

Appeal 2004



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central Asia

Appeal no. 01.84/2004

The International Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. The Federation is the world's largest humanitarian organization, and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. All international assistance to support vulnerable communities seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, according to the SPHERE Project.

This document reflects a range of programmes and activities to be implemented in 2004, and the related funding requirements. For further information concerning programmes or operations in this or other countries or regions, please also access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Below: click on programme title to go to relevant text and figure to go to programme budget

Programme title	2004 in CHF
Strengthening national societies	
Health and care	1,432,257
Disaster management	1,200,000
Humanitarian values	153,005
Organisational development	539,135
Coordination & implementation	827,713
Total	4,152,109¹

¹ USD 3.17 million or EUR 2.67 million.

Regional Context



Central Asia consists of five countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. All five, with a combined population of more than 50 million people, continue to struggle against the effects of economic crisis after the break up of the Soviet Union. Despite global improvement in GDP, large sections of population still suffer from widespread poverty, an overall decline in living standards and poor access to quality health and education.

Health indicators show increased rates of tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS, infant and maternal mortality and reoccurrence of infectious disease. General awareness on health issues remains low. HIV/AIDS is spreading,

particularly among high-risk groups in Kazakhstan, such as intravenous drug users. Lack of access to potable water and poor sanitation worsens general health, particularly in the Aral Sea region.

Wars and armed conflict – in Tajikistan, Chechnya and Afghanistan – have caused high population movement in the region. This has been compounded by the return from other countries – mainly the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) – of labour migrants. Because of inadequate migration legislation in the region, host countries often do not address vulnerabilities of populations on the move. Illegal people trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation are growing problems. The poor economic situation and low population awareness on the issue mean the situation is set to worsen.

The region is highly exposed to natural disaster. Every year Central Asia Red Crescent societies respond to major emergencies. For instance, the Red Crescent has recently responded, among other things, to a(n):

- earthquake in Kazakhstan (see <http://www.ifrc.org/where/europe.asp>)
- flood in Tajikistan (see http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts03/tajikflood03a1.pdf)
- outbreak of tuberculosis in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan (see <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/01/040301/>)
- drought in Uzbekistan (see <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/02/02102302/>)

The Red Crescent Societies in Central Asia work on the ground with and for communities to: reduce their vulnerability to disaster (including health problems), tackle discrimination and advocate on behalf of marginalised people and on the issues that most affect them. The national societies are uniquely placed to do this as they are in touch with community needs because of their nationwide grassroots network relying on volunteer and local participation.

Over the years, national societies have increased their ability to: prepare for and respond to disasters; strengthen community coping mechanisms; provide health education; and raise awareness of risk to reduce community vulnerability. Being community-based, Red Crescent societies are always among the first to respond to emergency needs as well as being a constant presence involved in longer-term development. The Federation's regional role will be to continue this organisational development particularly through knowledge sharing as well as advocacy and representation on issues relevant to marginalised communities.

	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan
Total population, millions (2000)	16.2	4.9	4.7	24.9
Population living below poverty line (1996-1999)	62%	82%	N/A	88%
Adults living with HIV/AIDS (2001)	<0.07%	<0.10%	<0.10%	<0.10%

People living with TB per 100,000	154	137	93	63
% of population using improved water sources (2000)	91%	77%	N/A	85%
GDP per capita, USD	5,871	2,711	3,956	2,411
Life expectancy at birth, years (2000)	64.6	67.8	66.2	89.0
Infant mortality rate (2000)	60/1,000	53/1,000	52/1,000	51/1,000

Red Cross and Red Crescent Priorities

Regional Strategy:

Along the line of the secretariat's Change Strategy and the Europe Implementation Plan, the role of the Almaty regional delegation is to better focus its support on national society capacity building and to provide a coherent strategic approach in the support to the Red Crescents.

A regional assistance strategy (RAS) 2002-2004 was a first attempt to determine the framework within which assistance to Central Asian Red Crescents should be coordinated. National societies have made it clear that they see it as outdated. While the RAS outlines national societies' priorities (which are in line with the Federation's Strategy 2010), it also needs to establish a specific cooperation framework and reflect partner national societies' plans for support in the region. The strategy needs to become a more comprehensive and inclusive cooperation agreement strategy (CAS). The regional delegation will lead this process throughout 2004. The aim continues to be, as last year, to put national society strategies and programmes at the centre of a region-wide planning process, including all partners and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Programme support will continue to be offered to national societies working in a coordinated way, either directly through the Federation regional delegation or those choosing to work through other models of cooperation.

Health: Two of the region's major health concerns are: first, the prevention of tuberculosis (TB) via the World Health Organisation-recommended directly observed treatment short course (DOTS); and, second prevention of HIV/AIDS, which is escalating in the region.

The regional approach to HIV/AIDS will concentrate on health education and awareness among youth, drug addicts and commercial sex workers in addition to better care for people living with HIV/AIDS. Based on experience of visiting nurses caring for TB patients, Red Crescent societies plan to improve the care of people living with HIV/AIDS in their own communities.

First aid is another vital plank of the regional health strategy and a Central Asia first aid focus group coordinates approaches. The group, comprising coordinators from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, will develop common guidelines and standardise training. Health promotion is a vital part of efforts to rebuild institutional and operational capacity. All Central Asian national societies are adopting a regional approach to first aid. This will include: use of a common training module; improving standards via a training of trainers refresher course; and development of a regional first aid manual. Red Crescent societies, possessing their comparative advantage of being community-based organisations with nationwide reach, have the potential to play a major role in this low-cost, highly effective activity to reduce community vulnerability. First aid training includes prevention of infectious disease, such as diarrhoea, respiratory infections, TB and HIV/AIDS. The regional approach to first aid is flexible enough to support the differing contexts that each national society faces.

