDS Day. This competition was also used to encourage Red Crescent peer educators

Though access to these high-risk groups was restrained and problems of coordination with other players arose, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan RC already involved outreach workers from high-risk groups in peer education. Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan RC implemented the programme only through trained volunteer-instructors – mainly young people. Still, all four National Societies continue to disseminate information among high-risk groups and strive to involve them in peer education process.

To attract public attention, the Red Crescent Societies organized round-tables, campaigns, public actions and competitions. Information materials were distributed in public places, schools, colleges and universities. Several actions and events were traditionally organized by National Societies on the World AIDS Day (1 December).

Harm reduction activities were implemented by Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent Societies through eight harm reduction points. There were 122,535 syringes distributed (83,205 returned), 46,202 condoms provided and information materials disseminated, consultations and referrals for testing organized. Additionally, Kazakhstan RC provided 79 hot-line consultations to IDUs.

	Kazakhstan RC	Kyrgyzstan RC	Turkmenistan RC	Uzbekistan RC	Total
Number of training sessions organized	5,914	1,155	461	148	7,678
Number of trainers and peer educators trained	295	356	19	135	805
Number of population targeted through peer education and public awareness activities	45,277	19,877	12,142	4,186	81,482
Number of informational materials distributed	18,434	63,370	17,000	5,793	104,597
Number of IDUs attending HR points*	251			2,958	3,209
Number of IDUs - permanent clients of HR points	156			285	441
Number of outreach workers involved	204			12	216

*Harm reduction activities took place only in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Impact

- Targeted groups improved their knowledge of HIV/AIDS/STD and ways of preventing these diseases. Post-tests showed 20-70 per cent increase in knowledge of the subject among different beneficiary groups.
- The number of beneficiaries involved in health education and public awareness reflects significant coverage in all target groups.
- Positive behaviour changes have already been reported by Kazakhstan RC, with about 60 per cent of covered IDUs and CSWs practise safe behaviour.
- Kazakhstan RC successfully implemented peer to peer approach working with military men. This model can be replicated by other Red Crescent Societies as well.

Constraints

Access to high-risk groups was limited for several reasons. Turkmenistan RC staff reached beneficiaries in detention points under the supervision of police officers, while Kyrgyzstan RC was faced with problems when coordinating with other organizations working directly with these groups. Besides, IDUs frequently suffer from police prosecution and are reluctant to get involved in Red Crescent activities and thus reveal themselves. In addition, Red Crescent staff lacks knowledge and experience of communication with people from high-risk groups. However, the National Societies are working to overcome these difficulties by negotiating with officials and partners, organizing training sessions for their personnel and volunteers.

Lessons learned

The strategy of volunteer involvement and encouragement should be improved as peer education rests on volunteers. Additional training sessions on developing communication skills, especially those required to work with “hard-to-reach” groups, need to be organized for National Society staff.

Approach for 2006

Peer education remains a key element of HIV/AIDS prevention. This approach will be improved and used in work with “hard-to-reach” groups (IDUs and CSWs). Kyrgyzstan RC plans to open a harm reduction point and Turkmenistan RC will explore opportunities for harm reduction activities in the country as well.

Expected result 4: An effective social support system is organized to target HIV infected and people living with AIDS.

Actual result

Little has been done in this direction. Kazakhstan RC trained 29 people in how to approach and liaise with people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). However, there was no direct access to PLWHA for the Red Crescent Society as these people have no registered associations in Kazakhstan and AIDS Centres treat any information about them as confidential. This situation is expected to change in 2006 when the associations will be officially registered with the authorities. Uzbekistan RC finalized a workbook on care for PLWHA and submitted it to the Ministry of

Health and WHO office for comments. The possibility of piloting this workbook in RC college for medical nurses will also be discussed.

Organization of an effective social support system for PLWHA appeared an overambitious objective for the National Societies in the region. More needs to be learnt in this field and more efforts are required to get the right attitude towards infected people within the societies and their volunteers.

In 2006 this expected result will not be presented separately but support to PLWHA will be part of Red Crescent interventions related to HIV/AIDS prevention.

Disaster management

Goal: The risk of vulnerable communities to disaster in Central Asia is reduced.

Objective: Central Asian National Societies and communities, living in high disaster risk areas, have increased their capacities to prepare for and respond to disasters. (*Donors: British RC, DFID, Finnish RC, Norwegian RC, Swedish RC*)

During the year, the regional disaster management programme progressed mostly according to the plan. The programme has had an overall positive institutional impact on the National Societies and communities, that is:

- Increased disaster preparedness knowledge and skills among communities at high risk through community based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programmes.
- Raised disaster risk awareness through development and dissemination of disaster preparedness (DP) materials (brochures, posters, banners, information campaigns and billboards).
- Reduced disaster risk and strengthened capacity of communities and local RC branches through various mitigation projects.
- Increased disaster preparedness knowledge and skills among RC staff and volunteers through systematic training at all levels.
- Strengthened response capacity of the National Societies at national and local level through: pre-positioned DP stocks; further development, training and equipment of national and branch disaster response teams; and maintenance of field fleet and communication facilities (radios).

Expected result 1: By the end of 2005, National Society staff and volunteers have improved disaster management skills and their material base.



Red Crescent DRT practised rescue work during field exercises. This one took place in Fergana branch of Uzbekistan RC

Actual result

Over the year Red Crescent Societies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan systematically conducted meetings among staff, volunteers and partner organizations to plan and coordinate regular activities. Training sessions have been also arranged for staff and volunteers to improve their skills in risk reduction, response and other DM issues. These workshops run at branch and national level.

The Federation disaster management coordinator participated in two global disaster management meetings and international Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) training to keep up with the global policies and practices.

