

Plan 2009-2010



Uzbekistan

Executive summary



A number of transition challenges in the early years of independence heavily influenced living standards in Uzbekistan, especially in rural areas. Since 1996 the country has enjoyed steady but modest economic growth. While official unemployment is low, underemployment and low wages contribute to low living standards. Around a quarter of the population is poor and around 46 per cent of the population lives on less than 2.15 US dollars per day. The most vulnerable groups in terms of poverty are rural inhabitants, families with many children, people with disabilities, unemployed people, people with a lower level of education and households in which women are breadwinners.

The maternal, infant and mortality rates in children under five years old are high in Uzbekistan. The prevalence of anaemia among women of reproductive age is the highest in central Asia. At the same time there is the general trend that emphasizes women's role in the family to the exclusion of public and professional roles – the situation applies especially in rural areas.

The number of blood donations in the country is extremely low and results in a lack of safe blood supply. The growth of HIV rates is reaching a threatening toll; injecting drug use is still the main way of infection transmission but there is a clearly identified trend of an increasing number of HIV cases attributable to unsafe sex. The Tuberculosis (TB) incidence is gradually decreasing but is still high; and multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) is a growing concern. Stigma towards people living with HIV and TB can still be easily observed in the society. In 2007, the Uzbekistan Red Crescent joined the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Alliance on HIV to scale up the national HIV programming to reduce the vulnerability to, and impact of, HIV. The scale-up will mean an increase in the number of reached communities and geographical expansion. The framework is in the planning phase now.

Uzbekistan is prone to disasters, more than half of its the territory is considered as seismically active zone. Other significant sources of potential catastrophes are landslides, mudslides and floods.

Uzbekistan is also affected by migration as a country of origin and its labour migrants in destination countries frequently face vulnerabilities common to all migrants, including discrimination as ethnic and religious minorities, language difficulties and risk of abuse and exploitation.

The Uzbekistan Red Crescent is the longest established humanitarian organization in the country providing needs based services to the most vulnerable communities. Acting as auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, the National Society has been making a difference to people's lives through preventive campaigns and support in health and care, social assistance, disaster risk mitigation and response operations, tracing services, international humanitarian law (IHL) dissemination and the promotion of humanitarian values to tackle discrimination, intolerance and violence in the communities.

The National Society programming in the coming two years will address the vulnerabilities arising from existing health risks, natural and man-made disasters, stigma and discriminative attitudes and migration. Strengthening the National Society through organizational development and capacity-building is also high on the agenda. The Uzbekistan Red Crescent partners include the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the German and Netherlands Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation.

The International Federation secretariat's key areas of support to the Uzbekistan Red Crescent in 2009-2010 will include health and care, disaster management, principles and values and National Society capacity-building. This is in line with the Global Agenda goals to reduce the number of deaths, injuries, and impact from disasters; to reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies; to increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability; and to reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity. The main outcomes to be achieved will be:

- reduced vulnerability of communities in disaster-prone areas of the country (community preparedness and risk reduction);
- strengthened capacity of the National Society in disaster preparedness and response (including planning and recovery);
- reduced vulnerability of communities to HIV and Tuberculosis and their impact, as well as to the most common diseases and trauma;
- increased number of voluntary non-remunerated blood donations;
- enhanced ability of the communities to oppose discrimination, intolerance and violence (including sexual and gender-based) and to promote respect for diversity;
- increased National Society capacity in effective governance and management, human resources and financial management, improved volunteer profile and youth services; and developed Red Crescent law;
- the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values are promoted and adequately integrated into Red Crescent operational programmes.

Target beneficiaries directly benefiting from the programmes will be people most vulnerable to illnesses, including groups at a higher risk of HIV infection and its transmission, stigma, discrimination and violence; to risks related to disasters and migration; and Red Crescent staff and volunteers and the general public.

The total 2009-2010 budget is CHF 2,540,755 (USD 2,322,445 or EUR 1,618,315).

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

Country context

Uzbekistan has a territory of 447,400 square kilometres. Of the total land area, 60 per cent is either desert or semi-desert. Farmers are able to cultivate just only 9 per cent of the land area of which almost 90 per cent must be irrigated, as rainfall is insufficient. The population of Uzbekistan had risen to just over 27 million by January 2008 according to the Economic Intelligence Unit; 64 per cent of the population lives in rural areas, and over 30 per cent of the workforce is employed in agriculture. The country is among the world's ten leading producers and exporters of cotton and among the world's ten largest producers of gold.

A number of transition challenges in the early years of independence heavily influenced living standards, especially in rural areas. In the early 1990s, economic recession, rising inflation and structural adjustment led to a sharp drop in real household incomes for the majority of the population. The country experienced an economic decline until 1996. Thereafter the country has enjoyed steady

but modest economic growth. While official unemployment is low, underemployment and low wages, particularly in the agricultural and public sector, contribute to **low living standards**¹.

Around a quarter of the population is poor (defined as consuming less than the minimum amount of calories needed per day), and around 46 per cent of the population live on less than 2.15 US dollars per day². The most vulnerable groups in terms of poverty are rural inhabitants, families with many children, people with disabilities, unemployed people, people with a lower level of education and households in which women are breadwinners.

The Economist Intelligence Unit estimated the end-year inflation in 2007 to have been around 12.5 per cent, compared to the 6.8 per cent officially reported. Inflation is also believed to have been boosted in 2007 by rising food prices.

