

Annual report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Uzbekistan

MAAUZ001

30/APRIL/2011

This report covers the period 01/January/2010 to 31/December/2010.



The Uzbekistan Red Crescent involves women from local women committees in the work of disaster committees. Uzbekistan RC.

In brief

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

Programmes summary:

The Uzbekistan Red Crescent gained access to its foreign currency bank account in August 2010. The same month the National Society de facto re-launched its activities and programmes after 1.5 years of semi-dormant status, and initiated selected activities under the disaster management, health and care and principles and values programmes along with countrywide induction courses. During the same month, the Uzbekistan Red Crescent held its General Assembly, and elected a new chairperson, governing board and finance commission. The new chairperson received extensive knowledge on the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement role and the role of the National Society as being auxiliary to the government during the Movement Induction Course.

The National Society's capacities to progress with the plan were limited because of problems with access to external funding for the most of the year. The Red Crescent endeavoured to retain its disaster management structure and the capacities to respond to emergencies through training and exercises in close cooperation with state agencies in the field. The available staff in the headquarters and branches took also part of the regional capacity-building initiatives. Improving capacities of communities was limited to raising awareness of schoolchildren and students about disaster risks and first aid in 7 out of 15 regions of the country.

In June following the refugee influx from Kyrgyzstan the Uzbekistan Red Crescent engaged in the provision of relief assistance to the affected people. The International Federation deployed a field assessment and coordination team (FACT), issued an emergency appeal, allocated CHF 300,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and arranged for the delivery of emergency non-

food items to Uzbekistan to support the relief operation. When refugees returned home, part of the delivered goods were relocated to the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan, while the rest were used to replenish the Uzbekistan National Society's preparedness stocks.

In 2010 the National Society discontinued the HIV prevention programme. Under the tuberculosis (TB) prevention programme refresher-trainings were arranged for 40 programme staff and volunteers in Karakalpakstan and Navoi region.

Two information and education centres for migrants started to function in September 2010 providing legal consultancy including human trafficking risks, tracing services, psychological support, training on TB and sexually transmitted infections prevention and first aid.

Financial situation: The total 2010 budget is CHF 1,325,875 of which CHF 456,839 (34 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 377,041 (83 per cent of the funding). On agreement with donors, part of the funds was used to cover selected regional level expenses of the disaster management programme mostly born in Kazakhstan as well as the expenses related to the Uzbekistan Red Crescent staff participation in the regional programme events.

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

See also [Population movement preliminary emergency appeal](#) (MDRUZ002PEA)
[Population movement revised emergency appeal](#) (MDRUZ002EA)

No. of people we have reached: In total 15,430 people benefited directly from the secretariat-supported programme with the funds provided by the donors.

Programme/ project	Target group	Number of people reached	% of women	% of men
Disaster management	populations in disaster prone areas	15,010	67	33
Principles and values	intending migrants and family members	420		
Total:		15,430		

Our partners: The donors supporting the programmes multilaterally through the International Federation are the Japanese, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies, Elly Lilly, the European Commission (EC), the UK's Department for International Development (DfID) and the IFRC's Capacity Building Fund.

The total number of partnerships between the Federation regional representation, the National Society and community-based, national, government-based, international organizations, UN and developmental agencies exceeded 10.

Context

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. Despite strong efforts of the leadership the National Society gained access to its foreign currency bank account only in August 2010. The same month the National Society de facto re-launched its activities and programmes after 1.5 years of semi-dormant status, and initiated selected activities under the disaster management, health and care and principles and values programmes along with countrywide induction courses.

The national strategy on combating HIV introduced new regulations that limit the participation of the non-governmental organizations in HIV prevention. Following the regulation, the National Society discontinued the HIV prevention programme.

Violence that broke out on 10 June in the Kyrgyzstan city of Osh resulted in massive population movement from the southern regions towards and across the Uzbekistan border. An estimated number of 92,000 refugees were registered in Uzbekistan and accommodated in camps in the areas of Andijan, Namangan and Fergana. The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan, acting as an auxiliary to the public authorities, provided relief assistance to the affected people.

