

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

CENTRAL ASIA

31 July, 2001

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.62/2001

Appeal Target: CHF 6,797,517

Programme Update No. 01; Period covered: January - June 2001

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 59%

Related Appeals: 17/01; Kazakhstan: Floods

Outstanding needs: CHF 2,774,792

Summary: Despite a successful first six months of the year, including planned activities in the core areas being implemented, disasters responded to, national society development promoted and increased co-ordination between all partners, funding shortfalls have affected the programme. In particular, there has been a lack of funds for development (short-term and long-term) in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, long-term commitments to the regional health programme, and delays in funding for the population movement programme. Contributions to these areas in particular are needed to effectively continue the initiatives already undertaken.

Operational Developments:

The Federation's regional delegation for Central Asia is providing integrated support to the five National Societies in the areas of disaster response, health, disaster preparedness, population movement and organisational development. National Societies have responded to local disasters including floods and severe winter conditions, and have established pilot projects at community level in disaster preparedness, community health and for migrants and refugees. New directions of work in areas such as advocacy, the promotion of humanitarian values and increased scope of youth involvement in HIV/AIDS activity is being explored and tested.

The delegation has been working on the implementation of priorities identified through a regional institutional and resource development review, carried out in summer 2000. Despite some funding shortfalls that slow down the progress of some development activities, notably in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan a number of significant results are being seen already with pilot, branch- level vulnerability studies underway, National Society strategic plans developed and growing youth and volunteering involvement in the National Societies. A follow-up to the review will be carried out in August/September 2001 to check on progress, priorities and next steps for the coming two years.

Although more efforts need to be invested to achieve proper co-ordination between programmes and partners, the overall process to improve co-ordination and support the development of the five CANS to be able to run effective and relevant programmes is well underway. A comprehensive strategy which has the support,

involvement and commitment of Central Asia National Societies (CANS), PNS, ICRC and the regional delegation is being developed according to the schedule.

Disaster Response

Regional Disaster Response Programme

The delegation has supported national society's response to local disasters. The Red Crescent and Red Cross Society of Kazakhstan is carrying out a two-month relief operation to assist the population affected by severe winter conditions in the northern and eastern territories, through reparation of houses and development of micro assistance schemes to individual households. The programme is being implemented with the financial assistance of United State Agency for International Development (USAID), and will be completed in July.

The regional relief programme has been highly active in rendering supplementary assistance to the population living in extreme poverty caused by economic changes in the region. This has been achieved through a range of projects including the public canteens, as well as distribution of food parcels, second hand clothes and shoes. Targeted groups include the elderly, multi-children families and returnees, being considered as the most vulnerable in the society. During the winter relief operation in Akmola and Karaganda regions of Kazakhstan, some 24,000 families received food parcels over a period of four months. A total of 237 tonnes of wheat flour, 120 tonnes of rice and 57,000 litres of vegetable oil were distributed during this operation. In addition, the Swedish Red Cross delivered its annual donation of 500 tonnes of used clothing, which was distributed to all five CANS, and partly used to replenish regional disaster preparedness stocks. The Korean Red Cross Society allocated 40 tonnes of youth clothing to Red Cross and Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan and Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan. These relief activities responding to chronic poverty are being revised with National Societies to develop a longer-term strategy which incorporates some welfare assistance to most vulnerable people but links this with wider strategies including other organisation activities to address chronic vulnerability. Local vulnerability studies form part of this process and methods are currently being tested in three National Societies at branch level.

The delegation has undertaken preparations and contacts with other organisations to prepare for an assessment of the drought situation affecting Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) members, delegation and national society personnel will undertake assessment and planning process to identify an appropriate Red Cross/Red Crescent response to this problem.

Objectives 1 - 5: to assist and monitor the CANS in running effective relief activities, reporting on them and improving their knowledge and skills of the Federation's relief procedures.

Regional delegation provides daily technical support to National Societies on all aspects of relief programme management, and carries out regular visits to operational sites to monitor their implementation. In order to achieve timely and consistent reporting, the deadlines and formats are negotiated through specific project agreements, and updates on donor requirements provided on a regular basis. Specific relief operations, such as the one in Kazakhstan, are being used to improve the knowledge and skills of national society staff and volunteers about relief activities, through training on distribution practices, disaster preparedness and logistics. In addition, Red Crescent branches also received training in finance, reporting and introduction to the concept of vulnerability in the region.

Objective 6: to develop National Societies' capacities to identify the level of vulnerability among the communities.

