

# Report 2006-2007



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Central Asia

Appeal No. MAA70001

3 April 2008

This report covers the period of 01/01/2006 to 31/12/2007 of a two-year planning and appeal process.



Older people with Tuberculosis living alone get much needed comfort from Red Crescent volunteers through the regional health and care programme. Photo: Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent

## In brief

**Programme summary:** In 2006 and 2007, the Red Crescent Societies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' regional representation for central Asia, worked to reduce vulnerabilities and build capacities within the areas linked to the Global Agenda. The programme objectives have, to a high degree, been achieved. However, while some have been moving forward at a smooth pace, others faced challenges. For instance, changes in the leadership and staff of the National Societies had an inevitable knock-on effect on programme continuity and the development processes.

Among the highlights of the past two years is a new service that was made available for people with TB/HIV co-infection at three sites in Kazakhstan through the Red Crescent multidisciplinary teams formed for this purpose. Also, the design of the regional community-based first-aid project was modified based on the recommendations of an external evaluation; the focus shifted from traditional first-aid training to community health for rural communities. A regional contingency plan was developed- with a large-scale urban earthquake as its scenario- and when rolled-out is expected to facilitate effective Red Crescent response and proper coordination between the actors in time of emergency.

All five National Societies in the region, including Tajikistan, have adopted their revised statutes, dividing the functions of governance and management, and three have already started implementing the statutes. However, the impact of such division will need to be assessed, and this is planned for the coming year. An initiative linked to the new operating model of the International Federation – Operational Alliances – has been taking shape in the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent. This National Society and another two – of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan – joined the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Alliance

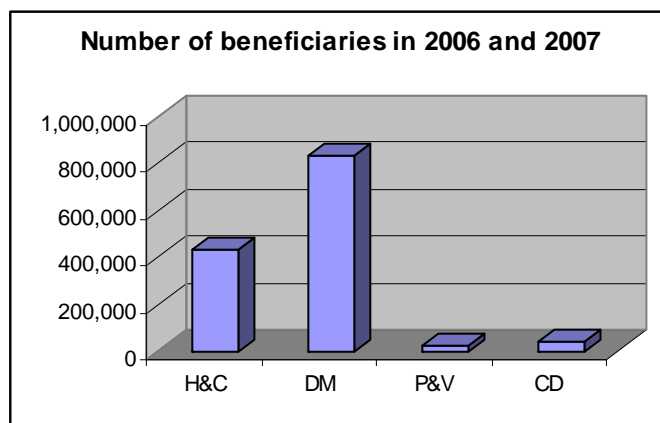
on HIV. This was an important step, but major developments will only happen in the coming year.

**Goal:** In line with the Global Agenda goals, the International Federation's secretariat supports the Red Crescent Societies to reduce the vulnerability of communities in central Asia to health risks and disasters, tackle discrimination and intolerance, and develop the National Societies' capacities to become well-functioning and to effectively provide services to the people.

**Needs:** Total 2006-2007 budget was initially CHF 8,173,000 (USD 6,614,735 or EUR 5,230,995). The revised two-year appeal target is CHF 10,530,471 (USD 8,707,715 or EUR 6,416,830) (out of which 72 per cent covered). The 72 per cent coverage of the total appeal budget affected the principles and values programme most, with changes also being made to the plans of the health and care and the disaster management programmes. The implementation rates varied between programmes and are lower for programmes that carried over certain funds to 2008 following the donor funding cycle, which is different from the appeal time frame. Click here to go directly to the attached financial reports: [Report 2006](#); [Report 2007](#); and [Report 2006-2007](#).

**No. of people we help:** 1,318,095 people benefited directly from the programme interventions of the International Federation's secretariat in 2006 and in 2007.

