

Annual report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Kyrgyzstan

Appeal No. MAAKG001

30 April 2010

This report covers the period 01/01/2009 to 31/12/2009.



One of the Red Crescent health promotion actions reached people at a bazaar. Photo: Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent

In brief

Programme purpose: The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent 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 Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent is the only National Society in Europe that has been developing an operational alliance (OA). In 2009 the Red Crescent Society continued the transition process towards the OA intensifying the work on human resources and finance management development, and initiating a social research among communities to identify needs and demand for services. In November 2009 the National Society agreed with partner National Societies and the Federation secretariat that an in-country delegate would be identified to support the development of the operational alliance. The recruitment process is expected to be finalized in the first half of the 2010.

The disaster management programme strengthened the coping capacities of the populations living in disaster prone areas by increasing community awareness of actions to take in case of a disaster. Besides, the National Society built its own capacities to respond to emergencies through improving the staff and volunteers' knowledge and skills in disaster management, building emergency stocks, strengthening partnerships with public authorities and other stakeholders and establishing effective mechanisms for emergency response and recovery assistance. Over the period, the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent provided assistance to people affected by small-scale disasters, namely fires, floods,

landslides and mudslides.

The Tuberculosis (TB) prevention programme served people with TB and disseminated information about the disease among their family members and the general population. Within the HIV prevention programme, the National Society provided peer education for key populations at higher risk and young people. The Red Crescent harm reduction services targeted injecting drug users. The community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) programme focused health education on rural communities; the sessions were provided by trained volunteers from the target communities. The participants of the regional *CBHFA in Action* master-facilitators training conducted in December 2009 accepted relevant learning and community actions in CBHFA, and became familiar with the community-based integrated programme approach.

Within the framework of the operational alliance development the National Society held organizational development training for the headquarters and branch key staff – directors, heads of departments and programme managers. The Red Crescent underwent the second external financial audit and is considering to move to a cash transfer system to substitute the current working advance system used for the programmes supported multilaterally. The National Society resubmitted its plan for the Intensified Capacity Building (ICB) support; the response is expected in the first quarter of 2010. A volunteer management workshop was held and a unified questionnaire format developed to facilitate the work of staff interacting with volunteers.

The humanitarian principles and values were promoted among vulnerable communities served by the National Society, decision-makers and the public. Lack of funds (except for the migration project) meant that gender related work was not implemented as planned. Within the new migration component two information and education centres and five mobile teams were set by the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent to render social assistance to migrants and their families. The centres are part of the regional labour migration network and already served 3,307 migrants. Tolerance, respect for diversity and the need to oppose xenophobia, discrimination and social exclusion were promoted through public campaigns, information materials, publications in media sources, debates and round tables for partners and the general public.

Financial situation: The total 2009 budget is CHF 1,190,433 of which 68 per cent covered. Overall expenditure in 2009 was CHF 734,209 (91 per cent) of the received funding.

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

No. of people we help: 139,968 people benefited directly from secretariat supported programme interventions in 2009.

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|---------------------------------|--|--|-----------------|----------|----|
| Programme | Target groups | People reached | % of women | % of men | |
| Disaster Management | Members of communities in disaster-prone areas | 39,700 | | | |
| Health and Care | TB | 1,340 3,350 51,326 | 39 | 61 | |
| | HIV | Key populations at higher risk of HIV Schoolchildren and students | 3,330 26,130 | 57 | 43 |
| | Community-based health and first aid | Rural and urban communities | 9,620 | 55 | 45 |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------|--|--|
| Organizational Development | National Society staff, members and volunteers* | 2,000* | | |
| Principles and Values | State officials, vulnerable children, migrants and the general public | 5,172 | | |
| Total number of people reached | | 139,968 | | |

*National Society staff, members and volunteers are not counted as people reached.

Our partners: The donors supporting the programmes multilaterally through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) are the British, Finnish, Japanese, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies, the IFRC's Capacity Building Fund, the European Commission (EC), and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID).

The total number of partnerships between the Federation regional representation, the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society and community-based, national, government-based, international organizations, UN and developmental agencies exceeded 25.

