

Annual report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tajikistan

Appeal No. MAATJ002

30 April 2010

This report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2009.



Households affected by floods and mudslides settled in a tent camp. Photo: Farrukh Kasimov/IFRC

In brief

Programme purpose: The programmes supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) 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.

Programme summary: In the field of disaster management, the National Society with support from IFRC enhanced the disaster preparedness and response capacity of its disaster management centres and branch offices. The vulnerability of communities in high-risk areas to disasters has been reduced as a result of increasing people's awareness via public awareness information materials, conducting contests, competitions and educational campaigns.

In health and care the focus was on HIV prevention, harm reduction, health education sessions for the population including TB patients and TB contacts¹, and on improving the access of the population to pure drinking water and sanitation.

The year 2009 saw a number of commitments by the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and activities aimed directly at achieving the goals set out in the *National Society Development Strategy 2008-2012*. The society continued its work on lobbying for the Red Crescent law in the parliament. In January 2010, the Law was adopted by the Parliament.

In December 2009, the Red Crescent Society underwent an external audit for the fiscal year 2008 and the results were shared with all partner National Societies. This is a major step in increasing the National Society's accountability to its partners. In line with the audit recommendations, the National

¹ Family members, friends and neighbours of TB patients

Society continued its work on the development of a financial policy and procedures.

Financial situation: The initial budget for 2009 was CHF 1,697,623. It was revised to CHF 2,009,260 (USD 1,871,023 or EUR 1,372,927), of which 90 per cent covered. Overall expenditure is 83 per cent against the funds received. The budget was increased due to additional funds received from the Finnish Red Cross for disaster preparedness and from the Swedish Red Cross for the winterization project, as well as the late contribution of Norwegian Red Cross that arrived in November 2009 and will be further spent in 2010.

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

No. of people we help: In total, 222,831 people in Tajikistan benefited directly from the Federation supported programmes in 2009.

Annual report 2009 – Tajikistan	
Programme	People reached
Health and care	50,000 (HIV prevention) + 6,340 (harm reduction) + 27,045 (TB)
Water and sanitation	14,670
Disaster management	109,190*
Organizational development	828**
Youth	14,758
Total number of people reached	222,831

* Including people affected by disasters and assisted by the National Society's own means.

** Round tables and meetings were conducted in all 69 districts with community leaders, including teachers as well as medical personnel on the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and on Tajikistan Red Crescent activities.

Our partners: Partnership of the Red Crescent Society is well established on both bilateral and multilateral basis. The country presence of the International Federation secretariat, partner National Societies, such as the German Red Cross, the Finnish Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross assures that the Tajikistan Red Crescent receives direct support. Partnership is also in place with government structures and humanitarian organizations working in the country. Coordination meetings are convened regularly to update partners on activities and plans.

Context

In April-May 2009, heavy floods and mudflows struck 40 districts of Tajikistan and left 26 people dead, displaced well over 3,000 persons and negatively affected thousands more. Over 2,000 houses, hospitals, schools and other buildings were severely damaged or left in an unusable condition.

On 15 May 2009, the government of Tajikistan appealed to all United Nations member states and international organizations to support the emergency response to recent disasters estimating the damage at more than 100 million US dollars.

After the spring mudflows – in Khuroson district alone – 444 families from three heavily-hit villages had to be resettled by the government because they lived in a dangerous flood-prone area and had their homes destroyed or heavily damaged. According to the report from the government and the Red Crescent Kurgan-tube branch, the construction of 355 disasters resilient and energy efficient houses out of the planned 444 houses were completed and handed over to the affected families. The

construction of the remaining 89 houses is still going on and these families currently live in tents or with nearby relatives.