The Human Development Index (HDI) for Uzbekistan is 0.702, which gives the country a rank of 113th out of the 177 countries with data.

Development Indicators		UZBEKISTAN	
<i>Various indicators</i>			
HDI value	0.702	GDI as % of HDI ³	99.5
GDP per capita (PPP USD)	2,063	Combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (%)	73.8
Life expectancy at birth	66.8	• Female as % male	96.4
• Female as % male	110.1		

Sources: World Health Organization; World Bank, Economic Intelligence Unit

Table 1: Selected development indicators for Uzbekistan

The financial difficulties brought about by the transition led to a decline in public health expenditure. The scarcity of public resources has in turn reduced prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of a variety of illnesses.

In 2005, maternal mortality was recorded at 29.24 per 100,000 live births, which was slightly higher than the Commonwealth of Independent States' average (28.72).⁴ The mortality rate in children under five was 68 per 1,000 live births, and infant mortality rate was 57 per 1,000 live births.⁵ Only 24 per cent of infants under six months get breast feeding and this influences the infant morbidity and mortality indicators. The prevalence of anaemia among women of reproductive age (15–49 years) is the highest in central Asia.

The growth of **HIV** rates is reaching a threatening toll. By January 2008, 13,169 people living with HIV had been registered and the number of registered cases increases year on year. The number of men living with HIV is four times higher than that of women, which could be explained by a high level (60 per cent) of transmission through injecting drug use, since the drug users are mainly men. In 14 per cent of the cases the infection was transmitted through sexual contacts. The majority, 99.1 per cent, of registered PLHIV are adults and 0.9 per cent are children under 15.⁶

¹ Here and further the source used is Millennium Development Goals Report, Uzbekistan, 2006.

² Country brief 2007, World Bank.

³ The gender-related development index measures achievements in the same dimensions using the same indicators as the HDI, but captures inequalities in the achievement between women and men.

⁴ WHO Regional Office for Europe 2007.

⁵ World Bank 2007

⁶ Ministry of Health

There is a clearly identified trend of moving from injecting drug use as the predominant way of HIV transmission to an increasing number of cases attributable to unsafe sex. One of the population groups at the highest risk is inmates of penitentiary institutions and almost 35 per cent of recent new cases have been registered in the penitentiary system.⁷

The **Tuberculosis** (TB) incidence is gradually decreasing but is still very high. According to the WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2008, the TB incidence rate was recorded at 121 per 100,000 of population in 2006. The TB mortality reached 78.4 per 100,000 population in 2004 according to WHO, though the National TB programme gives a much lower figure (10.3). According to the national report 2005-2006, most of male TB patients are aged 35-45, and most of female are aged 18-24 or above 65. A growing concern is multi-drug resistant TB, which is much more difficult and expensive to treat. TB is also the main opportunistic infection and a leading cause of death for people living with HIV (PLHIV).

Blood donation is an issue in the country; it faces common barriers to achieving a **safe blood supply**, such as the lack of appropriate regulatory frameworks and technology and means to recruit voluntary, unpaid donors. According to WHO, the number of blood donations should be at least 40-60 per 1,000 of the population. However, the number of donations in Uzbekistan was 8 per 1,000 of the population in 2002 and it even declined to 4 per 1,000 of the population in 2007. This decrease is connected with the socio-economic situation in the country, the collapse of the former blood donation system, the absence of promotion, low level of financing to make necessary improvements and the lack of involvement from the government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The impact of the Aral Sea crisis continues to be one of the major development challenges in the country. Other environmental challenges include the degradation of water resources and the related salinization of water and arable lands; desertification; and loss of ecosystem, along with the increased vulnerability to **natural and man-made disasters**.

According to the International Federation's World Disasters Report 2007, between 1997 and 2006 some 183 people were killed and 1,225,488 were affected by natural and technological disasters in the country. More than half of the territory of Uzbekistan, an area inhabited by 16 million people and housing almost 90 per cent of the country's industries, is considered as seismically active zone where the intensity of earthquakes can record at the 7 to 9 range on the Richter scale. Other significant sources of potential catastrophes are landslides, mudslides and floods.

Stigma and **discrimination** towards people living with HIV and TB can still be easily observed in the society. As a result, these already vulnerable groups can be deprived of, or have limited access to medical and social care. Moreover, the stigma associated with HIV and TB and discrimination against people living with these diseases are projected to other family members, including children born to HIV-positive mothers.

The women of Uzbekistan saw their role in the society decline during the past decade as traditional stereotypes made a comeback. The customary view is that men are superior to women in the society, and as such must be the main household caregiver and economic provider. Even though the number of activist women leading NGOs and small businesses is increasing, there is the more general trend that emphasizes women's role in the family to the exclusion of public and professional roles. That situation applies especially in rural areas, whereas women are confined to the house, taking care of household chores and raising children. The unemployment rate is higher for women and women are more likely to be found in the sectors where salaries tend to be lower.

The uneven economic development between the states in central Asia creates the conditions for heightened **migration** as people move to more prosperous areas. Uzbekistan is affected as a country of origin. According to the baseline research undertaken by the Almaty office of International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 2005 and other sources, over 200,000 seasonal workers from Uzbekistan worked an average of four to five months per year in the neighbouring Kazakhstan. Officials and experts agree that most labour migrants in Kazakhstan work illegally. Migration issues stay very

⁷ UNDP Uzbekistan 2006

sensitive, especially in view of an official position on and treatment of irregular migrants and in some cases even legal labour migrants, also upon their return to the country of origin. Too frequently, labour migrants become victims of criminals or corrupt law-enforcement officials in the countries of destination or in transit countries, or when returning to their country of origin with their earnings.