In response to the crises, the International Federation deployed a field assessment and coordination team, seconded senior Europe Zone Office personnel to Tashkent, issued a preliminary emergency appeal, made a DREF allocation of CHF 300,000 and arranged for the delivery of emergency non-food items to Uzbekistan. When the situation in Kyrgyzstan changed, allowing those who had fled to quickly return home, part of the goods delivered to Uzbekistan were relocated to the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan, while the rest were kept in Uzbekistan to replenish the National Society's preparedness stocks and strengthen its preparedness capacity in areas prone to a renewed refugee influx.

Over the year the Uzbekistan Red Crescent also responded to 6 small-scale emergencies and provided humanitarian aid to 80 people (15 families) affected by domestic fires and mudslides.

In September Federation representative was appointed to deliver essential advice and programme support to the Uzbekistan Red Crescent. A process of reestablishment of the International Federation presence in the country was initiated through formal communication between the secretariat and the Uzbekistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Progress towards outcomes

As the National Society's capacities to progress with the plan were limited the achievements are presented along few respective outcomes. If no activities were implemented towards the outcomes such outcomes are not listed in the report.

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: Then Uzbekistan Red Crescent contributed to the revision of the disaster response/contingency plan of the Central Asia National Societies. Disaster management programme coordinator of the National Society participated in the regional workshop to support the plan revision process. This experience will be helpful for further update of the national DR/CP that was produced in 2007 and demands revision in the near future.

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 Society made efforts to maintain its previously developed disaster management structure and the disaster response capacity. Thus, 120 members from the 12 disaster response teams (DRTs) strengthened their skills in disaster response area through 4 re-fresher trainings with search and rescue teams of the Ministry of Emergency. Simulation exercises in response to natural disasters and industrial accidents, organized by the emergency ministry structures in Karakalpakstan, Bukhara and Khorezm regions, targeted 98 DRT members and volunteers. An induction course and a field exercise for

20 new members of the branch DRT were arranged by Samarkand regional branch. In October, national DM coordinator attended training on community-based early warning system (EWS) in case of floods, organised by the American Red Cross.

The National Society four staff members, who passed the harmonized regional disaster response team training in the beginning of the year, used the gained knowledge and skills during the operation in response to a massive population movement in June. During the operation the National Society, acting as an auxiliary to the public authorities, led the provision of relief assistance to refugees fleeing violence in the south of Kyrgyzstan. The Red Crescent replenished their emergency stocks in Andijian and Tashkent with relief items channelled to Uzbekistan within the framework of the operation.

In addition, the Uzbekistan Red Crescent responded to 6 small-scale emergencies and provided humanitarian aid from own branch emergency stocks to 80 people (15 families) affected by domestic fires and mudslides.

When external funds became available, the National Society held a national disaster management coordination meeting for staff of seven regional and railway branches. The participants shared their experience in maintaining the activities without external donor support and discussed future plans. The issues of climate change and the community-based EWS (early warning system) were discussed as requiring inclusion in the regular DM programming.

Also, the Red Crescent Society partially equipped the national and regional DR teams with office equipment and uniforms. With technical support from the IFRC regional representation the National Society finalised the inventory and technical services of its 5 radio stations and refreshed radio communication skills of 10 staff.

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: In the first half of the year community capacity-building included first aid training for 48 members of the local disaster management committees in 4 communities of Bukhara region and trainings on disaster preparedness for 75 community members in mountain areas of Samarkand region. Also, disaster management officer of the Bukhara regional branch facilitated the development of risk maps and contingency planning for these communities.

Samarkand and Karakalpakstan branches integrated disaster preparedness and first-aid training for secondary school students: in total, 1,820 schoolchildren and students of 36 schools and colleges were reached with information on rules of behaviour in case of disasters and first aid through teachers. The Red Crescent covered more than 1,530 schoolchildren in summer camps through information sessions on water safety, rules of behavior in case of an earthquake and first aid in Bukhara region.

When funds became available the National Society trained 50 teachers in 5 regions of country on disaster preparedness and first-aid, who further shared their knowledge among 11,250 students of secondary schools, colleges and higher educational institutions.

No other planned activities in community-based disaster preparedness and structure and non-structure mitigation projects were carried out.

Constraints or Challenges

The National Society was unable to implement most of the planned activities because the financial operations on programme funds had been suspended till end of August. As no salary support had been paid over the period disaster management officers at the headquarters and 50 percent of staff in branches left the National Society. At the moment the National Society lacks sufficient number of trainers in DM area for internal capacity-building and work with communities.

