

Annual report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central Asia

Appeal No. MAA70001

30 April 2009

This report covers the period 01/01/08 to 31/12/08.



One of the lessons from the disaster response operations was that the National Societies required basic psychological support skills. Photo: **Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent**

In brief

Programme purpose: The Central Asia programmes are aligned with the Global Agenda goals to reduce the number of deaths, injuries, and impact from disasters; to reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies; to increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability; and to reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Programmes summary: The disaster management programme strengthened coping capacities of the populations living in disaster prone areas and built the National Societies' capacities to respond to emergencies. The International Federation's disaster response mechanisms were activated several times during the year to provide funds for five emergency response operations of the Red Crescent Societies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent joined the Red Cross Red Crescent Disaster Risk Reduction Global Alliance (DRR GA) that helps to create a common, consistent and applicable understanding of DRR, and coordinate, organize, agree and pool existing and new DRR activities and resources throughout the Red Cross Red Crescent. In 2009 the National Society will proceed to baseline analysis, the capacity self-assessment that will be followed by capacity building plan development.

The Red Crescent Societies continued providing harm reduction services and spreading information on HIV among key populations at higher risk, young people and wider populations. In December the National Societies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan launched their HIV country programmes that are part of the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Alliance on HIV and TB. The programmes aim to scale up the HIV services and outreach and are expected to be rolled out in 2009. The tuberculosis prevention programme targeted vulnerable sick people with psycho-social support and informed the general public about the disease and available treatment. In the second

half of the year the TB programme review was carried out by the external consultant who developed recommendations for an integrated and comprehensive model of TB programming in the region. Ways to introduce changes to the programme following these recommendations are being discussed.

The evaluation of the governance and management division component of the organizational development programme resulted in recommendations aimed to assist the National Societies along the process of statutes implementation that inform the International Federation's secretariat capacity-building support in 2009-2010. However, the statutes implementation processes slowed in the region as in practice they demand greater changes to the way the National Societies operate. Linked to this are further steps towards sound and transparent human resources management systems the National Societies made; finance development also remained high in their agenda.

The promotion of humanitarian principles and values reached vulnerable communities served by the National Societies and decision-makers and public alike. Gender issues were better marked in 2008 programming. After the mapping of gender players and few surveys in rural and urban communities the National Societies developed plans of action to address key identified problems and needs in this area and started working towards those plans.

Financial situation: The total 2008 budget is CHF 6,354,122, of which 85 per cent covered. Expenditure overall was 83 per cent versus funding. The appeal budget increased in the second half of the year to incorporate additional activities under the drug demand reduction project in Turkmenistan and under the organizational development programme in Tajikistan. Some funds have been carried over to 2009 in line with the donor funding timeframes, which makes the annual budget implementation rate appear lower.

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

See also final reports on DREF operations: [Kazakhstan: Floods](#), [Kazakhstan: Mine blast](#), [Kyrgyzstan: Earthquakes](#), [Kyrgyzstan: Earthquake](#), [Kyrgyzstan: Socio-economic crisis](#), [Uzbekistan: Explosions](#)

No. of people we help: 1,384,465 people benefited directly from the programme interventions of the International Federation's secretariat.

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Programme		Target population	People reached	% of women	% of men	% of children under 18	% of older people
Disaster management		Members of communities in disaster-prone areas	751,030	52	48		
		Red Crescent staff and volunteers	1,350				
Health and care	TB*	People with TB, MDR-TB, HIV/TB	3,931	44		2.2	20
		Family members, general population	305,689	59		13	14
	HIV	Key populations at higher risk of HIV	33,073	25			
		Youth and general public	189,799	46			
CBHFA		Youth, women of childbearing age, general population	79,933	68	16	14	2
Organizational development		Vulnerable population	3,500				
Principles and values		National Society staff and volunteers, state agencies, media, communities served by National Society, general public	16,160	59	25	14	2
Total number of people reached			1,384,465				

*Children and older people have been also counted as women or men.

Our partners: The donors supporting the programmes multilaterally through the International Federation's annual appeal are the British, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies, the UK's Department for International Development, the US Government Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and the Capacity Building Fund. The total number of partnerships between the regional representation, National Societies and community-based, national, government-based, international organizations, UN and developmental agencies and media exceeded 100.