Coordination and representation: In terms of the role of Red Crescent societies as auxiliaries to governments – apart from the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan – the national societies will continue to seek legislative recognition by their governments. During 2004, the Almaty delegation will assist national society leaderships in

developing relations and raising the Red Crescent's profile with their respective Governments. This will be done through communication with Governments directly and through diplomatic communities.

Disaster management: The vulnerability to an array of disasters has consequently built up much experience of emergencies among Central Asian national societies. However, there is a need for a stronger regional initiative to disaster management that streamlines approaches and shares knowledge among national societies.

This regional effort will support development of national society disaster preparedness plans based on up-to-date mapping of community vulnerability (and potential). The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan will focus on improving its management process. The Red Crescents in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan have placed more emphasis on mitigation activities. The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan will use its network of sanitary teams to improve awareness of first aid and disaster preparedness.

In line with Strategy 2010 and commitments at the statutory conference of European and Central Asian national societies in Berlin in 2002, the Red Crescents will continue to support people on the move, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, especially in border areas. Population movement programmes have been underfunded for years yet the need in this area is acute. National societies will continue to work with other organisations, such as the International Organisation for Migration and the United Nations' refugee agency (UNHCR), to assist such people.

Humanitarian values: A regional approach to the promotion of a culture of tolerance and humanitarian values in general will continue to tackle discrimination and intolerance in communities. Support from the Almaty delegation is based on the programme priorities identified by the Red Crescent Societies for 2004-2006. Focus in the coming year will be on: promoting humanitarian values and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Fundamental Principles, including humanity and impartiality; and actions against discrimination, violence and intolerance in the communities.

Activities to promote and disseminate humanitarian values and the Fundamental Principles will be integrated with other programmes where appropriate. The work will be coordinated with ICRC. Actions against discrimination and intolerance will be carried out locally and nationally through awareness campaigns or specific country level activities.

Organisational development: All national societies have identified a revision of current organisational structures and statutes as a priority. The process of division of governance and management started in 2002. This is expected to be finalised in their next congresses (see organisational development section). Effective and transparent financial management is a prerequisite for fundraising and good management practices and regional support will be offered in this area. In Kazakhstan, the Red Crescent will revise statutes and structure so that it moves closer to recognition from the International Federation. It will also improve fundraising and continue branch development. In Kyrgyzstan, the national society will work on the separation of governance and management. The Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan will focus on branch development and volunteering, while in Uzbekistan a stronger financial base and fundraising will be the focus.

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Context:

A Regional Assistance Strategy (RAS) was developed in 2001 to provide a Central Asia roadmap that channels Red Cross Red Crescent support squarely behind national society priorities. This partnership framework has provided better coordination of the engagement of several Movement partners. Many of these partners have worked through the Federation, such as:

- British Red Cross in TB and HIV/AIDS in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan and disaster management in Turkmenistan;
- Canadian Red Cross in disaster management and an orthopaedic centre in Tajikistan;
- Swedish Red Cross in organisational development, youth in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, health and small-scale activities in Tajikistan and regional capacity building in organisational development and disaster preparedness;
- Republic of Korea Red Cross in youth in Kazakhstan and organisational development in Uzbekistan;
- Finnish Red Cross in youth in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan and population movement and relief in Tajikistan;
- Norwegian Red Cross in health, organisational development, disaster management in Tajikistan, regional health and disaster preparedness;

- Austrian Red Cross in health in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan; and
- Japanese Red Cross in health in Kazakhstan.

Other partner national societies provide support bilaterally, such as:

- American Red Cross in the Aral Sea, TB, mother and child care in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan;
- Netherlands Red Cross in branch development, health prevention, first aid and social welfare through volunteers in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan;
- German Red Cross in medical aid in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and relief in Tajikistan;
- Spanish Red Cross in organisational development in Kazakhstan, TB in Kyrgyzstan and first aid in Uzbekistan; and
- British Red Cross in youth and branch development in Turkmenistan.

The ICRC supports national societies in dissemination of humanitarian values and international law, tracing service, and conflict preparedness.

A Strategic Direction 2+2 plan shapes the long-term vision of the Federation's regional delegation and its structure. This, in turn, is in line with the secretariat's Europe department plan. The linked hierarchy of planning will act as a roadmap to coordinate effective support to Central Asian national societies as they address vulnerability in their priority areas. Both the Strategic Direction 2+2 plan and the Europe plan acknowledge that secretariat support has to provide a framework of assistance but at the same time be flexible enough to be relevant to each of the region's national societies.

The Strategic Direction 2+2 is based on discussions with national societies and falls behind their strategic directions for the next five years. The role of the regional delegation, the support required and the way the regional delegation will be engaged in strengthening the national societies are all plugged into these priorities. Long term, the regional delegation envisions a flexible support structure that facilitates and enables the national societies to: independently implement their activities; coordinate their different partners; and efficiently use available resources.

A coherent working approach towards all five national societies entails integrating different programmes with a common focus on community-based activities. This approach will hold both the delegation and national societies accountable for their efforts to fulfil the Red Cross Red Crescent's mandate of helping the most vulnerable.

The Red Crescents can use their comparative advantage of being nationwide and community-based to best know and consequently address the most pressing needs at the grassroots level. Encouraging more local ownership of projects will increase community ownership and the likelihood of local funding. Regional engagement in these processes can add momentum, via international representation of vulnerable people and the issues that affect them as well as knowledge sharing between the region's national societies, and those globally.

