

Annual report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Turkmenistan

Appeal No. MAATM001

30 April 2010

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



Community-based health and first-aid training for Turkmenistan Red Crescent staff. Photo: Turkmenistan Red Crescent

In brief

Programme purpose: The Turkmenistan 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 disaster management programme of the Turkmenistan Red Crescent strengthened the coping capacities of the populations living in disaster prone areas by increasing community awareness of actions to take during disasters – with a focus on earthquakes, floods, domestic fires and road accidents – and through small-scale mitigation projects preventing floods and water-borne diseases. The National Society built its response capacity through improving staff and volunteers' knowledge and skills in disaster management areas and improving its national disaster preparedness/ disaster response and contingency plans. The Red Crescent also provided humanitarian aid to people affected by domestic fires. Besides, a representative of the Turkmenistan Red Crescent participated in the emergency relief operation of the Tajikistan Red Crescent supporting people affected by mudslides and floods as a team leader of the regional disaster response team.

The Red Crescent Society disseminated information about HIV among youth, key populations at higher risk and the general public. The programme also increased the awareness of the harmful effects of drug use and promoted healthy lifestyle. The tuberculosis prevention component targeted people with tuberculosis (TB) on the continuation phase of treatment, their family members and the

general population. The services provided include direct observation of treatment and social support to the clients with TB and raising awareness of TB. The community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) programme remained focused on health education and first-aid sessions for rural communities. Pregnant women, women of reproductive age and schoolchildren also improved their knowledge of reproductive health issues.

Following the development processes by the end of the year the National Society elected governing boards at all levels; the chairperson was re-elected at the general assembly in November. In the human resources area the Red Crescent developed a salary scale for all staff and shared it with the partners. Besides, staff job descriptions were harmonized with an agreed standard. Feedback from the Joint Statutes Commission on the draft Red Crescent law was received and work on it continued. It was also agreed that youth activities were funded in a coordinated way: the Federation supported the youth coordinator while the British Red Cross covered the activities.

The principles and values programme informed the general public about the Movement's components, its principles, values and commitments and facilitated sessions on anti-discrimination, tolerance and respect for diversity during trainings and seminars organized by other programmes for beneficiaries and partners. The programme activities were limited by available funds which were very scarce.

Financial situation: The total 2009 budget is CHF 1,347,134, of which CHF 819,644 (61 per cent) covered (including opening balance). The budget was increased to accommodate higher income in the health and care programme. Overall expenditure during was CHF 654,944 (80 per cent) of the received funding. Some funds were carried over to 2010 because donor pledges' timeframes differ from the appeal period.

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

No. of people we help: In total 159,636 people benefited directly from secretariat-supported programme interventions during the reporting period.

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Programme	Target groups*	People reached	% of women	% of men	% of children under 18	% of older people
Disaster Management	Members of communities in disaster-prone areas	70,650				
Health and Care	TB	634	36	64	2.6	1.4
	Family members	2,078	54	46	14.6	4.4
	General population	27,985	47	53	11	3.5
Health and Care	HIV	34,761	50	50	51	5
	Community-based health and first aid	Youth, women of childbearing age, general population	17,378	55	45	41
Organizational Development	National Society staff,	150				
	members and volunteers	1,500				
Principles and Values	State officials, students, web-site visitors and the general public	6,150				

Total number of people reached	159,636				
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**National Society staff, volunteers and members are not counted as people reached and are not included in the total number.*

Our partners: The donors supporting the programmes multilaterally through the International Federation are the British, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies and the US Government Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. Also, the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) covered some regional level expenditures of the disaster management programme, mostly born in Kazakhstan.

There are currently more than 15 partnerships between the Federation regional representation, the National Society and community-based, national, government-based, international organizations, UN and developmental agencies.

Context

Over the year the Turkmenistan government worked on issues concerning the status and the development plan for the state emergency committee, which included the order of cooperation between the National Society and the government structures and Red Crescent duties in the area of disaster management. Early in the year the government called on the National Society to support the state efforts in raising public awareness of domestic and wide fires and road accidents prevention. It is expected that the existing disaster management system under the defence ministry will be re-structured and the emergency ministry will be created in 2010.

