

# Plan 2009-2010



## Tajikistan

### Executive summary



In line with its strategy for 2008 to 2012, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan is building its capacities and scaling up its services to assist the most vulnerable people in the country. This is in alignment with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' Global Agenda, thus contributing to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). At the same time it follows the Istanbul commitments and resolutions calling for a stronger engagement in migration. Taking into consideration the high rate of migration within and from Tajikistan, the National Society, with support from the International Federation is committed to supporting migrants in coordination with other stakeholders involved in migration issues.

In line with the Hyogo Framework for Action and the National Society's strategy, the disaster management programme continues to build the Red Crescent's capacity in disaster preparedness and relief policy. The National Society has already elaborated its contingency plan at the country level and its response plan. Emphasis will be placed on continuing to use the community participatory approach in disaster preparedness and risk reduction projects through its structural divisions, and developing the Red Crescent primary organizations at the local level.

With a view to scaling up the programme's activities to reduce vulnerability to diseases and trauma of the targeted communities, the Red Crescent is implementing community-based first aid, preventive health, hygiene education and social support. There are also programmes addressing Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV, including harm reduction projects, and projects to decrease the number of water-borne diseases through better access to clean water and the promotion of proper hygiene practices. The health programme is built to be in line with the International Federation's global health and care strategy 2006-2010, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan's strategy for 2008-2012 and the MDGs.

Following the VII European Regional Conference of the International Federation, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will scale up its health activities on the prevention of diseases and fighting stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV (PLHIV), TB patients and injecting drug users (IDUs). It will also advocate for access to preventive measures, and treatment in its TB programme as well as for health promotion, behaviour change and harm reduction. Moreover, the health and care programme will continue to involve PLHIV, TB patients and people from groups at higher risk in the design and implementation of the programme.

The organizational development and capacity-building needs of the Red Crescent have considerably expanded with the increasing desire to scale up services. Support in 2009-2010 will enhance the efforts to strengthen good governance and management in accordance with the recommendations provided in the 2008 evaluation report on the newly adopted National Society statutes process. Social mobilization, including membership/ volunteering and enhanced participation of youth at all levels, branch development through community-based activities and financial, human resource and logistical development of the National Society's branches will be prioritized.

The Red Crescent covers all of Tajikistan through its network of headquarters, 5 provincial branches and 69 district branches, and with its thousands of volunteers. Taking into account the needs of the vulnerable people, the capacity of the society, its core activities and other stakeholders in the country, the Red Crescent has been concentrating in areas where it can build on the expertise within the Movement. A community-based participatory approach is strongly emphasized, and the operational activities are mainly carried out by volunteers in the local branches.

The total 2009-2010 budget is CHF 3,047,485 (USD 2,785,635 or EUR 1,941,073).

[Click here to go directly to the summary budget of the plan.](#)

## Country context

Tajikistan is a landlocked country in central Asia and the smallest by area in the region. Only 7 per cent of its territory is suitable for cultivation; 93 per cent is covered by mountains. It is the poorest of the former Soviet republics and, ranking 122nd on the Human Development Index, is in fact one of the poorest countries in the world.

Development Indicators		TAJIKISTAN	
<i>Population, geography and environment</i>		<i>Economy and labour</i>	
Total population (millions)	6.7	GDP per capita (PPP in USD)	1,454
Surface area (square km)	143,100	GDP real growth (%)	7.8
Carbon dioxide emissions per capita (metric tons)	0.7338	Unemployment total (% of labour force)	-
Population growth	-	Inflation	-
<i>Social indicators</i>		<i>Health indicators</i>	
Adult literacy rate (% aged 15 and older)	-	Infant mortality rate (per 100,000)	-
Gender-related development index rate (GDI)	-	Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000)	-
Human development index value (HDI)	-	Life expectancy at birth	65.9
Human development index rate (HDI)	122	HIV prevalence (% aged 15-49)	-
Population below PPP \$ 1 per day (%)	7.4	People living with HIV aged 15-49	-
Population below national poverty line (%)	-	Prevalence of Tuberculosis (per 100,000)	-
<i>Refugees and IDPs</i>		Health spending as % of GDP	
Number of refugees	-		
Number of internally displaced people	-		
Sources: World Health Organization; World Bank, Economic Intelligence Unit			

**Table 1** : Selected development indicators for Tajikistan

Tajikistan's population numbers 7 million, with a growth rate of 1.89 per cent in 2007. The population has grown rapidly while at the same time the country lacks high productivity employment opportunities. The resulting situation has posed a considerable challenge for the social sector. Over 73 per cent of Tajikistan's population lives in rural areas relying on agriculture as its mainstay, and this percentage is even increasing. Around 40 per cent of the population is under 18 years of age. According to the 2003 World Bank data, 19.7 per cent of the households are headed by women. Since independence, long civil war and the disruptions stemming from the collapse of the Soviet system have contributed to widespread social tension in Tajikistan. According to the Economic Intelligence Unit in 2007 consumer price inflation reached a seven-year high of 19.7 per cent, owing to rising energy and food prices.

