

Report 2006-2007



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tajikistan

Appeal No. MAATJ001

3 April 2008

This report covers the period of 1/1/2006 to 31/12/2007 of a two-year planning and appeal process.



A Red Crescent volunteer visiting older people at home in Dushanbe. Photo: Tajikistan Red Crescent

In brief

Programme summary: Throughout the last two years the country representation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has supported the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan in its work to achieve a higher impact at the grass-root level. Therefore a common approach to community-based and integrated programming has been followed. The International Federation has also followed its policy of supporting the National Society in building its capacity and ability to coordinate with partner National Societies.

Through the awareness-raising campaigns, conducted in 2006 and 2007 as part of the health and care programme, injecting drug users, sex workers, labour migrants and their families, young people and the general population of the regions of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, Sughd and Kulyab have learnt about the ways of HIV transmission and, vitally, about the measures that can be taken to prevent its spread. The harm reduction project has also led to a positive change in the behaviour of injecting drug users towards being more answerable for their own as well as their family members' health.

Among the highlights of the two-year programme is the National Society Contingency Plan that was elaborated together with partners from both inside and outside the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and was tested at the end of 2007. Contributing to better disaster preparedness of the most disaster-prone areas of the country, 3 more disaster response teams and an additional 20 local disaster committees were set up, to complement those already operating. The disaster operations proved that these local committees, established at a grass-root level, are the best mechanism for effective and timely response. Therefore, the National Society continued to focus on its community-based disaster preparedness programme, building the capacities of vulnerable communities by conducting courses and simulation exercises for local disaster committee members.

Also, the revised statutes of the National Society was adopted by the congress in March 2006 and all 69 Red Crescent branches changed over to divided functions between governance and management.

Goals:

- Reduce the risk and impact of disasters on the lives of people living in disaster-prone areas (disaster management);
- Reduce the vulnerability to diseases through preventive health education and awareness around HIV, Tuberculosis (TB) and other communicable diseases (health and care);
- Strengthen the National Society’s capacity through the training and empowerment of Red Crescent staff and volunteers, including youth volunteers, branch development through community-based activities and financial and logistical development of the National Society’s branches (organizational development).

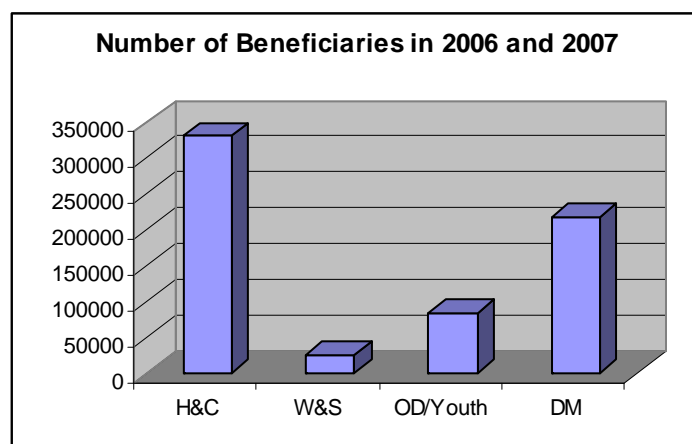
Needs: The total appeal budget for 2006-2007 was initially CHF 2,527,000. The revised two-year appeal budget is CHF 3,762,090 (USD 3,365,018 or EUR 2,280,055) (out of which 89 per cent covered). Click here to go directly to the attached financial reports: [Report 2006](#); [Report 2007](#); and [Report 2006-2007](#).

The 13 per cent of the total appeal budget anticipated from DIPECHO for disaster management was not covered, as those funds were redirected to other non-governmental organizations working in the same programme and geographic area. Some funds allocated for the two-year appeal have been carried over to 2008 as the Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross funding time frames are different from the appeal.

No. of people we help: In 2006-2007, **703,870** people in Tajikistan benefited directly from the programme interventions of the International Federation’s secretariat.

Programme	Number of Beneficiaries
Health and Care	74,000 (HIV prevention); 257,200 (TB)
Water and Sanitation	25,764
Organizational Development/Youth	84,450 (including the National Society staff)
Disaster Management	218,433 (an additional number of 24,787 people in 2006 and 19,236 in 2007 were assisted by the National Society by its own means during disaster relief operations)
Total number of beneficiaries	703,870

In 2008-2009 around 1,698,743 people are expected to benefit from the planned programmes.



