

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central Asia (Focus on Tajikistan)

Appeal No. MAA70001

31 August 2008

This report covers the period 1 January 2008
to 30 June 2008



The Red Crescent awareness campaign on 8 May was held in the streets of Dushanbe.
Photo: Tajikistan Red Crescent Society

In brief

Programme purpose: The programmes the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' secretariat supports in Tajikistan are aligned with the Global Agenda goals to reduce the number of deaths, injuries, and impact from disasters; to reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies; to increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability; and to reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Programme summary: The beginning of 2008 brought extreme weather conditions to Tajikistan, which, combined with electrical shortages, had a serious impact on the household security of the population of the country. The International Federation launched a relief operation, which received initial funding from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), and later sought for international assistance through an Emergency Appeal. The cluster coordination mechanism has been activated in the response to the crisis, and the International Federation coordinated the Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster from March until May 2008.

Although this operation shifted the focus from regular programme activities, community-based disaster preparedness and mitigation activities, including community awareness and education, promotion of early warning systems, evacuation procedures, family disaster planning, community mapping activities continued, becoming more integrated into other branch activities like water and

sanitation and public health.

Four tree planting mitigation projects in the Direct Rule Districts (DRDs) reduced the potential consequences of landslides and mudflows, benefiting around 9,035 people. The Red Crescent Society's institutional disaster preparedness/ response capacity was enhanced through building warehouse facilities at the Rasht valley disaster preparedness centre and through the procurement of vehicles and stocks in other areas.

The *National Society Development Strategy 2008-2012*, the result of a two-year process, together with a plan of action was approved in February by the National Society's governing board.

The recommendations from an evaluation on the governance and management division, conducted by an external consultant were provided and incorporated into the planning process for 2009-2010.

The Tajikistan Red Crescent Society's initial application for the *Intensified Capacity Building* support has been shortlisted and the National Society is currently working on developing the full application.

Financial situation: Total 2008 budget for Central Asia (MAA70001) was initially 6,184,332 Swiss francs (USD 5,622,120 or EUR 3,829,308). The budget increased slightly as a result of a new drug prevention project started in Turkmenistan. The current appeal budget is therefore 6,278,465 Swiss francs (USD 5,707,695 or EUR 3,887,594), out of which 58 per cent covered. The overall 2008 budget for the programmes run by the International Federation's country representation in Tajikistan is 1,487,303 Swiss francs.

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

No. of people we help: Over the reporting period, **83,419** people in Tajikistan benefited directly from the programme interventions of the International Federation's secretariat.

Project title	Target population*	Total number of people we help	% Women	% Men	% Children under the age of 18 (13-24 age only for HIV component)	% Elderly
Health and care	Rural population, juveniles, servicemen, IDUs, sex workers in Sughd, Kulyab, GBAO (HIV)	26,787 (HIV)	28%	26%	35%	11%
	Rural population in Wahdat district (TB)	4,924 + 175 registered TB patients	30%	21%	39%	10%
Water and sanitation	10 districts of Sughd province and DRDs	103 volunteers (PHAST trainings)	37%	18%	30%	15%
Disaster management	Communities living in most disaster-prone areas in Kurgan-Tube region and Rasht Valley	44,907 (including 127 people assisted by National Society's own means)	40%	34%	22%	4%
Organizational development	Staff, volunteers	153	47%	53%	-	-

Youth	Youth at risk of drug addiction and population of disaster-prone areas	6,370	30%	28%	36%	6%
Information	Population of the country	Around 1 million	45%	30%	5%	20%

Our partners: The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has partnership relations with about 70 community-based, national, government-based, international organizations, UN and developmental agencies along with local authorities and governmental ministries. The traditional partners within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement remained the same. They are all the Central Asian Red Crescent Societies, the American, Finnish, Netherlands, German Red Cross and Iranian Red Crescent Societies working bilaterally and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), the Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies working multilaterally.