Context

The winter 2007-2008 was unusually cold in central Asia. The extreme cold caught governments unprepared, without sufficient energy supplies stockpiled to provide adequate heating and electricity, especially in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan¹. To prepare for the worst case scenario in winter 2008-2009 the inter-agency contingency plan on energy, water and food insecurity in winter² was developed in Kyrgyzstan. The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent was included in the plan and with support from the International Federation's secretariat made preparedness arrangements for older people living alone and shelters for homeless people.

There were five emergency operations implemented over the period that required additional resources from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). They are the Kazakhstan Red Crescent operations in response to a mine blast and floods, the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent earthquakes responses and the Uzbekistan Red Crescent operation following the arms depot explosions. In total about 10,900 disaster affected people have been assisted through the operations. Another emergency operation that was completed in 2008 was the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent operation addressing children's food insecurity, but this one started in the end of 2007.

The food price crisis in 2008 contributed to a rise in retail prices of basic foods and non-food goods as well as services for populations in the region. Besides, the global financial and economic crisis has been further worsening the situation: some people are losing their assets and investments and others their jobs. As adequate safety nets were never in place, people are losing their coping mechanisms and capacities for self-reliance. Worst affected are poor people and vulnerable social groups as the hardships resulting from the global crisis compound their existing problems. Possible discontent could lead to increased violence and crime.

Apart from deepening the vulnerability and consequently raising demands on humanitarian assistance, rising prices increase operational costs and negatively affect programme budgets. For the National Societies a worsening of the economic situation also means stretched resources for social services like running mercy houses, children's centres, hospices, and rehabilitation centers for vulnerable women. Inflation processes also reduce real wages and lead to a high turnover of staff in the National Societies. Fluctuations of the world currency exchange rates at few instances caused losses on income and expenses of the programmes funded through the appeal; the degree of impact differs between the programmes depending on the pledge currency, the way of payment (in installments) and utilization speed.

¹ An emergency appeal was launched in Tajikistan to assist the vulnerable populations affected by cold wave and energy shortages. [Click here to go directly to the appeal and reports on the operation.](#)

² Based on that plan the UN Flash Appeal on Energy, Water and Food Insecurity in winter was launched in December 2008.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

Outcome/Expected result: *Vulnerability of communities in disaster prone areas reduced from the impact of disasters through disaster risk awareness and capacity building.*

Achievements

Over the year the four National Societies³ in the region carried out 111 community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) projects and 29 risk reduction projects that targeted rural and urban communities in the most disaster prone areas and reached about 379,000 people. Within the projects framework 111 local disaster committees were established. The committees and community members (2,520 people) received training on vulnerability and capacity assessment, basic first-aid skills and rules of behaviour in case of a disaster, developed risk maps and response plans for their communities and conducted 107 simulation exercises.

All targeted communities received basic equipment, such as minimal standard disaster preparedness sets (an electricity generator, first aid kits, stoves, rubber footwear, spades, according to community requirements), to support their possible response actions. The disaster management programme worked with communities in cooperation with other programmes like tracing, health and care and organizational development; target beneficiaries were also sensitized about the Red Crescent mission and services.

The risk reduction projects of the Red Crescent Societies aimed at reducing the risks of floods, domestic, steppe and forest fires, gas explosions, water-related diseases and severe weather conditions. Around 250,000 people benefited from these projects implemented by local communities with strong support from the Red Crescent branches.

The National Societies have also trained about 46,000 schoolchildren and teachers on how to behave in case of a disaster (earthquake) within the framework of the youth preparedness initiative. The Uzbekistan Red Crescent refreshed the knowledge of its sanitary brigade leaders.

It is estimated that around 720,500 have been reached with disaster awareness through campaigns arranged for broader communities⁴. These included television and radio broadcasts, round tables with local authorities and relevant government bodies, dissemination of information materials and placing information on billboards, contests on disaster preparedness and photo exhibitions organized to mark the dates like the International Civil Protection Day, the International Disaster Reduction Day or the 60th Anniversary of Ashgabat earthquake. Special information campaigns focused on the risks of fast-spreading forest and domestic fires and road accidents have been also conducted. The National Societies used all events and actions to spread messages on disaster risks, to promote risk reduction and Red Crescent activities.