Our partners: The National Society worked with around 65 partners within and outside the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

Current context

The past two years have seen a total of 126 disasters of different kinds and their destructive power in Tajikistan. In total 111,000 people have been directly affected, with 75 people losing their lives and 48 people injured, according to the statistics from the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence (CoES) and figures that the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan maintains. In terms of structural damage, 711 houses were totally destroyed and a further 3,576 houses were partially damaged. Through the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) the disaster relief operations assisted 620 families (3,100 people) while also contributing to building the capacity of the National Society.

The shift of focus from the planned activities to disaster response operations caused delays in regular disaster management programme activities. This led to some changes in the original timetable. The remaining 42 refresher courses for the Local Disaster Committees (LDCs) in Rasht Valley will be held at the beginning of 2008.

The management and governance restructuring of the Red Crescent's headquarters affected the timetable of the plans and the implementation times. As an example, it took around four months for the new executive and non-executive staff to become acquainted with the specific nature of Red Crescent work, including its mandate and principles. During this period of change, the International Federation's country representation transferred its knowledge and expertise on programme management and was involved in guiding the National Society.

Progress towards objectives

Health and Care

Objective: By the end of 2007, a strengthened National Society has contributed to the prevention of Tuberculosis (TB), HIV and sexually-transmitted infections (STIs), drug abuse and communicable diseases among the targeted communities of Tajikistan.

Achievements: The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has been addressing the changing needs in health and care through its strong focus on reducing stigmatization, promoting community-based health and educating people on preventive health and hygiene, first aid and offering harm reduction and social support.



The elder generation also learnt something new from the Red Crescent volunteers during the World First-Aid Day celebrations. Source: Tajikistan Red Crescent

The awareness campaigns run in 2006 and 2007 were carried out by 96 trained Red Crescent volunteers and 3 outreach workers. Through these campaigns, injecting drug users, sex workers, labour migrants and their families, young people and the general population of 32 Jamoats (district centres) in 8 border districts in the regions of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, Sughd and Kulyab learnt how HIV is transmitted and, vitally, about the measures to take that can prevent its spread. The total coverage amounted to 74,000 people. The monitoring of the epidemiological situation in some target communities in the north of the country revealed a growing tendency towards referrals (7.4 average per month) in comparison

with 2006 (4.2 average per month) before the project had started according to data from the Ministry of Health.

The harm reduction project, through its Trust Points in GBAO and Khorog and its outreach work, has contributed to:

- a rise in the syringe exchange rate (67 per cent in 2007, compared to 25 per cent in early 2006)
- a rise in the detection of HIV (72 per cent of injecting drug users- IDUs- were tested for HIV, two of which have started taking anti-retroviral treatment)
- an increase in condom use and a change in the behaviour of IDUs towards being more answerable for their own health and for their family members' (revealed through semi-structured interviews and questionnaires)

Surveys found that 56 per cent of IDUs are aware of actions they can take to prevent HIV and 90 per cent of the Trust Point clients are not using shared syringes. Two IDUs have given up using drugs, and three more have expressed the wish to give up. In total, 157 IDUs attended the Trust Point where they were offered psychological support.

Although initially a community-based first-aid programme supported by the International Federation's secretariat was planned to target some 600 volunteers, this programme has been implemented with the bilateral support of the Netherlands Red Cross, funded through TACIS (Technical Aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States), in all five regions of Tajikistan. In order to avoid duplication, the International Federation decided to focus more on TB and HIV activities.

Challenges or Constraints: The number of project sites was reduced and hence also the number of beneficiaries that could be reached compared to the original action plan. This was largely due to the financial situation and the restructuring process the National Society went through at the beginning of 2006. A further constraint is the drain in volunteers. This problem is being addressed by involving volunteers from other Red Crescent programmes, encouraging volunteers by producing image materials and inviting them to trainings other than just HIV-related ones.

The Red Crescent Society initiated the *Tajikistan DOTS* (Direct Observation of Treatment, Short Course) programme as a pilot in Wahdat district. There are 257,200 people living in this district and the programme, supported by the American Red Cross, the Finnish Red Cross and the International Federation's secretariat, started in January 2007. The 100 newly established village development committees (VDCs) became the connecting link between the district TB centre, the primary health care facilities, the targeted communities and the families of people with TB. Trainings on TB and the DOTS strategy held for 121 community volunteers, 99 physicians, and 128 primary care providers increased the detection of TB cases. In 2007, the registered TB cases were calculated as 446, with 186 new ones inclusively against 156 cases in 2006.

The outreach activities of the most active community members-volunteers, including schoolchildren, improved their health education levels. The inhabitants of the targeted villages can now recognize the signs and symptoms of TB in its early stages.

