

# Programme Update

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Turkmenistan

Appeal No. MAATM001

31/08/2009

This report covers the period 01/01/09 to 30/06/09.



Raising awareness of the harmful effects of drug use and promoting healthy lifestyle make part of the HIV prevention. Photo: Turkmenistan Red Crescent

## In brief

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

**Programmes summary:** The disaster management programme of the Turkmenistan Red Crescent strengthened coping capacities of the populations living in disaster prone areas by increasing the community awareness of what effective actions to take during disasters are and through small-scale mitigation projects. Though, staff changes in the headquarters and branches slowed down the programme. The National Society built its response capacities through improving staff and volunteers' knowledge and skills in disaster management areas, strengthening partnership with public authorities and other stakeholders. Over the reporting period the Red Crescent provided assistance to people affected by domestic fires. Besides, a representative of the Turkmenistan Red Crescent participated in the emergency relief operation of the Tajikistan Red Crescent, supporting people affected by mudslides and floods, as a team leader of the regional disaster response team.

The Red Crescent Society disseminated information about HIV among youth, key populations at higher risk and general public. The programme also increased the awareness of the harmful effects of drug use and promoted healthy lifestyle. The tuberculosis prevention component targeted people with tuberculosis (TB) on the continuation phase of treatment, their family members and general population. The services provided include direct observation of treatment and social support to the clients with TB and raising awareness of TB. The social support decreased due to losses on the income resulted from the currency exchange rate fluctuations in 2008. The community-base health and first aid (CBHFA) remained focused on health education and first aid sessions for rural communities. Pregnant women, women of reproductive age and schoolchildren also improved their knowledge of reproductive health issues.

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

In terms of capacity-building a workshop on planning, monitoring and financial and narrative reporting for the headquarters and branch staff was held by the regional representation on request from the National Society. The analysis of job descriptions at all levels of the Red Crescent was completed in order to align them with the standard. Besides, the guidance on volunteer management has been updated and a volunteer induction course developed and piloted. However, as no specific funding has been received by the youth programme this year only major youth activities are covered. The National Society is behind schedule with the implementation of the new statute adopted back in 2007 but it is anticipated that the national level governing board will be elected in October.

**Financial situation:** The total 2009 budget is CHF 1,177,678 (USD 1,085,047 or EUR 772,390), of which 52 per cent covered. Expenditure overall was 60 per cent versus funding.

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

**No. of people we help:** In total 77,120 people benefited directly from the secretariat-supported programmes with the funds provided by the donors.

**Programme Update  
January-June 2009 –  
Turkmenistan**

Programme	Target groups	People reached	% of women	% of men	% of children under 18	% of older people
Disaster Management	Members of communities in disaster-prone areas	27,160				
Health and Care	TB	People with TB Family members General population	360 1,350 19,300			
	HIV	Key populations at higher risk of HIV, youth	16,200			
	Community-based health and first aid	Youth, women of childbearing age, general population	7,000			
Organizational Development	National Society staff, members and volunteers*	1,500*				

Principles and Values	General public	5,750				
<b>Total number of people reached</b>		<b>77,120</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>10</b>

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

**Working in partnership:** The donors supporting the programmes multilaterally through the International Federation are the British, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies, the US Government Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and the Capacity Building Fund. Also, the UK's Department for International Development (DfID) covers some regional level expenditures of the disaster management programme, mostly born in Kazakhstan. The total number of partnerships between the Federation regional representation, the National Society and community-based, national, government-based, international organizations, UN and developmental agencies exceeded 10.

## Context

In the beginning of 2009 the leadership of the Turkmenistan Red Crescent changed. The previous chairperson resigned and the National Society elected a new chairperson at the extraordinary general assembly. The new leader committed to support the current organizational change processes and keep the priorities unaltered, requesting technical support and guidance from the International Federation and other Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners.