The skills of the Red Crescent disaster response teams (DRT) were improved through regular training, field exercises, and later tested during competitions. Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan RC equipped their response teams, including procurement of new uniforms. A new disaster response team of 14 members was established in Karaganda branch of Kazakhstan Red Crescent.

Based on results of the regional competition between the five Central Asia National Societies' disaster response teams in September it was decided to introduce changes in future DRT training on country level. The changes are related to the unified regional approach to basic knowledge and skills required for situation assessment, distribution of humanitarian aid, organizing temporary shelter for affected population that must be common for all team members. Another regional competition will be organized next year to check if the proposed changes have been put into practice.

Disaster preparedness stocks in each of the four National Societies have been replenished with non-food items. The National Societies' disaster preparedness centres have been provided with second hand clothing (420 tonnes) donated by Swedish RC. In addition, Kazakhstan Red Crescent received 20 tonnes of clothing from Finnish RC.

Warehousing and fleet have been maintained regularly by all four National Societies during the reporting period.

The disaster information system (DIS) has been regularly maintained by Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan National Societies. There is a plan to create the DIS in Kyrgyzstan in 2006.

In December, a regional disaster response team consisting of five persons supported the international large-scale emergency operation in the areas of Pakistan most affected by the earthquake. The team had been assisting the French RC basic health care emergency response unit and relief operations during a one month mission. This first mission of the Central Asia regional DRT added greatly to the experience of Red Cross/Red Crescent staff involved. The mission also became a practical test of how rapidly the response team can be deployed to a disaster site and what knowledge is required from the team members. The regional team's performance in Pakistan received high evaluation from the management of the emergency operation.

Within the region, Red Crescent Societies arranged the following small-scale response operations during the year:

National Society	Type of emergency	Operation	Beneficiaries	Type of aid
Kazakhstan RC	Industrial accident	Hot meals during one month	22 most vulnerable people	Food
	Floods	Nutritional assistance	51 affected people	Food
	Floods	Distribution of humanitarian aid	65 affected families (around 300 people)	Basic non-food items
Kyrgyzstan RC	Social unrest and economic strains	Nutritional assistance	500 households (single elderly, veterans and invalids)	Food parcels
	Social unrest and economic strains	Three-month food distribution programme	800 multi-children families	Food parcels
	Refugees influx	Distribution of humanitarian aid in temporary camp	500 refugees from Uzbekistan	Basic non-food items
Uzbekistan RC	Refugees influx	Medical supply to local state health department	Local hospital	Medical supply
	Domestic fires	Distribution of basic relief items	250 affected people	Basic non-food items

Expected result 2: By the end of 2005 targeted communities have community based disaster preparedness knowledge and skills to increase participation in mitigation activities.

Actual result

Community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programmes continue to be the priority for the region, as they aim at strengthening the community's capacity to cope with local disasters.

CBDP projects focused on community risk mapping, developing DP plans, establishing community DP committees and community training. All CBDP projects were based on results of vulnerability and capacity assessments, conducted jointly with organizational development programme staff at branch level. The projects addressed earthquake, floods, landslides, forest and steppe fires prevention. Field exercises conducted during CBDP training gave an opportunity to community members to practise their skills and knowledge in immediate actions in response to disasters. Thus, such projects contribute to reducing the consequences of disasters and strengthening community coping mechanisms.

In total, the four Red Crescent Societies in the region implemented **63** CBDP projects covering about **184,000** targeted community members (19 in Kazakhstan, 19 in Kyrgyzstan, 10 in Turkmenistan and 15 in Uzbekistan). The total number of involved beneficiaries is higher than was planned. This became possible because the National Societies managed to reach more people through community volunteers, who conducted training sessions among targeted population.

Another component of the regional disaster management programme – mitigation activities – included projects on safe water access, river bank reinforcement, cleaning landslide and drainage channels, flood protection, tree planting and fire prevention. These projects addressed typical for the region hazards like floods, landslides, earthquakes, forest and domestic fires. In total, **20** mitigation projects were carried out by the National Societies that covered about 87,000 of people in disaster risk areas: Kazakhstan RC – eight, Kyrgyzstan RC – four, Turkmenistan RC – four, and Uzbekistan RC – three. Kyrgyzstan RC implemented less mitigation projects this year than planned due to political instability in the country in spring, which hampered some activities in the first half of the year. This resulted in some savings on the programme budget. Uzbekistan RC mitigation projects, mainly tree planting to reduce the impact of landslides, took place in the first half of the year with financial support from DIPECHO.

In general, the projects are highly appreciated by the targeted communities and local authorities. There is also a tendency observed that an increasing number of communities feel more confident about their capacities and take ownership of the projects with minimum RC support. People take more initiative in developing such projects. The National Societies, in their turn, work on improving the quality of mitigation projects staying responsive, focused on real needs of the communities and keeping the projects simple, effective and sustainable.

Lessons learnt

- The regional approach is needed to ensure effective response during disasters: clear operational procedures, lines of command are to be developed to respond to large-scale disasters in Central Asia.
- The analysis of the regional competition of National Societies' disaster response teams shows that the team members need to have common basic knowledge and unified approach to respond effectively. The National Societies must re-organize their training, focusing on this particular knowledge and skills required for response teams.
- Regional monitoring of RC mitigation projects in Kazakhstan demonstrated that there are some organizational and managerial issues requiring attention. These are: development of a clear system for project selection and activity planning; greater independence of RC branches in making decisions on relief assistance; and development of standard forms of agreements, acceptance and delivery reports that incorporate a sustainability factor. This is true for other National Societies in the region.
- Awareness activities require greater focus and can be used as one of the most effective fund-raising opportunities as well as an instrument of the National Societies' image building among public.
- Exchange of experiences is to be more systematic and focused on particular issues for the National Societies to learn from each other.