Challenges or Constraints: The seasonal migration of primary health workers, due to low salaries in some central Asian countries, to Russia and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries leaves the resources stretched at certain times. In addition, the remoteness of some regions to medical facilities and TB centres makes holding regular medical check-ups and timely sputum analysis difficult. Such a lack of primary care providers, for whatever reason, leads to out-of-control self-medication.

Water and Sanitation

Objective: By the end of 2007, the National Society has strengthened its capacity to improve the

health status of the targeted vulnerable population in Tajikistan in terms of preventable communicable diseases.

Achievements: Participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) trainings that were held in ten targeted villages in Sughd province and direct rule districts (DRDs), and run by 104 volunteers, increased the knowledge about hygiene and managed to change in a positive way the sanitation/hygiene practices of 3,794 people in rural areas. This is based on information provided during interviews and in questionnaires.

Some of the communities' most urgent drinking water needs elicited during the PHAST trainings were met via ongoing National Society programmes. For example, the community-based first-aid (CBFA) programme was advocated for in certain district branches. The project also supported the construction of seven spring water supplies using low-cost sustainable techniques. These springs provide potable water for 21,670 rural inhabitants of 8 villages in Sughd province and DRDs. Water users' committees (WUCs) and parent-teacher associations (PTAs) were set up to ensure the community-based approach and branch development had a positive impact. As community self-managing units, both took responsibility for maintaining the spring water supply systems after the project was completed through voluntary maintenance funds. Such a working style ensured an increase in the beneficiaries feeling of ownership and, thus contributed to the project's sustainability.

A gym hall was opened in mid 2006 in the Red Crescent Mastcho district branch, in the north of the country, as part of an income-generating project and as an inducement for healthy lifestyles. It sets a pattern for the fruitful integration of water and sanitation, youth and public health programmes. Over the one and a half years 350 people have benefited from the services offered by the gym hall, out of which 150 are permanent members.

Challenges or Constraints: Due to a shortage of funds projects on improving the sanitation facilities were not run. The sanitation facilities were improved by the communities' own means with the technical support of a Red Crescent engineer.

Disaster Management

Objective: By the end of 2007, the disaster preparedness and response capacity of the National Society staff, the vulnerable communities and secondary schools has improved through community-based disaster preparedness and response, courses on the Sphere project and safe access, first-aid training, small-scale mitigation projects, increased networking of Red Crescent volunteers and strengthened partnerships with the government and humanitarian organizations.

Achievements: The period of 2006-2007 was successful in many aspects of improving the National Society's disaster management planning system. Firstly, the *National Red Crescent Contingency Plan* was elaborated together with many partners from both inside and outside the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and approved. It stipulates the worst-case assumptions and identifies the role of the Red Crescent Society in the overall national disaster management system. The Red Crescent contingency plan was tested at the end of 2007 by 60 disaster response team (DRT) members, Red Crescent disaster management staff and volunteers, the State Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence of the Republic of Tajikistan and rapid emergency assessment and coordination team (REACT) members, and additionally at a later stage in ten Red Crescent centres in Tajikistan. Secondly, the *National Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan of the Red Crescent Society* was revised and reapproved by the governing board in May.

The result of an evaluation by an external consultant in September 2007 of DREF-supported disaster response operations in 2006-2007 was generally positive. The recommendations pointed to ensuring the sustainability of the disaster management programme at community and district levels, and assessed the disaster management capacity building needs of the Red Crescent staff and its

counterparts. These recommendations will be incorporated in the action plan for 2008-2009.

Three new DRTs were formed by the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan as part of a continued focus on enhancing the skills and capabilities of its staff and community volunteers. The new teams are at the National Society's headquarters and in the Ishkashim district of GBAO. The most disaster-prone areas of the country are now better prepared to respond quickly to disasters as an additional 20 Local Disaster Committees (LDCs) were set up to complement those already operating.

The present-day disaster management capacity of the Tajikistan National Society includes ten disaster response centres over the country with pre-positioned emergency stocks, trained staff, volunteers equipped with basic clothing, communications and means of transport. The relief stocks allow it to provide emergency aid to some 350 families. An annual update of the existing database of people trained in disaster preparedness, response and first aid who could be deployed immediately in disasters operations resulted in 2,960 people by date.

