

Appeal 2002-2003

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

CENTRAL ASIA

(Appeal 01.52/2002)

Click on programme title or figures to go to the text or budget

	2002	2003 ¹
	In CHF	In CHF
1. Disaster Response	899,775	832,247
2. Disaster Preparedness	1,080,225	912,696
3. Health and Care	3,991,460	2,792,473
4. Humanitarian Values	155,281	148,427
5. Organizational Development	1,165,392	957,527
6. Regional Cooperation	135,169	135,169
7. Co-ordination & Management	836,180	838,708
Total	8,263,482	6,617,247



Regional introduction

Central Asia, a region the size of Western Europe, includes the following five countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. With a population of 57 million this region has gone through a decade of economic, social and political turbulence.

The economic crisis resulting from the collapse of the Soviet Union provoked a severe decline in the standards of living. Initial expectations of economic growth were tempered by the harsh reality that there is no painless solution to the region's economic problems nor tried and tested plan to follow to ease the transition from planned to market economies. Macro-economic indicators now show signs of improvements in some countries but they hide more worrying trends of increasing inequality with

¹ These are preliminary budget figures for 2003, and are subject to revision in the course of 2002.

widening gaps between the rich and poor, typically, most strongly divided between rural and urban areas. This increasing vulnerability for some parts of the population is reflected in their health status and ability to cope with and recover from disasters. In addition, increasing economic difficulties resulted in a parallel increase in intolerance, xenophobia and prejudice against minority groups along with an increase in crime and violence in the region².

	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan
GDP per capita (USD)	4,951	2,573	1,031	2,109	2,251
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	35	55	54	52	45
Life expectancy	64.4	66	67	65	68
Human development index ranking	75	92	103	83	99
Population (millions)	16.3	4.8	6.3	6	24.5
% under poverty line	65	88	>80	61	63

The states in central Asia are often described as countries in transition. This description is misleading, disguising the increasing differences between the countries – in their development paths, economic forecasts, context, internal and external policies and relations with other parts of the world. Each state has developed its own approach to its internal and regional political, economic and social context. Situated between Russia, China, Afghanistan, Iran and of interest to the US and Western Europe, internal and regional trends are complex and intertwined. Issues which have a regional perspective include natural resource management including water use, electricity and gas; security; crime including drug related crime and trade, ethnic tensions and migration. There are several actual and potential cross-border disasters such as drought, earthquakes, flooding from Lake Sarez, infectious diseases including tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. A number of border disputes still remain unresolved. Landmines along some borders cause another threat to communities' well-being.

Activities of non-governmental organizations are on the rise, particularly in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, but even in these countries there are signs of restrictions which together with difficult legislative and funding environments make it difficult for local organizations to act to their full potential. External assistance now is increasingly focused on macro-economic development and political liberalization, thus the non-governmental sector and democratization programmes receive substantial funding from major agencies. While this is resulting in a large numbers of non-governmental organizations, this trend still has limited impact on vulnerability.

National contexts

Kazakhstan faces potentially severe health and environmental problems as part of its legacy from the cold war. Dismantling of the nuclear weapons factories and years of nuclear testing in Semipalatinsk, resulted in a high level of radiation. Industrial pollution is heavy in many cities. Erosion and salination in the Aral Sea area threaten the entire area with desertification. Kazakhstan experiences extreme weather conditions with winter temperatures dropping to -45C whilst the summer can reach 50C. High unemployment (85% of industrial enterprises are reported not to be functioning), a malfunctioning welfare system, health care under reform decreasing access for many and increasing incidence of HIV/AIDS, TB and other communicable diseases represent major threats for many people. Lastly, there is an increasingly difficult environment for civil society development with harsh changes in tax laws and other provisions in the legislation.

² Source – Human Development Report 2001

Kyrgyzstan is the second poorest country in central Asia (after Tajikistan). More than 97% of its terrain is mountainous prompting its initiative and support to make 2002 the international year of the mountain. The mountainous terrain makes much of its land impossible to cultivate and there are few natural resources. Populations living in these areas face additional difficulties in gaining access to health and education services as well as increased risk to local disasters such as landslides. Due to the reform of health and care services, there is increasing poverty and inequality, plus decreased access to social services such as education and health care. Internal migration levels are very high. The World Bank estimates that more than half the population lives in poverty with 23% in extreme poverty. Once heralded as a model of post-Soviet democratization, there are now signs of the environment becoming more difficult for civil society. A risk of instability continues in the south of the country.

Turkmenistan retained its command economy, central authoritarian unitary leadership and political control. It suffers from high inflation and an unstable currency exchange which brought many people to a state of poverty. The urban poor have been particularly hard hit by spiraling prices. According to the World Bank, 40% of the population has no access to sanitation. There is a regular number of local disasters including earthquakes, floods and landslides which put vulnerable people at high risk. A restrictive environment makes it difficult for many non-governmental organizations to operate.

Uzbekistan is rich with various natural minerals. Levels of exports, however, remain well below imports due to restrictive economic policies which made for a slow transition from a central command economy to a market economy. Uzbekistan shielded itself from the currency fluctuations of its neighbours. But the black market rates resulted in widespread economic difficulties for many. The country is also vulnerable to natural disasters at local, national and regional level, such as flooding from Lake Sarez in Tajikistan and environmental problems in the Aral Sea area which are further exacerbated by three years of drought in 1999-2000. Potential emergencies with instability in the neighbouring Tajikistan and Afghanistan may cause population movements to Uzbekistan. In 1999 and 2000 there were military incursions into Uzbekistan resulting in the introduction of a strict security on the borders in 2001.

Tajikistan is the poorest of all the countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). In spite of small improvements in the economy in recent years, the effects of the civil war, destroyed or damaged infrastructure and continuous drought in the past 3 years have deepened poverty amongst the country's population, with more than 2 million people facing food shortages in 2002. The average monthly salary is below USD 10 and the official unemployment runs above 30%, unofficially it is even higher. Water and sanitation structures, health care, education and social welfare are also highly dysfunctional. The fragile political situation continues with upsurges in the internal conflict during 2000-2001. Illegal drugs trade and crime thrive in this environment and have become major challenges to development in the future.

National societies' priorities

To be responsive and focused:

- Promotion and further development of the core programmes in health (preventive health, TB, HIV/AIDS); disaster preparedness at community level; disaster response with rapid response teams and increased emergency response capacity; population movement.
- Regular vulnerability and capacity assessment.
- Mobilization of and support to service delivery and advocacy in the fight against HIV/AIDS and public awareness campaigns for minorities including refugees, migrants and displaced people.

To have well-functioning national societies:

- Promotion of branch development and promotion of management skills, approaches and practices at all levels.

- Support to development of strong links with the community, supporting the expansion of the central Asia national societies (CANS) base to have community links via members, volunteer groups and other structures.
- Support to CANS to develop concepts of volunteering and volunteer management building on traditional methods of self-help.
- Promotion of youth activities in order to address the problems of the youth and build the youth movement of CANS.
- Development of clear financial plans, upgrading financial management skills and developing realistic fund-raising strategies at all levels.
- Development of marketing and information activities and improvements in the profile of CANS, their work and their priorities.

To work together effectively:

- Mobilization and promotion of the civil society, working with the community, non-governmental organizations and volunteers.
- Improvements in co-operation with international organizations including UN agencies, IOM, embassies, non-governmental organizations and governmental agencies.
- Promotion of further cooperation between CANS, the partner national societies, the Federation and ICRC.

Priority programmes for Federation assistance

To support the national societies in central Asia the Federation will focus on:

- Disaster response: coordinate and build systems for effective coordinated response. Provide technical assistance if required for emergency response operations in the region to slow and rapid onset disasters; investigate a potential role in rehabilitation; provide support to population movement programmes of individual national societies;
- Disaster preparedness: strengthen CANS disaster preparedness capacities at headquarters, branch and community levels, including mitigation, management and preparedness activities.
- Health: reduce the impact of TB in the region; provide health assistance to targeted areas including prioritizing women's health, increasing emergency health response capacity and supporting preventive health care activities particularly those increasing HIV/AIDS awareness.
- Humanitarian values: promote knowledge of humanitarian values within the region including the Fundamental Principles with a focus on increasing volunteering; actively promote the establishment of a more supportive and tolerant society for those affected by TB/HIV/AIDS and for refugees and migrants and in general addressing prejudice and xenophobia.
- Organizational development: through a coherent and co-ordinated approach provide regional and country specific assistance to CANS to manage their organizational change processes vital to survive and play a significant role in the future civil society of Central Asia, a role they are uniquely well-placed to fill.
- Regional co-operation: promote the exchange and sharing of knowledge and experience within the region between CANS as well as other organizations and also find regional solutions to regional issues.
- Co-ordination and management: co-ordinate and manage support from the Movement to CANS; co-ordinate dynamic co-operation between CANS, partner national societies, ICRC and the Federation to maximise the comparative advantages of each part of the Movement.

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1. Disaster response

Background and achievement/lessons to date

Disaster response refers to national societies' capacity to react to natural and man-made, sudden and slow-onset disasters. Central Asia is prone to a broad range of disasters including earthquakes, floods, drought, landslides as well as technological disasters and emergencies caused by instability and conflict. These are detailed more fully in the section on disaster preparedness. Disaster response also refers to work with populations on the move. Major causes of forced internal, inter-regional and cross-border migration can be grouped under economic, social (social-cultural), political, military, and environmental. The ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan and Chechnya as well as the ongoing instability in Tajikistan and in Ferghana area in Uzbekistan are producing a number of forced migrants. The origins of the two of the most extensive ecological disasters (the former Soviet Union nuclear weapons testing site in Semipalatinsk in Kazakhstan and the desiccation of the Aral Sea) are also in central Asia. These disasters affect Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. During the nineties, all central Asia countries suffered from a large erratic population movement including the returnees, refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs), formerly deported people and ecological migrants. Well over 6 million people have moved within, from or to these countries. In the last four years, thousands of vulnerable people have benefited from the national societies' activities in the field of health, education, public awareness, social rehabilitation, child care, income generation, psychological support and advocacy.

In the last two years, the national societies' disaster response has included assistance to people affected by earthquakes and drought in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, floods in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, landslides in all countries in the region, conflicts in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as well as small scale local emergencies. Disaster preparedness activities have greatly contributed to building the capacity of the national societies in the region to play this role effectively.

The national societies in central Asia have also supported the population groups that have been most affected by the dramatic economic decline in the last few years. These groups include those unable to cope with the changing economic environment on their own. Recognizing the long-term nature of this problem, the national societies have shifted to the social welfare sphere. Some needs are addressed through charity canteens and regular distributions of winter clothing and boots. Despite a declining donor interest, most national societies in the region have managed to raise local funding to sustain a limited number of regular social welfare activities. In order to address longer-term needs of the impoverished population (according to UN Human development report over 30 million people in central Asia live below the poverty line), most of these national societies started to undertake pilot vulnerability and capacity assessments, aiming at finding a relevant approach and a "niche" for response. After 7 years of successive relief operations (e.g. winter appeals), regional disaster response now takes a new direction towards effective disaster preparedness.

A vital element to effective disaster response is logistics capacity. Development of logistics skills and capacities in the region started in August 2000 with individual assessments of the situation in each national society. Since then, a number of activities were undertaken to bring the logistics capacity of all national societies in the region to a similar, common level from where development could start at the same time in a co-ordinated manner. Following the assessment recommendations, the national societies organized/reorganized their logistics departments and recruited a logistics manager. In order to establish better understanding of the Federation procedures, a logistics workshop was held in Dushanbe in January 2001 with participation of four national societies. A separate workshop was organized for Tajikistan in June. Co-operation between the national societies as well as co-operation with individual

relief and disaster preparedness departments were also promoted. There was a significant support from the top management of the national societies from the very beginning ensuring the understanding and participation in the process. A systematic logistics development programme has been planned for the next two years in order to prepare the national societies in the region to respond to regular tasks as well as to disasters in an efficient and timely manner.

