

# Revised Plan 2011



## Kazakhstan

### Executive summary



The rapid increase in oil production coupled with the rise in world oil prices have been the main engine of economic growth of Kazakhstan after the transformational recession of 1990s that followed the independence. But its favourable macroeconomic indicators do not entirely reflect the country's level of social development.

The high income inequality, large numbers of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and poor economic and social conditions in underdeveloped regions, small towns and rural areas remain the country's major challenges. Unemployment and low wages became the main causes of poverty after the recession. Given the very thin layer of Kazakhstan's middle class and the

existence of a very large group of the population with fragile incomes and high risks of poverty, people's vulnerability to economic shocks caused by the deterioration of external conditions, such as fall in oil prices, is high.

The impact of the global financial and economic crisis on Kazakhstan was evident, with retail sales and industrial output both registering negative growth in 2009. Weak economic growth, together with lower global commodity prices, helped to reduce consumer price inflation: in 2009 the average rate of inflation was 7.3 percent, a sharp fall compared with the rate of 17.1 percent recorded in 2008. Nevertheless, some inflationary pressure may yet emerge in 2010, owing to a pick-up in domestic demand, commodity price rises, and higher import duties related to the customs union with Russia and Belarus in effect since January 1, 2010.

Health indicators in Kazakhstan clearly demonstrate slow progress in the reduction of human poverty. The Tuberculosis (TB) epidemiological situation in the country in recent years shows improvements and a trend to stabilisation in both, civil and penitentiary sectors, but the incidence rate is still high. A growing concern is multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB and the HIV expansion increases the risk of TB. Although the absolute number of officially registered HIV cases is still comparatively low, an exponential increase has been recorded in recent years. The stigma associated with HIV and TB is common and is projected to family members of sick people. Other health related problems are preventable infectious diseases, viral hepatitis, brucellosis and diarrhoea.

Gender inequality factors remain critical for both men and women: for women these are mostly related to the economic sphere, access to resources, and insufficient political participation, for men they mostly concern health and hazardous activities. The quality of life that women lead is inferior in terms of high maternal and infant mortality, morbidity, unemployment, wage disparities, income disparities, intra-household disparities and target of violence compared to that of men.

Kazakhstan is prone to such natural disasters as earthquakes, debris flows, avalanches, landslides and mudslides, flooding, drought, sharp drops in air temperature, blizzards and snowstorms, fires and epidemics of highly dangerous infections. Local experts estimate the direct damage from natural disaster risks in the country between 20 and 60 million US dollars annually. Besides, Kazakhstan

appears in the strong climate change zone, and faces problems with fresh and glacial waters. There also exists a risk of industrial accidents. Among the environmental problems the natural and anthropogenic disaster of the Aral Sea and radioactive pollution of the Semipalatinsk nuclear site are well known. Another source of vulnerability is migration as there are a large number of migrants working in Kazakhstan, the majority from the neighbouring central Asian states, and most working illegally.

The Kazakhstan 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, disaster risk mitigation and response operations, tracing services and the promotion of humanitarian values to tackle discrimination, intolerance and violence in communities. However, with businesses now doing everything possible to reduce expenses while surviving the negative effects of the global economic and financial crises and low oil prices the fundraising opportunities for the National Society at the country level diminished dramatically.

The key priority recognized by the Red Crescent Society in its current strategic plan is to expand assistance to vulnerable populations depending on their humanitarian needs. Consequently, the National Society programming in the coming two years will address the vulnerabilities arising from existing health risks, natural and man-made disasters, gender inequalities, migration and discriminative attitudes. The Kazakhstan Red Crescent partners include the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Netherlands Red Cross Society, the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

At its General Assembly in 2009, the International Federation adopted *Strategy 2020* to guide its work and that of National Societies both domestically and globally. Focussing on "saving lives and changing minds", *S2020* and calls on national societies as effective auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, to provide high quality services within the core mandates of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, to influence behaviours, promote changes in attitudes and mindsets, and for the Red Cross and Red Crescent to play a lead role in advocating for meeting the humanitarian needs of vulnerable people and communities.

The headquarters and branch staff and members of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent governing board have already been informed about *S2020* during the meeting in May 2010. The National Society will align its new strategy that will be developed next year with the *S2020*.

The International Federation secretariat's key areas of support to the Kazakhstan Red Crescent in 2010-2011 will include health and care, disaster management, a dissemination of principles and values, and National Society capacity-building. This is in line with the Strategic Aims to save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises; enable healthy and safe living; promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace and the enabling actions to deliver the aims.

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 most common diseases and trauma;
- enhanced ability of communities to oppose discrimination, intolerance and violence (including sexual and gender-based ones) 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, improving the image and profile of the National Society.

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

The budget for 2011 is CHF 1.8 million.

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

## Country context

Kazakhstan is located on the border of two continents, Europe and Asia. The extent of the territory from east to west is more than 3,000 kilometres, and from north to south – 1,700 kilometres. Kazakhstan is about the size of Western Europe<sup>1</sup>. It is the largest country in central Asia and one of the most sparsely populated in the world. The population of Kazakhstan is over 15 million, and there are over half a million more women than men.

Kazakhstan has an open economy with good growth prospects as it is rich in oil and gas. The rapid increase in oil production coupled with the rise in world oil prices have been the main engine of economic growth. After the transformational recession of the 1990s that followed independence, when GDP fell by 39 per cent, the economic growth picked up, exceeding 9 per cent per year in 2000-2005. From 2006 the economy started feeling the destabilizing effects of the inflowing oil revenues and the associated fiscal, monetary and credit expansion.

The impact of the global financial and economic crisis on Kazakhstan was evident in 2009 data, with retail sales and industrial output both registering negative growth. The country's export revenues weakened in the end of 2008 as oil prices fell. The authorities devalued the local currency tenge by around 19 per cent in early February 2009, in response to continuing pressure on Kazakhstan's foreign exchange reserves and concerns over the country's loss of competitiveness. Weak economic growth, together with lower global commodity prices, helped to reduce consumer price inflation: in 2009 the average rate of inflation was 7.3 percent, a sharp fall compared with the rate of 17.1 percent recorded in 2008. Nevertheless, some inflationary pressure may yet emerge in 2010, owing to a pick-up in domestic demand, commodity price rises, and higher import duties related to the customs union with Russia and Belarus in effect since January 1, 2010 (which is likely to raise import prices for some goods). The role of the state in the economy has increased as the government continues to implement its Action Plan for 2009-10, which aims to stabilise the financial sector and to support the wider economy through the use of funds from the National Fund of the Republic of Kazakhstan (the sovereign oil wealth fund).<sup>2</sup>

The Human Development Index (HDI) 2007 for Kazakhstan is 0.804, which gives the country a rank of 82<sup>nd</sup> out of 182 countries with data.