In destination countries migrants, both regular and irregular, frequently face discrimination as ethnic and religious minorities; and language difficulties can create serious obstacles to integration and enjoying the full rights due to them. Their lack of legal status and the fear of discovery and subsequent removal puts irregular migrants at serious risk of abuse and exploitation; such uncertainty surrounding their situation can also have serious psychological impact. Sexual exploitation and abuse are not uncommon, nor are physical and/ or psychological abuse by those in positions of power, such as employers or people smugglers. Irregular migrants also have little or no access to basic medical, social and educational services.

National Society priorities and current work with partners

The Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society has a long history of cooperation with the local authorities and governmental ministries such as the emergency, health, social welfare, justice and education ministries and their structures at regional and local level. The coordination of the National Society's work in communities with state bodies helps to achieve a good level of complementarity, increases the likelihood of support and promotes an understanding of the role of the Red Crescent. However, the near future holds little perspective of financial support from the government.

According to the National Society's strategic development plan for 2008-2011, the goal of the Red Crescent Society is to grow into a strong and well-functioning society capable to sustain its activities, well-prepared to provide response in disasters and to serve the most vulnerable groups of the population.

The Red Crescent Society comes up to disaster response, preparedness and risk reduction with the aim of achieving a holistic approach to disaster management. This is in line with the National Society's strategic development plan. The objectives and responsibilities of the Red Crescent in disaster response are defined by a government resolution. The International Federation has been supporting the Uzbekistan Red Crescent to build its institutional capacity to meet the society's disaster management obligations as well as its community-based initiatives in the most vulnerable communities, including mitigation. These two main directions will continue. The partner channelling funding through the International Federation's annual appeal is the UK's Department for International Development (DFID). Community-based disaster preparedness of the National Society, primarily in rural areas, and disaster preparedness education in schools and community centres are also supported bi-laterally by the Netherlands Red Cross. Similarly, the community-based disaster preparedness in selected regions can potentially be funded by the Finnish Red Cross (subject to DIPECHO funds). In 2008, in cooperation with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre the Uzbekistan Red Crescent is also raising awareness on climate change.

Despite the progress in Red Crescent response capacity-building the needs remain, for instance, in developing the skills in the key areas of recovery. This includes increased capacity in livelihoods, shelter, public health in emergencies, water and sanitation. The National Society also needs to consider smoother and more effective approaches to early recovery so that communities are assisted in effectively restoring or improving their pre-disaster conditions. This approach links relief, recovery and development. The Red Crescent will need the support of the International Federation's secretariat to address those capacity-building needs in the coming years. Besides, special attention should be paid to the promotion and dissemination of the International Disaster Response Laws (IDRL).

In line with the International Federation's health and care strategy, the National Society's strategic development plan and based on the identified needs in the country, the main components of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent's health and care programme are HIV, TB, and community-based health and first aid (CBFA). Work in these directions will continue through 2009-2010. The National Society also sees an important role for itself in promoting voluntary non-remunerated blood donation, which is encouraged noticeably by the government.

Most of the funding for the health and care programme of the National Society is channeled through the International Federation's annual appeals multilaterally. Partner National Societies currently supporting the Uzbekistan Red Crescent HIV and TB prevention within the framework of the appeal are the Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies. Another source of global level International Federation funding addressing MDR-TB is from a pharmaceutical company, Ely Lilly. Besides, the Uzbekistan Red Crescent has secured funding for TB prevention as a sub-recipient of the National TB Centre under the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for 2008-2010. The services are similar to those funded through the appeal but targeting different regions of the country. The community-based health and first-aid activities are supported by the Finnish Red Cross, also through the appeal.

The National Society has built a bilateral partnership with the German Red Cross in the area of blood donation promotion. However, the funding, which is expected to last until the end of 2009, is insufficient to cover all expenses related to the establishment of a methodological centre on blood donation promotion that is in the National Society's plans for the future. The support from the German Red Cross focuses on the start-up of the Red Crescent service by facilitating a partnership with the health ministry and the hematology institute, sharing available education materials and experiences. The gap can be filled by funds attracted through the International Federation.

The Uzbekistan RC joined the Red Cross and Red Crescent Global Alliance on HIV to scale up the national HIV programming to reduce the vulnerability to, and impact of, HIV in Uzbekistan in 2007. The programme, covering a two-year period, will be delivered through preventing further infection, expanding care and support, reducing stigma and discrimination and strengthening Red Crescent Society capacities to deliver and sustain scaled up HIV programme. Practical interventions are guided by local needs and realities and the assigned role of the Red Crescent Society as part of the coordinated national HIV and AIDS programme. During the period 2009-2010, the National Society plans to reach people with messages on prevention and reducing stigma and discrimination, including those in key populations at higher risk through peer education, and to provide services for people living with HIV. The National Society is committed to deliver a consistent and predictable package of services in line with the strategy of the Global Alliance, Red Cross Red Crescent competence and comparative advantage, and resources that will be made available.