Feeding into this ability to profile humanitarian work locally, regionally and beyond is work to build a communication strategy – supported by national society leaderships – that will involve the Red Crescents more in advocacy and representation focusing on government and other forums of influence.

Volunteers are the 'bridge' for the Red Crescents into communities across the region and as such a regional effort will continue to work towards better and more coherent management of these key human resources. The aim is to develop existing volunteers and recruit and retain new ones, particularly young people. This will be achieved if volunteers feel that they are a valued part of their organisations and have an input on decision making.

Strengthening the National Society

1. Health and Care <[Click here to return to title page](#)>

Background and Achievements

In recent years significant progress has been made in Central Asian health care systems. Health authorities are working to gradually shift their focus from curative to preventive. The economic success of oil and energy rich countries – Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan – is contributing to better health care structures. However,

widespread poverty and limited prospects of economic growth continue to affect both people's health and the functioning of the health care system. Access to quality health care – and safe drinking water – is a major challenge. In addition, there is poor awareness of basic hygiene and disease prevention, generally. The following health indicators demonstrate the obvious need for increased community based health education and improved quality of antenatal care:

- Under five mortality of 99, 72 and 76 deaths per 1,000 live births in Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan respectively (UNICEF 2003);
- Maternal mortality rates of 59 per 100,000 live births in Uzbekistan, 78 in Kazakhstan and 63 in Turkmenistan (WHO 2001);

The Centre for Disease Control estimates that the implementation of DOTS saved some 13,000 lives in Kazakhstan. The tuberculosis mortality rate there dropped 12.4 per cent in 2002 (a 29.9 per cent decline in total). Uzbekistan is implementing DOTS in five pilot areas in response to an increase in TB notification rates from 55/100,000 in 1997 to 72/100,000 in 2001. The number of TB cases in Turkmenistan is estimated at 4,002 (WHO), with the TB mortality rate increasing from 10.3 per 100,000 in 1997 to 14 in 2001. Despite the poor health situation in the country, the willingness of the government to address the issue via health care reform shows promise. DOTS became the basis for tuberculosis detection and treatment in Kyrgyzstan in 1998. As a result, the TB mortality rate has decreased. However, the TB incidence rate increased 40 per cent. (USAID 2003)

Though countries are strengthening their DOTS programmes, there is a growing concern about rising multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB and more instances of HIV/AIDS co-infection. The national TB programme in Kazakhstan has been treating MDR patients since 2000 in pilot areas with second line drugs. This DOTS Plus programme is currently in 12 pilot areas with some 1,300 MDR patients.

Compared with other regions, the HIV/AIDS epidemic is not widespread. Transmission is concentrated mostly among injecting drug users – at least 64 per cent of all HIV cases. However, there are signs that the virus is spreading. As of January 2003, in Kazakhstan 41 children were born to HIV positive mothers (UNICEF). In Uzbekistan, eight HIV positive pregnant women have given birth.

HIV/AIDS in Central Asia

Indicator	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan
Number of adults living with HIV/AIDS	6,000	500	200	<100	740
Estimated HIV adult prevalence (%)	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1

Source: UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO epidemiological fact sheet 2002

All national societies are committed to maintain their long tradition of support in health care. The focus, though, will shift from service provision to prevention. The Federation delegation and bilateral national societies will support this move via a regional health strategy. This prioritises public health education, home care and social support to identified target groups. National societies have also agreed on a common approach to TB and HIV/AIDS, utilising their comparative strength at the community level. Their countrywide network of staff and volunteers will work with and for those in need in a way beyond other organisations. Community first aid training through volunteers is another important focus. This low cost, high coverage approach will be implemented in cooperation with state organisations, local NGOs and international organisations so that the communities most in need receive assistance.

Four of the Central Asian national societies – the Red Crescent Societies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan – are members of the European Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies' Network on HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases (ERNA), which was founded in 1998. The Central Asia societies work hand in hand with this network and benefit from this continental-wide sharing of expertise and experience.

The same four national societies are also engaged – at various stages – with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. (See <http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/>) They are members of the related country coordination mechanism and through this they work to secure more support for HIV/AIDS programming. There are plans for a new TB initiative in Kyrgyzstan, and greater efforts on HIV/AIDS in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan in partnership from the Global Fund. Uzbekistan has submitted an application to the Fund so that it can improve its efforts to address health vulnerability.

TB Prevention: Tuberculosis treatment according to the WHO-recommended DOTS takes on average from six to eight months (two months intensive phase/hospital care and four to six months continuation phase/outpatient care). In total, 15 pilot Red Crescent programmes provide: direct observation of patients in the continuation phase (on average 1,300 patients a year); and psychological and social support by visiting nurses to encourage them to complete treatment. Adding other incentives to the DOTS therapy, such as daily meals, hygiene items and psychological / legal support, is a proven way to increase motivation for treatment. People with low income, the homeless, alcoholics and former prisoners in particular benefit from these incentives. Red Crescent projects provide home care and social support to 45 per cent of all TB patients treated under DOTS. Visiting nurses have a proven track record in TB prevention and care. They provide counselling and psychological support, along with the direct observation and encouragement of treatment as well as the early detection of new cases.

The programme has had the following impact:

- a drop in the number of defaulters from 20 per cent to 4 per cent at projects in Kazakhstan 2001-2003;
- completion of treatment in 65 per cent of cases under Red Crescent supervision;
- an average weight increase of 1.5-2.0kg per patient over three to four months of feeding, as observed in a soup kitchen in Bishkek;
- increased knowledge of TB prevention among population, confirmed by tests before and after awareness raising sessions.

