

Mid-Year report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Uzbekistan

MAAUZ001

31/August/2011

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



The National Society disseminates knowledge on disaster preparedness with children.

Photo: Uzbekistan 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 a 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: Access to programme funds remained a challenge for the National Society in terms of timing for processing cash withdrawal claims and submitting support documentation package.

In disaster management, the work with communities focused on raising awareness of schoolchildren and students about disaster risks in all 15 regions of Uzbekistan. The Uzbekistan Red Crescent also made efforts to preserve its own capacities to respond to emergencies by improving the staff and volunteers' knowledge and skills in disaster management and maintaining a warehouse for emergency stocks and technical resources. The headquarters and branch staff were also part of the regional capacity-building initiatives. In the first half of the year only one Red Crescent branch was involved in response providing assistance to people affected by domestic fires.

In health and care, the work was aimed at improving community-based disaster preparedness and first aid education of youth initiative groups formed by the disaster management programme. No tuberculosis prevention activities have been carried out by the Red Crescent Society, as the nationwide government TB programme ensures a full range of services and education activities all over the country.

Two information and education centres for migrants continued providing legal consultancy including human trafficking risks, tracing services, psycho-social support, training on TB and sexually transmitted infections prevention and first aid. Messages on gender-based violence and

discrimination have been spread as part of the National Society promotion activities.

Only few planned activities, namely induction courses for staff and volunteers, have been conducted within the organisational development programme. The NS's new executive director received extensive briefings from the coordinators during her visit to the Europe Zone office.

Financial situation: The total 2011 budget is CHF 988,215 of which CHF 405,372 (41 per cent) was covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). The overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 275,596 (67 per cent) of the funding.

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

No. of people we have reached: In total, 3,275 people benefited directly from the secretariat supported programme with the help of 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, people affected by disasters	2,890	56	44
Principles and values	Potential migrants	385	n.a.	n.a.
Total:		3,275	n.a.	n.a.

Our partners: The donors supporting the programmes multilaterally through the International Federation are the Japanese and Norwegian Red Cross Societies, the European Commission and the Japanese Government.

Context

Although in August 2010 the Uzbekistan Red Crescent had re-gained access to its foreign currency bank account and de facto re-launched its activities after one and a half years of semi-dormant status, the use¹ of external funds was still problematic. This year, the access to the funds remained a challenge in terms of timing for processing cash withdrawal claims and submitting support documentation package. Thus, programme funds transferred to the National Society by IFRC in February 2011 were released after the government inspection only at the end of May. The lengthy process inevitably hampers the programming. For instance, the majority of planned disaster management activities – such as community-based disaster preparedness and mitigation activities, public awareness campaigns, warehouse renovation – had to be postponed. Similar delays were observed in other programmes detailed below.

In the first half of the year only one branch of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent responded to small-scale emergencies. Namely, the National Society distributed humanitarian aid to 17 people (3 families) affected by domestic fires in Karakalpakstan.

¹ Since January 2009 all external funding received by the Uzbekistan Red Crescent had been subjected to inspection by the commission of the Ministry of Finance.

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 respond to, and effectively cope with, their consequences.

Achievements: The Uzbekistan Red Crescent headquarters and branch staff took part in testing the revised regional disaster response/ contingency plan (DR/CP) of the Central Asian National Societies in March 2011. All DR stakeholders in the region (including the ICRC, partner National Societies, the UN agencies, the Kazakhstan Emergency Ministry) attended the test and provided feedback that was later used to refine the plan. The Red Crescent also signed two regional Memoranda of Understanding between the IFRC and the National Societies: 1) on mutual assistance in case of an emergency and 2) on the RDRT deployment.

In the second half of the year the National Society intends to revise the national DR/contingency plan elaborated in 2004. The experience gained in the regional plan revision process will be helpful for work at the national level.