The disaster management programme also spotlighted disaster awareness of women and children in communities as these groups of the population have limited access to such information. Beneficiary satisfaction surveys helped to assess the results of two DREF response operations – by Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent.

Outcome/Expected result: *Capacity of National Societies in disaster preparedness and response strengthened through increased skills and knowledge of Red Crescent staff and*

³ For details of the work done in Tajikistan by the Tajikistan Red Crescent and International Federation see the special focus report here: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/Appeals/annual08/MAA70001taj08ar.pdf>

⁴ The awareness component targeted also people involved in risk reduction projects of the National Societies.

volunteers, strengthened financial and technical resources, effective mechanisms for emergency response and recovery assistance.

Achievements:

The disaster management programme continued reinforcing the National Societies' response mechanisms, including developing disaster response teams (DRTs) and maintaining existing technical and material resources to be able to provide their response effectively when disaster strikes.

Throughout the year the Red Crescent Societies conducted workshops and field trainings at national, sub-national and branch levels that targeted 1,350 members of its DRTs to improve their skills and knowledge in cooperation with the health and care and tracing programmes. Topics on the project planning process have also been included. The Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent introduced psycho-social support in their DRT education course as an important element of disaster response.

The National Societies of Central Asia became part of the Europe zone disaster management database in December. The database is intended to improve the preparedness and to facilitate the response operations. It encompasses information about the disasters in respective countries and about the Red Cross Red Crescent capacities: National Societies' emergency stocks, including goods available to support the neighbouring National Societies in time of a disaster, key persons contact list, response team members from the Red Crescent staff and volunteers and the International Federation secretariat's regional and country representations personnel. The disaster management coordinators of the National Societies received a two-day education course on database management and started filling in the data.

Two regional meetings were used to discuss plans, programme management, the International Federation's 2009-2011 disaster management strategy, the operational alliance, the Cooperation Agreement Strategy, as well as to share experiences from the response operations and to improve technical skills of disaster management coordinators in satellite phone and radio communication.

The capacities of the regional team in IT and logistics strengthened through international training of two staff from Turkmenistan Red Crescent. The knowledge received by the International Federation secretariat's regional staff from the harmonized regional DRT (RDRT) training of trainers, arranged by the Europe zone office, will be used to improve the skills of the country teams in 2009.

The Red Crescent Societies replenished their emergency stocks – that are used annually to respond to minor disasters – at national, sub-national and branch levels. In addition, the Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent Societies have partially equipped the national and sub-national teams with new uniforms and supplies for field work.

The plan on International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) promotion among government officials in cooperation with international organizations and UN agencies has been developed but the actions will only take place in 2009.

Constraints or Challenges:

Rising prices increase the operational costs of the programme and the National Societies have to prioritize the activities and related expenses. Consequently, some activities planned for 2008 have been cancelled like the regular checkup of the radio equipment in the National Societies used in emergency. Similarly, the fall of the official currency exchange rate in Turkmenistan immediately reduced the amount of funds available for the programme. Because of this field trips and experience exchange visits to sister National Societies have been cancelled, and workshops and meetings are accommodating fewer participants and get limited to fewer days.

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society reported slowed down or delayed activities in risk reduction and CBDP in branches involved in DREF response operations. In general, the way the Red Crescent Societies operations rolled out suggested that the National Societies need to work more on the speed of response; that issue will be further addressed by the International Federation's secretariat in the coming year.

At regional level the overall coordination of the programme and technical assistance to the National Societies was weakened because the regional representation had no disaster management coordinator for six months.

The high turnover among the National Societies staff and low level of volunteer's motivation, as well as limitations to their roles and responsibilities, negatively effect the programme. Better integration with the organizational development/youth programme is expected to strengthen the disaster management human resources.

Health and care

Outcome/Expected result: Vulnerability to HIV and its impact reduced through preventing further infection, expanding support to people living with HIV (PLHIV) and reducing stigma and discrimination.

Achievements:

The HIV and AIDS prevention targeted key populations at higher risk – military men, truck drivers, labour migrants, sex workers (SW), and injecting drug users (IDUs) – youth and wider population. In Uzbekistan, the programme moved to rural areas where access to information on HIV and STI is lacking. In total 231,872 people were targeted by three National Societies;⁵ between 74 and 85 per cent of people were able to both correctly identify ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV and reject major misconceptions about HIV transmission.

