

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tajikistan

Appeal No. MAATJ002

31/08/2009

This report covers the period 1 January 2009
to 30 June 2009.



Since March 2009, 820 inhabitants of Khojiboi village, Rudaky district do not need to bring water by animal-drawn transport any more.

Lyapina E. / Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan

In brief

Programme purpose: The programmes supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Tajikistan are aligned with the Global Agenda goals to reduce the number of deaths, injuries, and impact from disasters; to reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies; to increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability; and to reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Programme summary: The International Federation is intensifying its humanitarian diplomacy activities on behalf of the National Society in the country. The International Federation country representative accompanied the National Society leadership to international conferences, meetings with the in-country international community, governmental officials and other stakeholders. The capacity and image of the society has been promoted through effective disaster management activities and rapid response to emergencies in early spring.

The deployment of two regional disaster response teams (RDRT) during the emergency operation responding to mudslides and floods in the spring of 2009 was an important step towards enhancing cooperation between the National Societies of Central Asia in responding to disasters, which is part of the regional contingency plan developed in 2007.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has continued strengthening the capacity of communities

living in most disaster prone areas of the country by establishing and training local disaster committees (LDCs) and raising their awareness to the most common hazards. In total 20 new LDCs were established.

Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) trainings were held in five communities of Sughd province. Fifty volunteers trained in sanitary and hygiene promotion issues shared their knowledge and skills with 500 community members in the five rural vulnerable communities. As a result of earlier water supply projects and PHAST trainings, some 320 local community members are directly involved in the construction of water supply systems.

The International Federation continued its support to improve the financial management of the Tajikistan Red Crescent. The financial system at headquarters level was computerized and advanced. Every partner working in Tajikistan through the Red Crescent Society has now its own project code which allows incoming funds to be properly managed and which subsequently improves fund-raising. Accountability of the National Society leadership to each partner has been increased by its commitment to conduct an annual external audit this year. Such a decision was the prerequisite for further work with cash transfers to the National Society and its branches, if necessary.

In the first half of the year, the National Society leadership took a strong initiative to organize the biggest-ever campaign in Dushanbe with the slogan "Our World, Your move". Promotion of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at all levels was ensured. At the solemn gala-concert on 8 May, the best and active volunteers of the Red Crescent Society were awarded and honored in front of the general public in Tajikistan via mass media and other campaigns.

Financial situation: The initial budget for 2009 was CHF 1,697,623. It was revised to CHF 1,952,629 (USD 1,798,567 or EUR 1,280,339), of which 77 per cent covered. Overall expenditure is 52 per cent against the funds received, with Norwegian Red Cross balance from 2008 carried forward. The budget was increased due to additional funds received from Finnish Red Cross for disaster preparedness and the additional funding from Swedish Red Cross to the winterization project.

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

See also: [Tajikistan: Mudslides and Floods \(MDRTJ005\) Emergency Appeal](#)

No. of people we help: In the first half of 2009, **103,718** people in Tajikistan benefited directly from the programme interventions of the International Federation's secretariat.

Programme Update January-June 2009 – Tajikistan						
Programme	Target population	People reached	% of women	% of men	% of children under 18*	% of elderly people
Health and care	Rural population, juveniles, servicemen, IDUs, sex workers in Sughd, Kulyab, GBAO (HIV)	31,634	46.9	53.1	65	9
	Rural population in Wakhdad district (TB)	10,666	32	48	12	8
Water and sanitation	Rural population in 10 districts of Sughd province and DRD and Khatlon Province	5,820	34	35	25	6
Disaster management	Communities living in most disaster-prone areas in Kurgan-Tube region and Rasht Valley	49,426**	40	34	22	4
Organizational development	Staff, volunteers	780***	38	62		
Youth	Sughd, Khatlon, GBAO and RRS	72	67	33	-	-
Information	General population of Dushanbe and surrounding districts (DRD)	6,100				
Total number of people reached		103,718				

*13-24 age only for the HIV component
** Including people affected by disasters and assisted by the National Society's own means.
*** National Society staff and volunteers are not counted as people reached therefore this figure is not included in the total number of people reached.