Development Indicators		KAZAKHSTAN	
<i>Various indicators</i>			
HDI value	0.804	Adult literacy rate (% ages 15 and older)	99.6
GDP per capita (PPP USD)	10,863	Combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (%)	91.4
Life expectancy at birth	64.9		

<sup>1</sup> Here and below the source used is the UN Human Development Report for Central Asia 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Economic Intelligence Unit.

Due to the specific nature of Kazakhstan's economy, dominated by the oil and mineral sector, its value of per capita GDP and other favourable macroeconomic indicators do not truly reflect the country's level of social development. Despite recent strong economic performance Kazakhstan's earlier experience of transitional recession, social dislocation, existing human poverty and high regional disparities exacerbate the country's acute development needs. So will the impacts of the global financial and economic crisis.

Unemployment and low wages became the main causes of **poverty** in Kazakhstan following the recession of the 1990s. Implementation of the poverty elimination programmes has led to an overall improvement of people's material well-being and considerable reduction of income poverty. However, according to the 2006 report<sup>3</sup>, 9.8 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line<sup>4</sup> and up to 40 per cent of the population belong to the vulnerable category with per capita incomes only slightly higher than the subsistence minimum.

The data from the Statistics Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan showed that the rate of unemployment had risen from 6.3 per cent in August 2008 to 7.1 per cent in February 2009. Besides, the forecast sharp reduction in revenue in 2009 has resulted in the government having to reduce public spending: the government announced large public sector lay-offs and imposed a hiring freeze.

The high income inequality, large numbers of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and poor economic and social conditions in underdeveloped regions, small towns and rural areas remain the country's major challenges. Poverty remains high in a number of regions in the west and the south of the country: the poorest area is the region of southern Kazakhstan, with the lowest income per head in December 2006. Availability of housing remains very low for low-income and vulnerable households in Kazakhstan and therefore is considered as a major factor of poverty. Similarly, poor sanitary conditions, lack of sewage systems in rural areas and in many small towns is a cause of poor living conditions, affecting health and many other aspects of people's life. Another area where poverty and vulnerability are concentrated is the vast category of self-employed people. This group includes the majority of rural residents whose source of livelihood is household plot and livestock as well as urban population engaged in the informal sector, predominantly retail trade.

The benefits of the country's economic prosperity have been very unevenly distributed between different social, professional and demographic groups of the population. Those who benefited from recent fast economic growth were men and cities, and those who lost were women and *auls* (villages). Given the very thin layer of Kazakhstan's middle class and the existence of a very large group of the population with fragile incomes and high risks of poverty, people's vulnerability to economic shocks caused by the deterioration of external conditions, such as fall in oil prices, is quite high.

Kazakhstan has achieved the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of universal primary education and gender equality in primary and secondary education, and there is no obstacle preventing girls' access to any level of education. However, the lack of schools and teachers has become a problem, particularly in remote rural areas.

Although during 1999-2003 there was a positive tendency in the growth of the Gender-related Development Index<sup>5</sup> (GDI) in the country in all three dimensions – life expectancy, access to education, and the GDP per capita, **gender inequality** factors remain critical for both men and women. While for women these are mostly related to the economic sphere, access to resources, and insufficient political participation, for men they mostly concern health and hazardous activities.

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<sup>3</sup> Poverty reduction in Kazakhstan: policy outcomes and UNDP contribution, UNDP, 2006.

<sup>4</sup> The international poverty line equals 1.08 US dollars PPP a day. For central Asian countries, World Bank recommends the more acceptable poverty line of 2.15 US dollars PPP a day.

<sup>5</sup> The gender-related development index measures achievements in the same dimensions using the same indicators as the HDI, but captures inequalities in achievement between women and men.

## Various indicators

GDI as % of HDI	99.8	Adult literacy rate 2006 (% ages 15 and older)	99.7
Life expectancy at birth 2006 (%)	117.8	Combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio 2006 (%)	107.4

Higher life expectancy for women tends to hide the negative side of the picture and can hardly offset the acute imbalances in the capability and capacity of women and the inferior quality of life that women lead in terms of maternal mortality, infant mortality, morbidity, unemployment, wage disparities, income disparities, intra-household disparities and domestic violence compared to the situation of men. The number of low-income female-headed households in Kazakhstan was as high as 40 per cent in 2006, indicating that the female heads of households are struggling mostly with their children to rear, to work for income, to survive and also to maintain a life with dignity. About a sixth of the population, predominantly families with many children, single women pensioners, and rural unemployed, lives in poverty, and most unemployed in the country are women.

Kazakhstan records 20,000–30,000 emergency situations per year, 20 percent of which are natural. The specific features of Kazakhstan's nature make it potentially susceptible to such natural disasters as earthquakes, debris flows, avalanches, landslides and mudslides, river flooding, drought, sharp drops in air temperature, blizzards and snowstorms, rising water levels and flooding in the Caspian littoral zone, forest and grass fires and epidemics of highly dangerous infections. According to the International Federation's World Disasters Report 2009, the number of people affected by natural and technological disasters in the country between 1999 and 2008 was 81,134 and the number of killed 149.

There exist the risks of major earthquakes, landslides and floods, on a scale that could affect millions of people over large swaths of the region. Kazakh experts estimate the direct damage from natural disaster risks in the country at USD 20-60 million annually, and indirect damage at up to 10 times that amount.

Around 30 per cent of the territory of Kazakhstan, home to more than 6 million people and 40 per cent of the country's industries, is under constant threat of a devastating earthquake. The city of Almaty was destroyed three times in the late 1800s and in the early 1900s by earthquakes measuring over 7 on the Richter scale. If another quake of similar magnitude were to happen today, more than 60 per cent of the buildings in the Almaty region could collapse, with an estimated 650,000 injured and 300,000 killed. According to experts, even a less destructive earthquake could kill 75,000 of the 1.5 million residents of Almaty.

Among the man-made disasters happening most frequently are domestic and industrial fires and road accidents. From 30 to 40 major road accidents are registered annually that affect 250-350 people and kill more than 200.