With support from the Finnish Red Cross, a capacity building element was incorporated into the winter programme for returnees and migrants, carried out in two oblasts in Kazakhstan - Karaganda and Akmola. Measures taken included support to youth, information and profile raising activities. In addition, training in survey and participatory methods to assess vulnerability was provided to staff, volunteers and specially recruited staff for a survey which is being carried out in June/July. The findings of the assessment will be used as a basis for discussion on branch capacity with other organizations, in order to identify appropriate longer-term roles for the Red Crescent and Red Cross Society of Kazakhstan (RC/RCK).

Objective 7: to increase the image of the National Societies through humanitarian actions.

Through mobilization of the local media vis-a-vis Red Cross and Red Crescent relief programmes, efforts are being made to increase the image of the CANS in the region, strengthen co-operation with local authorities and other humanitarian organizations, and generate funds on the local level to sustain the relief operations.

Considerable success in local fund-raising efforts was achieved during the floods response operation in East Kazakhstan, and with the charity canteen in the Batken oblast in Kyrgyzstan.

Objective 8: to provide region-wise co-ordination of relief activities in order to have an adequate distribution of humanitarian assistance allocated to Central Asian region.

Implementation of this objective is hampered by country-specific earmarked donor support.

Objectives 9 - 12: to improve logistical capacity of the CANS, provide support and promote communication and use of good policy in all aspects of logistics.

Following the logistics assessment of the five CANS, carried out in August-September 2000, a 3-year logistics development plan was developed, aiming at increasing the sustainability of national society logistical capacities. Exchange of Federation and national society staff has taken place in order to share knowledge and experiences in the region. In view of the identified need for training in logistics and material support, the regional delegation compiled a logistics compendium on the Federation's logistics system. The compendium was used in training seminars and distributed to all CANS. In addition, a logistics seminar for the CANS took place in Dushanbe in January 2001, and was followed by a number of workshops in Kazakhstan, conducted by the RC/RCK logistics manager. Regional and Tajikistan delegation's logistics departments also organized a comprehensive training for the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan, on topics such as warehousing, fleet management and other aspects of logistics.

In addition to the development-oriented activities, the Federation's regional logistics department provides day-to-day support to a variety of regional programmes, including a major drought-emergency operation in Tajikistan, and oversees fleet deployment throughout the region.

Regional Population Movement Programme (PM)

Due to a late donor response to the regional PM programme, and in view of the lessons learnt from last year's projects, the objectives presented in the Appeal 2001 have been revised. The Central Asian National Societies accepted the strategic direction adopted at the PM Conference in Tbilisi, Georgia. The priorities identified in Tbilisi include improving the identification of most vulnerable groups among the displaced, legal protection of the displaced, psycho-social rehabilitation and integration, community-based approach to PM programmes, as well as public awareness and capacity building through training of national society staff and volunteers. In a regional workshop the National Societies confirmed their support for these directions. Advocacy and other initiatives which build tolerance and supportive environment for minority groups including migrants and refugees are being developed. IOM, UNHCR, ICRC participated in this workshop which also looked at inter-agency co-operation and complementarity.

PM Programme of the Red Crescent and Red Cross Society of Kazakhstan

The four objectives of the Appeal 2001-2002 included assistance in improving the social and economic stability and health status of unstable population, as well as promotion of self-reliance projects for migrants and strengthening of Red Crescent and Red Cross capacities to address those issues. In order to achieve some of these goals, the National Society trained around 200 people in its three existing training centres. The participants, mainly women, obtained certificates in cooking, bakery, sewing, Russian language and hairdressing. The skills gained will enable them to compete for employment on the local market, and will contribute to a higher level of self-reliance of women. The local authorities and the national society regional committees are helping the graduates in their job search.

PM Programme of the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan

The Appeal 2001-2002 objectives aimed at providing psychological support to refugees coming from conflict areas, assisting women and children refugees, as well as strengthening the relevant national society capacities. The efforts to achieve these goals resulted in the following projects:

- A social rehabilitation centre for refugee women and children was created by the Refugee Women Association. The national society PM department provided support by giving the computer course, organizing an art circle, sewing and embroidery activities of the centre. The necessary equipment was purchased by the National Society and handed over to the association. After completing the training in sewing, the project will be directed towards income generating for the association's self reliance, through sale exhibitions and similar activities.
- The National Society set up a refugee school for Afghan children, with musical instruments, text books, stationary, and other school material for 75 children. The aim is to maintain children's knowledge of and contact with their culture of origin. Following the completion of the project, and monitoring carried out by

the national society PM co-ordinator, a three-month extension of the music component was recommended and will be continued.