In 2009 the HIV programme at country level was strengthened. The National Society is a member of the Country Coordination Committee (CCC) and its activities were reflected in the annual plan of the health ministry that envisaged joint activities and outlined the monitoring and evaluation and coordination efforts together with partners. The activities can be considered a step forward, which can positively affect the Red Crescent programming in the country in terms of easier access to beneficiaries or information material development.

Fluctuations of the world currency exchange rates in 2008 caused losses on income of the TB prevention project, part of which was carried over to 2009. Compounded with rising prices in the country the situation forced the National Society to reduce spending on food parcels and hygiene kits: less parcels and kits were distributed and the number of items in each decreased.

In the beginning of 2009 the leadership of the Turkmenistan Red Crescent changed. The new leader committed to support the organizational change processes and kept the priorities unaltered.

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:

Over the year a few annexes of the Turkmenistan Red Crescent contingency plan concerning local resources (material and human), local contacts, and logistics issues such as conditions of main roads including railways, river-, sea-ports and airports, were updated. Also, the national disaster preparedness and disaster response plan was revised in line with recommendations of the disaster response contingency planning guidelines. To make relevant changes concerning the stakeholders' authorities and responsibilities of the Turkmenistan Red Crescent, in the last quarter of 2009 the society held three workshops with representatives of the internal ministry's emergency department,

fire fighting and road safety services, environmental ministry, hydrometeorology centre, and scientific institutes. The National Society sent the updated plans to the government for approval.

In cooperation with relevant stakeholders all five regional branches elaborated their contingency plans using scenarios of the disasters specific for each region.

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 to reinforce the National Society's response mechanisms, including the development of disaster response teams (DRTs), and maintaining existing technical and material resources to be able to respond effectively when disaster strikes.

Following the international trainings like the harmonised regional disaster response team (RDRT) training, the water and sanitation field assessment and coordination team (FACT) training, and an induction course on psychosocial support that they passed in 2009 the disaster management staff disseminated their knowledge among colleagues.

Over the year the Red Crescent Society conducted 18 trainings on disaster management and 6 field exercises at national and branch levels covering 210 people. Namely, the National Society conducted 5 disaster management induction trainings and 5 induction trainings on first aid and emergency psychological support for staff and volunteers of all regional branches that covered 190 people. Five field exercises aimed to improve the skills and knowledge in disaster preparedness and response followed. The most skillful 75 people out of these trained staff and volunteers were selected for five regional disaster response teams (15 people in each). Five trainings on the main topics of the new RDRT harmonised course were then arranged for members of the regional disaster response teams at the branch level. Another field training targeted 35 members of the national team to improve their skills in needs assessment after a disaster, assisting people during evacuation from a disaster area, emergency relief, and camp management. The Turkmenistan Red Crescent also introduced psychosocial support in its three seminars for disaster management staff and in the DRT training as an important element of disaster response.

After the assessment of the Red Crescent warehouses conditions' for storage of non-food emergency items the Turkmenistan Red Crescent followed up on the identified failings: the central warehouse was repaired and renovation of the Lebap branch warehouse started; the central emergency stock was also replenished with bedding (mattresses and blankets) for 200 people that can be used to respond to small-scale disasters at national and branch levels next year.

Over the period the National Society from its own resources assisted 55 families (more than 250 people) affected by domestic fires with humanitarian aid: bedding, hygiene, kitchen sets and cash.

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

Achievements:

The Red Crescent disaster management staff from the headquarters participated in regional disaster management meetings aimed at capacity-building. The meetings 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 made an introduction to vulnerability and capacity assessment.

During another regional seminar the Turkmenistan Red Crescent participants conducted a detailed analysis of the National Society's disaster management capacity, needs of the disaster management programme, human resources management including the deployment of RDRT, 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 National Society development steps for 2010 and the coming five years.