The Red Crescent Society is the first non-governmental organization responding to everyday small-scale disasters in the country. This year the society responded to domestic fires; in total, more than 130 affected people (26 families) have been assisted with resources from the National Society emergency stocks. Lately the government has been giving more attention to the work of the State Emergency Committee and issued a number of resolutions to strengthen the emergency services in the country. It is expected that the existing disaster management system under the defence ministry will be re-structured and the emergency ministry will be created in 2010.

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

## Progress towards outcomes

### Disaster management

**Outcome/Expected result:** Improved ability to predict and plan for disasters to mitigate their impact on vulnerable communities, and to respond to and effectively cope with their consequences.

#### **Achievements:**

In the first half of 2009 a few annexes of the Turkmenistan Red Crescent contingency plan concerning local resources (material and human), local contacts, and logistics issues such as conditions of main roads including railways and airports, were updated.

Two regional branches (Dashoguz and Mary) started elaborating their contingency plans and discussed the main issues and content with stakeholders during a national level round table and working meetings at the regional level.

**Outcome/Expected result:** Strengthened capacity of the National Society in disaster preparedness and response through increased skills and knowledge of Red Crescent staff and volunteers, strengthened financial and technical resources, effective mechanisms for emergency response and recovery assistance.

**Achievements:**

The disaster management programme continued reinforcing the National Society's response mechanisms, including the development of disaster response teams (DRTs), and maintaining existing technical and material resources to be able to provide their response effectively when disaster strikes.

The Red Crescent Society conducted 6 trainings for volunteers in half of the regional branches (Ahal, Balkan and Dashoguz) that covered 110 people. Field trainings in two branches (Dashoguz and Balkan) followed and reached 60 of them; another field training targeted 35 members of the national team. The training aimed to improve the skills and knowledge in disaster preparedness and response, including IT and emergency communications, and brought in relevant expertise from the health and care and tracing programmes.

Besides, three disaster management staff, from the headquarters and branch, participated in the eight-day harmonised regional disaster response team (RDRT) training in Macedonia; one of them also passed the water and sanitation field assessment and coordination team (FACT) training in June 2009. Five staff and volunteers of the National Society attended an induction course on psychosocial support facilitated by the Turkish Red Crescent in April 2009. The Turkmenistan Red Crescent will further introduce the psychosocial support in its DRT education course as an important element of disaster response.

As a result of the intensive education it was possible to deploy a national disaster response team member to the Tajikistan Red Crescent emergency response operation as a team leader of the RDRT team. The RDRT work was considered by the Tajikistan Red Crescent a success.

To improve their logistics capacity the National Society has been assessing all warehouses conditions' for storage of non-food emergency items. As a result, the presidium decided to eliminate the identified failings; to repair the central warehouse's roof; and to replenish the branches' emergency stocks from its own and local donor resources.

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

**Achievements:**

The Red Crescent disaster management staff from the headquarters participated in regional disaster management meetings aimed at capacity-building. One of the meetings built better understanding of the shelter cluster approach and inter-agency cooperation in response to a major disaster, another discussed shelter issues. Meetings to clarify the links of the disaster risk reduction programme with climate change and make an introduction to vulnerability and capacity assessment have been also arranged. The events took place in May and were facilitated by external experts and experts from the Geneva secretariat shelter department, the Red Cross Red Crescent Reference Centre for Climate Change and the Netherlands Red Cross.

**Outcome/Expected result:** Strengthened capacities of communities in disaster-prone areas to respond to future disasters through community-based disaster preparedness.

### **Achievements**

The Turkmenistan Red Crescent has been implementing community-based disaster preparedness projects in 4 towns and 8 settlements of the 3 regions (Akhal, Dashoguz and Lebap). Within the projects framework 12 working meetings, targeting 228 community members, have been organised to establish local disaster committees (LDC) or to plan their work. Following the training on participatory rapid assessment, basic first aid and rules of behaviour in case of a disaster one community in Akhal developed response plans and conducted an exercise simulating mudslide response. About 300 people including 50 older people from the community actively participated.

