

2022



Kazakhstan © Claudia Janke / British Red Cross

CENTRAL ASIA IFRC CLUSTER PLAN

2022 funding requirement in Swiss francs
4.3 million

As part of a total Federation-wide funding requirement in Swiss franc **7.2 million***



This document details the IFRC's support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this plan, listed here as funding requirements. For information on the IFRC's emergency operations, please visit ifrc.org/appeals.

* Total for IFRC and National Societies working internationally. Not including the country National Society's funding requirements.

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Population

75.1 million

Human Development Index Ranking

**Kazakhstan – 51, Kyrgyzstan – 120, Tajikistan – 125,
Turkmenistan – 111, Uzbekistan – 106**

Vulnerability to disasters



The IFRC's Central Asia Country Cluster Delegation covers five countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Their collective size is about 10 per cent of the Eurasian continent. They border with the People's Republic of China in the east, the Russian Federation in the north, South Caucasus states in the west and Afghanistan and Iran in the south.

The immediate neighbours of Afghanistan are subject to major security threats originating from within Afghanistan: smuggling by militants, infiltration of extremists, direct attacks, destabilizing refugee flows, and indirect involvement in the conflict.

Due to the recent developments in Afghanistan, which started with the announcement of the full withdrawal of US troops by 11 September 2021, territorial control rapidly shifted, and the number of displaced people began to increase, many seeking refuge in larger cities across the country. Based on analysis of the ongoing social, economic, political and security situation in Afghanistan, it is assessed that further political and humanitarian deterioration in the country is likely to result in new population movements to neighbouring countries. Drought and the COVID-19 situation are also contributing to the likelihood of communities being displaced.

Over 75 per cent of the Central Asia region is highly exposed to natural disasters, causing loss of life and housing, and damage to social and economic infrastructure. Most common types of disasters are floods, landslides and earthquakes.

The shortage of water resources and their inefficient use in Central Asia is exacerbated by weak transboundary water management. It results in the imbalance between needs and water consumption, economic and social instability, and the violation of the environmental sustainability of Central Asian countries. Water resources allocation generates competition for the right to own it.

Climate change is another growing threat in Central Asia. Increases in temperature, extreme weather events, and melting glaciers are expected, while deserts and arid areas continue to expand. Almost all large cities of Central Asia are located at an altitude lower than 1,000 meters and in summer the temperature in cities can reach over 40°C. For the third year in a row, Central Asia has been hit by an extremely hot summer.



Uzbekistan © Uzbekistan Red Crescent

ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan priorities include first aid training, social care, and disaster preparedness and response.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan priorities include disaster risk reduction, health and care, social care, and National Society development.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan priorities include disaster preparedness and response, disaster risk reduction, health and social care programmes.

The Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan priorities include disaster preparedness and response, health and care, social services.

The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan priorities include disaster preparedness and response, disaster risk reduction, first aid trainings, social programmes.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Name of Partner National Society	Climate	Crisis	Health	Migration	Inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
Red Cross Society of China	✓	✓	✓					✓
Finnish Red Cross	✓		✓					
German Red Cross	✓	✓	✓					✓
Italian Red Cross		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Spanish Red Cross								✓
Swiss Red Cross		✓	✓					✓
Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay)						✓		✓
UAE Red Crescent			✓					✓

Regular meetings are held with the ICRC's respective offices across Central Asia at regional and country level, to ensure common approaches and complementarity to strategic issues such as National Society legal base development and statutory resolutions. In addition, Movement Coordination meetings are organized in Kyrgyzstan (chaired by the host National Society) and Tajikistan (with rotational chairing), with participation of partner National Societies present.



Kyrgyzstan © Daniil Usmanov / Red Crescent of Kyrgyzstan

GLOBAL FLAGSHIPS

Local action – strong National Societies

The IFRC Central Asian Delegation has evolved and grown because of COVID-19 programming and short-term projects. The development of an IFRC plan will include membership services support including legal base and governance support, refinement of branch development models and volunteer management systems, as well as focusing on sustainability, resource mobilization, fundraising and communications.

Going to scale on humanitarian action and risk reduction

The third and fourth tranches of an ongoing regional programme on disaster risk reduction to enhance the resilience of the most disaster-prone communities in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, with a total amount of USD 650,000 are expected in 2022. The project aims to reach nearly 45,000 people directly, and almost 150,000 people indirectly, in 50 communities across Central Asia to help them reduce their disaster risks and vulnerability. Disaster risk reduction measures and projects will be complemented by public awareness and education initiatives.

Global cash leadership

The Delegation will promote National Societies to use cash modalities where applicable, and strengthen capacities, while providing a collective roadmap for increasing the scale and quality of cash-based interventions.

The IFRC started a cash preparedness programme with National Societies in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in coordination and with the Swiss Red Cross and Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent. Cash preparedness self-assessments have been conducted in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan and plans of action developed. Self-assessment in Uzbekistan is planned for early 2022.

The IFRC and the Turkish Red Crescent are also working with the National Society in Kyrgyzstan to replicate and implement the Red Cross Red Crescent payment platform. A baseline study was completed in 2021 and the plan of action will be developed in early 2022.