The regional workshop on international disaster response law (IDRL) in October brought together representatives of the Central Asian governments, parliaments and the Red Crescent Societies, the Federation secretariat and OCHA. It was a good opportunity for the Turkmenistan 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 discussion 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 Turkmenistan Red Crescent implemented community-based disaster preparedness projects in 7 towns and 13 settlements of all 5 regions to strengthen the coping capacities of the populations in disaster prone areas. Working meetings, targeting 570 community members and local authorities, were organized to establish local disaster committees (LDC) or to plan their work. Education trainings were conducted for members of 11 LDCs. As a result 11 LDCs elaborated risks maps for their communities and started developing disaster preparedness plans.

The National Society also followed up some communities involved in community-based disaster preparedness in the past. For example, the community from Karaul settlement (Akhal region) developed a response plan and conducted a mudslide simulation exercise. In line with the community disaster preparedness plan a voluntary assistant fire-fighter crew was also created in Karaul because of its remote (more than 40 km) location from the closest state fire brigade.

For broader communities the Red Crescent held two disaster awareness campaigns on fire and road safety in the capital city and ten campaigns in the regions. Television and radio broadcasts, round tables with local authorities and relevant government bodies at national level, contests on wide and domestic fires and road safety were organized. The actions were used to spread messages on disaster risks and to promote risk reduction and National Society activities, also by distributing information materials and through billboards. It is estimated that the campaigns reached around 70,000 people.

The National Society information sessions on road and fire safety reached about 18,000 people (including 15,000 traffic offenders) in Ashgabat. The fire safety education was provided on request of the fire department that also supplied the list of target organizations.

Outcome/Expected result: Strengthened capacities of secondary school students and teachers to respond to future disasters through integrated disaster preparedness and first-aid trainings.

Achievements

In first half of the year the disaster preparedness education sessions for schoolchildren covered 1,430 children in Ashgabat. These sessions within the framework of information awareness campaigns included topics on earthquakes, domestic fires (especially in high-rise buildings) and first aid.

Since September, when children came back to school after summer holidays, special educational sessions on rules of behaviour in disasters reached around 1,500 children in all regional centres of the country.

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

Achievements

There were 13 risk reduction projects implemented that targeted rural and urban communities; 4 of them started in 2008 but completed in 2009. The majority of projects reduced the risks of underflooding and water-borne and water-related diseases for the most vulnerable rural (12) and urban (1) communities. In total, around 45,400 people benefited from these projects implemented by local communities with strong support from the Red Crescent branches. The details are provided in the table below.

Table 1 Risk reduction projects

Locality	Project description	Coverage (people)
Mary region		14,500
Mary town	Installing water pumps to reduce underground waters' level and risk of underflooding	1,500
District Vekilbasar		2,100
District Vekilbasar	Installing water pumps to provide access to safe drinking water	2,300
District Serkhetabad		1,900
District Takhtabazar		2,200
District Murgab		2,900
Settlement Yolotan		1,600
Akhal region		13,900
District Kaakhka	Installing water pumps to provide access to safe drinking water	3,000
District Serakh		7,000
Settlement Babadaykhan		1,600
Settlement Karaul	Providing two motor pumps for fire-engine of the voluntary assistant fire-fighter crew	2,300
Balkan region		5,000
District Oglanty	Installing water pumps to provide access to safe drinking water (ongoing)	5,000
Dashoguz region		12,000
District Gurbansoltan-edzhe	Installing water pumps to provide access to safe drinking water (ongoing)	12,000

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.

Achievements:

This is a new component of the National Society's programme. 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. Unfortunately, the Turkmenistan Red Crescent was unable to attend the workshop.

However, in September 2009 the Turkmenistan Red Crescent disaster management coordinator participated in the discussion panel on recovery issues during the international simulation exercise Zhetysu-2009 that followed the scenario of a catastrophic earthquake in Kazakhstan. At the exercise the IFRC presented the Red Cross Red Crescent recovery tools and examples of early recovery

activities. A brief presentation on discussed recovery issues was later made for the disaster management staff of the National Society.