In 1996, national societies in central Asia identified assistance to migrating vulnerable groups a priority within disaster response. With support of the Federation, this kind of assistance started in 1998.

Kazakhstan

Between 20-25,000 refugees from Chechnya (the Russian Federation), Afghanistan and Tajikistan fled their home and sought asylum in Kazakhstan. By mid-1997, more than 200,000 ethnic Kazakhs returned to Kazakhstan from other parts of the Commonwealth of Independent States as well as from non-CIS countries, Mongolia, Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and China. A number of ecological migrants moved out from environmentally damaged areas (the Aral Sea and Semipalatinsk).

In 1997, a large-scale survey of the vulnerability in the country revealed special groups of vulnerable among the migrants. The deepening economic crisis, the decrease in the number of enterprises, the increase of the unemployment rate and the growing costs of living had a negative impact on daily life of the vulnerable groups. The data from a survey on returnees (2,421 families) in 4 regions (Almaty, Karaganda, Zhambyl and West Kazakhstan) conducted by the Red Crescent and Red Cross Society of Kazakhstan in 1999, indicates that less than 30% of migrants have identification papers which are very important to benefit from the state's integration programme. Around 70% did not have their own accommodation and shared housing with relatives while more than 56% had no means to buy hygiene items, no access to free medical service, very limited legal assistance. More than 50% of women and children did not have warm clothes and footwear. In total, 11,954 vulnerable migrants were assisted in Kazakhstan since 1994. The assistance included medical care, skills training (language and computer), income generating, psychological assistance for children and agricultural activities.

Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan is the second poorest country of the former Soviet Union, independent since 1991. The collapse of the Soviet Union resulted in the break down of industry, trade, the collective farm system and rural infrastructure leading in turn to mass ecological migration (around one million in ten years). The transition period continues together with further deterioration of the economic situation and further growth of the number of people living in poverty. Kyrgyzstan faces security problems resulting from the action of different religious groups. These problems contribute greatly to poverty, discrimination and social despair. In the last nine years, more than half a million of ethnic Russians have left Kyrgyzstan mainly for the Russian Federation.

According to the information from the migration service department, dated 1 July 2001, there were 10,082 refugees in Kyrgyzstan, namely from Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Chechnya, living in Beshkek. The unofficial figures on the number of refugees, however, seem to be much higher. Due to the difficult financial situation in the country, the government support to refugees is very limited.

With support from the Federation, the population movement unit of the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan, has been involved in providing assistance to the migrants in the country ever since 1998. More than 10,000 refugees benefited from assistance in social rehabilitation, medical care, child care, agriculture, education and psychological support.

Tajikistan

Tajikistan, the poorest country in the former Soviet Union, became independent in September 1991. Civil war erupted in May 1992, followed by the political turmoil and social unrest that resulted in death

or forced migration of more than 0.5 million people. A series of peace talks were held under the auspices of the United Nations and resulted in a cease-fire agreement. Thousands of Tajik refugees from CIS countries and Afghanistan returned home. The implementation of the peace accord in Tajikistan including demobilization of ex-combatants and reintegration of returnees was challenged by a severe drought in 2000. A large part of the crops have been affected. With limited optimism regarding the implementation of the peace agreement, severe drought, the security situation in Batken and the political relations with its neighbours and Uzbekistan in particular, there is little chance for an immediate economic recovery in Tajikistan.

With the support from the Federation, the population movement unit of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has been involved in assistance to the migrants in the country since 1998. Tajikistan is hosting around 8-10,000 refugees from Afghanistan. Most of these refugees lived in the Tajik capital, Dushanbe but were ordered to leave the city by 31 July 2001. They moved to outlying districts although the majority of these refugees settled in the capital long time back. To improve the social and economic situation of the migrants, the national society population movement unit has organized and implemented a series of grassroots workshops on the plight and rights of refugees and has provided agricultural assistance to the vulnerable groups of migrants.

Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan was officially recognized by the United Nations in 1995. Turkmenistan acceded to the UN 1951 Convention and passed the refugee law in 1998. However, there is no ministry responsible for refugee issues. There is no law on migration. All refugee issues are referred to UNHCR. Although all refugees living in rural areas are granted the right to a plot of land and access to health care and education, in practice, there is not enough land for everybody and health care services are very limited.

The Turkmen government adopted a decree on repatriation inviting all ethnic Turkmens to return to the country. Approximately 15,000 Turkmens from Tajikistan and Afghanistan responded. They were allotted land and guaranteed that in 7 years they would automatically receive citizenship entitling them to education and health care and giving them the responsibility to enroll for military service. There are approximately 2,000 refugees mainly from Afghanistan and a small number from Iran, Iraq and Chechnya.

With support from the Federation, UNHCR and IOM, the population movement unit of the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan has been involved in assistance to refugees and returnees since 1998. Since then, 10,000 refugees benefited from the support in repatriation, agriculture, financial allowances, medical reimbursement, training in hygiene and education.

Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan is the most populated state in central Asia with 23.1 million inhabitants. The country's economy has been in decline since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The western and southern Uzbekistan were affected by drought last year and will continue to suffer this year. Three-fifths of the country are covered by a desert or semi-desert. Stability is a big concern of the government. In 1999, there was a terrorist attack in Tashkent. As a result, the social life of the city became much more modest. There is sporadic fighting in Ferghana Valley and on the Afghan border in the south. There is a fear of a wave of refugees and displacement in the region.

There are 7-8,000 Afghan and 50-60,000 Tajik refugees living in Uzbekistan. The government, however, refuses to recognize that there are any refugees in the country and there are no official figures available. The Uzbek government has not signed the UN 1951 Convention, therefore, the environment for forced migrants is difficult. National laws regulating non-Uzbek citizens are limiting and strictly enforced by the government. The refugees are not certain of whether to settle in Uzbekistan, to return to their country of origin, or resettle in a third country. Their access to basic needs, such as legal protection, education, shelter and health are restricted.

With support from the Federation, the population movement unit at the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan has been involved in assistance to refugees since 1999. Around 4,568 refugees have benefited so far from the medical support, training in hygiene and education. With a favourable political environment in the country, the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan will initiate a self-support project to improve the integration of refugees into the society.

Goal(s)

- **Regional disaster response:** To improve the disaster response capacity of the national societies.
- **Regional population movement programme:** To facilitate and promote successful adaptation and integration of the vulnerable groups.

Objectives and activities

Regional disaster response

Objective 1 To improve knowledge and skills within the national societies (staff and volunteers).

Activities to achieve objective 1 are:

- Carry out an assessment of training needs among respective national societies to identify the base for training.
- Use this basis to plan and conduct training in specific aspects of emergency management, such as needs assessment, rapid response, food and non-food assistance, emergency appeal mechanisms to all disaster response-related personnel (especially those permanently working at disaster preparedness and response centres).
- Provide on-the-spot coaching for the staff and volunteer involved in disaster response operations.
- Improve understanding, knowledge and application of the Federation's procedures and requirements amongst the national societies by providing day-to-day support at all stages of a disaster response operation (starting from compilation of project proposals/emergency appeals and up to the final reporting).
- Monitor disaster response activities in the region, ensuring their smooth and efficient implementation and make corrections where necessary through regular visits to the national societies and the operation sites.
- Work towards timely and consistent reporting giving a clear reflection of the work in the field and negotiate the reporting deadlines and formats between the national societies and the Federation and through specific project agreements.

Objective 2³

To support national societies in their efforts to facilitate post-disaster rehabilitation and increase the population's resilience by mobilizing community resources.

Activities to achieve objective 2 are:

- Over the next two years, pilot a new approach which expands disaster response of the national societies in the region to include support to rehabilitation.
- Build disaster response mechanisms procedures into the national societies in the region and improve their capacity to support post-disaster rehabilitation during a six-month period after a disaster.
- Improve the skills on assessment of needs and project design in branches and headquarters.

³ In order to ensure a qualitative approach to these types of activities, the focus in 2002 will solely be on training and situation assessments. Depending on the outcome of this process, national societies may proceed with implementation of pilot projects in 2003.

- Train national societies in project assessment, design and management including the participatory methods of assessment to encourage the community involvement (eg focus group discussions, interviews).
- Gather information on experiences in central Asia to identify successes and lessons learned.
- Support national societies in designing and running the community rehabilitation projects.

Objective 3 To improve logistics management within the national societies of central Asia.

Activities to achieve objective 3 are:

- Continue training on logistics for to the national societies' staff at national and regional level.
- Improve additional skills of the national societies' logistics officers by supporting their training in English language, computer skills, budgeting, cost calculations and other related financial aspects of logistics including specific training in vehicle mechanics for some of the national societies.
- Promote the use of good policy and procedures in all aspects of logistics operations and encourage common standards of excellence within the national societies in central Asia, delivering services throughout the region.
- Support the material base of logistics departments in national societies by providing financial assistance for vehicle workshops, maintenance of warehouses and logistics offices.
- Support the national societies in improving their income generating activities in logistics and in identifying additional ones.

Regional population movement

Objective 1 To improve the social status for vulnerable groups of populations.

Activities to achieve objective 1 are:

- Involve the media in advocating the key messages.
- Work closely with community leaders and other organizations to raise awareness and encourage support for displaced communities (organise meetings, hold seminars, produce dissemination materials, round table meetings, organize debates).

Objective 2 To improve the nutritional status of the most vulnerable families in the displaced communities and reduce their reliance on humanitarian food aid.

Activities to achieve objective 2 are:

- Select 450 most vulnerable refugee and 60 local families (4,000 people).
- Procure and distribute agricultural supplies including seeds, tools, fertilizers and chemical materials.
- Carry out a social survey before and after the project implementation.
- Conclude a trilateral agreement between the local authorities, regional branches and the community of returnees.
- Provide technical support and agricultural advice and produce and distribute agricultural informational leaflets.

Objective 3 To improve the social and economic status and increase self-reliance of displaced communities in the region.

Activities to achieve objective 3 are:

- Organize training centres which develop skills in cooking, bakery and hairdressing.
- Develop small scale income-generating activities (handicraft), in co-operation with the local administration.
- Assist in job-hunting for persons who successfully completed the training courses.

- Organize and support a bakery shop for the Chechen refugee women and a mobile kitchen and hairdressing shop for the Afghan refugee women.
- Organize a place, purchase the tools and help the displaced communities to sell their products and help them to find customers.
- Improve the psychological well being of displaced communities and help the refugee children to connect with their own culture and values.
- Select 140 children from local and displaced communities to attend summer camps.
- Provide the children with the hygiene kits and three meals a day.
- Organize different activities (drawing, swimming, games, sports and music) during the period of their stay in the Red Crescent summer camp.
- Select rural schools to implement the health prevention programme (in co-ordination with the national society health programme).
- Publish and distribute information leaflets on health prevention, prepare information boards at public places, distribute hygiene kits and organize a series of regional sanitation workshops.
- Organize training on first aid for displaced communities.
- Carry out urgent repairs on a local school with displaced students and provide necessary stationary and school equipment.
- Organize week-end language courses to the Tajik refugee children in Kyrgyzstan to enable them to enjoy speaking and writing in their mother tongue.

Expected results by the end of 2003

Regional disaster response

- National societies will have demonstrated their competence through the increased quality of disaster response operations performance by 2003.
- The national societies in central Asia will have increased their image in the community.
- The Federation procedures and policies will have been used in practice. Better understanding of procedures and requirements will have facilitated communication and understanding between the national societies, the Federation and the donors.
- National societies will have designed pilot community-based rehabilitation projects by the end of 2002 and will have initiated a number of pilot projects in 2003.
- The national societies in the region will have decided their role and approach in disaster rehabilitation by the end of 2003.
- The logistics departments in the national societies will have improved their performance in fleet management, procurement and warehousing as well as their understanding of the Federation procedures and communication skills
- National societies will have established and equipped vehicle workshops, providing service to their fleet and additional profits to maintain their regular activities.
- Self-sustainability and independence will have been achieved by the end of the logistics development programme in December 2003.