Context

The worsening global economic situation, together with domestic power problems, saw businesses closing down in Kyrgyzstan in 2009, with construction and real estate being the hardest hit. Migrant workers, who returned from Russia and Kazakhstan owing to the decline in construction activity in those countries, increased the competition for existing jobs in the country. On the other hand, economic hardships resulted in growing internal migration flows in Kyrgyzstan. Populations moved from rural to urban areas, where they faced problems of legal and social character, such as difficulties in obtaining local registration and as a result – lack of access to basic social services.

The prices for consumer goods and services kept growing. Given limited income the health and care programme of the National Society was forced to reduce the amount of food items in parcels distributed among clients with TB. High staff turnover affected the health and care programme at the headquarters and branch levels, which at times slowed down programme activities and affected the institutional memory.

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society is involved in the development of an operational alliance, and in 2009 the National Society embarked in a change process to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its work with communities and to expand the coverage of its services across the country. In order to achieve this goal the efforts focused on the reinforcement of the community-based approach and participatory methods in the society's programming.

According to the official data there were 227 emergency situations registered in Kyrgyzstan over the year, mudslides and landslides accounted for almost half of them. Kyrgyzstan also faced the destructive effects of floods and earthquakes. The Red Crescent Society responded to 70 small-scale emergencies (31 per cent of all registered). These were operations in response to domestic fires, mudslides, floods and an earthquake. Around 11,000 affected people (2,200 families) received humanitarian aid from the pre-positioned emergency stocks. Also, in January 2009 the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent finalized the earthquake response operation in Osh region funded by the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

Outcome/Expected result: Improved ability to predict and plan for disasters to mitigate their impact on vulnerable communities, and to respond to and effectively cope with their consequences.

Achievements:

As a convener of the shelter cluster the National Society conducted two extended shelter cluster coordination meetings. The meetings brought together shelter cluster members and representatives of the Federation secretariat, Red Crescent Societies from Central Asia and Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent branches. The meetings discussed the shelter contingency planning process for 2009-2010 and the roles and responsibilities of cluster partners, next steps, and support required from the global shelter cluster. As a result the country shelter cluster strategy was elaborated; co-leaders for camp management and in case of war or conflict were elected. The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent worked with UN OCHA throughout the year to improve country inter-agency disaster preparedness and response plans. Thus, the standard operational procedures, responsibilities and disaster response capacity of each shelter cluster member were reflected in the country inter-agency disaster response plan.

All branches of the Red Crescent Society elaborated draft contingency plans for disasters specific for the area. In cooperation with partners the plans were further tested through simulation exercises on the worst disaster scenario and then presented to local departments of the emergency ministry for approval.

In 2009 the Red Crescent re-signed the memorandum of understanding and cooperation with the emergency ministry that stipulates the auxiliary role of the National Society and responsibilities of both parties.

Outcome/Expected result: Strengthened capacity of the National Society in disaster preparedness and response through increased skills and knowledge of Red Crescent staff and 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 the development of disaster response teams (DRTs) and maintenance of existing technical and material resources to be able to respond effectively when disaster strikes.

Following the harmonised regional disaster response team (RDRT) training in Macedonia the Red Crescent Society trained about 100 staff and members of their DRTs from all provincial branches to improve their skills and knowledge in disaster management including needs assessments, SPHERE standards, coordination, elaborating a plan of action, IFRC disaster response tools, emergency planning, tracing in emergency, safer access, and first psychological aid. One more national workshop focused on climate change issues and how they were reflected in the National Society's programming. As a result, the Red Crescent agreed to spread information about the consequences of climate change collected from different scientific sources among staff and volunteers and among populations. Two members of the national DRT assisted the Tajikistan Red Crescent emergency operation responding to floods and mudslides.

The emergency stocks of Chui, Issyk-Kul, Naryn and Talas provincial branches were replenished with bedding and hygiene supplies for 500 families minimum. In addition, the Osh branch emergency stock was replenished with tents and blankets from the Turkish Red Crescent within the framework of the regional cooperation programme (outside of the secretariat Plan 2009-2010). The National Society also received 80 tonnes of used clothing from the Swedish Red Cross; by the end of the year about

40 tonnes of the used clothing were distributed among more than 7,500 people and 40 tonnes were reserved for emergency stocks. Also, all 50 members of the two NDRTs were provided with uniforms.

Outcome/Expected result: Improved understanding and application by the National Society of the IFRC's standardized guidelines for effective response.