The Red Crescent held two disaster awareness campaigns on fire and road safety for broader communities. Television and radio broadcasts, round tables with local authorities and relevant government bodies at national level, contests on wide and domestic fires and road safety were organized. The actions were used to spread messages on disaster risks and to promote risk reduction and National Society activities, also by distributing 6,140 copies of information materials and mounting two billboards. It is estimated that the campaigns reached around 40,000 people. The fire safety awareness campaign concluded with simulation exercises in the capital city Ashgabad and three regional centres – Dashoguz, Mary and Turkmenbashi – in cooperation with fire safety departments; 1,180 people participated in the exercises.

Together with relevant government bodies the National Society carried out 40 information sessions on road and fire safety in Ashgabad that reached about 12,000 people (including 10,000 traffic offenders). The information sessions were provided regularly once a week: on road safety since January and on fire safety since March 2009. The fire safety education is provided on request from the fire department that also supplied the list of target organizations.

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

### **Achievements**

The disaster preparedness education sessions for schoolchildren were organized only in Ashgabad and covered 1,430 schoolchildren. Education sessions included topics on earthquake, domestic fires (especially in high-rise buildings) and first aid. However, the sessions were not presented as a separate education course but provided as sporadic sessions within the framework of information awareness campaigns.

The National Society used all events and actions to spread messages on disaster risks, to promote risk reduction and Red Crescent activities among schoolchildren. Special course for schoolchildren will be introduced in September, when children come back to school after summer holidays.

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

### **Achievements**

There have been 10 risk reduction projects implemented that targeted rural and urban communities; 6 have been completed and 4 are ongoing.

The projects implemented by the National Society over the period reduced the risks of underflooding and water-borne and water-related diseases for the most vulnerable rural (nine) and urban (one) communities. In total, around 13,200 people benefited from these projects implemented by local communities with strong support from the Red Crescent branches. The details are provided in the table below.

Locality	Project description	Coverage (people)
<b>Mary region</b>		<b>13,200</b>
Mary town	Installing water pumps to reduce underground waters' level and risk of underflooding (completed)	1,500
District Vekilbasar		2,100
District Vekilbasar	Installing water pumps to provide access to safe drinking water (completed)	2,300
District Serkhetabad		1,900
District Takhtabazar		2,200
District Murgab		2,900
<b>Akhal region</b>		<b>Expected 10,000</b>
District Kaakhka	Installing water pumps to provide access to safe drinking water (ongoing)	Estimate 3,000
District Serakh		Estimate 7,000
<b>Balkan region</b>		<b>Expected 5,000</b>
District Oglanty	Installing water pumps to provide access to safe drinking water (ongoing)	Estimate 5,000
<b>Dashoguz region</b>		<b>Expected 12,000</b>
District Gurbansoltan-edzhe	Installing water pumps to provide access to safe drinking water (ongoing)	Estimate 12,000

**Outcome/Expected result:** Increased capacity of the National Society to restore or to improve pre-disaster living conditions and to reduce the risk of future disasters.

#### **Achievements:**

This is a new component of the National Society's programme. A three-day regional workshop on recovery was arranged by the Federation regional representation for the programme staff of all five Central Asian National Societies in April 2009 as a start-up.

#### **Constraints or Challenges**

The change of staff at the headquarters and branch levels negatively affected the programme. Namely, the work with communities slowed down and the disaster risk awareness-raising element among children has been postponed. Lack of technical resources in most of the branches (computers and other office equipment) and limited access to internet services in the country slows down the information flow and affects its quality.

Also, increased travel costs mean that field trips and experience exchange visits are minimized, while workshops and meetings accommodate less participants.

## Health and care

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

- Vulnerability to HIV and its impact reduced through preventing further infection and reducing stigma and discrimination.
- Awareness of the harmful effects of drug use to human health increased and healthy lifestyle promoted.