Kazakhstan appears in the strong climate change zone, and faces problems with fresh and glacial waters. The predicted temperatures demonstrate that Kazakhstan will be in a "hazard zone" with a temperature rise from 4.5 to 5.5 degrees Celsius. Studies carried out in Kazakhstan provide evidence of the possibility of increasing frequency of heat waves (extremely high temperatures), wild fires, mudflows and, therefore, landslides.<sup>6</sup>

Among the environmental problems occurring in Kazakhstan, the natural and anthropogenic disaster of the Aral Sea and radioactive pollution of the Semipalatinsk nuclear site are well known. The Aral Sea is a complicated set of social and economic problems which has become an international issue due to the nature and scale of its effects: it has affected about 35 million people living in the sea basin. Primarily, it

<sup>6</sup> Climate change and its impact on Kazakhstan's human development, National Human Development Report 2008

is related to a general decline in health in the Aral Sea region where over 70 percent of adults and 80 percent of children suffer from one or several diseases.

Health indicators in Kazakhstan clearly demonstrate slow progress in the reduction of human poverty and in attaining the MDGs. The country has one of the highest maternal mortality rates – 36.9 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2009. Similarly infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) is as high as 63<sup>7</sup>.

The analysis of the **Tuberculosis** (TB) epidemiological situation in the country in 2006-2007 shows improvements and a trend to stabilisation in both civil and penitentiary sectors. The TB incidence rate declined from 175.6 per 100,000 population in 2004 to 105.5 per 100,000 in 2009. However, it is still very high. The TB mortality rate decreased to 12.5 (per 100,000) in 2009, compared to 20.8 in 2005.

A growing concern is Multi-Drug Resistant (MDR)TB, which is much more difficult and expensive to treat. By 2006, a total of 8,189 MDR-TB patients had been registered, 45 children among them; the number of cases registered in 2009 alone made more than 11,000. TB is also the main opportunistic infection and a leading cause of death for people living with HIV (PLHIV). The cumulative number of people with HIV/TB as reported by the AIDS centre is 1,530; 445 people with co-infection were registered in 2009. The **HIV expansion** increases the risk of TB in the country. In total, 286 TB/ HIV patients had been registered by the national AIDS centre by the end of 2006.

In 2005 UNAIDS estimated that the number of people living with HIV in Kazakhstan was between 11,000 and 77,000. However, the number of registered HIV patients in January 2010 made 13,784 according to the Ministry of Health. Although the absolute number of officially registered HIV cases is still comparatively low, an exponential increase has been recorded in recent years.

The HIV epidemic in Kazakhstan is concentrated among highly vulnerable populations, mainly among injecting drug users (80 per cent) and sex workers, but is also spreading to other vulnerable groups including youth, migrants and long-distance drivers. More than half (55 per cent) of all registered are young people aged 15-29 and 23.4 per cent of all are women. The proportion of affected women is increasing, and there is also a trend of an increased number of HIV transmissions through sexual contacts (by 3.3 per cent during 2007). By 2007 there had been registered 223 children with HIV; unsafe blood transfusion became the cause of infection for 138 children in 2006.

In addition to their health implications, people with HIV or TB also experience exclusion and societal levels of stigma and discrimination. Moreover, the stigma associated with the diseases and discrimination against sick people are projected to other family members, including children born to HIV-positive mothers. Many people living with HIV fear social stigma more than the health consequences of the disease.<sup>8</sup> HIV stigma also interacts with pre-existing stigmas, and results in deepening discrimination towards people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men, sex workers, ethnic minorities and other marginalized populations. The fear of stigma and discrimination is a major cause of the hesitant take-up of essential support services and treatment, even where these are free.

Other health related problems are preventable infectious diseases, viral hepatitis, brucellosis and diarrhoea. Part of the health problems result from low access to safe water and sanitation, and from threatening environmental pollution. Inadequate water supply and poor sanitary literacy among people are some of the reasons for high intestinal infection rates, particularly among children.

The uneven economic development between the states in central Asia creates the conditions for heightened **migration** as people move to more prosperous areas. Since the mid-2000s Kazakhstan has become a new popular destination for central Asian migrants. Over 200,000 Kyrgyz, 50,000 Tajiks, and 250,000 Uzbeks worked in Kazakhstan in 2007. Although Kazakhstan is the major recipient country of labor migrants from neighboring countries, its formal regulations relate to professional

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<sup>7</sup> World Bank, WHO, 2007

<sup>8</sup> Living with HIV in Eastern Europe and the CIS: The Human Cost of Social Exclusion, Regional Human Development Report on AIDS, 2008

immigrants, not the more numerous unskilled migrants.<sup>9</sup> Officials and experts agree that most labour migrants in Kazakhstan work illegally. The global financial and economic crisis means that fewer jobs are available for migrants in the destination countries, but migration flows are believed to continue in the region and the number of people on migration will stay at almost the same level.

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 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 Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society has a long history of cooperation with local authorities and governmental ministries, including emergency, health, social welfare, justice and education ministries, and their structures at regional and local level. Coordination of the National Society's auxiliary work in communities vis-a-vis state authorities 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.

With businesses doing everything possible to reduce expenses while surviving the negative effects of the global economic and financial crises and low oil prices, the fundraising opportunities for the National Society at the country level diminished dramatically in 2009. The Red Crescent was unable to locally raise enough funds to sustain the staff at the headquarters and branch levels. This mainly affected those people who were not involved in internationally-supported programmes, and as a result, the National Society leadership sent these people on unpaid leaves for few months.

### Disasters

The National Society addresses 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 strategic plan for 2007-2011. The Red Crescent Society's role in disaster response is stipulated by the country national plan. Besides, the National Society has an agreement on cooperation with the Emergency Ministry signed in 2001 and regularly re-signed. When re-signing the agreement in 2010 the National Society is planning to include new responsibilities in case of a conflict, in restoring family links and early recovery, safer access issues and others, in accordance with changing capacities of the Red Crescent and the environment.

The International Federation has been supporting the Kazakhstan Red Crescent to build its institutional capacity to meet its disaster management obligations as well as its community-based initiatives in the most vulnerable communities, including mitigation and public awareness. These two main directions will continue. The main partners contributing through the International Federation's current appeal to the disaster management programme are the Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies<sup>10</sup>, respectively. In partnership with the Netherlands Red Cross, the Kazakhstan RC is implementing a programme on raising awareness of the environmental problems in schools and communities of Almaty city. Besides, the Red Crescent has recently engaged with the American Red Cross into the urban earthquake preparedness initiative that is focusing on earthquake preparedness in Almaty (and later in other central Asian capitals in earthquake prone areas).