The Global Alliance framework is expected to strengthen and make better use of the combined capacities of the National Society and the International Federation, also by bringing in regional networks and other funding and operating partners to support community-level actions. It is currently in the planning phase and is expected to roll out in 2009.

The promotion of humanitarian principles and values among staff, volunteers, partners, the general public and served populations is one of the areas of the Red Crescent work that is carried out in partnership with the International Federation. The elements of non-discrimination, respect to diversity and tolerance are being incorporated in all programmes of the National Society though effective integration of principles and values needs to be further pursued.

Recognizing the human vulnerabilities arising from migration in the country, as a country of origin, and in order to put into practice the Istanbul Commitments made by the VII European Regional Conference in 2007 in terms of addressing the needs of people affected by migration, the National Society of Uzbekistan plans to become a part of the Central Asian Red Crescent Labour Migration Network to serve irregular migrants. The International Federation's secretariat is currently seeking funding through the European Union (EU) thematic programme for the network to become a reality in 2009.

The Uzbekistan Red Crescent is moving towards providing more effective and relevant services to vulnerable communities in the country. To achieve these objectives more transparency and accountability should be sought. The priorities of the organizational development programme are: improved cooperation between governance and management, branches and headquarters; a comprehensive human resource management system, finance management development and sustainability; and promotion of volunteering and the development of volunteers. The National Society adopted a new statute in 2006 and is currently establishing governance and management structures with clearly defined functions. The National Society sees that the Red Crescent Law will help the

organization to be more visible and will support its auxiliary role towards the authorities. The draft law has already been elaborated and submitted to the government and the parliament. The Red Crescent now has to lobby for the adoption of the law, with support from the International Federation's secretariat, and promote the Red Crescent activities among the parliament members and key government officials from the justice ministry, tax inspections and the office of the prime minister.

The organizational development programme of the National Society is supported by the International Federation with contributions from the Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies and the Capacity Building Fund to the regional appeal.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is cooperating with the Kazakhstan Red Crescent in the fields of institutional capacity development, dissemination of the International Humanitarian Law and the fundamental principles, tracing and building capacities for assistance to conflict-affected populations.

Secretariat supported programmes in 2009-2010

Disaster Management

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose
To reduce the number of deaths, injuries, and impact from disasters.

The disaster management programme budget is CHF 755,822 (USD 690,880 or EUR 481,416).

Programme component 1: Disaster management planning
Component outcome 1: Improved ability to predict and plan for disasters to mitigate their impact on vulnerable communities, and respond to and effectively cope with their consequences.

For that the National Society will update its national disaster response plan, test the standard operating procedures and make relevant changes. Introduction of necessary amendments to the regional contingency plan and its testing is also foreseen.

Programme component 2: Organizational preparedness
Component outcome 1: Strengthened capacity of the National Society in disaster preparedness and response through increased skills and knowledge of Red Crescent staff and volunteers, strengthened financial and technical resources, effective mechanisms for emergency response and recovery assistance.
Component outcome 2: Improved understanding and application by the National Society of the International Federation's standardized guidelines for effective response.

Under this component the National Society will recruit, train, retain and manage a diverse, gender balanced volunteer network, conduct training for new disaster response teams (as appropriate) and refresh the skills and knowledge of already existing ones. The replenishment of emergency stocks also falls under this component. The Red Crescent will seek through resource mobilization strategies to have available sufficient material and financial resources to meet its disaster management obligations and replenish the emergency stock.

The National Society aims to upgrade its warehouse in Tashkent, in order to strengthen its capacity for rapid response. A renovation plan has been prepared, and the International Federation will support resource mobilization efforts for this purpose. More detailed plans and background information are available upon request.

To ensure improved understanding and application of the International Federation's standardized guidelines for effective response the National Society will regularly participate in the regional disaster

management working meetings and get involved in the development and/ or updating of disaster preparedness/ disaster response methodologies, materials and tools, including issues of recovery and climate change. Workshops on shelter and relief and/ or lessons learnt from relief operations will be also arranged for staff incorporating the Sphere standards. Ways to develop an approach and a strategy for the integration of shelter in future National Society activities will be explored. The National Society will also work on the development of standardized criteria for emergency stock and emergency first-aid kits and will disseminate information about such criteria.

To promote IDRL a working group comprising representatives of central Asian National Societies and the International Federation was formed. The group is expected to analyse the legal environment of disaster response operations in the region. Based on the results of such analysis a work plan will be developed with concrete steps to be taken at the country level by all parties involved. The advocacy will primarily target relevant government agencies.

Programme component 3: Community preparedness and disaster risk reduction
Component outcome 1: Strengthened capacities of the communities in disaster-prone areas to respond to future disasters through community-based disaster preparedness.
Component outcome 2: Strengthened capacities of secondary school students and teachers to respond to future disasters through integrated disaster preparedness and first-aid trainings.
Component outcome 3: Reduced vulnerability of communities in disaster-prone areas through the implementation of mitigation projects.

To achieve the outcomes the National Society will establish, train and equip local disaster committees that will engage further with the wider communities. Schools will be used as access points for preparedness education for youth: trained teachers will disseminate the rules of behaviour in emergency situations and first-aid skills to schoolchildren. The risk of vulnerable communities will also be reduced through small-scale mitigation projects.

Programme component 4: Recovery
Component outcome 1: Increased capacity of the National Society to restore or improve pre-disaster living conditions and reduce the risk of future disasters.