Context

The combination of unusually cold weather conditions and electrical shortages has had a negative impact on human life and welfare beyond the normal case during winter 2008 in Tajikistan. The DREF operation supported the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to 2,149 elderly people living alone in the capital city of Dushanbe and the towns of Kurgan-Tube, Wahdat and Somoniyon through the distribution of non-food items and around 3,000 families in the same towns through hygiene promotion. *To see the appeal and reports please click here:* <http://www.ifrc.org/where/appeals/allappeals/asp>

Although the temperatures rose and the electricity supply was back to usual levels by mid-March, extreme cold temperatures, rising prices, prolonged blackouts at local and national levels and limited access to water pushed almost a quarter of the total population of Tajikistan into a situation of humanitarian concern. Therefore, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan requested international assistance through an Emergency Appeal which has become a continuation of the DREF operation. It aims to support the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan to assist 2,003 families (5,097 beneficiaries), the most vulnerable groups affected by the cold wave that hit the country in January and February 2008 with food, non-food and hygiene items. *To see the appeal and reports please click here:* <http://www.ifrc.org/where/appeals/allappeals/asp>

The International Federation, as part of the commitment given within the Humanitarian Reform coordinated the Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster in the period March–May 2008 as part of the response to the cold winter and energy crisis in Tajikistan. This was the first cluster coordination work conducted in Europe since the cluster coordination has been agreed globally.

The shift of focus from the planned activities to disaster response operations caused delays in regular disaster management programme activities. This led to some changes in the original timetable. In total, 42 disaster preparedness/ response and first-aid refresher courses followed by a simulation exercise for 840 members of previously established local disaster committees (LDCs) were conducted in Rasht Valley in the beginning of 2008.

The large-scale locust infestation in March-April represents an additional threat to household food security. Nearly half a million US dollars were allocated from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support the government of Tajikistan in its efforts to prevent the spread of the infestation. Over 2 million people whose crops and livelihoods, predominantly in the southern districts of the country, are at risk from the highly destructive pests will directly benefit from these CERF funds. Despite every year losing up to 30 per cent of harvests due to pests, the current outbreak is significantly larger than previous infestations, and could pose a serious blow to household food security in Tajikistan, especially in the coming winter.

Food security remains one of the main concerns for the country's humanitarian organizations. The compound crisis is taking place in the context of rising food prices and other basic household items. The results of a study of urban food security carried out by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the State Statistics Service are now being compiled into a report to be published in August. The International Federation is tracking the situation through Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) meetings, information sharing and will apply its tools to respond, if the situation will be considered as an emergency.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Outcome: The risk of natural and man-made disasters is reduced and local community response capacity is increased through disaster-risk awareness-raising, public education, disaster management, first-aid trainings and the implementation of small-scale risk reduction project activities.

Achievements:

Following the participatory community approach, the Red Crescent Society continued to strengthen the response capacity of the most vulnerable communities by establishing and training LDCs in the most disaster-prone areas. In the reporting period, 800 people from 40 jamoats¹ became members. There is one LDC in each of the 40 communities in Kurgan-Tube region. The new LDCs were equipped with the necessary basic disaster response items.

Eighty LDC leaders- two from each new LDC- were trained during four training of trainers

(ToT) sessions in disaster preparedness, disaster response and first-aid techniques. The strength of this approach is that they will be training their village mates. The average expected population benefiting from community-based disaster preparedness activities in the above areas is 24,800 people a year.



The members of newly established LDCs are studying the situation assessment forms during ToT in Rasht. **Photo: International Federation**

Outcome: Disaster preparedness and response capacities of schools enhanced as a result of an improved understanding of the need for self reliance to build local resilience, increased disaster risk awareness, first aid and other relevant knowledge and skills.