The International Federation's local representation is part of the consortium that will be implementing the project "Building sustainable community resilience through Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia"

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<sup>9</sup> Erica Marat, "Labor Migration in Central Asia: Implications of the Global Economic Crisis", Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program, May 2009.

<sup>10</sup> In 2011 the Swedish RC (government) will not contribute to the Kazakhstan Plan in view of the latest economic developments in the country.

funded by DIPECHO in 2010-2011. 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 the International Disaster Response Laws (IDRL) promotion, contingency planning and RDRT training. The Kazakhstan Red Crescent will carry out community-based disaster preparedness activities and disaster preparedness and first-aid education among schoolchildren in Almaty city, Almaty and Southern Kazakhstan regions.

At the end of 2008 the Kazakhstan Red Crescent joined the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Alliance for disaster risk reduction. The purpose of the Global Alliance is to scale up the International Federation's effort in reducing disaster risks among the most vulnerable communities where National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies operate. To ensure the most effective and efficient means to deliver the greatest impact for vulnerable people, this Global Alliance works in support of country-based National Society programming. This approach is about strengthening and making better use of the combined capabilities of the National Societies and the secretariat, and also bringing in regional networks and other funding and operating partners.

Despite the progress in Red Crescent response capacity-building the need remains, for instance, for developing the skills of the national and regional disaster response teams or integrating health related issues into disaster relief. The key areas of recovery require even more attention. This includes increased capacity in livelihoods, shelter, public health in emergencies, water and sanitation, restoring family links. The National Society will also 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 is paid to the promotion and dissemination of the IDRL. The National Society has already engaged in building common understanding among the Red Crescent staff on IDRL and shelter cluster approach. The Red Crescent will further promote and disseminate these among the respective governmental and legislative bodies and non-governmental organizations (NGO) aiming to contribute to the inter-agency contingency planning at the country level and capacity-building for effective response to a potential major disaster.

## **Health**

In accordance with the International Federation's health and care strategy, the National Society strategic plan, and based on the identified needs in the country, the main components of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent's health and care programme are HIV, TB and community-based health and first aid (CBHFA). Work in these directions will continue through 2010-2011. Prevention of diseases is one of the priorities as it is much easier to prevent a disease than to treat it.

Part of the funding for the health and care programme of the National Society is channeled through the International Federation's appeal multilaterally. Partner National Societies currently supporting the Kazakhstan Red Crescent HIV and/ or TB prevention within the framework of the appeal are the British, Japanese, Norwegian and Swedish<sup>11</sup> Red Cross Societies. Further sources of global level International Federation funding addressing MDR-TB are the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly and the USAID. Besides, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent has secured funding for information, education, communication and mobilization activities in TB prevention as a sub-recipient of the National TB Centre under the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for 2008-2010. This year the National Society for HIV prevention is also supported bilaterally by the American Red Cross; the support is likely to continue beyond 2010. The community-based health and first-aid (CBHFA) activities in the Aral Sea region are implemented through bilateral partnership with the Netherlands Red Cross that aims at branch development. There is also a bilateral assistance from the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates in support of orphaned children.

In 2007, the Kazakhstan 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 HIV Global Alliance programme was launched in the end of 2008. The scale-up means expanding the range

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<sup>11</sup> The Swedish RC will not contribute to the Kazakhstan Plan in 2011.

of services to people living with HIV and increasing the coverage by HIV prevention activities. To sustain a higher level of programming, the Red Crescent also requires support in capacity-building with a focus on monitoring and evaluation and resource mobilization. However, the level of funding secured so far is not sufficient for scaling up. The Kazakhstan Red Crescent regularly participates in meetings of the European Network of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on HIV (ERNA) and shares their knowledge and experience with sister National Societies.

There is a need for better integration between health & care and disaster management programmes of the National Society to ensure better response to disasters, including needs assessment, delivery and monitoring of activities.

### **Humanitarian values**

The promotion of humanitarian principles and values is one of the priority areas of the Red Crescent work that is carried out in partnership with the International Federation. The National Society assigns a specific part to the promotion of principles and values in the prevention of stigmatisation and discrimination in the society today and in the coming years. This function in the National Society is combined with the communications function. Significant attention is paid to increasing the awareness of Red Crescent staff and volunteers followed by dissemination to wider communities through the educational system, public sector, local authorities and non-governmental organizations. The work is closely linked to the dissemination of the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the promotion of the rules of emblem use. The elements of non-discrimination, respect to diversity and tolerance are being incorporated in all programmes of the National Society but this requires further attention.

Recognizing the human vulnerabilities arising from the migration in the country and in order to put into practice the commitments in terms of addressing the needs of people affected by migration – made by the 7<sup>th</sup> European Regional Conference in 2007 and reaffirmed at the 8<sup>th</sup> European Regional Conference in 2010 – the National Society of Kazakhstan became a part of the Central Asian Red Crescent Labour Migration Network to serve irregular migrants. The initiative is also in conformity with the role of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable migrants, irrespective of their legal status, that was acknowledged at the 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The migration project is funded by EuropeAid (EC) till mid 2011. Further programming will depend on the availability of funds. Opportunities are currently discussed to obtain funds from the Japanese Red Cross.

### **Capacity-building**

Capacity-building is recognized as one of Kazakhstan Red Crescent's development priorities based on the results of a self-analysis held in 2007. The organizational development programme of the National Society is supported by the International Federation with contributions from the Norwegian and Swedish<sup>12</sup> Red Cross Societies. The process of statute implementation will involve the establishment of effective governance and management structures. Leadership development, improvements in the areas of human resources management, financial management, integration between different National Society programmes, fundraising and increased sustainability, development of planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation capacities, and adoption of the Red Crescent Law are the priority areas that the Red Crescent Society will be focusing in the coming two years.

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

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<sup>12</sup> The Swedish RC will not contribute to the Kazakhstan Plan in 2011.

# Secretariat supported programmes in 2010-2011

## Disaster Management

Emphasis will be placed on developing a culture of prevention, risk-reduction and self-reliance at all levels, particularly in high risk communities. The ability to respond effectively will be based on supporting and building capacities at local level first and foremost, combined with further strengthening preparedness and response mechanisms at national, regional and international level, including inter-agency contingency planning based on cluster approach and the IDRL promotion; and promoting early recovery and livelihoods.