Country disasters		TAJIKISTAN	
Type of Disaster	Date	Affected people	
Drought	May 2000	3,000,000	
Extreme temperature	Jan 2008	2,000,000	
Flood	July 2004	400,000	
Flood	May 1996	180,000	
Flood	May 1993	75,357	
Flood	May 1992	63,500	
Flood	April 1998	40,974	
Flood	April 2007	17,184	
Epidemic	February 1997	15,618	
Earthquake	July 2006	15,427	

Source: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database

**Table 2:** Natural disasters in Tajikistan since 1990 including dates and the number of people affected

Tajikistan, as a mountainous country is extremely prone to natural disasters. The country endures severe recurrent floods, usually either in spring following heavy rains, or as a result of melting snow during the summer. Mudflows and landslides are also common, especially in foothills and mountainous areas. According to the Geology Department there are some 1,700 dangerous sites where houses and whole communities are exposed to potential landslides, mudslides, avalanches and floods, making some 85 per cent of Tajikistan's area threatened by floods and mudflows, and 32 per cent of the area situated in a high mudflow risk zone. The country is also located in a region of high seismic activity. Earthquakes are frequent and represent a substantial threat in many parts of the country, specifically in urban environments, where the potential earthquake magnitude can be as high as 8–9 on the Richter scale.

The health services have deteriorated and have shifted costs to the households. The healthcare system is becoming increasingly dependent on informal payments for medical services and on foreign aid. The qualifications of medical personnel are declining and there is a shortage of healthcare workers, particularly in rural areas. This is largely due to the poor management of human resources and the low wages paid to healthcare workers. All the above led to the deterioration of quality and access to health services, particularly for the most vulnerable population groups.

By July 2008, a total number of 1,231 HIV cases had been registered in 49 out of the 58 districts of the country. The number of deaths is 85 or 9.2 per cent of all registered. The majority, 97.2 per cent of the cases, have been registered in people aged 15-49 and 1.6 per cent in children. Men make 81 per cent and women 19 per cent of people living with HIV. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in 2006, the proportion of PLHIV among targeted IDUs was 24 per cent compared with 4 per cent in 2001. In 56.6 per cent of the cases the infection was transmitted through non-sterile injecting equipment and in 25.1 per cent of the cases through sexual contacts. The HIV prevalence among sex workers makes 0.7 to 3.7 per cent.

The TB incidence in the country was estimated at 85.1 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2007. The TB mortality rate is 5.7 per 100,000 inhabitants.

All water infrastructures, whether for supply and sanitation, irrigation or flood protection, are in poor condition. This negatively affects peoples' health, short- and long-term productivity in agriculture and industry, and the productivity of ecosystem services. It leads to the alarming situation of an increasing number of water-borne diseases in the country.

The high migration rate is another concern in Tajikistan due to the sharp decline in the economy in both industrial and agricultural production, the widespread poverty and demographic factors are the paramount features of Tajik migration flows. Domestic industry quality is not competitive and jobs are not being created for the native labour force. According to the Working paper on Migration and Poverty Reduction in Tajikistan from 2007, 37 per cent of the population are under working age (0-14 years), the working age population (15-59 years) comprises 57.5 per cent of the population, and a mere 5 per cent are aged over 60. Many young people find themselves without job opportunities or any reasonable prospects for the future, and labour migration provides a safety valve to release the pressures of social discontent and possible unrest. The overwhelming majority of migrants are now aged 18 to 29 years or younger according to the department of labour migration. These are emigrants who migrate mainly to

Russia straight after the completion of secondary school. They do not have specialised education and often very little knowledge of the Russian language.

Tajikistan has experienced a variety of economic and social shocks over the last two years that have contributed to the further deterioration of the food security situation. In 2006, hail storms and drought resulted in poor agricultural harvests, particularly in rural mountainous areas with limited or no access to irrigation systems. In 2007, the food security situation of rural populations markedly deteriorated due to rising fuel costs, which in turn led to higher transportation and food costs across the country. Continued drought in the spring and summer of 2007, as well as a locust invasion in spring 2008, further stretched the capacities of rural households to successfully cope with their increasing food insecurity and resulted in higher labour migration rates.

The last few months of 2007 and the beginning of 2008 have brought additional hardship and shocks for the population of Tajikistan. The cold wave and energy crisis not only had a significant economic and social cost to the country but has stretched to the limits the coping mechanisms of the population and most vulnerable groups were facing serious humanitarian needs.

The food prices rocketed during October and November 2007, with the prices of oil, bread and wheat based products doubling and with a more than 50 per cent increase for many other basic foods. The food prices still remain very high, despite several government efforts to stabilize them. Tajikistan is one of the 37 countries that the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation has listed as experiencing a serious food crisis.

The main priority for the country remains investing in the existing infrastructure. People do not have any access to basic living conditions such as constant electricity, central heating and quality water. Health facilities and schools in the rural areas are not in proper conditions. According to unofficial information and discussions with UN officials, the humanitarian situation is most unlikely to improve in the country for the next two years. Therefore, the humanitarian agencies will become more and more involved in activities mitigating the potential worsening of the humanitarian situation for many people.