## **Achievements**

The programme provides peer education to key populations at higher risk and raises awareness among the general population in Ashgabat, Abadan, Turkmenbashi, Turkmenabat, Mary, Dashoguz and Balkanabat. Among key populations schoolchildren aged 15-17, sex workers (SWs), injecting drug users (IDUs), and military personnel are targeted. Dissemination of information materials and mass media campaigns are part of the programme. The Republican AIDS Centre provided the National Society with condoms for distribution. Volunteers are actively attracted to carry out peer education; 149 peer educators were trained in the first half of 2009 – 17 SWs, 10 IDUs, 33 military men and 89 young people. Training was also held for staff and volunteers on how to reach and work with IDUs and SWs.

In total, 11,470 people were reached by HIV prevention and 76 per cent of them through peer education. Around 88 per cent of the targeted population aged 15-49 correctly identified ways of preventing sexual transmission of HIV and rejected major misconceptions about HIV transmission. Besides, 60 per cent of targeted SWs, IDUs, and military men who have sexual contacts with more than one partner or with irregular partners reported that they had always used condoms. Sport competitions and brain-rings were arranged in secondary schools and military units to mark the World TB Day and the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

To achieve the second outcome the Red Crescent staff and volunteers carried out peer education sessions and informational campaigns for schoolchildren, military men and the general population in Mary, Dashoguz, Lebap, Akhal and Balkan provinces. The education sessions promote healthy lifestyle and raise awareness about the risks of drug abuse. Rural populations were also reached through door to door visits. In total, the Red Crescent reached 4,700 people: 2,159 schoolchildren, 835 teachers, 746 people in organizations, 654 people in rural communities, and 306 military men. The volunteers received hygiene parcels as incentives for their contribution to the programme.

**Outcome/Expected result:** Vulnerability to TB and its impact reduced through preventing further infection, rendering social support to TB patients, reducing stigma and discrimination and integrating with HIV prevention.

## **Achievements**

The programme is aimed at improving treatment outcomes by encouraging treatment adherence in clients with TB. To achieve this, visiting nurses of the National Society have been providing programme beneficiaries with direct observation of treatment (DOT) in clinics, with education and social support. The social support comprises food parcels and hygiene kits. The National Society reached 362 clients with TB with social support and only 1.4 per cent of the clients interrupted the treatment. The treatment success rate among the beneficiaries under DOT provided by the Red Crescent nurses was 93 per cent.

Awareness of TB among the population has been raised through information and education sessions for personnel of different organizations and schoolchildren in Ashgabat, Mary and Dashoguz. About 75 per cent of people reached by education sessions knew four main symptoms of TB and preventive measures. Media campaigns that involved the national television and radio marked the World TB Day, the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day, the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and World Health Day. The information campaigns covered about 175,000 people.

## **Outcomes/Expected results:**

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

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

### **Achievements**

The community-based health and first-aid programme is focused on rural populations and aims at improving their health status. Health education targets the communities having limited access to public health services due to their remote location from district centres. The beneficiaries have been trained by the Red Crescent staff and 272 community volunteers on basic first-aid skills and provided with education sessions on the most common diseases and ways of their prevention; relevant information materials have been distributed. About 7,000 people were educated; 72 per cent of the targeted knew symptoms of the most common diseases and prevention measures and 38 per cent of them had basic first-aid skills.

The programme also targeted pregnant women, women of reproductive age and schoolchildren with information about reproductive health, antenatal and post-natal care, and nutrition. About 2,200 women were reached (out of total 7,000 people), 336 pregnant women among them. Out of all pregnant women 70 per cent knew rules of behaviour and nutrition, and used them during pregnancy and in early post-natal period. Besides, 2,940 girls and boys were covered by education sessions in the secondary schools and communities, 75 per cent of them knew main health risks in their age and practises safe behaviour.