Approach for 2006

Key priorities of the regional DM programme are the following:

- Development of effective coordination mechanisms to support the National Societies in case of large scale disasters (risk maps, national DP plans, standard operation procedures at country and regional levels). Though all National Societies effectively respond to small or medium scale disasters, a general plan of response coordination in case of a large-scale disaster should be worked out.

- Strengthening the National Society staff in charge of response operations in respective countries. More attention is to be paid to development of RC response teams' skills and knowledge through regular training, field practices and competitions.
- Further implementation of CBDP and risk reduction projects and compulsory regular monitoring of these projects. CBDP and mitigation components have been carried out in the region for some years already, and there is a need to look into criteria and factors of their relevance and sustainability. For this purpose, regional monitoring and analysis should be conducted. The regional strategy of mitigation project planning and implementation, as well as project selection and sustainability criteria, will be developed at the regional DM review meeting in 2006.

Humanitarian values

Goal: Central Asian marginal groups are less vulnerable to gender discrimination and stigma related to HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

Objective: The Central Asian Red Crescent Societies have the capacity to influence a reduction in community discrimination and stigmatization. (*Donors: DFID, Swedish RC*)

During 2005 the humanitarian values programme focused on:

- Increasing the level of understanding of the fundamental principles, tolerance and respect for marginal groups among the Red Crescent staff, its volunteers and partners.
- Providing essential knowledge to communities to change their attitudes and behaviour towards people living with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, vulnerable women and children.
- Increasing Red Crescent branch committees' capacity in public relations to help reduce discrimination and stigmatization at community level.

Activities to promote and disseminate knowledge of the humanitarian values and the fundamental principles were integrated in other core programmes where appropriate. Actions against stigma and intolerance related to HIV/AIDS or TB and violent treatment of women and children were carried out locally and nationally through awareness campaigns and specific country level activities.

During the year, nearly 60 per cent of the yearly budget of the programme was utilised. This is due to sharing funds for a number of activities with the regional health and care and disaster management programmes, as well as careful use of available resources because financing of the programme is traditionally low. Besides, change of staff in both the National Societies and the Federation delegation – gaps of three to six months in the positions of information officers – saved some funds.

Expected result 1: The level of understanding of the fundamental principles, and tolerance and respect for marginal groups among the Red Crescent staff, its volunteers and partners is increased.

Actual result

Over the year **Kazakhstan Red Crescent** trained its volunteers and youth leaders to achieve better understanding of the fundamental principles and values and empower them in their work with communities. The Red Crescent Society disseminated information on the Movement values, fundamental principles, tolerance and respect towards marginal groups during presentations and other PR actions. In addition, the society updated the web site and issued the information bulletin on a monthly basis.

Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent held sessions on fundamental principles and humanitarian values among students of the higher educational institutions. Additionally, the National Society regularly discussed with staff and volunteers the importance of promoting tolerance towards people living with HIV/AIDS, TB-infected people, disadvantaged people and others. Anti-stigma element has been included in all presentations of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society. Besides, three issues of the newsletter were produced.

Turkmenistan Red Crescent kept regular contacts with mass media to communicate to the public Red Crescent messages of tolerance and respect for marginal groups and inform people of the National Society activities. Over the year, 58 articles were published in newspapers, ten programmes were broadcast on TV and 19 on radio channels. In addition, the National Society issued 30 information bulletins and posters about RC volunteers.

Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society covered 60 volunteers through a number of seminars and meetings on the fundamental principles and tolerant attitude towards marginal groups. Additionally, 58 RC staff members have been introduced to the principles and basics of tolerance and understanding, essential for work with HIV-positive people and at-risk groups, and the ways of disseminating the Movement principles and values during job training. The National Society also taught 50 *makhallya* (local community self-organization unit) leaders – Red Crescent partners – to spread knowledge of the fundamental principles and humanitarian values among communities.

Over the year nine issues of information bulletins have been issued to inform people of the National Society programmes and public actions. Starting from June, the Red Crescent web site was updated monthly.

The number of articles published in national media made 184 (compared to 160 in 2004), while the number of those at both national and local level reached 500. The publications covered all directions of National Society work in support of vulnerable population, as well as basic Red Crescent messages on anti-discrimination and tolerance. The same topics have also been highlighted through five video spots broadcast on four national TV channels.

During the reporting period one issue of the regional newsletter *Compass* was produced based on contributions received from the National Societies. The Red Crescent societies also contributed to *The Bridge* magazine production with articles and photos highlighting TB and HIV crisis as the biggest concern of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Impact

Understanding of the fundamental principles and tolerance toward marginalised groups has increased. For instance, in Uzbekistan trained community leaders continued dissemination of the principles of tolerant attitude to vulnerable people (TB sick, HIV-infected, drug users) in their communities. This work to a certain extent breaks stereotypes in local people's minds. If discussions on HIV issues were taboo in families before, monitoring revealed that parents now talk more with their children about HIV/AIDS prevention.

Good media coverage helps to inform people about Red Crescent activities and attract volunteers from youth and working adults.

Constraints

Staff turn-over in local and national news agencies creates troubles for National Societies in the region. This involves extra efforts to establish new relationships, attract new journalists and inform them of the Red Crescent mission, objectives and activities.

Approach for 2006

Recognizing the need to be more focused and effective in the promotion of humanitarian values, Central Asia National Societies will set an example and improve their image as organizations open to all without discrimination. The National Societies plan to include persons suffering stigma related to HIV/AIDS in Red Crescent activities. These initiatives will reduce prejudice and stereotypes and influence behavior within the Red Crescent structures. New National Society staff can expect training in practical implications of the Movement principles and values.

Expected result 2: Communities in Central Asia are equipped with essential knowledge to change attitudes and behaviour towards people living with HIV/AIDS and TB as well as women and children affected by violence and gender discrimination.

