

# Mid-Year report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Kazakhstan

Appeal No. MAAKZ001

31/August/2011

This report covers the period from  
01/January/2011 to 30/June/2011.



Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society distributing non-food relief items after floods in West-Kazakhstan region. Photo: Kazakhstan RC

## In brief

**Programme outcome:** The National Society programmes are aligned with the strategic aims of Strategy 2020 to save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises; enable healthy and safe living; and promote social inclusion and culture of non-violence and peace. The capacity-building efforts are in line with Enabling Action One to build strong National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

### **Programmes summary:**

The disaster management programme has built up the institutional capacity of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society to respond to emergencies by improving the staff and the volunteers' knowledge and skills in disaster management, planning for disasters, maintaining technical resources (including communication equipment and transport), strengthening partnerships with public authorities and other stakeholders. The Kazakh National Society supported the Government of Kazakhstan in strengthening the national disaster management laws and disaster risk reduction measures in urban environment through promotion of the International Disaster Response Laws (IDRL) and the global informational campaign "My city is getting ready".

The National Society engaged with communities to strengthen coping capacities of the population living in disaster prone areas by increasing community awareness of actions to be taken in case of a disaster. In response to small-scale disasters, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent provided assistance to people affected by domestic fires, floods and severe weather conditions. In spring, the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated funds to support the Kazakh National Society in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable people affected by floods in West-Kazakhstan region.

Within the HIV prevention programme, the Kazakh Red Crescent Society disseminated information about HIV among sex workers (SWs), injecting drug users (IDUs), people living with HIV (PLHIV),

clients of SWs – youth, military personnel, truck drivers, and the general public – and the wider population. The tuberculosis (TB) prevention programme targeted people with tuberculosis in the continuation phase of treatment along with their family members and the general population. The provided services include direct observation of treatment, social support to the clients with TB, psychological support and raising awareness of TB. The National Society has been also providing services for people with multi-drug resistant forms of tuberculosis (MDR TB) and TB/HIV co-infection. No funding was received for the Kazakh National Society's community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) programme.

The *principles and values* programme informed the general public about the Movement's components, its principles, values and commitments through public campaigns, information materials, publications in media sources and facilitated sessions on anti-discrimination, tolerance and respect for diversity during the training and the seminars organized by other programmes for beneficiaries and partners. Messages on gender-based violence and discrimination have been spread as part of the National Society's promotion activities. Trainings for volunteers on anti-discrimination, including anti-xenophobia have been conducted in Kazakhstan within the migration component. The number of Red Crescent information and education centres for migrants and their families grew to seven. The centres rendered humanitarian assistance, provided diseases prevention, first-aid and disaster preparedness sessions, and consulted on legal, social and psychological issues.

**Financial situation:** The total 2011 budget is CHF 2,009,347 of which 922,465 (46 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). The overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 605,776 (65 per cent of the funding). The disaster management programme budget has increased to accommodate DIPECHO funds for regional activities.

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

See also Kazakhstan Floods [DREF Operation Bulletin](#)  
Kazakhstan Floods [DREF Operation Update](#)

**No. of people we have reached:** In total, 75,105 people benefited directly from the secretariat supported programme with the funds provided by the donors.

Programme/ project	Target group	Number of people reached	% of women	% of men
Disaster management	Population in disaster prone areas	13,000	38	62
	Key persons in government structures	920		
Health and care: TB prevention	People with TB, MDR TB, TB/HIV co-infection	632	n.a.	n.a.
	General population	37,683		
HIV prevention	SWs, clients of SWs, IDUs, PLHIV	7,870		
	General population	12,000		
Principles and values		3,000	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Total:</b>		<b>75,105</b>	n.a.	n.a.

**Our partners:** The donors supporting the programmes multilaterally through the International

Federation are the British, Japanese, Italian, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies, the Ely Lilly Foundation, the European Commission, the Japanese Government and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The total number of partnerships between the Federation regional representation, the National Society and community-based, national, government-based, international organizations, UN and developmental agencies exceeded 20.