Peer-to-peer approach is mostly used by the Red Crescent Societies in HIV education so that of all people targeted 75 per cent were covered with peer education. However, the majority of them were from the youth group. The information, education and communication (IEC) activities involved distribution of information materials on prevention of HIV and STI and other medical and social issues. Voluntary counseling and testing was also promoted; as a result 31.2 per cent in Kazakhstan and 34.3 per cent in Uzbekistan of the targeted IDU and SW received HIV counseling and testing in the last 12 months and know the results. Besides, the Uzbekistan Red Crescent explored the attitudes of people through questionnaires and reported that 35 per cent of people expressed accepted attitudes towards PLHIV and high risk groups.

The trust points of the Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent Societies provided harm reduction services by exchanging syringes, distributing condoms, disseminating information materials, providing consultations and referring for testing. Outreach services were also available for SW and IDU. Increased number of outreach workers and attraction of peer workers (two of them PLHIV) by the Uzbekistan Red Crescent ensured a threefold increase in the number of reached IDU and SW. The harm reduction services reached 2,063 people. Monitoring shows that IDU, SW who had sex with more than one partner and/or with non-regular sexual partner in the last 12 months report consistent use of condom: 65 per cent in Kazakhstan, 75 per cent in Uzbekistan and 90 per cent in Turkmenistan.

⁵ Only harm reduction activities of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent were funded through the appeal. Other services were supported by donors bi-laterally.

The campaigns promoting healthy life styles and raising awareness of the harmful effects of drug use and risks of HIV targeted 545 people at schools, military units and public institutions in the regions all over Turkmenistan.

Constraints or Challenges:

The model of social support for PLHIV has not been developed by Uzbekistan Red Crescent. The National Society finds it difficult to get access to this target group because of the confidentiality law. The issue is under discussion between the Red Crescent and the health ministry.

Outcome/Expected result: Vulnerability to TB and its impact reduced through preventing further infection, rendering social support to TB patients, reducing stigma and discrimination and integrating with HIV prevention.

Achievements:

The TB control interventions addressed the needs of the most vulnerable groups in communities – older people living alone, multi-children families, homeless people, alcohol and drug users, former inmates of penitentiary institutions – by providing direct observation of treatment (DOT) and/or social and psychological support to people with TB and educating their families. The education on TB promoted responsible behaviour, tolerance and non-discrimination; the distributed food, hygiene items and vitamins stimulated sick people for treatment adherence and promoted personal hygiene. In total, 3,931 people with TB have been assisted. Among those who managed to complete the treatment over the reporting period the treatment success rate was above the target 85 per cent and the default rate did not exceed 5 per cent.

The Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan National Societies also reached 285 people with multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB with similar services. Besides, the multidisciplinary teams of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent supported people with HIV/TB co-infection responding to the needs of 372 people with social, psychological and legal assistance. Among these 125 people completed their treatment with 4.8 per cent default rate.

Meetings of self-support groups of people with TB, established by the Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan National Societies, served as a communication forum to help reduce stigma in sick people and overcome their social isolation.

General population received information about the disease from the Red Crescent IEC activities for adults and children at public places, educational institutions, summer camps, through mass media and disseminated information materials. The Red Crescent visiting nurses included information about HIV in their IEC activities. Increased awareness helps to reduce stigma, stimulates referrals and encourages proper treatment. The number of people covered by information work increased comparing with 2007: by 37 per cent in Kazakhstan and by 28 in Uzbekistan. Among people reached by TB educational programme between 60 and 86 per cent know four main symptoms of TB and preventive measures – figures vary between National Societies. The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent reports 39 per cent of people expressing accepted attitudes towards TB sick people.

In July-August 2008, the TB programme review was carried out by the external consultant in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan National Societies so as to develop recommendations for an integrated and comprehensive model of TB programming for Central Asia based on existing good practices, international standards and Red Cross and Red Crescent principles, strategies and guidelines. Further steps to follow up the TB review recommendations were being developed and discussions of the comprehensive work plan have been ongoing.