Through increased information network and work with mass media, National Societies managed to pass messages and knowledge to a greater number of communities in Central Asia about National Society activities, needs of groups such as people living with HIV/AIDS, TB, women and children affected by violence and gender discrimination.

Actual result

Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society' contacts with mass media improved. This is true at the headquarters and local level. More information appears in media about the National Society activities, published materials became more diverse, their quality improved due to closer contacts with journalists and informal training. Mass media assists the Red Crescent Society to inform public of the problems different vulnerable groups face and to promote a tolerant attitude towards them among communities. During the contest on the best coverage on stigma related to HIV/AIDS about 15 publications promoting tolerance towards sick people appeared in the media. A number of articles about the plight of street children and migrants were also published.

The **Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society**'s public relations base is on profound work with mass media. In 2005 the National Society organized 18 field trips for journalists to the Red Crescent programme sites (including TB and HIV/AIDS prevention, assistance to refugees and migrants, gender programmes).

Over the year 90 information materials have been published in printing media outlets, 58 reportages have been broadcast through TV and radio national and regional channels. All these appeared thanks to 27 Red Crescent press-releases that sent messages about: National Society's contribution to TB and HIV/AIDS control; respect to sick people; needs of vulnerable children and refugees.



Photos taken by street children – participants of the photo contest in Kyrgyzstan – were exhibited during the International Forum dedicated to problems of children held in Bishkek

Through the photo contest “Protecting Human Dignity”, Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent attracted attention of local population and international community to the needs of the most vulnerable groups who, due to stigma related to HIV and TB or poor living status, struggle to get integrated into social life.

Turkmenistan Red Crescent Society sent across messages on stigma and antidiscrimination within HIV/AIDS prevention programme. The National Society's youth centres fought stigma and promoted tolerant attitudes to people living with HIV/AIDS through staged performances in schools and organizations. All information materials published within TB and HIV/AIDS prevention programmes of the National Society included anti-stigma and anti-discrimination messages as well.

Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society held about 200 joint actions of health, youth and humanitarian values programmes on regional and district level. These actions – dedicated to calendar events – increased community awareness of the needs of the most vulnerable groups.

Some 290 radio programmes and more than 300 articles in national, regional and local newspapers and magazines told the general public about the Red Crescent activities in reducing stigma toward TB-infected and HIV positive people.

Impact

In Uzbekistan interviews and discussions with people from community and with participants of Red Crescent seminars showed that in those regions where the National Society promoted anti-stigma and tolerant behaviour there were no cases of aggressive behaviour, bans or distance kept towards marginalized groups.

For some people the fact that it is safe to communicate with HIV-infected persons was a discovery. Ibragim, an eight-grade student from Namangan region said: “...In our school they never discuss such issues. It was news that I can live close to HIV positive people and be friends with them. Everything I have learnt here [from Red Crescent] I will definitely share with my classmates and friends.”

Information and health education work with people with TB, their families and communities on how to behave to avoid the spread of infection in the society change the attitude of the society to sick people.

In Kyrgyzstan programme integration results in more effective National Society team work on protecting human dignity. The quality of published information materials of the National Society improved. This contributed to greater transparency of the National Society activities, which is important in strengthening relationships with communities, local NGOs, government structures, business companies, international community and helps to attract funds.

Media coverage contributes to the Movement positive image raising, better advocating on behalf of the most vulnerable groups of population, and building tolerance among communities towards marginalised and at-risk groups.

Constraints

Changing attitudes and behaviour towards people living with HIV/AIDS, TB, vulnerable women and children is a long-term objective and work in this respect has to be continued. Since funding was always an issue for the humanitarian values programme, the activities to achieve this objective should be an integral part of other core programmes.

Approach for 2006

The Red Crescent Societies will promote respect for other human beings to remove stigma and encourage a caring environment for people living with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

Expected result 3: Community access to key Movement messages is improved, as is Red Crescent dissemination and information capacity at branch level.

Actual result and impact

Communication capacities of the pilot **Kazakhstan RC** branches have improved. Three newly hired staff issued press releases, promoted RC branch actions through media and supplied information for the National Society newsletter.

In general, over the year Kazakhstan National Society communication staff in branches gained more experience in work with mass media and public. Journalists received regular updates on Red Crescent branch actions and plans and cooperated willingly; they often referred to the National Society for information and helped to advocate on behalf of socially-vulnerable groups and promote tolerance.

The number of contacts between **Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent** and media at branch level where additional staff was hired rose. Local journalists are well informed about branch plans and activities, they enhanced the positive image of the Movement, assisted the National Society in advocating for vulnerable people and forming tolerant attitudes to them in communities. As a result, media coverage of the Red Crescent programmes increased by 15 per cent in comparison with 2004.

Turkmenistan Red Crescent hired one communication staff at regional level of the National Society. In other branches communication functions were covered by three active volunteers. These volunteers attended a seminar and learnt about information network development and information exchange between different levels within the National Society.

The planned activities on building communication capacities in pilot branches of **Uzbekistan Red Crescent** have been delayed and later postponed until 2006. This can be partially explained by the fact that the information officer at the headquarters joined the National Society in mid year.

Lessons learnt

Though some activities can be performed by a volunteer network, a professional job in communications and public relations has to be done by professional and trained people.

Approach for 2006

Certain positive results have been achieved with additional communication staff capacities of the National Societies in pilot areas. The Red Crescent communication network need to be further developed and strengthened.

Organizational development

Goal: Central Asian National Societies become well-functioning societies, which are relevant, efficient and effective in providing services to the vulnerable people in their countries.

Objective: Central Asia National Societies' capacities to deliver services to vulnerable people are strengthened through an organizational change process and capacity building efforts. (*Donors: DFID, Capacity Building Fund, Finnish RC, Swedish RC*)

Expected result 1: By the end of 2006, the Central Asian National Societies have shifted to a new structure with clear division of governance and management functions, which ensures effective management of programmes and branches.

