

TASHKENT (REGIONAL)

COVERING: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

The ICRC has been present in Central Asia since 1992. In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, it works to protect and assist vulnerable populations affected by tensions and violence, sometimes working with the National Societies. In Kyrgyzstan, it helps the authorities improve detainees' conditions, especially with regard to health care access. The ICRC assists the region's National Societies in building their capacities, particularly in the fields of emergency preparedness, restoring family links, and promoting IHL. Throughout the region, it supports the 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	2,449
Assistance	8,222
Prevention	3,072
Cooperation with National Societies	1,673
General	161
Total	15,576
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>951</i>

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	27
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	194



+ ICRC regional delegation
 + ICRC mission
 + ICRC office/presence

** Map shows structures supporting ICRC operations in Afghanistan

MAIN TARGETS FOR 2015

- ▶ TB-affected detainees in Kyrgyzstan benefit from the completion of construction/renovation work at a penal institution to be used as a centralized TB treatment centre, and detainees in 5 facilities receive quality health-care services
- ▶ Tajik and Turkmen detaining authorities take measures to improve detainees' treatment/living conditions while engaging in dialogue with the ICRC on possible visits to detainees according to the organization's standard procedures
- ▶ medical professionals and armed/security personnel hone their first-aid, emergency-care and surgical skills through ICRC-supported courses, thereby bolstering their emergency preparedness and response capacities
- ▶ the families of mine victims in Tajikistan improve their living conditions by using cash grants to start income-generating activities or cover their basic needs, while those with missing relatives receive psychosocial support
- ▶ the authorities and armed/police/security forces consider humanitarian principles, IHL, international human rights law and other norms in their decision-making processes, partly as a result of ICRC briefings and other initiatives
- ▶ the region's National Societies strengthen their legal bases and their emergency preparedness and response capacities, including in delivering first aid and restoring family links

ASSISTANCE		Targets (up to)
CIVILIANS (RESIDENTS, IDPs, RETURNEES, ETC.)		
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Cash	Beneficiaries	990
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Hospitals		
Hospitals supported	Structures	3
Water and habitat		
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	200

CONTEXT

In Central Asia, economic difficulties, social unrest, and tensions linked to border demarcation persist, as do competition for natural resources and intercommunal discord. These often trigger sporadic incidents of violence, particularly in border areas and around enclaves in the Fergana Valley.

In Tajikistan, thousands of families are still without information on the fate of relatives missing in relation to the 1992–97 non-international armed conflict. Mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), another legacy of past conflict, affect several areas in the country. In Kyrgyzstan, some 19 families remain without news of relatives who went missing during the events of June 2010.

Migration is prevalent in the region; most migrants and their families struggle to restore contact.

Geopolitical issues of importance to Central Asian countries include: the situation in Ukraine; the withdrawal of NATO troops from Afghanistan; and China's emerging role in the international community. Central Asian countries participate in Russian-led frameworks such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the Eurasian Customs Union; they engage with China through the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Uzbekistan hosts a NATO regional office, which opened in May 2014.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2015, the ICRC regional delegation in Tashkent will cover operations in all five Central Asian countries. In light of the relative stabilization of the security situation in the country, the delegation based in Kyrgyzstan has been reintegrated into the regional set-up as a mission.

The ICRC will focus on helping to address the humanitarian needs of detainees in Kyrgyzstan, while pursuing efforts to resume or initiate activities for detainees in Tajikistan and

Turkmenistan. It will also help bolster emergency preparedness and response capacities and assist people affected by the consequences of past conflict/violence or migration. The ICRC will work to foster an environment conducive to respect for humanitarian principles, IHL and other relevant norms, and to secure acceptance for its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action. Whenever pertinent, it will implement activities in partnership with the National Societies.

In Kyrgyzstan, the ICRC will visit people held by the Interior Ministry, the State Committee for National Security (GKNB), the State Service for the Execution of Punishment (GSIN) and other detaining authorities; it will confidentially provide the authorities with feedback on detainees' treatment and living conditions. Financial, technical and structural support to the authorities for controlling TB in the penitentiary sector, in particular extensively- and multi-drug-resistant strains (X/MDR), will continue. The ICRC will also support the authorities in ensuring access to health care for detainees in five places of temporary detention.

The ICRC will pursue dialogue with the Tajik and Turkmen authorities aimed at securing agreements to visit detainees in accordance with standard ICRC procedures. It will continue to facilitate family visits for vulnerable detainees in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Across the region, the ICRC will endeavour to improve emergency preparedness and response by helping the National Societies consolidate their capacities in this regard, including in first aid and restoring family links. It will work with the National Societies and health authorities to organize courses in emergency-room trauma care and weapon-wound surgery for medical professionals, and in first aid for military/police personnel. In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, the ICRC will support some health facilities in violence-prone areas and help bolster local forensic capacities, with a view to helping prevent disappearances during emergencies.