Achievements:

At regional disaster management meetings the Red Crescent disaster management staff from the headquarters built better understanding of the shelter cluster approach and inter-agency cooperation in response to a major disaster, discussed shelter issues, clarified the links of the disaster risk reduction programme with climate change and got introduced to vulnerability and capacity assessment.

During another regional seminar the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent participants conducted a detailed analysis of the National Society's disaster management capacity, needs of the disaster management programme, human resources (HR) management including the deployment of the regional DRT, contingency planning, financial management and accounting and reporting. The analysis was done in line with the *Guidelines on National Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Response Mechanisms* and a well-prepared National Society questionnaire. The seminar and the following regional meeting resulted in the elaboration of the National Society's development steps for 2010 and for the coming five years.

The regional workshop on international disaster response law (IDRL) in October 2009 brought together representatives of the Central Asian governments, parliaments and the Red Crescent Societies, the Federation secretariat and UN OCHA. It was a good opportunity for the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent to become familiar with the *Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance*, the *Manual for National Societies on Legislative Advocacy concerning Disaster Management and Health Emergencies*, and other relevant norms. The workshop also provided space for discussions between governmental and non-governmental actors on solving regulatory issues of disaster response in the region. The National Society recognized the necessity to further raise the issues related to the regulation of international disaster response in front of its government.

Outcome/Expected result: Strengthened capacities of communities in disaster-prone areas to respond to future disasters through community-based disaster preparedness.

Achievements

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society implemented 20 community-based disaster preparedness projects in Chui, Issyk-Kul, Naryn and Talas provinces. Chui and Talas provincial branches focused on disaster awareness of children and older people in the communities as these groups have limited access to such information and targeted three schools, two children's centres and a mercy house. The 22 established committees and community members received training on participatory rapid assessment, basic first-aid skills and rules of behaviour in case of disaster, learnt about the Red Crescent mission and services and how to develop risk maps and response plans for their communities.

The initially trained 1,000 people further shared information on disaster preparedness among 17,000 community members. All communities received the information kit with information materials. In autumn the National Society introduced an additional session on climate change in the education course for communities; relevant information was also included in the information materials. The communities were also provided with minimal standard disaster preparedness sets to support possible response actions.

On the Disaster Risk Reduction Day the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent presented the IFRC World Disasters Report at a round table with non-governmental organizations and the government officials in Osh.

In the end of the year the Red Crescent survey, aimed to prioritize the most important community services, found that the National Society's community-based disaster preparedness programme was important and should be continued.

Outcome/Expected result: Reduced vulnerability of communities in disaster-prone areas through the implementation of mitigation projects.

Achievements

All ten projects implemented by the National Society reduced the risks of earthquakes for the communities in Chui, Issyk-Kul, Naryn and Talas regions. These were risk reduction projects on non-structural mitigation of earthquake damage in seven schools, one hospital and two mercy houses (one for older people and one for people with disabilities). Mitigation arrangements were mostly completed by trained members of communities – schoolchildren, students, patients and medical staff of the hospital and mercy houses – following the guidance from engineers. In total 3,170 people directly benefited from these projects.

In December the National Society started providing hot meals (one per day) in the canteen to the most vulnerable people in Bishkek as a measure to reduce the impact of possible severe winter conditions. The project will be implemented for a period of six months. By the end of the year 56 people, including 42 older people, 10 people with disabilities and 4 people with low income were provided with meals.

Outcome/Expected result: Increased capacity of the National Society to restore or to improve pre-disaster living conditions and to reduce the risk of future disasters.

A three-day regional workshop on recovery was arranged by the Federation regional representation for the programme staff of all five Central Asian National Societies in April 2009 as a start-up, which the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent disaster management staff and directors of all branches attended.

Constraints or Challenges

In May-June the disaster management staff in three of the Red Crescent provincial branches resigned for different reasons and the headquarters lost its disaster management assistant; no replacement was found due to low salary support under the disaster management programme. This negatively affected the programme implementation in the second half of the year, particularly the recovery knowledge was not filtered down and the mitigation projects's coverage was quite limited; no information campaigns were carried out.

Health and care

Outcome/Expected result: Vulnerability to HIV and its impact reduced through preventing further infection and reducing stigma and discrimination.