## National Society priorities and current work with partners

The overall goal is to ensure that the programmes and services of the National Society are focused on the needs of vulnerable people, are responsive, sustainable and of acceptable standards in performance, accountability and integrity. As reflected in its strategic plan, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has been focusing on the following:

- enhancement of disaster preparedness and response capacity of the Red Crescent Society and vulnerable communities
- improvement of the health status of the vulnerable population in Tajikistan on TB, HIV and AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and preventive communicable diseases including access to improved water and sanitation facilities
- governance and management
- finance and resource development
- promotion of knowledge sharing, networking and partnerships in technical programme areas

The National Society programming with the community mobilization and participation components remain high priority for the Red Crescent Society, thus ensuring the communities' ownership.

The integration of various programmes and the decentralisation of activities from the headquarters to the branches started in 2004. At that time the scope of relief activities decreased and the attention was focused on the capacity-building of the National Society and the community-based programming in the field of disaster management, health and water and sanitation. Programme implementation and management responsibilities were successfully taken over by the National Society's regional coordinators and staff at branch level and coordinated by respective departments at the headquarters. In 2009-2010, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan is planning to continue the policy directed to building the capacity of the branches so that they work efficiently with the vulnerable communities, as

well as attracting motivated volunteers to implement the programmes and to disseminate Red Crescent messages.

However, the problems in the country are expanding day-to-day and the National Society is looking for its sustainable development, building of its own capacity and to continuously play an important auxiliary role to the government. The National Society is focusing on the proper use of available funds, while looking for other local or even international sources of funding. In 2008, with support of the International Federation and the Finnish Red Cross, the society applied to the regional DIPECHO (Disaster Preparedness-ECHO) and EU offices to fund the disaster management and migration projects. The leadership of the National Society is continuously establishing partnership links with various organizations and the government to show its existing capacity and established network throughout the country.

The National Society is committed to developing its financial management mechanisms, human resource management systems, good and effective governance and management process in accordance with the recommendations given by recent evaluations. As additional support, the National Society has applied to the Intensified Capacity Building (ICB) Fund to build the strategic capacity of the National Society leadership and its staff.

In line with the International Federation's governance support, the National Society will further work on the elaboration and enforcement of the Red Crescent Society Law. This was highlighted by the leadership of the society at the leadership forum in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in 2008. The strategic plan of the National Society envisages developing a plan of action to advocate in front of the government with further approval by the National Society leadership during the next two years.

Moreover, the National Society expresses its commitment to scale up its activities in HIV and AIDS. This is in accordance with the International Federation's new operating models, like the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Alliance on HIV and operational alliances. The National Society will join the next round of sensitization with the HIV Global Alliance for Europe in order to prepare for joining.

Movement partners include the American, Finnish, German, Norwegian, Netherlands, Spanish and Swedish Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation. The National Society also receives support from the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) through the International Federation. The disaster management department will continue monitoring the implementation of the DFID funded Institutional Strategy III project and will explore other resource mobilization efforts to improve the financial situation of the disaster management programme.

The common support concept of the listed partners within the country is to help the National Society in alleviating the suffering of vulnerable populations. In this regard, the partner's programmes are tailored to develop the capacity of the National Society to deliver effective services to the population. Thus, all the partners meet the priorities of the International Federation's Global Agenda goal 3 and make the contribution to tackle the 10 areas for improvement of the National Society through their programmes.

<i>Partner</i>	<i>Programme Component</i>
International Federation (Norwegian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, DFID)	Supporting core programmes under the Global Agenda goals
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Promotion of the humanitarian principles and IHL; reunion of family links, mine risk reduction; National Society safe access during armed conflicts
American Red Cross (International Federation and Finnish Red Cross)	TB programme and community mobilization: National Society and communities local capacity development
Finnish Red Cross	Participatory community development; National Society local capacity building; community capacity building
German Red Cross	Local communities and National Society disaster management capacity building
Netherlands Red Cross	Community-based first aid, National Society and community local capacity building in disaster management
Spanish Red Cross	Water and sanitation programme

**Table 3:** Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners for Tajikistan Red Crescent Society

The above mentioned plans for 2009-2010 will focus on the efficiency of services delivered by integrating community-based projects and with collaboration of the present supporters of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan. The National Society understands that the core programmes should have unified approaches and outcomes rather than diversified directions resulting in less impact.

## Secretariat supported programmes in 2009-2010

### Disaster Management

#### a) The purpose and components of the programme

##### **Programme purpose**

**To increase the local communities and the Red Crescent Society's ability to prepare for, and respond to disaster risks in the targeted areas of the country**

The disaster management programme budget is CHF 1,416,260 (USD 1,294,570 or EUR 902,076).

##### **Programme component 1: Disaster management planning**

**Component outcome 1:** The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan disaster response mechanisms, tools and plans for adequate and effective response to disasters improved and timely response to the most urgent situations of vulnerability increased.

The Red Crescent contingency plan was elaborated in 2007 to better understand the structure and operational procedures of all aspects of disaster management in Tajikistan and ensure timely, effective and coordinated assistance to the people affected. This means defence of life, property and health of people will be revised and incorporated into the country contingency plan.

