

# Annual report



## Uzbekistan

Appeal No. MAAUZ001

30 April 2010

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



Used clothes were allocated to 15 branches of the National Society that further distributed the clothing to people affected disaster and other needy people. Photo: Uzbekistan Red Crescent

## In brief

**Programme purpose:** The Uzbekistan 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:** Since January 2009 all external funding received by the Uzbekistan Red Crescent was supposed to be inspected by the commission of the Ministry of Finance before the National Society could access it. This became the practice for all organizations receiving funding from abroad. However, despite strong efforts made by the National Society leadership, the inspection was never completed and the Red Crescent was unable to utilize the funds channelled through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and other partners. In the first half of the year the Uzbekistan Red Crescent implemented the planned activities to the best of its capacity but many of them had to be cancelled or minimized. As there was no salary support paid all headquarters and part of the branch programme staff left. There were just few activities implemented in the second half of 2009.

In disaster management the National Society built its capacities to respond to emergencies through trainings and exercises in close cooperation with the government emergency structures. The headquarters staff was also part of the regional capacity-building initiatives. Work with communities was limited to raising awareness of disaster risks among schoolchildren in seven regions. In addition, the Red Crescent provided assistance to people affected by mudslides and distributed used clothes among the most vulnerable people.

In health and care the Uzbekistan Red Crescent carried out basic activities on the prevention of tuberculosis and HIV as well as the on community-based health and first aid (CBHFA). By the end of the year the Red Crescent harm reduction centres were transmitted to the regional AIDS centres, that will be in charge of the services. Information on HIV was disseminated among youth and key populations at higher risk. The tuberculosis prevention programme targeted people with TB and multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB), their family members and the general population. The CBHFA programme reached rural populations with health education and first-aid sessions focusing on women of reproductive age.

Under organizational development the activities to improve the National Society human resources management systems were postponed to 2010. The external financial audit was scheduled for the first half of 2010.

Selected activities were implemented within the the promotion of humanitarian principles and values. Although, most of the planned actions tackling anti-discrimination and violence prevention including assistance to migrants were postponed. The planned two centres for migrants were formally set up in Uzbekistan but remained inoperative.

**Financial situation:** The total 2009 budget was CHF 1,220,975 (USD or EUR), of which 41 per cent covered (CHF 506,042). Expenditure overall was 96 per cent versus funding. On agreement with donors part of the funds was used to cover selected regional level expenses of the disaster management, health and care and migration programmes, mostly born in Kazakhstan. A balance of CHF 141,330 is still on the National Society bank account.

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

**No. of people we help:** In total 127,034 people benefited directly from the secretariat-supported programmes with the funds provided by the donors.

Annual report 2009 – Uzbekistan						
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	2,300	58	42	29	3
Health and Care	TB	339 2,175 47,550	39	61		
	HIV	Key populations at higher risk of HIV, youth, general population	25,241	63	37	
	Community-based health and first aid	Women in rural communities	44,429	100		
Organizational Development	National Society staff, members and volunteers*	3,290*				
Principles and Values	State officials, partners and the general public	5,000				
<b>Total number of people reached</b>		<b>127,034</b>				

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

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

The total number of partnerships between the Federation regional representation, the National Society and community-based, national, government-based, international organizations, UN and developmental agencies exceeded 15.

## Context

Since January 2009 all external funding received by the Uzbekistan Red Crescent was subjected to inspection by the commission of the Ministry of Finance. This became the practice for all organizations receiving funding from abroad. Despite strong efforts of the National Society leadership the funds were not released and the Red Crescent had no access to funds channelled through the IFRC and other partners throughout the year. The Uzbekistan Red Crescent implemented the planned activities to the best of its capacity but most of them had to be cancelled. Besides, the programme staff were not receiving the salary support and by the end of 2009 almost all key programme managers left the National Society. In close cooperation with the National Society the Federation regional representation, supported by the Europe zone office and the Geneva secretariat, was looking for solutions and maintaining a dialogue with the government but without success so far.

Also, in 2009 the Uzbekistan government worked on changes to the national strategic programme on HIV prevention. The government has changed its view of the harm reduction component and the way information on HIV prevention is provided to youth. After the changes get officially approved the National Society will have to adapt the format of its HIV prevention programme accordingly and possibly alter the target groups.

## 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:**

In March 2009 the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society participated in the regional UN OCHA Humanitarian Action Training to strengthen the capacity of the humanitarian country team members to lead and coordinate effective humanitarian action. The planned work with OCHA on the country and regional inter-agency disaster preparedness and response plans was not done because all headquarters programme staff left.

In the first quarter some data on the human and material (emergency stocks) resources of the Red Crescent Society were updated for the contingency plan and the Europe zone disaster management database. However, by end of the year the human resources (HR) situation changed drastically and the data should be updated again.