Regional population movement

- The live of more than 6,000 vulnerable people in five countries in central Asia will have improved.
- Public awareness as well as advocacy campaigns carried out by the national societies in the region will have improved.
- The agricultural project will have improved the economic status of 30 returnee and 20 host families.

Indicators

Regional disaster response

- National societies' performance during the emergency response operations and the results of their self-assessments at the end of each operation.
- The level of independence of the national societies' response including the observance of international standards of project management.
- Higher profile of the national societies.
- Support of and recognition by the international community.
- National societies' success in finding new approaches towards longer-term post-emergency rehabilitation.
- A decrease in vulnerability among the communities covered by the rehabilitation projects.
- Performance of the logistics departments within the structure of national societies in the region during the emergencies.
- Degree of financial self-sufficiency of logistics/vehicle workshops and the quality of delivered services.

Regional population movement

- Living standards and nutrition levels of refugees.
- Successful implementation of social rehabilitation projects.
- Levels of sustainability of projects.
- Awareness and advocacy campaigns are an integral part of policies/plans of the national societies in the region.

Critical assumptions

- Socio-economic situation remains relatively stable.
- There are no major natural or man-made disasters in the region.
- Governmental policies remain consistent.
- National societies continue to be supportive of the programme.

Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

Regional disaster response

Monitoring of this programme will be carried out in the following ways:

- Ad-hoc projects monitoring will be carried out by the Federation through regular visits to respective implementing national societies.
- Project reporting will be provided by the national societies on regular basis.
- Logistics service performance will be assessed through the Federation control sheets while the progress will be measured against the set time frames.

Evaluation of this programme will be carried out in the following way:

- Final evaluation of specific projects and training sessions will be carried out by the means of SWOT analysis and facilitated by Federation representatives and national societies' project co-ordinators.
- Logistics activities will be evaluated at the end of 2002 and 2003 by the Federation.

Regional population movement programme

Monitoring of this programme will be carried out in the following ways:

- The projects will be monitored during the implementation process by the Federation and project co-ordinators from the national societies.

- A final narrative and financial report will be prepared by the population movement co-ordinators in each respective country.
- Technical advice, support and expertise will be provided by the Federation during regular travels throughout the region.

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2. Disaster preparedness

Background and achievements/lessons to date

Central Asia is exposed to a wide array of potential natural and man-made disasters. Floods have become an increasing threat. In the past five years, central Asia national societies (CANS) went through three major flood response operations. One was the Shakhimardan flood in 1999, a destructive cross-border disaster responded to by the joint forces of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan Red Crescent Societies. In 2000 and 2001, two major floods affected Kazakhstan. Flooding continues to be a risk around the rivers Amu Darya, Murgab and Atrek. Lake Sarez in Tajikistan is also one of the major threats as a cause of devastating floods in four countries.

Earthquakes remain another threat in this region. Three of the region's capital cities were levelled by earthquakes in the last 50 years. More recently, Turkmenistan has been exposed to regular earthquakes along the Caspian seashore. Tajikistan has also suffered regular minor shocks destroying housing. All countries in the region monitor this constant seismic activity.

Shortfalls in rainfalls increasingly threaten livelihoods in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. The Aral Sea desiccation and intensive cotton production combined with inadequate water management systems have devastated the land with long-term implications. Other ecological disasters include nuclear contamination in and around Semipalatinsk in Kazakhstan representing a long-term threat to health and life in these regions.

Instability remains a risk in the region. The Fergana valley cuts across three central Asia republics (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan). With conflicts in 1999 and 2000, this valley is a reminder of the fragile security situation in that region. At the same time, other local disasters such as mud and debris floods, steppe fires and gas explosions also represent a constant threat to large numbers of the population.

The national societies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan initiated a disaster preparedness programme in 1996. At the beginning, the programme focused on establishing the base at national level and strengthening the relationships between the national societies and relevant government ministries and institutions. The programme helped the national societies to define their role in disaster preparedness and response. Good relations with the government were forged at joint training sessions and through co-ordinated planning and response. In Kazakhstan, the national society was a partner alongside UNDP and the government in the preparation of the national disaster preparedness plan. In Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan there are good links with ministries for emergencies. Turkmenistan co-ordinates activities and co-operates closely with the civil defense department.

The disaster preparedness programme has strengthened the network of the national societies in the region as well as their capacity to respond to small-scale disasters. The local level training was provided in modules developed especially for the region. Dissemination materials such as calendars with disaster preparedness instructions and messages, booklets and leaflets have contributed positively to improved awareness of the targeted communities. Printed materials and TV programmes were produced and widely disseminated.

The programme is developing a comprehensive approach to disaster management in central Asia, which includes not only disaster response but other elements of disaster management as well such as mitigation and risk mapping activities. Cross-border co-operation and knowledge-sharing within the region have been encouraged. Two disaster preparedness officers, one from the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan

and the other from the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan, were on an exchange visit to Tajikistan to learn about mitigation and community-based activities from the Red Crescent Society there.

A solid base for disaster preparedness has been established. Each national society in the region has a disaster preparedness officer and disaster preparedness centres at national and oblast/rayons (region/district) levels. The challenge ahead is to prepare the local branches to prepare the community to respond to small scale disasters which are increasing claiming lives and causing material damage. The affected people are the first to respond before seeking any external assistance. The local branches capacity can be developed to meet the local needs by pre-positioning disaster preparedness stocks at oblast and rayon level. Improving the skills of staff and volunteers in vulnerability and capacity assessment and risk mapping methods will help identify opportunities and reduce the vulnerability of people. Recently, vulnerability and capacity assessment has been carried out. Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan have started the community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) pilot projects. These are carried out at branch level and focus on volunteers and community participation in the programme. Some national societies have started improving their self-sustainability. The ideas of putting the calendars and booklets on first aid on the market have been initiated in Turkmenistan.

Integration with other programmes is important for multi-skilled rapid response teams (RRTs) at branch level which are equipped with basic rescue and assessment tools including first aid kits, stretches, emergency field kits, guidelines and procedures for field assessment.

The national societies in the region and the Federation are in the process of developing disaster preparedness and response plans. They will constitute the basis for their disaster response and represent the means through which the RRTs deployment and functions will be supported and monitored. With the support from the Federation, the initial stage of the plan will be prepared by the national societies. The plan will be shared and discussed with the ICRC. It is important to provide all national society disaster preparedness centres with communication facilities particularly those which are located in remote or most disaster-prone areas.

The disaster preparedness programme in central Asia takes a regional approach in order to maintain consistency and share the existing resources and experience. Nevertheless, each country's specific circumstances has been considered and each national society has developed and implemented its own disaster preparedness projects reflecting individual needs and capacities. The planning process contributed to planning and management development in general. The following priorities have been identified by the national societies in the region for the next two years:

- Promotion of the preparedness capacity at branch level.
- Promotion of the community involvement in disaster preparedness activities.
- Development of the vulnerability and capacity assessment skills;
- Promotion of sustainability.
- Promotion of the role of leaderships in co-ordination of emergency assistance.

The national society of Tajikistan is included in this appeal as far as regional meetings, training workshops, training materials and regional exchange visits are concerned while the disaster preparedness activities in the country are covered by the country appeal for Tajikistan.

Goal To strengthen the capacity of the central Asia national societies in disaster preparedness and response.

Objectives and activities

Objective 1 To develop disaster preparedness plans of national societies in the region with clear policies and operational guidelines and procedures.

Activities to achieve objective 1 are:

- Review previous disaster responses of national societies and improve future preparedness and response mechanisms by early 2002.
- Create task force teams at headquarters and branch levels.
- Clearly define the role and responsibility of each member of the task force within the disaster preparedness plan.
- Prepare guidelines and procedures for the national society disaster response.
- Provide technical assistance to the efforts of the national societies in the region to create a disaster reserve fund and prepare its guidelines.
- Clearly define the role of the national societies in the region in relation with the government and other organizations and distribute the information to branches and staff members.
- Facilitate and organize a workshop on disaster preparedness plan and operational procedures at each of the 16 disaster preparedness centers by the end of 2002/beginning of 2003.
- Assess the capacity of the national societies in the region to regularly review and maintain a relevant disaster preparedness plan.

Objective 2 To strengthen the capacity of the national societies in the region to respond to disasters effectively and on time.

Activities to achieve objective 2 are:

- Conduct vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA) in at least one rayon (district) in selected oblasts (regions).
- Consider lessons learnt from previous VCA exercises and incorporate them into the VCA training for the national society staff.
- Purchase, if possible locally, and pre-position disaster preparedness stocks of essential non-food items including basic health and first aid kits at branch level and replenish the existing stocks of the 16 disaster preparedness centres.
- Establish local resources to maintain disaster preparedness stocks.
- Ensure strong commitment from the governments in the region to provide warehousing free of charge.
- Create rapid response teams (RRTs) at branch level (community-based teams) and equip them with necessary materials and tools.
- Organize refresher courses and simulation exercises for team members on regular basis in order to keep the operational performance of the RRTs at a high level.
- Conduct training courses on disaster preparedness including the logistical aspect with an emphasis on practical training at grassroots level for staff, volunteers and the community.
- Promote cross border co-operation.
- Facilitate experience-sharing through exchange visits within the region and organize at least two regional exchange visits every year.
- Explore possibilities for exchange visits with other CIS countries.
- Conduct three regional meetings each year on rotation basis as well as one regional training workshop for disaster preparedness officers (5 persons) from the region and improve their communication skill.
- Produce and reprint the training materials.
- Review the modules on disaster preparedness and response to ensure the consistent approach to training activities.
- Carry out training of trainers (instructors) at branch level and promote further training at branch level (oblast/rayons), at schools and in the community.
- Expand community-based training with an emphasis on practical training for selected groups from the community and volunteers in order to form a cell for rapid response (RRTs) and rescue teams at branch and community level.

Objective 3 To link different elements of disaster management such as early warning, risk mapping, prevention and mitigation activities to address the gap between the community's vulnerability and the existing capacity.

Activities to achieve objective 3 are:

- Using the outcome of the VCA, identify suitable prevention and mitigation measures in order to reduce the impact and the consequences of the identified risks on the community.
- Present and discuss VCA results internally, i.e. within the respective headquarters and branches in order to identify specific roles and capacity to respond.
- Share the results externally in meetings with counterparts (local authorities, non-governmental organisations and local businesses, etc.) to discuss approaches, areas of interest and potential joint actions.
- Prepare project proposals focusing on mitigation and vulnerability reduction by using the existing capacities of the community.
- Build on the experience of the mitigation projects in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan.
- Include reinforcement of river banks, land slides prevention, and tree planting in the mitigation activities.
- Ensure the support of the local community and authorities in the mitigation activities.
- Ensure community participation and involvement in planning and implementation and mobilize local resources to support the sustainability of activities.
- Consider the VCA results from the pilot phase of the community-based disaster preparedness projects in Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in further phases.

Objective 4 To increase awareness in communities at risk and in selected disaster prone areas.

Activities to achieve objective 4 are:

- Prepare, produce and distribute printed education materials (calendars, leaflets, booklets and posters) on different types of disasters based on the VCA exercise at each rayon.
- Use radio and TV programmes to disseminate knowledge on disaster preparedness to the general public.
- Use the web sites of the national societies in the region to disseminate knowledge on disaster preparedness.
- Carry out educational sessions facilitated by volunteers at community level targeting selected groups of people i.e. women, youth, the elderly.

Objective 5 To strengthen the technical, administrative and human resources capacity of the five national societies focusing more on the oblast/rayon level.

Activities to achieve objective 5 are:

- Provide relevant administrative, technical and financial support including salaries for the key disaster preparedness staff in disaster preparedness centers in four national societies.
- Consider integrating the position a disaster preparedness officer at branch level with the position of a first aid officer in order to facilitate gradual takeover by national societies of their financial responsibilities.
- Provide necessary technical advice as well as on-job training for the relevant staff.
- Systematically recruit volunteers and link with the community structure.
- Improve communication between the branches in the most disaster prone areas as well as between the branches and the national society headquarters.
- Purchase and install 6 HF radios in the identified disaster preparedness centers by the end of 2002.