PM Programme of the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan

The objectives of the programme were oriented towards provision of health assistance to migrants in co-operation with UNHCR, facilitation of access to education for children of forced migrants, and continuation of training of Red Crescent staff and volunteers. The National Society reviewed the PM programme implementation in the year 2000 and decided to continue providing assistance to the refugees living with difficult access to health facilities, social rights and to labour market as well as local integration. The national society PM and health departments conducted two in a series of training seminars for refugee women aimed at improving the health situation in refugee households. These seminars were held in Namangan and Syrdarya oblasts in May and June respectively.

PM Programme of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan

The main objectives of the PM programme in Tajikistan were to assist the returnees with supplementary food, food security, improvement of general living conditions, as well as community-based income generating activities. The RCST PM department started organizing series of public awareness seminars on issues related to population movements, such as public awareness, increasing the tolerance level of the local community and advocacy for protection of the refugees. The first seminar was held in May 2001 in the south of the country. The local authorities, local national society branch staff and the community leaders were invited as participants in the seminar. Six more workshops will be held in different districts in the south of Tajikistan, where most of the returnees and refugees are living.

PM Programme of the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan

The Appeal objectives included improvement of health and hygiene conditions through public education, improvement of nutritional status of refugees, as well as development of the national society capacity in delivering effective services to the displaced. A sub-agreement on partnership with UNHCR in providing financial and medical assistance to refugees in 2001 was signed in Ashgabat in February. The national society successfully implemented the seeds and tools project in Mary and Lebap regions, where the government allocated plots of land to 280 Afghan and Tajik refugee families. The families were assisted with vegetable seeds, fertilizers and agricultural tools. Local agronomy experts were hired to follow-up on the programme and provide consultative support to beneficiaries.

Public health education campaign was organized for 1,000 children in rural schools of Akhal, Mary and Lebap regions, involving both local and refugee children. The beneficiaries received basic school material and hygiene sets. Each school received a 100 litre water boiler for drinking water. As part of the regular state health initiative in schools, trained nurses educate children on personal hygiene, preventive health and water and sanitation. Pamphlets on prevention of infectious diseases, tuberculosis and pediculosis were distributed in schools.

Disaster Preparedness (DP)

Objective 1: to strengthen the DP personnel and administrative capacities of the five national societies at the oblast and rayon levels.

The programme continued to support the core DP staff in four National Societies, and to provide office and vehicle support. However, each national society has been encouraged to mobilize their own resources and look for local partnerships to support its staff and volunteers in the future. Most of the branch DP officers are attending computer training. In Turkmenistan, two DP officers have been recruited and trained for the Akhal and Lebap oblast offices. A further two officers will be recruited as of July 1st for Mary and Balkan.

Objective 2: to assist Central Asian National Societies in developing clear policies and operational guidelines in their DP and response programmes.

The Red Crescent and Red Cross of Kazakhstan was the only national society included in a country-specific DP plan within the region. However, close co-operation exists between the CANS and respective Ministries of Emergencies and civil defence departments on organization of disaster response in each country. The developed regional DP training manuals form the base for national society operational actions, despite the fact that clear guidelines and operational procedures are not yet in place.

Objective 3: to improve the DP skills and knowledge of national society staff and volunteers.

The main focus of DP training has been put on regional and district level. Since the beginning of the year, the following workshops/meetings were conducted in the region:

| Country | Level | # of work-shops | Comments |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Kazakhstan | Rayon | 17 | Flood preparedness and response, youth involvement, emergency shelter. Totally, 308 people were trained. |
| | Zonal | 4 | Disaster management, volunteer training and DP priorities according to the Federation strategy 2010. |
| | Sessions | 4 | First Aid and emergency shelter in Akmola region, and earthquake preparedness in Almaty. |
| | Total: | 25 | |
| Kyrgyzstan | Republican | 1 | Needs Assessment, reporting, disaster response, work with mass media, the Sphere project |
| | DP Policy planning meeting | 2 | Self-sustainability, fund-raising. |
| | Oblast level | 3 | Red Cross and Emergency committee's disaster response plans, co-ordination, roles of Red Cross, instructors training. |
| | Rayon | 24 | Ibid. |
| | Total: | 30 | |
| Turkmenistan | Republican level | 2 | DP policy planning for all oblast and rayon Red Cross chairpersons. |
| | Oblast | 5 | |
| | Rayon | 13 | Disaster preparedness at community level |
| | CBDP Pilot project training | 2 | In Akhal oblast and Balkan oblasts. |
| | Training for volunteers | 2 | DP and first aid for Red Cross volunteers |
| | Training for Rescue team | 1 | The programme on ecological protection was developed jointly with Red Cross Youth movement |
| | Total: | 25 | |
| Uzbekistan | Oblast | 2 | |
| | Rayon | 21 | |
| | total | 23 | |
| | Grand total: | 103 | |