Achievements:

The HIV prevention programme increased the awareness of the disease and promoted safe behaviour among young people and key populations at higher risk – military men, truck drivers, sex workers and injecting drug users. Peer education was used to spread the knowledge and for that purpose 115 peer trainers and 225 peer instructors were trained. Out of all 29,460 people covered by the programme 85 per cent correctly identified ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV and rejected major misconceptions about HIV transmission.

The harm reduction point in Kara-balta town distributed 16,000 syringes among beneficiaries; 50 per cent of clients returned the provided syringes. Also, 44 people were referred to voluntary counselling and testing.

Besides, the National Society provided specialized training on anti-retroviral therapy (ARVT) for 22 people living with HIV (PLHIV) following a needs assessment¹ in this beneficiary group in Bishkek. Information on ARVT was what they would be interested in, in addition to social support (food and hygiene items).

To reduce stigma the National Society, among other activities, held a round table on the rights of PLHIV for law-enforcement authorities. A large-scale campaign was dedicated to the World AIDS Day and included radio programmes, in which popular actors attracted the attention of the audience to HIV and related stigma and discrimination.

In September 2009 the National Society hosted an annual meeting of the European Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on HIV, AIDS and TB (ERNA). About 50 participants from more than 20 National Societies and the country health ministry representatives participated in the event. The meeting helped to raise the profile of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent as a member of the European network and built closer relationships with European partners.

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

Achievements:

The TB prevention programme covered the cities of Bishkek, Djalalabat, Karabalta, Karasu and Osh and aimed at improving treatment adherence among people with TB on the continuation phase of treatment, as well as disseminating information about the disease among their family members and the general population. Over the year the National Society reached 1,336 clients with TB, which made 30 per cent of all TB patients officially registered on the project sites. The beneficiaries received food parcels to keep up their nutritional status and as a motivation not to interrupt the treatment. No clients receiving social support have defaulted the treatment. Direct observation of treatment (DOT) was provided by the Red Crescent visiting nurses for 267 clients; their treatment success rate was about 90 per cent. Over the year 27 former TB clients, together with the nurses, facilitated self-support groups where people with TB shared knowledge and experience with each other and sought moral support.

Clients' family members and the general population also received information about the disease from Red Crescent visiting nurses – at home, at work places or at school. In total, 54,676 people were covered, out of them 72 per cent knew four main signs of TB and preventive measures. Following the education sessions or after home visits the National Society referred 1,873 people with signs of TB for early diagnosis, in 171 cases TB was confirmed (9 per cent).

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

Achievements:

The community-based health and first-aid programme targeted rural population in Chui, Issyk-Kul, Naryn, Talas, Osh, Djalalabat provinces of the country and people living in the outskirts of the capital city of Bishkek. It focused on health education in the communities that have limited access to health services because of their remote location. The educational sessions were conducted by trained volunteers from the selected communities. The provided education contributed to raising awareness of the communicable diseases and ways to prevent them, promoting hygiene practices and building

¹ The assessment was carried out prior to the development of a bi-lateral HIV programme in partnership with the American Red Cross.

first-aid skills. In total, 9,620 people were reached with educational sessions on the most common diseases. Among them 82 per cent knew symptoms of the most common diseases and prevention measures and 87 had basic first-aid skills.

The regional *CBHFA in Action* master-facilitators workshop was held in Bishkek in December, 2009. The workshop accommodated 21 participants from the Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent Societies, who accepted relevant learning and community actions in CBHFA, and became familiar with the community-based integrated programme approach. Following the workshop five participants, including one from the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent, established a resource pool of master facilitators in the region, which contributed to the global resource pool of Russian speaking master facilitators.

Outcome/Expected result: The number of voluntary non-remunerated blood donations increased.

Achievements:

No funding was received for this component and the National Society did not carry out any specific activities towards this outcome.

Constraints or Challenges:

The National Society faced staff turnover over the year. Thus, two health coordinators, six programme and field coordinators, two assistants and six field officers left their positions and were replaced. The main reason for that was dissatisfaction of the experienced staff with the salary support level. The turnover causes delays in programme implementation since newly recruited staff needs time and support to get into the job. To overcome the situation, the system of support and encouragement of the staff and volunteers should be further developed to retain the experienced people.

In general, planning, monitoring and reporting skills of the health team require further development to make the programme more effective. Technical support from the Federation regional representation should continue in the form of relevant training or coaching, working meetings or consultancies.