The construction of primary schools started in October 2009 on the land allocated by the Government in new Oftobak and Chorbog settlements in Khuroson district and was expected to be completed by the end of January 2010. However due to low funding for construction activities and materials, the construction is expected to be completed by the beginning of the new school year in September 2010. See more at: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDRTJ005pfr.pdf>

To assess what impact the price rise of food and non-food items, fuel and social services had on the traditional Red Crescent beneficiaries (female-headed households and older people living alone) the Tajikistan Red Crescent and the Federation country representation initiated an assessment of the situation in five areas of Direct Rule Districts. The assessment was conducted in two cycles in November 2008 and October 2009. Based on the collected data the main findings were:

- i) The purchasing power of assessed households decreased by 10 per cent.
- ii) The households continued reducing their consumption of animal products and other nutrient-rich food items such as fruits, vegetables and pulses.
- iii) The health expenditures rose by 12 per cent.
- iv) The prices for food and non-food items including fuel increased by 7 per cent.
- v) The prices for social services rose by 8 per cent.

The general conclusion of the assessment was that the prices for food and non-food items, fuel and social services rose significantly between November 2008 and October 2009. According to the State Statistics Committee, in mid-2009 the cost of the monthly food basket per family member amounted to 93 Tajik Somoni (21.1 US dollars), whereas the basket with the appropriate nutritional standard would amount to the cost of 181 Tajik somoni (41.2 US dollars). (*Source: Asia Plus Information agency.*)

The assessment findings showed that female-headed households and older people living alone are the most affected by the price rise and need support in the form of food and non-food items. The assessment results were shared with the food security cluster for consideration and further actions.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Outcome: The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan disaster response mechanisms, tools and plans for adequate and effective response to disasters improved and timely response to the most urgent situations of vulnerability increased.

Achievements: The capacity of the National Society in disaster preparedness and response was strengthened through increased skills and knowledge of staff and volunteers, strengthened financial and technical resources, effective mechanisms for emergency response and recovery assistance.

In close cooperation with the Netherlands Red Cross, a new (the 11th) disaster management centre was set up in Sagirdasht jamoat of Rasht valley. The newly established national disaster response team was trained and equipped with disaster response items and transport means.

A memorandum of cooperation between the National Society and the State Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES) was re-signed in January 2009, outlining the Tajikistan Red Crescent's specific role in the disaster management system of the country.

The disaster preparedness and response capacity of two Red Crescent branches in Sughd oblast and Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) was strengthened through the elaboration of a contingency plan.

Outcome: Effective tools are established for disaster preparedness of the communities living in the most disaster-prone areas of the country and disaster risk reduction activities are implemented.

Achievements: Disaster response capacity assessment was conducted in all 11 Red Crescent disaster management centres. Based on the assessment results a plan of action was elaborated and the following activities were carried out in 2009:

- A disaster preparedness/response and first-aid refresher course followed by a simulation exercise was conducted in all 11 centres.
- Disaster response equipments were replenished and uniforms replaced .
- Disaster response stock including winterized tents, bed-linen sets, mattresses, pillows, hygiene kits, cooking sets, quilts, kerosene stoves, and water cans for 600 families were procured and pre-positioned in the 11 disaster management centres.
- A national disaster response competition for national disaster response team (NDRT) members was conducted in September 2009. In total 66 NDRT members from all over the country came together to test their skills and to exchange experience. CoES representatives and other rapid emergency assessment and coordination team (REACT) partners attended the event.
- The Red Crescent contingency plan was revised and the safer access concept was added.
- The dissemination of International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) started in 2009. Two meetings were conducted at national level with governmental stakeholders and United Nations Disaster Risk Management representatives. The IDRL guidelines were translated into the local language and distributed to ministries and Red Crescent branches.

Outcome: The disaster response capacity of vulnerable communities enhanced through disaster risk awareness campaigns/activities, public education, disaster management, first-aid training and the establishment of local disaster committees.

Achievements: The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan strengthened the capacity of communities living in the most disaster-prone areas of the country by establishing and training local disaster committees (LDCs), and raising their awareness to the most common hazards.