HIV/AIDS Prevention: HIV/AIDS activities – particularly awareness raising – will remain a national society priority throughout Central Asia. The Red Crescents will continue to: produce public health education material on HIV; facilitate youth peer education; distribute condoms, organise seminars with different partners; run various events, such as concerts, discotheques, drawing competitions and marching; and organise tests of schoolchildren on HIV/AIDS knowledge.

The majority of HIV cases in Central Asia are related to injecting drug use and unsafe sex. In 2003 the national societies of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan focused HIV/AIDS prevention activities on injecting drug users and commercial sex workers. As well as promoting prevention, visiting nurses in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan will draw on their experience with TB patients and work to provide more welcoming community environments for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, and low awareness of risks and ways of transmission contribute to further spread of the illness. All TB and HIV/AIDS prevention programmes will include activities to tackle stigma and discrimination.

The Red Crescents will continue to address issues related to stigma and discrimination, as part of the Federation global anti-stigma campaign. They will work with people living with HIV/AIDS/TB and others – including families and neighbours – on these issues. In one pilot project, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will work with 20 people living with HIV/AIDS in Sughd region.

First Aid: The Red Crescents, with their comparative advantage of being a community based organisation with nationwide reach, have the potential to play a major role in this low-cost, wide coverage activity to reduce community vulnerability. First aid training includes prevention of infectious disease, such as diarrhoea, respiratory infections, TB and HIV/AIDS. The Red Crescents' role complements other national and local efforts.

A regional first aid focus group coordinates approaches in Central Asia. The group, comprising coordinators from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, will develop common guidelines and standardise training. Health promotion is a vital part of efforts to rebuild institutional and operational capacity. All Central Asian national societies are adopting a

regional approach to first aid. This will include: use of a common training module; improving standards via a training of trainers refresher course; and development of a regional first aid manual.

First aid teams will be set up in coordination with disaster management initiatives so that volunteers and communities are better prepared for health emergencies/ disease outbreaks and other disasters.

Strategic role: The Almaty regional delegation continues to assist national societies to better define their respective roles in national health care strategies. In addition, the delegation is advocating for Red Crescent health priorities to be recognised at country level. As such, agreements with ministries of health will be reviewed to formalise the mandate of Red Crescent societies in health promotion and community-based first aid.

The delegation in Almaty will continue to build capacity in planning, reporting, and other technical areas via knowledge sharing and exchange visits.

Overall Goal:

The general health of targeted populations in Central Asia is improved.

Objective:

Major community health problems of targeted populations are reduced through increased national society capacity to implement focused, relevant and effective programmes in health promotion (including HIV/AIDS, first aid and TB).

Expected results:

1. By the end of 2004, a total of 1,500 TB patients have been supported by national societies in 14 sites through the monitoring of DOTS treatment and social support of TB patients and the raising of awareness among 20,000 people.
2. By the end of 2004, targeted populations at risk have improved their knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention, transmission and reduction through the active involvement of national societies in HIV/AIDS awareness, psychological support and home care.
3. By the end of 2004, 50,000 Red Crescent volunteers and community members, via health education and first aid training, have improved their knowledge of communicable disease prevention, and ability to cope with accidents, injuries and disasters.
4. By the end of 2004, the role of Central Asian national societies has been clarified with the respective Ministry of Health resulting in agreements that will enable main community health problems to be better addressed.

2. Disaster Management [<Click here to return to title page>](#)

Background and Achievements

Central Asia is highly exposed to natural and manmade disasters. Over the years, the Red Crescent societies have responded to an array of emergencies, including: floods and earthquake in Kazakhstan; drought in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan; and a landslide in Kyrgyzstan in April 2003, which killed 38 people and left 1,500 homeless. (For reports on disaster response in Central Asia, click here: <http://www.ifrc.org/where/europe.asp>)

At the heart of Red Crescent disaster response is the imperative to meet urgent needs – including water, food and shelter – quickly and preserve human dignity as best as possible. Crisis response is part of an overall disaster management strategy that also incorporates mitigation and preparedness. This integrated approach aims to increase local capacities, of both communities and Red Crescent branches, to better prepare for and respond to emergencies. Interventions are often low cost but with a high return, concentrating on raising risk awareness as well as community coping mechanisms.

National society disaster management activities have had an impact region-wide:

- Mitigation projects have contributed to lower vulnerability and reduced risk of disasters in project areas. The impact has been recognised by communities and authorities. The main lesson learned was the need for stricter selection of local partners.

- Community-based disaster preparedness activities have expanded. They include provision for communities and local authorities to take over projects once they are finalised.
- Volunteer recruitment and mobilisation is now based on a formal registration system, which enables better use of resources.
- An Early Warning System (EWS) has been established as a result of the Uzbekistan drought operation enabling the tracking of long-term impact of slow onset disasters and the identification of vulnerabilities and possible future interventions.
(See: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?01/2701f.pdf)
- Practical disaster management training has resulted in national societies organising their own teams based on the regional disaster response team (RDRT) concept. Two RDRT trainings in the region prepared for the formation of a regional disaster management team, consisting of specialists in health, logistics, relief and information to be deployed in times of major emergencies.
- The cooperation between national society programmes has been strengthened, integrating initiatives within each Red Crescent as well as strengthening partnerships with government ministries and international organisations. Coordination and harmonisation with ICRC is planned in the area of 'conflict resolution'.

The disaster management strategy in all five national societies for the coming four years will build on previous planning with a focus on:

- National society disaster preparedness and response support in case of emergency;
- Community-based disaster preparedness and mitigation; and
- Support, integration and harmonisation of disaster management activities with relevant actors internally and externally.