Our partners: Partnership of the Red Crescent Society is well established on both bilateral and multilateral basis. The country presence of the International Federation secretariat, partner National Societies, such as the German Red Cross, the Finnish Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross assures that the Tajikistan Red Crescent receives direct support. Partnership is also in place with government structures and humanitarian organizations working in the country. Coordination meetings are convened regularly to update on activities and plans.

Context

During April and May heavy rains caused severe problems for communities across Tajikistan. Starting in mid-April, flooding and mudslides wrecked numerous households, washed away livelihoods and claimed scores of lives. A mudslide on 21 April, reported to have been the largest to hit Khatlon province for 50 years, affected almost 2,000 people, claiming the life of a young boy. The International Federation released funds from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the operation the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan was mounting. See more at: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?09/MDRTJ005do.pdf

As the rains continued into May more regions were affected including Dushanbe city itself, the Direct Rule Districts and Tursunzade. Further DREF funds were released to support the affected populations with basic non-food items such as blankets, plastic sheeting and hygiene kits. See more at: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?09/MDRTJ006do.pdf

Following another mudslide on 14 May, an emergency appeal was launched to support the Tajikistan Red Crescent Society in assisting some 4,320 beneficiaries or 726 families affected by a series of mudslides and floods during a six-month period. Please visit: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?09/MDRTJ005ea.pdf

As an important component of the emergency operation, regional disaster response team (RDRT) members were deployed to support the National Society in conducting field assessment, distributing relief items, monitoring the implementation of activities, as well as logistics issues. The deployment of the RDRT members was a step towards enhancing cooperation between the National Societies of Central Asia in responding to disasters, which is part of the regional contingency plan developed in 2007.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as part of the commitment within the humanitarian reform coordinated the shelter and non-food items cluster between April and May 2009. This was the second cluster coordination work in Europe since the cluster coordination has been agreed globally, the first being during the response to the cold winter and energy crisis, also in Tajikistan, in 2008.

The second round of food price rise assessment scheduled for mid-April was postponed due to the mudslides and floods during April-May. The assessment will be done by the national disaster response team of the Dushanbe city Red Cross branch with local disaster committee members in Rudaky and Wahdat districts and with support from the International Federation secretariat.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Outcome: The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan disaster response mechanisms, tools and plans for adequate and effective response to disasters improved and timely response to the most urgent situations of vulnerability increased.

Achievements: The capacity of the National Society in disaster preparedness and response strengthened through increased skills and knowledge of staff and volunteers, strengthened financial and technical resources, effective mechanisms for emergency response and recovery assistance.

An evaluation of five disaster management centres was conducted. The following actions were taken based on the evaluation results to further build the capacity of the National Society:

- Winterized tents, bed linen sets, mattresses, pillows, hygiene packets, cooking sets, quilts, kerosene stoves, and 20 litre water cans for 300 families in all National Society disaster preparedness centres were prepositioned. These items were procured through funds from the annual appeal, through the emergency appeal and the Finnish Red Cross additional contribution.
- In order to ensure visibility uniform sets consisting of a vest, a coat and a T-shirt with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan/ International Federation logo and boots for 80 national disaster response team members were procured and handed over to the National Society.
- Disaster preparedness and response and first-aid refresher courses, including Sphere standards and Safe access were conducted, followed by simulation exercises for 5 disaster response team members.

In close cooperation with the Netherlands Red Cross, a new disaster management centre in Sagirdasht jamoat of Rasht valley was set up. Twelve branch staff and volunteers participated in a five-day workshop; this newly established team will also be provided with response equipment.

A memorandum of cooperation between the National Society and the State Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES) was re-signed in January, outlining the Tajikistan Red Crescent's specific role in the disaster management system of the country. Some rules of safe access were added to the Red Crescent's contingency plan.