## Context

In the first half of 2011 the Kazakhstan Red Crescent responded to 30 small-scale and one mid-scale emergency. These were operations in response to domestic fires (13), floods (8) and severe weather conditions (9) in 9 regions of Kazakhstan. The International Federation's disaster response mechanisms, the DREF and the regional disaster response team (RDRT), were activated to support the National Society in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable people affected by the floods in the West-Kazakhstan region in spring. In total, more than 3,350 disaster affected people received humanitarian aid from the National Society pre-positioned emergency stocks and through DREF operation (2,700 people).

The Kazakhstan National TB Center has been developing a strategy on advocacy, communication, and social mobilization for 2012-2015. The Red Crescent Society's President is a member of the board<sup>1</sup> in the Health Ministry that oversees development issues, which will give an opportunity for the National Society to demonstrate its contribution to TB-related advocacy, communication and social mobilization and seeks funding from the Government for relevant Red Crescent programming and become one of the implementers of the new strategy. The strategy will also help in identifying advocacy challenges in the country and prioritizing advocacy activities accordingly.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Disaster Management

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

**Component outcome:** Improved ability to predict and plan for disasters to mitigate their impact on vulnerable communities, and to respond to, and effectively cope with, their consequences.

#### **Achievements**

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent took an active part in testing the revised regional disaster response/contingency plan (DR/CP) of the Central Asian National Societies in March 2011. All stakeholders to disaster response in the region (including the ICRC, partner National Societies, the UN agencies, the Kazakhstan Emergency Ministry) attended the testing and provided feedback that was later used to refine the plan. The Kazakh Red Crescent also signed two regional Memoranda of Understanding between the IFRC and the Central Asian National Societies: on mutual assistance in case of an emergency and on the RDRT deployment.

Besides, the Kazakh Red Crescent tested the national contingency plan together with relevant stakeholders and completed the final version of the plan based on the scenario of floods in Eastern Kazakhstan with consideration to the results of the exercise<sup>2</sup>. The plan was later adopted at the governing board meeting.

Karaganda, Kostanay and Northern Kazakhstan regional branches of the central zone discussed their draft contingency plans and issues of response coordination during working meetings with relevant stakeholders. Two regional branches of the east zone also started elaborating contingency plans.

<sup>1</sup> A consultative body of the Ministry of Health; the composition of the board is approved by the minister.

<sup>2</sup> The revision of the plan was supported by the German RC within the DIPECHO-VI project.

In the second half of the year the National Society intends to revise the strategic DR plan, complete five regional branch plans and start elaborating a contingency plan for the south zone.

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

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

#### **Achievements:**

The two standard educational curricula – induction and basic training – developed last year for National Society staff and DRT members have been finished in line with the comments from the DM staff and the IFRC. The curricula will be presented to the executive council for approval; meanwhile, the National Society selected trainers in all branches for future standard educational courses.

Five new members of the RDRT from the Kazakhstan Red Crescent branches and headquarters successfully passed the regional DRT training in Tajikistan in May 2011. Also, 2 national trainings in disaster response and psychological first aid and psycho-social support covered about 70 new volunteers from branches of the central and eastern zones. National DRT members assisted effectively the West-Kazakhstan region branch during the emergency relief operation following the spring floods. Besides, trained DRT members from the eastern zone branches demonstrated their skills during the joint field exercises with the Emergency Ministry in response to severe winter weather and floods. Over the reporting period the Kazakhstan Red Crescent responded to 29 small-scale emergencies in 8 regions of the country in addition to the floods response operation.