No other planned activities have been carried out due to the problems with funds utilization.

**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:**

Over the year 120 members of the National Society disaster response teams (DRTs) from 6 branches (Karakalpakstan and Bukhara, Samarkand, Surkhandarya, Khorezm and Jizak regions) participated in 6 trainings organized by the regional emergency ministry structures. The railway Red Crescent branch conducted two trainings on needs assessment, first aid and Sphere standards in emergency relief. The branch later supported earthquake simulation exercises; 130 people took part in the exercises. In Karakalpakstan, Bukhara region and Tashkent 460 volunteers of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent took part in 5 field trainings of sanitary brigades and 6 competitions of the medical stations organized by the local ministry emergency structures.

About 610 people, including 40 National Society staff, 100 volunteers (DRT members), about 190 local disaster committee members and 280 members of the sanitary brigades trained by the Red Crescent were involved in the national dam break simulation exercise in Karakalpakstan and Bukhara, Surkhandarya, and Khorezm regions.

Besides, two disaster management staff from the headquarters was trained at the new harmonised regional disaster response team training in Macedonia. In June a DRT member from the Uzbekistan Red Crescent was part of the regional team assisting the Tajikistan Red Crescent operation responding to mudslides and floods.

Following the assessment of the National Society's logistics capacity by an expert from the Federation secretariat's regional logistics unit in Dubai the Red Crescent elaborated a plan of warehouse renovation and logistics capacity-building. The planned assessment of the six Red Crescent stationary radio stations in the regional centres and all required repair was carried out with support from the emergency ministry's specialists.

In 2009 the Uzbekistan Red Crescent assisted about 310 people or 26 families affected by a mudslide in Samarkand region with bedding, shoes and second-hand clothes from the branch emergency stock.

No other planned activities were carried out due to problems with funds utilization.

**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 Uzbekistan Red Crescent participants conducted a detailed analysis of the National Society's disaster management capacity, needs of the disaster management programme, 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 helped to identify the gaps and priority capacity-building needs and elaborate 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 Uzbekistan 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**

No planned activities were carried out due to the problems with funds utilization. Community capacity-building was limited to the participation of 190 local disaster committee members from 11 communities of Karakalpakstan and Bukhara, Surkhandarya, and Khorezm regions in the simulation exercise.

The National Society received 80 tonnes of used clothes and footwear from the Swedish Red Cross. The relief items were distributed among 15 regional Red Crescent branches with consideration to such factors as population numbers, their economic well-being, climate conditions and beneficiary requests recorded during previous distributions.

Beneficiary lists were compiled by the regional branches together with the regional administration and social security departments and included the most vulnerable groups: older people living alone, homeless people, families with many children, low income families, people with disabilities, people affected by fire. In total, 50,400 people received used clothes and footwear from the National Society. About 16 tonnes were stocked in 15 regional Red Crescent branches as a disaster stock.

**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**

The regional branch of Bukhara disseminated 4,500 booklets on disaster preparedness among schoolchildren of five schools of Bukhara town. The National Society also arranged some education sessions and competitions to check the knowledge and skills in first aid and rules of behaviour in case of different types of disasters among previously trained schoolchildren of 48 schools in Tashkent, Karakalpakstan and Bukhara, Samarkand, Jizak, Khorezm and Sukhardarya regions. About 300 schoolchildren participated in the competitions. Besides, the Red Crescent took part in evacuation exercises in 56 schools of the mentioned regions.

The training and competition on first aid and rules of behaviour in Khorezm region covered 360 children.

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

## **Achievements**

No activities under this outcome were carried out due to the problems with funds utilization.

**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:**

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. No other activities under this outcome were carried out at country level due to the problems with funds utilization.

## **Constraints or Challenges**

The National Society was unable to implement most of the planned activities because the financial operations on programme funds were suspended. As no salary support was paid over the year both disaster management officers from the headquarters left the National Society.

## **Health and care**

Most of the reported achievements were made in the first half of the year. In summer the National Society programme staff started leaving and by autumn the activities ceased.

**Outcome/Expected result:** Vulnerability to HIV and its impact reduced through preventing further infection, providing psychosocial support to people living with HIV and reducing stigma and discrimination.

## **Achievements:**

The National Society HIV prevention programme in Fergana and Namangan provinces aimed to decrease the further spread of HIV by raising awareness, promoting safe behaviour among youth and implementing harm reduction activities for injecting drug users (IDUs) and sex workers (SWs). Peer education was provided by 188 educators; youth was reached through the «safe route» information stands. In total, the programme covered 25,241 people; 82 per cent of all covered correctly identified ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV and rejected major misconceptions about HIV transmission.