The two most devastating disasters of the past two years were the floods in April 2007 affecting 11,875 people in 5 districts in the north and south of the country with 1,039 houses partly damaged and 1,330 houses totally destroyed; and an earthquake of a magnitude between 5.5-6 on the Richter scale in July 2007, in Rasht district heavily affecting 7,000 people, with 1,200 houses partly damaged and 93 houses totally destroyed. [Click here to read more about the Red Crescent's assistance to people affected.](#)

The disaster operations in 2004-2007 proved that the Local Disaster Committees (LDCs), established at a grass-root level in the most disaster-prone areas, are the best mechanism for effective and timely response. Therefore, the National Society continued its community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programme focusing on disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response capacity building of vulnerable communities. Courses covering Sphere project minimum standards and safe access, tracing followed by practical simulation exercises in case of floods and earthquakes were conducted for 400 members of the newly established LDCs. Some 44 refresher courses followed by simulation exercises with different scenarios were conducted for 880 previously established LDC members in Kurgan-Tube region. Apart from those mentioned above, the indirect beneficiaries numbered to 24,200.

Special attention was paid to schoolchildren through integrated disaster preparedness and first-aid trainings. The knowledge gained at these trainings was reinforced by various printed materials on preparedness and response. The drawing contest for schools has become a long-standing tradition. The risk of landslides for 1,200 people in Nurek district (Regions of Republican Subordination) was reduced through the implementation of a tree planting project initiated and completed in March 2006.

Challenges or Constraints: Although the frequent turnover of trained staff and volunteers still remains a challenge, new teams of volunteers have been formed and training or retraining carried out. Due to delayed funding and lost planning time, 23 mitigation projects planned failed to be accomplished.

Organizational Development

Objective: The Red Crescent Society's capacity in work with the vulnerable has increased through the process of organizational changes.

Achievements: The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan focused on the revision of its statutes, branch development, fund-raising, financial management and logistics development, visibility and promotion of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as well as the promotion of humanitarian values, and volunteer management.

The revised statutes of the National Society were adopted at its congress in March 2006 and registered

in the Ministry of Justice of Tajikistan in July 2007. The transition process was finalized by the Red Crescent Society's extraordinary congress in January 2007 where a new Governing Board comprising 13 members made up from Red Crescent volunteers and a new president of the National Society inclusively was elected. This process was supported by ten seminars for 149 branch chairpersons and secretaries general on governance and management basics. By the end of 2007, all 69 Red Crescent branches changed over to a governance-management divided structure following all internal regulations.

The branch development focus shifted to district branches (lower level). It included introductory trainings for 79 Red Crescent primary organizations in five direct rule districts. In 2007 as part of the branch development, three project proposals on opening an internet-centre from GBAO province, Gonchi and Rasht district branches received start-up support. These projects, with around 13,000 beneficiaries, will boost volunteers' mobilization and enhance the participation of youth at branch level. An extra benefit will come from reducing the dependence on traditional funding sources, which are gradually diminishing, due to the paid internet services of the centres generating income for the Red Crescent primary organizations.

Being the first central Asian National Society to adapt its financial system to international standards, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan underwent its external audit from December 2006 to January 2007 with a final report of the findings released. The follow-up plan of the audit's recommendations elaborated with the support of the International Federation envisages developments in the National Society's financial system for the coming two years.



A drawing contest was held during the celebration of Red Cross\Red Crescent Day. Photo: Tajikistan Red Crescent.

The Red Crescent youth movement structure was enhanced and further integrated into all programmes. The volunteers formed a really motivated source of manpower while celebrating the International Red Cross Red Crescent Day and the International Day against Drug Abuse, to give two examples. They were heavily involved in carrying out HIV and AIDS, sexually transmitted infection (STI), drug abuse and HIV/TB co-infection educational campaigns. They also initiated a few small-scale fund-raising campaigns and charity actions, such as the *Children to Children* project to support 361 young people in the Qumsangir area hit by an earthquake, and several orphanages in Dushanbe to visit 725 children.

The *visiting nurses* project of the Dushanbe branch was revived by the efforts of its 45 volunteers. The number of lonely elderly people and bed-ridden people visited in 2007 jumped to 136, a considerable increase from the previous year's 58 people.

Throughout 2007, the National Society featured prominently in the media of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia. A series of articles (35), broadcasts (46) and press releases (55) portrayed the work carried out by the staff and volunteers in various sectors. The component of disseminating the fundamental principles continued to be a part of all programme initiatives. In the ten months since it was launched, the Red Crescent Society's web site numbered more than 70,000 visitors, one of the best rates in Tajikistan.

Challenges or Constraints: Some branches still face challenges related to their day-to-day work, as under the modified structure, the headquarters' organizational development department has to consult them. The communication between the National Society headquarters and subordinate units has to be

enhanced as almost 70 per cent of the activities carried out at lower levels are being left out of mass media coverage due to delayed information. The possible access to the internet at district level would allow them to obtain fresh and timely information on National Society activities at a grass-root level.