Objective 6 To improve and maintain good integration/links with other programmes and other organizations.

Activities to achieve objective 6 are:

- Create a forum for information-sharing on the programmes through joint meetings, sharing of reports, joint training on similar programmes (e.g. health, disaster preparedness, first aid, disaster response and emergency health).
- Establish links with ICRC on conflict preparedness and response and conduct joint training courses
- Pre-position the essential first aid and rescue materials in the oblast/rayons at risk (Fergana valley).
- Promote the rights and needs of the vulnerable groups at different levels on the basis of the better programming initiative and the experience gained in the country.
- Improve the basic and preliminary assessment skills of staff and volunteers covering conflict areas.
- Improve tracing skills for tracing activities in case of natural disasters.
- Promote co-ordination and co-operation between the national societies and other organizations.
- Prepare partnership agreements with other organizations ensuring long-term sustainability and effective use of available resources.

Expected results by the end of 2003

- National societies in central Asia will have formulated country-specific disaster preparedness policies and incorporated these into operational guidelines for implementation of disaster preparedness activities by the end of 2002.
- All national societies will have had individual Red Cross and Red Crescent disaster preparedness plans by June 2003.
- All national societies in the region will have their roles clearly defined and included in their respective country-specific national disaster preparedness plans.
- The national societies will have formalized the relationship and the role of the national society in relation with the government and other organizations.
- The community-based disaster preparedness programme will have expanded with effective community participation and more sustainability.
- The national societies will have had the capacity to deal with disasters in the region through their well-skilled and trained volunteers and staff.
- The national societies will have developed resources, which can be maintained locally, to cope and respond effectively to local emergency situations.
- More co-ordinated activities in risk reduction will have taken place.
- By the end of 2003 each national society in the region will have established at least two regional response teams (RRTs) well trained and equipped with necessary tools for local disaster response.
- Four mitigation projects will have been developed by the national societies in the region.
- Disaster preparedness skills in the branches will have improved.
- Key community people and volunteers/staff will have received adequate training on disaster preparedness and response including advocacy and will have been included into disaster preparedness and response activities.
- All disaster preparedness programmes will have been implemented in close co-operation with other programmes and partners.
- Cross border co-operation will have been initiated and national societies will have benefited from each other's experiences and resources.

Indicators

- The level of public awareness and the change of attitude in the communities.

- The number of trained disaster preparedness staff and volunteers, particularly at oblast and rayon levels.
- The number of national societies with applied operational procedures and guidelines.
- The number of national societies with a disaster preparedness plan.
- The number of joint training activities conducted in first aid, conflict preparedness and response and other programmes.
- The level/number of programmes carried out by the community in disaster mitigation as well as the number of implemented projects.
- The number of regional exchange visits, meetings and communications carried out between the national societies in the region and their positive contribution to the ongoing programmes in the region.

Critical assumptions

- The economic development in the region is sufficient to enable the national societies to become more self-sustaining.
- Security and political stability in the region.
- There is continuous donor support to this programme.
- Governments continue their close co-operation with the national society disaster preparedness programmes.
- The management in the national societies will give an opportunity to disaster preparedness officers to take initiatives.

Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

Monitoring of this programme will be carried out in the following ways:

- The regional disaster preparedness delegate and assistant will carry out close monitoring of the programme, with their counterparts from the national societies through regular reporting and field visits.
- The national society disaster preparedness officers will conduct a follow-up and monitoring visits to various branches and disaster preparedness centers.
- Monthly reports will be submitted to the Federation regional delegation and headquarters of the national societies.

Evaluation of this programme will be carried out in the following ways:

- The regional disaster preparedness delegate will evaluate the overall progress on monthly basis taking into consideration reports from disaster preparedness officers and direct observations.
- Regional meetings, training on evaluation methods, field visits and reports will provide the ongoing evaluation of the programme.
- An external evaluation of the whole programme (a follow-up to the one carried out in 1999) will be carried out in early 2002. This will include a formal evaluation of the training programme by an external consultant.
- The evaluation results will be the basis for future planning.

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3. Health and care

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The health of the population in central Asia is directly influenced by the prevailing socio-economic environment including the increasing unemployment, diminishing social support and the inherited ecological disasters, namely the Aral Sea and Semipalatinsk. The countries in the region have been experiencing a decline in the health situation for the past 20 years including high infant and maternal mortality, an increasing number of infectious diseases as well as high cardiovascular and cancer rates. With the deteriorating economic situation, the epidemiological situation has reached a serious state.

While the health and social welfare systems in the region are being reformed, equal access to basic health care is not guaranteed anymore. Public health management represents a threat to the health of the population in general and to disadvantaged groups in particular. Primary health care is in a precarious state, communicable diseases are on the rise. Tuberculosis took a form of an epidemic, the number of cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) including HIV/AIDS is threateningly high, and smoking, alcohol and drug abuse are widespread.

Deteriorating living standards, poor nutritional status and insufficient immunity contribute to development of active tuberculosis. In central Asia, tuberculosis is rising at an alarmingly high rate. In Britain, the incidence rate of tuberculosis was 9.7 cases in every 100,000 persons in 1998. In the Netherlands, the case rate was 7.7 per 100,000 persons. In Kazakhstan, the figure for 1998 is 118.8; in Kyrgyzstan, 108.9 and in Turkmenistan 84.1 per 100,000 persons.

Incidence of tuberculosis in central Asia at a glance (per 100,000)⁴					
Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Kazakhstan	82.5	91.3	118.8	141	153.2
Kyrgyzstan	87.5	112.6	108.9	114.4	123.1
Uzbekistan	52.4	55.7	59.3	64.6	64.5
Turkmenistan	45.3	72.3	78.8	84.1	--
Tajikistan	27.8	33.5	40.3	41.6	50.0

Comment: The data does not include tuberculosis incidence in prisons.

Persons with HIV are 30 times more likely to develop tuberculosis than other people. The incidence of HIV is high among young people. For this reason central Asia is a fertile ground for tuberculosis.

Although hard data is difficult to obtain, it is assessed that HIV may be widespread throughout the region and is on the rise. From the available data, the number of registered HIV cases in Kazakhstan has increased from 1,153 in July, 2000 to 1,347 in the same month in 2001. AIDS was diagnosed in 37 cases. In Kyrgyzstan, the number of registered HIV cases has increased from 48 to 78 during the same period.

HIV/AIDS prevention is one of the priorities in the region, particularly in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. In 1996, data pointed to a HIV epidemic in Karaganda oblast of Kazakhstan but was mainly limited to injecting drug users (IDUs). The prevalence of HIV is also high among injecting drug users in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. There is a high percentage of HIV cases among commercial sex workers and prisoners and the region is on the verge of an explosion of HIV/AIDS. An immediate action

⁴ Source: Ministry of Health and WHO (CARINFONET, 2000)

in prevention is needed. The recent UN-assisted (mainly UNAIDS) response targeted the governments and civil societies alike. In September 2001, Almaty organized a meeting of European Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on the issue of HIV/AIDS and raised the profile of national societies in the region. The efforts of USAID to develop a regional strategy for HIV/AIDS have provided an opportunity for the national societies to establish their peer education programmes as a key contribution in the struggle against HIV/AIDS.

Reported HIV/AIDS cases in central Asia, June 2001		
Country	Year of first HIV case	Cumulative HIV cases
Kazakhstan	1,989	1,799
Kyrgyzstan	1,987	92
Uzbekistan	1,992	302
Turkmenistan	1,997	2
Tajikistan	1,991	22
Source: UNAIDS		

The ecological disasters in the area of the Aral Sea and Semipalatinsk have gravely contributed to the precarious public health situation in and around the region and, therefore, require particular attention.

The Semipalatinsk region in east Kazakhstan was used as a nuclear testing ground between 1949 and 1989. Since 1991, the site known as 'polygon' was closed for nuclear testing purposes. However, the town and its surrounding villages are still contaminated with radioactive fallout. The closure of the site resulted in increased unemployment thus increasing the number of people falling into the category of vulnerable.

The available studies show that a large number of inhabitants in the region have been exposed to radiation doses beyond the acceptable level. Although further systematic studies are needed to establish the link between the radiation level and its effects on the present generation, the radiation induced health effects are noticeably high in the area and include cancer cases (cancer of lung, breast, gastric and thyroid in particular), childhood leukemia and developmental anomalies. The health conditions of women and children in Semipalatinsk have to be addressed urgently. Due to poor nutritional status and high prevalence of anemia, women are susceptible to a number of illnesses during and after pregnancies. Many give birth to underweight babies. Anemia, toxemia, miscarriage and bleeding as well as tuberculosis are very common.

Better ante natal care and improved awareness through health education are important measures which can make a difference. The regional delegation in central Asia and Kazakhstan Red Crescent and Red Cross Society have given high priority to the health of women in Semipalatinsk.

The exploitation of the Aral Sea basin for cotton production with little regard to ecological factors has resulted in a historic disaster. The ecological consequences of this policy have already been evident for many decades. What used to be the third greatest inland sea in the world is now about to disappear. Vast deserts have been converted into cotton fields and dramatically reduced the quantity of water reaching the Aral Sea. The Aral Sea regions (Kyzyl-Orda oblast in Kazakhstan; Dashoguz oblast in Turkmenistan; Karakalpakstan, Khorezm, Bukhara, and Navoi oblasts in Uzbekistan) are facing serious and growing food shortages.

The region is further affected by the collapse of the infrastructure and medical services. The incidence of tuberculosis in Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan has reached 330 per 100,000 persons. According to the World Health Organization, this is the highest incidence rate in Europe. The food availability is further affected by serious droughts which began in 2000 and continue in 2001.

The Federation and the American Red Cross (ARC) assist vulnerable tuberculosis patients and their families (approximately 61,000 people) in the Aral Sea basin with supplementary feeding. The national societies in all three countries in the Aral Sea basin are involved in tuberculosis prevention through social mobilization and public awareness campaigns.

The national societies in central Asia have traditionally played a major role in basic health care through their network of visiting nurses and first aid volunteer teams as well as through close links with the ministry of health. The national societies have been in a position to play an effective part in public health interventions.

The primary health care and control of communicable diseases are the two top priorities in central Asia. In 2000-2001, the national societies in the region have been given a new but crucial role in preventive health, namely the tuberculosis control. The national societies' visiting nurses trained in their new role have been engaged in pilot projects related to tuberculosis prevention and women's health.

The national societies have focused their attention on social mobilization and public awareness campaigns trying to influence people to complete treatment based on the WHO-recommended DOTS⁵ strategy. The tuberculosis programmes initiated in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, though in their early stages, are already proving to be crucial and effective. The role of the national societies is well recognized and appreciated by other partners engaged in DOTS implementation. The tuberculosis prevention programme is now planned to extend outside the pilot regions.

The tuberculosis programme activities also involve the youth sections of the national societies focusing on youth peer education as a part of the regional strategy to address HIV/AIDS.

The pilot project on the health of women, initiated in Semipalatinsk (Kazakhstan) in early 2001, assists vulnerable women through training, health information dissemination and outreach supervision by midwives. The project is well-received among pregnant women and mothers. Similar projects are planned this year in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. These projects complement the ministry of health activities.