The six Red Crescent harm reduction points exchanged syringes and distributed condoms provided by the Republican AIDS Centre, disseminated information materials, provided consultations for beneficiaries and referred them for testing. Outreach services were ensured for SWs and IDUs by 33 outreach workers including two people living with HIV. The points served 1,020 IDUs and SWs (300 SWs and 720 IDUs) and the percentage of returned syringes made 75. Besides, 80 people (8 per cent of those covered by harm reduction points) received pre-testing counseling and 54 people post-testing counseling.

Following the command of the authorities, in October 2009 the National Society transmitted the harm reduction points to the relevant regional AIDS centres that will be in charge of the services.

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

## **Achievements**

The TB prevention programme targeted people with TB and MDR-TB in Tashkent, Samarkand and Horezm regions, improving treatment outcomes by encouraging treatment adherence. The activities were mostly carried out in the first half of the year and then ceased because of the problem with access to funds. The National Society visiting nurses provided information about the disease and explained the importance of uninterrupted treatment to sick people, observed

their living conditions and disseminated information, education and communication materials. Food parcels were provided only once from the stock procured the previous year. Thus, 291 clients with TB and 48 clients with MDR-TB were served by the National Society. The default rate among the National Society's beneficiaries did not exceed 3.5 per cent.

Besides, the visiting nurses reached 49,725 people from the general population, among those 72 per cent knew four symptoms of tuberculosis and preventive measures.

**Outcome/Expected result:** Population health improved through disease prevention, promotion of healthy behaviours, trauma reduction and through basic first-aid training.

### **Achievements**

The community-based health and first-aid programme was implemented in Kashkadarya and Andijan regions and focused on rural populations. The majority of the beneficiaries were pregnant women and women of reproductive age. Information and education sessions for beneficiaries included information on prevention of communicable diseases, safe hygiene practices and basic first-aid skills. The National Society targeted 44,429 women and 78 per cent of targeted women knew symptoms of the most common diseases and prevention measures. Besides, 43 per cent of all targeted had basic first-aid skills and knew at least four principles of diarrhoea prevention, while 72 per cent of the targeted mothers knew at least two signs of a disease to refer to a doctor. Follow-up monitoring through primary healthcare facilities showed that 71 per cent of children with diarrhoea aged 0-23 months received abundant fluids and continued feeding during an illness.

In December 2009 three Red Crescent staff took part in the regional *CBHFA in Action* master-facilitators workshop held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

### **Outcomes/Expected results:**

- A centre for the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation is established.
- The number of voluntary non-remunerated donations of blood has increased.

### **Achievements**

There was no funding received for this component and the National Society did not carry out any specific activity in this direction.

### **Constraints or Challenges**

The main constraint for the programme was the situation with funds. Because of that many planned health activities were cancelled. By the end of the year the majority of health programme staff left the National Society.

## **Organizational development**

**Outcome/Expected result:** Effective governance and management structures.

### **Achievements**

Throughout the year the Uzbekistan Red Crescent held presidium (governing board) meetings and discussed issues related to the statute implementation process, human resources management system improvement, finance development and the Red Crescent law. Based on the discussions instructions on attracting beneficiaries into the governing boards and on induction sessions for newly elected governing board members were prepared.

In the first half of 2010 the National Society plans to convene a plenum meeting and in the second – to hold a general assembly where the governing board and president will be elected.

**Outcome/Expected result:** Effective and transparent human resources management systems.

### **Achievements**

Because of the situation with funding the National Society had to postpone all planned in-country activities in human resources (HR) management development. However, the Uzbekistan Red Crescent executive director participated in the annual HR management seminar organized by the Federation secretariat in Geneva in October 2009. The National Society HR manager participated in a HR workshop hosted by Europe zone office.

### **Outcome/Expected result:**

Proper and effective financial management in line with clear procedures, guidelines and leadership commitments.

### **Achievements**

Activities under this outcome were suspended for the whole of 2009. Meanwhile, with support from the Federation regional representation, the National Society contacted PricewaterhouseCoopers and agreed to hold an external audit in the first half of 2010.

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

### **Achievements**

In June 2009 the National Society organized a conference titled "*The existing legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan regarding the National Red Crescent Society in the context of present humanitarian challenges: analysis and suggestions*". The conference was a good opportunity to position the National Society in front of parliament members, ministries and NGOs as an important component of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and as an important domestic actor, auxiliary to the government that is a member of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The IFRC and ICRC assisted the National Society in explaining the auxiliary role by inviting international and national experts to the conference.

**Outcome/Expected result:** Nation-wide volunteer profile and youth services improved through strengthening volunteers' centres and clubs.