Organizational development/Capacity building

Outcome/Expected result: Management and governance effectively support the delivery of the National Society programming.

Achievements:

The interrelations between the governance and management were analysed during the quarterly national level governing board meetings. Following the analysis, the governing board recommended to engage the board members at all levels in the programme activities based on their education, expertise, and experience in the National Society projects. Throughout the year the Red Crescent governing boards at all levels took active part in the life of the National Society – draft financial procedures and human resources management rules and procedures were screened and discussed by the governing board and the financial commission members prior to adoption.

The National Society's leadership took part in the 2009 leadership forum that discussed important issues like capacity building, including legal base development, HR, finance development, partnerships, and strengthening the Red Crescent role at country level and fund-raising.

Outcome/Expected result: Increased capacity for programme development and management.

Achievements:

Within the framework of the operational alliance development the National Society held organizational development training for headquarters and branch key staff – branch directors, heads of departments and programme managers. The training, developed and supported by the programme in cooperation

with the British Red Cross, aimed to define: what organizational development is in general and in the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent in particular; who the change agents are and their role in the development process; and principles of good practice in organizational development.

During the IFRC's General Assembly in Nairobi in November 2009 the National Society called for a side meeting to discuss the operational alliance and to agree on action points to progress the development. The key agreed points were the following:

- Partner National Societies are prepared to support and resource an in-country delegate.
- The *Seven Ones* model is still the central one, but needs to be lighter, more flexible and less process-oriented.
- The role of the Federation secretariat in the alliance needs clarification through the plan agreed among the partners.
- The British Red Cross will act as a focal point in keeping the initiative moving forward.

Over the period a plan of action for further improvements in finance management was agreed that is aligned with the operational alliance development process. In October 2009, the second external financial audit of the National Society was carried out, also summing up the improvements since the first audit. Besides, the National Society developed the finance management manual and procedures, which was in line with one of the recommendations of the first audit.

The HR management rules and procedures were developed. The rules, along with the grading system, are tested within the HIV prevention programme and branch development project.

The National Society resubmitted its plan for the Intensified Capacity Building (ICB) support of the IFRC's Capacity Building Fund. The response is expected in first quarter of 2010. The funds, if received, will cover expenses along the transition period towards the establishment of the operational alliance.

Outcome/Expected result: Volunteer capacity improved through relevant training and participation in core activities.

Achievements:

Due to lack of funding the majority of planned youth activities were cancelled and only few were carried out upon agreement with the National Society. Thus, a volunteer management workshop was conducted for staff members working with volunteers in order to facilitate their work. Besides, a unified questionnaire form for volunteers was created in Kyrgyz, Russian and English to help with volunteer management. Earlier in the year a pilot training on work with disadvantaged and orphaned children was organized for 20 volunteers and volunteer leaders from the branches. In cooperation with the HIV programme youth held an action on HIV prevention in August when they disseminated knowledge on ways of HIV transmission and safe behaviour.

Constraints or Challenges:

The National Society lacks knowledge and experience in implementing the change process. As an ad hoc solution, a consultant has been engaged to develop the change programme.

There has been no specific funding allocated for the youth programme this year. Based on the agreement with the National Society only major youth activities are covered from organizational development funds and cooperation with other National Society programmes.

Principles and values

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

Achievements:

In 2009 in total 70 new Red Crescent volunteers and 60 newly hired Red Crescent staff in the headquarters and branches received knowledge about the fundamental principles and humanitarian values through thematic sessions within core programmes' training.

Public actions at the headquarters, provincial and district levels made the campaign to commemorate the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day that reached 1,800 people. Thus, the Red Crescent staff and volunteers paraded the streets of Bishkek distributing information materials about the National Society and the Movement; round tables with partners and mass media were also held in Osh, Naryn, Issyk-kul and Jalalabad provinces.

Celebrations of this and other calendar dates like the World TB Day included 12 press-conferences, over 100 press-releases and 7 TV programmes that promoted the principles and values. To support the actions the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent produced three video films, five social video shots and audio reels. Links with mass media at branch and headquarters levels helped the National Society in its task to prevent and reduce stigma and discrimination as well as to change the wider society's attitudes.

Outcome/Expected result: Fundamental principles are integrated into National Society operational programmes.