A consultancy mission was arranged to provide technical support to the Turkmenistan Red Crescent to strengthen its community-based reproductive/maternal health programming. The objectives of the consultancy were to re-define and to upgrade the existing reproductive/maternal health component within the Red Crescent health programme and to develop a programme model integrating the revised component into the community-based health and first aid programme. A concept paper on reproductive/maternal health promotion within the context of community-health programming of the Turkmenistan Red Crescent was produced as a result.

### **Constraints or Challenges**

Three officers of the health programme – one at the headquarters and two in branches – left their positions over the period. This was basically due to low salaries of the staff. This picture is typical for all National Societies in the region of Central Asia. To overcome the situation, the system of support and encouragement of the staff and volunteers should be further developed to retain the experienced people.

The National Society monitoring and reporting require closer attention and more efforts to ensure acceptable quality. It will help to make the programmes more efficient, accountable and presentable.

## **Organizational development/Capacity building**

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

### **Achievements:**

The Turkmenistan Red Crescent held two workshops to explain the new statutory provisions and to develop regulations on membership, volunteering and minimum requirements for the governing board members. These documents will be submitted to the presidium (governing board) for consideration and approval.

It is anticipated that the Turkmenistan Red Crescent will hold the extraordinary general assembly in October 2009 and elect the national level governing board.

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

**Achievements:**

In response to a request from the National Society leadership, the regional representation held a workshop on planning, monitoring and financial and narrative reporting for the headquarters and branch staff. The workshop also included a session on the characteristics of a well-functioning National Society. Judging from the evaluation of the participants, the topics covered during the workshop were of importance for the programme managers in the headquarters and for the branch leadership – to better understand the demands within the programme management cycle. The National Society has also developed a work plan for the planning systems' improvement and the terms of reference for the working group that will be leading the process. The Federation regional representation is currently considering options to deliver training in this area.

According to the human resources work plan elaborated in 2008, the analysis of job descriptions at all levels was completed in order to align them with a standard approved by the National Society presidium. The position of human resources manager will be introduced in August 2009; the terms of reference and the job description for this position have been discussed within the National Society and with the partners. There is an agreement that the position will be funded by the organisational development programme and the British Red Cross. Also, two new departments were introduced at the headquarters – the volunteering development and support services departments.

Following the decisions of the regional National Societies leadership forum the Federation regional representation and the ICRC regional delegation work on the revision of per diem rates for the Turkmenistan Red Crescent staff.

Besides, the assessment of Ahal branch was carried out by the headquarters; based on the assessment results a project aimed at developing branch capacities emerged. It is now awaiting the approval of the governing board before the implementation starts. The assessments of Balkan and Mary branches are scheduled for the third quarter of 2009.

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

**Achievements:**

Taking into consideration the crucial role volunteers play in service delivery at branch level all branches, guided from the headquarters, carried out a revision of the volunteer involvement in the Red Crescent activities. Based on the results, the guidance on volunteer management has been updated and shared with the branches. The headquarters organized two workshops to introduce the revised guidance and to provide explanations for the branch staff and volunteer leaders.

A volunteer induction course has also been developed and introduced in all branches. To develop the course, the Turkmenistan Red Crescent used the experience of the Belarus Red Cross in the area. The new course has been piloted in all branches and showed that 80 per cent of the trained volunteers assimilated the information. Further use of the induction course will be monitored during the second half of the year.

Between February and June a contest on the best youth initiative was carried out among six regional youth centres. The contest served to increase the motivation and to praise the role

of young volunteers. The National Society further supported the winner initiatives that were mostly aimed at assisting vulnerable groups: older people and children from disadvantaged families.

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

**Achievements:**

The National Society established a working group to lead the process of the Red Crescent law development. According to the plan of action, produced by the working group, the National Society held consultations with the Ministry of Justice and the parliament. The Red Crescent has been drafting the law basing on the consultations and the documents provided by the International Federation secretariat: a model Red Cross Red Crescent law and laws of several European National Societies.