The evaluation of the Red Crescent disaster management centres will continue with the other five centres to be evaluated in the second half of 2009. One computer was procured for the National Society headquarters' disaster management department.

Outcome: Effective tools are established for disaster preparedness of the communities living in most risk areas of the country and disaster risk reduction activities are implemented.

Achievements: The vulnerability of communities in disaster prone areas was reduced from the impact of disasters through disaster risk awareness and capacity building.

Community-based disaster preparedness

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has continued strengthening the capacity of communities living in most disaster prone areas of the country by establishing and training local disaster committees (LDCs), raising their awareness to the most common hazards, including earthquakes, floods, landslides and avalanches that annually affect thousands of people in Tajikistan.

In the first six months of the year 20 new LDCs were established in Kurgan-Tube region of Khatlon province and Rasht valley of Direct Rule Districts. In total 400 active Red Crescent volunteers and community members became LDC members. Two training of trainers workshops on disaster preparedness and response and first-aid, followed by practical simulation exercises, was conducted for 40 team leaders (2 from each established LDC) to become trainers. The trained people conducted in turn trainings for 400 LDC members in their respective primary organizations of Kurgan-Tube region. The new committees will be equipped with basic disaster response items by the end of August. The expected population benefiting from community-based disaster preparedness activities in these areas is 13,400 people by the end of 2009.

Risk reduction mitigation projects

Seven risk reduction mitigation projects were implemented in the first half of 2009. The risk of mudflow, landslide and floods on 18,900 people living in most disaster prone areas was reduced through:

- cleaning of mud stream way in Wahdat district - Simiganj Jamoat, Nozirobod village;
- riverbank reinforcement in Nurobod district - Kamsamolobod jamoat, Dushokazamin village and Tojikobod district;
- cleaning of the drainage system in Bokhtar district - Kolkhoz kommunizm village of Kurgantube region.

Over 11,400 trees were planted in 3 districts of Direct Rule Districts (DRD), i.e Rasht (Kalanak jamoat, Loioba village), Varzob (Chorbog village), Gissar (Almosi jamoat, Bobo Shurkon village). All projects were implemented with support of the communities and with input from local authorities. The implemented projects were handed over to the community leaders for further maintenance.

Outcome: The disaster response capacity of vulnerable communities enhanced through disaster risk awareness campaigns/ activities, public education, disaster management, first-aid training and the establishment of local disaster committees.

Achievements:

School education project and disaster awareness

Some 100 schoolteachers, 2 from each of the 50 schools in Dushanbe, Kurgan-Tube, Rasht Valley and Rudaky district were identified jointly with the Ministry of Education for the upcoming disaster awareness/ first-aid trainings scheduled for August to September. After being trained, teachers will pass on the knowledge at the beginning of school year during out of class lessons.

Road safety

Information materials including information billboards were elaborated in close cooperation with the traffic police department and the Ministry of Transport; they are now in printing stage.

Constraints or Challenges: The shift of focus from the planned activities to disaster response operations caused delays in regular disaster management programme activities, leading to changes in the original timetable.

