

TASHKENT (regional)

COVERING: Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan



Opened in 1992, the delegation in Central Asia combines operational functions in Tajikistan with regional functions. With the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, it works to protect and assist vulnerable populations affected by past conflicts and current violence. It helps build the capacities of the region's National Societies, particularly in the fields of emergency preparedness and restoring family links. In all the countries covered, it promotes implementation of IHL and other norms relevant to the use of force, and fosters understanding of the ICRC's mandate and work.

YEARLY RESULTS

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

MEDIUM

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS

In 2014:

- ▶ in Tajikistan, families of people killed in past violence and of victims of weapon contamination eased their situation by covering their basic needs or starting income-generating activities using cash grants
- ▶ doctors in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan enhanced their emergency-care capacities, and government personnel in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan honed their first-aid skills, at National Society/ICRC courses
- ▶ the region's National Societies reinforced their emergency preparedness and response capacities, particularly in providing first aid and restoring family links, at domestic and regional training sessions
- ▶ the Turkmen authorities and the ICRC finalized a cooperation road map on humanitarian issues in detention, while discussions with the Tajik authorities on this subject continued
- ▶ senior military/law enforcement officers learnt more, through National Society/ICRC initiatives, about incorporating IHL and other relevant norms in their training, decision-making and operations

EXPENDITURE (in KCHF)

Protection	1,228
Assistance	1,600
Prevention	2,476
Cooperation with National Societies	1,799
General	-

7,104

of which: Overheads 434

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	88%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	16
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	133

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Red Cross messages (RCMs)	
RCMs collected	4
RCMs distributed	2
Phone calls facilitated between family members	19
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	3
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	2
RCMs distributed	4

ASSISTANCE	2014 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	400
Cash	Beneficiaries	1,200
Work, services and training	Beneficiaries	20
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Hospitals		
Hospitals supported	Structures	11
Water and habitat		
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	200
		512

CONTEXT

Geopolitical issues of interest to Central Asian countries included the withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan and the prevailing situation in Ukraine. Among their concerns were refugee influxes and the potential spillover effects of the conflict in Afghanistan. Central Asian countries participated in Russia-led bodies such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Commonwealth of Independent States; they engaged with China through the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

The countries covered continued to deal with border demarcation issues, competition for natural resources and interethnic discord; these were the main sources of tensions that often led to violence. Regional flashpoints included border areas, particularly around the enclaves in the Fergana Valley; a confrontation between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan troops occurred in January.

In Tajikistan, thousands of families were still without news of relatives missing in relation to past conflicts or migration. Communities along the country's borders with Afghanistan and Uzbekistan were at risk from mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

High levels of unemployment and poverty, especially in Tajikistan, continued to cause large-scale migration; Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation were the main destinations. Migrants and their families often lived in trying conditions; some experienced difficulty maintaining contact.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC sustained its efforts in helping the region's authorities and National Societies strengthen their emergency preparedness and response capacities; in Tajikistan, it supported local initiatives to address the humanitarian consequences of past violence. It continued to promote IHL and encourage its implementation in all the countries covered.

In Tajikistan, families of mine/ERW victims, and of those killed during the violence in the Rasht Valley in 2010 and in Khorog in 2012, eased their situation with ICRC financial support, which they used to cover their essential needs or pursue income-generating activities. Assessments of the needs of these families continued, with a view to providing them with suitable assistance and helping local actors boost their capacity to manage mine-action information. Residents of weapon-contaminated areas learnt about risk-reduction measures during Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan/ICRC information sessions and through projects coordinated with the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre.

The ICRC supported the Tajik authorities' efforts to improve domestic laws on the rights of missing persons and their families. It facilitated discussions among State officials on the findings/recommendations of a study comparing these laws and internationally recognized standards, and provided a parliamentary committee with examples of legislation adopted by other countries. With the National Society, the ICRC assessed the needs of these families, with the aim of sharing the findings/recommendations with the authorities concerned.