To promote the protection of people in violence-prone areas, especially during emergencies, the ICRC will hold dissemination sessions for the armed/police/security forces on humanitarian principles and norms applicable to their duties; it will encourage them to consider these principles/norms in their doctrine, training and operations. The ICRC will offer expertise for the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties. It will help the Kyrgyz authorities and armed forces advance IHL integration.

The ICRC will encourage the authorities to meet the needs of people affected by past conflict/violence, while directly assisting the most vulnerable among them. In Tajikistan, families of mine/ERW victims will receive cash grants to start income-generating activities or cover basic needs, while the families of missing persons will benefit from training extended to the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and other providers of psychosocial support. Relatives of persons who went missing during the 2010 violence in Kyrgyzstan will be directed to providers of legal, economic and psychological support.

The ICRC's dialogue with authorities, weapon bearers, traditional/community leaders, members of the international community and other influential sectors of society, as well as its engagement with the media and the wider public, will promote awareness of and enlist support for humanitarian issues, IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities.

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND ICRC OBJECTIVES

CIVILIANS

In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, the families of persons missing in relation to past conflict/violence, or during migration, have no formal legal status; they often require support for meeting their needs.

Over 850 mine/ERW victims have been registered by the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre; they have difficulty obtaining the services to which they are entitled.

Objective

The population is respected and protected in accordance with applicable law and humanitarian principles. People affected by past armed conflict or other situations of violence, including the families of missing persons and victims of mines/ERW, have their rights respected and their needs met. Communities reduce their exposure to weapon contamination.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

- ▶ monitor the situation of people in violence-prone areas; if necessary, make representations to the authorities concerned regarding abuses reported by the population, so that follow-up measures can be taken
- ▶ encourage the authorities to address the needs of violence-affected people, including mine/ERW victims and the families of missing persons; to this end, pursue dialogue on, for instance, the findings/recommendations of compatibility studies on domestic legislation and inter-

nationally recognized standards on the rights of missing persons

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

Restoring family links

- ▶ through technical, financial and capacity-building support, work with the National Societies concerned to strengthen their ability to restore family links and to:
 - enable, in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, migrants and their relatives and other families separated by armed conflict or other situations of violence, natural disasters or detention to restore contact
 - provide, in Kazakhstan, family-links services and essential items to some 100 migrants at a retention centre in Astana
 - promote these services among the authorities and the public, and encourage their inclusion in national contingency plans, including to help prevent disappearances during emergencies
 - explore, with the authorities, ways to broaden related activities for migrants
- ▶ to help the families of persons missing in relation to the June 2010 events in Kyrgyzstan address their needs, direct them to providers of legal/economic/psychological services and, at their request, seek information from the authorities on the status of the search for their relatives

Assistance

Tajikistan

With the National Society:

Economic security

- ▶ help up to 165 families (990 people) of mine/ERW victims improve their living conditions through cash grants for starting income-generating activities – enabling them to increase their household income by some 20% – or for covering essential needs (e.g. health care, housing)
- ▶ through training, help some 20 National Society staff/volunteers strengthen their capacities to assess/respond to the needs of violence-affected people

Health

- ▶ organize training to help the National Society/community organizations provide good-quality psychosocial services for up to 100 families of missing persons

Weapon contamination

- ▶ provide the National Society with financial, material and capacity-building support for conducting mine-risk awareness sessions for communities in weapon contaminated areas
- ▶ in coordination with the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre, assess the needs of up to 200 mine/ERW victims through surveys/interviews carried out by ICRC-trained National Society volunteers, in order to provide them with appropriate assistance (see above)

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

Forensics

- ▶ through training and material support, help the authorities build their capacities to ensure proper management of human remains during emergencies, with a view to mitigating the risk of people becoming unaccounted for

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The detainee population in the region includes people arrested and held for security-related reasons. Despite some measures taken by the authorities to implement judicial and penitentiary reform, public reports continue to cite concerns relating to ill-treatment, overcrowding, respect for judicial guarantees and inadequate health care. Detainees held far from their families have difficulty maintaining contact with their relatives.

In Kyrgyzstan, the GSIN is in charge of the penitentiary system; the Interior Ministry and the GKNB also hold people, including some held in relation to the events of June 2010. The prevalence of X/MDR TB in Kyrgyz prisons is one of the highest in the world. The GSIN and the Health Ministry are in the process of centralizing treatment for detainees affected by all forms of TB in one facility, Penal Institution 31.