Health and care

In 2010 the National Society discontinued the HIV prevention programme. In TB prevention the National Society planned to shift the focus on raising awareness of the population to facilitate early diagnosis, treatment and decrease stigma associated with the disease. The Red Crescent's approach changed as the national TB programme provides services to people with TB on the continuation phase of treatment all over the country with funds from the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Programme component 2: Tuberculosis

Component outcome 1: Clients with TB received support from the Red Crescent.

Component outcome 2: TB awareness increased and stigma associated with TB reduced through communication and social mobilisation.

Component outcome 3: Participation of community members in the Red Crescent TB programming increased.

Achievements: The National Society resumed selected TB prevention programme activities after gaining access to funds. By the end of the year at least 2 refresher-trainings were conducted for 40 programme staff and volunteers in Karakalpakstan and Navoi region.

In November 2010 the Red Crescent health coordinator participated in the regional training that aimed to develop advocacy skills in the area of TB and HIV prevention and the community-based health and first aid (CBHFA), held in Astana (Kazakhstan).

Programme component 3: Community-based health and first aid

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

Achievements: The National Society health coordinator represented the region at the International Federation's global CBHFA meeting, where he shared the Uzbekistan Red Crescent experience and discussed steps to implement the CBHFA *in Action* in action in the region.

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.

Component outcome 3: Proper and effective financial management in line with clear procedures, guidelines and leadership commitments.

Achievements: In August the National Society general assembly elected a new chairperson and approved changes in the National Society statute made in line with the guidelines from the Joint Statute Commission. The new chairperson passed the Movement Induction Course where he received extensive knowledge on the role of the Movement and the role of the National Society as auxiliary to the government in the humanitarian sphere.

The Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society received funding from the Capacity Building Fund's first round of the Specific Organisational Development Support initiative for activities aimed at strengthening the financial management of the National Society in September 2009. Because of the problems with access to external funds the National Society was unable to implement the planned activities and the external financial audit was re-scheduled for 2010. PricewaterhouseCoopers carried out the audit in the second half of the year. The report with recommendations is expected to be shared with the National Society and the Federation regional representation by end of April 2011.

An induction/refresher course, organized in cooperation with the ICRC regional delegation in Tashkent in December, reached 25 new and more experienced staff from the headquarters and branches. The agenda included the history of the Movement, the history of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society, its structure, current activities and partners, and methods of work with volunteers. Induction sessions were also held in branches for new volunteers and mainly covered basic information about the Red Crescent and volunteer role in the National Society activities.

Constraints or Challenges:

Planned activities in human resources management were cancelled because the majority of trained headquarters staff, including human resources manager, resigned. Human resources management system development will be pursued in 2011 through support in employment and training of human resources manager, as well as external consultancy. The same approach will be used in volunteer management. As for the legal base development, advocacy support from the Federation regional representation, Europe zone and Geneva secretariat will be provided.

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 Red Crescent distributed information about the mission of the Movement and National Society activities – with a special focus on fundamental principles, humanitarian values, international humanitarian law – through mass media sources and meetings with partners. Besides, more than 100 primary organisations established in higher educational institutions over a year promoted principles and values, among other activities.

At branch level the Uzbekistan Red Crescent attracted 59 volunteers to distribute information about the Red Crescent activities and implication of principles and values among target communities in Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions. Four of them – migrant returnees – were trained to promote the Red Crescent services, to distribute information and to share their migrant experience among peers.

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 centres for migrants set up in branch offices of the National Society in Karshi town (Kashkadarya region) and Termez town (Surkhandarya region) in 2009 started operating in September 2010. The centres offer the following services: legal consultancy including human trafficking risks, psychological support, training on TB and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) prevention and first aid. Tracing services for migrants' family members were provided within the restoring family links programme supported by the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC). By the end of the year the Red Crescent served 420 people in the centres, through outreach work and the hotline of the labour migration agency.

Constraints or Challenges

Most of planned activities under the humanitarian values programme were not carried out because of the situation with access to funds.

Working in partnership

In the field of disaster management the Uzbekistan Red Crescent collaborated with non-governmental organizations like "Makhallya" fund and the national youth movement "Kamolot". Close cooperation

with the emergency ministry gave an opportunity for the National Society to participate in workshops and field trainings organized by the government.