With support from the IFRC regional representation and the Geneva secretariat, the Red Crescent continued facilitating the process of improving the national legal base through International Disaster Response Laws (IDRL) promotion. Based on the completed study on legal preparedness for disaster response operations in Kazakhstan the taskforce committee – including representatives of relevant state bodies and UN agencies – discussed and suggested several points to the new law on civil protection developed by the Emergency Ministry on the role of the Red Crescent in DR and receiving/providing international humanitarian aid and service in case of a major disaster. In addition, the IFRC and the National Society discussed IDRL issues during the round table meeting on the new law and during the third Central Asian Regional Risk Assessment (CARRA)<sup>3</sup> coordination meeting. Around 200 people from different government structures and UN agencies of Central Asia attended these events. It is expected that the new law on civil protection will be adopted by Parliament by the end of 2011.

A mobile HF radio station was mounted on the National Society vehicle used for disaster response with technical support from the regional representation; the maintenance of the transport means used by the programme was also ensured.

### **Programme component 3: Community preparedness/Disaster risk reduction**

**Component outcome:** Strengthened capacities of communities in disaster-prone areas to respond to future disasters through community-based disaster preparedness and implementation of mitigation projects.

#### **Achievements:**

The majority of the community-based disaster preparedness projects of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent have been postponed until the second half of year because the National Society was preoccupied with the emergency response to the floods in West-Kazakhstan region. Only two

<sup>3</sup> The third CARRA meeting in Almaty in April 2011 was organized by UNDP. This meeting and the background papers covered inter-related areas of regional risk and risk management in the Central Asia region, including all five Central Asian republics.

branches (Pavlodar and Akmola) started community-based disaster preparedness activities and targeted two rural communities where local disaster committees were established.

The National Society arranged wide disaster awareness campaigns dedicated to the World Civil Defence Day and the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day and a campaign entitled “My city is getting ready”.

The latter campaign was the Red Crescent contribution to the UN ISDR<sup>4</sup> appeal regarding the World Disaster Risk Reduction campaign that seeks to convince city leaders and local governments to commit to a checklist of the *Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient* and to work alongside local activists, grassroots networks and national authorities. The campaign targeted five cities of Kazakhstan: two cities considered to be most hazardous for living, two regional centres and the capital city.

Consultative meetings, round tables and workshops involved 80 people from the government bodies and 15 people from non-governmental organizations. Radio broadcasts with key messages of the campaign were organized in two branches. As a result, the Kazakh National Society received support letters, assessment reviews of the main hazards of the cities and reports on the *Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient* from local governments. The Red Crescent will continue advocacy and encourage the local governments to progress to resilient city role models and even champions.

Besides, the Red Crescent Society held thematic disaster awareness campaigns to reduce the number of road accidents, water accidents in winter and summer, domestic gas explosions, fires and the spread of tick encephalitis as well as to mitigate the earthquake consequences among broader communities in 12 cities of 8 regions. The campaigns included television and radio broadcasts, round table meetings with local authorities and relevant government bodies for around 4,410 people, and contests on disaster preparedness. The eastern zone branches arranged 3 information sessions on disaster preparedness and first aid for 185 teachers and supervisors of schools, colleges and summer camps. Other actions to spread messages on disaster risks, to promote risk reduction and Red Crescent activities among children included 32 special information sessions, drawing and poster competitions and radio quizzes for 2,074 schoolchildren. Information materials on behaviour during the most dangerous disasters specific for the respective regions were distributed during educational sessions. It is estimated that all informational activities reached indirectly about 180,000 people.

Only two small mitigation projects were conducted by Karaganda regional branch aimed at the reduction the risk of injuries in the winter period in Karaganda city. More than 700 people benefited from the projects. In summer a project on water accidents prevention at public beaches of the regional water reservoirs started. Other structure and non-structure mitigation will be carried on in the second half of the year in accordance with the plan.

<b>Programme component 4: Recovery</b>
--

<b>Component outcome:</b> Increased capacity of the National Society to restore or improve pre-disaster living conditions and reduce the risk of future disasters.
--

**Achievements:**

Activities under this expected result are planned for the second half of the year.