Constraints or Challenges

The fluctuation of the foreign currencies exchange rates (Great Britain pound versus Swiss franc) caused significant losses on the programme income from the British Red Cross pledge in December. Consequently, the programme will have to make cuts along several budget lines on the funds carried over to 2009.

Outcome/Expected result: Population health improved through diseases prevention, health promotion, traumatism reduction and basic first-aid training.

Achievements:

The community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) programme activities focused on rural areas where the population has limited access to professional medical care and key target groups were children and women of childbearing age; wider population was also informed. The programme gave the priority to health education on mother and child health including immunization, communicable diseases and hygiene promotion. Information about TB and HIV is included in the curriculum and helps to increase the awareness of the disease among population. Basic first-aid skills were also taught. The total number of people covered is 79,933; among them 68 per cent women, 16 per cent men, 14 per cent children and 2 per cent older people.

The communities have been mobilized by the network of trained volunteers who disseminate information at local level through house-to-house visits and information materials. At schools the information on personal hygiene, communicable diseases prevention and basic first aid was channelled from trained teachers to children-volunteers and further to their peers.

The information campaigns, for instance, on the World Health Day and the Day of Purity, quizzes, media broadcasts and publications on diseases prevention reached general population.

The percentage of the targeted population who know symptoms of the most common diseases and prevention measures ranges between 70 and 85 per cent, of those who have basic first-aid skills – between 35 and 47. Besides, the Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan National Societies followed up the application of knowledge in practice by questioning mothers: more than 70 reported that their sick children with diarrhoea aged 0-23 months had received increased fluids and continued feeding during an illness. The Kazakhstan Red Crescent also reports that almost 99 per cent of children in their programme sites aged 0-12 months were fully immunised.

Outcome/Expected result: Reproductive health in Turkmenistan improved through education and improved access to health services.

Achievements:

Reproductive health was on of the aspects of the CBHFA programme of the Turkmenistan Red Crescent. Through household visits 35 peer educators targeted women of childbearing age and pregnant women to train them on hygiene rules for pregnancy, nutrition aspects for pregnant and breastfeeding women, family planning, diarrhoea, TB and HIV prevention. Besides, women, men and boys and girls at schools received information on healthy life styles, communicable diseases, hygiene and basic knowledge of first aid. In total, 950 schoolchildren, 550 pregnant women, 1,950 women of childbearing age and 750 men were reached.

Follow-up monitoring showed that 70 per cent of targeted pregnant women knew recommendations on nutrition and followed them during pregnancy and after delivery. Questionnaires also revealed that 75 per cent of targeted boys and girls practiced safe behaviour.

Constraints or Challenges

Due to lack of funds on the Turkmenistan Red Crescent programme distribution of vitamins for pregnant women did not take place. There was also no information gathered on indicators related to the level of use of regular antenatal care services by targeted pregnant women or their level of haemoglobin.

Organizational development

Outcome/Expected result: National Societies established effective interrelation and coordination between governance and management structures, headquarters and branches.

Achievements:

The National Societies are in the process of implementation of the statutes that imply governance and management functions division. The evaluation of the governance and management division component of the regional programme resulted in recommendations aimed to assist the National Societies along the process. The key message is to move the focus from the split between the functions towards establishment of fully functional governing bodies engaged in the Red Crescent activities and playing active role in the strategic decision making and further development. Investing in long and short-term plans to build financial stability and lessen the dependence on external funding has been strongly recommended as well.

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent clarified the interrelations between governance and management at the national level but the feedback from the Joint Statutes Commission on the National Society statutes is still pending and so is the statute implementation.

The Turkmenistan Red Crescent Society extended the transition period towards the statute implementation to 2010 but completed all preparatory activities except the elections to the new governing bodies and appointment of managers at all levels. The delay has been caused by experienced challenges, although there is an understanding that these challenges manifested themselves because the implementation process demands deep changes to current systems including human resources management, finance management, volunteering, monitoring and evaluation. The legal base, governance and management consultant supported the revision of the plan of action by the National Society.

While implementing the statutes at the branch level the Uzbekistan Red Crescent detected a discrepancy in district branch governance and management bodies' formation, which has to be corrected in the statute.