An overview of the health and care programme plan in the region⁶:

Country	Year 2002		Year 2003	
	Project	Sites	Project	Sites
Kazakhstan	1. Tuberculosis prevention	2	1. Tuberculosis prevention	3
	2. HIV/AIDS youth peer education	1	2. HIV/AIDS youth peer education	2
	3. Women's health	1	3. Women's health	2
	4. Semipalatinsk/ women's health	1	4. Semipalatinsk/ women's health	1
	5. Aral Sea/ tuberculosis	1	5. Aral Sea/ tuberculosis	
Kyrgyzstan	1. Tuberculosis prevention	3	1. Tuberculosis prevention	4
	2. HIV/AIDS youth peer education	1	2. HIV/AIDS youth peer education	2
	3. Women's health	1	3. Women's health	2
	4. First aid in schools	1	4. First aid in schools	4
Uzbekistan	1. Tuberculosis prevention	2	1. Tuberculosis prevention	3

⁵ DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment, Short course) comprises 2 months intensive hospital treatment followed by 4-6 months continuation of treatment from home.

⁶ Full country and/or specific proposals are available on request. The project sites mentioned above have in most cases been selected. Support to first aid skills development is underway in all national societies.

	2. HIV/AIDS youth peer education	1	2. HIV/AIDS youth peer education	2
	3. Women's health	1	3. Women's health	2
	4. Aral Sea/ tuberculosis	1	4. Aral Sea/ tuberculosis	1
Turkmenistan	1. Tuberculosis prevention	2	1. Tuberculosis prevention	3
	2. First aid in schools (includes HIV/AIDS campaign)	6	First aid in schools (includes HIV/AIDS campaign)	6
	3. Aral Sea/ tuberculosis	1	3. Aral Sea/ tuberculosis	1
Tajikistan	See under Tajikistan country appeal			

Goal To contribute to prevention of public health disasters with global consequences and thereby to improve the health of vulnerable people in central Asia.

Objectives and activities

Objective 1 To prevent the increase in the incidence of tuberculosis.

Activities to achieve objective 1 are:

- Improve the observance of the standard treatment (WHO recommended DOTS strategy).
- Encourage suspected patients to seek early diagnosis and treatment.
- Encouraging family members for early detection of tuberculosis.
- Trace potential defaulters and encourage them to complete treatment.
- Increase the level of awareness among the population and community institutions through distribution of information materials on preventive measures against tuberculosis in the communities and social institutions e.g. schools.
- Distribute the hygiene and supplement nutrition parcels to vulnerable patients.
- Advocate for the political, administrative and financial support to implement the WHO recommended DOTS strategy.
- Organize campaigns on tuberculosis prevention and standard control strategy in mass media.
- Organize conferences/workshops in order to promote and influence professional, public and political opinion to adopt the standard strategy.

Objective 2 To prevent the predicted HIV/AIDS epidemic in the region.

Activities to achieve objective 2 are:

- Raise awareness among the general population and youth in particular.
- Encourage the national societies branches to combat HIV/AIDS through youth activities.
- Advocate for political and financial support and against stigma related to HIV/AIDS.
- Initiate pilot projects focusing on youth peer education.
- Produce information and promotional documents and materials.
- Train national societies' branch staff, youth and volunteers in HIV/AIDS awareness.
- Co-operate with media and run public awareness campaign and combat xenophobia and discrimination against people affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Organize promotional activities on HIV/AIDS Day.
- Co-operate with UN organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations, public institutions to promote the issues around HIV/AIDS.

Objective 3 To improve the health of women and their children.

Activities to achieve objective 3 are:

- Train a group of nurses/midwives in women health issues and safe motherhood to work as outreach women health workers.
- Make home visits to vulnerable pregnant women and lactating mothers and give support and advice.
- Prepare and distribute appropriate health education materials on pregnancy, safe delivery and baby care among target women.
- Establish a women support centre to give care (check up, fitness) and advice (health related information, counseling) to vulnerable women.
- Distribute vitamins and micro-nutrients to vulnerable women during their pregnancies.
- Equip one health facility (e.g. maternity hospital) of the ministry of health in the target area with basic laboratory diagnostic facilities.
- Provide information and appropriate literature on safe motherhood to health personnel.
- Co-ordinate activities with the ministry of health.

Objective 4 To intervene effectively in emergencies with basic first aid.

Activities to achieve objective 4 are:

- Equip national societies branches with training facilities and conduct training of trainers at branch level.
- Improve knowledge and skills in preventive health and basic first aid among the general population and school children in particular by introducing first aid training in school health education.
- Establish volunteer networks in communities and schools trained in first aid and healthy lifestyle also making use of the Red Cross and Red Crescent network of youth clubs and movement across the region.
- Conduct training of school teachers and parents in first aid, personal hygiene and healthy lifestyle.
- Respond to public health disasters through teacher-parent volunteer networks and conduct training in schools and communities.
- Conduct training at community level in first aid and prevention of common health problems.
- Prepare and distribute appropriate health information materials in schools and communities.
- Co-operate closely with other departments and programmes as well as with the ICRC emergency preparedness programme.

Objective 5 To raise the profile and capacity of the national societies in the region.

Activities to achieve objective 5 are:

- Facilitate training opportunities for the national societies in technical and management skills.
- Conduct training workshops on relevant issues of public health.
- Facilitate skill sharing among the national societies in the region.
- Promote health issues and Red Crescent and Red Cross interventions in central Asia, nationally and internationally.
- Organize regional conferences/workshops in order to influence professional, public and political opinion.

Expected results by the end of 2003

- The national societies in the region will have played a lead role in preventive health and health promotion.
- The national societies will have played an effective part in tuberculosis control in the region.
- The activities of the national societies in target areas will have resulted in an increase in the number of patients completing their treatment successfully within the WHO recommended DOTS strategy.

- The national societies will have become leading organizations in the field of youth peer education in the field of HIV/AIDS and will have made a significant impact on young people's knowledge on the subject.
- Tolerance towards people with HIV/AIDS will have increased.
- Ante natal care of vulnerable women will have improved.
- Early intervention on women of high risk groups during their pregnancies and safe delivery practices will have improved.
- Awareness about pregnancy, infant care and other health issues will have increased.
- Prevention of diseases and healthy lifestyle will have improved.
- The national societies in the region will have become an integral part of the community health system in general as well as in emergency situations.

Indicators⁷

- An increase of minimum 20% of patients to observe the tuberculosis treatment, i.e. completing DOTS treatment successfully, compared to and verified with the data prior to the programme.
- An increase in the level of knowledge and behavioral change of the specific health issues among the population verified with pre- and post KAP⁸ comparison.
- The number of health information materials distributed and dissemination sessions conducted during the period.
- An increase in the number of youth volunteers and their level of involvement in the HIV/AIDS programme.
- The number of conferences/workshops (to promote and influence professional, public and political opinion towards a specific health issue and strategy to control).

Critical assumptions

- Effective co-ordination and partnership within the Movement with other organizations are established and maintained.
- There is no major disruption in the implementation of the programme due to funding constraints.
- There is no major disruption in the implementation of the programme due to political instability within the region.

Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

Monitoring of this programme will be carried out in the following ways:

- The projects will be monitored by respective medical co-ordinators of the national societies.
- The monitoring will be made through regular visits and analyses of the field monthly reports.
- The Federation regional health delegate will have the overall responsibility to monitor and report on the progress of the programme through the established reporting lines.

Evaluation of this programme will be carried out in the following ways:

- The evaluation of the programme will be made jointly by the regional health delegate and the health advisor from the Federation secretariat at the end of 2002.
- Further evaluation will be made by a team of external consultants by the end of 2003.

⁷ Indicators, based on the standards specified in 'humanitarian charter and minimum standards in disaster response' of the SPHERE project, will be used, wherever applicable, to monitor the progress of the programmes. The very nature of the interventions and their close link to other external factors will influence the impact of the programmes. It would, therefore, be too optimistic to expect to measure the full impact of the programmes in the specified short period. Thus, certain standard output indicators addressing the results of the activities will be the choice indicators for monitoring purposes.

⁸ Knowledge, Attitude and Practice.

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4. Humanitarian values

Background and achievements/lessons to date

Since 1991, all central Asia countries have had to carry out difficult tasks including the promotion of national pride and identity. The end of the Soviet Union was also the end of the state structure, the end of the prevailing ideology, the system of value and economy.

Tensions between different communities and dissatisfaction and frustration with the economic conditions have become major challenges. Corruption is reported to be increasing. Actions of radical groups have resulted in a number of security problems. Increased intolerance has been registered including prejudice against minority i.e. ethnic groups, migrants and refugees and those affected by illnesses such as HIV/AIDS and TB.

Young people have been particularly affected by these changes. The economic environment offers few opportunities to young people in particular. Education becomes more difficult to access, jobs more difficult to find. Youth identify unemployment, drug abuse, drugs trade, crime and HIV/AIDS as some of the main issues they face.

Promotion of humanitarian values includes promotion of a civil society and development of a supportive environment for vulnerable people. Education can promote tolerance and a more supportive environment for vulnerable groups such as those affected by HIV/AIDS, refugees and migrants. It can also promote commitment to, and action based on humanitarian principles.

The Fundamental Principles of the Red Crescent and Red Cross Movement provide both a justification and indeed responsibility to be active in the promotion of humanitarian values within and outside of the Movement. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have an advantage to approach vulnerable groups through their network of branches. This is considered as a key strength and an advantage to maintain good communication and confidence between the community and authorities. Given the confidential and reliable nature of national societies, much can be done to promote mutual understanding, bridge-building and eventually establish humanitarian values within communities.

The Fundamental Principles provide a strong code attractive to many, particularly the youth. The principle of voluntary service is particularly important in these days of economic difficulty and social transition in central Asia. Building on traditional methods of self-help, volunteering can be encouraged to promote sustainability of the national societies' programmes as well as to provide meaningful roles in the community for youth and others. The regional development programme plans to establish close co-operation with other organizations and carry out research into traditional methods of self-help and voluntary service.

ICRC plays an active role in promotion of knowledge and implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) as well as in capacity building of the national societies in the region in this field. These activities will continue in 2002-2003. The population movement, health and disaster preparedness programmes all contain promotion elements. The skills of information officers in national societies in publicity, marketing and communication including the awareness campaigns are vital to the organizational development.

In 1997, the five national societies in central Asia committed to change the bureaucratic image of their organizations that were traditionally perceived as medical institutions and a part of the governmental

system. Through its regional delegation, the Federation and, the Icelandic Red Cross in particular, have supported these tremendous efforts of the national societies by providing guidance, equipment and an intensive training programme to newly established information departments. By the end of the third year of the information programme, the information officers obtained essential skills in public relations and communication with media. The information departments have contributed greatly to further promotion of the image of their national societies. The recent image survey conducted in all five countries has indicated a general high level of public awareness of the Red Crescent and Red Cross activities. Most of the information appears to be disseminated through media and national society publications.

One of the important lessons learned is the vital role the information programme in the national societies' efforts to build public knowledge of the role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in each country and to gain support from the public and various organizations within the country. The information departments' key role in campaigns and in the preparation of public events have been essential in this region, where marketing is a new technique.

In the process of developing the regional assistance strategy, the five national societies identified the promotion of humanitarian values as a key activity. A communication strategy has been developed for the region to promote awareness as well as to publicize certain issues and needs. The communication strategy aims at increasing the profile of the national societies within and outside the region. The information departments play the main role in the implementation of this strategy and represent the main source of expertise on communication skills available for all parts of the national society including other programmes and branches.

At present, the programme is in the process of developing a regional communication network that aims at providing two-way information flow between the national societies headquarters and branches, through information volunteers at oblast level and workshops for branch staff and volunteers.

To promote humanitarian values effectively, the programme intends to provide technical and information support in all core areas. This will include the promotion of community involvement in disaster preparedness, disaster response, long-term rehabilitation, public awareness campaigns on health and population movement, HIV/AIDS, youth and recruitment of volunteers.

Goal To promote humanitarian values within and outside the Movement and to ensure broad understanding in the community of and support to the Red Cross and Red Crescent activities.

Objectives and activities

Objective 1 To promote the Red Cross and Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values within and outside the Movement.