**Constraints or Challenges:**

The National Society is behind schedule with the implementation of the statute – so far no elections have been held to establish the governing boards at all levels. This may cause unpredicted problems for the National Society as the current structure does not comply with that provisioned by the statute adopted back in 2007.

There has been no specific funding allocated for the youth programme this year. Based on the agreement with the National Society only major youth activities are covered from organizational development funds.

## Principles and values

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

**Achievements:**

The programme informed the general public about the Movement's components, its principles, values and commitments through public actions devoted to calendar dates like the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day or the World TB day. Thus, on 8 May 6,000 people working in the areas like health and care, education, commercial and public sectors of Ashgabat city participated in a large-scale public campaign aimed at promoting healthy life style and tolerant attitude to marginalized groups. Presentations and working meetings for the Red Crescent staff, volunteers and media – 1,325 people in total – spread the messages of the International Federation's global 2009 campaign and the necessity of promoting the humanitarian principles and values.

In April, the Turkmenistan Red Crescent Society held a round table for 35 mass media and partner organizations – ministries and private sector – focusing on the promotion of humanitarian values and activities of the National Society.

Over the period 97 information materials about the Movement and the Red Crescent Society were aired on TV, radio or published in national and local editions and on web-sites. Rough estimates suggest that messages on the principles and values reached about 3,800,000 people. Besides, the fourth issue of a Red Crescent 2008 newsletter was issued and distributed among the Red Crescent branches and partners. The first issue for 2009 is being prepared for publication.

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

- Ability of communities to combat discrimination, intolerance and violence and to promote respect for diversity enhanced.
- Understanding of the necessity to prevent and fight sexual and gender-based violence within the communities increased.

### **Achievements:**

The National Society programme officer facilitated sessions on anti-discrimination, tolerance and respect for diversity during trainings and seminars organized by disaster management, health, youth and other programmes for beneficiaries and partners, as well as anniversary celebrations of the Movement within the 2009 global campaign.

In cooperation with the health programme a public action titled “World without drugs” was organized for children: about 400 people attended the exhibition of children’s drawings. Two more big exhibitions took place in two main libraries of the capital city to highlight the three anniversaries of the Movement and to promote changing the attitude towards vulnerable people. The exhibitions reached 1,000 people in total.

In June the National Society held a working meeting with Ashgabat chess club to agree on the Henry Dunant Prize chess tournament within the 2009 global campaign. The chess club is one of the places where people with disabilities gather and this Red Crescent event will contribute to their social inclusion and involve them into the global Movement celebrations. In total 25 people will be covered.

### **Constraints or Challenges:**

Continuous lack of funds remains the main constraint of the principles and values programme. Because of underfunding the planned activities under the second outcome on gender issues have not been implemented. The effects of this can be partially mitigated by integrating selected activities under other core programmes.

## **Working in partnership**

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

There exists a bilateral partnership between the Red Crescent Society and the Netherlands Red Cross in the areas of community-based disaster preparedness, mitigation and branch capacity-building. The partnership allows expanding the geographic coverage of the programmes. The Turkmenistan Red Crescent has also reached an agreement with the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates aiming to improve the material resources. The National Society has already received funds for the repair of the warehouse at the headquarters. Other areas of support stipulated by the agreement are lease of a new vehicle and equipment for first-aid classes of the National Society.

The National Society is an active member of inter-agency meetings conducted in the country to discuss the development of the national programmes on TB and HIV. The Red Crescent maintains relationships with international agencies like Project HOPE, USAID, UNAIDS,

UNODC by sharing relevant information on TB and HIV issues. The OSCE is supporting the HIV prevention project in Dashoguz, Turkmenabat, Turkmenbashi and Mary cities on bilateral basis.

The key partners of the principles and values programme are the media. The programme also partners with the programme on the international humanitarian law dissemination when arranging public events. Besides, the Turkmenistan Red Crescent is an implementing partner of the OSCE-supported project on anti-trafficking. Namely, the Red Crescent train the trainers on basic anti-trafficking issues: reasons and statistics of labour migration, safe migration, nature and risks of human trafficking, and measures to prevent human trafficking. The trainers further work with communities.