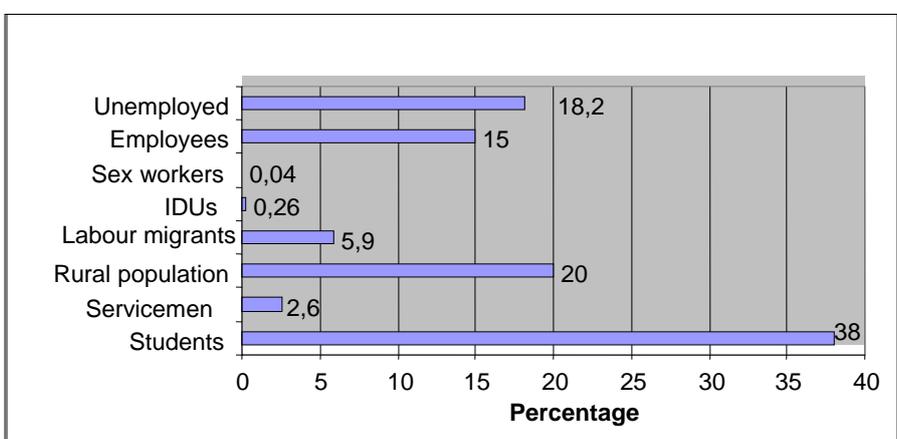
Health and care

Outcome: Vulnerability to HIV infection and its impact reduced through preventing further infection, expanding support to people living with HIV (PLHIV) and reducing stigma and discrimination.

Achievements: Around 31,634 people in Sughd province and Kulyab region were reached by the HIV prevention programme through public awareness-raising campaigns, meetings, discussions, trust point and outreach work. The campaigns on health and hygiene awareness were carried out by 85 trained Red Crescent volunteers and 3 outreach workers.

Two social-education centres for vulnerable youth were established and have started functioning in two districts of Sughd oblast since January. These centres in Kairakum and Chkalovsk are providing computer literacy services, where in between health education sessions on HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI) prevention, TB and addiction prevention to the young people are held based on the peer-to-peer approach. As an outcome of such work, around 79 per cent of young people aged 15-24 of these two centres, including the unemployed, ex-prisoners and drug users could list correctly major misconceptions about HIV, STIs and TB transmission.

Diagramm 1: Percentage of target groups covered by HIV prevention per their social status



The harm reduction project continued as planned. In total, 5,366 people were served through the trust point in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) and outreach work. The services included exchange of syringes, distribution of condoms, rendering first aid, counseling and psychological support to injecting drug users (IDUs). Vein abscess and overdose were not observed in the first half of 2009. The syringe exchange rate reached 76.5 per cent. Eleven IDUs became new clients of the trust point. Medical specialists, namely a phthisiatrician, expert in narcology and a neuropathologist continued counseling injecting drug users on the request of the staff working at the trust point. Three IDUs earlier this year sent for HIV testing turned out to be HIV-positive.

The informational work on drug addiction prevention covered 732 young people through both individual talks and mass events with quizzes.

Constraints or Challenges: Due to low appeal coverage, a survey on the change of sexual behaviour among people aged from 15 to 49 in Sughd province and Kulyab region was cancelled. Training of trainers for new volunteers in both regions also failed. Staff turnover, delays with salary and transport costs payment, as well as a decrease in field monitorings were also serious challenges.

Outcome: Vulnerability to TB and its impact reduced through preventing further infection, rendering social support to TB patients, reducing stigma and discrimination and integrating with HIV prevention.

Achievements: The joint mission of WHO and UNDP conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the TB situation in the country in March 2009. The mission rated the Wakhdad district pilot project as the best model of TB/Directly Observed Treatment (DOT) implementation throughout Tajikistan. The mission recommended that the Ministry of Health and UNDP follow the same working approach in other parts of the country.

Some 311 community volunteers trained since the start of the project have continued their education sessions on TB signs and symptoms for 6,745 village mates. By encouraging 117 people who were suspected of being infected and 169 TB contacts to provide sputum for examination, and referring TB patients' family members for fluorography has resulted in a 61.7 per cent detection rate of new infectious TB cases with SS+ cases¹. The regular community coordination meetings continued by the village development committees (VDCs), primary healthcare providers and community volunteers.

The registered TB cases in a TB centre of Wakhdad district in the first six months of 2009 were calculated at 150 with 116 new ones. Some 70.4 per cent of SS+ cases registered over the similar period in 2008 has been cured against the WHO international standard of 85 per cent. Since TB treatment takes 6-8 months, WHO suggests one year from the end of the quarter in which the patient had been registered to measure the treatment outcome indicators - were cured, completed treatment, defaulted.

