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Kyrgyzstan Annual Report 2012

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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**This report covers
the period
from 01 January 2012 to
31 December 2012.**

*Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent volunteers
celebrating World Red Cross &
Red Crescent Day.
Photo: Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent.*



Overview

In 2012, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan (RCSK) made maximum efforts and undertook many activities to overcome the consequences of the internal crisis that happened in 2011, and also to restore its image among its partners and the population in general. Although the tension lasted for several months, it has finally been resolved. The concrete activities of restoration, undertaken by the RCSK, were the following.

- the staff of the National Society were re-instated in their jobs, and acceptable work conditions were ensured;
- specialists with expertise in different fields were engaged;
- the basic activities of the National Society were resumed within a short period;
- the terms of reference for the leadership as well as for the Governing Board of the National Society were revised and adopted;
- the Statute of the National Society was revised and agreed with the Joint Statutory Commission of the International Federation and the ICRC. Afterwards, it was re-registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic in accordance with the national legislation;
- an extraordinary National Society Congress was conducted to endorse the revised Statute of the organization and to elect a new Chairperson and a Governing Board;
- a new General Director of the National Society was appointed, and the new structure of the organization was adopted.

In order to prevent the occurrence of similar problems in the future, the National Society has prepared a brief analytical review of the resolved situation, which comprises suggestions on steps to be taken to further improve the situation, mitigate the negative impact on the image of the National Society, and avoid a recurrence of similar crisis situations.

During the period from January through May 2012 the National Society faced a gap in the financial support of the programmes implemented through the International Federation (IFRC). Although the NS was having an adequate funding from the IFRC from January 2012 onwards to support their Volunteering in Emergencies work, DM programming and OD, both the British RC and the Finnish RC pledged funding only in May and June, respectively, for the health programmes. In order to avoid the negative consequences of this situation, the Kyrgyz Red Crescent had to find alternative sources of funding to ensure a minimum support for its activities.

Currently, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan (RCSK) is in a new phase of development, capable to reinforce and expand its traditional activities and initiate new ones.

Working in partnership

Relations with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Traditionally, the partners of the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan (RCSK) are Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), the American Red Cross, the British Red Cross, the German Red Cross, the Finnish Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross, the Swedish Red Cross and the Turkish Red Crescent Societies.

Relations with the Government and the business sector

The most significant governmental partners are the Ministries and the local authorities of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, in particular the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, and the Ministry of Justice.

There are many business organizations in Kyrgyzstan rendering support to the vulnerable part of the population. In most cases, support is provided to the lonely elderly people, people with disabilities, or neglected children located in special children crisis centres. However, in practice, the charity assistance rendered by businesses for the vulnerable population is distributed irregularly and unevenly - some relevant centres receive assistance in full value, others receive almost nothing. Thus, the challenge that should be resolved is the addressed and structured distribution of the assistance among these vulnerable groups. From another angle, the majority of business companies have their own policies, plans and strategies to render charity, but because of lack of unified database there is no unified and universal distribution system. It is currently made in an unbalanced way. Obviously, charity allocations should be made according to objective, fair, needs-based and transparent principles.

In this connection, the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent initiated a dialogue between the Kyrgyz Ministry of Social Development that is responsible for the social support of the population and the business sector. The dialogue is focused on the optimization of charity and humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable population of the country. RCSK was admitted as an associate member of the International Business Council based in the country to have an access to platform for discussion between the Government and the businesses and try to take a leading role in humanitarian issues

in the country. Moreover, in December 2012, the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent initiated a round table discussion on the optimization of charity for the vulnerable population of the country. Many prosperous business companies like the oil company GazProm, the mobile service providers Fonex and Megacom as well as the prestigious Rotary Club took part in the event. The participants agreed that the humanitarian support by the business sector in the country should be more structured and balanced, and the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent is an organization that could be considered as a leading agency on that.

Participation in the Meeting of Russian speaking NSs in Minsk

In September 2012, the Chairperson and the Director General of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent participated in the meeting of Russian speaking National Societies conducted in Minsk, Belarus. It was a very useful initiative to have such a discussion platform to share information and knowledge between National Societies with many common interests and similar aspirations.

Meeting on migration in Moscow

With the support of the International Federation, a meeting on migration issues was organized in Moscow in October 2012. The invited participants of the meeting were representatives of the National Societies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The meeting was jointly hosted by the International Federation's Moscow Office and the Russian Red Cross. It was held in the Public Chamber under the Government of the Russian Federation. Moreover, the representatives of the Russian Federal Migration Service (FMS) and the concerned Embassies participated in the event. During the meeting, the issues of joint actions and interactions were discussed between all parties. Every actor fully understands the necessity of cooperation in the field of labour migration.