Some 180 schoolteachers, two from each of the total 90 schools in Dushanbe, Kurgan-Tube, and Rasht Valley were identified jointly with the Ministry of Education for the upcoming disaster awareness/ first-aid trainings scheduled for September. After being trained, teachers will pass on the knowledge they obtain, starting at the beginning of the school year during out of class lessons.

Training and awareness-raising materials, like brochures for junior schoolchildren (5,000), brochures for teachers-instructors (180), a leaflet titled *ABC in Disasters* (5,000), and coloring

¹ The lowest administrative unit, comprising several villages.

books on the theme of disaster preparedness (5,000) were printed and distributed to schoolchildren in the most disaster-prone areas.

The traditional, and much appreciated competition to find the best poster drawn on any kind of disaster topic started early in 2008 and ended with the two best drawings being chosen out of 467 nominated. The two posters were designed and 4,000 copies printed to be distributed among schoolchildren in risk areas this year.

Risk reduction projects

Four tree planting mitigation projects in four districts of Direct Rule Districts (DRDs) were carried out. The projects in the Kalanak and Navobod villages of Nurabad, Kavshduzon village in Gissar, Sebarg village of Tavildara and Shavrikiyon village of Tajikabad reduced the potential consequences of landslides and mudflows which frequently occur there. A total of 9,035 people will benefit from this reduced risk. The Red Crescent volunteers together with the respective community members planted 12,436 trees in 11 hectares. The signed agreements, outlining the responsibility of the Red Crescent branches, heads of jamoats, and respective community leaders on further tending of plants have ensured the project's sustainability. In two cases- Nurabad and Gissar- where schoolchildren were actively involved in the project, the agreements were signed with school masters as well.

Outcome: The number of deaths and injuries from road accidents reduced through the dissemination of rules on the roads, traffic regulation and awareness materials and billboards.

The meetings with the traffic police department and the Ministry of Transport resulted in an agreement to be signed in early August on a joint road safety project to be run in four districts of Dushanbe. The agreement envisages printing related information materials and installing five billboards at five of the most dangerous passes over the country. The Red Crescent first-aid trainers are expected to start trainings in driving schools from August.

Outcome: The disaster management capacity of the Red Crescent Society addressing the most urgent situations of vulnerability increased through effective disaster management strategies, policies and contingency planning at national and branch levels.



Simulation exercises for the Dushanbe city branch DRT. Photo: International Federation

The annual evaluation of the response capacity of all 10 Red Crescent disaster management centres held from January to March revealed the urgent need for refresher courses for disaster response team (DRT) members, replenishment of stock in all the centres, including DRT's uniform and response equipment. The results of the evaluation were discussed carefully with the Tajikistan Red Crescent disaster management coordinators at a meeting in mid-June. The evaluation follow-up plan was developed and shared with the Participating National Societies working in the country.

In addition, the Tajikistan Red Crescent institutional disaster preparedness and response capacity has been enhanced through:

- the revision of the memorandum of cooperation between the State Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense and the National Society, now in its signing stage

- refresher courses including Sphere project minimum standards and safe access followed by simulation exercises for 10 Red Crescent DRT members
- the preposition of winterized tents, bed linen sets, mattresses, pillows, hygiene packets, cooking sets, quilts, kerosene stoves, 20 litre water cans for 290 families in all National Society disaster preparedness centres - some of these items were procured through funds from the annual appeal and some through the emergency appeal
- the procurement of a computer for the National Society headquarters' disaster management department;
- the construction of warehouse facilities of the Rasht Valley disaster preparedness centre; procurement of two 4-wheel drive vehicles for the Sughd province and Ishakashim district DRTs;
- practical response simulation exercises on Tajikistan Red Crescent Contingency Plan in all 10 National Society disaster preparedness centers with the State Committee of Emergency Situations' branches and LDCs