Objective 4: to increase public awareness of disasters and the need to prepare for them.

The Red Crescent and Red Cross Kazakhstan distributed nine types of DP video films in 10 branches and participated in the field exercise "Spring 2001" which was conducted by the Agency for Emergency. 500 DP calendars were developed and issued in January under the financial support from Exxon Mobil and technical support of Ecology Agency in Kazakhstan. The national society is continuing its work on the development of its web site, as well as of the information system project. The dissemination of DP brochures on earthquakes is being distributed among population through different organizations and national society volunteers. In Uzbekistan, National Society conducted a radio programme on DP including a radio quiz for children. In Turkmenistan, the National Society's "Public safety" campaign continues to be implemented by DP officers who have been forming community led DP committees so as to instruct local residents of what to do at times of disaster. Practice drills have taken place at schools and institutions, and housing representatives have been selected to disseminate information and set up an bulletin board where the programme booklets can be displayed.

Objective 5: to reduce the vulnerability of selected communities by enhancing their coping measures through DP pilot projects.

In Uzbekistan, a brochure containing the recommendations of the first CBDP pilot project was issued, aiming at providing guidance for community leaders on how to carry out DP activities. The brochure was used to start two new CBDP programmes in Andizhan region. In Turkmenistan, the agreement was achieved with the local authorities of 5 districts on initiating CBDP programme in their respective districts in the coming months. The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan initiated a pilot project near Bishkek, in the area selected based on the

high level of poverty of the population. A group was established to disseminate the knowledge on rules of conduct during disasters and measures to be taken to prevent them.

Objective 6: to improve the disaster response capacities of national societies in central Asia, especially at the oblast level.

The National Societies were provided with a variety of specific training, as well as a range of in-kind donations, which were all used to increase their capacity to respond to localized disasters. For more details, refer to the *Disaster Response* chapter of the report.

Objective 7: To integrate related national society programme initiatives, particularly first aid, in the region.

The DP officers meeting, held in June 2001, stressed the importance of integration of organizational and resource development, health/first aid and volunteer activities. A variety of workshops was organized throughout the region, integrating those and other fields of activities, as indicated in the above table. Various first aid printed material is being published by national society DP departments and distributed nationally.

Objective 8: to encourage the National Societies to cooperate with each other and with other involved agencies in regional DP programmes.

The five CANS DP officers and their assistants attended a regional DP meeting which took place in Almaty in June 2001. The issue of cross-border co-operation and future exchange visits between the CANS were discussed. Other organizations, such as ADRA in Kyrgyzstan, expressed willingness to work with the national society on disaster preparedness and response. UNHCR is supporting the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan on a mobile tent camp and they intend to hand over the overall management of the programme to the national society.

Humanitarian Values

Objective 1: to promote the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values and help National Societies in Central Asia to build relations with local authorities and international organizations.

The regional delegation prepared a set of promotional material for the National Societies' public relations activities, including the Russian translation of the video 'Strategy 2010'. The same material is offered to other National Societies of the CIS countries. At a fifth regional information workshop, held in June in Almaty, ways of profiling the National Societies in the region were discussed. The recent image survey conducted in all five countries indicated a generally high level of public awareness of the Red Crescent and Red Cross activities. Most of the information appears to be disseminated through the media and national society publications.

The CANS information departments focus their efforts on regional development and two-way information flow between the national society headquarters and branches, through regular workshops for branch staff and volunteers.

Objective 2: to profile the National Societies' activities in core areas of disaster preparedness, response and health promotion.

The regional information department is highly active in raising the visibility of CANS' relief, preparedness and health activities. They include the drought operation in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the flood response operation in eastern Kazakhstan, TB activities throughout the region, advocacy for refugee children in Turkmenistan, the national measles campaign in Kyrgyzstan, as well as the progress of the community-based disaster preparedness in the region. To achieve this, local media is mobilized, the national society and Federation web sites are used, and direct communication with the local authorities initiated by the national society.