Programme	Number of beneficiaries
Health and Care	429,950
Disaster Management	831,440
Principles and Values	20,095 (plus estimated 200,000 through media sources)
Capacity Development	36,610
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,318,095</b>



**Our partners:** In 2006 and 2007 the International Federation's regional representation and the National Societies worked with more than 80 government-based, local non-governmental and international organizations, the United Nations (UN), developmental agencies and partners inside the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

## Current context

Prevailing high international prices throughout 2007 for food crops such as grain contributed to a rise in retail prices of basic foods like bread, pasta, meat and milk, generating inflationary pressure on domestic food markets. The sharp rise in prices affected the entire central Asian region, with low-income populations bearing the heaviest burden, largely because their diets consist of a very high proportion of cereals. Apart from deepening the vulnerability and consequently raising demands on humanitarian assistance, the price hike increases operational costs and negatively affects the budgets of Red Crescent programmes. This notably affects especially the health and care programme that has components of social aid (nutrition).

Addressing the issue of high food prices, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan initiated an operation to assist the most vulnerable children in residential institutions with supplementary food rations during the winter months. The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) released 58,286 Swiss francs for that purpose in December 2007.

It was also in Kyrgyzstan that the major natural disaster to affect the region in the past two years – an earthquake in the Kochkor region– struck at the end of 2006. An emergency appeal was launched to support the National Society's earthquake response operation, also partly funded by the DREF in its early phase. [Click here for reports on this and other National Society response operations.](#)

Over time, the volatile political situation in Kyrgyzstan called for extra efforts from the National Society to ensure effective cooperation with, and support from, the government bodies to its regular programme activities, particularly those involving public gatherings. In neighbouring Uzbekistan, the change of leadership and senior staff reshuffles in the Red Crescent slowed down programme activities or restrained certain organizational development initiatives.

## Progress towards objectives

### Health and care

**Objective:** The central Asian communities' health has improved through increased knowledge and skills in health prevention, first aid and nutritional and social support to the most vulnerable groups.

**Achievements:**

The Red Crescent programmes to control Tuberculosis (TB), prevent HIV transmission and decrease community vulnerability to health risks contributed to the improved health of target communities. Health and care also became the selected field of the Operational Alliance taking shape in the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent. This National Society has also been joined by the Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent Societies in entering the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Alliance on HIV that aims at scaling up the International Federation's efforts in support of national HIV programmes to reduce the vulnerability to, and impact of, HIV.

TB control interventions prioritized the needs of the most vulnerable groups in communities. These were identified as single elderly people, multi-children families, the homeless, alcohol and drug users and former inmates of penitentiary institutes. As statistically TB affects more men in the region than women, they made up 63 per cent of the programme's target group. The principal Red Crescent services – direct observation of treatment, social and psychological support to people with TB, and education for their families – pursued treatment adherence, while TB awareness campaigns among promoted early referrals and reduced stigma towards people living with TB. In turn, proper treatment, knowledge and skills on health protection led to improved health of the target communities.

Over the two years, some 6,913 people with TB were assisted through the Red Crescent programmes; more than 60 per cent of them under the direct observation of treatment. Though the format of the programmes varies slightly between the National Societies, the average treatment success rate was above 90 per cent and less than 5 per cent of the beneficiaries receiving social support interrupted their treatment. The design of the social support element of the programme was adjusted in 2007 to ensure stronger influence on beneficiaries and to better match the resources available.

The multidisciplinary teams of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent, established in 2006, supported people with TB/HIV co-infection at three sites responding to the needs of 155 people with social, psychological and legal assistance. This number is 65 per cent of all people at the project sites falling under the Red Crescent's beneficiary selection criterion – access to antiretroviral (ARV) treatment. Also, 247 multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB patients benefited from psychosocial support from the National Society and almost 60 per cent of them have already completed the treatment.

Among the 190,362 people involved in TB educational programmes, an estimated 80 per cent knew the main symptoms of the disease and preventive measures. Their knowledge was tested before and after educational sessions through questionnaires.