The capacity of the National Society to assess the recovery needs, plan and implement quality recovery programming will be improved through training and raised awareness of good practices. In case of response operations the lessons learned will be shared during subsequent working meetings at national or regional level.

b) Profile of target beneficiaries

The disaster management programme responds to the needs of communities vulnerable to disasters, and its direct beneficiaries are people living in high disaster risk areas, both rural and urban. Among these the priority is given to people who are more vulnerable to disasters due to their social status, age, gender or health condition, such as single mothers, multi-children families, elderly people living alone, schoolchildren and people with disabilities; and who are not covered by the government disaster preparedness training plans at workplace.

The National Society will establish, train and equip 42 local disaster committees consisting of 15 members from communities each who will further share their knowledge with fellow community members. The training for local disaster committees and their communities includes first aid, rules of behaviour in time of a disaster, disaster risk mapping, development of community disaster response plans and simulation exercises. Two teachers from each of the 35 target schools will be trained and reach about 3,500 schoolchildren who will have the improved skills to cope with disasters as a result. Around 40,000 people will be provided with technical resources and support services through minor risk reduction projects. Part of the beneficiaries from the general population will be targeted through awareness campaigns and information materials. Affected populations will also receive relief items and assistance in rehabilitation during potential response operations.

The Red Crescent staff and volunteers, 120 members of disaster response teams among them, will receive new or refresher training and practical exercises that will improve their professional skills and result in better services to the vulnerable populations. These may include courses in disaster preparedness/ disaster response and first aid, emergency and recovery assessment, risk mapping and vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA). Improved disaster management coordination systems and enhanced response plans will benefit the National Society as an institution.

c) Potential risks and challenges

Among the factors influencing the successful implementation of the disaster management programme is funding; sufficient and regular financial support is vital to allow longer-term planning. The National Society depends on external support for the programme but funding for disaster management is provided by a limited number of donors and usually on a year by year basis. A major disaster in the region may also redirect the programme support focus.

In the situation when there is a need for humanitarian organizations to respond to more disasters every year the National Society faces the challenge to train and retain staff and volunteers capable of providing professional disaster response services. High turnover of volunteers and staff is an obstacle in ensuring a flexible but professional human resources base to meet the disaster response obligations. Proper human resources management that is being pursued within the organizational development programme is expected to mitigate the consequences of staff turnover.

Health and Care

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose

To reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

The health and care programme budget is CHF 1,071,178 (USD 979,139 or EUR 682,279).

Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS

Component outcome 1: Vulnerability to HIV and its impact is reduced through preventing further infection, providing psychosocial support to PLHIV and reducing stigma and discrimination.

Activities under the HIV and AIDS component will aim at increasing the number of people seeking HIV counselling and testing and practicing safe skills. Specific activities will include training of staff and volunteers (including peer volunteers) to provide psychosocial support, conducting awareness campaigns/ outreach subsequently to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS, promoting behavioural change, and providing harm reduction services and first-aid training in case of overdose. For PLHIV besides psychological support, social support will be provided, i.e. food parcels and hygiene sets, as well as education on HIV, first aid and first-aid kits.

Programme component 2: Tuberculosis

Component outcome 1: Vulnerability to TB and its impact is reduced through preventing further infection, and providing social support to TB patients.

Activities under the TB component will aim to improve treatment outcomes, namely decreasing the default rate and developing treatment adherence through the provision of psychosocial support and education to TB patients and their family members. Besides, wider information/ education activities will improve the population's knowledge about the disease, resulting in early referrals for medical check-up in case of TB signs and timely treatment. Finally, awareness campaigns will contribute to stigma reduction among the public.

Programme component 3: Community-based health and first aid

Component outcome 1: Population health improved through diseases prevention, promotion of healthy behaviours, trauma reduction and through basic first-aid training.

The community-based health and first-aid component will aim at improving the health status of people living in rural areas through the provision of health education on the most common infectious diseases to pregnant women and women of reproductive age and basic first-aid courses for community members targeting men and women.

Programme component 4: Voluntary non-remunerated blood donation

Component outcome 1: A centre for the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation is established.

Component outcome 2: The number of voluntary non-remunerated donations of blood is increased.

This component will aim at the promotion of non-remunerated blood donation increasing the safe blood supply through the recruitment and retention of voluntary donors from low-risk populations. A Red Crescent centre for the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation will be formed for that purpose in the premises of the National Society's education centre. The centre will develop education materials and methodologies that will later be used for work with the communities. The information, education and communication (IEC) activities will be carried out through the media and by Red Crescent visiting nurses, volunteers, leaders of *makhallya* (community self-organization unit) and religious community leaders in schools, professional and higher educational institutions and among the general population.

b) Profile of target beneficiaries

The programme addresses the health needs of the most vulnerable people and those at the highest risk of getting diseases.

HIV related interventions will target 30,000 young people aged 14-25 in secondary schools in four regions, 1,200 injecting drug users and 300 sex workers in Fergana, Namangan, Navoi and Andijan cities and 50 PLHIV in Namangan and Andijan cities. More men than women may be covered by the programme as the number of drug users among men is higher.

A hundred and sixty volunteers including 120 young people, 24 injecting drug users (IDUs), 12 sex workers (SWs) and 4 PLHIV will receive training to enable them to carry out peer education on HIV. Eight staff of the National Society harm reduction centres will receive training on psychosocial support to PLHIV.