**Constraints or Challenges**

There is a lack of disaster management staff in disaster prone regions, as currently there is only one full-time staff member supported by the DM programme at the branch level within the current funding available. Three staff supported by the principles and values programme (migration component) work part-time in a multi-tasking system.

Also, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society reported a slow-down or delay of activities in risk reduction and community based disaster preparedness in branches that were *not* involved in the

<sup>4</sup> United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

DREF response operation because the headquarters staff was preoccupied with the operation. In general, the way the Red Crescent Society operation rolled out suggested that the National Society needs to improve the speed of response.

## Health and Care

<b>Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> Vulnerability to HIV and its impact reduced through preventing further infection.
<b>Component outcome 2:</b> Vulnerability of PLHIV decreased through expanding HIV support.
<b>Component outcome 3:</b> Vulnerability of PLHIV decreased through reducing HIV stigma and discrimination.
<b>Component outcome 4:</b> The capacity of the National Society to deliver and sustain scaled up HIV programmes strengthened.

**Achievements:** The Kazakh National Society has been implementing the HIV prevention programme in Astana, Aktobe, Pavlodar, Taldykorgan and Ust-Kamenogorsk cities. The target groups of the programme are sex workers (SWs), injecting drug users (IDUs), people living with HIV (PLHIV), clients of SWs – students, military personnel, truck drivers, migrants. Peer education was provided by 170 trainers in educational and information sessions. The programme distributed 8,250 sets of information/educational materials.

In total the Red Crescent reached 4,370 SWs clients, 800 SWs, and 1,350 IDUs. Some 12,000 people, including 5,600 women and 6,400 men, were reached by awareness-raising activities. Around 79 per cent of the targeted population, aged 15-49, correctly identified the ways of preventing sexual transmission of HIV and rejected major misconceptions about HIV transmission. Besides, 84 per cent of targeted SWs, IDUs, and military men who have sexual contacts with more than one partner or with irregular partners reported that they always used condoms.

In Aktobe and Pavlodar, National Society peer educators provided psychosocial support to PLHIV and made referrals to the government multidisciplinary centres working with PLHIV. The three Red Crescent harm reduction points in Ust-Kamenogorsk, Taldykorgan and Pavlodar organized the exchange of syringes, distributed condoms, disseminated information materials, and provided consultations and outreach services. Over the reporting period 530 permanent clients visited the points and 820 people received outreach services. Out of 100,350 distributed syringes 63 per cent have been returned.

### Constraints or Challenges

As only a quarter of the HIV programme budget was covered this year, the scale of activities had to be reduced. Consequently, the reach is lower as compared with the same period of the year 2010. No capacity-building activities were carried out under the fourth Outcome.

<b>Programme component 2: Tuberculosis</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> Clients with TB granted support by the Red Crescent.
<b>Component outcome 2:</b> TB referral among people living HIV increased.
<b>Component outcome 3:</b> TB awareness increased and stigma associated with TB/HIV reduced through advocacy, communication and social mobilisation.
<b>Component outcome 4:</b> Participation of community members in the Red Crescent TB programming increased.

**Achievements:** The Kazakh National Society's TB prevention programme tackles TB, MDR TB and TB/HIV co-infection and aims at improving treatment outcomes by encouraging treatment adherence. The Red Crescent served clients with TB in Kokshetau and Semey cities, clients with

MDR TB – in Almaty, Kyzylorda and Taldykorgan – and clients with TB/HIV– in Almaty, Karaganda and Temirtau. Visiting nurses of the National Society provided beneficiaries with direct observation of treatment (DOT) in clinics, with educational and social support (food parcels and hygiene kits). Clients with MDR TB also received psychological support from professional psychologists individually or in a group therapy.