The HIV prevention activities targeted the key populations at higher risk of infection and its transmission – young people, military men, labour migrants, sex workers, injecting drug users (IDUs) and people living with HIV (PLHIV). Increased knowledge of the ways HIV can be transmitted and measures that can be taken to prevent it, as well as harm reduction services, worked to reduce the spread of infection. Out of all the beneficiaries covered in the four countries, between 75 and 88 per cent demonstrated that they know three ways HIV can be transmitted and prevented and two common false statements. The peer education model was pursued to build knowledge and promote safer behaviour and reached 100,030 people against the planned target of 43,000. Over the period, the Kazakhstan and the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Societies demonstrated visible progress in reaching hard-to-reach groups – sex workers and IDUs – due to their recruiting of 310 beneficiaries from these groups as peer volunteer instructors. The average year-on-year increase in the number of targeted beneficiaries from these groups in 2007 was 37 per cent. Besides, the National Societies of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan managed to involve PLHIV in the programme activities. However, access to PLHIV, and in some cases to IDUs and sex workers, is limited and effective support to these groups remained a serious challenge.

The harm reduction services by Red Crescent Societies – syringe exchange, condoms distribution, information materials dissemination, consultations and referrals for testing – expanded to Kyrgyzstan. At the end of 2007 the syringe exchange rate in harm reduction points of the Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan National Societies exceeded the target of 60 per cent and the number of permanent clients reached 1,715.

The design of the community-based first aid (CBFA) project was revised based on the recommendations of an external evaluation carried out at the end of 2006. The focus shifted from traditional first aid training to community health for rural communities that are more vulnerable to health risks than urban populations. The project involved 71,660 people, with between 76-83 per cent of them demonstrating that they know the main symptoms of the most common communicable diseases and measures to prevent them. The Road Safety component targeted 17,900 children. Here the percentage of children who know five of the main principles of safe behaviour as a result of the Red Crescent intervention varies between National Societies, but averages 69 per cent.

Children's vulnerability was also addressed by the projects for street children of the Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan National Societies. Over six months, 360 children from disadvantaged families in Kazakhstan received daily hot meals and socialized with their peers and National Society volunteers in a friendly and secure atmosphere. The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent assisted roughly 70 street children accommodated at the rehabilitation centre by providing them with supplementary nutrition, computer literacy education, vocational training and dental care over the course of a year.

#### **Challenges or Constraints:**

Due to the funding gaps, the CBFA activities were interrupted in the middle of 2006 and suspended in the beginning of 2007 for between five and six months. Such interruptions have a negative effect on programme staff, forcing some to leave.

## **Disaster Management**

**Objective:** The disaster preparedness and response capacities of vulnerable communities and central Asian National Societies have been increased through improved community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP), community-based mitigation projects and improved disaster management capacity in the region.

### **Achievements:**

The regional contingency plan (RCP) that includes a conceptual framework, a working document and a practical check-list was developed and tested during a special regional event. UN agencies and DP ECHO, the European Commission's humanitarian aid department, representatives were present as observers. The testing was useful to reveal the shortcomings in competencies of staff and potential pitfalls in coordination frameworks. The feedback from participants has been collected and is being used to adjust the plan. A large-scale urban earthquake became the major disaster scenario for the RCP, and it is expected that when rolled-out the plan will facilitate effective response and proper coordination between the actors in time of emergency. The five National Societies were also revising their national contingency plans, adapting standard operational procedures to the country context and testing them at national level. Two memoranda of understanding on mutual assistance between central Asian National Societies in time of disaster and on deployment of the regional disaster response team (RDRT) have been signed. A RDRT electronic database listing team members from Red Crescent staff and volunteers and the International Federation's regional and country representations' personnel also made up part of the RCP.

At community level the capacities were built through risk reduction and community-based disaster preparedness. In their mitigation and risk reduction projects the National Societies followed the regional selection criteria, an effort to improve the quality of Red Crescent work with communities. The criteria centred on such characteristics as relevance, local initiative, efficiency and sustainability. The projects implemented over the past two years mainly aimed at reducing the risks of floods, landslides, fires, and water-borne and water-related diseases for communities in disaster-prone areas. More than 165,000 community members benefited from these projects.