Constraints or Challenges:

The statutes implementation processes slowed in the region as in practice they demand greater changes to the way the National Societies operate. Now that the evaluation said the focus should move towards good governance and good management the National Societies will develop the criteria for good governance and good management. These will include the human resource management development, finance development and improvements to planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems.

Outcome/Expected result: National Societies increased their capacities through the development of human, financial and material resources at headquarters and branch levels.

Achievements:

Over the year the National Societies made further steps towards sound and transparent human resources management (HRM) systems development. The regional representation assisted the Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent in putting together the HRM systems development; under the plan the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent carried out an assessment of the

salary scale and received recommendations on how to bring it up to the standards. The Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan Red Crescent also received extensive consultative support in HRM from the British Red Cross.

For the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent HRM systems development goes along its transition to the integrated programming that makes the base of the operational alliance. In this respect the National Society was supported in holding a partnership meeting in October 2008 when the vision of the new model, the draft strategic work plan for 2009–2010 and the draft activity plan were presented.

The finance development has been put high in the agenda of the National Societies in the region. Thus, the Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent sought additional funding for their projects on finance management development from Empress Shoken Fund and the International Federation Capacity Building Fund's specific organizational development support modality respectively. The decision on funding has not yet been made. The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent followed recommendations of the external audit held in 2007 and worked on the development of the charts of accounts and rules for financial procedures that will bring the society closer to the international accounting standards.

Looking for additional funding that allows holistic approach to capacity-building the Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent were assisted in developing the plans for the third round of the Intensified Capacity Building (ICB) support.

Seeking to diversify funding the Kazakhstan Red Crescent was successful in obtaining government grants, available for the non-governmental sector, to support the three National Society charities and train the unemployed people in cooking and bakery. The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent got training from the Russian Red Cross on fundraising through social services. The Uzbekistan Red Crescent equipped its branches with techniques on how to work with mass media, which are essential for information campaigns and to attract potential donors/supporters.

On the initiative of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent the Red Crescent law work group was established to coordinate and guide the development and adoption of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent law. The group is formed of the National Society leadership, the ICRC regional delegation head and the regional representative. The draft law was submitted to the Joint Statutes Commission for feedback.

Outcome/Expected result: National Societies mobilized capacities of local communities through strengthening the role of primary organizations.

Achievements:

Through the branch development projects the Turkmenistan Red Crescent held training sessions for newly established primary organizations in Lebap regional and Serdarabat city branches. The Uzbekistan Red Crescent taught about 40 primary organizations the project planning basics following the training on project planning for their headquarters and branch staff. The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent is working to change the way they engage with communities so as to make a stronger impact and increase community sustainability through integrated programming. However, the real changes and results of such changes are yet to be seen.

Outcome/Expected result: Youth has expanded the range and improved the quality of services.

Achievements:

Youth volunteers participate in all Red Crescent activities and play a key role in dissemination of the principles and values. The Red Crescent youth develop its structures – youth centres and clubs –aiming to have country-wide networks and expand the coverage. The Kazakhstan Red

Crescent trained volunteers to share knowledge on safe behaviour and first aid with schoolchildren and students. The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent trained about 250 new volunteers in HIV, TB and drug abuse prevention through youth centres who raised awareness of peers.

The Turkmenistan Red Crescent established 10 youth clubs and the number of youth centres reached 20; the structures unite about 1,500 young volunteers that are trained in Red Cross Red Crescent, leadership, cooperation strategies and public campaign planning. The Uzbekistan Red Crescent managed to recruit 2,650 new volunteers through a network of youth centres and clubs that was extended to 32 new clubs. Young volunteers carried out public actions and projects in support of older people, road safety, HIV, TB, drug abuse prevention and healthy life style promotion. Also, youth held charity campaigns and spent the raised money on New Year gifts for 200 children with disabilities.

The Uzbekistan Red Crescent held a contest of mini-projects aimed at volunteering promotion and recruitment. The National Society supported the four selected projects – public actions arranged in close cooperation with educational institutions, the national youth movement “Kamolot” and the authorities.

Constraints and challenges:

The funding of the Finnish Red Cross that was specific for the youth component ceases as of January 2009. To allow the National Societies time to approach other potential sources of funding and to keep the minimal level of activities this component will be covered from the general organizational development funds.