It is planned that with support from the International Federation, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will also develop a disaster response contingency plan and standard operating procedures at provincial and district levels to enhance preparedness for the most common disasters on the spot. This includes setting up coherent and effective disaster response strategies, identifying operational models, and increasing the number of trained people. It also means linking disaster response stakeholders at different levels, defining management responsibilities of each stakeholder and strengthening the financial and technical resources through involving external and internal donors. The linkage between

disaster preparedness and disaster response will also be strengthened in contingency plans and standardized operating procedures.

### **Programme component 2: Organizational preparedness**

**Component outcome 1:** Effective tools are established for disaster preparedness of the communities living in most risk areas of the country and disaster risk reduction activities are implemented

The disaster management and response capacity of communities, National Society branches and regional disaster preparedness centres will be increased by developing people's coping capacities, increasing the number of trained volunteers and regularly updating the volunteer network database. Relief stock will be procured and a contingency plan at oblast and district levels drawn up using the International Disaster Response Laws (IDRL) guidelines and in close collaboration with governmental disaster management structures.

The National Society will recruit, retain and manage a diverse, gender balanced volunteer network, conduct refresher trainings for its national disaster response teams (NDRT), local disaster committees (LDC) and conduct disaster management and first-aid trainings for newly established teams and recruited volunteers.

### **Programme component 3: Community preparedness**

**Component outcome 1:** The disaster response capacity of vulnerable communities enhanced through disaster risk awareness campaigns/ activities, public education, disaster management, first-aid training and the establishment of local disaster committees.

The main objective is to prepare the communities and schools to respond more adequately to future disasters and to assist them in case of disasters. The currently limited coping mechanisms can be developed by training in targeted schools and communities. These mechanisms will be adjusted according to specific high risks by establishing local disaster committees on the basis of the Red Crescent primary organizations from the local community volunteers. The training focuses on promoting a culture of safety in target schools and surrounding communities; and ensuring that communities at risk are well-prepared and have the capacity to reduce the risk of local disasters and respond to them. Through this component, the Red Crescent seeks to build the resilience of high-risk communities to withstand the debilitating impact of floods, landslides and road incidents on life, assets and livelihoods.

#### **b) Profile of target beneficiaries**

**Disaster management planning:** The main direct beneficiaries will be newly recruited headquarters and branch staff. The strengthening of disaster management systems as well as elements such as the disaster response teams and the contingency and operating plans could positively impact a great number of indirect beneficiaries as a result of proper implementation.

**Organizational preparedness:** The disaster management and response capacity of National Society branches and regional disaster preparedness centres will be increased through conducting disaster management refresher courses and practical simulation exercises for newly recruited National Society staff and volunteers. It includes 120 national disaster response team members and 69 disaster management officers and coordinators. The disaster preparedness stock for 200 households or 1,000 people will be procured and pre-positioned in the existing 10 disaster response centres throughout the country.

The beneficiaries of the **community preparedness component** are the people from vulnerable communities who potentially can be, or have previously been, affected by disasters such as landslides, floods, mudflows and earthquakes in Kurgan-Tube region and Direct Rule Districts (DRDs) and road accidents in the main cities of the country. More than 50 disasters affecting dozens of people occur every year in the country. The programme will target 30 per cent the urban population and the remaining 70 per cent the rural population. The target population that will be reached in two years is

**841,398 people**, out of which an estimated 25 per cent will be male, 30 per cent female, 22 per cent boys and 23 per cent girls under 18 years old.

Eight mitigation micro-projects in Kurgan-Tube region and Direct Rule Districts target 22,800 beneficiaries who are under the direct threat of a landslide. The communities' activity on reforestation of hill sides, riverbank reinforcement and mud stream way cleaning make a key input into their own future survival both physically and economically.

The programme will also target schoolchildren, vulnerable communities and driving schools from Dushanbe city, Rudaky, Gissar, Shahrinav, Tursunzade districts and people travelling the five most dangerous passes in the country. Traffic safety awareness materials will be elaborated, printed and distributed in close cooperation with traffic authorities.

As part of the school education project, 40 rural schools will be identified and selected for the implementation of the disaster preparedness school activities. From each school two teachers will be trained on disaster preparedness, first aid and school evacuations. Trained teachers will train selected school students who will become the core group of volunteers to render aid when any disaster strikes. The aforementioned group of teachers and students shall also become active Red Crescent volunteers.

### **c) Potential risks and challenges**

The widespread poverty of the population and the low response and mitigation capacity of national government agencies combines to magnify the negative effects of even the smallest disasters. The greatest risk the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan faces is the lack and turnover of adequate resources, mainly at branch level. The local branches play a crucial role in the implementation of the organizational preparedness and community preparedness programme, and their limitations in terms of capacity are greatly due to the lack of adequate funding, thus a lack of technically capable staff able to implement and manage programmes with higher impact. It is also important to consider the geographical isolation of some parts of the country and the difficulties to access remote and mountainous areas of the country in winter time.

Programmes will identify risks and assumptions in all planning exercises to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to address issues as they arise. Particular attention needs to be given to different kinds of seasonal disasters, as subsequent operations are likely to affect human resources available to carry out regular programme planned activities.