Around 339,600 community members were involved by the Red Crescent Societies in CBDP projects in 2006-2007. As a result, local disaster committees were established, community members received education in disaster preparedness and basic first aid, developed risk maps and response plans for their communities, and conducted simulation exercises. The need to monitor more closely the communities covered by CBDP projects in previous years was recognized and there was a plan to develop an effective mechanism that would allow for follow-up of these projects in the post implementation phase. However, the mechanism has not yet been developed. Awareness of potential risks was also raised by the Red Crescent Societies through projects with target communities that were often run in cooperation with government bodies and partner organizations.

Over the two years the National Societies reached more than 13,120 people affected by small-scale natural and man-made disasters with relief assistance. Such response operations are a regular Red Crescent activity and do not involve additional budget allocations. However, there were two emergency operations over the period that required additional resources. These are the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent's earthquake response operation, funded initially through an allocation from DREF and then by an emergency appeal, and a DREF operation in response to the socio-economic crisis. [Click here for reports on National Society response operations.](#)

An attempt was made to engage in the dissemination and advocacy of the International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) in the region. During the 2007 International Conference on International Law organized in Almaty the regional representation presented the fundamentals of IDRL and established links with the academic circles of Kazakhstan, China, Russia, and Uzbekistan.

### **Challenges or Constraints:**

The planned expansion of the response capacity of the central Asian National Societies with disaster preparedness stocks for up to 5,000 families has not happened as there were no funds to support this initiative.

## Principles and values

**Objective:** The central Asian Red Crescent Societies have the capacity to promote the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values, so as to avert discrimination and stigmatization in communities.

### **Achievements:**

New staff and volunteers were given training to increase their understanding of the fundamental principles and values of the Movement. Over the two years, around 420 staff and volunteers in four National Societies gained more knowledge and were also shown how it relates to their everyday work.

The National Societies worked hard to improve their profile and image as open humanitarian organizations that counter intolerance and violence in their respective communities. Decision-making state agencies and organizations active in the humanitarian sphere were involved in promoting respect for human dignity and a culture of tolerance towards people affected by TB- and HIV-related stigma or gender discrimination and addressing vulnerability in target communities through round tables, partner meetings and joint actions. Stronger support in countering discrimination and promoting tolerance was negotiated with the government ministries and further followed up by the Uzbekistan Red Crescent.

Updated presentation kits, closer contacts with the media and regularly updated web sites of the National Societies and the International Federation's regional representation – most of the sites were launched over the past two years – increased the publicity flow and worked to improve the Red Crescents' profile and image. An estimated 100,000 people got information on humanitarian values and Red Crescent activities through public actions and media sources annually. The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent increased the number of media sources that highlight its activities and promote non-discrimination towards vulnerable groups and individuals to 25. In addition, the number of volunteers, mainly journalists, has increased.

The four National Societies involved more than 5,000 young people from within and outside the Red Crescent in debates on the practical steps needed to oppose any type of discrimination witnessed among the youth. The debates took place in schools, colleges, in periodicals and on television and radio at branch and national levels. Some 150 persons affected by abuse were involved nationally. The Uzbekistan Red Crescent involved 20 PLHIV in its 2006 drawing contest and over 100 children with TB participated in a drawing contest organized with the local youth movement and other partners.

### **Challenges or Constraints:**

Underfunding remains the main constraint of the principles and values programme. Because of the lack of funds some planned activities were cancelled and some, like experience exchange visits, were limited. Others, however, were successfully implemented through integrating with the disaster management and health and care programmes, both at regional and National Society level. Salary support for National Society branch staff was cancelled in 2007. The focal points have subsequently had to combine the principles and values functions – now unpaid – with other, paid, duties. This may have a suspended negative impact on the branch dissemination and communication capacities.

The programme faced staff turnover at the headquarters of the Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan societies, negatively affecting the programme management and requiring additional guidance and support from the regional representation.

## Capacity Development

**Programme objective:** The capacities of the central Asian National Societies to provide services for the vulnerable population have been strengthened through the organizational development process and capacity building.

