

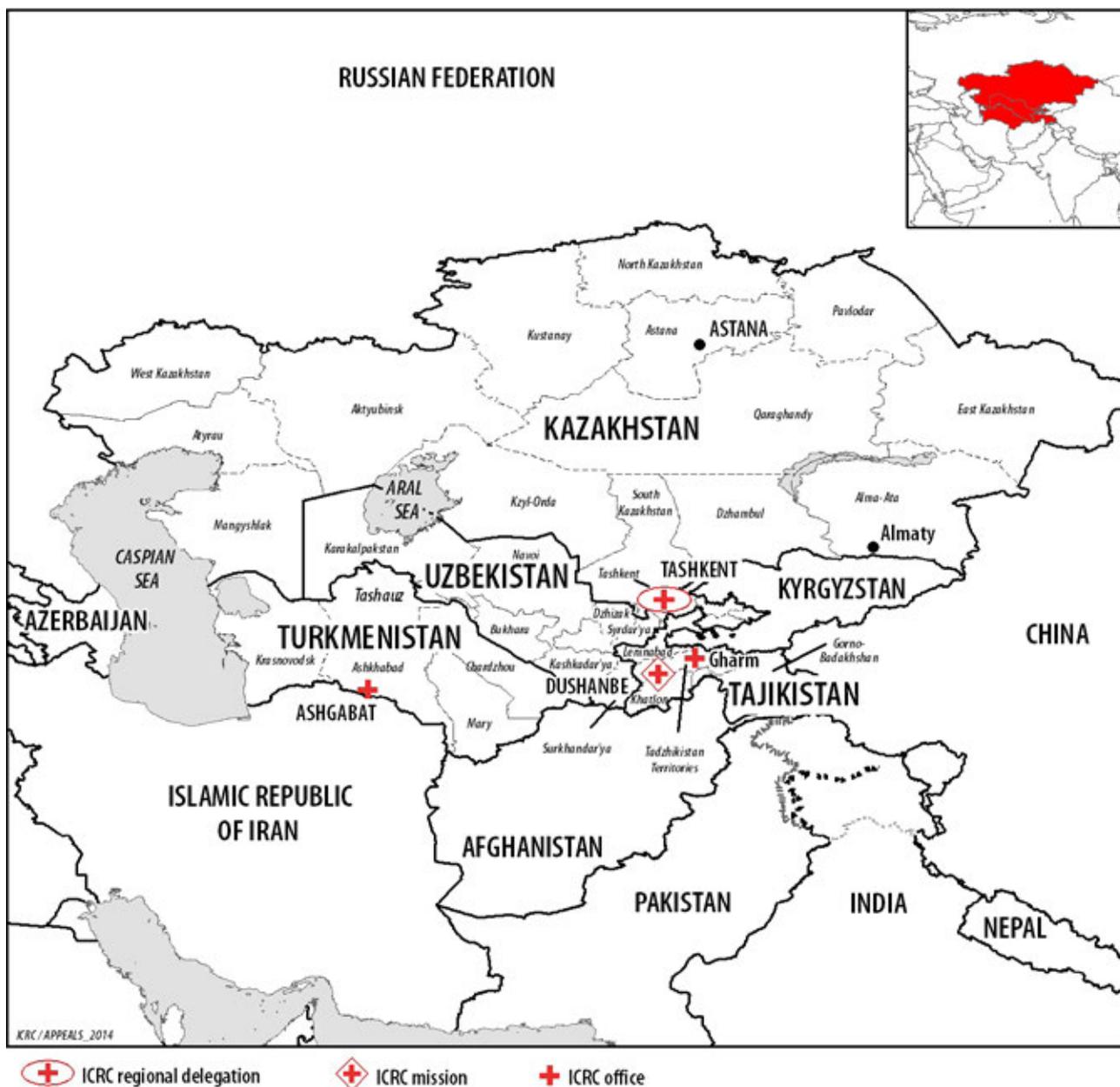
TASHKENT (REGIONAL)

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.