Actual result

The process of revising the statutes and structure of the Central Asian National Societies has been ongoing since 2002. The Red Crescent Societies realize the necessity of organizational changes and their work on approaching the characteristics of a well-functioning National Society are supported by the Federation consultancy missions. This year, consultancy missions have been organized for the Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent Societies. The consultancy mission to Turkmenistan RC is planned for 2006. However, the National Society is being consulted through the Internet.

Another joint initiative of the Federation delegation and Swedish RC focused on practical aspects of dividing governance and management functions following the example of Swedish RC. To this end the Swedish RC vice-president and governing board member visited Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent Societies and held discussions with their leadership at the headquarters and regional level.

Kazakhstan RC discussed the revision of statutes and structure at all levels of the society over the year. The staff was familiarized with the changes that will be introduced in the structure of Red Crescent through special workshops. This contributed to progress in achieving common understanding of the advantages of these changes. The draft statutes incorporated recommendations from a local lawyer so as to bring it into conformity with the legislation.

The discussion process being slow, the final draft of the statutes will be consulted with the Ministry of Justice and the Joint Statutes Commission (of the Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross) in 2006.

The draft structure/organigram of **Kyrgyzstan RC** was developed and presented at the presidium meeting of the society. The new structure is further being promoted among Red Crescent branches.

The congress meeting, where the governance and management leadership will be elected/appointed, has been postponed and will be held in early 2006. The National Society's Strategic Plan for 2006-2010 that has been devised is to be adopted by the congress as well.

After the discussions on branch level, the new version of **Turkmenistan RC** draft statutes was presented at the task force meeting in November 2005. The final version of the statutes will be presented at the National Society presidium meeting where presidium will also decide on the date of the next congress. Provisionally, the congress is postponed until November 2006.

Since the draft statutes have been only partially agreed within the Red Crescent, it can not be submitted to the Ministry of Justice and the Joint Statutes Commission for consideration yet.

The **Uzbekistan RC** Society congress meeting has been repeatedly postponed during the year. The reason for that was that the National Society required permission from the Ministry of Justice. All activities related to revision of the Red Crescent structure, election of governing bodies and appointment of management at national and regional level has consequently been postponed as well. This resulted in balance on the programme. However, the validity of funds provided by Swedish RC for these activities within 2005 Appeal has been extended till next year.

Expected result 2: By the end of 2005, effectiveness of the Central Asian National Societies is increased through building capacities of their branches in the areas of financial management and fundraising, human resource management practice, logistics development and practical VCA skills.

Actual result

Special fundraising commissions – task forces – have been established in regional branches of **Kazakhstan RC** to collect the membership fee, keep the recording, and elaborate fundraising campaigns. In December the fundraising commissions presented current activities analysis and recommendations on strengthening the financial sustainability of branches at a fundraising meeting for branch chairpersons. The commissions were instructed to work out a unified fundraising system based on the recommendations.

Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent continued implementing the branch development project in one of its most remote branches – Talas branch. The branch was equipped with basic furniture and office equipment. In addition, First Aid training for trainers was conducted in the branch. These trainers are involved in training of local communities and will also provide paid FA courses for commercial companies. The Strategic plan of Talas branch organizational development for 2006-2007 has been worked out.

Some planned activities of the National Society have not been accomplished during the year. Among them is a vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) in Talas branch that will be held by Red Crescent volunteers in January 2006. The branch fundraising plan is expected to be finalized in 2006 as well.

Over the year the National Society developed a strategy on fundraising and created a database of potential donors at the headquarters. Additionally, each branch set up a fundraising team. A bank of fundraising ideas was organized so that each member of staff can contribute to development of RC fundraising campaigns.

Following a workshop on VCA for **Turkmenistan Red Crescent** staff a needs assessment was carried out in Esenguly and Etrek districts (*rayons*) of Balkan region. The project on development of Etrek *rayon* branch – strengthening the material base, organizing an office and training staff – started in the end of 2005. The project on development of Esenguly branch is still under consideration.

Human Resources Management Strategy for 2005-2007 and a plan of action have been approved by the society presidium and will be put into practice in 2006. The key issues addressed by the plan are: assessment of the National Society's needs in personnel; staff selection; staff appraisals, staff training and encouragement; human resources effective management; professional ethics and behaviour norms.

The National Society developed a fundraising plan for 2006 and hired a fundraising officer to coordinate and analyze fundraising activities. The presidium approved the self-support and self-financing regulation that is used by the National Society financial department as a reference.

Uzbekistan Red Crescent implemented two projects aimed at vulnerability reduction in Bukhara and Navoi branches. The staff of these branches was trained in VCA techniques in 2004. It is important that district branches contributed 35 per cent of their own resources to the projects. As a result, 1,018 people in Bukhara region gained access to pure potable water and 252 people from disadvantaged families in Navoi region enjoyed free medical service at the Red Crescent medical ward.

Chairpersons from Karakalpakstan and Khorezm regional and district branches acquired skills in VCA in 2005. These skills were further applied during the assessment held in 16 communities. The projects basing on the assessment results were developed and submitted for consideration of the National Society headquarters and donor organizations. However, there is a delay in planned activities here as the projects were supposed to start by the end of the year.

Reporting on fundraising activities has been revised and simplified. This format allows keeping more precise records of fundraising actions and arranging quicker experience exchange.

Following the training on volunteer attraction and retention, Uzbekistan National Society established 17 primary organizations that attracted around 1,170 volunteers in total.

According to the staff training programme, elaborated by the National Society organizational development department, 42 chairpersons from rayon and regional branches were trained. Post-training assessment showed that the programme should cover other staff of the society and that training should move to branches.

Lessons learnt

Low salaries within the National Societies, especially at branch level, result in frequent staff turnover. Attracting more funds at local level, the National Societies will be able to improve the situation with human resources.