Community-based disaster preparedness

In total, 173 LDC team leaders from 88 previously established committees in Rasht valley and Kurgan-tube region participated in four disaster preparedness/response and first-aid refresher courses, followed by practical simulation exercise. The aim of the course was to increase the disaster response capacity of the LDCs using new approaches such as introduction to climate change and risk reduction activities at community level. The participants were tasked to transfer the obtained knowledge to their team members and further to their respective community members. In total, 1,760 LDC members received knowledge on the above mentioned topics.

In order to cover more vulnerable communities, 20 new LDCs were established in Kurgan-tube region and Rasht valley. In total, 400 people participated and got trained in the field of disaster planning, situation assessment, information and rendering first-aid in disaster situations. The newly established LDCs were equipped with disaster response items such as first-aid kits, stretchers, shovels, hoes, touches, loudspeakers and vests with Red Crescent logos.

Disaster risk reduction (mitigation) projects:

The risk of mudslides, floods and mudflows was reduced through implementation of eight risk reduction mitigation projects. In total, 12,300 trees were planted in Gissar, Varzob, Rasht districts of Direct Rule Districts (DRD). The mud stream road was cleaned and canal banks were reinforced in Vakhdat (412 m) and Nurabad (162 m) districts. The drainage system was cleaned in Kurgan-tube region, Bokhtar district and mud stream road was cleaned in Sagirdasht jamoat of Darvoz and

Tajikabad districts. All implemented projects were implemented with support of communities and with input of local authorities. In total, 20,600 people benefited from implemented projects.

Disaster awareness and the knowledge of communities on disaster preparedness and response in the targeted areas were strengthened through the reprinting and distribution of 6,000 “*Joint Action*” brochures. Family planning was improved by reprinting and distribution of 6,000 “*Disaster Preparedness Family Plan*” brochures.

Road Safety:

The joint project of the Red Crescent Society and the traffic police department of the internal ministry included 10 three-day workshops on first aid for 300 driving school students in Dushanbe city, Kurgan-tube town, Rasht and Rudaki districts. The National Society first-aid trainers taught the students how to render first-aid in case of emergencies and road accidents.

Schoolchildren in schools located in near most risk roads of the mentioned targeted areas received road safety sets (1,010) of 11 posters with different road safety messages, posters “ABC-Traffic Safety” (2250), booklets “For children’s information” (2250), leaflets “Traffic rules” (2250), and “Traffic lights” (2250) designed in close cooperation with the traffic police. The information boards were installed near five schools of Dushanbe city, two in Kurgan-tube town, two in Rasht district and one in Rudaki district.

School Education project:

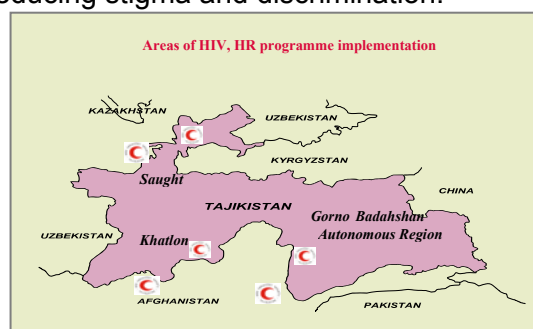
Five three-day training workshops on disaster awareness and first-aid were conducted for 100 teachers in 50 schools in Dushanbe (40), Kurgan-Tube (20), Rasht valley (20) and Rudaki district (20). After being trained, teachers passed the gained knowledge to schoolchildren at out of class lessons.

Constraints or Challenges: The shift of focus from the planned activities to disaster response operations (responding to floods and mudslides in spring 2009) caused delays in regular disaster management programme activities, leading to changes in the original timetable.