The clients of the **TB** programme are 2,400 patients with TB and 130 with MDR-TB on the continuation phase of the treatment. They will get social assistance in the form of food parcels and hygiene kits, and psychological assistance through the Red Crescent visiting nurses. Men comprise more than 60 per cent of the beneficiary group which is the reflection of the disease statistics. About 10,000 people, with an equal number of men and women, will receive information about the disease and ways to prevent the infection.

Community-based health education activities will be concentrated on rural areas and will involve pregnant women and women of reproductive age. Besides, basic first-aid courses will be provided to community members targeting men and women. In total, over 9,000 people will be covered by health education and first-aid sessions.

The National Society will carry out IEC activities to promote voluntary non-remunerated **blood donation** among 5,000 students of professional and higher educational institutions and 300,000 of the population in *makhallyas* through Red Crescent visiting nurses, volunteers and community leaders. Red Crescent staff, volunteers and trainer-volunteers will be trained in community mobilization to ensure the increase in the number of voluntary non-remunerated blood donors and blood supply in the country.

c) Potential risks and challenges

The lack of sustainable funding is one of the most significant challenges for the health and care programme because only long-term interventions can lead to meaningful results. Shortcomings in the implementation of the directly observed treatment short-course strategy at country level and the existing resistance of medical staff, particularly in the penitentiary system, may negatively influence the

impact of Red Crescent interventions in TB prevention. Inadequate quality of TB medications, shortcomings in TB/ HIV registration practices and laboratory control deficiencies affect the results of TB treatment and are out of the Red Crescent control.

The Global Alliance on HIV adds to the National Society's commitments in terms of tracking performance and accountability. Adequate monitoring and reporting is a challengeable task and will require proper follow-up from the Global HIV Unit and the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting department of the secretariat when the implementation starts.

Organizational Development/Capacity Building

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose
To increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

The organizational development/capacity building programme budget is CHF 358,428 (USD 327,631 or EUR 228,298).

Programme component 1: National Society organizational development and capacity building (headquarters and branches)
Component outcome 1: Effective governance and management structures.
Component outcome 2: Effective and transparent human resources management systems.
Component outcome 3: Proper and effective financial management in line with clear procedures, guidelines and leadership commitments.

Under this outcome the programme will work on establishing clear and effective governance structures and interrelations between governance and management at branch level. The newly elected governing board members will be sensitized on the Movement and the National Society activities to be able to fulfil the good governance role. The Red Crescent staff will receive training on needs assessment, planning, monitoring and evaluation and volunteer management.

Improvements in the National Society human resources and finance management system will be sought through guidance from the International Federation's regional representation, technical consultations and possible training for relevant staff based on needs.

The human resources management development will be based on the outcomes of the assessment of the current human resources systems to be carried out in 2008. The assessment is expected to be translated into a plan of action. A position of human resources systems development officer will be introduced in the National Society and funded through the International Federation's secretariat in 2009.

A possibility of an external financial audit of the National Society's accounts to be conducted in 2009 will be explored.

Programme component 2: National Society legal base development
Component outcome 1: Red Crescent Law developed and promoted for adoption.

The development of the Red Crescent Law will involve consultations based on the existing Red Cross Red Crescent laws as examples, legal counselling and advocacy in front of the government and the parliament.

Programme component 3: Volunteer promotion and development
Component outcome 1: Nation-wide volunteer profile and youth services improved through strengthening volunteers' centres and clubs.

The aim here is on improving the individual capacity of volunteers and subsequently the level of their participation in the National Society programming. A “volunteer school” will be the main approach to achieve that, which means a better structured approach to selection, training and the promotion of volunteers and expanding their decision-making power, also to show the value and appreciation of their work. Volunteers will be trained on the same topics as the staff and will choose the field where they would like to continue volunteering – such as disaster management, health and care, principles and values.

b) Profile of target beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the programme are the National Society headquarters and branch staff, volunteers including youth, and members/ leaders of the grass-roots organizations, and governing board members nation-wide. The total number is around 40,000 people.

c) Potential risks and challenges

The National Society is affected by staff turnover in headquarters and branches. This is not only the issue of losing the institutional memory but also threat to credibility in the eyes of partners. It also leads to spending additional time and financial resources on training for new staff. To mitigate the consequences the National Society will be tasked and encouraged to disseminate the skills and knowledge received from training this and the following years among branch colleagues to the maximum extent possible.

The organizational development programme of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent is fully dependant on the International Federation’s funding, which is diminishing, and no donors are willing to engage bilaterally.

Principles and Values

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose
To reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

The principles and values programme budget is CHF 355,326 (USD 324,795 or EUR 226,322).

Programme component 1: Promotion of humanitarian principles and values
Component outcome 1: Fundamental principles and humanitarian values of the Movement promoted.

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 media sources.

Programme component 2: Operationalisation of fundamental principles and humanitarian values
Component outcome 1: The fundamental principles are integrated into the National Society’s operational programmes.

The programme will promote the operationalisation of the fundamental principles and humanitarian values through the integration of diversity and non-discrimination elements and values into the National Society’s operational programmes like health and care, disaster management and others. Addressing HIV and TB related stigma is an example of how it works in practice. This may also include additional calls for the adequate participation of beneficiaries in programme design and implementation, so that the humanitarian action pursues their genuine interests and their general well-being, and encouraging accountability towards beneficiaries during training and thematic sessions.