The National Society reached 335 clients with TB and MDR TB over the period. The treatment success rate among these beneficiaries was about 95 per cent. Out of 170 clients with MDR TB, 33 completed the treatment; others have continued, and there were no defaults registered over the reporting period.

The TB/HIV co-infection services are provided by multi-disciplinary teams of social workers, psychologists and lawyers in the field of social support and educational activities. In total, 297 clients with TB/HIV co-infection were targeted; the default rate was about 2.1 per cent. Psychological support has also been rendered through five self-support groups facilitated by the clients of the programme volunteering in the Red Crescent TB service and a professional psychologist. Twenty one former beneficiaries of the programme have volunteered for Red Crescent TB service, basically assisting with outreach work among PLHIV with a purpose of preventing TB among them.

For the wider population, the Kazakh Red Crescent is spreading information in secondary schools and other organizations on tuberculosis symptoms, measures of prevention, treatment, and where to refer in case TB is suspected. About 85 per cent of the targeted population was aware about 4 signs of TB, measures to prevent the disease and the fact that TB is curable. In March 2011, the National Society conducted a campaign marking the World TB Day in cooperation with the National TB Center, Project HOPE and TB dispensaries that covered about 500,000 people from the general population.

In April, TB coordinators discussed planning and reporting issues at their meeting in Almaty. The Health Department also held intensive discussions to develop strategic directions for 2012-2015 within the IFRC long-term planning framework in accordance with the needs of vulnerable people and aligning them with the aims of the Strategy 2020.

In June 2011, the TB coordinator of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent participated in the training on TB, MDR TB, HIV/TB related advocacy, communication and social mobilization issues and the development of the country TB strategy held in Almaty by Project HOPE.

<b>Programme component 3: Community-based health and first aid</b>
--

<b>Component outcome:</b> Communities empowered through skills to prevent the most frequent diseases, to provide care to newborns and basic first-aid.
--

**Achievements:**

There was no funding received for this component. However, the National Society's health programme was realized in cooperation with the *principles and values* programme to raise the migrants' awareness of TB, TB/HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI) thus putting the community-based health and first aid approach in practice. Health staff facilitated sessions on TB, HIV and STI prevention and first aid at the national training of trainers for staff and volunteers of information and educational centres for migrants in April. IEC materials on TB and HIV in four languages of Central Asian countries were also produced to support awareness raising.

## Organizational Development/Capacity-building

<b>Programme component 1: National Society organisational development and capacity-building (headquarters and branches)</b>
---

<b>Component outcome 1:</b> Effective governance and management structures.
---

<b>Component outcome 2:</b> Effective and transparent human resources management systems.
---

<b>Component outcome 3:</b> Proper and effective financial management in line with clear procedures, guidelines and leadership commitments.
---

<b>Component outcome 4:</b> Increased National Society sustainability.
--

**Achievements:** Internal discussions of amendments and interpretation of some provisions of the new statute, issues of the organisational structure, branch regulations, job descriptions and improvements of branch financial management continued this year with branch leadership and key staff.

Regulations on four pilot educational centres for training and retraining of Red Crescent staff and volunteers and action plans have been developed and approved by the Kazakh National Society. The centres will be based at branch offices of the National Society when funding is available, and coordination mechanisms are in place. In addition, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society analysed reports from branches, materials of the governing board meetings and of the monitoring system at branch level. Based on the results, recommendations have been made to review some practices.

The organizational development and the *principles and values* programme jointly arranged three induction courses for 50 staff and volunteers of the new information and education centres for migrants. The agenda covered the Red Cross Red Crescent mission, principles and values, issues of governance and management, the Red Crescent legal base, health and disaster management and migration issues.

In March 2011, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent participated in the Central Asian National Societies leadership forum held in Dushanbe (Tajikistan). The forum participants – including also representatives from the ICRC and IFRC regional, zone and Geneva secretariat – discussed humanitarian diplomacy and strengthening of coordination mechanisms at country and regional level. An extra day was devoted to discussions on cooperation in the field of migration programming, involving also the Red Cross of the Russian Federation. The forum decided that stronger support should be provided to National Societies in establishing stronger relationships with their respective Governments and exploring new partnerships in the countries. Joint efforts will also be made to help National Societies prepare for the Movement statutory meetings.