Health and Care

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

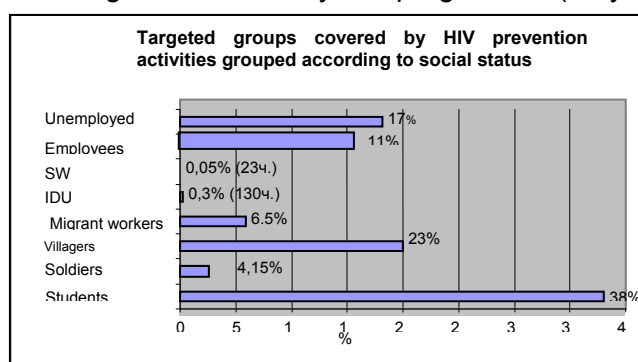
Achievements: Awareness-raising meetings, discussions and lectures held by the staff and volunteers of the programme covered 50,000 representatives of the target groups with HIV prevention activities (youth, adolescents, employees, migrant workers and their families, women, villagers, injecting drug users and sex workers). The two jamoats in Hamadoni district of Kulob region where the activities had been undertaken in the last two years were replaced by two new jamoats in March 2009.



Mass media campaigns held in June, including 15 events among the population, 7 essay contests (Farkhor, Vosse) and 3 sport events (Hamadoni, Kulob, Shurobod), covered 6,150 people. All activities were reflected in the media – 25 speeches, reports, articles were produced.

In 2009, the total number of beneficiaries from the two regions covered by the programme (Kulyab and Sughd) amounted to 50,000 people, 42 per cent of them female and 58 per cent male. More than half of them belonged to the age group 15-24.

Two social-educational centres for vulnerable youth were established and have started



functioning in two districts of Sughd oblast since January. These centres in Kairakum and Chkalovsk are providing computer literacy services, where in between health education sessions on HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI) prevention, TB and addiction prevention to the young people are held based on the peer-to-peer approach. In total, 87 people were trained in these centres. Pre- and post-tests were used for measuring the improvement in knowledge levels. Test results showed considerable improvement in the awareness of young people on HIV prevention and misconceptions about HIV transmission. Some 75 and 73 per cent of the targeted young people in Kairakum and Chkalovsk respectively could list correctly ways of preventing HIV and major misconceptions about HIV transmission (compared to 36 and 35 per cent before the education sessions).

The monitoring of the epidemiological situation in selected communities of the five mountainous areas in Sughd province revealed a growing tendency towards referrals for testing in 2009. This tendency, based on data from the primary health facilities of the respective communities, demonstrates a change in the general population's attitude towards their own health.

Within the framework of the harm reduction project 6,340 people were served through the trust point (1,504) and through outreach work (4,836) in Shugnan region of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBO). The services included exchange of syringes, distribution of condoms, rendering first aid, counseling and psychosocial support to injecting drug users (IDUs). There were 70 clients regularly visiting the trust point. Eleven IDUs became new clients of the trust point. The average number of trust point visits per month was 250. Medical specialists continued counseling IDUs and provided consultation to 67 people in 2009. Some 31 IDUs were referred to a medical clinic. Two IDUs stopped taking drugs.

The informational work on drug addiction prevention covered 842 young people through both individual talks and mass events with quizzes.

Constraints or Challenges: The delay of funding in 2009 led to the cancellation of some of the activities. Staff turnover, delays with salary and transport costs payment, as well as a decrease in field monitorings were also serious challenges. Seasonal labour migration meant that a number of trained volunteers were lost.

Programme reporting including financial reporting in Sughd region is an area that needs to be further improved.

Outcome: 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: In total, 436 community volunteers in 211 rural community development committees were trained on training methodology, DOTS (direct observation of treatment, short course) orientation and community mobilization; out of them 233 were trained on HIV prevention and its integration to the TB programme.

The trained Red Crescent community volunteers conducted 3,825 sessions on TB for 27,045 people, including discussions with 116 TB patients

and their families on the importance of treatment completion and strict adherence. The volunteers trained on HIV prevention also explain about the importance of HIV testing during their interaction with TB patients. As a result, two HIV cases were detected among TB patients in 2009.

Most of the active volunteers received hygiene and school kits as incentives. Some 250 posters and 20,000 brochures on TB were distributed during health education sessions, in primary healthcare units, schools, mosques and among the population.