## **Health and Care**

### **a) The purpose and components of the programme**

<b>Programme purpose</b>
<b>Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies</b>

The health and care programme budget is CHF 917,853 (USD 838,988 or EUR 584,620).

<b>Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> Vulnerability to HIV and its impact reduced through preventing further infection, expanding support to PLHIV and reducing stigma and discrimination.

The HIV and AIDS prevention programme will be implemented in Sughd and Khatlon and the harm reduction, as a part of the HIV prevention programme, will be implemented in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO). Specific activities will include training of staff and volunteers to conduct AIDS awareness campaigns/ outreach and subsequently raise awareness of HIV and AIDS, promote behavioural change and promote HIV counselling and testing as an entry point to treatment. Within the integration framework with the humanitarian values programme, each campaign will be accompanied with non-discrimination messages towards PLHIV.

## **Programme component 2: Infectious diseases prevention and control (Tuberculosis)**

**Component outcome 1:** Vulnerability to Tuberculosis and its impact reduced through preventing further infection, rendering social support to TB patients, reducing stigma and discrimination and integrating with HIV prevention.

This component aims to reduce the prevalence of TB in a sustainable fashion. For the last two years, the goal was reached by introducing the directly observed treatment - short course (DOTS) strategy to Wahdat district, which in turn enhanced the capacity of the Ministry of Health to identify, treat, and track TB patients creating a cadre of skilled healthcare professionals and community activists. The programme will continue to implement the activities to reduce stigma, increasing the likelihood that people with TB will seek out and continue treatment. The programme staff of the National Society branch and community members will be trained on community mobilization and adult learning methodologies.

## **Programme component 3: Community-based first aid**

**Component outcome 1:** Population health improved through diseases prevention, health promotion, traumatism reduction and basic first-aid training.

The programme will be implemented in three districts of Rasht valley through the delivery of health messages to targeted beneficiaries. The main activities will aim at improving the health status of people living in rural areas of Tajikistan by giving community-based health and hygiene education. Additional activities will include the provision of health information to communities, fluids and food to diarrhoea-sick children and first aid to people by trained volunteers.

The integration of the programme with disaster management is envisaged in the field of establishing, equipping and supplying first-aid centres within the areas of the city with the heaviest traffic flows.

## **Programme component 4: Water and sanitation**

**Component outcome 1:** Access to safe water and sanitation services improved in Tajikistan

Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation Training (PHAST), using a participatory community-based approach will be run. This approach helps the population to discuss most of the existing problems within their communities. It helps the programme to identify and meet the real needs of the communities using the available capacity of the Red Crescent.

Together with the hygiene promotion activities the rural population will be provided with potable water through the construction of gravity flow (spring) water supply systems and improved sanitation facilities for rural schools.

As one of the lessons learned in 2008, the support from the Red Crescent in the construction of the water supply systems in rural villages encourages and motivates the targeted population to solve many other problems in their own villages. It proved the willingness of the targeted population to construct the individual, school and public latrines, through the active collective investment and using local available materials. More attention will be paid to the use of new sanitation systems from the environmental and sustainability point of view.

A measles campaign is being considered during 2009, and a detailed plan and budget will be developed for this.

### **b) Profile of target beneficiaries**

In 2009–2010 the **health and care programme** will provide services for up to 623,000 people in rural communities. The targeted population remain the same as previously, the youth aged between 13 and 24, housewives, servicemen, labour migrants, injecting drug users and PLHIV.

The **HIV and AIDS prevention programme** will target 320,000 people. Out of the total number of beneficiaries, 10 per cent are children under 14, 43 per cent are female, 47 per cent are male, youth

including servicemen of age 24-49 – 129,600 people, migrants from rural areas and their families 158,120 people, 250 IDUs and 30 sex workers.

The beneficiaries of the **TB programme** are people with TB, including children, their family members and 250,000 people of Wahdat district. Wahdat has a district hospital, a polyclinic, 76 health posts, 24 health centres and 6 rural hospitals.

The **community-based first-aid programme (CBFA)** will be implemented in three districts of Rasht valley delivering health messages to 4,500 family members – 70 per cent female from 19-55 years old and 30 per cent male from 19-65 years old. The programme will also target 1,500 school children – 55 per cent girls and 45 per cent boys. The programme will involve 30 volunteers – 50 per cent teachers, 31 per cent youth and 19 per cent community leaders.

The beneficiaries of the **water and sanitation programme** are from rural areas of the country. In total, 47,000 people from rural villages of Khatlon and Sughd oblasts and DRDs will get access to safe drinking water. Out of the estimated total number of targeted people 10,862 males, 11,978 females and 24,160 children will benefit from the programme.

### c) Potential risks and challenges

Lack of sustainable funding is one of the most serious challenges for the health and care programme because only long-term interventions can lead to meaningful results.

To prevent the dependence of beneficiaries on the community-based water and sanitation projects, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan encourages local communities to take ownership and maintain commissioned water supply systems after the project completion. Certain conditions of maintenance are fixed in the programme agreements with partners, local authorities and communities.

## Organizational Development/Capacity Building

### a) The purpose and components of the programme

All four organizational development components together support the overall work of the National Society; primarily the disaster management, health and care and principles and values programmes. It is assured by the organizational development capacity-building components carried out primarily as part of these programmes.