Constraints or Challenges

The change of staff at the headquarters and branch levels in the first half of the year negatively affected the programme. Namely, the work with communities slowed down and the disaster risk awareness-raising element among children was postponed. Lack of technical resources in most of the branches (computers and other office equipment) and limited access to internet services in the country slows down the information flow and affects its quality. Also, increased travel costs meant that field trips and experience exchange visits were minimized, while workshops and meetings accommodated fewer participants.

Health and care

Outcomes/Expected results:

Vulnerability to HIV and its impact reduced through preventing further infection and reducing stigma and discrimination.

Awareness of the harmful effects of drug use to human health increased and healthy lifestyle promoted.

Achievements:

The programme provided peer education to key populations at higher risk and raised awareness among the general population in Ashgabat, Abadan, Turkmenbashi, Turkmenabat, Mary, Dashoguz and Balkanabat. Among key populations schoolchildren aged 15-17, sex workers (SWs), injecting drug users (IDUs), men who have sex with men (MSM) and military personnel were targeted. Peer education was provided by volunteers; messages on gender equity and home violence were included in the training curriculum. Over the year 268 peer educators were trained by the National Society: 25 SWs, 16 IDUs, 2 MSM, 58 military men and 167 young people. Dissemination of produced information materials and mass media campaigns were also part of the programme.

In total, 24,670 people were reached by HIV prevention activities and 80 per cent of them through peer education. Around 88 per cent of the targeted population aged 15-49 correctly identified ways of preventing sexual transmission of HIV and rejected major misconceptions about HIV transmission. Besides, 68 per cent of targeted SWs, IDUs, and military men who have sexual contacts with more than one partner or with irregular partners reported that they had always used condoms.

To promote healthy lifestyle and to raise awareness about the risks of drug abuse the Red Crescent carried out peer education sessions through 15 trained peer instructors and arranged informational campaigns for schoolchildren, military men and the general population in Mary, Dashoguz, Lebap, Akhal and Balkan provinces. Rural populations were also reached through door to door visits. In total, the National Society reached 10,248 people: 4,517 schoolchildren, 1,586 teachers, 2,240 people in organizations, 1,429 people in rural communities, and 476 military men. The Red Crescent branch offices were equipped with computers and photo cameras.

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 programme aimed at improving treatment outcomes by encouraging treatment adherence among clients with TB. To achieve this, visiting nurses of the National Society provided programme beneficiaries with direct observation of treatment (DOT) in clinics, with education and social support – food parcels and hygiene kits. The National Society reached 634 clients with TB with social support and only 1.4 per cent of the clients interrupted the treatment. The treatment success rate among the beneficiaries under DOT provided by the Red Crescent nurses was 93 per cent. The National Society

managed to recruit six former TB clients as volunteers to lead a support group that gathered regularly; volunteers will be trained in peer education in 2010.

Education sessions for personnel of different organizations and schoolchildren in Ashgabat, Mary and Dashoguz raised awareness of TB among the population. About 75 per cent of people reached by education sessions knew four main symptoms of the disease and preventive measures. Besides, in Dashoguz the National Society referred people with TB signs to health facilities. As a result, 12 per cent of referred people were diagnosed with TB. Media campaigns on the national television and radio that marked the World TB Day, the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day, the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the World AIDS Day and other covered about 330,000 people.

Outcomes/Expected results:

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

Reproductive health improved through education and the promotion of women's health and antenatal care.

Achievements:

The community-based health and first-aid (CBHFA) programme focused on rural populations and aimed at improving their health status. Health education targeted the communities having limited access to public health services due to their remote location from district centres. The Red Crescent staff and 282 community volunteers trained people on basic first-aid skills and provided education sessions on the most common diseases and ways of preventing them. This year information on influenza A (H1N1) was included in the training curriculum and the booklets were distributed during sessions. The total number of educated people was 17,378; 74 per cent of the targeted people knew symptoms of the most common diseases and prevention measures and 39 per cent of them had basic first-aid skills. The Red Crescent Society also arranged public actions for the World TB Day, the National Education Day, and the International First Aid Day.