Throughout the region, the ICRC continued to help ensure the availability of quality medical services during emergencies. It helped medical professionals in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan bolster their trauma-management skills by organizing – jointly with the authorities and the National Societies of

these countries – emergency room trauma courses. Surgeons in Uzbekistan honed their war-surgery skills at a seminar, and government officials in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan received first-aid training. Health facilities in emergency-prone areas of Tajikistan improved their services with the help of ICRC-donated medical supplies and ICRC-supported renovations of facilities. With ICRC technical/financial/material support, the region's National Societies enhanced their capacities to respond to emergencies, particularly their skills in administering first aid, restoring family links and applying the Safer Access Framework.

In Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, the ICRC continued its dialogue with the authorities on securing permission to undertake humanitarian activities for detainees. This led, in Turkmenistan, to the completion of a cooperation road map on the next steps towards potential ICRC visits to detainees there. The ICRC helped detainees in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to maintain contact with their relatives through family visits. It supported a project of the Kazakh Red Crescent Society to provide legal and other assistance to people previously held at the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba, and who had subsequently been resettled in Kazakhstan.

Dialogue with the authorities in the region sought to promote the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties. Discussions with the Kazakh government focused on cooperation on humanitarian issues related to the use of nuclear weapons. Dissemination sessions helped military and law enforcement officers in the region add to their knowledge of IHL and other humanitarian norms to consider in their decision-making and operations. More broadly, cooperation with the region's National Societies helped draw attention to humanitarian issues and raise awareness of IHL and the Movement's work among authorities, weapon bearers, civil society and the general public.

CIVILIANS

In discussions with them, Tajik authorities were encouraged to address the needs of vulnerable people, including the families of missing persons (see below). The situation of people in violence-prone areas was monitored, mainly through contacts with Tajikistan Red Crescent branches and other local sources.

Violence-affected households improve their living conditions

Families of people killed during past violence in the Rasht Valley (2010) and Khorog (2012), or of mine/ERW victims in Dushanbe, Khatlon, Rasht and Soghd, and in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO), improved their circumstances with ICRC support. Over 200 households (1,560 individuals) addressed their immediate needs – including medical care and house repairs – or started income-generating activities using ICRC cash grants.

Families of mine/ERW victims were supported on the basis of assessments undertaken with the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre and the National Society, with a view to centralizing information on the victims, building local data-collection capacities, and sharing the findings with the authorities. By year-end, the needs of 199 mine/ERW victims had been assessed. At workshops, National Society staff honed their capacity to use an international system for managing information on mine action.

Communities in weapon-contaminated areas reduced their exposure to risk by learning safe behaviour through National Society/ICRC

dissemination sessions and projects carried out in coordination with the mine action centre. At training courses, National Society volunteers refreshed their skills in conducting said sessions.

More generally, National Society volunteers strengthened their capacities to assist vulnerable people during emergencies (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

Families of missing persons set to gain from steps to improve pertinent laws

To better address the needs of the families of missing persons (see *Context*), the Tajik authorities explored ways to improve domestic legislation accordingly. During technical meetings, and at an interministerial round-table organized by the National Centre of Legislation and the ICRC, government officials discussed the findings and recommendations of a study comparing domestic laws and internationally recognized standards on the rights of missing persons and their families. In parallel, 195 families participated in a National Society/ICRC-conducted assessment of their needs; analysis of the findings was underway, with a view to submitting a report to the authorities to encourage them to address these needs.

Two families in Tajikistan kept in touch, through ICRC-facilitated phone/video calls, with relatives detained in Afghanistan or held at the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba. Some families visited relatives detained in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (see below). Family members in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan separated by labor migration maintained contact through Movement family-links services. Migrants held at a retention centre in Kazakhstan obtained legal, material and other assistance through the Kazakh Red Crescent Society.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Turkmenistan and ICRC finalize cooperation road map on humanitarian issues related to detention

The obtainment of permission to visit people deprived of their freedom continued to be covered in dialogue with Tajik and

Turkmen authorities. The matter was discussed with senior government officials in Tajikistan when the ICRC vice-president visited the country in May.