Partnership Meeting in Bishkek

In October 2012, the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent initiated a Partnership Meeting in the Kyrgyz capital city, Bishkek, involving all its counterparts: state organizations, international organizations (UN agencies, USAID, etc.), NGOs, the International Federation (IFRC), the ICRC, and participating National Societies (PNSs). The Kyrgyz National Society as the host updated all participants about its activities/accomplishments/constraints and shared with them the RCSK's plans for 2013-2015. The presentations of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent were built around the topics of health, disaster management and social programmes, and they were followed by presentations of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Emergencies and the Ministry of Social Development. Thus, the auxiliary role of the National Society towards the Government was emphasized, and the close interaction between the RCSK and State was demonstrated during the event. The participants of the meeting representing different organization, partners of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent, both inside and outside the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement, expressed their opinion related to the role of the National Society. Moreover, within the working groups, all participants discussed the activities of the RCSK in three main directions – health, DM and the social sector. As a result of the meeting, all participants received a clear picture on the current activities and priorities of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent for 2013-2015.

Relations with the Global Fund

(Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria - GFATM)

Currently, the principal recipient (PR) of the GFATM in Kyrgyzstan is the UNDP; they are responsible for the TB and HIV components. However, there is an idea to hand over the position of

principal recipient to national agency/ies in order to build up national capacities. It is supposed to become a two-channel management model - state and non-governmental in both directions, TB and HIV. Thus, the CCM (country coordination mechanism) decided to announce a tender for the position of the PR in December 2012. The counterparts of the RCSK suggested to the RCS that it should apply for the position, since the Red Crescent (RCSK) is a national structure and has a years-long experience in TB and HIV programmes. Having analyzed the situation, the RCSK decided to prepare its application and submit it to the CCM, as one of the five candidates. After the preliminary selection done by the CCM, three organizations were selected as potential principal recipients in Kyrgyzstan: the Ministry of Health, the AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW) and the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent. The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent is now being considered as potential PR on TB representing the civil sector. Actually, the handover process is long and requires many steps. One of the steps is the technical appraisal to be done by the Local Fund Agent (LFA) which is expected in the period from June till August 2013. This evaluation will be directed to estimate capacities of the organizations to act as PR of the GFATM in the country. This appraisal is very important because in case of a failure the organization can be denied the position of the PR. Factually, the preliminary assessment was already done by two experts from the UNDP and GIZ. Moreover, RCSK made a self-assessment within the organizational capacity assessment and certification (OCAC) session conducted in 2012. Thus, the National Society has a clear understanding on the areas requiring further development and improvement: monitoring and evaluation; an electronic database of beneficiaries; financial procedures; procurement process and communication. In order to align the existing procedures to the requirements of the GFATM, the RCSK needs technical support by experts who know well the procedures and requirements of the GFATM. Actually, the CCM is currently looking for the opportunity to build capacities of the three nominated organizations.

Progress towards outcomes

Business line 1: TO RAISE HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS

Programme component: Promotion of humanitarian principles and values

Outcome: Fundamental principles and humanitarian values of the Movement are promoted.

Achievements:

After the internal crisis of 2011 the restoration of the image among the local population and partner organizations became one of the key priorities for the National Society. Taking this into consideration, the RCSK strived to use best the celebration of the World RCRC Day: with support from its volunteers, it organized a series of public activities around the country, with a major open-air concert in the city park of the capital city Bishkek. About 120 volunteers of the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan (RCSK) and an audience of 500 people took part in this concert along with some 20 representatives of partner organizations (IFRC, ICRC, Netherlands Red Cross, counterparts representing governmental organizations, such as the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Emergencies and the National TB Prevention Institute). The event was well covered by the local mass media, and the estimated number of viewers and listeners that received information about the RCRC Movement through the local television, the radio and the internet reached 100,000. According to the positive feedback received from the event's participants, this ought to become a regular event to draw attention of the population, disseminate knowledge about the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and raise funds to target the needs of the vulnerable population.

During the reporting period, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan (RCSK) participated in the consultation meeting in Ankara organised by the IFRC Europe Zone Office on the revision of rules and principles of disaster relief; the mission was funded by the IFRC.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan used to be an observer with an advisory status in the inter-departmental governmental committee on IHL, and now it was upgraded to the status of a fully fledged participant.

Constraints & Challenges

The events of the past internal crisis in the National Society call for active efforts to restore trust and good partnership; this takes some time and presents a particular challenge.