Reduce cholera related deaths by 50%

The IFRC is supporting the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan to join the IFRC ONE WASH global initiative, that is aimed at reducing cholera related deaths, including seeking partners to support its WASH initiative.

Global health security – epidemic and pandemic preparedness

All Central Asian National Societies have been actively involved in COVID-19 preparedness and response. Due to their engagement in government national COVID-19 vaccination efforts, some Central Asian National Societies are either engaged or exploring ways to overcome vaccine hesitancy and mobilize communities for routine immunization activities in 2022 through branches and volunteer networks.

The IFRC has established a Risk Communication and Community Engagement working group for National Society focal points in Central Asia, to promote a collaborative and collective approach that enhances capacity and expertise of each organization.



Tajikistan © Tajikistan Red Crescent

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
430,000

People to be reached
35,000



Central Asia is facing the adverse effects of climate change. Socio-economically disadvantaged, indigenous groups, ethnic minorities, women, children and elderly are highly sensitive and particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, as resilience and coping capacities of these groups are typically low. One of the most significant effects of global warming in Central Asia is glacial melting, which is not only a main long-term source of fresh water in the region, but also associated with formation of glacial lakes outburst floods, mudflows, droughts etc.

The IFRC will provide technical support to National Societies through the Red Cross / Red Crescent Climate Centre to reduce the impact of climate change and explore nature-based solutions, reduce loss of life and damage to livelihoods caused by the adverse climate related impacts. The IFRC will also address extreme-weather events such as forest fires, heat- and cold waves, through Forecast-based Financing, in cooperation with the German Red Cross.

The IFRC Youth Engagement Strategy (Y.E.S.) articulates an approach that supports young volunteers with life-saving skills, necessary information, training and resources to ensure that they are able to protect their physical health, mental well-being and personal property while engaged with voluntary programmes and services. The IFRC, together with the National Societies of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, will enhance family disaster preparedness, with participation of the trained young volunteers, who will serve as agents of change, promoting a culture of safety.

➔ SUPPORT

- Enhance family disaster preparedness.
- Provide physical and mental well-being training for young volunteers.
- Develop first aid and health, disaster preparedness, climate change, social inclusion, and humanitarian education learning materials for Ministries of Education and Science curricula.
- Promote and implement Forecast-based Financing.
- Exchange of Turkish Red Crescent lessons on wildfire disaster preparedness and disaster response with Mongolian Red Cross for dzud¹.

¹ Dzud: a disaster in desert regions in Central Asia, in which large numbers of livestock starve being unable to graze due to particular severe climatic conditions (ice crust in winter and drought in summer).



Kyrgyzstan © Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent

EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
970,000

People to be reached
72,000



The countries in Central Asia are all prone to recurring and large-scale natural disasters, such as earthquakes, mud- and landslides, avalanches, droughts and floods. The intensity and scale of emergencies in Central Asia are on the rise, and climate change is further increasing disaster risks. The population density in one of the most tectonically unstable areas in Eurasia is also high, further increasing disaster risks.

The Central Asia Resilience Strategy "Silk Road to Resilience" 2018–2022 aims to progressively and sustainably reinforce the resilience of communities across Central Asia. As part of the implementation of the strategy, two regional multi-country programmes on disaster risk reduction are being implemented by the five National Societies.

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, National Societies have successfully implemented cash and voucher assistance (CVA). The IFRC will focus on mainstreaming CVA into disaster response and disaster preparedness activities and into the National Societies' systems and procedures to improve preparedness and operational readiness in the region to deliver quality response to vulnerable and crisis-affected people.

The IFRC continues to provide strategic advice, capacity building, reporting support, visibility, coordination and technical assistance in disaster management and risk reduction. It will establish a "Disaster Management Working Group" that will enable National Society disaster management experts to share best practices and increase peer-to-peer support.

● TARGETS

- **50 schools** implement disaster risk reduction activities.
- **5 National Society** experts attend rapid response trainings and to engage with the rapid response mechanism.

➔ SUPPORT

- Embed community engagement and accountability into programmes.
- Support Governments to mainstream disaster risk reduction into education.
- Integrate cash programming into DREF-funded operations response.
- Improve disaster warehouse and stock capacities.
- Increase WASH in emergencies capacities.



Kyrgyzstan © Claudia Janke / British Red Cross

GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
1.4 million

People to be reached
360,000



Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are the leading cause of death in Central Asian countries. For vaccine preventable diseases, such as diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, the countries in Central Asia have immunization coverage of 95 percent or higher. However, some countries remain vulnerable to recurring outbreaks of measles and other preventable diseases. People living with HIV and communities affected by TB were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic which eroded gains the countries made in improving access to treatment. Access to safe water and adequate sanitation remain a challenge in Central Asia, with Tajikistan being the most heavily impacted by inadequate water and sanitation services.