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

<b>Programme purpose</b>
To reduce the number of deaths, injuries, and impact from disasters.
The disaster management programme budget is CHF 355,707.

<b>Programme component 1: Disaster management planning</b>
<b>Component outcome:</b> 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.

Under this component the National Society will update its national disaster response plan, for instance with safer access elements in case of a conflict and shelter sector coordination mechanisms, the DR capacity sections, test the standard operating procedures and make relevant changes. Besides, the four zonal (sub-national) and branch level (at least 40 percent of all) disaster response plans will be developed. Introduction of necessary amendments to the regional contingency plan and its testing is foreseen.

<b>Programme component 2: Organizational preparedness</b>
<b>Component outcome:</b> 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.

For this component the National Society will recruit, train, retain and manage a diverse, gender balanced volunteer network, conduct training for newly established disaster response teams (DRTs) and refresh the skills and knowledge of already existing ones. The replenishment of emergency stocks also falls under this component.

To ensure 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 familiarized with the up-to-date methodologies, materials and tools, including issues of recovery and climate change. Workshops on shelter and relief and lessons learnt from relief operations, incorporating the Sphere standards, will be also arranged for staff, now at the national, zonal and regional levels. Ways to develop an approach and strategy for integrating shelter in future National Society activities will be explored. The National Society will also work on developing standardized criteria for emergency stock and emergency first-aid kits and disseminate information about such criteria. The National Society will continue updating the Europe-wide disaster management database that it became part of in 2008.

A working group comprising representatives of central Asian National Societies and the International Federation secretariat will work to promote the IDRL. The advocacy will primarily target relevant governmental agencies and legislative bodies. Based on the results of the survey on disaster response legal environment in the region that was conducted by UN OCHA in 2009 the Kazakhstan Red

Crescent elaborated a work plan with concrete steps to be taken at country level that implies involving all relevant stakeholders.

The law department of the IFRC Geneva Secretariat has been supporting the development of the work plan through technical consultations. The department has also been seeking for funds to conduct a deeper assessment of the legal environment at the country level that will recommend improvements in the national and regional legislation.

### **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.

To achieve the outcome the National Society will establish and train local initiative groups that will disseminate the skills and knowledge to wider communities. Schoolchildren will be targeted through volunteers worknet. The risk of vulnerable communities, including disaster consequences related to the climate change, will also be reduced through small-scale structure and non-structure mitigation projects.

### **Programme component 4: Recovery**

**Component outcome:** 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 at the national, zonal and regional levels and raising 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 – single mothers, multi-children families, older people living alone, schoolchildren and people with disabilities – and also people who are not covered by the government disaster preparedness training plans at workplaces.

The National Society will establish, train and equip 60 local initiative groups consisting of 900 members from communities who will further share their knowledge with up to 120,000 fellow community members. The training for local initiative groups 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. Over 5,000 schoolchildren will have improved skills to cope with disasters as a result of youth preparedness training and around 60,000 people will be provided with technical resources and support services through 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.

Up to 1,000 Red Crescent staff and volunteers are to receive new or refresher training and practical exercises that will develop their professional skills, and result in better services to the vulnerable populations. Improved disaster management coordination systems and enhanced response plans at national and sub-national levels 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 might also redirect the programme support focus.

The National Society, facing the need to respond to more disasters, also faces the challenge to train and retain staff and volunteers capable of providing professional disaster response services. There is a high turnover of volunteers & staff and competition with other organizations, which is an obstacle in ensuring a flexible but professional human resources base to meet the needs of disaster response. Proper human resources management 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

<b>Programme purpose</b>
To reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
The health and care programme budget is CHF 674,523.

<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 is 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.

The programme is focused on HIV prevention among the general population, military, sex workers (SW) and their clients, as well as injecting drug users (IDU). The National Society will participate in the fight against stigma and discrimination related to HIV and TB in the country.

The main approaches to be used are: peer education and community mobilization; information/education/communication (IEC); voluntary counselling and testing (VCT); and skills for personal protection, including condom use.

Peer to peer education and social mobilization will be carried out through trainings. Information will be presented in interactive ways like role plays, practical exercises, discussions in groups (conversations and brain-storming), exchange of opinions and experiences. Trainings have proved their effectiveness in communication with students and military personnel since the participants can discuss different views, share knowledge, information and experience, and they can also become trainers.

<b>Programme component 2: Tuberculosis</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> Clients with TB received support from 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.

The focus will be on the direct observation of treatment (DOT) in people with TB by Red Crescent visiting nurses and education for their relatives and households. Activities will also include social and psychological support and counselling, as well as raising awareness of the disease among general populations. The National Society will raise TB awareness among PLHIV and refer them for TB testing

as needed. The programme clients and ex-clients will be involved to volunteer as support group facilitators.

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

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

For CBFA the deliverables will include sessions and distribution of information materials on newborn health and care, the most common diseases, hygiene and sanitation practices and basic first-aid training in rural areas.

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

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society's health and care programme addresses the health needs of the most vulnerable people and those at the highest risk of getting diseases.

Preventing new **HIV** infections is the key to reversing the epidemic, especially within populations exposed to higher risk. The programme is carried out in Ust-Kamenogorsk, Almaty, Taldykorgan and Aktobe cities. Peer to peer education and social mobilization will be carried out through peer trainers and educators, who will conduct interactive group discussions in the target communities. In total, 17,500 sex worker (SW) clients (labour migrants, track drivers, military men and students) will be trained through peer-to-peer education in 2010-2011. Some 33,000 people will be involved in IEC activities. Besides, 16 public events will be carried out in 2010-2011 in each of the four cities and will cover at least 23,000 people.

Booklets, leaflets and posters will be designed and produced within the awareness-raising campaigns. Anti-discrimination messages will be incorporated in the materials meant for distribution in communities. IEC on safe injecting drug use and measures to prevent HIV will be offered at the Red Crescent harm reduction points and anonymous HIV testing will be encouraged. Over two years, around 850 IDUs and 1,800 SWs are planned to be covered through these help-points.

To reduce HIV stigma and discrimination the support groups, formed in 2009, will be functioning and meeting regularly; facilitation will be provided. By the end of 2010, the number of PLHIV supported by groups will be 250.

In **TB**, the main focus is on patronage of vulnerable people with TB on the continuation phase of treatment to ensure positive treatment outcomes. For this beneficiary group the programme will provide direct observation of treatment by Red Crescent visiting nurses, as well as TB education that will also target their relatives and households. People with MDR-TB and HIV/ TB co-infection will receive social support in the form of food, hygiene items and vitamins, and psychological support and counselling in five centres of the National Society. The total number of people with TB, MDR-TB and HIV/ TB co-infection to be targeted over the two years is 1,500.