Objective 3: to improve local fund-raising capacities of National Societies.

Information officers of all five CANS are actively involved in national society fund-raising campaigns, through the preparation of public events and campaigns. As a result of similar efforts in Turkmenistan, the British Embassy in Ashgabat supported the publication of leaflets on health prevention. In Kazakhstan, a video on flood response operation in Ust-Kamenogorsk was produced for fund-raising purposes.

Health and Care

Objective 1: To implement a prevention programme in 20 to 30 percent of DOTS implemented districts by the end of 2001.

In Kazakhstan, the programme started in December 2000 in Ust Kamonagorst, eastern Kazakhstan. Ten community TB visiting nurses were recruited and trained, and they are currently following up on 87 TB patients through home visits. In addition, the nurses distribute hygiene parcels to patients, and are involved in TB awareness raising awareness in patients' households and in the local community. The second project in Kyzylorda (Aral Sea region) is under preparation and is likely to start in August. In Kyrgyzstan, the programme started in October 2000 in Karabalta and the capital Bishkek. Eight visiting nurses, trained jointly by the national society and specialists from the Ministry of Health, have been working on patient supervision, dissemination of the health information in patients' households and schools. The second project in Jalalabad is expected to start in August. In Uzbekistan, the programme is being implemented in the Khorezm oblast (Aral Sea region) with 10 community nurses who are working in collaboration with Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF). The nurses support the work of 19 DOTS corners and supervise patients in the continuation phase of treatment. The national society is preparing to start the second pilot project, possibly in Samarkand. Finally, in Turkmenistan, the project in Dashoguz started in February 2001 with 6 nurses, also in co-operation with MSF. Preparatory work is underway for a similar project in Turkmenbashi. Tajikistan has not yet officially adopted DOTS treatment, which is a necessary precondition for the Red Cross and Red Crescent involvement in the programme. Discussions with the Ministry of Health and WHO are underway, and it is likely that pilot projects will start in September - October 2001.

Objective 2: to improve patient compliance to DOTS treatment for an estimated 25 percent in the covered areas.

At this stage, it is too early to measure the exact impact of patient compliance to DOTS treatment. Monitoring reports, however, indicate an important role the Red Cross and Red Crescent is playing in these overall efforts. The visiting nurses make home visits to patients who are unable to come to DOTS corners to take medicines, and are also helping to trace the patients who discontinued their treatment. Hygiene parcels are being distributed on a monthly basis to patients under supervision in all above-mentioned projects.

Objectives 3 - 4: to increase the level of awareness of tuberculosis among the population, and to advocate support to the implementation of WHO-recommended DOTS strategy.

The TB awareness raising campaign is being carried out through production of printed and video material, including pamphlets, posters, books for children, video clips for television broadcasting, etc. The material is distributed by visiting nurses. As part of advocacy efforts, the regional delegation organized a seminar on TB, which was attended by all programme co-ordinators, Ministries of Health, and representatives of various international agencies, such as WHO, Project Hope, MSF, CDC and others. A book on clinical tuberculosis was produced and distributed to physicians in TB dispensaries and polyclinics throughout the region. A range of initiatives with the local medical institutions has been undertaken to further stress this important issue and CANS involvement in it.

Apart from the TB prevention programme, the regional health department has been involved in a range of other activities, equally important for the National Societies in the region. In February, a pilot project on women's health has been initiated in Semipalatinsk, east Kazakhstan. The newly established women's centre organizes regular sessions on pregnancy, with help of the RC/RC Kazakhstan who prepared the draft training manual for midwives. In Kyrgyzstan, the National Society is preparing to take part in facilitating the national measles campaign through public health education. The project is supported by the American Red Cross.

Organisational Development

The Federation is running a number of activities at the regional as well as national level to follow up and support the CANS development processes. Two regional level workshops for NS development officers and senior managers have provided a forum for experience exchange and training in branch development, fund-raising, planning and vulnerability assessment as a basis for programme planning. A regional bulletin, *Central Asian National Society Development*, support visits and production of materials for training, support and development have been produced and distributed. Support to youth and volunteering initiatives has been highlighted with the first regional meeting for youth officers held in 2001 for more than four years. Targeted assistance to each National Society is provided by the delegation as outlined below.