The activities of the Central Asian national societies will focus more on a disaster management approach and include elements of disaster preparedness for response, response support, community-based disaster preparedness and mitigation.

Disaster preparedness will remain a core activity within disaster management, focusing on creating effectively functioning country response teams and a consequent sustainable regional response structure. Efforts will be made to improve national and branch-level preparedness and response plans (contingencies), including standard operating procedures. There also needs to be improvements in logistics planning. This will lead to: the setting up of relief stockpiles; the establishment of distribution and procurement plans; better in-kind donations management; improved fleet and equipment maintenance programmes; and strengthened knowledge of customs regulations. In the event of a large-scale disaster, support in regard of financial and material resources will be a priority.

Community-based disaster preparedness and mitigation activities will comprise awareness and education to reduce disaster risks. These will include promotion of early warning systems, community risk mapping activities and small-scale mitigation activities. Mitigation will be integrated into other branch activities and may include: earthquake mitigation; tree planting to reduce devastation from landslides or sand storms; and riverbank re-enforcement to limit the effects of flooding.

The above strategy is supported by existing formal agreements between the Red Crescent societies and Ministries of Emergencies in the respective countries. These clarify the mandate of the national societies in disaster management. The agreements, in some instances, may need amendment to reflect recent developments in disaster management, such as regional response team deployments.

Overall Goal

The risk of vulnerable communities to disaster in Central Asia is reduced

Programme Objective

Central Asian Red Crescent societies have increased their capacity to strengthen high risk communities to prepare for and respond to disasters through: improved planning; increased community participation in disaster mitigation projects; increased volunteer recruitment; organisational development; and improved partnerships with governments and humanitarian actors.

Expected Results

- By the end of 2004, Red Crescent capacity to respond to disasters in a timely and focused manner has improved through: increased disaster management skills; development of sustainable protocols; and an improved technical and material base. This will be achieved through training personnel and volunteers (ie regional disaster response team) and ensuring development of national society disaster preparedness plans and the provision of technical support.
- By the end of 2004, communities in selected high-risk areas are better prepared for disaster through increased awareness and community education via participation in community based disaster preparedness programmes and public information campaigns.
- By the end of 2004, the Red Crescents have developed structural and non-structural mitigation and prevention activities at community level to protect high-risk communities from the impact and damage caused by seasonal small-scale disasters.
- Vulnerable populations, particularly displaced people, have access to effective support to build their coping mechanisms.

3. Humanitarian values [<Click here to return to title page>](#)

Background and achievements:

Federation support in Central Asia is based on the programme priorities identified by the Red Crescent Societies for 2004-2006. Federation planning – falling under the umbrella of the secretariat's Europe department plan and the regional delegation's Strategic Direction 2+2 (2003-2006) – acts as a roadmap to coordinate effective support to national society efforts to promote humanitarian values and reduce discrimination. Focus in the coming year will be on:

- Promoting humanitarian values and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Fundamental Principles, including humanity and impartiality
- Actions against discrimination, violence and intolerance in the communities

Activities to promote and disseminate humanitarian values and the Fundamental Principles will be integrated with other programmes where appropriate. The work will be coordinated with ICRC. Actions against discrimination and intolerance will be carried out locally and nationally through awareness campaigns or specific country level activities.

Promoting principles and values internally

Central Asian national societies will train new staff and volunteers, concentrating on youth at branch level, in the philosophies that underpin the Red Crescent's humanitarian work. This training will be based on Federation materials, such as the 'From Principles to Action' and 'Seven Steps to Seven Principles' modules. These materials have been translated into Russian. The Federation and ICRC will provide technical support. The intention is to ensure that Red Crescent volunteers and staff know and act according to the Fundamental Principles. The national societies selected branch youth centres as the most relevant sites and interactive peer education as the most pertinent approach to train youth. Young Red Crescent leaders will have training of trainers sessions so that they are more effective in disseminating humanitarian messages.

Development of national society public relations capacity

Central Asian Red Crescent information officers will continue coaching their branch colleagues in essential skills and knowledge in public relations. The Red Crescent Societies of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan have started training in a number of branches, which has already proved its worth and resulted in increased media interest and coverage of Red Crescent activities.

The national societies will continue to use websites, publications and information campaigns integrated into the core programmes of health, disaster management and organisational development to promote issues relevant to vulnerable people. These efforts have improved the visibility of the Red Crescent's humanitarian work.

Regular publications and direct mail campaigns of information kits, on such issues as human dignity protection, have helped put humanitarian issues on to the agenda of the media as well as in other forums. Activities in 2004 will concentrate on further improvement of Red Crescent capacity to promote humanitarian principles and values. Respective Central Asian governments, the public and other international organisations will be the target audiences.

Reduction of HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination in communities

Central Asian Red Crescent societies are uniquely placed to tackle intolerance in communities. Their branch networks are the only nationwide, community based and indigenous humanitarian organisations working with those most in need.

Based on Red Crescent awareness of the most pressing needs and national society experience and expertise, the humanitarian values programme in Central Asia is trying to introduce international experience on reduction of stigma related to HIV/AIDS. This initiative is part of the Federation Global Action to reduce Discrimination and Violence in the Community, which engaged in the region in September 2002 and focuses on people living with AIDS, TB patients, ethnic minorities and repatriates.

Activities to tackle intolerance towards populations on the move will be integrated with health and disaster management programmes. Provision of social support in the TB programme, health education and first aid in border areas as well as efforts to increase coping mechanisms to respond to disasters will be part of the effort. Specifically in Kazakhstan, the Red Crescent Society plans to address intolerance towards repatriates. These activities will continue efforts to influence community behaviour for the better.