Activities to achieve objective 1 are:

- Identify opportunities in all core programmes and use them as a means to promote Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.
- Organize information seminars at regional and national levels for information officers and programme co-ordinators including health, DP, disaster response, population movement and development and develop further strategies for the promotion of humanitarian values.
- Strengthen co-operation with regional and national media through press-briefings, round tables with NGOs.
- Promote awareness and the Red Cross and Red Crescent role and activities on specific dates important for the Movement.
- Launch campaigns to promote public awareness of the emblem, the Movement and the history of the Red Cross and Red Crescent including competitions for youth, dissemination of publicity materials with key messages related to the Fundamental Principles, posters, post cards, booklet in Russian and in local languages.

- Organize introductory seminars for youth, volunteers and new staff members to ensure understanding of the Fundamental Principles.
- Organize radio broadcasts, participate in inter-agency activities such as round tables and prepare and distribute publicity materials (videos, pamphlets, booklets) on the activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Objective 2 To raise the profile within the region at branch and national level, as well as outside the region and in general public, of the activities and key messages in the core areas.

Activities to achieve objective 2 are:

- Produce publicity and information materials to highlight the activities at regional and national level including the publication and dissemination of a regional newsletter four times a year, national level newsletters, booklets/pamphlets and fact sheets on regional/national programmes and related issues.
- Establish, maintain and maximize potential contacts with national and international media and organize both local and international media visits to the field to promote media coverage of activities and give “voice” to beneficiaries particularly those affected by HIV/AIDS, TB, disasters and population movement.
- Actively contribute to the Federation web site, national society websites and publications.
- Support regional actions to raise the profile and share the experience with other organizations through events, publications, contributions to inter-agency events and Federation events.
- Support programme co-ordinators in developing strategies to make use of the media contacts in their programmes, particularly in tracing, refugee issues, health promotion, emergency first aid, disaster preparedness, organizational development and recruitment of volunteers and members.
- Provide information on national societies’ activities to ensure media coverage on key calendar dates such as the World Red Cross Day, World TB Day, AIDS, Volunteers Day.
- Support activities such as the Turkmen production of a video on disaster preparedness at community level, Kyrgyz production of health promotion materials and other programmes’ use of information department activities to promote key humanitarian values.

Objective 3 To advocate on behalf of vulnerable people promoting public support and understanding of the situation for people affected by issues relating to HIV/AIDS, TB, disasters and migration

Activities to achieve objective 3 are:

- Provide technical support to core programme activities on advocacy.
- Advocate for vulnerable groups through the regional newsletter and the media.
- Use key dates (e.g. World Aids Day, International Women’s Day) to promote public awareness of key Red Cross and Red Crescent messages related to the health promotion in TB, HIV/AIDS, disaster preparedness and promotion of tolerance and supportive environment for refugees, migrants and minority groups.
- Identify opportunities and necessary skills for advocacy.
- Organize training in advocacy - to introduce the concept, develop skills and develop an appropriate central Asia approach.
- Organize on-the-spot coaching and practical assistance at country level.
- Establish relations with the media and provide them with information to encourage their cooperation.
- Prepare materials to promote key messages and organize public awareness campaigns in the Red Crescent youth centres (Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) to advocate for a more supportive environment for youth affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Organize joint seminars with disaster preparedness department in Tajikistan to promote public awareness related to potential risks and measures communities can take to prevent and/or respond to disasters.

- Produce a video in co-operation with the population movement programme on the conditions for returnees in Kazakhstan.
- Use a traditional drawing contest among disabled children in Uzbekistan and advocate for more respect for and attention to their skills.
- In Turkmenistan, promote the needs of vulnerable people, particularly refugees in mass-media.

Objective 4 To develop the communication capacity of national societies and to involve volunteers in information activities.

Activities to achieve objective 4 are:

- Provide training to information officers at an annual workshop on communication, English language training, and on-the-spot support and coaching in visits to the national societies.
- Keep the national societies' information officers updated on the Federation communication policy and opportunities.
- Identify and train volunteers in information, communication and advocacy at branch level in particular targeting student-journalists, youth journalists and support them through clubs.
- Provide opportunities (e.g. summer placements) to attract professional volunteers such as student journalists.
- Use methods such as awards and publicity of best article/best volunteer to promote participation.

Objective 5 To provide technical support to marketing and resource development activities to promote the national societies and programme sustainability.

Activities to achieve objective 5 are:

- Organize campaigns to recruit volunteers, youth and raise local support.
- Provide media coverage for campaigns, events and activities such as membership drives at regional and national level.
- Provide technical support on marketing, organization, relations with the media and communication for events such as Open Days and the World Red Cross Day.

Expected results by the end of 2003

- Key messages on health, disaster preparedness and population movement will have been effectively disseminated.
- All programmes will have considered their role and identified and implemented strategies to promote humanitarian values.
- The level of public awareness of the national societies' activities and the mission of all three components of the Movement will have increased.
- The image of all five national societies will have been established.
- At least two volunteers in each branch will have been trained in basic skills of public relations and work with media.
- The profile of the national societies will have been raised not only within their respective countries but outside the region as well.
- Level of volunteering will have increased in national societies.

Indicators

- The level of media coverage for the national societies activities and messages.
- Level of knowledge of key messages.
- The results of the surveys on the public image and understanding of the national societies.
- An increased number of trained staff and volunteers.
- The level of community involvement and support for the Red Cross and Red Crescent activities.

- The change in the attitude of volunteers and the staff towards vulnerable groups including people affected by HIV/AIDS.

Critical assumptions

- Potential volunteers exist at community level.
- The national societies remain interested in this programme.
- There is continuous donor support to the programme.
- There are no major disasters or political/economic deterioration in the region.

Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

Monitoring of this programme will be carried out in the following ways:

- Annual public surveys will be carried out to monitor the image of the national societies.
- The programme will be monitored by the leadership of the national societies, national headquarters information officers and regional programme co-ordinator.
- Core programmes will include monitoring and evaluation of the components relating to their area.
- Monthly narrative and financial reports will be submitted to the Federation and to donors.

Evaluation of this programme will be carried out in the following ways:

- Evaluations in sector programmes (health, disaster preparedness, population movement) will include the review of promotion activities.

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5. Organizational development

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The five central Asia national societies are at a crucial stage in their development - ten years since independence, the national societies have a unique opportunity to play a leading role in a newly emerging but fragile civil society. The countries' vulnerability to disasters and emergencies, natural and man-made, increase the urgency with which the national societies require development to be able to fulfill their humanitarian mandate effectively. Increasing diversity in each country - in economic, political and social factors, mean that each national society must establish its own approach to play a meaningful and feasible role to address vulnerability. The trend in all five countries of increasing inequality makes that role vital and urgent. The regional relationships provide opportunities almost unique among organizations in the region for mutual learning and co-operation in order to address regional issues.

Strong national societies are needed to take full advantage of these opportunities. In 2000, a comprehensive review of assistance to the national societies in central Asia was undertaken involving branches, staff and volunteers, stakeholder organizations in each country as well as the Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. The review identified lessons learned and priorities for future initiatives in national societies' development.

Priorities:

- Establish a clear focus, role and programme priorities for each national society in the region.
- Build local capacity through practical support for branches.
- Diversify the funding base to establish financial sustainability.
- Strengthen relationships between national headquarters, branches and programmes to improve communication as well as to increase participation in decision-making.
- Upgrade and develop management skills and approaches in the areas of financial, human, branch, programme and senior management.
- Establish mechanisms for better co-ordination of development assistance to national societies in the region.

With the support of the Federation, the national societies in the region have launched a number of development initiatives at regional and country levels. These initiatives have been closely co-ordinated with the ICRC.

Achievements in 2000-2001 include:

- Development of strategic plans for the next three years, compiled in a participatory manner in all countries with the involvement of branches and volunteers.
- Branch development activities including skills development, management coaching, material improvement of facilities, expansion of activities and promotion of humanitarian values including voluntary service.
- Establishment and first steps in development of the Red Cross and Red Crescent youth movement in all countries.
- Piloting of vulnerability and capacity assessments at branch level to develop simple and practical methods for programme planning at branch level.
- Promotion of HIV/AIDS and drugs awareness and prevention of sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) as key issues for the Red Cross and Red Crescent youth movement as part of an inter-agency regional strategy.

- Increased knowledge at national and local levels about the co-ordination of an increased number of partnerships with international organizations and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- Promotion of voluntary service in the International Year of Volunteering in which many national societies in the region developed their own policies, guidelines and approaches to promote volunteering in the country, in national societies and programmes. Promotional materials and guidelines were also developed.

The programmes like health, disaster preparedness, disaster response and population movement significantly strengthened the national society capacity. Some common goals for all programmes have been established to ensure a coherent approach to national societies' development in each country:

- To consider volunteering issues from the design stage of a programme encouraging programmes which use volunteers as a mechanism for sustainability of programmes as well as for building on a core Red Cross and Red Crescent value.
- To encourage vulnerability assessment to be the basis of all programming.
- To take the national society capacity as the starting point for designing appropriate programmes.
- To work in partnership within and outside of the Movement.
- To address sustainability issues within all programmes.
- To support country based approaches with assistance tailored to the specific context of each national society and vulnerability in that country.

In 2001, reliance on delegate support has been reduced while country-based programme co-ordinators have been introduced in Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The same process will be finalized in Uzbekistan by September 2002. The central Asia regional delegation has established the role of a regional programme co-ordinator with the responsibility to co-ordinate organizational development initiatives as well as a coherent approach in all programmes. If required, additional assistance will be recruited through consultancy, staff-on-loan and exchange in and outside the region. Technical assistance will become more directly managed by the national societies in the region.

In 2000-2001, a regional assistance strategy was developed. A follow-up process to the review was undertaken in the summer 2001. It considered progress as well as the appropriateness of the priorities and of the initiatives undertaken by the national societies in the region and their partners in support of the organizational development. These processes together with the strategic plans of the national societies in the region form the basis for the programme outlined below.

Goal To strengthen the national societies in the region in order to get the characteristics of a well-functioning national society.

Objectives and activities

Objective 1 To improve the legal basis and image of the national societies by 2003.

Activities to achieve objective 1 are:

- Sign agreements with governments in order to identify the roles and responsibilities in the humanitarian field.
- Support the efforts of the national societies to establish Red Crescent laws in their countries.
- Extend membership in the Movement and in the Federation to Kazakhstan.
Prepare legal documents and disseminate them widely to ensure the implementation of the statutes at all levels.
- Produce and disseminate information materials on proceedings of the national societies in the region including the information on the regulations about primary organizations and statutes.

Objective 2 To promote leadership and management skills in the national societies in order to implement effective organizational changes.

Activities to achieve objective 2 are:

- Organize a one-week regional training course in leadership and management specifically designed to meet the needs of central Asia leadership for a core group from each national society.
- Organize, together with ICRC, a follow-up with country specific programmes, coaching and support.
- Organize exchanges with other organizations within the region to expose managers to alternative styles of management.
- Provide technical support in financial management to national societies which make a commitment to financial management development (e.g. agree to publish audited accounts) and include training in a regional workshop, on-the-spot coaching and upgrading of equipment.
- Work together within the region to identify systems of management and governance which ensure accountability and meet regional particularities.
- Learn from the experience of other national societies and other organizations in central Asia.
- Follow-up with each national society in the region to provide one-to-one support to develop country-specific decisions on the way forward.
- Develop new skills in each national society in the region to enable more flexible and focused programming and management.
- Provide training in advocacy, community project planning, training and facilitation skills.
- Support senior and middle management skills development in areas such as human resource management, reporting, monitoring and evaluation.
- Promote better communication methods and more dialogue in the national societies in the region through exchanges between branches, more contact and team work among the national societies in the region and among their programme co-ordinators.

Objective 3 To build capacity at branch level in order to increase branch effectiveness, strengthen community participation in the Red Cross and Red Crescent and build local sustainability.