The programme also targeted pregnant women, women of reproductive age and schoolchildren with information about reproductive health, antenatal and post-natal care, and nutrition. About 5,569 women were reached (out of total 17,378 people), 651 pregnant women among them. Out of all pregnant women 73 per cent knew rules of behaviour and nutrition, and used them during pregnancy and in early post-natal period. Besides, 6,977 girls and boys were covered by education sessions in the secondary schools and communities, 76 per cent of them knew main health risks in their age and practises safe behaviour.

In the fourth quarter a knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) survey was conducted among target beneficiaries in two project sites to measure the effectiveness of the information/ education activities. The results were compared with the results of the baseline KAP survey held in the first quarter and showed an increase in the awareness level by 49 per cent.

Four Red Crescent staff took part in the regional *CBHFA in Action* master-facilitators workshop held in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) in December 2009. Following the workshop the National Society conducted the *CBHFA in Action* training for its 16 staff and volunteers at the headquarters and carried out a round table with stakeholders to acquaint them with the new community-based integrated programme approach.

Constraints or Challenges

Three officers of the health programme – one at the headquarters and two in branches – changed over the period, often citing low salary levels as a reason for leaving. The new staff members will require further guidance to ensure proper implementation and management.

Work with military men was quite challenging as the new leadership of the defense ministry requested obtaining a new permission to conduct education sessions in military facilities that was never granted. Despite of that, the regional staff of the National Society carried out training in some military facilities based on local agreements.

Organizational development

Outcome/Expected result: Governance and management bodies at all levels established; the system of their interrelations established.

Achievements:

In the second half of the year the Red Crescent Society held branch governing board elections and announced vacancies for branch executive directors. According to the plan, these positions should be filled by the end of March 2010.

In November 2009, the Red Crescent Society held the general assembly in accordance with the revised statute and elected the new presidium (governing board), the financial commission and the chairperson of the presidium¹. Executive director shall be appointed by the end of March 2010. Based on request from the National Society, the Federation provided a consultant to help systematize the results of the statutes revision and implementation processes before the general assembly.

Over the year the regional representation consistently supported orientation and capacity-building of the new leadership of the National Society so as to facilitate smooth take-over of duties and progressive capacity development.

Outcome/Expected result: Branch capacity increased through the introduction of human resources management system, improved finance management and the implementation of branch development projects.

Achievements:

In 2009 the Turkmenistan Red Crescent was supported in their active work on improving the human resources (HR) system. Thus, two seminars were held on HR system improvement for the branch leaders and headquarters staff. The seminars helped to build understanding of the whole HR management cycle and its implication for the Red Crescent's effectiveness, transparency and improved accountability. The analysis of job descriptions at all levels was completed in order to align them with a standard approved by the National Society presidium. Besides, the HR rules and procedures were drafted and are expected to be adopted by mid-2010. In July the National Society appointed an HR manager to lead the process of the HR management system improvement. The position has been supported by the organizational development programme and the British Red Cross.

In December the Red Crescent Society developed the staff salary scale aimed at unification of salary calculations irrespective of the source of funding. This will help to avoid misunderstandings between the Red Crescent and the state fiscal authorities and, from the other side, will improve the National Society's credibility among the partners.

Following the assessment two branch development projects targeted Ahal and Mary branches. The projects strengthened staff and volunteer capacities through training sessions on fund-raising, project and volunteer management, and round tables with local authorities.

¹ According to the revised statute "Chairperson of the Presidium of the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan, a highest official of the National Society, shall be elected by the Presidium from among its members for five years."

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

Achievements:

Based on the agreement between the Turkmenistan Red Crescent, the British Red Cross and the Federation regional representation the youth component was funded in a coordinated way: the Federation supported the position of a national youth coordinator, while the British Red Cross supported the activities. Such cooperation helped the National Society to effectively use the limited resources available for youth activities.