Programme component 3: Anti-discrimination and violence prevention

Component outcome 1: Ability of the communities to combat discrimination, intolerance and violence and to promote respect for diversity enhanced.

Component outcome 2: Understanding of the necessity to prevent and fight sexual and gender-based violence within the communities increased.

The activities under this component include raising awareness of marginalized groups' needs and of the humanitarian values through media, attracting people from these groups into National Society activities and working with women and the wider society to tackle gender issues. The National Society also plans to strengthen the protection of migrants' rights, protection against exploitation and exclusion through an information and education centre and to influence behaviour towards migrants through advocacy and awareness-raising.

b) Profile of target beneficiaries

The principles and values programme targets Red Crescent staff and volunteers, populations served by National Society programming, the general public, partners from government bodies, mass media and other humanitarian players in the country.

The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan will train 150 newly hired staff and volunteers to disseminate the Movement's principles and values. Also, 200 representatives of partner non-governmental organizations and state structures and 2,100 persons from primary organizations will be reached to build understanding of the Movement's mission and tasks.

The National Society actively involves representatives of vulnerable groups into its activities; thus, 60 persons from marginalized groups, mainly people living with HIV, will be engaged in the Red Crescent actions for the next two years. The Red Crescent continues to attract more volunteers from mass media sources at branch level to increase community awareness of marginalized groups' needs and principles and values of Red Cross Red Crescent in general.

As a result of a survey to be conducted in 2008 among communities the National Society will develop a plan of action and will carry out activities addressing gender-based issues with a focus on gender-based and sexual violence in 2009-2010. The target group of the gender component will be women from urban and rural areas identified during the survey. Men as well as the wider society left behind the specific survey will be covered through public campaigns of the Red Crescent and information disseminated through media sources.

There is a plan to establish a Central Asian Red Crescent Labour Migration Network in 2009 that would serve the irregular migrants through education centres in the country of destination – Kazakhstan – and in and the countries of origin – Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. At the regional level the network will be coordinated by the International Federation's regional representation and IOM will be the associate partner providing legal counseling. The Uzbekistan Red Crescent will render social assistance to migrants and their families through an information and educational centre which can be used also as a resource centre for interested parties. Potential labour migrants in Uzbekistan and legal labour migrants are to be targeted within the project. Counselling of these groups will help promote legal migration, on the one hand, and strengthen the protection of migrants' rights, protection against exploitation and exclusion, on the other.

c) Potential risks and challenges

The continuous lack of funds remains the main constraint of the principles and values programme. The effects of this can be mitigated by integrating selected activities under other core programmes. Besides, staff turnover at the National Society headquarters and branch levels can affect the implementation.

The traditional attitudes accepted in the communities will challenge the component of the principles and values programme related to sexual and gender-based violence. To overcome the possible

unwillingness of people to openly discuss this sensitive topic and reveal the existing problems will require devotion and consideration from the Red Crescent staff and volunteers.

Role of the secretariat

a) Technical programme support

The International Federation secretariat's regional representation for central Asia based in Almaty, Kazakhstan will provide technical and advisory support for the National Society in planning, implementation and monitoring of the programmes, as well as general supervision at the regional level. This will be done by means of regular communication over the phone, by electronic mail, visits and working meetings at regional level. The available programme functions within the regional representation reflect the programme structure along the International Federation's Global Agenda goals, namely disaster management, health and care, organizational development and principles and values. The regional disaster management function was recently filled with a programme officer; the recruitment of a disaster management delegate is in process. The health and care programme will be supported by the health delegate and assistant; organizational development will be supported by the regional coordinator and a finance development delegate and the principles and values programme by an information officer. Relevant technical support in areas such as shelter, recovery, IDRL, resource mobilization, migration, and HIV Global Alliance will be requested from the Europe zone and the Geneva secretariat. Additional technical assistance on migration issues will be sought from the IOM office in the country.

The supporting functions of the regional representation like human resources, finance, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) will be used for the capacity-building initiatives within the regional organizational preparedness programme as well. More attention will be given to improving quality control, effectiveness and accountability for all programmes with technical support on developing relevant tools and mechanisms from the PMER focal points at the regional and zone level.

For expertise on issues related to good governance, good management, human resources and possibly resource mobilization systems a locally/ regionally recruited consultant can be engaged. The main requirements for the consultant will be the knowledge of the local/ regional legislation, relevant training opportunities at country/ regional level, and language skills.

Still a big constraint for the National Society is the lack of English language skills for the majority of the senior programme staff precluding access to materials in English and participation in international meetings. All regional programme and technical staff working with the National Society are Russian/ English speaking, which allows regular and accurate communication and work. The regional representation will ensure that the most important materials and documents have been translated into Russian working in cooperation with other regional or country representations from the Europe zone operating in Russian.

b) Partnership development and coordination

The Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society relies mainly on international support for its programming and largely this support is coming from the Movement. The only significant local support exists on the level of good relationships with the local authorities in the areas where National Society branches implement the programmes. The planned work on IDRL will contribute to improving the quality of coordination with the national government in the area of disaster response at all levels as well as with other partners.

The Uzbekistan Red Crescent has provided assistance to the people affected by the recent earthquake in Sechuan province of China using its own relief stocks together with the Uzbekistan government. The National Society has been expressing an interest in assisting neighbouring countries in case of emergency and in that respect in accordance with its statute the National Society will continue to develop its international work targeting more neighbouring National Societies.