As a follow-up, the IFRC held a workshop on humanitarian diplomacy and strengthening strategic partnerships for all five Central Asian National Societies in Almaty in June 2011. The three-day workshop gathered leadership and focal points to share knowledge, skills, information and experience on humanitarian diplomacy and fundraising, and it was facilitated by the IFRC Europe Zone office.

<b>Programme component 2: National Society legal base development</b>
---

<b>Component outcome:</b> Red Crescent Law developed and promoted for adoption.
---

**Achievements:** In view of the general assembly of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent scheduled for March 2012, a positive shift can be observed in the promotion of the Red Crescent Law. The revision of the first draft of the law is in progress, and focal points in the National Society and IFRC regional representation have been identified. The strategic view on the Red Crescent law and related plan of action have been discussed with the ICRC, and an external consultant will be involved in the process from September 2011 onwards according to the agreement reached with the leadership of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society. Financial contributions from both the IFRC

and the ICRC are required to support the national Red Crescent law promotion process in Kazakhstan.

<b>Programme component 3: Volunteer promotion and development</b>
---

<b>Component outcome:</b> Nation-wide volunteer profile and youth services improved through strengthening volunteers` centres and clubs.
--

#### **Achievements:**

Because no funding was received for this programme component, the National Society volunteering activities were implemented through other programmes supported bilaterally and multilaterally.

Thus, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent hired a coordinator on volunteers and youth whose position is covered by the *principles and values* programme (migration component). However, the coordinator is responsible for work with volunteers and youth in all programmes of the National Society. A volunteer management system and a set of relevant documents (guidelines for volunteers, a questionnaire, job descriptions, an interview sheet, and an induction course module) has been developed and applied by the National Society.

#### **Constraints or Challenges:**

Only two percent of the OD programme budget has been covered, and the activities have consequently been minimal. Some capacity-building initiatives have been covered by other programmes, like the regional workshop on humanitarian diplomacy and strategic partnership development for instance.

The positions of the *regional* organisational development and financial development coordinators were terminated in February 2011. Technical support had been provided by an OD consultant for another three months.

## Principles and Values

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

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

<b>Component outcome 2:</b> The image and profile of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society improved.
--

#### **Achievements:**

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent promoted principles and values through public campaigns, round-table meetings and through mass media sources. About 490 people were covered by the information campaigns in seven branches of the Red Crescent. Youth, governmental officials, local authorities, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, mass media and beneficiaries were actively engaged in the campaigns.

The regional information campaign held in Astana in June 2011 included the conference marking the end of the EC-funded Central Asian Labour Migration Network project. About 30 participants from the Central Asian National Societies, the IFRC, the EU delegation, UN agencies, foreign embassies, ministries, police, civil society organisations, mass media and volunteers from migrants attended the event. They learnt about the Red Cross Red Crescent mission and principles, the Kazakh National Society`s activities with a focus on the labour migration project, its achievements and perspectives, and they discussed migrants` needs and possible ways to help solve their problems.

Round-table meetings advocating for non-discrimination, respect for diversity and anti-xenophobia in Astana, Aktobe, Semei, Shymkent and Taldykorgan reached about 130 people from state

agencies, local authorities, centres of social adaptation, NGOs, AIDS centres, TB clinics and other medical institutions and business structures.

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent was updating its web-site on a regular basis putting news and stories about the National Society activities and promoting principles and values. The Society works on local language and English language versions of the web-site to expand coverage of different groups of the population.