The information-education materials on TB were distributed to people living in Wakhdad district during health education sessions along with posters on TB later placed in primary healthcare facilities, mosques and schools.

Constraints or Challenges: Seasonal labour migration of trained community volunteers and trained Ministry of Health staff to Russia and other countries presents a challenge as it requires additional efforts, both in terms of time and expenses, to train the newly selected community volunteers and staff.

Outcome: Population health improved through diseases prevention, health promotion, traumatism reduction and basic first-aid training

Achievements:

The planned activities under this outcome were not implemented during the first half of 2009. The main reason is that the Netherlands Red Cross present in the country received funds for supporting the community-based first-aid activities of the Tajikistan Red Crescent from the European Commission until the end of 2009. The Tajikistan Red Crescent with this bilateral support from the Netherlands Red Cross has already established 20 community-based first-aid centres in the rural districts of Tajikistan and trained a number of trainers and volunteers in rendering community-based first aid. In the coming period, this outcome will be focused within the migration project, where labour migrants willing to migrate or those who returned will receive basic training in rendering first aid.

It is worth to mention that the National Society during the last few years has strengthened its capacity in community-based first aid by receiving official license in 2009 for the provision of professional trainings to the population of Tajikistan.

Outcome: Access to safe water and sanitation services improved in Tajikistan.

Achievements: Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) trainings were held in five communities (one in each) of Sughd province. As already proven, PHAST trainings revealed the major problems communities face, which are the lack of drinking water and as a result an increase in water-borne infectious diseases; lack of water for irrigation leading to community poverty, poor condition or in some cases lack of appropriate hygiene and sanitation facilities. Fifty volunteers

¹ SS+ cases = two or more initial sputum smear examinations positive for Acid-Fast Bacilli (AFB)

trained in sanitary and hygiene promotion issues shared their knowledge and skills with 500 community members (8.6 per cent of the targeted population) in five rural vulnerable communities. These 500 community members will continue to disseminate the knowledge through promotion sessions in their respective communities, and as a result the number of rural population aware of sanitary and hygiene basics is expected to increase from 500 to 5.820 people by the end of 2009.

As a positive result of earlier water supply projects and PHAST trainings the local population engaged in the construction of spring water supply systems by their own means, but with technical support from the Tajikistan Red Crescent. Some 320 members of target communities are directly involved in the construction in Shahrستان and Mastcho. By the end of July, 6,500 metres of trenches had been dug for laying water mains and construction materials will be delivered by late July. Some 18,180 people living in rural areas of Tursunzoda, Wakhdad and Varzob districts (DRD), Yovon district (Khatlon), Zafarobod, Asht and Ghonchi districts (Sughd) are planned to be supported in the second half of 2009 through the construction of spring water supply systems.



The experience exchange forum participants are visiting the project site in Gul village, Gonchi district.
Photo: Lyapina E. / Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan

The idea of gathering some communities to analyse strong and weak points of the projects was realized in May. A two-day experience exchange forum of five water users committees (WUC) was held in Gonchi district in Sughd province. The members of these community-based self-management units shared best practices, discussed common challenges they face during implementation of “spring water supply systems construction” projects, the ways of collecting money for the cumulative fund and its future sustainability.

Constraints or Challenges: Low financial coverage of the annual plan, particularly water and sanitation programme caused delays in the procurement of construction materials and delivery of those procured earlier to Kulikutan and Chiniboy Ergashev villages in Shahrستان and Mastchoh districts. Timely flow of funds would be a prerequisite for the success of the

programme’s activities.

Organizational Development

Outcome: The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan leadership capacities are improved to develop and implement strategies, to ensure good performance and accountability.

Achievements: The International Federation continued to provide membership services to the National Society. Since the election of the new president and vice president in late March governance support has been ensured. The new leadership and governing board members have received comprehensive information on the overall Movement activities, strategies and policies, including the development strategy for 2008-2012 of the Tajikistan Red Crescent, outlining the main objectives of the organization.