In Turkmenistan, meetings with the authorities, on areas of mutual interest and the ICRC's humanitarian mandate/activities, led to the completion of a cooperation plan on humanitarian issues, which included a road map on the next steps towards potential ICRC visits to detainees in the country. This plan was awaiting formal approval at year-end.

Detainees maintain contact with their families

In Uzbekistan, 66 detainees were visited by their relatives, whose travel expenses were covered by the ICRC. Similarly, 46 detainees in Tajikistan, including women and minors, received family visits and parcels, with the ICRC providing financial/material assistance to their relatives.

Five people previously held at the Guantanamo Bay internment facility, and subsequently resettled in Kazakhstan, had access to medical, legal and other assistance through an ICRC-supported project of the Kazakh Red Crescent.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Weapon-wounded patients stand to benefit from better care

People wounded during emergencies were more likely to receive life-saving treatment because of the improved first-aid capacities of government personnel in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (see *Actors of influence*) and National Society staff/volunteers in the region (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

Those needing advanced care stood to benefit from enhanced treatment, as 122 doctors and other medical professionals in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan bolstered their capacities through emergency room trauma courses. These were organized with the Health Ministry and the National Society of each country; participants also learnt about the Health Care in Danger project

CIVILIANS	TAJIKISTAN	UZBEKISTAN
Red Cross messages (RCMs)		
RCMs collected	4	
RCMs distributed	2	
Phone calls facilitated between family members	19	
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons		
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	4	1
<i>of whom women</i>	1	
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	2	
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	2	1
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	2	
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)	2	

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	TAJIKISTAN	UZBEKISTAN
Restoring family links		
RCMs collected	2	
RCMs distributed	4	
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support	46	66

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	TAJIKISTAN
Economic security, water and habitat	
Essential household items ¹	Beneficiaries
Cash ¹	Beneficiaries
	414

1. Owing to operational and management constraints, figures presented in this table may not reflect all activities carried out during the reporting period.

and the ICRC's mandate and activities. The authorities and the ICRC discussed the inclusion of such courses in their respective countries' academic curricula.

In Uzbekistan, government surgeons honed their war-surgery skills at a seminar, which was organized after a doctor attended a similar course abroad.

People in Tajikistan receive health services at ICRC-renovated/equipped facilities

To help ensure that people wounded during instances of violence obtained treatment, one hospital in Dushanbe, four in the GBAO and five in the Rasht Valley were regularly provided with medical supplies. Two hospitals – in Khorog and in the Vorukh enclave in Soghd province in the Fergana Valley – each received a medical/surgical kit.

In the Rasht Valley, the construction of latrines at the district hospital in Gharm and a stockroom at the Tavildara central hospital, and repairs to the water pipeline in one village, helped ensure health-care delivery. Support for equipping the operating room of the hospital in Vorukh was discussed with the authorities.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Military/law enforcement personnel expand their knowledge of IHL

Members of armed/police forces learnt more about IHL and international human rights law at events organized by the ICRC and National Societies. Turkmen military officers, for instance, attended dissemination sessions conducted by the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan.

Military and law enforcement officers also took steps to learn more about incorporating IHL and other relevant norms into their training, decision-making and operations. Tajikistan's Defence and Internal Affairs Ministries and the State Committee for National Security (GKNB) renewed their cooperation agreements with the ICRC in this regard. At workshops in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, senior officers discussed IHL and other humanitarian norms to consider in military/police decision-making. Military instructors in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan attended advanced IHL courses; Tajik officers invited the ICRC to a round-table on police reforms.

Government officials develop their first-aid skills

Some 140 officers from Tajikistan's Defence and Internal Affairs Ministries and GKNB, and 125 from Uzbekistan's Internal Affairs Ministry, bolstered their ability to administer first aid after receiving training – coupled with IHL briefings – and kits from their respective National Societies and the ICRC. Surgeons at military/police hospitals in Uzbekistan attended a war-surgery seminar (see *Wounded and sick*).

Authorities take steps to incorporate IHL into domestic legislation

The Tajik authorities, with ICRC advice/support, continued their efforts to improve laws concerning the rights of missing people and their families (see *Civilians*); a parliamentary committee working on the matter received examples of pertinent legislation adopted by other countries. A compatibility study of domestic law and the Rome Statute was completed.