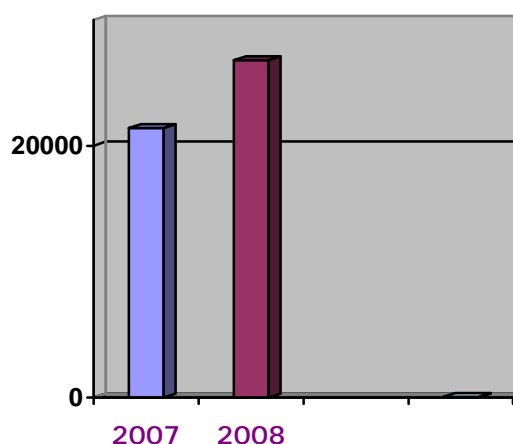
Health and care

Outcome: Vulnerability of targeted communities to HIV infection is reduced through better access to preventive services, adherence to safe behaviour, and provision of care and support.

Outcome: Vulnerability of targeted population to TB and its impact is reduced through disease prevention, rendering social support to TB patients and integration with HIV and AIDS prevention.

Achievements:

In the reporting period, 26,787 people in Sughd, Kulyab, and Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBO) were reached through three public campaigns to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and World Health Day. Meetings, discussions and lectures (1,937) were held for the rural population, adolescents, servicemen, migrants and their family members, injecting drug users (IDU) and sex workers by 80 volunteers. Two training of trainers sessions on the peer-to-peer methodology for HIV prevention project staff at the National Society headquarters and regional level were held together with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).



The diagram shows the number of people served by HIV prevention project during the first six months of 2007 and 2008.

The harm reduction project continued to work according to the plan. In the first six months of 2008, the number of IDUs served through trust point and outreach work was 41 males with an average age of 32 (39 unemployed and 2 office workers). They were offered psychological support, first aid for vein abscess and overdoses; 29 of them were examined by medical sub-specialists. One IDU gave up using drugs. The syringe return rate averaged 62.2 per cent.

Surveys in mid-June revealed, that 42 per cent of IDUs newly registered at the trust point over the reporting period are aware of actions to prevent HIV and 75 per cent of them are using single use syringes, condoms and have changed their risky behaviour towards being more responsible for their own health and for their family members'.

The Global Alliance general concept, and particularly for HIV, was introduced to the Tajik National Society leadership and senior programme staff by the American Red Cross health delegate, working in the country under the TB DOTS (directly observed treatment, short course) project and the International Federation secretariat staff.

Constraints or Challenges: Reaching out and establishing effective communication with sex workers remains challenging. The number of people covered was lower than planned (30 per cent actual versus 50 per cent planned) and working methods will be reconsidered to improve this. Venereologists and general practitioners will be attracted as volunteers of the National Society to work with this key population.

Labour migration and poor volunteer management at the lowest level contribute to a high turnover. This is being tackled through a complex range of efforts to enhance volunteer management in all National Society programmes and levels.

Outcome: Health status of the targeted population in communities is improved through disease prevention, healthy lifestyle promotion, reduction of trauma and education on applying first-aid skills.

A *community-based first-aid programme* initially supported by the International Federation's secretariat is being implemented in all five regions of Tajikistan with the bilateral support of the Netherlands Red Cross, funded through the European Community for the period of January 2007 to December 2009. In order to avoid duplication, the International Federation decided to focus more on TB and HIV activities. Still, there are areas in the Rasht Valley, the region targeted by the annual appeal 2008-2009, that are not covered by the Netherlands Red Cross. The list of these places was rechecked during discussions held with the Tajikistan Red Crescent health and care programme staff at headquarters and branch levels. The planned community-based first-aid activities are expected to be carried out during the second half of this year from available funds for the health and care programme.

The Red Crescent Society *DOTS* programme targeted the Wahdat district (total 257,200 populations). Some 78 newly trained community volunteers have continued their education sessions on TB signs and symptoms for 4,924 village mates. The regular community coordination meetings conducted in villages by the village development committees (VDCs), primary healthcare providers and community volunteers encourage people who were suspected of being infected to provide sputum for examination, refer TB patients' family members for fluorography and encourage patients to complete their treatment.