Institutional and Resource Development of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan

Objective 1: to assist the National Society in fulfilling the conditions for its admission to the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

The National Society is currently finalizing its new Statutes, in co-operation with the regional branches. The Statutes will be presented at the forthcoming national congress in October. In June, the International Federation's Secretary General expressed the organization's formal commitment to supporting the National Society in their humanitarian activities, independently from the issue of recognition.

Objective 2: to assist the national society in responding to local vulnerabilities, focusing on the core areas specified in the *Strategy 2010*.

In May, the first workshop was organized for seven Red Crescent branches and the headquarters, in order to carry out an assessment of the local vulnerability and elaborate development plans for each branch. Following the second workshop, scheduled for July, the national society three-year strategic plan will be finalized in August.

In April, a pilot exercise on vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) was carried out in two branches in the south. Preliminary results show that more efforts need to be made to strengthen the practical applicability of the knowledge gained on the VCA training for designing future programmes.

Objectives 3 - 5 and 7: to strengthen the national society's operational and programme management capacity, its public image and fund-raising capacity, especially on the branch level.

In order to improve the national society's capacity on the regional level, series of training workshops were organized for the national society staff from 11 branches, covering the topics such as narrative and financial reporting, programme planning, national society image raising on the branch level, change of national society statutes, etc.

The regional development and population movement departments are currently developing a PM project in six branches, which includes a component of branch development, advocacy issues and volunteering. The branches presented their projects using the VCA training received, with a higher focus on vulnerability, advocacy, public awareness, ways to combat xenophobia and promotion of volunteering among the refugees.

Some difficulties are being encountered in the implementation of the national society visibility campaign, in view of the unresolved emblem issue. Nevertheless, the national society and the regional delegation are using all opportunities to mobilize the local media, as elaborated within the *Humanitarian Values* chapter of the report.

Objective 6: to promote different forms of volunteering and support for youth activities.

Since the beginning of the year, the National Society has continued to support 11 youth centres with 250 members, who implement a variety of activities involving children, young adults and migrants. Three national society branches organized campaigns in co-operation with other NGOs to promote the volunteering concept and attract new volunteers. In addition, the regional delegation produced a booklet on volunteering and distributed it to all five CANS and a number of NGOs.

ID/RD of the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan

Objective 1: to be responsive to local vulnerability, focusing on the four core areas as defined in the Federation's Strategy 2010.

Following two workshops on VCA, organized for national society staff in Bishkek and Osh, a pilot assessment project has been initiated in three branches in the south of the country. At the same time, a PM project started in five branches, encompassing a branch development component, advocacy and volunteering.

Objectives 2, 4 and 5: to strengthen the national society programme management, financial viability and public image.

During the reporting period, the national society branches received training in narrative and financial reporting and project design. Efforts are being made to assist the national society in developing a new financial system and a fund-raising plan, however without major improvement to this date. As part of the image raising campaign, a number of concerts and other public events were organized to promote the national society activities and profile, as reported under the *Humanitarian Values* chapter of the report.

Objective 3: to promote the International Year of Volunteers in 2001 and support youth activities.

A range of activities were organized to promote the International Year of volunteers, including two workshops in Osh and Bishkek, a national meeting on recruitment and motivation of volunteers and links between the youth and other programmes of the National Society. The youth leaders participated in the assessment and planning workshops, together with the chairpersons and financial managers of national society branches. It has

been agreed to focus youth activities on addressing the needs of children and young people, especially refugees, with focus on HIV/AIDS and drugs problems. The national societies approved a new volunteering policy and a code of conduct for volunteers.

ID/RD of the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan

Objectives 1, 2 and 4: to develop the national society structure and programme management capacity, as well as the operational capacity of regional branches.

Each branch chairperson has an annual operational and financial plan as outlined in the national society annual work plan. Branches have been supported by the Federation and UNHCR with repair work and office equipment in Lebap, Mary, Balkan, and Akhal and by the American Red Cross in Dashoguz. A number of rayon offices have been highlighted for support as a part of the planned expansion of national society activities.

A series of development workshops have generated a list of action points which are now reviewed on a quarterly basis. These workshops are organized by the national societies themselves - the next to be held is in mid-July as a follow up on the activities from the second quarter of the year. A VCA is currently being undertaken in an attempt to ensure that the national societies projects are addressing the problems of the most vulnerable.

Objective 3: to improve the national societies financial situation and reduce reliance on external donors.