TB drugstore in Vakhdat TB centre. Photo: Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan

In total 286 people and 412 contacts were referred by Red Crescent volunteers to the Vakhdat TB centre for testing and over the year 262 patients were registered, out of them 217 new cases and 9 recurrences. The mobilization of the population improved the knowledge of the communities, which in turn led to improved detection of new cases of TB and better adherence to TB treatment.



Seminars for community volunteers. Photo: Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan

Constraints or Challenges: Seasonal labour migration of trained community volunteers and trained Ministry of Health staff to Russia and other countries presents a challenge as it requires additional efforts, both in terms of time and expenses, to train the newly selected community volunteers and staff. Inaccessibility or remoteness of the districts to medical institutions and the TB centre for examination, and timely delivery of sputum analysis causes difficulties in the detection of TB cases. The lack of medical personnel in some rural areas led to unsupervised treatment.

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

Achievements: The planned activities under this outcome were not implemented under the secretariat plan in 2009, but on a bilateral basis. The main reason is that the Netherlands Red Cross present in the country received funds for supporting the community-based first-aid activities of the Tajikistan Red Crescent from the European Commission. The Tajikistan Red Crescent with this bilateral support has established 20 community-based first-aid centres in the rural districts of Tajikistan and trained a number of trainers and volunteers in rendering community-based first aid. This programme will end in April 2010.

In the coming period, with bilateral support from the Finnish Red Cross the programme will be implemented in three districts of Rasht valley through the delivery of health messages to the target population. The main activities will aim at improving the health status of people living in rural areas of Tajikistan by providing community-based health and hygiene education.

It is worth to mention that the National Society during the last few years has strengthened its capacity in community-based first aid by receiving official license in 2009 for the provision of professional trainings to the population of Tajikistan. Recently first-aid trainings were conducted for the following organizations: Mercy Corps, OSCE, Save the Children, Oxfam, Caritas, ACTED, UNDP, IREX and German Red Cross.

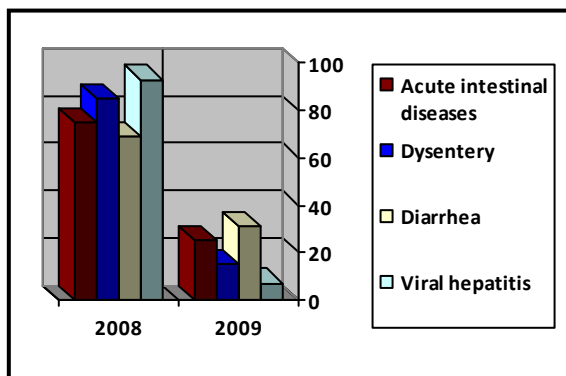
In the framework of the IFRC's Global Measles and Polio Initiative, the Red Crescent Society supported the Tajik government in social mobilization for the nation-wide measles and rubella supplementary immunization campaign in September-October 2009, and contributed to the high vaccination coverage with its awareness-raising activities. Technical support was provided to the National Society by the Europe zone office and the global measles focal point in Geneva.

The National Society aimed to reach all children aged 1 to 14 with social mobilization activities in six districts of Tajikistan (out of 69 districts in total). Altogether 800 volunteers were mobilized. The Red Crescent activities included household visits to disseminate information about the importance of vaccination, where to be vaccinated and on which dates; community-level sensitisation including sharing of information with religious and community leaders and raising the campaign profile in public gathering places; helping with campaign logistics; and where volunteers were trained medical staff,

actually vaccinating children. With the exception of one district out of the six, the vaccination coverage reached the WHO minimum standard of 95 per cent. According to a post-campaign survey, Red Crescent volunteers, who had already been engaged with the communities even before the campaign and were trusted by them, did play an important role in informing people about the immunization campaign. However the National Society recognizes that the visibility of the actions could be further improved, and that such occasions could be used for disseminating messages about other Red Crescent activities to the communities. The National Society cooperated effectively with the government structures, and is considered as a credible partner. The second phase of the campaign, targeting women of childbearing age was scheduled to take place in 2010.