Community-based disaster preparedness activities and disaster preparedness and first-aid education among schoolchildren were reinforced in cooperation with the Netherlands Red Cross in Fergana, Andijan, Namangan and Navoi regions. The activities are 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 Asia Red Crescent Societies and IFRC funded by DIPECHO in 2010-2011. In the consortium the Netherlands Red Cross is a lead agency and applicant and the IFRC has a designated role in ensuring overall coordination with other RCRC projects and harmonization of approaches in the areas of the International Disaster Response Laws (IDRL) promotion, contingency planning and RDRT training.

Within the framework of bilateral cooperation with the Swedish Red Cross the National Society regional branches of Bukhara, Karakalpakstan, and Samarkand and Tashkent city branch received 80 tonnes of second-hand clothes for their prepositioned emergency stocks and further distribution among the most vulnerable populations.

Within the framework of the migration project the Red Crescent established close links with the Agency on Labour Migration under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Population at the national and local levels. Due to those links the National Society received an opportunity to inform people in two target regions about the centres and services through the official channels of the Agency, including its hotline.

Partners of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent from the migration agency, the internal affairs ministry, communities, and NGOs were invited to meetings and national training for staff and volunteers in Tashkent and to regional events in target regions to strengthen cooperation in tackling discrimination, xenophobia and social exclusion and promoting respect for diversity.

The ICRC is the major partner of the organisational development programme in Uzbekistan. Joint efforts were made in developing and concluding a tripartite Memorandum on Partnership and Coordination between the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society, the ICRC and the International Federation. Besides, expertise and support were sought from the ICRC in the statute revision process and organisation of the induction/refresher course for the Uzbekistan Red Crescent.

Contributing to longer-term impact

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. Local disaster committees have to involve representatives of women committees to ensure a gender balance in community disaster management activities.

The Federation regional representation's team of regional migration coordinator, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting coordinator and organizational development coordinator as well as the migration coordinator of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent facilitated an induction course for migration staff in December 2010 to facilitate an effective implementation of the migration project in Uzbekistan.

The Uzbekistan Red Crescent staff participated in migration working meetings at country and regional levels where the progress and constraints of sister National Societies' projects were discussed. Best practices were promoted among colleagues and exchange visits between National Societies were encouraged to allow learning from experience. The use of the Most Significant Change (MSC) story method as a monitoring and evaluation tool was also promoted to assess the effect and identify unexpected changes at beneficiary level.

The finance development initiative to audit the National Society funds will contribute to better accountability and effectiveness, and build managerial skills of the National Society staff. The

induction course will contribute towards quicker socialization and engagement of staff in daily Red Crescent activities.

Looking ahead

The DM programme will concentrate on induction training for new staff recruited to substitute those who left. New staff of the National Society will require specific technical and programme management skills training (including planning, monitoring and reporting). The staff also requires additional training in shelter, recovery, and disaster response. Possibilities of organising relevant training will be considered within the regional part of the project implemented by the consortium. Besides, with the IFRC support the National Society will continue working on revision of the national disaster response/contingency plan throughout 2011.

In TB prevention the Red Crescent Society will look into opportunities to secure a TB REACH grant from the Stop TB Partnership for information and communication activities in the country. Within the CBHFA programme the National Society will employ staff in branches, mobilize and train 1,000 community volunteers and set three first aid centres that will be providing trainings on paid basis as part of the local resource mobilization activities.

The second general induction course for newly recruited staff of the National Society is planned for the first half of 2011; induction sessions for new volunteers are planned in branches as well. Financial support to a round table meeting with the government and parliament members has also provisioned and the costs will be shared with the ICRC.

There is a need to build humanitarian diplomacy skills of the National Societies in the region. The Europe Zone office focal points on humanitarian diplomacy and resource mobilization will be attracted to facilitate training for the leadership and relevant staff of all Central Asia Red Crescent Societies. The Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society will be part of the capacity-building initiative.

The EC-supported migration project was extended till June 2011 without extra costs. Further in the year part of migration project activities will be covered from the CBHFA project supported in Uzbekistan by the Japanese government.

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.

The IFRC's vision is to:

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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.

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