<b>Programme component 2: Anti-discrimination and violence prevention</b>
---

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

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

### **Achievements:**

This year, in addition to the three existing centres, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent has established and equipped four new information and educational centres for migrants at its branch offices in Semey, Atyrau (covering also Aktau city), Aktobe and Shymkent (covering also Taraz city).

A national training of trainers on community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) and community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) was organised for staff and selected volunteers from all centres in April 2011. The knowledge was later filtered down by the participants to volunteers in each of the centres so that they disseminate the knowledge to migrants. Most of migrants are accumulated in big cities where they face risks of HIV, TB, other communicable diseases and injuries, and urban disaster risks.

Since January 2011, the Kazakh Red Crescent has targeted over 2,000 labour migrants from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan at its seven centres and through outreach work. The 1,200 most vulnerable migrants got humanitarian assistance – food parcels and hot meals, bedding, clothes and first-aid kits. Others received information on first aid, HIV, TB and other diseases prevention and on disaster preparedness and were granted consultations on legal, social and psychological issues.

The National Society organized 15 information campaigns to raise awareness of the Red Crescent services for migrants. About 300 migrants were directly covered during those information campaigns at bazaars, construction sites, in hotels and places of migrants' residence. The information primarily goes through volunteers from migrants acting as peer educators. The peer-to-peer method proves its effectiveness in information distribution and skills sharing especially in the environment where humanitarian access to beneficiaries is constrained. Over the reporting period the Kazakh Red Crescent Society trained about 50 new volunteers as peers.

Media sources were actively attracted to voice the needs of the most vulnerable people. In spring the Kazakhstan Red Crescent together with the IFRC and ICRC announced a competition for journalists titled "Humanitarian activities and challenges of the 21st century" that aims at the promotion of the International Humanitarian Law, principles and values and their application in practice. The results of the competition will be announced in November 2011.

Messages on gender-based violence and discrimination continued to be spread as part of the National Society's promotion activities within all programmes.

### **Constraints or Challenges**

Information officer positions are not supported at branch level. In this connection, branch staff and/or volunteers are responsible for internal and external communications. Many of them do not have enough experience in media relations and story-writing. To overcome the problem, communications sessions should be widely included in thematic training/workshops of all core programmes to share relevant skills with communications focal points at places.

## Working in partnership

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent maintains good working relationships with the government bodies, local authorities, community and non-governmental organizations and media. The National Society is an active member of the country coordination mechanism on TB in the country and regularly participates in the inter-agency meetings about the developments in the national TB programme.

The Kazakh National Society is a member of the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Alliance on HIV. Within the framework of the HIV Global Alliance programme, the American RC allocated additional funds for the National Society to expand HIV prevention in the country by increasing the range of the Red Crescent services. As a result, information and counselling centres for SWs and their clients in Aktobe and Taldykorgan provide educational sessions, psychological counseling, social support and refer to HIV voluntary counseling and testing, TB testing, STI testing and treatment in friendly clinics. The IFRC also facilitated the development of a concept note by the Red Crescent Society to become part of the British RC proposal to the EU for funds aimed at TB/HIV co-infection prevention with former prisoners in 2011-13.

With support from the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Kazakhstan RC continues its activities in the field of TB advocacy, communication and social mobilization, and it provides social support to the most vulnerable people with TB, including former prisoners.

The Red Crescent Society maintains working relationships with international agencies like Project HOPE, KNCV (Dutch Tuberculosis Foundation), AIDS Foundation East-West, USAID. Data on TB and HIV is obtained from the health ministries, local authorities often facilitate access to communities and TB dispensaries provide the National Society with information about the target group of the programme.

The Red Crescent Society's role in disaster response is stipulated by the national plan. Besides, the National Society has an agreement on cooperation with the Emergency Ministry signed in 2001 which is regularly renewed. The Red Crescent Society has partners in the disaster management sector among the UN agencies and gets involved in UN and interagency training events and workshops. The ICRC is among the main partners of the disaster management programme in Kazakhstan, especially in contingency planning and the IDRL promotion.