Objective

Detainees are afforded treatment and living conditions that meet internationally recognized standards. They are able to maintain family links and receive the medical care they need, including access to appropriate TB treatment.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

Kyrgyzstan

- ▶ following visits conducted according to standard ICRC procedures to detainees held by the GKNB, the GSIN and the Interior Ministry, provide the authorities, in a confidential manner, with feedback and recommendations on detainees' treatment and living conditions
- ▶ during the visits, follow up the situation of minors, women and other particularly vulnerable detainees individually; help ease their detention by distributing hygiene items, mattresses, books and other essentials
- ▶ maintain dialogue with the authorities on expanding visits to all detainees within the ICRC's purview

Tajikistan

- ▶ with a view to securing permission to resuming visits to detainees according to standard ICRC procedures, maintain dialogue with the authorities on issues relating to the treatment and living conditions of detainees, and on the contribution that the ICRC could make to their efforts to address these concerns; offer expertise to support the ongoing review of domestic penal legislation

Turkmenistan

- ▶ continue dialogue with the authorities aimed at finalizing an agreement on ICRC activities for detainees, including visits according to standard ICRC procedures to detainees in four facilities; organize round-tables with the authorities concerned to promote internationally recognized standards and best practices in detention

Restoring family links

- ▶ by providing financial support to their relatives, enable up to 200 vulnerable detainees in Kyrgyzstan, 150 in Tajikistan and 60 in Uzbekistan – including minors, women and people serving life sentences – to receive family visits and parcels
- ▶ with the National Societies in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, offer family-links services to help detainees exchange news with their relatives in the country or abroad

Assistance

Kyrgyzstan

Health

- ▶ within the framework of a pilot project with the authorities, facilitate access to health care for detainees in 5 places of temporary detention, including by:
 - donating basic medical supplies/equipment; organizing first-aid courses for prison staff and distributing reference materials to help them improve their capacities to diagnose and treat detainees – particularly those with common diseases or requiring psychosocial support – and, if necessary, refer them to appropriate facilities
 - providing technical support to the authorities, prison staff and others parties concerned, and sponsoring their participation in a regional seminar to further their understanding of detainees' health needs and of internationally recognized standards for addressing these needs
 - evaluating the project and making recommendations to the authorities
- ▶ to help the GSIN manage TB in prisons and improve treatment for patients at Penal Institution 31 and in a facility formerly supported by Médecins Sans Frontières-Switzerland:
 - continue to support the establishment of a centralized TB-treatment facility in Penal Institution 31 (see below)
 - assist in ensuring proper and timely diagnostic services for patients by supporting the testing of smear samples abroad and providing local laboratories with training and equipment/materials
 - continue to aid the authorities in developing comprehensive patient care and maintaining an electronic database for monitoring/evaluating TB management throughout the penitentiary system; help medical staff reinforce their capacities to manage TB and improve patients' adherence to treatment, through hands-on support and a study tour in Baku, Azerbaijan

Water and habitat

- ▶ help improve living conditions for particularly vulnerable detainees – particularly those suffering from TB or serving life sentences – by:
 - completing ICRC-supported construction/renovation work at Penal Institution 31 to enable the facility to accommodate TB and X/MDR TB patients in line with strict infection-control requirements; supporting the maintenance of its premises/facilities
 - maintaining/rehabilitating: electric power, ventilation and sanitation systems for up to 300 people; family-visit rooms benefiting up to 400 people; and facilities in places of temporary detention for some 100 people
 - training some 20 prison maintenance staff

WOUNDED AND SICK

The quality and continuity of health-care delivery is adversely affected by: insufficient funding; inadequately equipped and maintained infrastructure; and lack of medical/human resources, particularly for trauma management.

In enclaves and other violence-prone areas in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, weapon-wounded patients often lack access to appropriate emergency treatment.

Objective

People sick or wounded because of situations of violence have access to timely first aid and receive appropriate medical and surgical care in a safe environment.