Outcome: Access to safe water and sanitation services improved in Tajikistan.

Achievements: Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) trainings were held in 11 communities (one in each) of Sughd and Khatlon provinces, Direct Rule Districts and GBAO. In total 110 volunteers from the 11 communities were trained on sanitary and hygiene promotion and shared their knowledge and skills with their respective communities. By the end of 2009, the number of people aware of sanitary and hygiene basics in the 11 communities is 5,893 people.



The number of water-borne diseases decreased in the targeted communities from 2008 to 2009. (Source: Sanitary and epidemiological centres of targeted districts.)

As a positive result of earlier water supply projects and PHAST trainings the local population engaged in the construction of spring water supply systems by their own means, but with technical support from the Tajikistan Red Crescent. By the end of 2009, some 24,500 metres of water pipes have been laid from the spring up to the villages and 14,670 people from three regions got access to safe drinking water. Moreover, the school attendance rate in the targeted areas increased by 23 per cent, as now children do not need to bring water by animal-drawn transport.



The experience exchange workshop for water users committees in Sughd oblast. Photo: Lyapina E. / Red Crescent Society Tajikistan

Two-day experience exchange forums for each of the 11 water users committees were held in Gonchi and Khujand (in Sughd province) to analyse the strong and weak points of the projects. The members of these community-based self-management units shared best practices and discussed common challenges they face during implementation.

Besides that eight projects completed during 2003-2008 were evaluated in Direct Rule Districts and Sughd province in June 2009. According to the findings all constructed water supply systems in the targeted villages were functioning and well-maintained by the established water users committees.

Constraints or Challenges: Low and delayed financial coverage of the annual plan, particularly the water and sanitation programme, negatively affected programme activities. For this reason only 62 per cent of the planned activities was realised in 2009.

Capacity Building

Outcome: The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan leadership capacities are improved to develop and implement strategies, and to ensure good performance and accountability.

Achievements: The International Federation continued to provide membership services to the National Society. The newly elected president and vice-president and governing board members received comprehensive information on the overall Movement activities, strategies and policies, including the Development Strategy for 2008-2012 of the Tajikistan Red Crescent, outlining the main objectives of the organization. This was especially important with regard to the upcoming IFRC statutory meetings in November. In September 2009 the Federation country representation arranged a three-day induction course on the roles and responsibilities of the governance and management, together with other topics for the newly elected chairpersons and executive secretaries. In November 2009, the new President participated in the IFRC's statutory meetings in Nairobi, Kenya.

Outcome: The National Society increased its capacities through the development of human, financial and material resources at headquarters and branch levels.

Achievements: The period covered by this report saw a number of commitments of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and activities aimed directly at achieving goals set in the *National Society Development Strategy 2008-2012*.

The recommendations of an external organizational development evaluation conducted in April 2008 were accepted by the National Society and incorporated as priorities into the plan for 2009-2010, and the work in line with these recommendations continued over 2009.

The introduction of the updated version of 1C "Enterprise" software since 1 January 2009 allows both for reporting on programme funds and general financial reporting of the National Society; and all book-keeping accounting and reporting system became automated. Six National Society accountants and two Federation staff successfully completed the financial accounting system training. In line with the finance development plan, the Red Crescent computerized the human resource unit in the headquarters by equipping computers with the 1C HR software.

In December 2009, the Red Crescent Society underwent an external audit for the fiscal year 2008 and the results were shared with all partner National Societies. This is a major step in increasing the National Society's accountability to its partners. In line with the audit recommendations, the National Society continued its work on the development of a financial policy and procedures. By the end of the year the National Society also conducted an inventory in 47 branches; the inventory of the remaining 22 branches should be completed by April 2010.

Challenges or Constraints: The frequent turnover of the heads of the Tajikistan Red Crescent finance department had a negative impact on the processes initiated.