Approach for 2006

To address the issue of staff turnover Kyrgyzstan RC is planning to develop a tool/questionnaire to assess the staff satisfaction with their workload, salaries, etc. It is expected that the analysis of the assessment results will show the areas of concern requiring attention from the National Society management.

Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent also envisages an action among primary organizations for the best fundraising initiative and a contest for the best fundraising project among branches.

In this connection Uzbekistan Red Crescent will hold a conference on actual issues of fundraising in the country and share the conference's materials with the National Society branches.

Expected result 3: By the end of 2005, the youth movement of Central Asian National Societies is actively involved in the activities of their National Societies through performing clear role in other programmes (health, DM and humanitarian values) as well as effectively implementing projects to address needs of vulnerable youth.

Actual result

Kazakhstan Red Crescent issued a regulation strengthening the role of the RC youth movement in accordance with the National Society Youth Policy Concept of 2002. The regulation prescribes the youth coordinator together with their counterparts from branches to develop a draft of the Red Crescent Youth Policy.

Red Crescent youth movement continued establishing primary organizations. At the end of the year, the total number of new organizations comprised 25. However, the National Society suffers from high turnover of youth leaders when new leaders need to be trained over and over again.

Youth centres of the National Society held training sessions for newly recruited volunteers including sessions on HIV/AIDS prevention for youth in branches. The centres further continued raising awareness on HIV and sexually transmitted diseases (STD) prevention among their peers at schools and colleges.

Over the year Red Crescent youth organized a number of actions aimed at raising funds for vulnerable groups – disadvantaged children and lonely older people.

Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent youth representative became a member of the National Society presidium. Relevant amendments have been made to the youth movement regulations during 2005 and will be adopted by the Red Crescent congress in January 2006. Thus, RC youth will have a stronger voice among the decision makers.

The National Society youth centres established and strengthened contacts with international and local non-governmental organizations, government authorities and commercial sector through cooperative public events and charity actions. Besides, the centres actively attracted volunteers and the number of Red Crescent volunteers increased from 2,354 in 2004 to 3,658 in 2005.

Red Crescent youth disseminated knowledge about the Movement fundamental principles and values, raised awareness of HIV/AIDS and STD among peers and worked with vulnerable children. In addition, young volunteers participated in fundraising actions of the National Society.

Turkmenistan Red Crescent Ashgabat and Abadan branches supported school teachers and police officers – through special training – in their work with juvenile offenders and drug users in accordance with the cooperation agreement between the branches and local juvenile delinquency departments. Besides, a support/resource centre for unmanageable and disadvantaged children was organized by Abadan branch youth centre.

During the year Red Crescent youth held 306 training sessions for volunteers on humanitarian values, first aid, prevention of HIV/AIDS and drug abuse. Trained volunteers further disseminated the information among peers through 955 sessions at the educational institutions. In addition, eighteen youth actions, aiming at volunteer attraction were held all over Turkmenistan.

Based on the results of the needs assessment RC youth provided support to 35 children from disadvantaged families and 235 children accommodated in boarding schools and orphanages. Children received writing materials, underclothes and additional nutrition.

Over the year, the number of **Uzbekistan Red Crescent** youth centres increased from 26 to 31. Training sessions on first aid, disaster management, International Humanitarian Law, TB, HIV/AIDS and drug abuse prevention were held among youth in the centres' clubs. These young people further shared the knowledge with their peers.

Based on the results of the vulnerability assessment among youth of Nukus city Red Crescent youth is working on several project proposals aimed to partially address these vulnerabilities.

In 2005, a new method of experience exchange between youth centers – on-line discussions – was practised by the National Society.

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

Goal: Central Asia National Societies have effective partnerships leading to enhanced advocacy in mobilizing resources to address the humanitarian needs of the vulnerable through programmes and services.

Objective: Central Asia National Societies improve their capacities to serve the most vulnerable through Federation coordination of partnerships within and outside the region, human resource development and technical support. (*Donor: DFID*)

Expected result 1: By the end of 2005, dialogue and cooperation between partners within the region and beyond are improved.

Actual result

Region-wide, coordination of all Red Cross/Red Crescent actors has continued. The comprehensive planning meeting with all actors in June was the main event here. Coordination of bilateral RC actors was pursued during the year through consultations and meetings. The coordinated bilateral arrangements with American RC have continued as well.

The Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) process in Tajikistan is underway and discussions have been held with all parties involved.

Impact

The planning meeting resulted in synergies being found and duplications eliminated.

The Tajikistan delegation is taking the lead in running a CAS process for Tajikistan RC. The process was weakened during the year with the sudden departure of the vice-president of the Tajikistan Red Crescent Society. Nevertheless, the head of delegation attended a training/meeting in Nepal so as to be fully up to date. Meetings with participating (donor) National Societies' representatives – both bilateral and multilateral – resulted in coordinated action plans.

Bilateral trips have been facilitated by the regional delegation, maximizing the use of the Federation Status Agreements. These resulted in knowledge sharing of all RC actors' activities.

Constraints

The transparency of all RC actors in the region must improve. No National Society, operating (ONS) or participating (PNS), present in the region is complying with the publication of annual reports which includes

budgets as per their obligation as members of the Federation. The Federation Secretariat, represented by the regional delegation, is alone in showing complete transparency.

The services offered to American RC as the only coordinated bilateral continued during 2005. The system interface between that of American RC and the Federation is not smooth and more work is needed to make the offering of services easier, especially in finance and HR.

Lessons learnt

- Reporting of activities remains the norm. The Movement in Central Asia (and further afield) must improve the measurement of impact on vulnerable people.
- If the Secretariat is to offer services to coordinated bilateral RC actors, the systems need a major overhaul. For instance, the Secretariat is actually unable to offer contracting of delegates. If this is to be a serious offer of service, then a less rigid procedure needs to be put in place.