To continue supporting the National Society’s new governing bodies in this respect, the International Federation country representation is to arrange an induction course in September on the roles and responsibilities of the governance and management, together with other topics. The new leadership will also be prepared for the upcoming International Federation statutory meetings in November 2009 in Nairobi.

Outcome: The National Society has increased its capacities through the development of human, financial and material resources at headquarters and branch levels.

Achievements: To support overall good management of the organization, the International Federation's country representation continued to facilitate the development of the National Society's financial management. The Tajikistan Red Crescent headquarters finance manager is leading the implementation of the recommendation of the external audit for 2006. From the start of 2009, all cash payments and all accounting entities, including stock- bookkeeping are done in 1C "Enterprise" application module. This application allows all reports to be converted into Excel. All book-keeping accounting and reporting system is automated. The National Society finance staffs at headquarters level were trained in the international financial reporting systems accounting. Up to the end of the year, they will be further trained in management, tax and law issues. The Red Crescent Society is very committed to developing its financial policy and procedures which is also in line with the audit recommendations.

Accountability of the National Society leadership to each partner has been increased by the commitment to conduct the annual external audit. It is a prerequisite for direct cash transfers to the National Society and its branches, when necessary. The terms of reference for an external audit of for 2008 was developed, and will draw on available funding from the Swedish and Norwegian Red Cross Societies and contributions from the Finnish and German Red Cross Societies. The audit is scheduled for mid-August, with the results expected to be reported by the end of September.

Outcome: The National Society has mobilized the capacities of local communities applying the participatory community development approach at branch level.

Achievements: The International Federation and the Finnish Red Cross agreed to replicate the participatory community development (PCD) experience in other branches and to expand the coverage of the vulnerable communities to support them in addressing their own urgent needs. To follow a systematic approach to National Society programming, two trainings on PCD, participatory rapid appraisal (PRA) and vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) were held in the selected branches.

Outcome: Youth has expanded the range and improved the quality of its services.

Achievements: The Red Crescent Society continuously supports the integration of youth and volunteers in all programming, although this is still not systematized. Excellent results by the trained volunteers could be seen during the emergency response activities, promotion of the humanitarian values and Red Cross Red Crescent fundamental principles.

The integration of the youth movement appeared in a number of country-wide events to mark the International Red Cross Red Crescent Day. They were heavily involved in carrying out HIV and AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), drug abuse and HIV/TB co-infection educational campaigns in April-May, in Kulyab, Kurgan-Tube, and GBAO, covering 6,100 people. The Red Crescent volunteers were also involved in emergency operations.

In order to improve the system of youth and volunteers recruitment, training, motivation and involvement, the National Society with support of the International Federation prioritized the virtual database creation. During the period, the youth and volunteers management department at the headquarters started the process of improving the database, which will allow tracking a breakdown of trained volunteers under various programmes per administrative regions and districts. Moreover, the advanced system is expected to motivate volunteers and to systematize their training in various spheres. The database will be available on the website of the National Society and will allow any interested partners to be able to track the internal movement of volunteers within the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan. It is an ongoing process and expected to be finalized by October.

Constraints or Challenges: The biggest challenge was raising funds for the National Society external audit for 2008. Great efforts to convince all Movement partners in the country and the region of the necessity of this were made. The remaining challenge to complete the improvement of the National Society financial system in its four regional branches is preliminary planned by the end of the year. Improvement of the human resource system within the National Society remains a challenge.

Principles and Values

Outcome: The fundamental principles and values of the Movement promoted.

Achievements: In line with the Istanbul Commitments of the VII European Conference of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, five information and education centres for migrants were set up in Shahrstan, Asht (Sughd province), Pyanj, Vose (Khatlon region), and Roshtkala districts (GBAO region). In close collaboration with the local authorities and international organizations the needs of migrants in education and consulting support were identified. In June, all five centres were equipped with computers and furniture.