### **Achievements**

The 2009 agreement between the Uzbekistan Red Crescent and the Ministry of Education on the establishment of primary organizations within the higher education institutions led to an increased number of young members and volunteers. The volunteer school concept gave a good account of itself not only in figures but in quality as well: around 3,000 young people became volunteers and participated in the induction sessions.

### **Constraints or Challenges:**

Due to the situation with funds utilization most of the activities were postponed for 2010. The National Society is doing its best to cope with the situation but unfortunately many trained staff were forced to leave the organization in 2009. Besides, in 2009 there was no specific funding received for the youth programme and the majority of planned activities were cancelled.

The balance of the Federation funds still kept at the National Society bank account is there for a reason – first, it is important for the Red Crescent to know that partners are there and not withdrawing; second, there should be something for the commission to inspect.

## Principles and values

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

### **Achievements:**

In the first half of the year the Red Crescent seminars and presentations about the mission of the Movement and National Society activities – with a special focus on fundamental principles, humanitarian values, international humanitarian law and blood donation promotion – reached 1,500 students and tutors of 30 higher education institutions. Besides, “Tashkent” radio channel broadcast a programme devoted to the National Society, the history and mission of the Movement on the first Sunday of each month. The Uzbekistan Red Crescent also trained 10 staff to disseminate the Movement’s fundamental principles and humanitarian values through training and meetings. The number of media outlets (printed media, television, radio, Internet-based) supporting the National Society in promotion of the fundamental principles and values at national and branch levels approached 75.

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

### **Achievements:**

In cooperation with the Direct Observation of Treatment (DOT) centres and the Global Fund-supported TB programme, in three branches over 600 people received knowledge of the disease and reported changes in their attitude to people with TB. Tolerance towards people with TB was promoted through TV and radio programmes in many big cities of Uzbekistan – Tashkent, Bukhara, Samarkand, Namangan and Navoi.

### **Outcomes/Expected results:**

- 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:**

Being a part of the Central Asian Red Crescent Labour Migration Network, the Uzbekistan Red Crescent formally set up two centres to serve migrants in Kashkadarya and Surkhandariya regions on the basis of existing branch offices of the National Society. However, the centres have not been staffed or equipped. The Red Crescent established close links with the labour and internal ministries to promote well-organized legal migration among the local population. UNDP expressed willingness to conduct three trainings of trainers on migration for the Red Crescent staff.

In Kashkadariya region the National Society community-based health and first aid programme included intending migrants and their families in their target group and reached them with knowledge on healthy life skills and first aid.

Tolerance, respect for diversity and the need to oppose xenophobia, discrimination and social exclusion were promoted at local and regional levels through public campaigns, publications in mass media and meetings with partners.

### **Constraints or Challenges:**

The main constraint for the programme was the situation with funds that the National Society was unable to access. Because of that most planned activities under the humanitarian values programme were not carried out.

## Working in partnership

In the field of disaster management the Uzbekistan Red Crescent collaborated with non-governmental organizations like "Makhallya" fund and the national youth movement "Kamolot". Close cooperation with the emergency ministry provided an opportunity for the National Society to examine and repair the radio stations in the branches. The Red Crescent Society enjoys a bilateral partnership with the Netherlands Red Cross in community-based disaster preparedness.

The key partners of the principles and values programme were the media. Also, the agreement between the Red Crescent and the education ministry made the dissemination of humanitarian principles and values among youth easier.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

The monitoring of the programmes was carried out by the National Society staff by means of regular communication with the staff and volunteers working on the programme sites.

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 were at all times promoted in disaster management awareness materials. In disaster response, the distribution of assistance was made on the basis of impartiality.

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.

The progress and constraints of the migration programme were discussed at working meetings at the regional level. Best practices were promoted among colleagues from the Central Asian National Societies to allow learning from experience.

In the long run, the conference on the Red Crescent law will serve as a platform for further discussions with the government and the national parliament and opens broader opportunities for the National Society to promote its auxiliary role and to convince the government to distinguish the society from other public organizations in the country.

The finance development initiative to audit the National Society funds will contribute to improved accountability and effectiveness, and build managerial skills of the staff.

## Looking ahead

As soon as the funds are released the organizational development programme plans will be revisited. It will concentrate on induction training for new staff to be recruited to substitute those who left in 2009. New disaster management staff of the National Society will require induction trainings in disaster management, disaster response, community-based disaster preparedness, recovery and in programme management including logistics, monitoring and reporting. As for the migration action supported by the EU, the National Society and the Federation regional representation will set the priorities and focus on selected activities that can realistically be completed by the end of the migration action timeframe.

Meanwhile, the Federation regional representation will remain supportive and encourage other partners to keep the spirit high and be there for the Uzbekistan Red Crescent when the situation with the funds changes.

## 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.

## Contact information

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