Plan of action and indicators

Assistance

Medical care:

- ▶ to help health authorities and other stakeholders enhance emergency and medical care:
 - organize, with the National Society, first-aid training for communities in southern Kyrgyzstan, and for National Society staff and community members in violence-prone parts of Tajikistan; provide health facilities in these areas with medical supplies/equipment and furniture
 - conduct – jointly with the relevant National Society or, in Kyrgyzstan, with previously trained doctors – courses in emergency-room trauma care for some 280 medical professionals across the region, and in war surgery for up to 30 surgeons in Tajikistan and 30 in Uzbekistan; promote the inclusion of these courses in the curricula of medical universities
 - during emergencies, donate supplies/equipment to health facilities in areas affected
- ▶ highlight the goals of the Health Care in Danger project in all dialogue/activities with authorities, weapon bearers, members of civil society and medical professionals to raise awareness among them of the importance of safeguarding wounded and sick people's access to medical care and to enlist their support in this regard

Water and habitat

- ▶ rehabilitate up to 3 health facilities near borders or enclaves in southern Kyrgyzstan and 1 hospital in Vorukh, Tajikistan

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

The police, the military and others in the security sector are involved in law enforcement operations and in emergency preparedness/response mechanisms. Throughout the region, reforms affecting this sector are ongoing or planned. IHL is included in the curricula of military training establishments, but has yet to be fully incorporated in the armed forces' doctrine, training and operations. The armed forces participate in regional/multilateral security platforms.

The countries covered are at different phases of implementing IHL. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan have established national IHL committees.

University lecturers in IHL often act as advisers to State authorities. The media and traditional/community leaders help shape public opinion.

Objective

The authorities, armed forces and law enforcement agencies know and respect IHL, international human rights law and other relevant norms, and incorporate these in their decision-making processes. The media, academia and other circles of influence help foster awareness of humanitarian issues among key decision-makers and in the wider public, thus achieving respect for human dignity. All actors

understand the ICRC's mandate and support the work of the Movement.

Plan of action and indicators

Prevention

- ▶ to promote the protection of vulnerable people, including detainees, and facilitate humanitarian activities for them, particularly during emergencies:
 - raise awareness, through meetings/dissemination sessions, among the Kyrgyz, Tajik and Turkmen authorities of internationally recognized detention standards and of the ICRC's working procedures in places of detention; back such efforts in Turkmenistan with a compatibility study on domestic legislation and these standards
 - support the Kyrgyz armed forces in integrating IHL into their doctrine, training and operations, by contributing to the development of training modules, for instance
 - help the authorities, the police and armed/security forces personnel, including border guards, further their understanding of IHL, international human rights law and other relevant norms, through dissemination sessions, first-aid training and sponsored participation in advanced courses/study tours abroad; encourage them to consider these norms in their decision-making processes
 - pursue dialogue with military/police teaching institutes on incorporating IHL and international human rights law in their curricula, including for peacekeepers
 - engage with representatives of Central Asian countries in regional security platforms, such as the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure and the CSTO, on issues of common interest
- ▶ foster acceptance for IHL and promote its domestic implementation by providing training and technical/legal support to the national IHL committees and the authorities; in particular:
 - offer legal expertise to the Kyrgyz authorities for incorporating sanctions for war crimes in the penal code
 - encourage the ratification of IHL treaties (e.g. 1954 Hague Convention on Cultural Property), including by: presenting, in coordination with academic experts, studies on the compatibility of domestic legislation and these treaties; and translating the treaties and the 1949 Geneva Conventions into national languages
 - promote the development of legal frameworks, including those relating to: the rights of missing persons and their families in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (see *Civilians*); the statutes of the National Societies; and the protection of the Movement's emblems
 - organize dissemination sessions and other activities for academics, to help them add to their IHL expertise
- ▶ to build understanding of and support for humanitarian principles, the ICRC's mandate, the Movement and neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action:
 - in Kazakhstan, pursue cooperation with the authorities and other stakeholders on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear, radiological, biological and

chemical weapons, including by co-organizing with the authorities an event on the subject

- encourage accurate reporting on humanitarian issues, including the plight of the families of missing persons, and on the Movement, through briefings, round-tables and field trips for journalists, and by distributing news releases, operational updates and other related materials
- seek to establish dialogue with traditional/community leaders
- ▶ where applicable, conduct the aforementioned dissemination/communication initiatives and other events jointly with the pertinent National Societies

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The region's National Societies – supported by Movement partners – are at various stages of strengthening their legal bases and developing their capacities in emergency response, first aid, restoring family links and promoting the Movement, among other areas.

Objective

National Societies in the region have strong legal bases for independent action. They are able to carry out their core activities effectively. The activities of all components of the Movement are coordinated.

Plan of action and indicators

Cooperation

- ▶ in coordination with other Movement partners, provide technical/material/financial support and training to the National Societies to enable them to:
 - improve their organizational structure and consolidate their legal bases and auxiliary status (see *Actors of influence*)
 - bolster their emergency preparedness and response capacities – including application of the Safer Access Framework – and reinforce their family-links services (see *Civilians*)
 - enhance their internal/public communication capacities, in order to better promote their activities and the Movement