The Red Crescent Society with support of the International Federation secretariat and in close collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is developing training modules for the centres which will include awareness-raising sessions on HIV, TB, STIs and other communicable diseases, first aid and basic legal support. To improve tracing services for the migrants' family members close links with the Russian Red Cross and ICRC will be established.

Outcome: Ability of communities to combat discrimination, intolerance and violence and to promote respect for diversity enhanced.

Constraints or Challenges: From the beginning of the year, this component could not be accomplished due to the low funding. Gender, non-discrimination and tolerance issues were mainly tackled through disaster management, water and sanitation, HIV and TB programmes.

Outcome: The image and profile of the Tajikistan Red Crescent Society improved.

Achievements: The Red Crescent disaster response operation has been highlighted in Tajik, Russian and Uzbek languages by national and local television channels as well as radio and printed media. Press-releases were distributed among national media services and placed at the National Society's web-site (<http://www.rcst.tj>) and other news sites covering Tajikistan and the Central Asian region. Besides, a [story](#) on the response operation is on the International Federation's public web-site.

Large-scale broadcasting was done during the celebration of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, increasing the image of the Tajikistan Red Crescent and promoting the auxiliary role of the National Society to the government of Tajikistan.

Working in partnership

Strong partnership is well established between all Movement components working in the country, with the Federation leading coordination efforts and promoting good partnership. It ensures that the National Society is at the centre of all events and receives full and harmonized support from its partners to meet its urgent needs at all levels.

The Red Crescent has partnership relations with about 70 community-based, national, government-based, international organizations, UN and developmental agencies along with local authorities and governmental ministries.

Coordination is provided through Tajikistan's Humanitarian Partnership - Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) system, a local disaster management coordination mechanism between the government, UN agencies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Regular REACT meetings are held in Dushanbe as well as at the sub-national level to ensure effective coordination.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and the International Federation are members of the technical working group on TB, HIV and AIDS of the national coordination committee on TB, HIV and AIDS, and malaria control in Tajikistan. For more information, visit: www.aids.tj. The World "Stop TB" Day was celebrated in March in Wakhdat District. The Ministry of Health and TB centres officials, local government and health officials, doctors, nurses, medical college students, TB patients and their families and community volunteers attended the ceremony.

According to the agreement between the UN World Food Programme (WFP) some 354 TB patients and their family members (1,118) in Wakhdat district continued receiving food items every two months. Food items (Iodized salt, wheat flour, oil, legumes) are to improve case registration as well as treatment adherence and completion. The agreement expiring in May 2009 was re-signed in June 2009 till the end of this year.

The National Society district branches are well cooperating with *hukumats*² and *jamoats*³ during project implementation through advisory, labour and technical support. The latter are also involved in project design, implementation of project activities, monitoring and evaluation. Such cooperation allows avoiding duplication of activities.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Organizational changes within the Red Crescent Society are expected to contribute to long-term impact, and to enable the National Society to enter into effective operational alliances and meet the minimum requirements of a well-functioning National Society. Accomplishments in financial management development will allow the National Society to deal with cash transfers.

At the beginning of 2009 the knowledge, attitude, practise (KAP) survey under the HIV prevention programme targeted 60-70 people of each currently operational district. The survey will continue during the second half of 2009 not only in target districts, but in control/check groups as well. The results of the survey upon its full completion will be analysed to be taken into consideration for the next planning process. In mid-June, the HIV programme was externally evaluated. The main findings of the mid-term evaluation were related to the project management cycle including proper planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Consequently the HIV coordinator of the Tajikistan Red Crescent will be supported in improving programme performance through the implementation of mid-term evaluation recommendations by the end of the year.

A mid-term evaluation of the water and sanitation project implemented by the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan during 2003-2008 was conducted in six project sites (three districts of DRD and three districts of Sughd province). The independent consultants assessed the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the programme activities along with outcomes. Special efforts were made to include all relevant stakeholders, including government, civil society organisations and international organisations in the evaluation process to get their feedback on the effectiveness of the project, and to seek their views on future directions and priority areas. Major findings were positive:

² Local authorities.