<b>Programme purpose</b>
<b>Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability</b>

The organizational development/capacity building programme budget is CHF 354,732 (USD 324,252 or EUR 225,944).

<b>Programme component 1: Improvement of the leadership capacity</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan leadership capacities are improved to develop and implement strategies, to ensure good performance and accountability.

This component aims to train the leadership at headquarters and branch level of the Red Crescent Society on planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER). It is envisaged to conduct intensive leadership development trainings, exchange visits to the relevant National Societies with a more or less similar context. The consultative technical support will be provided by the country or regional representation and Europe zone office of the International Federation.

<b>Programme component 2: The National Society's capacity development and organizational development (branch and headquarters)</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> The National Society has increased its capacities through the development of human, financial and material resources at headquarters and branch levels.

Support started in 2008 to develop systems of finance management, computerization and implementation of minimum International Federation accounting standards. This is in accordance with the external audit recommendations to establish a healthy environment for the National Society to develop its own fund-raising initiatives. The process of implementing the recommendations was slowed down due to restructuring within the National Society. However, the activities were included in the action plan and, step by step, most of the recommendations are being followed. The International Federation will continue to support the National Society and will ensure that it accomplishes its planned activities and follows the developed finance management mechanisms recommended by the external audit.

**Programme component 3: Community capacity building**

**Component outcome 1:** The National Society has mobilized the capacities of local communities applying the participatory community development approach at branch level.

In collaboration with the Finnish Red Cross and the International Federation, the National Society will be trained in applying participatory community development (PCD) approach tools in practice to better link the branches with the communities. Four core programmes supported through the International Federation will be used as strengthening tool to apply the PCD approach in practice and at the same time to meet the needs of the vulnerable communities.

**Programme component 4: Volunteer promotion and development**

**Component outcome 1:** Youth has expanded the range and improved the quality of its services.

The National Society programmes will be based on its volunteers and youth. Further efforts will be given to strengthening the structure of the youth and volunteer management. Newly involved volunteers will be provided with induction sessions covering the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's principles and history, core programmes and trainings on the project planning process. As a kind of motivation, the most active volunteers will be nominated for leading positions and will be involved in the decision-making process. The enhancement of the young volunteers will be done by establishing youth centres at district and village levels.

**b) Profile of target beneficiaries**

The primary target group of the organizational development programme is the Red Crescent staff (around 408), members (8,600), and volunteers at all levels (around 10,000). These people will get training, recommendations and consultations to provide more relevant services to vulnerable communities. In addition to the key target beneficiaries the ultimate beneficiaries of this programme are therefore the same beneficiaries as for the disaster management and health and care programmes of the Red Crescent Society. The longer-term impact on the provision of services to vulnerable people will be measured through the indicators at component outcome level for disaster management, health and care and principles and values programmes. However, the immediate impact of the secretariat-supported organizational development programme must and will be measured in terms of its reach to National Society staff and systems.

**a) Potential risks and challenges**

The National Society defined a lack of skills and knowledge in practising its new structure that raises many questions in regard to the statute implementation. This will require consultations, and if the funding is unavailable the threat of suspension of this process would become significant.

There is also a risk of losing staff, because the society is becoming less attractive for highly qualified people looking for well-paid jobs. The turnover of qualified and trained staff at both branch and headquarters levels presents a threat to institutional capacity building. The elaboration of a comprehensive human resource strategy, which is within the planned support in capacity-building from the International Federation, the Finnish Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross, can partly mitigate the consequences of high National Society staff turnover. The society could also be threatened by government influence in appointing people to lead the organization.

# Principles and Values

## a) The purpose and components of the programme

The purpose of the humanitarian values programme is to promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion, which corresponds to Global Agenda goal four. The first and the second components of the programme are integrated into the disaster management and health and care programmes. Communications and advocacy activities and image building initiatives in the National Society fall under this goal as well.

<b>Programme purpose</b>
--------------------------

<b>Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity</b>
--

The principles and values programme budget is CHF 358,640 (USD 327,824 or EUR 228,433).

<b>Programme component 1: Promotion of humanitarian principles and values</b>
---

<b>Component outcome 1:</b> The fundamental principles and humanitarian values of the Movement promoted.
--

This programme component will aim to continue the dissemination of the fundamental principles and humanitarian values of the Movement in close collaboration with ICRC. The programme will promote principles and values through specific training and thematic sessions for Red Crescent staff and volunteers, public campaigns, round-table meetings and through mass media sources.

<b>Programme component 2: Fighting intolerance and promotion of respect for diversity</b>
---

<b>Component outcome 1:</b> Ability of communities to combat discrimination, intolerance and violence and to promote respect for diversity enhanced.
--

As part of a central Asian regional initiative the programme component aims to assist potential migrants, migrants and their families. It is planned to establish a network of information and education centres in Tajikistan and work as resource centres for stakeholders. The National Society in Tajikistan, as auxiliary to the authorities of the country of origin, will work with potential migrants in specially established information centres where staff will run training for people on migration legislation, legal channels of migration, health issues such as promoting healthy lifestyles and preventing HIV, TB, and sexually transmitted infections, relevant rights and duties, and language skills. The Red Crescent will produce and distribute information materials and public campaigns on migration issues will be carried out to ensure wider coverage. The National Society will also serve migrants' family members, in case they decide to join a migrant in the country of destination or if they apply for tracing services supported by ICRC. The National Society will actively involve beneficiaries as volunteers to distribute information as peer educators. The project will be implemented in three regions in Tajikistan – Sughd, Khatlon and GBAO. These sites have been selected because of the high rate of migration flows, both internal and external.