BUDGET IN KCHF	
Protection	1,328
Assistance	1,835
Prevention	3,156
Cooperation with National Societies	1,784
General	-
Total	8,103
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	495

PERSONNEL	
Mobile staff	13
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	130



MAIN TARGETS FOR 2014

- ▶ in Tajikistan, conflict- or violence-affected people improve their living conditions through cash grants for pursuing income-generating activities or for covering their basic needs
- ▶ emergency care in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan is enhanced through training for medical practitioners in emergency room trauma care and weapon-wound surgery and, in Tajikistan, the provision of medical supplies
- ▶ the armed, police and security forces take account of humanitarian principles, IHL, international human rights law and other applicable norms in their decision-making processes, in particular during law enforcement operations
- ▶ Tajik and Turkmen detaining authorities take measures to improve detainees' treatment/living conditions while engaging in dialogue with the ICRC on the possibility of visits to detainees according to standard ICRC procedures
- ▶ the authorities take measures to address issues relating to missing persons, weapon contamination and the repression of war crimes through relevant legislation, with the support of national IHL committees and/or national IHL experts
- ▶ the region's National Societies strengthen their legal bases, emergency preparedness and response capacities and first-aid and family-links services

ASSISTANCE		Targets (up to)
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		
Water and habitat		
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	200



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CONTEXT

Central Asia is a region of critical geopolitical interest, not least in light of the impending withdrawal of international military forces from Afghanistan in 2014. Perceived risks include the threat of a spillover of the Afghan conflict and a potential refugee influx.

Tensions arising from border demarcation, competition for natural resources and interethnic discord, in addition to economic problems, social unrest and organized crime, have the potential to trigger sporadic outbreaks of violence. Regional flashpoints include border areas, notably around enclaves and the Ferghana Valley.

In Tajikistan, thousands of families are still without information on the fate of relatives unaccounted for since the 1992–97 non-international armed conflict. Another legacy of past conflict, mines and explosive remnants of war

(ERW) affect several areas of Tajikistan, notably along its borders with Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. The effects of the violence that occurred in the Rasht Valley in 2010 and in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) in 2012 are still being felt by the local populations.

High levels of unemployment and poverty, especially in Tajikistan, continue to spark widespread migration, with Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation being the main destinations. Living conditions are often difficult both for the migrants and their families back home; some of them struggle to restore family contact.

Organizations of regional influence include Russian-led frameworks such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Customs Union.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2014, the ICRC's regional delegation in Tashkent will concentrate its efforts on addressing the humanitarian consequences of past armed conflict and other situations of violence in Tajikistan and on strengthening emergency response capacities across the region. In parallel, it will work to build an environment conducive to respect for humanitarian principles, IHL and other relevant norms, and to secure acceptance of its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action, including for people deprived of their freedom.

In Tajikistan, while encouraging the authorities to meet the needs of conflict/violence-affected people, the ICRC will help the families of mine/ERW victims and of those killed in connection with past violence recover their economic security through grants to engage in micro-economic activities. Those unable to carry out such activities will receive cash to help them cover their essential needs. Together with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, the ICRC will continue to assess the needs of households headed by mine/ERW victims with a view to providing them with the necessary assistance. Similarly, it will seek to determine the specific needs of families of missing persons, identify relevant service providers and share the findings and recommendations with the authorities concerned.

In Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the National Societies and the ICRC will endeavour to improve emergency care by conducting courses in emergency room trauma care and weapon-wound surgery for doctors, surgeons and other medical personnel and by training members of the armed forces and law enforcement agencies in first aid, incorporating key elements of the Health Care in Danger project. In Tajikistan, the ICRC will donate medical supplies and equipment to hospitals and health centres and carry out minor repairs to medical infrastructure to enhance general patient care.

To help prevent abuses against the civilian population, particularly during law enforcement operations, the relevant National Society/the ICRC will hold dissemination sessions for the armed, police and security forces to raise their awareness of humanitarian principles and norms applicable to their duties and encourage them to integrate such norms into their doctrine, training and operations.

In order to gain support for its activities for people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence, the ICRC will engage in dialogue with the authorities at local and national level, fostering a wider understanding of its mandate and the humanitarian imperative. It will enlist the support of regional/international organizations, academia and the media in bringing humanitarian issues to the fore and in gaining the acceptance of authorities and potential beneficiaries for the Movement's work. It will also stand ready to provide expertise to support the ratification and national implementation of IHL treaties.

In Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, the ICRC will pursue dialogue with the authorities with the aim of securing agreements to visit detainees in accordance with standard ICRC procedures. It will continue to facilitate family visits to vulnerable detainees in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Whenever possible, the ICRC will carry out these activities in partnership with the National Societies. It will continue to provide them with capacity-building support, including in the areas of emergency preparedness, first aid and restoring family links.

The ICRC will coordinate its activities with those of its Movement partners and other humanitarian actors in order to maximize impact, identify unmet needs and avoid duplication.