Principles and values

Outcome/Expected result: The Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values of the Movement promoted.

Achievements:

The programme promoted the humanitarian principles and values among the general public, partners from mass media, government officials, populations served by the National Societies as well as Red Crescent staff and volunteers. The total number of people informed of the Movement’s humanitarian values and Red Crescent commitments and activities reached 10,000.

The integration of diversity and non-discrimination elements in programming of the National Societies in the region was promoted and encouraged. This was done through sessions during thematic trainings under the core programmes (disaster management, health and care, youth, tracing, street children, social programmes), round tables, joint public actions dedicated to special dates like the World TB Day and the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day. The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent public information campaign “All different – All equal” promoting respect for diversity started but due to lack of funding some actions that made parts of the campaign have been postponed for the next year.

The number of media outlets at regional, national and branch levels supporting the promotion of the fundamental principles and values and the National Societies’ true commitment to follow them in their programming approaches 200. The Turkmenistan Red Crescent managed to increase the number of media reports promoting principles and values by 50 per cent. The National Societies also involved more than 30 partners from the ministries, local administrations, universities and schools, non-governmental organizations and public foundations into joint actions to oppose discrimination and promote tolerant attitude.

The Uzbekistan Red Crescent trained 78 newly hired staff and volunteers to disseminate the Movement’s fundamental principles and humanitarian values.

Outcome/Expected result: Ability of communities to combat discrimination, intolerance and violence and to promote respect for diversity enhanced.

Achievements:

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent programming related to diversity and nondiscrimination reached 1,500 vulnerable women in cooperation with the social programme. They also targeted 60 university students within the project for children who then organized a contest of newspaper publications on children's rights.

The Red Crescent actions and information campaigns to increase community awareness of marginal groups' needs took place at the headquarters and branch level. Thus, on the eve of the World TB Day the Uzbekistan National Society organized radio programmes highlighting the needs of people with TB and promoting tolerance. Besides, 1,250 young people within and outside the Red Crescent got involved into debates initiated by the National Society on practical steps needed to oppose any types of discrimination witnessed among youth.

The Red Crescent Societies continued to engage target population in its activities to promote respect of diversity, nondiscrimination and intercultural education volunteers. The Kazakhstan Red Crescent trained 600 people with TB served by the health and care programme on promoting diversity and nondiscrimination. The Turkmenistan National Society proactively involved young people with disabilities into its public actions.

Outcome/Expected result: Understanding of necessity to prevent and fight sexual and gender-based violence within communities increased.

Achievements:

After the mapping of gender players and issues covered by each in their countries and few surveys in rural and urban communities the National Societies developed their plans of action to address key identified problems and needs. The Kazakhstan Red Crescent engaged local authorities and universities in meetings with 500 students and lectures on gender-based violence. Surveys in Kyrgyzstan revealed new area of women's vulnerability related to gender: local practices when the religious ceremony replaces official registration of marriage put women and their children at risk as in case of separation with partners they suffer social, legal and economic difficulties. The Turkmenistan Red Crescent held training on gender issues for 50 volunteers and staff who will be involved in work with communities. The Uzbekistan Red Crescent established close links with the Women's Committee and Mahallya Fund while making preparations for the surveys.

Constraints or Challenges:

Because of under funding some planned activities in gender-based violence and gender balance or regional newsletter production have been postponed. Others have been supported by the disaster management, health and care and organizational development programmes both at regional and National Society level.

Staff turnover in the National Societies continued, which affects the programme. The programme focal point in the Turkmenistan Red Crescent headquarters changed twice over the year so the new staff member again requires training. The Kazakhstan Red Crescent coordinator left in the end of the year while Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent staff moved to a different position.

Working in partnership

The Federation 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 cooperate with local authorities and governmental ministries in their respective countries.

In the area of TB control, the National Societies work closely with Project HOPE and national TB institutions. AIDS centres, PLHIV and local non-governmental organizations are the main partners in HIV prevention. Bilateral support of the health and care components was available from the British, German, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies (differ between Red Crescent Societies). The central Asian National Societies are members of the Country Coordination Mechanisms of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). The Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan Red Crescent Societies have been operating with grants from the GFATM that allowed to expand their TB prevention programmes and the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent enjoys the support of GFATM in HIV prevention.