Business line 2: TO GROW RED CROSS RED CRESCENT SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Programme Component: Disaster Management

Outcome 1: The capacity of local communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from, disasters is improved.

Outcome 2: The capacity of schoolchildren to prepare for and respond to disasters is improved.

Outcome 3: The NS's response capacity has been improved.

Outcome 4: The capacity of the National Society to support the recovery process in communities has been improved.

Achievements:

The integrated Training of Trainers on Disaster Preparedness/First Aid (DP/FA) was organized in Issyk-Kul province on 26 June – 1 July 2012 for Disaster Management (DM) officers from seven branches and the Headquarters (HQ) of the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan, and it comprised two main parts – First Aid (FA) and Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP). The FA part was facilitated by trainers from the HQ, the South Regional Representation and the Issyk-Kul regional branch (four trainers) and included all main subjects which are to be disseminated by DM branch officers to the community members and teachers during further trainings in communities. The DM part consisted of introduction into CBDP and detailed session on Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Planning (CBDRR planning) which, according to the National Society's previous CBDP experience, is a good tool of involving community members in the Disaster Preparedness (DP) process at all stages (participatory approach), thus ensuring sustainability of the DM project as a whole. The training also provided an opportunity to share information and knowledge between DM officers from different NS branches, since some of them have already participated in DP/FA trainings for communities during the previous DM projects.

The National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) is one of the key disaster response elements within the National Society. Currently, there are 7 NDRTs (one in each region) and one NDRT in Headquarters. Each NDRT is composed of 6 members in each region and includes DM staff and active volunteers ready to be deployed to the disaster area within several hours in case of emergency. The refresher training for NDRTs was conducted on 9-13 September 2012 and gathered all NDRT members, 42 people in all. The training included the following key sessions: needs assessment, reporting, plan of action and budgeting. All theoretical information was consolidated and used in practical sessions during the training and on the last day of the event a profound simulation exercise was held. As a result of the training, NDRT members refreshed/gained their knowledge and skills, and acquired a clear vision of NDRT purposes and procedures. By the end of the year, the NDRTs were deployed several times to the areas struck by disasters and performed their duties timely and in a proper manner, providing clear and efficient reports.

The RCSK prepared itself for a significant increase in restoring family links (RFL) needs in case of disaster or violence. On June 26-30, seven members of NDRT participated in the training "RFL in an Emergency".

During the reporting period the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan gave training to two new Disaster Management Officers from the Naryn and Chui regional branches.

The cash voucher system continued to be implemented within the Disaster Management programme, when beneficiaries receive a cash voucher equal to KGS 6,000 (approximately CHF 120), which they may use to acquire construction materials in selected shops. This method is expected to develop a sense of ownership among the beneficiaries during the reconstruction process, providing them with an opportunity of making a choice of materials and shops during the construction. During the first stage of the programme, 19 vouchers were distributed among the most affected households of Kan village (a voucher per household); at the second stage, 115 more households were covered, having made a total of 134 vulnerable households benefit from the recovery activities in Kan village.

After mudflows and floods in Naryn oblast (29 March – 2 April 2012), the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan Recovery Assessment Team was deployed to conduct a recovery assessment. The relevant recovery report with a plan of action was developed.

Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent established and trained local disaster management committees (LDMC) consisting of 10 members from each of the 21 selected communities. Such a number of members per LDMC is based on the team composition needed in time of emergency. Totally, 210 LDMC members have been trained and practiced their knowledge and skills during simulation exercises. To make it even more effective, all LDMCs include the most respected community people such as teachers, doctors, heads of communities, members of local authorities, farmers, etc. Each LDMC member lives and works in their community and is a part of it. Thus, the LDMC members have a possibility to share their knowledge in disaster risk reduction (DRR) / first aid (FA), risk management with the other community members during their service hours at schools, hospitals, preschools, etc. The training for LDMC members includes first aid, rules of behaviour in case of disasters, disaster risk mapping, development of community disaster response plans and simulation exercises.

The RSCSK signed several emergency-related agreements with the local authorities. Based on the agreements, school administrations would appoint school teachers (out of a roster of those who wish to be involved) to be trained as DRR/FA trainers and developing of schedule for DRR/FA classes and evacuation drills. The planning of school activities depends individually on the schools' initial schedule and system.

In total, 42 teachers (2 per school) have attended "trainings of trainers" (ToTs) on DRR and FA. A further dissemination of knowledge was organized in each school during open classes and Principles of Life Safety lessons in accordance with the schools' curriculum.