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 Uzbekistan Red Crescent used every opportunity to maintain its DM structure and the disaster response capacity developed in the past years despite the lack of the programme financial support.² Three Red Crescent disaster response teams (DRTs) participated in four field trainings together with the Uzbek Emergency Ministry's regional search and rescue teams. Besides, Samarkand and Karakalpakstan branches arranged two trainings for new DRT members and the ICRC provided technical training in water / sanitation and camp management to the branch and headquarters programme staff. In May 2011 four Red Crescent staff from the headquarters and branches participated in the regional RDRT training organized by the IFRC in Tajikistan. In total, about 70 representatives of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent strengthened their skills in DR area during all the mentioned events.

In order to strengthen the National Society's logistics capacity and ability to respond to emergencies in line with the Federation logistics standards, the Uzbekistan Red Crescent started upgrading its warehouse in Tashkent to improve storage and safety conditions. A tender process for construction works according to the IFRC procedures has already been completed. Besides, all 15 regional branches partly replenished their emergency stocks with local donors' contributions and allocated 15 percent of locally raised funds for emergency needs funds. The current Red Crescent stock has enough relief items for about 500 families.

Over six months the National Society assisted 17 people (3 families) affected by domestic fires in Karakalpakstan with bedding, hygiene supplies, shoes and second-hand clothes from the branch emergency stock.

² Lengthy inspection of funds by the Ministry of Finance hampered access to available funds.

Programme component 3: Community preparedness and disaster risk reduction

Component outcome: Strengthened capacities of the communities in disaster-prone areas to respond to future disasters through community-based disaster preparedness.

Achievements

Community capacity-building started in five rural communities of Bukhara and Karakalpakstan regions. The Red Crescent facilitated the establishment of local disaster committees, DP trainings for 115 members of the committees and supported the development of risk maps and contingency planning for five target communities.

The branches of Bukhara and Samarkand regions, Karakalpakstan, Tashkent City and the rail road network focused on disaster preparedness for young people through integrated disaster preparedness and first-aid trainings. The Red Crescent conducted trainings and sessions that in most cases were combined with simulation exercises or competitions in 28 schools and colleges and one summer camp, covering totally more than 2,320 people. Also, 25 initiative youth groups (250 people) have been formed and trained by the National Society in educational institutions. When the next academic year starts in September 2011, the members of the groups will provide optional education for students.

Besides, the RC conducted 2 workshops for 182 staff of the government bodies and NGOs in Samarkand region on rules of behaviour in case of disasters and first aid.

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.

Achievements:

Activities under this component will be implemented in the second half of the year.

Constraints or Challenges

The National Society was unable to implement most of the planned activities because the financial operations on programme funds were suspended.

There is lack of disaster management staff in disaster prone regions. In the first half of the year the programme supported staff in the headquarters and in four branches (out of 15) for three months within the limits of the available funding.

Health and care

Programme component 1: Tuberculosis

Component outcome 1: TB awareness increased and stigma associated with TB reduced through communication and social mobilisation.

The Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society did not carry TB prevention activities because the state run national TB programme provides services to people with TB and raises awareness of the population of the disease all over the country with funds from the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Programme component 2: Community-based health and first aid

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

Achievements:

The National Society community-based health and first-aid programme targets rural populations in four regions of the country – Tashkent, Surkhandarya, Dzhezak, Syrdarya. It focused on health education in the communities that have limited access to health services.

However, because of lengthy funds withdrawal procedures, community work was minimal. Namely, the programme trained 15 initiative youth groups formed in educational institutions in cooperation with the disaster management programme. In the next academic year that starts in September 2011, the groups will provide optional education for students.

During the reporting period, information education and communication materials have been developed, adapted and translated into the Uzbek language, and the relevant existing materials for labour migrants and materials on disaster preparedness have been updated. A comprehensive educational plan for CBHFA training has been worked out, consisting of a Trainer's Manual, Training Plan and Training Materials for trainees including first aid and public health topics. Development of the health education materials is closely coordinated with the Healthy Life Style Centre (HLSC) of the Uzbek Ministry of Health which strengthens the cooperation between the National Society and the authorities.

The Red Crescent established and partially equipped and supplied with essential materials and furniture three first aid centres that will raise income through commercial first aid training³. This is a contribution to the National Society's local fundraising capacity-building.