The registered TB cases in a TB centre of Wahdat district in the first six months of 2008 were calculated at 175, with 106 new ones. Since TB treatment takes 6-8 months, the World Health Organization (WHO) suggests one year from the end of a quarter in which the patient had been registered to measure the treatment outcome indicators - were cured, completed treatment, defaulted. 82 per cent of SS+ cases² registered over the similar period in 2007 have been cured against the WHO international standard of 85 per cent.

Constraints or Challenges: The seasonal labour migration of registered TB patients leaving the country before completing their treatment along with trained volunteers to Russia and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries remains a challenge. Due to this year's atypically cold winter, trainings for volunteers were deferred to March.

Water and Sanitation

Outcome: Vulnerable rural inhabitants from Sughd and Khatlon oblasts have access to potable water and safe sanitation facilities through the construction/ rehabilitation of spring water supply systems and public latrines using sustainable low-cost techniques and through community mobilization. The education level in hygiene issues of communities involved in the construction of water facilities has increased and cases of water-borne diseases among the targeted population has reduced through their changed behaviour at household level.

² SS+ cases = two or more initial sputum smear examinations positive for Acid-Fast Bacilli (AFB)

Achievements:



PHAST training in J.Ergashev village, Mastcho district. **Photo: Tajikistan Red Crescent Society**

The participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) trainings were held in 10 out of the 17 villages targeted for this year in Direct Rule Districts (DRDs) and Sughd province. Some 103 volunteers from the community representing various strata of the society, such as schoolteachers, doctors, housewives and local officials were trained. They started transferring the knowledge of sanitary-hygiene practices to their village fellows in early July. These trainings will be followed by an assessment of all 10 villages to select those most in need and meeting the selection criteria of having a high infectious disease rate and number of inhabitants, for further spring water supply systems construction projects in the second half of this

year.

The PHAST trainings aim at community involvement in the entire project cycle, starting with its design and finishing with its implementation. At the initial stage, these trainings help communities to identify the inner problems affecting their life, to find possible solutions and to plan the actions tackling these problems.

Analysing the results of PHAST trainings conducted, the major problems identified are the quality of drinking water; poor sanitary conditions due to a lack of sanitary-hygiene knowledge leading to the increase of infectious diseases; mined locations; risk of disasters; and gender inequality. These trainings facilitate the project ownership of communities. The solutions to the problems revealed are being advocated for in other National Society programmes.

Taking into account the trend of Tajikistan being most at risk of water and sanitation consequences when disasters happen in the country, the Austrian Red Cross invited the Tajik National Society to participate in the Water and Sanitation Emergency Response Unit (ERU) training. Two people, one from the National Society, another from the International Federation's country representation participated in the training.

Constraints or Challenges: Despite the efforts to introduce modern economically and environmentally safe and sustainable sanitation facilities for the local populations and already well-reputed projects' sustainability mechanism, its realization in practice needs more time and continuity.

Capacity Development

Outcome: The Tajikistan Red Crescent branches are strengthened and capable of providing services to the communities. The financial, planning and reporting systems in all branches are developed and improved.

Achievements:

The *National Society Development Strategy 2008-2012* as a resulting document of a two-year process together with a plan of action was presented at the fourth partnership meeting in December 2007 and shared with all National Society partners. After some slight modifications, the document was approved by the Tajik National Society's governing board in February 2008.

The International Federation continued to assist the National Society in leading the coordination of the Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) process. This process starting in 2006 had been slowed down in 2007 due to reshuffling within the National Society staff and leadership that caused a loss of its institutional memory. Nevertheless, during the reporting period, the National Society thoroughly familiarized itself with the CAS process, the tools, mechanisms and its outcomes through the updated CAS guidelines. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan made an official commitment to conduct a coordination meeting with its partners every second week of the month, and hold an extraordinary meeting, should any urgent issue arise. The National Society is also planning to use the CAS process for annual monitoring and reporting on the achievements towards its strategic plan for 2008-2012. This will be done twice a year.