<b>Programme component 3: Visibility and image</b>
--

<b>Component outcome 1:</b> The image and profile of the Tajikistan Red Crescent Society improved.
--

The Red Crescent will work intensively on strengthening its image and profile. With this purpose, it is planned to arrange a number of round tables with the representatives of different government structures and the mass media. Besides, the programme activities will be widely highlighted through media sources thus covering around 2 million people across the country. The programme will be managed in close cooperation with the disaster management and health and care programme managers, with a strong emphasis on integrating humanitarian values to improve the effectiveness of those programmes.

## **b) Profile of target beneficiaries**

The principles and values programme beneficiaries are the National Society's staff, volunteers, members and communities served through the programmes. They will be provided with information on the Movement's components, values and commitments.

In the context of high labour migration in the country, the pilot project will provide educational sessions and trainings to migrants and their families, around 5,000 beneficiaries, living in remote rural areas (Sughd, Khatlon and GBAO).

The principles and values programme will also target rural orphans, female-headed households and PLHIV.

## **c) Potential risks and challenges**

Unforeseen aggravation of the political situation in the country or in a region could hinder the programme activities. Reluctance and traditional vision of powerful community members can prevent discussions and activities around the reduction of discrimination and violence. This similarly is tackled through ensuring cooperative efforts including all sections of the community, with a special emphasis on engaging with community leaders.

# **Role of the secretariat**

All the components of the plan for 2009-2010 will focus on the efficiency and quality of the services delivered by integrating community-based projects and with collaboration between the present partners supporting the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan. The International Federation will attempt to enhance and facilitate fund-raising efforts, aiming to diversify funding sources and reduce the dependence on traditional sources. With the support of the International Federation's country representative the programmes will be managed and ensured that learning and experience of the wider Federation is incorporated. Secretariat staff is in all aspects working very closely with key National Society headquarters counterparts, and with other colleagues from the National Society at branch level.

## **a) Technical programme support**

The International Federation's country representation will provide technical and advisory support for the National Society in planning, implementation and monitoring of the programmes, as well as general supervision. The International Federation is transferring knowledge and expertise on programme management to the society for its community-based activities.

The country representative will lead the work on providing membership services and programme implementation together with the in-country team. The disaster manager will be providing technical support and advice on respective National Society activities and in case of an emergency situation, in drafting applications for the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund or an emergency appeal, as well as supporting coordination between stakeholders.

Technical support for the National Society in the health and care programme is provided by the American Red Cross health delegate and health manager. Due to insecure funding, it is under discussion that the technical and advisory support to the National Society will be provided by the American Red Cross health manager but as a Federation staff.

The general programme coordinator will assist in the areas of organizational development, water and sanitation, migration and humanitarian values. The technical support to the Red Crescent Society on water and sanitation will be provided twice a year with a short-term consultancy visit. The International Federation will provide technical support to build up and develop its management and institutional capacity. Technical sources will be available from the Almaty-based regional representation too.

The country representative will provide expertise on Red Crescent leadership capacity-building, as well as ensuring that the coordination between the country representation and the Red Crescent Society works as it should.

In-country staff of the Netherlands Red Cross, German Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross and American Red Cross provide financial, managerial and technical support in the implementation of programmes covered by these National Societies on a bilateral basis. Assistance in planning, reporting, finance and administration will be given by the country representation respective project staff.

## **b) Partnership development and coordination**

The International Federation will support the National Society in establishing improved partnerships within the Movement. To this end it is committed to supporting the Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) as a tool with which to closely collaborate with partners. The National Society will continue to reinforce the CAS mechanisms, and by the end of 2009 a clear and productive CAS document will be ready. The National Society will use this to assess the implementation of its strategic plan with its partners.

Based on experience, the National Society will elaborate realistic plans for the CAS meeting, while including not only partners from the Movement but also other traditional partners within the country, such as government counterparts and other international organizations. This is planned to be illustrated in the CAS document. The process has slowed down in 2008 due to changes within the National Society staff and leadership and a loss of the institutional memory. To get back on track the International Federation will facilitate meetings with the National Society on the CAS concept and its benefits.

The country representative will maintain a daily dialogue with the leadership of the Red Crescent Society. He will consult on key messages from the secretariat, including the Europe zone office, and follow up on the decisions made at international conferences.

All the components of the programme plan for 2009-2010 focus on the efficiency of the services delivered. None of the partners can solve the problems alone and the International Federation will facilitate the combination of available resources and efforts within the Movement and outside to maximize the collective impact.