Approach for 2006

More focus on impact and “have we made a difference which we can prove?” is needed. The regional delegation is undertaking a number of evaluations of programmes during the first half of 2006, which will help the National Societies improve their programme indicators and data collection as part of project planning.

Expected result 2: Human resource development is improved by providing knowledge sharing opportunities within and outside the region.

Actual result

The HR person in the regional delegation was absent for six months helping the Secretariat with the Tsunami operation. However, from June onwards transparent HR practices were shared with the Red Crescent National Societies.

Regional DRT team was deployed to the emergency operation sites in Pakistan affected by the earthquake in the end of 2005. More details can be found in the **Disaster Management** section of this report.

Impact

The desired impact of transparent accounting from Central Asia Red Crescent Societies and coordinated salary support and other payments to them is almost zero. While regional National Societies persist in not producing annual accounts, and PNSs will not or cannot make payments according to regionally agreed criteria, the Secretariat cannot fulfil its mandate in this area.

The knowledge gained by the five National Society staff deployed for one month to the Pakistan operation is invaluable. To share this, the experience debriefing will be held in all sending societies and at the regional DM coordination meeting.

Constraints

As stated above, lack of transparency is an insurmountable obstacle for the Secretariat in fulfilling its coordination mandate. This was also noted in the annual report for 2004.

Lessons learnt

- The deployment of National Society/Federation staff to other regions for short disaster interventions pays dividends.
- The Federation needs a lower level mechanism than the integrity task force to deal with low level non compliance matters.

Approach for 2006

The regional delegation will continue in its attempts to fulfil the Secretariat mandate: coordinate support into the five Central Asia National Societies. The planning meeting is the main venue for this and in 2006, greater preparation will be made with individual societies prior to the meeting.

Expected result 3: Coordinated support is provided in developing strategic directions in four core areas identified in the Federation’s Strategy 2010.

Actual result

Technical information was shared with all National Societies in health and care, disaster preparedness and response, as well as in organizational development. Measuring the impact of the humanitarian values programme remains a challenge.

Impact

The arrangement whereby technical staff of the regional delegation attend global meetings and feed back global issues, policies and action points took place as usual during the year and was successful knowledge sharing.

The head of the Secretariat health department visited the region, explaining the result of an agreement signed between the Federation and the World Health Organization (WHO). This has resulted in WHO asking the health ministry how they are including the Red Crescent National Society in planning and implementing projects in Kazakhstan.

Constraints

The lack of a health delegate for the first half of the year caused considerable difficulties. Most health projects were not on target or on budget even at the year end. It was, by accident, a small test of the health coordinators in the National Societies.

The regional delegation needs much more support from the headquarters in planning the humanitarian values programme activities. This was also noted in the annual report for 2004.

Lessons learnt

- The knowledge sharing of global technical issues is working well. The missed targets, due to the absence of the health delegate, indicate that the Red Crescent Societies in the region are not yet ready to take control themselves.

Approach for 2006

The regional delegation will continue with similar support in four core areas.

International representation and advocacy

Goal: The mandate and the programmes of Central Asian National Societies as part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement are well disseminated among the various governments, UN agencies, international and national organizations, the private sector in Central Asia as well as among other stakeholders within and outside the region.

Objective: By the end of 2005, the image, profile, visibility and advocacy capacity of Central Asian National Societies has improved - through the support of the delegation in advocating at national, regional and international levels - among different actors on the activities of the Movement. In each country the National Societies will be accepted by their governments as a reliable interlocutor on humanitarian issues. (*Donor: DFID*)

Expected result 1: The profile of the five Central Asia National Societies continues to increase through more focused work by the regional delegation with Government authorities, national and international organisations and the media.

Actual result

The regional delegation has assisted the National Societies in getting stories on to the Federation web site. Baseline data is difficult to obtain without long and expensive market surveys.

Impact

International coverage of the Central Asia Red Crescent Societies' activities has been good this year – several web stories and a special edition of *The Bridge* magazine was published for consumption at the General Assembly. This information dissemination raised the profile of the National Societies within the Movement. Without proper baseline surveys, it is not possible to assess the impact in the Central Asia republics.

Constraints

Lack of initial baseline data hampers the measurement of impact (if any) of what we are doing.

Lessons learnt

Baseline data is needed if this work is to continue seriously.

Approach for 2006

An assessment will be made during the first half of the year to determine what kind of information is required. The results of the assessment will be presented and agreed during the June planning meeting for inclusion in the 2007/8 Appeal.

Expected result 2: The discussion on the Red Crescent Law continues in all five Central Asia Republics through regular dialogue with the respective governments.

Actual result

The Federation president visited Kyrgyzstan and met government officials, asking for support to the National Society with the Red Crescent Law. The government has duly asked for examples of similar laws from Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent.

Impact

The only country where there is real impact is Kyrgyzstan. Outcome remains to be seen, but the interest from the government is rare and encouraging.

Constraints

Lack of interest from the governments and reluctance of the National Societies' leadership in approaching their governments at the highest level to discuss this issue (even if supported by the Federation and ICRC delegations) hinders possible progress.

Lessons learnt

While the five governments are completely different, the Kyrgyzstan example shows that if governments are approached at the right level and in the right way, progress can be made.

Approach for 2006

The regional delegation will continue to work with the National Society presidents in encouraging them to lobby for greater support, assisted by the Federation and ICRC delegations

Expected result 3: The Federation continues lobbying on the Status Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the International Federation in 2005.

Actual result

The head of regional delegation was received by Turkmenistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs in November 2005. This was the first time in 18 months.

Impact

As the agreement is not signed, there is no impact. However, a second meeting was postponed with a promise to meet in March 2006, which is a sign of movement.

Constraints

The government of Turkmenistan appears to see little value in such an agreement.