### **Achievements:**

All five National Societies in the region, including Tajikistan, have adopted their revised statutes, dividing the functions of governance and management and clearly defining their roles. The division is a step towards greater transparency and accountability. The process of implementing the statutes has already started in the Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan<sup>1</sup> and Uzbekistan Red Crescent Societies and is expected to start in the Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan in 2008. The new structure of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent has been put in place to ensure better integration between governance and management and to promote the effective use of resources at branch and headquarters level. The statutes of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent are awaiting legal registration with the relevant local body before implementation starts. The planned restructuring of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent branches, in line with the statutes, has not yet happened. As this is a new experience and implies certain risks, the National Society will only pilot the implementation of the statutory provisions in one or two selected regional branches in 2008, while other regions will be keeping track of the developments. The International Federation's secretariat supported the restructuring processes through consultancy missions on the legal base and governance and management organized throughout 2006-2007 to each National Society requesting such assistance. The capacities of the new leaders who took office over the last two years and their understanding of the role of National Societies were also built through the International Federation's Leadership Development Course.

Certain improvements in the human resource management of the National Societies have been achieved. The Turkmenistan Red Crescent developed a new organigram and introduced staff recruitment and induction training procedures. Likewise, a system for performance evaluation and training of staff has been developed by the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent.

Though no fund-raising strategy has been developed in the region, the National Societies have been exploring local funding sources, to some purpose. Having equipped regional branches with skills for corporate and public fund-raising, the Uzbekistan Red Crescent raised more than 643,000 Swiss francs through public charity campaigns, corporate and individual donations in 2007. These funds were used to address the needs of the local populations, like supporting low-income families to pay the costs of linking to the gas supply system. In general, all the National Societies put into practice standard fund-raising techniques – charity donation boxes, distribution of membership coupons and lotteries – and grants, which remain the major source of their income. In the realm of high competition for resources it is evident that the National Societies need to actively look for innovative fund-raising practices at country level and beyond.

The efforts to strengthen the central Asian National Societies' capacities in the area of financial management have not yet led to any of them being ready to move to a cash transfer system. All five National Societies received comprehensive recommendations on how to better use the existing financial systems and enhance the financial capacities, based on reviews by the regional representation in 2006. In 2007, external audits were carried out in the Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Societies, demonstrating increased commitments to improve. The plans of action to implement the recommendations of the audit reports are still being worked out. The considerable delay in the whole process was caused by late, or in a few instances no, follow-up from the National Societies to the initial reviews; and shifting priorities as a result of new leaders and staff coming in. It also took time to identify funds to cover the costs of the audits, which were quite high.

The Red Crescent youth developed their organizational structure and increased its network of centres to 14 in Kazakhstan, 7 in Kyrgyzstan, 20 in Turkmenistan and 31 in Uzbekistan. Young volunteers are the driving force behind many Red Crescent interventions in the communities. They are involved in all the activities the National Societies run for youth, in public events and fund-raising actions.

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<sup>1</sup> Details of this and other Red Cross Red Crescent programmes in Tajikistan are provided in separate reports on the Tajikistan Appeal 2006-2007.

There are also good examples of young volunteers supporting their most vulnerable peers. The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent regional youth centre carried out a project to improve the sanitation conditions and personal hygiene skills of children from an orphanage. Similarly, over the two years, the Uzbekistan Red Crescent youth organized three summer camps for children with disabilities, with support from the local authorities and involving skilled grown-ups to teach crafts.

The experience exchange within the countries and between sister National Societies – when volunteers and youth leaders take the opportunity to learn from each other – became an example of good practice. Learning is also taking place at youth camps organized by the Uzbekistan Red Crescent annually and during regional meetings.

In Kyrgyzstan, a youth representative became a member of the statutory body of the National Society, allowing them to take a more active part in decisions related to programming. However, this is rather a sporadic example and systematic youth involvement in decision-making processes at all levels of the National Societies is yet to be reached.

## Management and Coordination

In 2007, the International Federation's representation function towards the international organizations and governmental agencies in the region intensified. For instance, it was the only international organization outside of the UN family that made a statement during the regular United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) session held in Kazakhstan in May. It also participated in the international conference addressing the problems and perspectives of mountain states development, organized by the Kyrgyzstan government in December as a follow-up to the 2002 International Mountain Summit. Its suggestions under the section on natural and man-made disasters related to establishing partnerships and involving affected people in the design, implementation and monitoring of programmes were included in the conference resolution.

The Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) process in the Tajikistan Red Crescent was rolled out but the CAS document has not yet been finalized. The change of leadership in the National Society in 2007, and the subsequent reshuffles, hampered the process. To ensure the level of engagement that had been achieved from the Movement partners before the changes, the National Society will need to demonstrate its strong commitment to CAS.

Steps were made in developing the Operational Alliance of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent in the area of health and care. However, the process took longer than expected and the alliance is not yet operational. Following the meeting with its Movement partners in October 2007, the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent is leading the development of the framework for the integrated health programme, the programme document and implementation plan. The memorandum of understanding has been signed between all National Societies in the region, the International Federation's and the International Committee of the Red Cross's (ICRC) regional representations; the Spanish Red Cross joined later. The document outlines the principles of cooperation on issues of interest for all, primarily relating to administrative and financial arrangements on the supported programmes. Other partner National Societies present in the region were invited to sign the memoranda, although the subject of the document leaves little space for partners outside the Movement, as it covers mainly administrative issues like salary support that are primarily of interest for Movement partners funding the programmes.

The dialogue in regard to a National Society law in Kyrgyzstan is taking longer than anticipated and has not yet been successfully concluded. Progress in the dialogue with the government was partially blocked by political instability in the country and a high turnover of government officials. Having declined the amendments proposed by the government to the original version, the Red Crescent postponed the negotiations until after the parliamentary elections in 2007. The new round of negotiations started supported by the International Federation through the head of the Europe zone office during her visit to the region in December 2007. The International Federation will further advocate

for the specific nature and auxiliary role of the National Societies towards their governments in the coming two years.

The planned Status Agreement of the International Federation with the government of Turkmenistan has not been signed. The change of leadership in the country suggested that there could be developments on the issue, but further engagement of the regional representation in the process following the political change remained low.

## Working in partnership

The regional representation maintains good working relationships with the governments, the diplomatic community, the United Nations, international organizations and humanitarian actors in the region. The central Asian Red Crescent Societies have a long history of cooperating with local authorities and governmental ministries in their respective countries. The key partners are the ministries of emergency, health, social welfare, defence, interior, foreign, justice and education and their structures at regional and local level.

In the health sector, the National Societies coordinate their TB prevention activities with Project HOPE and the state TB medical facilities. They are also members of the Country Coordination Mechanisms (CCM) of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). The outreach of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent in TB increased since it engaged with GFATM in six regions of the country; the Kazakhstan Red Crescent will also scale up its TB prevention services in the coming two years thanks to GFATM funding; and the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent also enjoys the support of GFATM in HIV prevention. The National Societies also cooperate with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and with local NGOs. Bilateral relationships between the Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan National Societies and the Netherlands and British Red Cross Societies increase the outreach at country level. Additionally, an Operational Alliance is being formed in Kyrgyzstan in the area of health and care, while the Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan National Societies have expressed their willingness to join the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Alliance on HIV.

The disaster management programme collaborates with ICRC in building the response capacities of Red Crescent staff and volunteers. The Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent Societies enjoy good bilateral partnerships with the Netherlands Red Cross in disaster preparedness and mitigation, which allows scaling up of programming. At country level each Red Crescent Society has partners in the disaster management sector among United Nations agencies, USAID, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and local NGOs.

The key partners of the principles and values programme are the media as such partnerships tremendously enlarge the dissemination and communication capacities of the National Societies. In terms of dissemination, the programme also cooperates with ICRC and close links exist with other programmes within the National Societies. Cooperation with civil society can be illustrated by the regional representation's facilitation of the regional summer school for young specialists organized by the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law to share knowledge on humanitarian values and its experience of working with vulnerable groups.

The main partner in organizational development and capacity building processes of the National Societies in the region is the ICRC. In the last two years the Finnish and Swedish Red Cross Societies have also contributed to the processes with consultative missions/experience exchange.