Over the year the National Society held events aimed at strengthening the volunteer role and structures. The guidance on volunteer management was updated and a volunteer induction course was introduced in all branches. The Turkmenistan Red Crescent also convened the 15th annual youth assembly and shared the results to date, challenges, lessons learned and perspectives.

In December the Red Crescent youth organized a charity event for children from disadvantaged families with funds raised by youth – from handicrafts sales and fund-raising during public events held by the National Society on major public holidays.

Outcome/Expected result: Red Crescent Law developed and promoted for adoption.

Achievements:

The Red Crescent drafted the law based on consultations with the Ministry of Justice and the parliament, and the documents provided by the International Federation secretariat: a model Red Cross Red Crescent law, and laws of several European National Societies.

The Joint Statutes Commission provided feedback on the draft law to the National Society and these recommendations were incorporated into the draft. The revised law is currently being screened by the group of country ministries' officials. According the plan, the draft law should be submitted to the parliament in the second half of 2010.

Constraints or Challenges:

There has been no specific funding allocated for the youth programme this year. Before the agreement was reached with the British Red Cross only major youth activities had been covered from organizational development funds. However, two applications to the Empress Shoken Fund for support of the National Society youth services were submitted over the year: one aiming at establishing a resource centre for youth, another application covering road safety activities. Unfortunately the applications were not successful.

Part of the funding for the organisational development programme arrived later than scheduled and the National Society delayed some planned activities until later in the year.

Principles and values

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

Achievements:

The programme informed the general public about the Movement's components, its principles, values and commitments through public actions, seminars and round tables for mass media and other partners and exhibitions devoted to calendar dates like the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day, the World TB Day and the 2009 Red Cross Red Crescent global campaign "Our World. Your Move." Another source of information about the National Society and principles and values is the new web-site of the Turkmenistan Red Crescent, which was launched in 2009.

Over the year about 2,400 journalists, representatives from partner organisations like state agencies, universities and the general public attended four round tables for media and partner organisations and visited four exhibitions. More than 120 information materials about the Movement and the Red Crescent Society were aired on TV, radio or published in national and local printed editions and electronic media. Estimates suggest that messages on the principles and values reached about 4,640,000 people. Besides, the National Society distributed the 2009 newsletter and annual report among its branches and partners.

In 2009 the Turkmenistan Red Crescent trained 50 staff and volunteers in principles and values at the headquarters and branch levels through sessions on principles and values within the thematic training of other core programmes.

Outcome/Expected result:

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

Understanding of the necessity to prevent and fight sexual and gender-based violence within communities increased.

Achievements:

Beneficiaries served by the Red Crescent programmes as well as volunteers, mostly from young people, were trained by the National Society information/ principles and values officer through sessions on anti-discrimination, tolerance and respect for diversity during trainings and seminars organized by disaster management, health, youth and other programmes.

To increase awareness of the necessity to fight discrimination, intolerance and violence and to promote respect for diversity training and meetings with rural and remote communities were conducted at the branch level: 30 volunteers were targeted in Akhal region and 40 secondary school teachers in Turkmenbashi city. Moreover, the archive photo-exhibition was shown in all regions of Turkmenistan in 2009.

The National Society involved vulnerable persons into the Red Crescent activities to encourage social inclusion of the group: 25 people with disabilities attended exhibitions and presentations organized by the National Society in the headquarters office and 50 people in a sport school. The Henry Dunant Prize chess tournament was held within the 2009 global campaign for 25 people with disabilities to contribute to their social inclusion and to involve them into the Movement celebrations.

Constraints or Challenges:

Continuous lack of funds remains the main constraint of the principles and values programme. For that reason the planned activities on gender issues were not implemented. The effects of this were partially mitigated by integrating selected activities under other core programmes.

Working in partnership

At country level the National Society works in close cooperation with the government bodies and local authorities. The National Society chairperson is a member of the State Commission on Emergencies under the cabinet. The commission's plan defines the role of the National Society as auxiliary to the government in time of a disaster; in other time the main direction of its work is awareness-raising among the population. In disaster management the National Society also collaborates with the conservation and water management ministry, the internal and defence ministries, and the traffic police. Other key ministerial partners are health, education and justice ministries and their structures at national and local level. Joint actions are based on temporary agreements with relevant government bodies. The key partners of the principles and values programme are the media.