The programme also carries out information, education and communication activities among the general population to increase TB awareness and mobilize the communities to oppose the epidemics. This may involve mass campaigns and TV and radio broadcasts. About 35,000 people are to be covered by IEC activities.

Extra efforts will be made to attract former TB patients in the programme as peer volunteers. These people are good examples that the disease can be cured, which builds up the faith of the beneficiaries and encourage adherence to the treatment.

Beneficiaries of the TB programme are mainly represented by the urban population as the number of people with TB in the cities and suburbs is higher. Men make up about 55 per cent of the beneficiary group because in this group the disease prevails according to the statistics. Among people with MDR-TB up to 65 per cent are males. Most people with the disease are unemployed and do not receive financial support from the government.

Support provided by the Red Crescent contributes to a decreased default rate and better treatment outcomes in people with TB. Besides, IEC activities improve population knowledge about the disease, resulting in timely referral for medical check-up and treatment. Finally, awareness campaigns contribute to the reduction of stigma among the public.

The National Society, as auxiliary to the government, takes an intermediate role in providing first-aid and disease prevention skills and knowledge to the most vulnerable communities in rural areas, to help save lives during disasters and in day-to-day emergencies.

The **CBFA** is focused on communities residing in areas that are most frequently affected by the outbreaks of infectious diseases to make them more resilient to the effects of disasters and health crises. Based on morbidity rates, the density of the population and taking into consideration the work of other actors in the field to avoid duplication the most vulnerable communities will be targeted.

Community and household prevention actions are to be carried out by community-based volunteers representing medical staff of primary healthcare facilities, housewives and women's committees, and aim to strengthen local capacities. Up to 1,200 women with newborns and pregnant women and girls below 18 will be targeted. These are the most vulnerable segments of the population in terms of access to information on health issues and decision-making. Besides, women's health directly influences the health of newborns and mothers' knowledge on childhood diseases and their prevention can significantly reduce the number of complications and child mortality. Basic first-aid training is to target men and women equally. In total over 30,000 people will be covered by different educational activities.

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

The lack of sustainable funding is one of the most significant challenges for the health and care programmes because only long-term interventions can lead to meaningful results. The funding received to date for the 2010 HIV programme is not enough to scale up the services and coverage in line with the Global Alliance commitments. No funding has been received for the CBHFA programme this year.

Shortcomings in the implementation of the directly observed treatment short-course strategy at country level and 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 HIV Global Alliance adds to the National Society obligations in terms of tracking performance and accountability. Adequate monitoring and reporting is a challenging task and will require proper follow-up from the Global HIV Unit and the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting department of the secretariat as the work progresses.

## **Organizational Development/Capacity Building**

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

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

The organisational development/capacity-building programme budget is CHF 292,458.

<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.

**Component outcome 4: Increased National Society's sustainability.**

Based on the preliminary Central Asia Review<sup>13</sup> report recommendations leadership training, coaching and peer-to-peer support will be the way to promote National Society development. Within the region, there are fora where the National Society leaders meet to discuss common issues and problems. Given the common issues and close ties that exist among the CIS countries, the Federation will continue to provide opportunities facilitating peer group learning and exchange process, mediated and facilitated by external/internal sources. Also, coaching and mentoring in key areas of governance and leadership development will be tailored to specific needs of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society leadership.

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent will continue with the process of establishing clear and effective governance structures and interrelations between governance and management. For that purpose training on governance roles will be provided for branch chair people and leaders of primary organisations so as to enable them to participate in the National Society work more effectively. The guidance on interrelations between the governance and management will be developed and introduced based on the results of the study of branches' experience to be carried out by the end of 2010. Also, the results of the study will be used to prepare for the next National Society general assembly in 2011, where the elections for the national level governing board will be conducted in line with the revised statute adopted in 2007.

To improve its human resources management, the National Society will revise the existing policies and tools. With the results of the revision in hands the Red Crescent will develop the human resources management system that includes the whole cycle starting from staff planning to recruitment, induction, training, appraisal, and further development. Staff motivation and retention will be given special attention taking into consideration recent sustainability problems caused by financial shortages.

Based on the 2009/10 PricewaterhouseCoopers audit's positive results and recommendations, the National Society will continue building financial management capacity, namely it will improve a range of rules and regulations including the areas of financial information management, staff contracts, benefits, etc. Also, the National Society will update its accounting software and organize a set of workshops for finance and programme staff. The National Society is planning to introduce the Federation cash transfer system during 2011.

To increase its sustainability, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent will need to diversify its sources of funding. There are good potential opportunities for the National Society to increase its domestic fundraising through boosting its image, improving public relations and developing its fundraising and communication strategy, including an analysis of the local commercial sector and exploring local possibilities for fundraising. These activities will be supported by the International Federation in the coming years.

**Programme component 2: National Society legal base development**

**Component outcome:** Red Crescent Law developed and promoted for adoption.

The development of the Red Crescent Law will involve the study of existing Red Cross Red Crescent laws as examples, the drafting of the law and advocacy in front of the Government and the Parliament.

The National Society decided to develop a unified document thus merging two documents – the emblem law and Red Crescent law. At present the National Society leadership is holding meetings with the relevant Ministries and Parliamentarians providing information on Red Crescent activities in the country and the auxiliary role of the National Society towards the Government.

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<sup>13</sup> Strategic Review of the Federation Secretariat support in Europe Zone, Focus on Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan

### **Programme component 3: Volunteer promotion and development**

**Component outcome:** Nationwide volunteer profile and youth services improved through strengthening volunteers centres and clubs.

Young volunteers will be recruited through youth clubs that work under regional youth centres; the network of clubs will be expanded. The volunteers will receive training and get involved in Red Crescent programmes to deliver important messages or services to their peers.

Youth and volunteering policies will be updated/developed by the National Society in 2010. The Secretariat's support at the regional and zone level will be required to progress with that. Also, the Society is planning to update the volunteer management guidelines developed in 2003.

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

Target beneficiaries are the National Society headquarters and branch staff (200 people), around 2,000 volunteers including youth and about 2,500 members who are leaders of the grass-roots organizations and governing board members nation-wide.