Activities to achieve objective 3 are:

- Build branch capacity to carry out and expand vulnerability and capacity assessments.
- Produce guidelines, training materials and share case studies and experience of pilot assessments carried out in 2001.
- Gradually involve more branches in the vulnerability and capacity assessment.
- Encourage donor adherence to the regional recommendation related to allocation of 3% of emergency response funding to branch development.
- Build on the successful examples of this approach in 2000/2001.
- Maximize opportunities of regional programmes to build branch capacities and activities.
- Establish and support relations and groups at community level (clubs, centres, meeting points, primary organizations, membership systems).
- Based on the results of pilot projects, build branch capacities to raise funds through campaigns, fund-raising, better information and visibility activities and income-generation projects.
- Provide practical training to branch staff in management, project design, volunteer management and vulnerability assessment.
- Gradually improve the material basis of the branches to meet, at least, the basic standards of the national societies in the region.

Objective 4 To establish a sustainable, vibrant Red Cross and Red Crescent youth movement and Red Cross and Red Crescent approach to volunteering in central Asia.

Activities to achieve objective 4 are:

- Establish regional links, peer support networks and provide technical support to Red Crescent youth movements across the region.
- Facilitate regional learning on good practice in approaches to volunteering in the region through case studies and exchange of lessons learned.
- Review the current role of volunteers.
- Ensure that volunteer roles are taken into account in programme planning.
- Establish and reinforce youth groups in branches and increase the number of young members.
- Increase communication in the youth movement through the web, Internet, publications, newsletters, exchanges, summer camps.
- Promote participation and integration of the youth members in all core programmes.
- In particular, mobilize the youth movement, in cooperation with information and health departments, to contribute to the fight against HIV/AIDS, other communicable diseases and to increase tolerance and support for those affected by them.
- Train youth to be able to take on a key role in promoting humanitarian values particularly in fighting xenophobia and prejudice against minorities by ensuring their groups are open and welcoming to minority groups.
- Organize youth activities in support to the vulnerable groups.
- Improve co-operation with youth departments of other national societies outside central Asia and with other youth movements within central Asia.

Objective 5 To diversify the funding base of the national societies in the region to improve their financial sustainability.

Activities to achieve objective 5 are:

- Provide training in alternative methods of fund-raising.
- Provide exposure to examples of good practice.
- Map local and international funding sources and establish a co-ordinated approach to monitoring funding opportunities.
- In each country, carry out an assessment of fundraising and financial situation, establish priorities and possibilities and then formulate an annual plan at local and national levels to reduce dependence.
- Establish fundraising units in national societies responsible for the implementation of the fund-raising plans and also support branch efforts in this sphere.
- Increase publicity to raise the profile of the national societies in order to increase local and international awareness and support for the Red Cross and Red Crescent work.
- Improve the donor and partner management skills of the national societies including proposal writing, reporting and negotiation of partnerships.

Objective 6 To build a strong network of people from within and outside the region who can provide technical support to further development of the national societies in the region.

Activities to achieve objective 6 are:

- Establish a technical assistance fund which can be used by national societies to bring in external expertise they require, from within the region or outside.
- Facilitate regional learning and establish a strong network for development officers in the region.
- Run workshops twice a year for development officers/leadership in peer support, training and exchange of experience.
- Establish a network with potential consultants and technical trainers and improve relations with other organizations working in the area of civil society development.
- Share experience and lessons learned with other parts of the Movement.

Expected results by the end of 2003

- More flexible organizations with more open and participatory decision-making processes and better communication and co-ordination within and across the region will have been established.
- Rapid response capacity will have been established.
- A more focused, relevant and effective programmes with clearly stated expected results and better team working abilities will have been in place.
- Increased knowledge and analysis of local vulnerability will have become the basis of the national societies' planning at branch level.
- Clearer and more appropriate structures, policies and procedures will have been established at branch and national level.
- Financial sustainability will have been addressed in a systematic and realistic manner.
- The national societies in the region will have become less reliant on external funding for support and core costs.
- A core leadership group will have been established in each national society with skills in the organizational change management, management and leadership.
- A sustainable and vibrant youth movement will have been established in each country with good regional and international relations and co-operation.
- Volunteers will have become a part of all programmes and culturally appropriate methods for their recruitment, retention, management and recognition will have been identified and put into practice.
- The image of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in central Asia will have improved.
- The role and activities of the Red Crescent will have become better known in the region.
- Appropriate relations with stakeholder organizations including partners, governments and partner Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will have been established.

Indicators

- Quality of the branch vulnerability and capacity assessment reports.
- Image surveys i.e. the level of public knowledge and support for the Red Cross and Red Crescent.
- Financial reports detailing proportion of core costs covered by the fund-raising of the national societies.
- The number of volunteers and their level of involvement in programmes, decision-making and national societies' development.
- The level of management skills applied in practice.
- The level of policy development and its application in practice.
- The level of branch satisfaction with the national societies' headquarters and vice versa.
- The level of adherence to the strategic plans.
- The number of beneficiaries supported through the vulnerability and capacity assessment related projects and youth clubs.
- The successful implementation of the programmes against their work plans.
- The number of youth and volunteers involved in all core programmes.
- Degree to which the youth movement is self-sustained.

Critical assumptions

- The civil society development is not further hampered by government interference.
- The political and social situation does not further deteriorate.
- The economic situation provides some opportunities for local mobilization of resources.
- Local forms of self-help and volunteering exist in each country to build upon.
- Donors continue to support this programme.

Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

Monitoring of this programme will be carried out in the following ways:

- In each country, progress at branch level will be monitored through regular visits, receipt of reports and coaching visits from the national society headquarters.
- The progress will be reviewed at regular meetings between the headquarters and branch staff .
- Regional delegates will visit the national societies regularly to review the progress.

Evaluation of this programme will be carried out in the following ways:

- There will be an annual self-assessment of the overall organization development process in each national society.
- Individual initiatives will be evaluated against the expected results and indicators outlined above.
- Regional meetings of leadership and development officers will be used for occasional review of programmes and their progress.
- In late 2002, an external team will carry out a mid-term impact assessment.
- The analysis from the 2000 review will be used as baseline data for the evaluation.

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6. Regional co-operation

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The Federation regional delegation in central Asia provides support to five national societies. The overall strategy for assistance to national societies is based on two principles:

- To increase the national society effectiveness and impact to address vulnerability in central Asia.
- To work within the framework of strategy 2010 and other relevant Movement policies and frameworks.

Assistance to national societies is focused on the core activities of the Federation's strategy 2010 i.e. on health, disaster preparedness, disaster response and the promotion of humanitarian values. The assistance seeks to establish strong and independent national societies through programme and organizational development. A regional assistance strategy (RAS) was prepared in a participatory process during 2000-2001. The regional assistance strategy guides the Federation, ICRC and partner national societies in their co-operation with the national societies in the region. The strategy provides a framework for regional co-operation and aims at ensuring some continuity and coherence in approaches of different partners to the national societies in the region.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are unique in central Asia due to their region-wide network of branches and volunteers. There is a key opportunity to play leading roles in the development of a civil society in central Asia.

Key strengths for the Movement in regional co-operation in central Asia are:

- Core group of partner national societies committed to long-term support in the region.
- Excellent co-operation between all elements of the Movement within the region.
- High number of external organizations (international, national and local) interested to work with the Movement in central Asia.

Key challenges for the next years are to:

- Consolidate the existing partnerships between the elements of the Movement.
- Improve communication exchange and establish mechanisms between the Red Cross and Red Crescent partners to enable an open and transparent exchange of information.
- Attract new Red Cross and Red Crescent and external partners to work with the national societies in the region.
- Explore potential partnerships and co-operation with the commercial sector within the region and also the international arena.
- Broaden the range of partnerships to consider areas such as advocacy, research and technical exchange.
- Build national society partnership development skills (negotiation skills and others).
- Overcome practical difficulties in some aspects of cross-border co-operation due to restrictions in border crossing, transportation of goods and visa procedures.
- Maximize opportunities to learn from each other and from cross-border exchange of experience, knowledge and lessons learned.

Regional cooperation at sectoral level takes place through exchange and learning processes such as regional workshops, newsletters, exchange visits and represents an integral part of the health, disaster management, population movement and organizational development programmes. These activities

contribute to establishing regional links between national society programme co-ordinators and provide channels for the exchange of experiences.

Goal To promote a coordinated approach in which learning is promoted and practical links and partnerships established in order to improve the Movement's impact on vulnerability at country and regional level in central Asia.

Objectives and activities

Objective 1 To co-ordinate the implementation of a coherent regional assistance strategy to address issues of vulnerability in central Asia.

Activities to achieve objective 1 are:

- Promote awareness of and implement the regional assistance strategy.
- Establish monitoring, self-assessment and review mechanisms for the regional assistance strategy and adapt and revise it where necessary.

Objective 2 To promote partnerships in order to increase the impact of the work of the national societies in the region by building on the comparative advantages of different components of the Movement and other organizations.

Activities to achieve objective 2 are:

- Establish mechanisms to support and manage effective relations between the national societies in the region and partner national societies.
- Consolidate and increase the number of long-term partnerships between the national societies in the region and other national societies, building on successful examples within the region.
- Establish e-mail groups on specific programme and/or countries for information exchange between partners and the regional delegation.
- Explore potential joint fund-raising initiatives.
- Develop key sectoral partnerships with international organizations, commercial and academic sectors in the core areas identified by the Federation, building on successful experience between national societies, the Federation and IOM, UNHCR and others.
- Organize a partnership meeting each year to review and plan further partnership development, co-ordination and co-operation in the region.
- Promote the profile of central Asia within the Movement through partner national societies, Federation, national societies in the region and ICRC.
- Encourage the partner national societies to promote the activities of the national societies in central Asia in their own countries.
- Prepare the information materials and organize visits from national societies in central Asia to partner national societies.
- Maintain the regional co-ordination unit in the Federation regional delegation in order to monitor and guide partnership development and identify, target and follow up relevant contacts.

Objective 3 To strengthen links between the national societies in the region at all levels co-operation and to promote their lead role in setting the Movement's agenda in the region.

Activities to achieve objective 3 are:

- Organize a regular forum for information exchange, discussions and joint planning with at least two regional meetings for leaderships of the national societies in the region with the Federation delegation and ICRC.

- Encourage the leaderships to play a greater role in setting up the agenda for regional co-operation
- Encourage the national societies to host and chair the meetings on rotation basis, taking responsibility to lead in certain areas.
- Build links and exchange experience through short-term exchanges between leaderships and short-term placements in other organizations and other national societies outside the region.

Objective 4 To increase the participation of the national societies in the region in global activities of the Federation and wider civil society.

Activities to achieve objective 4 are:

- Identify (at least annually), the staff in the delegation and in national societies eligible to participate in the Basic Training Course (BTC).
- Establish links with other regions, particularly within the Commonwealth of Independent States to provide opportunities for gaining experience in other countries on the regional exchange basis.
- Establish an intern system to provide short-term placements in Geneva and in the delegation for the national society staff.
- The regional delegation will support the participation of the national societies in the region in relevant global conferences organized by the Federation and civil society organizations.
- Hold two regional events to raise the profile of the Movement, share experiences and promote Red Cross and Red Crescent activities in the region.

Expected results by the end of 2003

- A co-ordinated approach to address vulnerability will have been implemented by the components of the Movement.
- An increased number of long-term partnerships (2-4 years) will have been established within the Movement and between the national societies and other organizations in the region.
- Positive, timely and transparent information exchange and communication will have been established between different components of the Movement.
- central Asia will have achieved a high profile within the Movement.
- The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will have improved relations with other organizations.
- The national societies in the region will have played a major role in setting up the Movement's strategy in the region.
- Better understanding of working practices will have been established between the delegations and national societies in the region.

Indicators

- The level of adherence to the regional assistance strategy.
- The level of media coverage in central Asia.
- The improved profile of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in inter-organizational events and of central Asia in the events of the Movement.
- The level of participation of the national society leaderships in setting up the agendas for regional meetings.
- Number and duration of partnerships between the national societies in the region and partner national societies.
- Improved partnerships of the national societies with the Federation, private sector and academic, international and non-governmental organizations.
- The number of delegates from central Asia working for the Federation.
- The number of staff members from the national societies in the region working in the regional delegation or in Geneva.