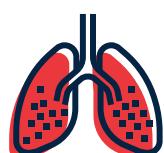
First aid remains a core priority for the National Societies across Central Asia. While the number of people trained in first aid continues to rise every year, the coverage remains very low in terms of population size and there is a need to adapt their first aid training delivery to the 'new normal' of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Addressing the health, including mental health and psychosocial support, needs of migrant returnees, as well as family members who are left behind, is becoming increasingly important.



deaths caused by non-communicable diseases

87% Kazakhstan	82% Kyrgyzstan	73% Tajikistan
72% Turkmenistan	85% Uzbekistan	



5 countries
of Central Asia are among
Europe's 18 highest-priority TB countries

➔ SUPPORT

- Community-based health and first aid training in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan.
- Expand existing home care programmes in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.
- Provide technical support for the development of heatwaves early action protocols in Kyrgyzstan.
- Mobilize resources for community-based TB care and support in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.
- Strengthen preparedness and response capacities in emergency health in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.
- Sustainable management of water and sanitation facilities in Tajikistan.



Kazakhstan © Claudia Janke / British Red Cross

MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
260,000

People to be reached
15,000



A significant part of the Central Asian population are migrants who work abroad and an important part of income in Central Asia countries are remittances received from migrant workers. Previously, the main flow of migrants worked in Russia. However, over the past five years, the geography of labour migration has changed. Currently, the labour migrants from Central Asia working in Russia are mainly from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Due to the fact, that not all labour migration is done in a legal way, it is difficult to identify the exact number of labour migrants.

In general, the migration corridor between Russia and Central Asia is one of the most stable in the world since the collapse of the USSR.

➔ SUPPORT

- Raise awareness of risks and how to access services in transit and destination countries, including HIV and TB prevention and anti-trafficking.
- Provide psychosocial support and legal services.
- Establish networking, information sharing and peer-to-peer support to migrants.
- Translate information materials into Russian and other Central Asian languages.



Kyrgyzstan © Danele Aloisi

VALUES, POWER AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
100,000

People to be reached
15,000



As with other crises, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected people differently based on their sex, gender, age, disability, legal status, and ethnicity, while existing gender inequalities have been exacerbated. Women, girls and vulnerable groups are at an increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence due to the shifts in social safety nets, limited access to information and disruption of specialized services.

Similarly, the socio-economic impacts from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic are affecting vulnerable groups, like migrant workers, who are particularly exposed to more or new vulnerabilities. Economic crises, loss of livelihoods, work uncertainty and fear for the future are exposing people to severe pressure to fulfil their needs and create conditions for negative survival mechanisms that can lead to forms of exploitation and abuse.

The IFRC and Central Asian National Societies will advocate for continued focus on protecting and promoting a positive change for humanity, based on humanitarian values and principles.

● TARGETS

- **2 National Societies** provided with technical support to build and improve their PGI policy frameworks.

➔ SUPPORT

- Collect disaggregated data to inform the design of inclusive services and activities.
- Identify the current policy and operational frameworks and gaps in the region.
- Develop protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) policy frameworks.
- Coordinate with health programmes on sexual and gender-based violence prevention, ensuring that the basic services are in place in case of disruption of the health system.



Kazakhstan © Kazakhstan Red Crescent

ENABLER 1 – ENGAGED

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

400,000

To ensure greater access and influence on decision makers, greater humanitarian access and space for Central Asian National Societies and the IFRC, strong visibility and understanding of activities and to facilitate effective partnerships in humanitarian responses, the IFRC will strengthen capacities in Central Asia on humanitarian diplomacy.

➔ SUPPORT

- Consolidate National Society development (NSD) support under one plan for each National Society.
- Host a Central Asian Regional Disaster Law Conference.
- Host a Leadership Round Table meeting for National Society leaders to discuss opportunities and challenges and identify areas where the IFRC can ensure better membership support services.
- Digital transformation with teleconference facilities for remote participation in Movement forums, dialogues, training and capacity building initiatives.



Tajikistan © Tajikistan Red Crescent

ENABLER 2 – ACCOUNTABLE

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
90,000

The IFRC will work closely with Central Asian National Societies in the development of their plans and activities, ensuring the IFRC's support is in line with their expectations and needs.

The IFRC will help them to access its dedicated support mechanisms. Externally, it will support them in the development of coordinated plans to attract increased donor resources.

➔ SUPPORT

- Develop National Society annual plans to align services with needs.
- Develop funding plans to support Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan National Societies Development capacity building.



Kyrgyzstan © Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent

ENABLER 3 – TRUSTED

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

660,000

The IFRC will listen to, respond and recognize the specific individual needs of each National Society, as well as the universality of our organization, in accordance with the unity of our organization. IFRC trust will be proportionally related to the level of organizational growth of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies at local and headquarters level, and to their leadership to address humanitarian and development issues with the right people and with the relevant coordination and cooperation.

In Central Asia, the IFRC will support National Societies in their domestic resource mobilization efforts as well as volunteer management and ensuring that volunteers and young people can meaningfully contribute to the National Societies' work.

➔ SUPPORT

- Financial sustainability achieved in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan National Societies through unrestricted income generation, and individual giving.
- Develop Tajikistan National Society staff capacities for fundraising activities.
- Revise charter and policy framework of the Kazakhstan National Society.
- Develop human resources systems and logistics capacity in Tajikistan.
- Establish feedback mechanisms with affected communities to report complaints.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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International Federation of Red Cross
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