There exists a bilateral partnership between the Turkmenistan Red Crescent Society and the Netherlands Red Cross in the areas of community-based disaster preparedness, mitigation and

branch capacity-building. The partnership allows for expanding the geographic coverage of the programmes and for strengthening the capacity of the Red Crescent. The Turkmenistan Red Crescent also cooperates with the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates in the area of strengthening material resources. The National Society used the received funds for the repair of the central warehouse.

The National Society is an active member of inter-agency meetings conducted in the country to discuss the development of the national programmes on TB and HIV. The Red Crescent maintains relationships with international agencies like Project HOPE, USAID, UNAIDS, UNODC by sharing relevant information on TB and HIV issues. The OSCE is supporting the HIV prevention project in Dashoguz, Turkmenabat, Turkmenbashi and Mary cities on a bilateral basis.

The British Red Cross supports bilaterally the process of the human resource management systems development and youth activities. The ICRC provided legal expertise in support of the Red Crescent Law development.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The monitoring of the programmes is carried out by the National Society staff by means of 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 staff of the National Society is advised on how to improve the quality of monitoring.

The SPHERE standards and the Code of Conduct for Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers in Emergency 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.

The Red Crescent master-facilitators trained in *CBHFA in Action* already started reorienting key players to the new integrated programming approach that is expected to improve community-based health and first aid. A staff selected for a global pool of CBHFA facilitators will be involved further in CBHFA master-facilitators workshops for Russian-speaking countries.

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 follows the principle of diversity in the composition of staff involved.

In 2009, the National Society established a base for further improvements in the development areas like a clear division of governance and management functions and a more transparent system of HR management.

Looking ahead

The National Society of Turkmenistan will continue the close cooperation with the government and further improve the work on incorporation of the community disaster preparedness and response plans into relevant local governmental plans for more effective involvement of local communities in disaster response and decision-making on risk reduction activities. Fire and road safety promotion will be part of risk reduction activities. In capacity-building the Red Crescent Society will seek to satisfy more criteria of a well-prepared National Society. Besides, the National Society will develop improved

understanding of climate change risks among the Red Crescent staff and volunteers with the aim of integrating risk awareness into their programmes and addressing the related humanitarian impact. In order to be able to support affected populations in their recovery process after a disaster the National Society will build understanding among staff and volunteers that emergency relief must be conducted with a thought of the affected community's longer-term benefit and that it should not be prejudicial to the community. This will be done through workshops.

The work on international disaster response law promotion will proceed in cooperation with the UN OCHA office. In particular, the National Society plans to advocate for the examination of legal preparedness for international disaster assistance in front of the government. Also, IDRL promotion issues will be elaborated and incorporated in the new National Society strategic plan 2011-2014.

The new *CBHFA in Action* materials will be applied in community health initiatives and the approach will be promoted for use in other health and non-health programmes.

The staff of the National Society requires additional training in planning, monitoring and reporting to improve the quality of programming and to ensure proper accountability. Logistics skills should also be strengthened. Possibilities of organizing a relevant training in 2010 will be considered by the International Federation secretariat.

The National Society executive director that is supposed to be appointed in the first half of 2010 will require support in the development of leadership skills. The IFRC's leadership development course will be part of the training for the National Society chairperson and executive director. The work on HR management system improvement will continue. As the Red Crescent also seeks to improve financial management it will require support from the IFRC in this area as well.

The Turkmenistan Red Crescent is willing to be included in the Central Asian Red Crescent Labour Migration Network in 2011. The National Society already became part of the IFRC's concept note in response to the European Commission call for proposals 2009-10. The funds to continue and to strengthen the services provided by the network, or to expand it, will also be sought at the regional and national levels among other stakeholders, who have an interest in work with migrants in the region.

How we work	
<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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