Working in partnership

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan works together with numerous agencies both within and outside of the Movement. The health department cooperates with all central Asian Red Crescent Societies, as well as the American, Finnish, Netherlands and German Red Cross Societies, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), Project HOPE, the Ministry of Health (Republican TB Centre), the National Coordination TB Council, the Republican AIDS Centre, the Centre for Healthy Lifestyle, the Post-graduate Medical University, the Tajik State Medical University, the Asian Development Bank, UNAIDS, Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDRP), CAPACITY and the local NGOs ZdravPlus and Guli Surkh. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and the International Federation are members of the technical working group on TB, HIV and AIDS of the national coordination committee on TB, HIV and AIDS, and malaria control in Tajikistan.

As for disaster management, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and the International Federation work as part of REACT that counts more than 65 governmental and non-governmental agencies as members. The programme is networking with CoES representatives, donor-country embassies and international agencies, the Ministry of Education's subdivisions in the targeted districts, community leaders and local authorities through activities on the spot and regular coordination meetings.

The International Federation continued to assist the National Society in the Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) process. The *National Society Development Strategy 2008-2012*, resulting from a two-year process, together with a plan of action was presented at the fourth partnership meeting in December 2007 and shared with all partners. It will be approved by the National Society's Governing Board in February 2008. The CAS document has not been finalized because of the governance and management reshuffling that took place in the National Society in 2007. The new secretary general, who is the focal person for the CAS process, was appointed in November 2007, and the former secretary general was acting as the National Society's president during the first half of the year.

The joint work in disseminating the fundamental principles and humanitarian values with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) enlarged the rural population coverage to 7,000 people in 2007, compared to 6,000 in 2006.

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. We recognize the high value of multilateral partnerships with the Finnish, Netherlands, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies and the UK's Department for International Development (DfID).

Contributing to longer-term impact

All programmes supported by the International Federation's secretariat and implemented by the Tajikistan National Society are aligned with Strategy 2010 and contribute to all four Global Agenda goals. The disaster management programme, through increasing the capacity of local communities, the Red Crescent and the civil society to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability, contributed to achieving a number of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Sphere project minimum standards and safe access are included in trainings conducted for DRTs and LDCs.

Concerning gender and diversity, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan continued its efforts to ensure

that both men and women are benefiting equally from the Red Crescent activities. As over 500,000 people, predominantly men of working age, left the country to find work, the female part of the population covered by the programmes was larger. Women actively participate in all interventions of the Red Crescent as volunteers or members of LDCs, VDCs and water committees.

In response to the local needs identified during 2006 and in line with the global health and care strategy special attention was paid to nutrition. The commissioned spring water supply systems are serving not only to improve access to pure water, but as an alternative to growing vegetables and fruits, thus contributing to the National Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Looking ahead

It is highly unlikely that Tajikistan will be able to cope with the economic and social problems which exist in the country without external support. The MDG progress report spells this out, supporting informal analysis carried out by the International Federation. This makes the International Federation's continued presence in the country vital.

To find the universal community-based approach applicable to all Red Crescent programmes and based on the Dushanbe branch's similar experience, the International Federation's secretariat and the Finnish Red Cross have discussed the piloting in 2008 of a common PCD approach in two or four district branches. The latter would be leading the PCD training part of the community-based disaster preparedness programme, while the role of the International Federation's secretariat would be to coordinate branch development through the integration of its ongoing programmes. The programme will make the National Society branches' interaction with their communities closer.

Based on the progress made in 2006-2007 the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will continue strengthening its disaster management capacity and adhere to the community participatory approach in disaster preparedness and risk reduction programmes.

The country representation will focus on assisting the National Society to strengthen its 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 Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) 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 http://www.ifrc.org</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>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. • Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies. • Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability. • Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and

Contact information

For further information on this Appeal, contact:

- **The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan:** Zafar Muhabbatov, Secretary General, Dushanbe, email: rcstj01@mail.ru, phone: +992372 24 03 74, fax: +992372 24 53 78
- **Tajikistan Country Representation:** Shavkat Ismailov, Acting Country Representative, email: shavkat.ismailov@ifrc.org, phone: +992372 244296 or 245981, fax: +992372 248520
- **Central Asia Regional Representation:** Drina Karahasanovic, Regional Representative, Almaty, email: drina.karahasanovic@ifrc.org, phone: +7727 291 41 56; fax: +7727 291 42 67
- **Europe Zone Office:** Leon Prop, Deputy Head, Budapest, phone: +361 248 33 00; fax: +361 248 33 22; email: leon.prop@ifrc.org