A number of small income generating projects have been initiated this year. However, most of them are waiting for the newly updated NS statutes to be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers. The new statutes will include the necessary clauses that will allow the Society to operate profit making activities without having to undergo the time consuming process of having to apply for a licence for each separate activity.

Objective 5: to support membership and volunteer recruitment initiatives.

In response to the low numbers of volunteers, the national society DP co-ordinator mobilized a basic core of four to five senior national society members in each region to be recruited as trainers of trainers for their fellow volunteers. One workshop on DP has already taken place. The volunteers may be used to support the preventive health programme in the future, should it become more community focused. A volunteers rights charter has been outlined by the head of the youth department, and will be presented for adoption at the next presidium. The National Society has introduced an innovative approach to volunteering by concentrating some special attention on creating groups of elderly or retired volunteers who have skills, experience and time to offer.

ID/RD of the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan

Objective 1: to further strengthen the National Society's programme management, with special focus on financial management.

The National Society developed a new organigram, directed to improve the existing managerial system of the RCSU and provide clearer job descriptions to its staff. The three-year strategic plan of the RCSU has been developed, with the overall aim to provide quality service to beneficiaries and strengthen the financial independence of the National Society. The plan was developed in co-operation with the Red Crescent branches and includes the core fields of their planned activities. The RCSU finance department elaborated a financial development plan, which includes organization of training for national society accountants, and improving the existing financial computer systems. A special manual on finance management was elaborated and is prepared for printing.

Objective 2: to evaluate the existing financial situation of RCSU and explore ways of diversifying income-generation to meet shortfalls in priority activity and core costs.

The National Society implements a range of income-generating projects, including the agricultural project in the Ferhana region, a bakery in Shirin, a computer centre in Namangan, a hotel of the training centre and a printing house. All projects are progressing well towards returning the initial loans and becoming self-sustainable.

Objective 3: to provide assistance in the general management and governance and assist the national society in designing plans and developing systems in the area of volunteer recruitment and retention.

Special sessions for chairpersons and staff of regional branches were organised during field trips and meetings. The sessions were devoted to discuss possible improvements of the existing structure of branches,

strengthening managerial skills of their senior staff, clarifying job descriptions, as well as recruitment and retention of volunteers.

Objective 4: to assist branch development in an integrated manner by linking income generation components and the service and managerial activities at the branch level.

Several RCSU-Federation field visits were made to selected regional branches of Syrdarya and Tashkent. On these occasions, SWOT analyses and assessment of work of regional and district branches was made, and a number important issues discussed, such as development of human resources, financial sustainability, increasing the profile and image of the Red Crescent, providing quality services to the beneficiaries. Analyses reveal that major efforts need to be invested to further improve the staff knowledge on planning, reporting and budgeting.

Objective 5: to maintain high profile of Federation and the RCSU.

RCSU has noticeably increased public awareness of its activities and profile, through its humanitarian assistance programmes, volunteering and youth initiatives. Publishing of a bimonthly information bulletin, regular radio and TV programmes and press conferences, as well as production and distribution of a variety of dissemination material, further contribute to achieving this objective.

Objective 7: to consolidate and expand the youth activities of the RCSU.

The youth movement of the RCSU is steadily growing, as a number of youth centres and clubs have been open throughout the country. Youth co-ordinators are continuing to work on recruiting new volunteers, involving them in daily activities and training schemes. Youth circles have been established in several universities and schools. They organize fund raising events, participate in relief and environmental programmes, first aid training, etc. The guidelines for youth centres and clubs were produced and distributed among the branches.

Regional Cooperation

Objective 1: to enable close co-operation between the senior management of CANS, Federation, donor National Societies and ICRC in the areas of strategic planning, support for regional initiatives and information exchange.

A timetable for the year 2001 was agreed to include six monthly meetings for CANS Presidents with the Federation delegation and ICRC. The first of these was held in Bishkek in April where CANS presented their priorities for co-operation with ICRC and the Federation over the next 3 years. These statements, along with the national societies own strategic plans form the basis for discussions and the development of a Regional Assistance Strategy for the next three years.

The regional delegation undertook a full survey of local donors, including meetings with international organizations such as Asian Development Bank, Eurasia Foundation, Soros Foundation, USAID, Swiss Development Co-operation as well as embassies and local funds. Some funds will be accessible to national societies with delegation support in presentation of appropriate proposals. However, the general level of funding available locally to Federation supported programmes is very low.

Objective 2: to enhance the skills and understanding of senior programme managers at National Societies of the Federation accountability and reporting requirements.