The International Federation and the Finnish Red Cross are supporting the National Society to integrate the supported programmes to achieve more impact through branch development and to bring about a difference in the lives of the targeted vulnerable communities. In line with this, the Tajikistan Red Crescent branches will be provided with practical training on participatory community development. This initiative will enable them to better work with the people in rural areas to tackle their problems. The focus will be on encouraging the communities to influence and share control over development initiatives, decisions and resources that affect them. The year 2008 had a focus from the Finnish Red Cross to establish a systematic approach for the National Society providing trainings on participatory community development (PCD), participatory rural assessment (PRA) and vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA).

The International Federation together with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will continue to participate at the coordination meetings on health and care, disaster management, and water and sanitation (WASH) chaired by UN agencies in Tajikistan.

Close collaboration with various partners in the country through the disaster management coordination group, formerly known as the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT), will continue. REACT was established by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in 2001 to promote and share information and other resources between partners active in the disaster management sector. In response to the cold wave emergency at the beginning of 2008, the International Federation supported the decision to apply the cluster approach to provide additional support to the REACT mechanism. The International Federation agreed to convene the shelter and non-food items cluster, and deployed a dedicated team to provide the required coordination services in support of the cluster partner agencies and the authorities. As soon as the situation in Tajikistan

deteriorates, and a scaling up of response activities is required, the International Federation would be prepared to redeploy coordination support subject to need and available resources.

### **c) Representation and Advocacy**

The country representation will represent the Red Crescent Society in front of the public authorities to enhance the perception of the society as an auxiliary to the government. The country representation will be supported by the regional representation for central Asia and the Europe zone office to support Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan personalities attend regional and global conferences arranged by international organizations.

Special attention will be given to lobbying in front of the government for the Red Crescent Law and the dissemination of the International Disaster Response Laws (IDRL).

## Promoting gender equity and diversity

Traditionally, the community level planning is in the hands of men. Also, socio-cultural traditions in Tajikistan discourage openly discussing sexual intercourse among representatives of different sexual and age related groups. In order to promote gender equity and diversity, the HIV prevention programme plans to cover 50 per cent female and 50 per cent male beneficiaries. Discussion of HIV/ STIs prevention issues among women are included in the module of the programme and planned to be delivered through lectures and meetings conducted by trained volunteers. During the last few years, the water and sanitation programme through its participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation trainings (PHAST), with men and women equally participating, has promoted the issues on gender balance. Topics included the division of women's and men's pressure of work and the distribution of obligations fulfilled by women or men.

The National Society programmes will ensure that all activities benefit men and women equally, according to their different needs and with the input and equal participation of men and women at all levels within the National Society and during programme implementation.

## Quality, accountability and learning

The Red Crescent is implementing programmes which are complementary to the initiatives of the national government as well as with donors and international agencies. They fit into the ongoing processes and bridge recognized gaps. Further improvements sought in human and financial resource management make the basis for the National Society institutional capacity.

The International Federation is transferring knowledge and expertise on programme management to the Red Crescent for its community-based activities. The local level human resource mobilization techniques, like VCA, PCD and PHAST, already being applied will further strengthen the participation of individual beneficiaries and community organizations, with a stronger prospect for mutual accountability and sustainability.

In line with the recommendations of the recent evaluation of the regional organizational development programme, impact monitoring will be undertaken regularly to assess the progress achieved, lessons learnt and define perspectives and future directions. The monitoring findings will be used to revise work plans with each component being responsible for follow-up.

Along with the existing participatory monitoring tools with target community members, the Red Crescent and the International Federation are planning to pilot a beneficiary satisfaction survey upon the completion of emergency operations. A formal evaluation of achievements and impact will take place according to International Federation rules and requirements. To ensure transparency and accuracy joint evaluations with key partners will be performed on a regular basis. Measurable indicators that allow reliable impact assessment will be defined in accordance with the partners.

To better assess the impact of programming and identify unexpected changes, the ways to collect and process most significant change stories from those involved with the implementation at local level – volunteers and beneficiaries – will be explored in selected programme areas.

The leadership of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will provide a report on the progress of the programmes to the government and other national and international stakeholders through conferences and other related meetings and through mass media.

How we work	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p><b>Global Agenda Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</li><li>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</li><li>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</li><li>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</li></ul>
Contact information	
<p>For further information specifically related to this plan, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>In the Tajikistan Red Crescent Society: Muabbatov Zafar, Secretary General; email: <a href="mailto:rcstjsg_66@mail.ru">rcstjsg_66@mail.ru</a>; phone: +992 (37) 224 03 74; and fax: +992 (37) 224 85 20</b></li><li>• <b>In the Tajikistan Country Representation: Shavkat Ismailov, Country Representative; email: <a href="mailto:shavkat.ismailov@ifrc.org">shavkat.ismailov@ifrc.org</a>; phone: +992 (37) 224 42 96 or 224 59 81; fax: +992 (37) 224 85 20</b></li><li>• <b>In the Regional Representation for Central Asia: Drina Karahasanovic, Regional Representative for Central Asia; email: <a href="mailto:drina.karahasanovic@ifrc.org">drina.karahasanovic@ifrc.org</a>; phone: +41 22 730 42 76; fax: +41 22 733 03 95</b></li></ul>	