Outcome: The National Society has mobilized the capacities of local communities applying the participatory community development approach at branch level.

Achievements: The International Federation and the Finnish Red Cross agreed to replicate the participatory community development (PCD) experience in other branches and to expand the coverage of the vulnerable communities to support them in addressing their own urgent needs. To follow a systematic approach to National Society programming, two trainings on PCD, participatory rapid appraisal (PRA) and vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) were held in the selected branches.

Outcome: Youth has expanded the range and improved the quality of its services.

Achievements: The integration of the youth movement appeared in a number of country-wide events to mark the International Red Cross Red Crescent Day, the World TB Day and the Tajik

National Youth Day. Youth volunteers were heavily involved in carrying out HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), drug abuse and HIV/TB co-infection educational campaigns in Kulyab, Kurgan-tube, and GBAO, covering 14,758 people.

The network of Red Crescent youth centres in Khorog town, Shugnan and Gonchi districts continued providing English language and computer literacy courses for young people (120) from poor families including internet and copying services for some 1,200 people.

In order to improve the system of youth and volunteers recruitment, training, motivation and involvement, the National Society with support from IFRC developed and presented a virtual database at the headquarters. The database allows tracking a breakdown of trained volunteers under various programmes per administrative regions and districts. Moreover, the advanced system is expected to motivate volunteers and to systematize their training in various spheres. The database will be available on the website of the National Society by mid-2010 and will allow any interested partners to be able to track the internal movement of volunteers within the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan.

The Red Crescent Society continuously supports the integration of youth and volunteers in all programming, although this is still not systematized. Excellent results by the trained volunteers could be seen during the emergency response activities, as well as the promotion of humanitarian values and the Fundamental Principles.

Constraints or Challenges: The lack of coordinators to work with the volunteers and youth in the regional branches had a negative impact on programme activities.

Principles and Values

Outcome: The fundamental principles and values of the Movement promoted.

Achievements: In 2009 about 13 round tables, 150 meetings and 40 workshops on the fundamental principles and humanitarian values of the Movement were held in Sughd, Badakhshan and Kurgan-tube with the participation of representatives of national and regional mass media. Some 80 information materials about the Movement were aired on TV, radio or published in national and local printed editions and electronic media. It is estimated that more than 700,000 people were reached.

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

Achievements: Five information and education centres for migrants were set up and equipped with computers, furniture, information corners and staffed with three paid staff in the National Society branch premises in Shahrstan, Asht (Sughd region), Pyanj, Vose (Khatlon region), and Roshtkala districts (Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast). The sites were selected based on the level of external migration flows, in close collaboration with relevant state bodies, international organizations and the identified needs of returnees/migrants in education and consultancy. By May 2009 the centres started providing consultancies on legal issues including human trafficking risks, basic computer literacy skills, Russian language courses, as well as HIV, STIs and TB prevention and basic first aid. By the end of 2009, around 3,640 people (42.8 per cent of them women) have been served.

The Red Crescent Society with support of the Federation secretariat and in close collaboration with IOM has adapted training modules for the centres that include awareness-raising sessions on HIV, TB, STIs and other communicable diseases, first aid and basic legal support. To strengthen tracing services for migrants' family members close links with the restoring family links programme supported by the ICRC have been established.

Constraints or Challenges: Due to some difficulties at the very beginning of the year with the selection of districts with the highest rate of labour migration, as well as low funding and late equipping of information centers, the activities could start only in mid-May, which affected the programme activity plan and timeframe.

Outcome: The image and profile of the Tajikistan Red Crescent Society improved.

Achievements: The Red Crescent disaster response operation has been highlighted in Tajik, Russian and Uzbek languages by national and local television channels as well as radio and printed media. 50 press-releases were distributed among national media services and placed at the National Society's web-site (<http://www.redcrescent.tj>) and other news sites covering Tajikistan and the Central Asian region. Besides, a [story](#) on the response operation is on the IFRC's public web-site.