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

The process of the new statute implementation is hampered by the delay in the registration of the statute with relevant authorities in the country. Prior to registration the comments from the Joint Statutes Commission should be incorporated in the statutes. The National Society foresees difficulties with adoption and further promotion of the Red Crescent Law due to limited knowledge of the government officials about the Red Crescent activities and insufficient understanding of the role of the Red Crescent in the country. Meetings between the National Society leadership and high level government officials and parliament members will help to bring both parties closer and establish a dialogue with stakeholders in the Government.

Due to problems with fundraising at country level the National Society was unable to sustain staff at the headquarters and in branches and was sending people on unpaid leaves in 2009. Such developments demonstrate that the National Society has limited tools and mechanisms to remain operational in a situation when the international funding decreases or ceases. The OD programme of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent is supported only by the International Federation. In case the multilateral funding ceases the programme will be under threat.

## **Principles and Values**

Promotion of an inclusive culture, respect for diversity and intercultural dialogue, opposing inappropriate behaviour and discriminatory practice and actions in support of vulnerable migrants that are part of the National Society principles and values programme to put in practice the Vienna Commitments made at the 8<sup>th</sup> European Regional Conference in 2010.

#### **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 411,074.

##### **Programme component 1: Promotion of humanitarian principles and values**

**Component outcome 1:** Fundamental principles and humanitarian values of the Movement promoted.

**Component outcome 2:** The image and profile of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society improved.

The programme will promote principles and values through specific training and thematic sessions for Red Crescent staff and volunteers, public campaigns, round-table meetings and through mass media

sources. Increased level of partners and general population's awareness of the Red Crescent mission, activities, principles and values will contribute to better fundraising at the national level and attract new members and volunteers.

<b>Programme component 2: Operationalisation of fundamental principles and humanitarian values</b>
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<b>Component outcome:</b> Fundamental principles and humanitarian values are integrated into National Society operational programmes.
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Continuous cooperation with other core programmes and the integration of diversity and non-discrimination elements and principles into them will be pursued. 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 could pursue their genuine interests and their general well-being, and encouraging accountability towards beneficiaries during training and thematic sessions.

In 2011 operationalisation of the fundamental principles and humanitarian values will no longer be set as a separate component of the programme. Instead, operationalisation will continue under each core programme, and whatever direction relevant activities will take will be decided depending on the progress of a concrete programme and reflected in their plans accordingly.

<b>Programme component 3: Anti-discrimination and violence prevention</b>
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<b>Component outcome 1:</b> Ability of communities to combat discrimination, intolerance and violence and to promote respect for diversity enhanced.
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<b>Component outcome 2:</b> Understanding of the necessity to prevent and fight sexual and gender-based violence within communities increased.
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To tackle discrimination, intolerance and violence and promote respect for diversity the programme will hold meetings with communities and voice the needs of marginal groups in front of the mass media. People from marginalized groups will be involved in the design and implementation of the National Society actions.

The Central Asian Red Crescent Labour Migration Network built in 2009 serves regular and irregular migrants through education centres in the country of destination – Kazakhstan – and in the countries of origin – Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. At the regional level the network is coordinated by the International Federation's regional representation and IOM is the associate partner to provide legal counselling. In 2010 the Kazakhstan Red Crescent renders social assistance to migrants and their families through information and educational centres, which can be used also as resource centres for interested parties. Based on progress a six-month extension of the EU-supported activities for migrants and additional services may be introduced in 2011; the project may also expand to cover more sites with support from the EU or other partners.

The Red Crescent will tackle gender-related issues with the focus on gender-based and sexual violence through information campaigns and mass media to raise awareness of the general public of the needs of groups vulnerable to gender-based violence. In addition to that, young females and males will be reached at higher educational institutions.

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

The target population of the principles and values programme is diverse, including the general public, vulnerable women, PLHIV, people with TB, refugees, migrants and other populations served by National Society programming, Red Crescent staff and volunteers and partners from government bodies, mass media and other humanitarian players in the country.

The Red Crescent plans to train about 140 newly hired staff and volunteers to disseminate the Movement's principles and values. The number of people to be covered through media is difficult to calculate realistically and is estimated at a few thousand people.

To address social exclusion of marginalized groups such as people living with HIV and TB, migrants, vulnerable women and others the National Society will specifically involve about 1,000 beneficiaries from these groups in the design and implementation of National Society public events during the next two years.

In migration, the National Society will be directly involved in reception, in providing social counselling, psychological and humanitarian assistance, and training on first aid, healthy lifestyles, HIV and TB prevention, and in running Russian language courses. The services will be offered in three big cities of the country where labour migrants, both regular and irregular, concentrate – Astana, Almaty and Taldykorgan. Based on needs of migrants discovered during the implementation of migration project in 2009, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent plans to add one more project site in 2011 – the Southern Kazakhstan region and its centre, the city of Shymkent. Legal labour migrants, people legally entering the country but lacking valid permission for work and also those who then fail to leave when their registration for legal stay expires are to be targeted. Counselling for 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. Advocacy and awareness-raising within the Movement and among the general public will positively influence behaviour towards migrants.

To tackle gender-based violence the National Society will be covering women and men equally using two-sided approach to potential victims and aggressors. Students of higher educational institutions in Aktobe city will be targeted. The preliminary target is 1,000 people for two years.

Better understanding of values and principles, of the importance and value of tolerant attitude towards people with illnesses and vulnerable groups, of respect for diversity, and of ways to oppose discrimination – these are benefits that target communities will gain from the Red Crescent principles and values programme.

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

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 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.

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 affects the implementation.

In the receiving countries like Kazakhstan employment is often perceived as a limited stock that cheap labour migrants take away from the local population. Because of that migration issues are sensitive, especially in the view of the official position on this, and the harsh treatment of irregular migrants and particularly those who are legally entering the country, but do not have a permission to work. There remains a risk that the National Society could at times be called upon to assist authorities when irregular migrants are being detained, deported or returned. To prevent such situations, the National Society is committed to remind governments to respect the human rights of all migrants, including respect for, and due application of, the principle of non-refoulement and the provisions of relevant international treaties. Advocacy will focus on the unconditional access to migrants regardless of their status and for governments' acceptance to provide humanitarian assistance for all those in need.

Humanitarian access of the Red Crescent to irregular migrants is often disturbed by the latter's fear of being discovered and deported. To overcome this problem, the National Society of Kazakhstan widens its public campaigns, the staff visits places where migrants presumably are employed and distributes leaflets about the Red Crescent activities to raise awareness among beneficiaries.