Participation in national and regional forums such as Drug Policy, HIV/AIDS and the Public Health Crisis in Central Asia (August 2003), TB Conference (Kyrgyzstan, December 2002) provided an opportunity to approach various government leaders and experts on HIV/AIDS and TB related issues. National societies will also aim to improve their use of local and national media to target opinion makers, religious leaders, authorities and communities with Red Crescent messages on health education and community tolerance of diversity.

Overall goal:

The Central Asian Red Crescent Societies are able to fulfil their mandate to alleviate suffering of the most vulnerable.

Objective:

Central Asian Red Crescent societies have strengthened their capacities in public relations to: obtain a better understanding of humanitarian values; have an impact on community behaviour; and voice the needs of the most vulnerable groups.

Expected Results

1. By the end of 2004, around 5,000 volunteers and newly recruited staff in 233 Red Crescent branch committees in four countries have completed the Federation's introduction course on humanitarian values, "Seven Steps to Seven Principles".
2. By the end of 2004, national societies have improved cooperation with local NGOs and other partners through: training in public relations and communications for selected branch staff; consequent development of branch communication plans based on national society priorities; updating external contacts databases; and establishing regular dialogue.
3. By the end of 2004, Central Asia national societies have improved their visibility through publications, web sites and regular media coverage of Red Crescent activities.
4. By the end of 2004, Central Asia national societies have, through an integrated approach with all core programmes: developed new ways to address stigma related to HIV/AIDS and TB; and promoted respect to cultural and social diversity in communities living with ethnic minorities and repatriates. In terms of collaboration, national societies have extended the number of NGOs supportive to Red Crescent initiatives.

4. Organisational Development [<Click here to return to title page>](#)

Background and Achievements

Red Crescent societies of Central Asia intend to be more sustainable and effective in responding to the needs of vulnerable people. To achieve this goal they need to be owned and governed by the members who in turn represent communities. Full transparency is a prerequisite for public trust. The priorities for 2004 (expected results) are a continuation of those for 2003, which in turn are based on the regional assistance strategy (RAS) and organisational development (OD) Document of 2001. The recently developed Regional Delegation Strategy 2+2, drawing on the past two years' experience and achievements, aims to make those priorities happen.

Work to adopt new statutes and structure with a clear division between governance and management will last some years. By the end of 2003, fundamental change in financial management at headquarters level had been achieved. Intensive work during the past year has equipped national societies with skills to help them in their own fundraising work. The strength of the will of each national society to work for better self-funding will be the major factor determining success. A pilot phase of branch development, based on the branches' own initiatives and with fundraising incorporated, will be evaluated and continued. In the course of 2003 it became obvious that well related programmes support each other, e.g. revision of statutes and structure makes work with members and communities important and interesting in a way resulting also in a focus on youth and volunteers. Disaster preparedness mitigation projects have proved excellent capacity building initiatives as such, and can be enhanced by tailored organisational development programmes. It is aimed to achieve this integration through branch development programmes.

Governance and management

Practical work surveys were conducted in the headquarters of some interested national societies in 2003 and will be run in those big branches that are interested in 2004. These surveys form the factual basis for developing both general and human resource management.

The opportunity to work a couple of months in the regional delegation will be offered to all national societies' organisational development officers with a view to enhance knowledge sharing and team building opportunities in the region.

The national societies, with Federation support, prepared action plans to revise current statutes and structure. The national societies' main worries are about the quality and willingness of people to volunteer for governing bodies.

The timetable below relating to the revision process has been agreed with each Red Crescent society.

National society	Adoption of new statutes in general assembly	Elections in oblast and rayon levels	Elections in national level, establishment of new bodies in General Assembly
Kazakhstan RCS	March 2006	Apr. 2006 – Feb. 2007	March 2007
Kyrgyzstan RCS	March 2005	?	December 2006
Tajikistan RCS	Nov 2005	Nov. 2005 – Aug. 2006	July-Aug. 2006
Turkmenistan RCS	March 2005	March 2005 -	Nov. 2006
Uzbekistan RCS	Nov. 2004	Dec 2004 – June 2005	Nov. 2005

Financial management

The adoption of the new software for contemporary accounting was implemented in the Tajikistan Red Crescent 2002, where also the first external audit was carried out. This experience was used for a similar project in the headquarters of all other national societies in 2003. The new system will be extended to branches step by step. It will improve overall management and achieve better transparency.

Fundraising: The regional fundraising resource person from the Uzbekistan Red Crescent, working on a voluntary basis, has developed plans in conjunction with all the national societies. New fundraising manuals were printed in Russian. 2004 will be crucial for establishing determined local fundraising.

Branch development: The small grants programme to support branch development projects initiated in 2002 continued in 2003. Within this programme 15 grants of USD1 500 were made available with preconditions that branches make their own 15 per cent input of the total budget and no salary support included. This programme has

increased branches' own initiatives and practically trained them in narrative and financial reporting. There is a need for more profound and continuous branch development with a focus on developing work within communities, volunteers and members. Cooperation with disaster management and health programmes offers good opportunities for integrated work, which presently is limited because of separate thinking and funding among the core programmes.

Youth and Volunteers: Youth activities in all national societies have been established and are proving to be sustainable. The strongest activity has been in preventing HIV/AIDS but also in the field of disaster preparedness and social work. Within the on going revision of statutes and structure, the role and importance of young people is growing.