The implementation of the regional programmes would be impossible without the support from the donors who channelled their contributions through the International Federation's annual appeal. The multilateral partnerships with the British, Finnish, Japanese, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies, the UK's Department for International Development, ECHO and contributions of the Capacity Building Fund are extremely valued.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

Responsive work of the central Asian National Societies and the regional representation within core programming areas fits into and contributes to the International Federation's Global Agenda. More attention is being paid to gender perspectives, with gender equity promoted within all programmes. For instance, changes in the CBFA programme will ensure that the needs of women in traditional rural families are addressed. During emergency response operations the gender perspective is addressed by including families that have no provider, usually a male in these communities, in the beneficiary groups.

The SPHERE standards are an integral part of the Red Crescent training for its disaster response teams and are applied by the National Societies in their disaster response operations. Through increased dissemination and communication capacities the principles and values programme tackles discrimination and violence in communities and encourages greater respect. The organizational development programme improves the capacities of the Red Crescent Societies and promotes greater accountability that is expected to be translated into better services addressing the most urgent situations of vulnerability. The new National Society statutes envisage equal opportunities for participation in the governing bodies for women and men.

## Looking ahead

The coming two years will see further developments of partnerships in the area of health and care through operational and global alliances. The Red Cross Red Crescent Global Alliance on HIV aims to scale up the efforts in support of national HIV and AIDS programmes to reduce vulnerability to HIV and its impact. The next step for the Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan National Societies will be drafting a programme concept note that will be followed by a programme document.

The impact of the division of governance and management functions in the National Societies is yet to be assessed. The previous evaluation of the organizational development programme took place in 2001 and since then there have been many changes in the National Societies and the environment in which they are operating. There is, therefore, a need to analyse and adjust the development strategy and methodology accordingly. The assessment will be outsourced to an external evaluator and is to be carried out in the coming two years.

Building on the progress in financial development, two of the National Societies that are relatively advanced in this sphere, will work on improving their respective financial systems and practices and be encouraged to finally move to the cash transfer system. The other three National Societies will be encouraged to introduce smaller initiatives enabling them to achieve a certain level of improvement in financial management. The follow-up of the developments in human resource management in the two National Societies that underwent review will be done in 2008.

Addressing gender issues, including equity promotion and prevention of sexual and gender based violence, will be a new component of the principles and values programme in the coming two years. The new component will be introduced depending on the context of each country identified through a survey and further work with communities on recognized problems.

In order to better address the needs in improved performance and accountability, greater emphasis will be placed on planning, monitoring and evaluation of the programmes and building capacities in these areas within the National Societies. The relevant function in the regional representation will also be expanded. The regional representation will consider the present shrinking of resources and explore opportunities of obtaining funding at the regional level, aiming to diversify where possible and reduce the dependence on traditional sources.

The regional representation will focus on assisting the National Societies to strengthen their capacities to better contribute to the Global Agenda Goals and to take forward the *Istanbul Commitments* of the 7th European Regional Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference, as well as to follow up on International Conference, General Assembly, Council of Delegates decisions, declarations and pledges.

How we work	
<p>All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the <a href="#">Code of Conduct</a> and is committed to the <a href="#">Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere)</a> in delivering quality and accountable assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <a href="http://www.ifrc.org">http://www.ifrc.org</a></p>	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p><b>Global Agenda Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</li> <li>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</li> <li>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</li> </ul>
Contact information	
<p><b>For further information on this Appeal, please contact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Central Asia Regional Representation:</b> Drina Karahasanovic, Regional Representative, Almaty, phone: +7727 291 41 56; fax: +7727 291 42 67; email: <a href="mailto:drina.karahasanovic@ifrc.org">drina.karahasanovic@ifrc.org</a></li> <li>• <b>Europe Zone Office:</b> Leon Prop, Deputy Head, Budapest, phone: +361 248 33 00; fax: +361 248 33 22; email: <a href="mailto:leon.prop@ifrc.org">leon.prop@ifrc.org</a></li> </ul>	