The Red Crescent Societies have bilateral partnerships with the Netherlands Red Cross in community-based disaster preparedness and mitigation. At country level each Red Crescent Society has partners in the disaster management sector among the United Nations agencies, with US Agency for International Development, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and local NGOs. The Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent cooperate with the International Federation's Climate Change Reference Centre.

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society is a member of the Disaster Response Coordination Unit established within the framework of the project that aims to strengthen cooperation and coordination for disaster response between the government, UN country team, SDC, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other major actors in the country. The coordination is done through regular meetings, information sharing and inter-agency contingency planning following the sector approach.

Within the framework of the operation alliance underway in Kyrgyzstan the joint statement, produced at the partnership meeting, confirmed the agreement of partners to pursue the integrated community-based model and to support the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent in its efforts according to the mandate, ability and interest and in line with the Red Crescent strategic plan, the Paris Declaration and the principles of good partnership.

The key partners of the principles and values programme are the media. A new partnership was established with the IOM Almaty mission within the migration component. The ICRC is cooperating with the National Societies in the fields of institutional capacity development, the International Humanitarian Law and the Fundamental principles dissemination, tracing and building capacities for assistance to conflict-affected populations. In terms of capacity development the Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan Red Crescent have been also supported by the British Red Cross that helped to assess the current situation in HRM and develop a plan of action.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The programmes of the central Asian National Societies supported by the secretariat fit into and contribute to the International Federation's Global Agenda.

The programme monitoring was carried out by the regional representation and the Red Crescent Societies through regular field visits, observations, interviews, meetings with local authorities and community leaders, internal meetings with branch staff and progress reports. The progress and constraints were discussed at working meetings at country and regional levels. Best practices were promoted among colleagues and exchange visits between branches and National Societies were encouraged to allow learning from experience, though these learning initiatives were subject to funds. The results of the evaluation of the governance and management

component of the organizational development programme informed the capacity-building plans for 2009-2010. The TB programme review has been shaping future developments in TB prevention.

Promoting and respecting the fundamental principles and humanitarian values are indispensable if the Red Cross Red Crescent is to be perceived as an impartial, neutral and independent actor, and furthermore to facilitate the Red Cross Red Crescent to carry out its mandate. Specific focus is made on effectively integrating principles in National Society programmes. The central Asian National Societies do not take sides of diverging population groups and follow the principle of diversity in the composition of staff involved.

Looking ahead

Following the accession to the International Federation's DRR GA the Kazakhstan Red Crescent will be a country-level implementer and proceed to baseline/mapping analysis, the DRR capacity self-assessment and developing a capacity building plan.

The work on IDRL promotion will continue in cooperation with UN OCHA Office of the Regional Disaster Response Adviser for Central Asia . The review of the legal environment in the region based on case studies will be carried out by OCHA in consultation with the regional representation and Geneva secretariat. Steps to make necessary amendments to the legislation are expected to be developed later on.

The inter-agency contingency planning at country level is already a reality in Kyrgyzstan where the National Society coordinates the shelter sector. Similar approach to cooperation in disaster management initiated by UN OCHA is expected to be introduced in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in 2009. The International Federation secretariat will further support the National Societies by organizing training in shelter and promoting understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the Red Crescent Societies and the International Federation in the global cluster system and the country-level sector approach among governments and UN partners.

In an effort to help communities recover from disasters more effectively the knowledge and skills necessary for prompt action in recovery situations will be built through the regional training for the National Societies. The skills of the National Societies disaster response teams will be reinforced through training at the regional/country level based on the harmonized RDRT training introduced in 2008. The psychosocial support is a new element of the training and the recent National Societies response operations showed the need in such skills, which they also seek to develop with support from partner National Societies.

The development of the Central Asian Red Crescent Labour Migration Network will start at the regional and national levels under the humanitarian values programme to reach its outcome on enhancing the ability of communities to combat discrimination, intolerance and violence and to promote respect for diversity.

The more effective coordination with partners will be sought in the region to make improvements in such cross-cutting areas as finance management, human resources management and volunteer development.

How we work

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".

Global Agenda Goals:

- 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 promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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