Logistics training: The logistics forms from the "Logistics Standards" CD-ROM have been translated into Russian, accepted and are being used by all five national societies' logistics departments. A logistics trainer has provided on-the-spot coaching for the relevant staff. Experience sharing through exchange visits of Turkmenistan logistics to Dushanbe delegation has been organised.

For better results the Federation logistics manuals should be translated and distributed among national societies of Central Asia and Federation logistics procedures employed. The Humanitarian Logistics Software, designed by Fritz Institute, should be installed and used by national society logistics departments.

Overall Goal:

The Central Asian national societies become well-functioning national societies, which are relevant, efficient and effective in providing services to the vulnerable people in their countries.

Programme objective:

Central Asia national societies' capacities to deliver services to vulnerable people are strengthened through an organisational change process and capacity building efforts.

Expected results

1. By the end of 2004, the financial sustainability of Central Asia Red Crescent Societies is enhanced through adoption of financial development plans, and developing and applying fundraising skills within programmes at local level.
2. By the end of 2005, Central Asia Red Crescent Societies have shifted to a new structure with clear division of governance and management functions, which ensures effective management of programmes and branches.
3. By the end of 2004, capacities of Central Asia Red Crescent Societies branches are improved by: enhancing practical vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) skills; enforcing work with communities, especially volunteers, members and young people; and developing up to date financial management practices (in targeted branches only).
4. By the end of 2005, Central Asia Red Crescent Societies youth structures are defined and functioning.
5. By the end of 2004, efficiency, effectiveness and economy in logistics procedures within the national society's logistics has been achieved through training for relevant staff.

5. Coordination, Cooperation, and Strategic Partnerships [<Click here to return to title page>](#)

As outlined in last year's appeal, the regional assistance strategy (RAS) 2002-2004 was a first attempt to determine the framework within which assistance to Central Asian Red Crescents should be coordinated. Moreover, it has become outdated. During the partnership meeting of 2002, it was clear that national societies did not see a great value in the existing RAS. It outlines national societies' priorities, but it also needs to establish a specific cooperation framework and reflect partner national societies strategies for support in the region. The RAS needs to be re-modelled into a more comprehensive and inclusive cooperation agreement strategy (CAS). The regional delegation will lead this process throughout 2004. The aim continues to be, as last year, to put national society strategies and programmes at the centre of a region-wide planning process, including all partners and the ICRC.

The first step in updating the RAS has been the development of a four-year plan for the Federation's regional delegation. This has been based upon formal discussions between the five Central Asian national societies and the president and health, disaster management and organisational development coordinators in each country. This 'Strategic Direction 2+2' document is based on the up to date strategic plans of the national societies in Central Asia. It informs how the delegation can appropriately fulfil its role as the coordinator of capacity building in cooperation with the national society leadership. The draft document has been sent to all national societies for comments and suggestions.

The coordination process for producing CAS will be complemented by regional planning meetings, as in 2003, that include the five Central Asian national societies, partner national societies and the ICRC. Visits by regional officers and ongoing dialogue will also complement the process. The annual partnership meeting provides another opportunity to plan and monitor support to national societies. This will ensure a coherent approach to the delivery of assistance to Red Crescents. The partnership meeting in September 2003 will have determined if there is a better form of coordination among the partners. It will also instruct the Federation delegation on what its role should be. The delegation, together with the ICRC, as in 2003, will support two-three meetings with the Red Crescent leadership in the region to: exchange knowledge on best practices and the different approaches as well; and identify common problems and solutions within the region.

Along the line of the secretariat's Change Strategy and the Europe Implementation Plan, the role of the Almaty regional delegation for the coming four years is to better focus its support on the capacity building of host national societies and to provide a coherent strategic approach in the support to the Red Crescents.

Programme support will continue to be offered to national societies working in a coordinated way, either directly through the Federation regional delegation or those choosing to work through other models of cooperation. A particular effort will be made toward forming strategic partnerships with the private sector, particularly in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. An experiment began in autumn of 2003 with an intern from a French bank working with the delegation for three months specifically to achieve such partnerships in Kazakhstan.

The role of the liaison offices in the three countries of Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan has been completely changed or done away with after discussions with the national societies

Overall Goal

All components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other partners have an agreed framework of cooperation that will be reflected in the RAS/CAS process to strengthen the five national societies in their work to reduce suffering of vulnerable people.

Programme Objective

The programme focus in each country is improved through ongoing dialogue between partners, continued knowledge exchange between Central Asian national societies and the ongoing revision of national society strategies and the RAS/CAS planning process.

Expected Results

1. By the end of 2004, Federation coordination results in: improved and transparent communications among all partners, and a participatory and inclusive planning process, balancing the interests of Central Asia national societies with those of the donors.
2. By the end of 2004, appropriate human resources are developed, and implementation of a programme that respects the needs of the five Central Asia national societies and their beneficiaries is more focused.

6. International Representation and Advocacy

The Central Asian national societies expressed a need to form partnerships to respond to the needs of vulnerable people. In addition, the societies requested support so that they could promote the interests of vulnerable communities at the national, regional, and international levels, therefore fulfilling their humanitarian mandate.

During 2004, the delegation will assist the national society leadership in developing relationships and raising Red Crescent societies' profile with their respective Governments. This will be done through communication with the

respective Governments directly and through diplomatic communities. Partner national societies will be asked to support this process through their diplomatic representation and other suitable means. Efforts will be increased in the coming period to advance these discussions towards the respective governments. In addition, special efforts will be undertaken in Turkmenistan to continue lobbying for the Status Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the International Federation.