Following the extensive internal reshuffling of staff and a new leadership of the Tajikistan Red Crescent there was a clear need to introduce the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to the newcomers through an *induction course*. The request came from the National Society after its president had attended the National Society Leadership Development Course in Geneva in late 2007.



The course for 25 people took place in April providing information on the Movement and programmes being implemented globally, in the region, in Tajikistan, the Movement's strategic documents, human resource and financial management and the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The ICRC country office and Participating National Societies present in Tajikistan such as the Finnish Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross took an active part in that course. This course was the first organized in the Central Asian region. Similar courses for new staff at branch level have been included in the society's annual plan.

The "humanitarian principles and values" session invoked lively discussions at the induction course. **Photo: International Federation**

The progress in implementing the new statutes-with governance and management responsibilities divided- was evaluated externally in April as part of the International Federation's regional organizational development programme evaluation. The leadership of the National Society accepted the recommendations, which will be incorporated into the plan for 2009-2010.

The Tajikistan Red Crescent Society's initial application for the Intensified Capacity Building (ICB) support has been short-listed and the National Society is currently working on developing a full application. To develop a National Society ICB plan 50,000 Swiss francs has been allocated which will be beneficial for building capacity in programme service delivery. The National Society leadership is very much committed to make the process successful, and the International Federation has identified an external consultant to help in the planning process until the end of August.

The work on developing the National Society's financial systems saw a follow-up plan on audit recommendations elaborated, and the National Society leadership is committed to continue its implementation in the rest of 2008 and into 2009. The International Federation will raise funds for a

consultancy company to help the National Society with the remaining issues, like developing financial procedures and establishing a modern computerized financial system.

Branch development

The results of the National Society's internal monitoring of its branches in Sughd province, Kurgan-Tube, Kulyab regions, Rasht, Jirgital, Tajikabad, Nurabad districts in the first half of 2008 were considered at the sessions of the Tajikistan Red Crescent's governing board in February and April. The enhancement of financial management and fund-raising issues in the above branches since then allowed increasing significantly the number of beneficiaries served. The Dushanbe city branch now has its own bank account separate from that of the National Society headquarters. Two more branches, namely Vanch and Shugnan (in GBAO) are expected to have their own bank account within the second half of this year.

Outcome: The Red Crescent Society has strengthened the capacity of the communities to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability according to the needs of the community.

The International Federation and the Finnish Red Cross are supporting the National Society to integrate the supported programmes. The first half of 2008 was marked with the focus from the Finnish Red Cross to establish a systematic approach to the National Society providing trainings on participatory community development (PCD), participatory rapid assessment (PRA) and vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA). The Tajikistan Red Crescent branches were informed of the opportunity of practical training on PCD. Five branches selected for this year, out of the 26 that applied, started their PCD studies. The Federation secretariat is expected to enter into the PCD process at the programme delivery stage later this year.

Outcome: The structure of the youth and volunteers movement at all levels of the Red Crescent Society is strengthened.

The Red Crescent *youth movement structure* was enhanced through further integration into all programmes. The integration appeared in a number of country-wide events to mark: the International Red Cross Red Crescent Day, the World TB Day, and the Tajik National Youth Day. They were heavily involved in carrying out HIV and AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), drug abuse and HIV/TB co-infection educational campaigns in April-May, in Kulyab, Kurgan-Tube, and GBAO, totally covering 6,100 people. The Red Crescent volunteers were involved in emergency operations as well.

Volunteers carried out small-scale fund-raising campaigns to support 118 children with intellectual disabilities in "Chorbog" boarding school, 5 km from Dushanbe, with foodstuffs to mark *the International Children's Day*. Similar events took place all over the country. To give one example, the Sughd province branch together with "Micro-invest" organization gave foodstuffs to 30 extended families in Khujand and Kairakum towns.