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

## Contributing to longer-term impact

The monitoring of the programmes is carried out by the National Society staff by means of visits to the field, and regular communication with the staff and volunteers working in the programme sites. Information on the progress comes from visits to beneficiaries, observation, meetings with the representatives of partner organisations, local communities and local authorities. Periodical monitoring visits are paid by the Federation regional representation to the sites. The staff of the National Society is advised on how to improve the quality of monitoring.

The SPHERE standards and the Code of Conduct for Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers in Emergency Relief guide the Red Crescent disaster response and the fundamental principles and the value of respect for dignity and equality are at all times promoted in disaster management awareness materials, during training and work with the communities. In disaster response, the distribution of assistance is made on the basis of impartiality. Actions are solely guided by needs, proportional to the degree of suffering and prioritized on the basis of urgency and vulnerability.

Promoting and respecting the fundamental principles and humanitarian values are indispensable if the Red Cross Red Crescent is to be perceived as an impartial, neutral and independent actor, and furthermore to facilitate the Red Cross Red Crescent to carry out its mandate. The National Society does not take sides of diverging population groups and follow the principle of diversity in the composition of staff involved.

As for the organizational development, the work on the development of the Red Crescent law will definitely contribute to the distinction of the National Society from the public organizations in the country. Also, it will help to clarify the auxiliary role of the Society and to develop a new model of cooperation with the government.

## Looking ahead

The National Society of Turkmenistan will continue the close cooperation with the government and intends to improve the work on incorporation of the community disaster preparedness and response plans into relevant local governmental plans for more effective involvement of local communities in disaster response and decision-making on risk reduction activities.

The work on International Disaster Response Law promotion will proceed in cooperation with the UN OCHA office. The review of the legal environment in the region, based on case

studies, will be carried out by OCHA in consultation with the regional representation and the Geneva secretariat. Steps to make necessary amendments to the legislation are expected to be developed later on.

The staff of the National Society requires additional trainings in planning, monitoring and reporting to improve the quality of programming and to ensure proper accountability. Staff turnover is aggravating the problem. Relevant training with technical support from the regional representation will be considered as soon as possible.

In the second half of the year the legal base, governance and management consultant will visit the National Society on request. There are two major areas of interest that will be discussed with the consultant: the first one is the development of the Red Crescent Law; the second – the upcoming National Society general assembly scheduled for autumn. Also, the project/programme planning training will be organized with support from the regional representation within the process of planning systems improvement.

The Turkmenistan Red Crescent is willing to be included in the Central Asian Red Crescent Labour Migration Network in 2011. The funds to continue and to strengthen the services provided by the network, or to expand it, will be sought at the regional and national levels, in the European Commission and among other stakeholders who have an interest in migration in the region. Additional funding will be sought to enhance the ability of communities to combat discrimination, intolerance and violence and to promote respect for diversity as part of the regional and global resource mobilization process.

How we work	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p><b>Global Agenda Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</li> <li>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</li> <li>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</li> </ul>
Contact information	
<p>For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In the Turkmenistan Red Crescent Society:</b> Shemshat Mamedova, Chairlady; email: <a href="mailto:crescentinf@online.tm">crescentinf@online.tm</a>; phone: +99312 35 17 50; fax: +99312 39 43 49</li> <li>• <b>In the Regional Representation for Central Asia:</b> Drina Karahasanovic, Regional Representative; email: <a href="mailto:drina.karahasanovic@ifrc.org">drina.karahasanovic@ifrc.org</a>; phone: +7727 291 80 63; fax: +7727 291 42 67</li> <li>• <b>In the Europe Zone Office:</b> Leon Prop, Deputy Head; email: <a href="mailto:leon.prop@ifrc.org">leon.prop@ifrc.org</a>; phone: +36 1 8884 500; fax: +36 1 336 15 16</li> </ul>	