Turkmen authorities and the ICRC discussed cooperation on humanitarian activities for detainees (see *People deprived of their freedom*) and other vulnerable people in the wider region, the

conduct of a compatibility study of domestic legislation and IHL/ other international norms, and other subjects of common concern. At an ICRC-organized meeting, national IHL committee members updated their knowledge of the developments and challenges in implementing IHL. The Hague Convention on Cultural Property was translated into Turkmen.

Dialogue with the Kazakh government continued to focus on cooperation on humanitarian issues related to the use of nuclear weapons, the legal prohibition of which formed the basis of a joint research agreement between the Eurasian National University and the ICRC. Efforts towards the ratification of the agreement on the ICRC's presence in the country advanced.

The National Human Rights Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan published, with ICRC support, a manual on IHL and international human rights law, intended for the authorities, lawyers and scholars. The authorities drew on ICRC input on the process of forming a national IHL committee.

Parties concerned further their awareness of humanitarian issues and the Movement

Throughout the region, military/civilian authorities (see above) and civil society actors learnt more about humanitarian issues and the Movement's work through National Society/ICRC initiatives. Law professors and students in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan learnt more about IHL and the ICRC through lectures and conferences. Efforts to engage religious circles in dialogue on the common ground between Islamic law and IHL were pursued.

Senior SCO officials, including those from its Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure, broadened their awareness of the ICRC's mandate and activities during meetings/presentations.

Media coverage, of the ICRC's activities in the region and its vice-president's visit to Tajikistan, helped relay humanitarian messages to a wider audience.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Societies bolster their emergency preparedness and response capacities

The region's National Societies worked with the ICRC to assist vulnerable people, among them mine/ERW victims and their families (see *Civilians*). The Tajikistan Red Crescent received material assistance to help people affected by floods/landslides in the Rasht Valley.

With ICRC financial, technical and material support, the National Societies reinforced their emergency preparedness and response capacities, particularly in assessing needs, administering first aid, restoring family links and applying the Safer Access Framework. The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan signed a partnership framework agreement with the ICRC on these matters and on communication and IHL promotion and communication.

At a regional simulation exercise in Kyrgyzstan, representatives of Central Asian National Societies practised responding to different emergencies (see *Kyrgyzstan*). The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan signed an agreement with the Ministry of Emergency Situations on cooperation in building countrywide emergency preparedness.

Staff/volunteers of the Tajikistan Red Crescent refreshed their first-aid skills at ICRC-supported courses. The National Societies

of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan expanded their pools of first-aid trainers. Staff/volunteers of the Kazakhstan and Tajikistan National Societies enhanced their abilities in restoring family links.

The National Societies of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan helped the ICRC organize emergency room trauma courses (see *Wounded and sick*).

National Societies pursue improvements to their legal/statutory bases

The National Societies of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan continued to strengthen their legal bases with International Federation/ICRC support, which, in Kazakhstan, included legal advice on the use of the emblem. The Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan received support for revising its statutes.

The region's National Societies promoted IHL and humanitarian principles and helped foster understanding of the Movement's work through dissemination sessions and various public events – to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May), for instance – involving civilian/military authorities and the public. The National Societies of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan opened IHL resource centres, which helped improve access to reference materials for local authorities, young people and others.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
Red Cross messages (RCMs)			UAMs/SCs*		
RCMs collected		4			
RCMs distributed		2			
Phone calls facilitated between family members		19			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		5	1		
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		2			
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		3			
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		2			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		2			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)¹					
Restoring family links					
RCMs collected		2			
RCMs distributed		4			
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		112			

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

1. Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Essential household items ¹	Beneficiaries	60		
Cash ¹	Beneficiaries	1,563	27%	51%
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)²				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Essential household items ³	Beneficiaries			
Cash ³	Beneficiaries	241		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	11		
Water and habitat				
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	512		

1. Tajikistan

2. Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

3. Owing to operational and management constraints, figures presented in this table may not reflect all activities carried out during the reporting period.