Achievements:

Living principles and values were promoted through explanatory talks with staff and volunteers of the National Society's operational programmes like health and care, disaster management, social care and others. The principles and values were also promoted during training events, meetings and simulation exercises under the programmes. To tackle social exclusion of marginalized groups the National Society engaged 30 street children and 35 children with disabilities in public campaigns. Over the period 40 volunteers and 20 leaders from 10 communities were involved in the promotion of principles and values and Red Crescent services in the communities.

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

Achievements:

Two information and education centres for migrants in Bishkek and Osh cities and five mobile teams have been established by the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent to render social assistance to migrants and their families. The Red Crescent telephone hotline was installed in the centres. Media campaigns at the headquarters and district levels accompanied the start-up and included a press-conference and round tables for partners and the media. Good media coverage helped to promote the new services among potential beneficiaries and to advocate for their needs, i.e. lack of information on rights and duties, political, welfare and labour market systems of the destination countries or no access to social services for internal migrants.

Over 3,307 people in 2 communities of internal migrants in Bishkek city and 8 communities of intending migrants in Jalalabad, Osh and Batken regions benefited from the Red Crescent services including legal consultations, psychological support, HIV, TB and other diseases prevention, first-aid training, and tracing service.

Anti-xenophobia and respect for diversity were broadly highlighted during the 2009 Red Cross Red Crescent global campaign. Thus, the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent conducted two public art-projects in which migrants themselves took part with the aim of reaching decision-making bodies and the general public. All comers were able to hear the stories of migrants, learn about their problems, see their capacities and re-consider their attitude towards migrants or think of actions to change migrants' life to the better. Besides, round table for partners from the state committee on migration and employment, institute of ombudsman, parliamentarians, and local administration was conducted in

Bishkek to discuss the problems of female internal migrants related to limited access to basic social services.

Constraints or Challenges:

The information officer, who covered the principles and values programme, left the National Society in November 2009. Besides, lack of funds (except for the migration project) also hampered the implementation of gender related work: the development of tailored advocacy policies for six selected communities and debate clubs to tackle gender-based violence did not take place. In the absence of an information officer the proper implementation of the programme in the future presents certain challenge.

Labour migration is a new area of support for the Red Crescent Societies in Central Asia and it required more efforts and time to gain the confidence of beneficiaries and to occupy a proper niche among other migration players.

Working in partnership

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent and its work on the operational alliance has been supported by the Federation country representative for Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, who is based in Tajikistan but regularly comes to Kyrgyzstan spending there 30 per cent of his time. The regional and zone staff of the Federation secretariat have been providing technical support to the National Society.

The Federation regional and country representations and the National Society maintain good working relationships with the government bodies, local authorities, international agencies, diplomatic community, non-governmental organizations and mass media.

The Red Crescent has a Memorandum of Understanding with the emergency ministry, re-signed annually, that clearly defines the National Society's role and responsibilities in disaster response. The National Society is also 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, the UN country team, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (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.

Community-based disaster management actions of the National Society and awareness raising in the southern provinces are supported bilaterally by the Netherlands Red Cross.

Besides, a project with a focus on earthquake preparedness in rural and urban settings was implemented in cooperation with SDC. The awareness of climate change was raised in cooperation with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. In addition, the Turkish Red Crescent assisted in building the National Society's response capacity, namely expanding the emergency stock in the south of the country (Osh province) and supporting psychosocial support training. Also, with support from the American Red Cross the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent has been elaborating a new long-term project to prepare at-risk population centres to survive and thrive following a catastrophic earthquake within the framework of the Central Asia Urban Earthquake Preparedness Initiative. The ICRC expertise was used to incorporate tracing in emergency in the Red Crescent contingency planning and disaster management education, as well as to plan specific activities in time of conflict.

In the area of TB prevention the National Society works closely with the National TB Institute, TB dispensaries, and Project HOPE. Besides, the Spanish Red Cross supported the TB prevention in Naryn and Talas provinces bilaterally. The National Society is a member of the Country Coordination Mechanism on Tuberculosis and actively participated in regular meetings discussing the development in the national TB strategy. For the HIV programme the partners are the Republican AIDS Centre, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (supplying condoms), UNAIDS and UNFPA

(information support), Tais Plus and Podruga (agencies working with sex workers), and Population Services International (joint public actions for youth). The British Red Cross channelled funds towards the HIV programme bi-laterally, while the American Red Cross developed a bi-lateral one-year programme that will start in mid-2010.