The National Society's strategic plan for 2008–2011 prioritizes the development of cooperation with partners. Comparing to the situation of just a few years ago when the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society

had the lowest number of partners in the region, today the situation improved though still more efforts have to be made in this direction. The Global Fund is the biggest partner outside the Movement. The International Federation's secretariat will continue to make efforts to attract new partners for the National Society using different meetings, such as the last Global Alliance on HIV meeting in Tashkent in May 2008, informal meetings with potential donors and searching for new sources of multilateral funding like EU.

The majority of the National Society's partners have their own partnership strategies or guidelines that to some extent contribute to building the capacities of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent. Taking into consideration new partners who recently expressed interest in working with the Red Crescent Society (i.e. German Red Cross) and the need for better coordination it is recommended, as a first step, to have an inclusive planning meeting in 2009. The meeting will be conducted at the country level in appropriate time for all interested bilateral and multilateral partners. The ownership and organization of the meeting will stay with the Uzbekistan Red Crescent that will be assisted by the regional representation. The existing Memorandum of Understanding between the Uzbekistan Red Crescent, ICRC, the International Federation secretariat and the Spanish Red Cross on cooperation in supporting the development of the National Society and strengthening its capacity to effectively deliver quality programmes and services will be a basis to build on and improve cooperation and coordination during this meeting.

Coordination and cooperation between the regional representation and the regional ICRC delegation based in Tashkent has strengthened over the past years due to the harmonization of support to National Societies in the areas of Red Crescent Laws development, human resources systems and financial management development and joint planning. This will continue in the coming two years through further harmonization of the two organizations' planning processes, regular monthly meetings between ICRC and Federation regional representation key staff, work through and with the National Societies Leadership Forum and trilateral meetings (Uzbekistan Red Crescent, ICRC and the regional representation).

A new partnership will be sought with the Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (PERCO) when developing the funding application and implementing the migration programme.

c) Representation and Advocacy

The regional representative and where relevant programme managers will continue to represent the Uzbekistan Red Crescent at meetings, conferences and events where the National Society has no access to or to strengthen its representation. At such occasions the International Federation will further advocate for the National Society's auxiliary role, promote the value of its community-based approach when addressing the needs, volunteers work and the value of partnerships and independence of the Movement components for the vulnerable people.

Special attention will be given to the Red Crescent Law development in terms of advocacy in front of relevant government bodies. The regional representative will accompany the National Society leadership during meetings with government representatives and will promote the benefits of having the Red Crescent Law for the both parties.

Promoting gender equity and diversity

Traditionally women in central Asia, especially in rural areas, are engaged with households and children, which leave them with little access to information on disaster preparedness. With this in mind, the disaster management programme spotlights disaster awareness of women and children in communities. The SPHERE standards guide the Red Crescent disaster response and the fundamental principles and the value of respect for dignity and equality are at all times promoted in disaster management awareness materials, during training and work with the communities. In disaster response the distribution of assistance is made on the basis of impartiality. Actions are solely guided by needs, proportional to the degree of suffering and prioritized on the basis of urgency and vulnerability.

Similarly, limited access to health related information for girls and women make them more vulnerable to sexually-transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV. Women living in cities and working women have more

decision-making powers and better access to information and healthcare services than women from rural communities. The community-based health and care component will address the issue by concentrating on health education for women. Apart from young mothers, education will also focus on elderly women who enjoy rights and authority in the families.

Promoting gender equity and diversity is always in the heart of the humanitarian values programme. In 2009-2010 the programme will continue to address the issue of gender-based violence seeking to change behaviour within the communities, building on the results of the community survey and initiatives of 2008. Also, more attention will be paid to the proper integration of the principles and values in all National Society programming. The statute of the Red Crescent Society itself envisages equal opportunities for participation in the governing bodies for women and men.

Quality, accountability and learning

The National Society will carry out routine monitoring of the programmes through regular field visits, observations, interviews, meetings with local authorities and community leaders, internal staff meetings with branch staff and monthly progress reports. The National Society management reports to the presidium (governing board) on a quarterly basis. Participation of representatives of partner organizations and local community members in monitoring will be encouraged. The International Federation's regional representation will also undertake monitoring trips to programme sites.

Relevant information will be gathered from branch reports to the headquarters, budget analysis, statistics and meetings with donors. The results of monitoring will be analysed, discussed at working meetings at country and regional levels and follow-up actions will be undertaken to improve the effectiveness of interventions. Best practices will be promoted among colleagues and exchange visits between branches and National Societies will be arranged to allow learning from experience.

The programmes actively share information on the progress and cooperation opportunities during coordination meetings with partners, round tables and presentations at branch, national and regional level. Progress is also reported through the web-sites and media. The National Society publishes annual reports that reflect major developments; the reports are distributed among local partners including the government, international NGOs, local NGOs, and business structures including both current and potential donors.

The SPHERE standards make up an integral part of the Red Crescent training for its disaster response teams and are applied by National Society in their disaster response operations. The International Federation's guidelines on National Disaster Preparedness and Response Mechanisms, containing standards and key indicators of effective preparedness and response, will advise the capacity building efforts of the Red Crescent Societies.

In their capacity building efforts, the National Societies are guided by the characteristics of a Well-Functioning National Society, particularly to the balanced development of the three key elements – foundation, capacity, and performance.

How we work

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

Global Agenda Goals:

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

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