Internationally recognised events, such as the World Red Cross/Red Crescent Day and the World Aids Day, will provide another opportunity to continue to raise awareness with the authorities and among the general public about the activities and needs of the Red Crescent societies in the region. Advocacy towards other international organisations, UN agencies and embassies will continue.

2003 was announced as the Year of Fresh Water to address problems related to clean water and health in Central Asia and around the world. Opportunities arose to mobilise resources for activities related to health and care, including water/sanitation, most notably in Tajikistan. Tajikistan's place as the major governmental sponsor of the International Year of Fresh Water was underlined during a visit to the Federation of the President of the Republic. The Kazakhstan government has shown in 2003 that it intends to mark out a role for itself as a regional centre. Its hosting of a UN Ministerial Conference for Landlocked Countries in August 2003 was part of this move. Such a move will need to be paralleled by the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society to ensure that this regional role includes adequate prioritisation of the needs of the most vulnerable people

The information officers in national societies, as well as the information officer within the regional delegation must play a more effective role in efforts to raise the profile of the national societies to advocate for the above issues, and to disseminate effectively in the media.

Overall Goal

The mandate and the programmes of Central Asian national societies as part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement are well disseminated among the various governments, UN agencies, international and national organisations, the private sector in Central Asia as well as among other stakeholders within and outside the region.

Programme Objective

By the end of 2004, the image, profile, visibility and advocacy capacity of Central Asian national societies has improved through the support of the delegation in advocating at national, regional and international levels and among different actors on the activities of the Movement. In each country the national societies will be accepted by their governments as a reliable interlocutor on humanitarian issues.

Expected Results

1. By the end of 2004, the general profile of the five Central Asia national societies has increased through more focused work by the regional delegation with government authorities, national and international organisations and the media.
2. By the end of 2004, the discussion on the Red Crescent Law has been initiated and progressing in all five Central Asian Republics through regular dialogue with the respective governments.
3. The Federation continues lobbying on the Status Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the International Federation in 2004.

Central Asia regional appeal 2004

This appeal highlights the main aspects of the Federation's assistance programme in Central Asia. It draws on a more detailed plan of action, guiding international support to the Red Crescent Societies in the region. The plan is constructed along the lines of a logical framework whereby activities feed into expected results, which feed into project objectives (where relevant), programme objectives and designated goals. The plan of action includes all activities, indicators, means of verification, assumptions/risks, detailed budget plans, timetable of implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

For further information please contact:

National Society	Email	Telephone	Fax	Contact person
Kazakh RC	Kazrc2@yahoo.co.uk	8 3272 916291	918172	Vadim Kadyrbayev, Vice-President
Kyrgyz RC	redcross@elcat.kg	810 996312 664866	662181	Rosa Shayakhmetova, Vice President
Turkmen RC	nrcst@online.tm , youth@online.tm idnrcst@cpart.org crescent@cpart.org pmcoor@online.tm nrcst_med@online.tm	810 99312 35 17 50	351750	Berdy Molloyev, Vice President
Uzbek RC	rcsuz@uzpak.uz	810 99871(2) 563150	1308812	Ozoda Mukhitdinova Vice President

- Frank Kennedy, Head of Regional Delegation for Central Asia, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; Email: ifrcckz03@ifrc.org; Phone: +7 7232 91 88 38, 91806; Fax: +7 3272 91 42 67.
- Marina Mazmanian, Federation Regional Assistance for Tajikistan, Geneva, email: Marina.Mazmanian@ifrc.org, phone +41 22 730 4454

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

[<Click here to return to title page>](#)

BUDGET 2004

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 01.84/2004

Name: Central asia Regional Programmes

PROGRAMME:

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Emergency	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	0	179,850	0	0	0	0	179,850
Clothing & textiles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food	316,056	0	0	0	0	0	316,056
Seeds & plants	0	81,490	0	0	0	0	81,490
Water & Sanitation	1,200	0	0	0	0	0	1,200
Medical & first aid	17,370	6,825	0	0	0	0	24,195
Teaching materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utensils & tools	0	44,152	0	0	0	0	44,152
Other relief supplies	106,720	46,820	0	0	0	0	153,539
SUPPLIES	441,346	359,137	0	0	0	0	800,482
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computers & telecom	0	3,000	8,000	1,367	20,600	0	32,967
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENSES	0	3,000	8,000	1,367	20,600	0	32,967
Warehouse & Distribution	38,532	24,489	0	0	600	0	63,620
Transport & Vehicules	35,880	41,574	0	10,320	50,760	0	138,534
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	74,412	66,063	0	10,320	51,360	0	202,154
Programme Support	93,097	78,000	9,945	35,044	53,801	0	269,887
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	93,097	78,000	9,945	35,044	53,801	0	269,887
Personnel-delegates	144,000	144,000	0	0	300,000	0	588,000
Personnel-national staff	271,014	100,982	35,400	67,391	190,360	0	665,147
Consultants	0	16,380	1,000	33,737	1,800	0	52,917
PERSONNEL	415,014	261,362	36,400	101,128	492,160	0	1,306,064
W/shops & Training	107,386	264,682	23,950	238,790	3,200	0	638,008
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	107,386	264,682	23,950	238,790	3,200	0	638,008
Travel & related expenses	0	43,190	15,986	75,567	32,800	0	167,542
Information	229,050	82,349	50,685	35,997	30,320	0	428,401
Other General costs	71,952	42,217	8,039	40,922	143,472	0	306,602
GENERAL EXPENSES	301,002	167,756	74,710	152,486	206,592	0	902,546
TOTAL BUDGET:	1,432,257	1,200,000	153,005	539,135	827,713	0	4,152,109