Following the regional workshop for senior staff of the five CANS, held in 2000, series of country level refresher and practical training seminars were carried out since the beginning of this year on programme planning and narrative and financial reporting. Building this capacity will help national societies have better information for programme and organizational management, as well as to be able to provide the information and reports at the standards required by the Federation and external donors.

Objective 3: to enhance the management and leadership skills of National Societies' senior management, through training conducted jointly with ICRC.

The development of leadership and management skills remains a priority for the CANS. The regional delegation is developing an approach to leadership enhancement, using the Federation broader learning practices and adapting it to the Central Asian context. It is likely that a formal training will be organized in 2002, provided that sufficient financial support is secured.

Objectives 4 and 5: to promote recruitment of delegates from CANS and Federation delegations' staff, and to enhance their skills and experience through regional exchange programmes.

The final interviews of current regional applicants for delegate positions were held in early 2001. Since then, three persons attended the Basic Training Course in the UK, Sweden and the Netherlands. A fourth one will follow a regionally organised course in Bangladesh in July 2001. The first delegate from this process is currently in Delhi working with the relief operation following the Gujarat earthquake. In addition, Almaty delegation has looked into creating links with Caucasus and Russia delegations to provide opportunities for national society and delegation staff to work in other sub-regions. Heads of delegation in both areas have agreed the idea. This will be further developed later in the year.

Objective 6: to improve donor support for regional and national society programmes and to co-ordinate the efforts of donor National Societies in their assistance to the region.

A Central Asia partnership meeting is scheduled for 11-14 October 2001 in Khiva, Uzbekistan. The meeting will aim to finalize the regional strategy for assistance and mechanisms to co-ordinate partnership within the region. As part of the development of the regional assistance strategy PNS have been contacted to identify their interest areas, duration of anticipated support for the region and input on how to establish better mechanisms for more efficient co-ordination of partners in the region. This process will be finalized at the partnership meeting.

Coordination and Management

Objective 1: to promote co-ordination between the Red Cross/Red Crescent partners involved in the region.

A participatory planning process is underway involving all CANS, delegations, ICRC and partner-National Societies. The process aims to establish a regional assistance strategy on the basis of national society strategic plans which are being developed in each country for the next three years. To this date, the activities involved a meeting of CANS Presidents, held in April in Almaty, aiming to take note of national society priorities for assistance and co-operation in the next three years. Furthermore, PNS were requested to provide input on regional vulnerabilities, as well as their priorities and interest areas for co-operation. The strategy will be finalized at the Khiva partnership meeting in October.

Ongoing efforts to provide co-ordination assistance to partners have continued, with facilitation of the British, Swedish, German, American and Canadian (with CIDA) Red Cross societies visits to the region. Inter-regional links have also been promoted with the regional programme co-ordinator facilitating a workshop for regional delegation planning in Delhi.

Objectives 2,3, 6 and 7: to provide a managerial, financial and administrative support to all delegates and national society programmes in the region, and to build and maintain an institutional knowledge of the region and the CANS.

The regional delegation has continued to provide advisory, technical and administrative support to the region. It has supported delegates working on bilateral projects (Spanish Red Cross) and those on the Aral Sea delegated project working in Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.

The delegation maintains up-to-date information on areas relevant to the work of the Red Cross/Red Crescent through monitoring of the media, close contact and active participation in working and inter-agency groups of NGOs, international organizations, and through links with embassies and government departments. An example of this work is the active Federation and National Society involvement in the UN working group drawing up contingency plans in the case of instability in south Kyrgyzstan.

Objective 4: to work with the local community and international media in order to promote the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its humanitarian values, and to explore local funding opportunities.

Links with the international and local media have been maintained. In particular a major inter-agency event to launch the World Disasters Report in June 2001 was used to highlight the role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in disaster management. The delegation maintains information on the situation in the region in relevant areas of work for the Red Cross/Red Crescent. Close links are maintained with the embassies, governments, international and local organisations

Outstanding needs

The region has seen a successful first six months of the year with major activities in the core areas underway, disasters responded to, national society development promoted and increased co-ordination between all

partners. This is despite shortfalls in some budgets. In particular, the lack of funds for development (short-term and long-term), with special needs in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, long-term commitments to the regional health programme and delays in funding for the population movement programme have made implementation of the plans of the National Societies and Federation at times delayed. Contributions to these areas in particular are sought so this work can continue efficiently.

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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