Two introductory courses on the dissemination of the principles and values were conducted for 300 rural inhabitants. As a result people became familiar with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement and learnt about the work of the Tajikistan Red Crescent. The Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on the Tajikistan Red Crescent Society was discussed at a round table and broadcasted via TV.

Large-scale broadcasting was done during the celebration of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, increasing the image of the Tajikistan Red Crescent and promoting the auxiliary role of the National Society to the government of Tajikistan.

Working in partnership

Strong partnership is well established between all Movement components working in the country, with the IFRC leading coordination efforts and promoting good partnership. It ensures that the National Society is at the centre of all events and receives full and harmonized support from its partners to meet its urgent needs at all levels.

The Red Crescent Society has partnership relations with around 70 community-based, national, government-based and international organizations, UN and development agencies along with local authorities and governmental ministries.

Coordination is ensured through Tajikistan's humanitarian partnership – the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) system, a disaster management coordination mechanism between the government, UN agencies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Regular REACT meetings are held in Dushanbe as well as at the sub-national level to ensure effective coordination.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and the IFRC are members of the technical working group of the national coordination committee on TB, HIV and AIDS, and malaria control in Tajikistan².

In June and December 2009 the National Society extended the agreement with the UN World Food Programme (WFP) on food aid for TB patients and their family members. Under this arrangement a total of 984 people (492 TB patients and their families) received flour, iodized salt, peas and vegetable oil.

The joint mission of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Development Program (UNDP) rated the Vakhdat district pilot project as the best model of TB/DOTS implementation throughout Tajikistan. The mission recommended the Ministry of Health and UNDP to follow the same working approach in other parts of the country.

The National Society district branches continued their cooperation with *hukumats*³ and *jamoats*⁴ during project implementation through advisory, labour and technical support in project design, the

² For more information, visit: www.aids.tj

implementation of project activities, and monitoring and evaluation. This cooperation allows avoiding the duplication of activities.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The enhancement of the financial and human resource management systems of the Tajikistan Red Crescent remains a priority for the coming two-three years. The development and investment in long- and short-term plans in this respect contribute to the National Society's financial sustainability, improvement of the quality of the society's operations and programmes and its internal control procedures. Improved accountability of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan to external and internal stakeholders, including beneficiaries, and its financial performance according to the international accounting standards increases the chances to meet one of the criteria of a well-functioning National Society.

Community mobilization under the water and sanitation projects directly contributed to the National Strategy on Poverty Reduction and to the Millenium Development Goal 7 of ensuring environmental sustainability and indirectly to the Millenium Development Goals 4 and 5 (reducing child mortality and improving maternal health). The established water committees comprised of 5-10 people are fully responsible for keeping the spring water systems in good working condition using accumulative fund for the maintenance of spring water systems, thus assuring project sustainability. The communities' contribution to the construction of the spring water supply systems increased from 20 to 50 per cent during 2009, which proves their interest and ensures their ownership.

Looking ahead

Plans for 2010-2011 envisage that the National Society will need more support in the development of its human resource and financial policies and procedures. Still, challenges lie ahead, notably in the high turnover of staff which is a burning issue within the National Society.

As a longer-term perspective, the National Society will work on the development of its fund-raising policy and procedures. It is envisaged to conduct a proper market survey, evaluate the fund-raising activities of the last few years and provide background for the focus on new approaches and know-how methods and tools. This process will be accompanied with the capacity building of staff to be able to make the National Society sustainable financially.

In line with the IFRC's governance support, the National Society further continued its work on lobbying for the Red Crescent law in the Tajik parliament. After long discussions and comments from the Joint ICRC/IFRC Commission and the respective commission of the national parliament, the draft law passed its readings at the lower chamber of the national parliament. On 12 January 2010 the higher chamber adopted the law and it came into force.

With the support of the secretariat the renewal of the Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) process within the Tajikistan Red Crescent started in 2009.

³ Local authorities

⁴ Self-managing bodies active at the grass-root level, comprising several villages

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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