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent carries out community-based disaster preparedness activities and disaster preparedness and first-aid education among schoolchildren in Almaty city, Almaty and South-Kazakhstan regions in cooperation with the Netherlands Red Cross. The activities form part of the project "Building Sustainable Community Resilience through Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia" implemented by the consortium of the American, German and Netherlands Red Cross Societies, the Central Asian Red Crescent Societies and IFRC funded by DIPECHO in 2010-2011. In the consortium, the Netherlands Red Cross is a lead agency and applicant, and the IFRC has a designated role in ensuring overall coordination with other RCRC projects and harmonization of approaches in the areas of IDRL promotion, contingency planning and RDRT training. Besides, together with the American Red Cross, the Kazakh Red Crescent runs the urban earthquake preparedness initiative that is focusing on Almaty.

The key partners of the *principles and values* programme are the media, which play a great role in improving the image of the Red Crescent and changing behaviour towards vulnerable groups served by the Kazakh National Society. The partnership with EC, IOM, UN family agencies, local NGOs and local authorities strengthened under the migration project through information sharing, participating in regional and national conferences and meetings. The major partner within the organizational development is the ICRC that is engaged in the process of the Red Crescent Law development mainly by providing expertise.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

Regular monitoring of the programmes has been carried out through field visits, observations, interviews, meetings with the local authorities and community leaders, internal staff meetings with the branches' staff and progress reports. Field visits and reports from the regional branches feed the programme management at the national level. The disaster statistics and their impact on the sites where risk reduction projects have been implemented are followed up with the emergency structures at local level.

The SPHERE standards and the Code of Conduct for Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers in emergency relief guide the Red Crescent disaster response, and the fundamental principles and the value of respect for dignity and equality are at all times promoted in disaster management awareness materials, during training and at 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.

An external evaluator hired by the IFRC visited the migration project sites in May-June 2011 to make an evaluation of the regional project. The results of the evaluation will be shared with the National Society, donors and other stakeholders. The project staff also refreshed their knowledge about reporting requirements and the use of the Most Significant Change story method as a monitoring and evaluation tool during the fifth regional technical migration meeting conducted in the end of May 2011 in Almaty.

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

## Looking ahead

In August 2011, the National Society is planning to host the second regional conference on "Strengthening Disaster Management Laws in Central Asia." Also, the standard disaster management programme education courses for new staff and volunteers and the disaster response team members should be rolled out. Besides, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent intends to present the International Federation's latest World Disasters Report for 2010 during the information campaign marking the International Day for Disaster Reduction in October 2011.

In order to scale up the Red Crescent TB and HIV programming, the IFRC will seek for TB and HIV funding from PSI and for TB funding from Project HOPE. Consultancy support will be provided to facilitate the development of proposals aimed at migrants. Besides, funds will be sought from the EU and the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) for the Red Crescent migration and possibly anti-trafficking services in the next four years.

### How we work

*All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

<p>The IFRC's vision is to:</p> <p>Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.</p>	<p>The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.</li> <li>2. Enable healthy and safe living.</li> <li>3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.</li> </ol>
--	--

## Contact information

For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:

- **In the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society:** Vadim Kadyrbaev, Vice-President, email: [drvadimrc@mail.ru](mailto:drvadimrc@mail.ru); phone: + 7 727 291 81 51; fax: +7 727 291 81 72
- **At the IFRC Regional Representation:** Gyula Kadar, Regional Representative for Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan; email: [gyula.kadar@ifrc.org](mailto:gyula.kadar@ifrc.org); phone: +7727 291 80 63; fax: +7727 291 42 67
- **At the IFRC Europe Zone Office:** Evgeni Parfenov, Head of Operations; email: [evgeni.parfenov@ifrc.org](mailto:evgeni.parfenov@ifrc.org); phone:+36 1 8884 500; fax: +36 1 336 15 16