³ Self-managing bodies active at the grass-root level, comprising several villages.

- The programme in general has been implemented in an efficient manner.
- The cost of activities was reasonable and the objectives were accomplished efficiently. The resources were provided and utilised according to the plan, the inputs were provided at the desired quality and quantity. The budget spending was done within the agreed plan and schedule.
- The stakeholders' participation in project design, construction and management of the water supply system, and community needs assessment through PHAST trainings was found to be effective.
- The Tajikistan Red Crescent has applied demand responsive approach in targeted communities, e.g.: verifying the existing priorities within the community through PHAST training; applying participatory techniques so community members always take the decision whether or not to participate in the project. The community members contributed financially and/ or in-kind to the construction of the water supply system. In all visited locations community members themselves cover all operation and maintenance costs.

However some issues like community mobilization, project implementation and water fee collection (for further maintenance and sustainability of created assets) observed in some project sites need further enhancement.

Equal participation of male and female community members in PHAST trainings, project design, and implementation was observed in all targeted communities. Community members jointly decide on what types of pipes should be chosen and on the number of water taps. Nineteen trained women out of 50 community volunteers were directly involved in hygiene and sanitation trainings conducted by Red Crescent branches' representatives and volunteers in Sughd province.

In line with the International Federation's Global Health and Care Strategy 2006-2010 special attention was paid to the nutrition status of rural communities. The commissioned spring water supply systems serve not only to improve access to pure water, but as an alternative to growing vegetables and fruits, thus contributing to the National Poverty Reduction Strategy of March 2007. For instance, 3,800 inhabitants of Jarkutan village, Shahrستان district (Sughd province) grow vegetables and fruits in their landyards since spring water supply systems were commissioned last year. Moreover, the school attendance rate in targeted areas increased, as children now do not need to bring water by animal-drawn transport. In winter time the injury rate among children and women reduced as a water tap is now located no further than 500 meters away.

Support in human resources management, with clear strategy, policy, rules and procedures will strengthen the National Society's human resources systems and bring in modern expertise corresponding to the current market trends. Training of staff in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting is still a priority. Looking into the present Tajikistan Red Crescent organigramm, a separate monitoring and evaluation unit is highly needed. It is essential for the National Society to be more competitive in raising funds from various donors and to become financially sustainable.

Looking ahead

Support from the International Federation towards good governance and management within the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will continue. More efforts need to be done in developing strategic thinking and analytical abilities. Constant explanation of the roles and responsibilities are expected to result in better cooperation between governance and management. Such work is still ongoing and will be ensured by the International Federation in the coming period.

Ongoing support is provided by the Secretariat to renew the Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) process within the Tajikistan Red Crescent. Positive changes are expected with the recruitment of the new general programme coordinator (May 2009) in the National Society having previous experience in the International Federation, expertise and good communication skills.

Based on the progress made in 2008 and the first half of 2009 the Red Crescent Society's water and sanitation programme will continue to decrease the vulnerability of the population. It will be done by mobilizing communities to increase agriculture products' yield in private kitchen gardens and orchard thus improving their own nutritional status.

Coordination and Implementation

Coordination aims to ensure cooperation within the Movement and with other actors, in order to reduce duplication and to optimize the use of all capacities and resources. To strengthen partnerships and to ensure their conformity with the National Society's development strategy, the International Federation promotes the signing of integration agreements with all Red Cross partners in the country. The first integration agreement has been already signed in July 2009 with the German Red Cross representative. The Finnish Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross are the next to sign such agreements.

The International Federation together with the Tajikistan Red Crescent continued its participation in the coordination meetings on health and care, disaster management and water and sanitation chaired by UN agencies in Tajikistan.

How we work	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. • Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies. • Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability. • Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.
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