The situation in the neighbouring Kyrgyzstan remains unstable. Further violence may result in the increased numbers of migrants coming from this country to Kazakhstan and growing needs for assistance in the destination country.

## Role of the secretariat

### a) Technical programme support

In line with *Strategy 2020* and other policy decisions made by statutory meetings and bodies<sup>14</sup> as well as reviews undertaken by Europe Zone Office of its approach to provision of support to national societies, the Federation will provide core membership services and technical support to national societies.

In addition, the Federation will provide support to the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society to roll out *Strategy 2020* and integrate it into its strategic development plan. It will also contribute to the development and data input for the Federation-wide planning and reporting system. As of beginning of 2011 the Federation office based in Almaty will provide support to the Kazakhstan RC. The office will cover also Turkmenistan.

Still a big constraint for the National Society remains the lack of English language skills for the majority of the leadership and senior programme staff, precluding access to materials in English and participation in international meetings. All Federation programme and technical staff working with the National Society are Russian/ English speaking, which allows regular and accurate communication and work. The Federation 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 Europe zone operating in Russian until the office in Moscow takes over the responsibilities .

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent president recently represented the National Society and the whole region at two important fora: the 8<sup>th</sup> Regional European Conference and the 18<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference in Vienna. Regional achievements in addressing the needs of migrants and in HIV prevention were presented during the conferences. Publicity and established contacts will contribute to the National Society resource mobilisation efforts. The former head of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent health department and current regional health manager participated in the former International Federation's High-Level Governance Group on HIV and AIDS. Her specific technical knowledge and experience gained from the participation in the group work will be used for further development of the National Society health programme's HIV component. The National Society second vice-president (in charge of fund-raising) was a member of the working group tasked to prepare the multicultural interaction theme for the 8th European Conference. This experience will contribute to programme areas dealing with multicultural interaction, such as youth and voluntarism, migration and principles and values, not only at the country but at the regional level. The second vice-president has also been a member of the Europe Zone National Societies Dialogue Platform Group and brings in the regional perspective.

The Federation representation is sharing the office with the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society, which offers additional opportunities for quick and regular contacts and support.

### b) Partnership development and coordination

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society relies primarily on the international support for its programming and largely this support is coming from the Movement. The significant local support exists on the level of good relationships with local authorities in the areas where National Society branches implement the programmes. The National Society's recent good disaster response records and planned work on IDRL, shelter and climate change contribute to the improved quality of coordination with the national

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<sup>14</sup> The International Federation's General Assembly, the Governing Board committees, the Council of Delegates, the International Conference and the European Red Cross and Red Cross Conference.

government in the area of disaster response at all levels as well as with other partners. The work on programmes targeting TB and HIV has further strengthened relationships with the government in the area of health and social care. Being involved in the new migration programme the National Society has been building relevant partnerships with the government and partners like IOM, ILO, UNIFEM.

The National Society's strategic plan for 2007–2011 prioritizes the development of partner relations and good work has been done in this direction; the Red Crescent cooperates with more than ten partners within and outside of the Movement. The Global Fund is the biggest partner outside the Movement. Taking into account that the current strategic plan also highlights attracting and retaining the partners, further work has to be done to ensure efficient coordination of partners' support starting already at planning stage. The National Society sees the stronger role for the secretariat in facilitating the experience, knowledge, and best practices exchange between the National Societies within and outside the region.

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 Kazakhstan Red Crescent. The newly signed<sup>15</sup> Memorandum of Understanding between the Kazakhstan Red Crescent, ICRC and the International Federation secretariat 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 with other interested Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Coordination and cooperation between the regional representation and the regional ICRC delegation 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 planning processes, regular monthly meetings between key staff, work through and with the National Societies Leadership Forum and trilateral meetings (Kazakhstan Red Crescent, ICRC and regional representation).

A new partnership has been established with the Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (PERCO) to benefit the migration programme.

The American Red Cross has been integrated in the International Federation framework by signing the Integration Agreement in 2009. The regional office of the American Red Cross is now based in Almaty and will be working with Central Asia, Pakistan and Eastern Europe. In Central Asia the American Red Cross programme focus is on supporting HIV and AIDS and disaster risk reduction strategies of the National Societies; the partner is also interested in supporting the capacity-building initiatives including resource mobilisation. Coordination and cooperation with the American Red Cross will be done through regular information exchange meetings, discussions with programme coordinators and Red Cross participation in all country and regional events.

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

The regional representative and where relevant programme managers will continue to represent the Kazakhstan Red Crescent at meetings, conferences and events where the National Society has no access to or to strengthen its representation. In line with the global efforts within the area of humanitarian diplomacy the International Federation will continue to bring the work of the Red Crescent to the attention of the humanitarian decision-makers within the country and in the region, and to promote the activities of Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society with particular emphasis on the advantages that the auxiliary role can bring to governments. In addition, the International Federation will further advocate for the value of Kazakhstan Red Crescent's community-based approach when addressing the needs, volunteers work and the value of partnerships and independence of the Movement components for the vulnerable people.

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<sup>15</sup> MoU was signed during the 8<sup>th</sup> European RCRC Conference in Vienna, 14–16 April 2010

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

## Promoting gender equity and diversity

Traditionally women in central Asia, especially in rural areas, are engaged with households and children, leaving 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 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.

Promoting gender equity and diversity is always at the heart of the humanitarian values programme. In the coming years the programme will continue to address the issue of gender-based violence seeking to change behaviour within communities, building on results of the community survey and initiatives of 2008. Also, more attention will be paid to 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 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. To better assess the impact of programming and identify unexpected changes the ways to collect and process most significant change stories from those involved with the implementation at local level – volunteers and beneficiaries – will be explored in selected programme areas.

Relevant information will be gathered from branch reports to 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, lessons learned and international experience, captured in the World Disasters Report, 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 SPHERE standards make up an integral part of the Red Crescent training for its disaster response teams and are applied by the National Society in its disaster response operations. The International Federation's guidelines on national disaster preparedness and response mechanisms, as well as the characteristics of a well-prepared National Society, containing standards and key indicators of effective

preparedness and response, will advise the capacity-building efforts of the Red Crescent Society in the area of disaster management.

In its overall capacity-building efforts, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society is guided by the characteristics of a well-functioning National Society, particularly to the balanced development of the three key elements – foundation, capacity, and performance. The Kazakhstan Red Crescent is willing to make annual external financial audits a regular practice.

How we work	
<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	
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