The British Red Cross supports the process of the human resources management systems development bilaterally. This partnership expands the range of capacity-building opportunities available to the National Society like hiring a human resource management systems development coordinator or requesting consultancy on grading system development.

The key partners of the principles and values programme are the media. The partnership with IOM strengthened under the migration project, which benefited the project: the labour migration network members received access to legal expertise and information about migration players at country and regional levels. Cooperation with the state committee on migration and employment, ombudsman's office, the health ministry, universities, and NGOs involved in promoting non-discrimination and anti-xenophobia plays a great role in changing behaviour towards vulnerable groups served by the National Society.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The monitoring of the programmes is carried out by National Society staff through visits to the field, and regular communication with the staff and volunteers working in the programme sites. Information on the progress comes from visits to beneficiaries, observation, meetings with the representatives of partner organizations, local communities and local authorities. Periodical monitoring visits are paid by the Federation regional representation to the sites. The progress and constraints of the programmes were discussed at working meetings at country and regional level. Best practices were promoted among colleagues of the Central Asian National Societies to allow learning from experience. The *Most Significant Change story* method as a monitoring and evaluation tool is planned to be applied by the migration programme to assess the effect and to identify unexpected changes at beneficiary level. Also, the new community-based approach and tools provided during the *CBHFA in Action* training will help to make the health programming more relevant and responsive to community needs.

The disaster statistics and their impact on the sites where risk reduction projects have been implemented is followed up with the emergency structures at local level. Regular field visits and monthly reports from provincial branches feed the programme management at national level as well.

The SPHERE standards and the *Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief* guide the Red Crescent disaster response and the fundamental principles and the value of respect for dignity and equality are at all times promoted in disaster management awareness materials, during training and work with the communities. In disaster response, the distribution of assistance is made on the basis of impartiality. Actions are solely guided by needs, proportional to the degree of suffering and prioritized on the basis of urgency and vulnerability.

It is expected that the ICB support, if granted, will facilitate the transition towards the operational alliance and its smooth operation in the coming three years as it will cover the majority of related funding needs.

Promoting and respecting the fundamental principles and humanitarian values, including promotion of gender equity, 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. The National Society does not take sides of diverging population groups and follow the principle of diversity in the composition of staff involved.

Looking ahead

The presence of an in-country delegate to support the operational alliance will further strengthen partnership coordination and cooperation. It is planned to finalize the recruitment process for this position in the first half of the 2010.

The Red Crescent Society will continue the work on IDRL promotion and advocate for the revision of relevant legislation in cooperation with UN OCHA and the ISDR offices for Central Asia. It will also support the government in the establishment of the national disaster risk reduction platform to ensure efficient response to major disasters. The National Society will widen the activities on climate change adaptation with communities and with relevant partners thus contributing to the state programme on disaster risk reduction. In line with the recommendation of the Global Road Safety Partnership the Red Crescent plans to expand the work in road safety together with the government and reinforce the work with schoolchildren in Bishkek.

The new *CBHFA in Action* materials will be applied and the CBHFA approach used for other health and non-health programmes. The trained master-trainers will ensure proper understanding and use of the materials in the National Society.

The migration project staff of the National Society requires additional training in humanitarian diplomacy to strengthen their advocacy skills. Possibilities of organizing a relevant training in 2010 will be considered by the Federation secretariat.

The funds to continue and to strengthen the services provided by the Central Asian Red Crescent Labour Migration Network, or to expand it, will be sought at the regional and national levels among stakeholders who have an interest in supporting migrants in the region. The Turkmenistan Red Crescent is willing to join the network in 2011 and was already included in the International Federation's concept note in response to the European Commission call for proposals 2009-10.

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent is considering to move to a cash transfer system that will substitute the current working advance system used by the programmes supported multilaterally through IFRC. The move would implicate a shift in the finance management capacities and strengthen the National Society's position in front of partners. The Federation regional representation will provide consultancy support along the process. The HR management support will continue in 2010 through consultancies from the Federation regional and zone offices.

In the first quarter of 2010 the general assembly of the National Society will be convened; the assembly will elect the national governing board and a chairperson.

| How we work | |
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| <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 promote respect for diversity and human dignity. |

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