Critical assumptions

- Cross border co-operation and communication remains possible.
- Partners show continued interest in the programme.
- The national societies in the region continue to support the programme.
- The skills of the staff from central Asia are relevant to for delegate and other positions and posts.

Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

Monitoring of the programme will be carried out in the following ways:

- The regional assistance strategy will be monitored through a self-assessment process at each year's partnership meeting.
- Feedback will be gathered from the national societies in the region at regular meetings and annual partnership meeting.
- The regional delegation will monitor all aspects of the regional co-operation, gathering input from all partners and will report back to them on annual basis.

Evaluation of this programme will be carried out in the following ways:

- A framework for evaluation will be negotiated in 2003, depending on the regionalization in the rest of Europe.

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7. Co-ordination and management

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The central Asia regional delegation provides support to the five central Asia national societies. The region is characterized by increasing diversity between the countries, widening inequality between the rich and the poor, increasing incidence of communicable diseases, continued risk of disasters with more people vulnerable to their effects and continued instability in some areas. Assistance to national societies in their role to address these issues is guided by the regional assistance strategy and is focused on the core activities of the Federation's strategy 2010 i.e. on the promotion of humanitarian values, health, disaster preparedness and response. These programmes seek to establish strong and independent national societies through programme and organizational development so that the national societies in the region can address vulnerability effectively in their countries.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are unique organizations due to their wide networks of branches and volunteers as well as due to the wide membership. There is a key opportunity for the national societies in the region to play a leading role in the development of a new civil society and to address vulnerability in central Asia. The Federation regional delegation is responsible to ensure consistency in assistance to the national societies in the region. To support this, some common themes run through the programme support in all core areas which are a part of the regional assistance strategy. They include:

- Support to country-based approaches with assistance tailored to the specific context of each national society and vulnerability in that country.
- Regional co-operation and, where relevant, a regional approach to regional issues.
- Programmes which includes volunteers as a mechanism for sustainability of programmes as well as for building on a core value.
- Vulnerability assessment as the basis of all programming.
- The national society capacity as the starting point for designing appropriate programmes.
- Work in partnership within and outside of the Movement.
- Sustainability issues within all programmes.

During 2000, regular contacts and communication have been routine between all parts of the Movement. Good relations have been established with all parts of the Movement including partner national societies working bilaterally with the national societies in the region. Good co-operation is illustrated by a project team from the American Red Cross inside the regional delegation and close co-operation and active participation of the Spanish bilateral delegate in regional events and planning processes in 2000. The regional assistance strategy for the next 3 years was prepared and agreed through a participatory process involving ICRC, partner national societies, national societies in the region and the Federation Secretariat.

The Federation regional delegation is based in Almaty with country offices in Bishkek, Ashgabad and Tashkent. This semi-decentralized structure was established to monitor a transitional period in which intensive, country-specific support was provided to national societies and delegate presence was required to co-ordinate this assistance. A part of the co-ordination role is now being taken over by the national societies. Therefore, a changed delegation structure will be put in place to co-ordinate the new three-year regional assistance strategy and programmes. This programme aims at establishing a sustainable structure which increases the proportion of funds addressing vulnerability and reduces administrative costs of the Federation and dependency on delegates for service functions. The programme also aim at establishing complementary functions between the regional delegation and the Federation secretariat and at providing efficient and effective co-ordination within the Federation. A country delegation,

reporting to Geneva, continues to exist in Tajikistan and will remain there as long as there are large-scale disaster response programmes. The Federation regional delegation includes Tajikistan in all programmes and will continue to provide technical and advisory support to the country delegation and to ensure its involvement in knowledge-sharing and co-operation activities.

Goal To provide efficient and effective co-ordination to, management of and support to co-operation, partnerships and implementation of programmes in central Asia.

Objectives and activities

Objective 1 To provide efficient management, co-ordination of and practical support to the Federation and partner national societies in their assistance to national society development and programmes in the sphere of health, disaster preparedness and response and promotion of humanitarian values.

Activities to achieve objective 1 are:

- Monitor the management and co-ordination of the Federation programmes, including delegated projects in the region to ensure their coherence and consistence.
- Provide co-ordination and advice to partner national societies as well as supervision, advice and feedback to delegates and officers working on regional and country programmes.
- Provide administrative support, services and support functions necessary for the efficient support to national societies and their programmes, to partner national societies and to donors including financial and administrative support.
- Provide logistics services including procurement, warehousing and fleet management.
- Provide support to Tajikistan country logistics unit when required.
- Provide technical support in order to revise national society logistics capacities as outlined in the disaster response section of this appeal.
- Maintain the Federation capacity to support long-term programmes and emergency disaster response.
- Provide centralized welcome and administrative services for delegates, partner national societies and the Federation Secretariat staff including assistance to maintain/obtain diplomatic status, visa applications, customs clearance and briefings.

Objective 2 To raise and maintain the profile of central Asia in the Movement and of the Movement in central Asia and establish networks for knowledge-sharing with key stakeholders.

Activities to achieve objective 2 are:

- Hold events to raise the profile of the Movement and establish/maintain strong links in all countries with the media, international organizations and inter-agency coordinating bodies.
- Give an active role to the regional delegation and national societies in the region in the Federation fora and networks.
- Build up and maintain up-to-date knowledge and analysis of the political, social and economic situation in the region to share with partner national societies, the Federation secretariat and others to assist in decision-making.
- Maintain close contacts with embassies, central Asia governments, NGOs and other sources of information and potential stakeholders.
- Support the preparation of a regional newsletter and other means to share information between the national societies in the region, partner national societies, the Federation and ICRC.

Objective 3 To mobilize resources from within and outside the region through co-ordinated mechanisms in promotion of humanitarian values, health, disaster preparedness, disaster response and organizational development.

Activities to achieve objective 3 are:

- Establish a permanent Federation task force which implements and monitors resource mobilization initiatives including the head of regional delegation, head of delegation in Tajikistan, desk officer, finance delegate and others as required and with future incorporation of the national societies' representatives.
- Establish routine working mechanisms for fund-raising e.g. monthly teleconferences to co-ordinate fund-raising initiatives to mobilize resources for the appeal, regular visits to partner national societies and national societies in the region.

Objective 4 To establish an effective and efficient Federation structure in the region to maximize local capacities and to implement the regional assistance strategy.

Activities to achieve objective 4 are:

- Adapt the regional delegation structure to match the regional assistance strategy priorities and build the capacity of the national staff.
- Establish the following functions based in Almaty: a disaster management unit to include a head with officers in disaster preparedness, disaster response and logistics; a health unit with a head and two officers; a regional co-ordination unit with programme management and co-ordination responsibilities, overall responsibility for organisational development and promotion of humanitarian values as well as general co-ordination and a finance and administration unit to be staffed locally by 2003.
- Establish a locally-staffed finance unit through training and development during 2002-03. Establish systems of audit, visits and checks to ensure compliance with Federation regulations and procedures for financial management;
- Adapt country offices to be country liaison offices staffed locally with one liaison/administrative officer in Tashkent, Bishkek and Ashgabad by end 2002;
- Provide training and development opportunities to national and international staff. This will include formal training, in-house training and short-term placements in Geneva. The potential for short-term placements in partners NS will also be investigated.

Expected results by the end of 2003

- A well-functioning Federation regional delegation will have been in place with good relations between partner national societies, national societies in the region, delegations and the Federation secretariat with clear division of functions between Geneva and the regional delegation.
- High level of awareness of central Asia activities in the Movement and of the Movement in the region will have been established.
- Sustainable delegation/regional office structure will have been established with liaison offices functioning well in three countries.
- The Federation and national societies will have become reliable sources of information, knowledge and expertise in core areas for all key factors in the humanitarian, academic and media sectors.

Indicators

- The level of interaction between the parts of the Movement
- The presence of mechanisms to co-ordinate activity and assistance.
- Public image surveys.
- The number of positions and functions in the regional delegation held by locally recruited staff.
- Feedback from partner national societies and national societies in the region regarding level of satisfaction with the regional delegation/office services.
- Efficiency in logistic, finance, administrative, reporting and welcome services.
- Delegation budget for management, administration and co-ordination.

Critical assumptions

- Core funding for delegation activities is available.
- The national societies in the region agree to host liaison offices without charge for office space.
- The Federation secretariat structure remains relatively stable in line with current decisions and plans following the recent restructuring.
- Suitable national staff is identified to fill technical posts.
- Delegates are on long-term contracts.
- No major emergencies occur.

Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

Monitoring of this programme will be carried out in the following ways:

- Self-assessment will take place within the delegation with input from the Federation secretariat.
- Monitoring will be provided by the head of Europe department.
- Advice, support and feedback will be provided by the desk officer, head of Europe department and technical officers.

Evaluation of this programme will be carried out in the following ways:

- Feedback will be requested from the national societies in the region and partner national societies in order to assess the satisfaction with regional co-ordination and management.

PROGRAMME BUDGETS - 2002								
Regional Delegation Central Asia								
PROGRAMME	Disaster Resp	Disaster Prep	Health & Care	Human. Values	IDRD	Reg. Co-operation	Co-ord. & Mgmt	TOTAL
Shelter & Construction	2'100	26'300	0	0	0	0	0	28'400
Clothing & Textiles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food & Seeds	27'000	0	0	0	0	0	0	27'000
Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & 1st Aid	500	12'600	308'700	0	0	0	0	321'800
Teaching Materials	14'100	35'500	38'600	0	0	0	0	88'200
Ustensils & Tools	57'400	2'800	0	0	0	0	0	60'200
Other Relief Supplies	32'300	89'700	168'000	0	0	0	0	290'000
Subtotal Supplies	133'400	166'900	515'300	0	0	0	0	815'600
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computer & Telecom	0	75'800	19'400	1'100	22'700	0	5'500	124'500
Medical Equipment	11'400	0	5'300	0	0	0	0	16'700
Other Capital Equipment	8'000	5'900	25'100	0	8'400	0	2'800	50'200
Subtotal Capital	19'400	81'700	49'800	1'100	31'100	0	8'300	191'400
Programme Management	60'672	72'840	269'144	10'471	78'582	9'114	56'384	557'207
Technical Services	18'162	21'804	80'568	3'134	23'523	2'728	16'878	166'798
Professional Services	20'141	24'181	89'349	3'476	26'087	3'026	18'718	184'978
Subtotal Programme Support	98'975	118'825	439'061	17'081	128'193	14'869	91'980	908'983
Warehousing/Inspection	45'500	11'200	245'000	0	0	0	1'100	302'800
Transport & Vehicles	85'200	45'100	579'000	0	54'200	6'300	47'000	816'800
Subtotal Transport & Storage	130'700	56'300	824'000	0	54'200	6'300	48'100	1'119'600
Delegates & Expatriates	208'300	111'400	748'300	0	196'000	6'700	237'300	1'508'000
National Societies and Local Staff	113'300	203'400	397'500	55'400	143'100	5'800	256'300	1'174'800
Subtotal Personnel	321'600	314'800	1'145'800	55'400	339'100	12'500	493'600	2'682'800
Travel & Related Expenses	36'000	26'500	158'400	6'500	37'800	71'500	30'100	366'800
Information	20'400	9'100	450'800	53'400	50'300	5'000	2'800	591'800
Consultants	1'700	31'500	36'800	600	17'500	0	5'300	93'400
General Expenses	71'300	39'300	289'900	9'500	75'800	5'000	148'600	639'400
Training Workshops & Seminars	66'300	233'200	81'600	11'700	431'400	20'000	0	844'200
Security	0	2'100	0	0	0	0	7'400	9'500
Subtotal Training, Information & General	195'700	341'700	1'017'500	81'700	612'800	101'500	194'200	2'545'100
TOTAL BUDGET	899'775	1'080'225	3'991'461	155'281	1'165'393	135'169	836'180	8'263'483

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