Constraints or challenges:

Due to problems with access to funds, most of planned activities had to be postponed. Besides, the programme team was formed in the National Society only in the end of April 2011.

Programme component 4: Voluntary non-remunerated blood donation
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Component outcome 1: A centre for the promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation is established.
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Component outcome 2: The number of voluntary non-remunerated donations of blood is increased.
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There was no funding received for this component and no activities were implemented.

Organizational Development/Capacity-building

Programme component 1: National Society organizational development and capacity building (headquarters and branches)

Component outcome 1: Effective governance and management structures.

Component outcome 2: Effective and transparent human resources management and financial management systems.
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Achievements:

In March 2011 the Uzbekistan RC 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, Europe 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 Society of the Russian Federation. The forum decided that stronger support should be provided to National Societies in establishing stronger relationships with the governments and exploring new partnerships in the countries. Joint efforts will also be made to help National Societies prepare for the Movement statutory meetings.

³ First aid education provided by the National Society on a paying basis.

As a follow up the IFRC arranged 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.

The National Society hired an OD programme coordinator in March 2011. In May, two induction courses were arranged both for newly hired experienced staff of Karakalpakstan, Khorezm, Bukhara, Navoi, and Samarkand branches. The participants acquired knowledge on the Movement, the Red Crescent Society, its mission, activities, human resource (HR) management, and fundraising. Interaction of elective and executive bodies of the National Society within the framework of the new statute was also clarified.

Over the reporting period, two National Society governing board meetings gathered to elect the new executive director, discuss the results of the branch staff and activities appraisal, improvements in the human resources system, implementation of the new statute and drafting the Red Crescent law and adopt the HR development strategy. The new executive director of the Uzbek Red Crescent Society received an overview of the role and functions of the Europe Zone office and extensive briefings from the coordinators during her visit to Budapest in May 2011.

The external audit of the National Society accounts that started last year has not been completed yet. The long period of inactivity, the change of leadership and the turnover of staff members, loss of institutional memory contributed to making the audit a challengeable task. Currently the options are considered to commission a local auditor to facilitate the process, to strengthen the finance team of the Red Crescent or limit the scope of the audit.

Programme component 2: National Society legal base development

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

Achievements:

In March 2011 the National Society chairperson and the IFRC regional representative met with the Government of Uzbekistan to discuss the Red Crescent auxiliary role including the RC law, the International Conference and IDRL issues. In cooperation with the ICRC, the IFRC regional representation elaborated further steps to support the development of the draft Red Crescent law and its expertise.

Programme component 3: Volunteer promotion and development

Component outcome: Nation-wide volunteer profile and youth services improved through strengthening volunteers' centres and clubs.
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Achievements:

Because of low coverage and difficulties with access to funding, the Uzbekistan Red Crescent had to postpone all planned in-country activities on volunteer promotion and development.

Constraints or Challenges

The OD programme budget is covered only at 7 percent. This reduced the capacities of the programme to operate a full range of activities. However, some capacity-building initiatives will be supported by the CBHFA programme. Planned activities in human resources management, financial development and many other capacity-building initiatives were cancelled or postponed also because of delays in release of funding after the state inspection.

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

Principles and Values

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 Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society improved.

Achievements:

The Uzbekistan Red Crescent continued distributing information about the National Society activities – with a special focus on fundamental principles, humanitarian values, international humanitarian law – through thematic workshops of other programmes like DM, health, IHL, through media sources and meetings with partners.

At branch level 59 Red Crescent volunteers, among them 4 migrant returnees, distributed information about the Red Crescent activities, services for migrants, Red Cross Red Crescent principles and values in target communities of Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions that made easier the access to communities and the understanding of the role of the Red Crescent Society.

The regional information campaign held in Astana (Kazakhstan) 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 Red Crescent activities with a focus on the labour migration project, its achievements and perspectives and discussed migrants' needs and possible ways to solve their problems. The event significantly increased the level of awareness of work and image of the Central Asian Societies including the Uzbekistan Red Crescent.