Constraints or Challenges: The relatively high turnover of youth staff at branch level due to labour migration leads to a loss of institutional memory (volunteer record system). The work on improving this situation has been started by the Red Crescent youth coordinator at the headquarters during her monitoring visits to the branches and it will continue in the second half of the year.

Principles and Values

Outcome: The Red Crescent Society's image among the population is increased via greater visibility and credibility; and programme activities are implemented through the dissemination of humanitarian values and the involvement of volunteers.

Achievements:

In the first six months of 2008, around 1 million people were informed of Tajikistan Red Crescent activity through *electronic and printed mass media*. Round tables familiarized the mass media representatives with the distinctive features of all Movement components and they will represent the Tajik National Society's interests at their work places in future. As a follow up, the participants passed on the information they got to more than 100,000 people in the newspapers, radio and web-sites.

The web-site (www.rcst.tj) numbered more than 345,566 visitors. Due to the Red Crescent programmes' interaction, the number of publications on the National Society activity doubled. A series of articles (35), broadcasts (30) and press releases (40) portrayed the work carried out by the staff and volunteers in various sectors. The web-stories (3) on the progress of DREF and Emergency Appeal operations prepared by the Red Crescent Society's information officer were placed at the International Federation's public web-site (www.ifrc.org)

The actions conducted in province, district and town branches to celebrate the World Red Cross Day on 3-8 May targeted 20,000 people, but its follow-up media coverage was around 100,000 people. The state media in particular, enabled an increase in the rural population coverage, because of their unique access to remote rural locations, where primary beneficiaries live, thus engaging new volunteers as well.

Following up on the Istanbul Commitments of the VII European Conference of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Tajikistan Red Crescent is committed to work with migrants within the country. The National Society was included in the Central Asian Red Crescent Labour Migration Network project to serve irregular migrants. The concept note was pre-selected by the European Community in May, and the final application was done in June. In case the final application is selected the project for the Tajikistan Red Crescent envisages the tuition of migrants and their families, living in five remote rural areas in Sughd, Khatlon, and GBAO through setting up informative awareness-raising study centres to mitigate the risk of their vulnerability to discrimination and social exclusion abroad. The expected number of people benefiting from this project for 2009-2010 is 5,000.

Constraints or Challenges: The enhancement of communication between the National Society headquarters and subordinate units remains an area in constant need of improvement. Almost 70 per cent of the activities carried out at lower levels are being left out of broader media coverage due to delayed information. The possible access to internet at district level would allow obtaining fresh and timely information on National Society activities. As a consequence of the harsh winter, the prices increased for all services, causing extra public relations annual costs, and probably some activities to be reconsidered accordingly.

Working in partnership

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

The traditional Movement partners remained; all the Central Asian Red Crescent Societies, the American, Finnish, Netherlands and German Red Cross Societies and the Iranian Red Crescent Society working bilaterally and DFID, the Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies working multilaterally. Coordinating these partners to ensure cooperation, including reducing the risk of duplication and optimizing all capacities and resources is of key importance.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and the International Federation are members of the technical working group on TB, HIV and AIDS of the national coordination committee on these diseases in Tajikistan. (For more information visit: www.aids.tj.) Partnerships are in place with other

organizations like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), Project HOPE, the Ministry of Health (Republican TB Centre), the National Coordination TB Council, the Republican AIDS Centre, the Centre for Healthy Lifestyle, UNAIDS, Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDRP), CAPACITY and the local NGO Guli Surkh.

The National Society has established effective coordination with its national governmental institutions at all levels. The State Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence of Tajikistan and the UN Disaster Risk Management Programme (UNDRMP) take the leading coordinating role in the overall country disaster management system. Meetings are held on a monthly basis. Outcomes of the meetings are shared by all humanitarian organizations involved. The partnership agreement with the State Committee for Youth Affairs, Sports and Tourism, signed in 2005, is expected to be re-signed by the end of August.