Lessons learnt

Persistence gives certain results in the end.

Approach for 2006

The regional delegation will continue to discuss with the government why it sees value in the Status Agreement.

The financial report is attached below. Please click here to return to the title page and contact information

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2005/01-2005/9998
Appeal	M05AA075
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	1'706'913	1'054'605	99'995	650'174	258'558	3'770'246
B. Opening Balance	292'617	182'647	6'942	140'423	42'756	665'385
Income						
Cash contributions						
Astra Zeneca	226'565					226'565
Austrian Red Cross	217'440					217'440
British Red Cross	261'978	285'719	29'814	208'698	74'535	860'744
Capacity Building Fund				37'860		37'860
ECHO		163'692				163'692
Finnish Red Cross				134'624		134'624
Japanese Red Cross Society	56'675					56'675
Norwegian Red Cross	493'750	426'106				919'856
Parthenon Trust		45'020				45'020
Swedish Red Cross		241'154	43'420	241'700		526'274
C1. Cash contributions	1'256'408	1'161'691	73'234	622'882	74'535	3'188'749
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
British Red Cross	358'223	6'754				364'978
ECHO		125'687				125'687
Swedish Red Cross		16'156				16'156
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	358'223	148'597				506'821
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
Norwegian Red Cross	0					0
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)	0					0
Inkind Goods & Transport						
Swedish Red Cross		342'617				342'617
C4. Inkind Goods & Transport		342'617				342'617
Other Income						
Miscellaneous Income					9'052	9'052
Service Agreements					6'031	6'031
C6. Other Income					15'083	15'083
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	1'614'631	1'652'905	73'234	622'882	89'618	4'053'269
D. Total Funding = B + C	1'907'248	1'835'551	80'176	763'304	132'374	4'718'655

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	292'617	182'647	6'942	140'423	42'756	665'385
C. Income	1'614'631	1'652'905	73'234	622'882	89'618	4'053'269
E. Expenditure	-1'111'412	-1'289'987	-58'792	-541'539	-95'376	-3'097'106
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	795'836	545'564	21'384	221'765	36'999	1'621'548

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2005/01-2005/9998
Appeal	M05AA075
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
	A						B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		1'706'913	1'054'605	99'995	650'174	258'558	3'770'246	
Supplies								
Shelter	38'400							38'400
Construction	68'000		151'709		275		151'983	-83'983
Clothing & textiles	64'384	628	281'207		667		282'501	-218'117
Food	321'000	232'114	45'423		853		278'389	42'611
Seeds,Plants	67'530		13'809				13'809	53'721
Water & Sanitation		605	2'927		1'698		5'231	-5'231
Medical & First Aid	54'000	22'644	4'597		2'913		30'153	23'847
Teaching Materials	42'287		961		206		1'167	41'120
Utensils & Tools	16'043		27'980				27'980	-11'937
Other Supplies & Services	113'708	37'788	4'092		819		42'699	71'009
Total Supplies	785'352	293'778	532'703		7'431		833'912	-48'561
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	28'886	8'611	33'335		16'779	2'129	60'854	-31'968
Office/Household Furniture & Eq	23'896	2'357			781	-7'002	-3'864	27'760
Total Land, vehicles & equipme	52'782	10'968	33'335		17'559	-4'872	56'990	-4'208
Transport & Storage								
Storage	5'208	1'628	7'631	38			9'297	-4'089
Distribution & Monitoring	91'583	8'433	104'183		147		112'763	-21'180
Transport & Vehicle Costs	80'404	14'670	41'606		7'345	-543	63'078	17'326
Total Transport & Storage	177'195	24'731	153'420	38	7'492	-543	185'138	-7'943
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	288'000	35'774			65'798	24'307	125'879	162'121
Delegate Benefits	216'000	29'019			30'969	40'794	100'783	115'217
National Staff	660'343	67'707	56'862	16'260	31'494		172'323	488'020
National Society Staff		287'840	122'477	11'575	73'165	2'458	497'516	-497'516
Consultants	15'268							15'268
Total Personnel Expenditures	1'179'611	420'341	179'338	27'836	201'426	67'559	896'501	283'110
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	633'556	65'192	162'185	5'273	134'446	7'480	374'577	258'979
Total Workshops & Training	633'556	65'192	162'185	5'273	134'446	7'480	374'577	258'979
General Expenditure								
Travel	130'538	52'269	62'875	3'927	60'834	21'401	201'307	-70'770
Information & Public Relation	393'071	139'268	136'748	16'168	57'393	163	349'739	43'332
Office Costs	82'421	25'550	28'765	472	52'723	-469	107'040	-24'619
Communications	63'417	5'675	14'729	1'372	13'533	1'009	36'319	27'098
Professional Fees	9'088				4'541	-430	4'111	4'977
Financial Charges	12'756	-30'923	-31'155	-1'244	-14'182	-242	-77'746	90'502
Other General Expenses	5'394	37'392	24'045	1'805	13'862	733	77'836	-72'442
Total General Expenditure	696'685	229'231	236'007	22'501	188'703	22'164	698'606	-1'921
Depreciation								
Depreciation						3'819	3'819	-3'819
Total Depreciation						3'819	3'819	-3'819
Program Support								
Program Support	245'066	72'242	76'456	3'821	35'200	6'199	193'919	51'147
Total Program Support	245'066	72'242	76'456	3'821	35'200	6'199	193'919	51'147
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		-5'070	-83'457	-677	-50'719	-6'432	-146'355	146'355
Total Operational Provisions		-5'070	-83'457	-677	-50'719	-6'432	-146'355	146'355
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	3'770'246	1'111'412	1'289'987	58'792	541'539	95'376	3'097'106	673'140
VARIANCE (C - D)		595'501	-235'382	41'203	108'635	163'183	673'140	