Programme component 2: Anti-discrimination and violence prevention

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

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

Achievements:

Two Red Crescent centres for migrants in Karshi town (Kashkadarya region) and Termez town (Surkhandarya region) trained target groups on first aid, prevention of HIV, TB and other diseases and disaster preparedness and consulted on legal, social and psychological issues. Over six months the Red Crescent served 385 people in the centres, through outreach work and the hotline of the labour migration agency. Besides, the National Society accepted 20 applications for tracing services from migrants' family members and 3 families were successfully connected.

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:

The position of information officer/principles and values programme coordinator has been vacant in the National Society for more than two years. This affects the programme implementation definitely negatively, and only a minimal level of activities has been carried out apart from the migration component. Besides, continuing delays in access to funds affected the migration component as well, and the National Society had to cancel some activities.

Working in partnership

In the field of disaster management, the Uzbekistan Red Crescent collaborated with organizations like the "Makhallya" Fund, the "Nurony" Veterans' Fund and the National Youth Movement "Kamolot". Close cooperation with the Emergency Ministry at local level provided an opportunity for the National Society to participate in workshops and field trainings. Also, the National Society closely cooperated with the education and health ministries while implementing the CBDP elements.

The Uzbekistan Red Crescent carries out community-based disaster preparedness activities and disaster preparedness and first-aid education among schoolchildren in four Uzbekistan 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 the consortium the Netherlands Red Cross is a lead agency and an 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. Besides, the Red Crescent has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the American Red Cross on the urban earthquake preparedness initiative that is focusing on earthquake preparedness in Tashkent.

The ICRC is the major partner of the organisational development programme in Uzbekistan. Expertise and support were sought from the ICRC in the Red Cross law development process and in co-facilitation of the induction/refresher courses for the Uzbekistan Red Crescent. The ICRC has also been supporting the disaster management staff capacity-building in water and sanitation and tracing.

The key partners of the principles and values programme are the media, which play a great role in improving the image of the Uzbek Red Crescent and changing behaviour towards vulnerable groups served by the 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.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The monitoring of the programmes was carried out by the National Society staff by means of regular communication with the staff and volunteers working on the programme sites. The IFRC regional DM coordinator visited the Uzbekistan red Crescent twice to provide technical support in programme implementation.

In May 2011 the National Society established a planning/monitoring/evaluation/reporting (PMER) function and hired a new staff member. The PMER focal point requires further training and guidance that will be provided by the IFRC secretariat in the second half of the year. In the long term the introduction of the PMER function is expected to improve programme management practices and help strengthen the Red Crescent's profile.

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 were at all times promoted in disaster management awareness materials. In disaster response, the distribution of assistance was made on the basis of impartiality.

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 in Almaty (Kazakhstan).

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 National Societies do not take sides by diverging population groups and follow the principle of diversity in the composition of their staff involved.

Looking ahead

In the second half of the year the National Society will continue induction courses both for new and experienced staff. New disaster management staff will require induction trainings in disaster management, disaster response, community-based disaster preparedness, shelter, recovery and in programme management including logistics, monitoring and reporting. Also, the National Society is planning to start IDRL promotion activities.

Besides, the Uzbekistan Red Crescent intends to present the International Federation's Word Disasters Report 2010 during the information campaign marking the International Day for Disaster Reduction in October 2011.

The Red Crescent migration services will continue to be provided within the CBHFA project until the end of 2011. 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	
<p>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>	
<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"> 1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises. 2. Enable healthy and safe living. 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
Contact information	
<p>For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society: Elvira Amiralieva, Executive Director; email: amiralieva@inbox.ru; phone: +99871 150 14 76; and fax: +99871 256 18 01 • In the IFRC Regional Representation: Gyula Kadar, Regional Representative for Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan; email: gyula.kadar@ifrc.org; phone: +7727 291 80 63; and fax: +7727 291 42 67 • In the IFRC Europe Zone Office: Evgeni Parfenov, Head of Operations; email: evgeni.parfenov@ifrc.org; phone: +36 1 8884 500; and fax: +36 1 336 15 16 	