The Swedish Red Cross consultant on water and sanitation joined the Tajikistan Red Crescent for a tentative assessment of potential "spring water supply systems" project sites in 10 kishloks (villages) of Sughd province and DDRs during his stay in Tajikistan. He advised on issues related to community mobilization, project sustainability, and on some technical issues as well.

According to the earlier verbal agreement with commercial media, around 90 per cent of publications, and almost 50 per cent of wire and television broadcasting were made for free. The actions carried out like round tables, meetings, invitation to various National Society activities favoured public coverage enlargement. The media interest on Tajikistan Red Crescent activities also increased due to effective and timely disaster response operations.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The disaster management and risk reduction projects contribute to achieving the International Federation's Global Agenda goals number 1,2 and 3 and in turn the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) number 7 of ensuring environmental sustainability. As a result of all these activities, the capacity of the Red Crescent staff and volunteers, local communities and the civil society to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability is increasing. The Sphere project minimum standards and safe access were followed by LDCs and DRTs during recent disaster operations to maximize the organization of response operations based on shared information.

During the programme design and implementation, gender equity has been promoted and applied, with both men and women equally benefiting from the Red Crescent disaster management programme in line with their specific needs, and having equal rights and opportunities for participation at all levels.

Along with the existing participatory monitoring tool with the target community members in order to measure the impact of the programme interventions, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan / International Federation are piloting a beneficiaries' satisfaction survey upon the completion of emergency operations. A formal evaluation of achievements and impact will take place according to International Federation rules and requirements. To ensure transparency and accuracy joint evaluations with key partners will be performed on a regular basis. Measurable indicators that allow reliable impact assessment will be defined in accordance with the partners.

The HIV prevention programme component contributes to slowing down the spread of HIV in Tajikistan, therefore, achieving the MDG number 6 of combating HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases, goals 2 and 4 of the Global Agenda, which is also in line with the Poverty Reduction Strategy of Tajikistan for the period 2007-2009 and the priorities of the National AIDS Control Programme in Tajikistan for 2007-2010, adopted in March 2007 by the government.

Looking ahead

The adherence to a unified Tajikistan Red Crescent Volunteering Policy (including recruitment, retaining and recognition) by all programme managers and governing bodies at all levels will be promoted in the second six months of the year.

The disaster management programme- one of the core areas of the Tajik National Society - will be continued through community-based disaster preparedness/ response (CBDP) projects implemented by the Tajikistan Red Crescent's structural divisions over the country; through strengthening the Red Crescent disaster management system (including its primary organizations and branches) at local level with practical trainings in disaster preparedness/ response and first-aid techniques and with the necessary equipment provided; through the design and distribution of disaster awareness information materials; the implementation of community-based mini-mitigation projects; and through the replenishment of the disaster response team's equipments and of disaster preparedness stocks. Due to this year's disaster response operations (DREF and emergency), road safety and school education projects were delayed, nevertheless, the preliminary schedule will be followed.

Coordination and Implementation

Close collaboration with various partners in the country through the disaster management coordination group, formerly known as the REACT continued.

The International Federation supported the National Society to reinforce the CAS mechanism. A clear and productive CAS document, as a tool to assess the implementation of the strategic plans of the National Society is expected by the end of 2009. Based on experience, the National Society will involve not only internal Movement partners, but external stakeholders too in the CAS.

The Global Alliance general concept, particularly in the area of HIV, was introduced to the National Society leadership and senior programme staff by the American Red Cross health delegate, working in the country under the TB DOTS project and International Federation secretariat staff. Follow-up discussions on what this approach could mean for the National Society will continue in the course of 2008.

The International Federation together with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan continued its participation in the coordination meetings on health and care, disaster management, water and sanitation (WASH) chaired by UN agencies in Tajikistan.

How we work

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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