Training sessions for schoolchildren were followed up by simulation exercises which included evacuation drills, rendering FA to the affected people (several students imitating different injuries using make-up materials) and behaviour in case of an emergency. Thus, about 13,500 schoolchildren were trained and participated in simulation exercises.

Practical exercises like simulation, evacuation drills and competitions within schools alongside with incentives for most successful and active students have proven to be an effective motivation and encouragement for schoolchildren as well as for their teachers.

Constraints or Challenges

The start of programme activities was postponed due to delays in the supply of funds. In addition to that, the implementation of recovery activities was disturbed by mudflows and floods that occurred in the region after the first stage of vouchers distribution had been completed.

Business line 3: TO STRENGTHEN THE SPECIFIC RED CROSS RED CRESCENT CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT

Programme Component: Health and Care, HIV/AIDS

Outcome 1:

- A comprehensive HIV prevention programme is developed and implemented at the country level.

Achievements

HIV Prevention programme was implemented at the country level till September 2012. Afterwards, because of a financial reduction, the programme covered only Chui region till December 2012. That led to a partial implementation of the outcome.

Upon receipt of funding for the implementation of HIV prevention programme in May, several activities were implemented through the end of the reporting period:

- 4 refresher trainings for volunteers and 53 training sessions for target groups in Naryn (coverage: 258 students, 175 schoolchildren, 84 servicemen, 38 truck drivers, 11 sex workers).
- 213 training sessions for the total of 1,516 participants in Issyk-Kul region.

Outcome 2:

- Range of treatment, care and support services provided to people living with HIV (PLHIV) is expanded.

Achievements

During the reporting period the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan continued its work with people living with HIV (PLHIV), their families and friends, providing them with comprehensive services on HIV prevention and treatment through its Information and Consultation Centre (ICC). In particular, the RCSK provided legal and social support to 237 PLHIV in Kara-Balta with the help of a lawyer, a psychologist, and social consultants of the ICC who provided information on living with HIV, anti-retroviral therapy (ARVT) and referred the beneficiaries to specialized facilities or partner organizations. 211 PLHIV attended the informational sessions; 89 clients were referred to TB facilities.

Upon receipt of funding, in June 2012, the range of activities in this sphere broadened to include the provision of social support:

- Hygienic kits were provided for the clients of the Centre;
- 23 infants and children under three years, born to HIV-positive mothers, were provided with baby nutrition;
- Five meetings were held for peer support groups for PLHIV and 39 meetings for 27 HIV-positive clients of the Centre so as to provide them in information on HIV issues, including safe behavior during, and appropriate use of, antiretroviral therapy.
- PLHIV were referred to medical facilities (93 clients), received informational materials and condoms provided by the partner organization "Gender Vector".
- A family therapist provided the necessary medical care and consultations on STI, HIV/AIDS and antiretroviral therapy to 46 clients of the Centre.
- 27 calls were registered on the "hotline": psychologist, social worker and manager of the Centre were taking them, providing information on services of the Centre, consultations on HIV prevention, adoption of the diagnosis, living with HIV and other issues

Outcome 3:

- Comprehensive advocacy policy focused at stigma reduction is developed and implemented.

Achievements

With the financial support of the International Federation, the RCSK's Head of Organizational Development and International Relations Department and the Head of Disaster Management Department took part in the Advocacy Workshop organized by the International NGO Training and Research Centre (INTRAC) in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Outcome 4:

- Capacity of the NS to deliver and sustain programmes in the sphere of HIV is strengthened.

Achievements

By the end of 2012 the National Society is planning to develop a strategy to ensure continuous implementation of its humanitarian programmes and activities.

ERNA meeting in Georgia

In September 2012, two representatives of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent participated in the annual ERNA meeting conducted in Georgia. The different aspects of relevant activities of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement on HIV and tuberculosis were discussed in the event. The participants discussed and re-iterated the necessity to continue and further develop their activities on HIV and TB.

World AIDS Day

In Kyrgyzstan, there are a lot of international agencies and non-governmental organizations working in HIV sector. The state organizations, the Ministry of Health and Republican AIDS Centre, are the principal organizations responsible for overall activities in the country to ensure prevention, diagnostic, treatment and care for HIV and AIDS. Among the active international players in the field are the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM); UNAIDS (comprising all relevant UN agencies); USAID; WHO, etc. Moreover, the civil sector is also very active in HIV issues in Kyrgyzstan.

Usually, the organizations working in the field of HIV have their own special activities in HIV. However, traditionally, the organizations are joining their efforts to conduct the World AIDS Day. In 2012, the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent took the role of one of the facilitators to prepare and conduct joint plan of actions dedicated to the event. As a result of this work, one unified national plan of activities related to the World AIDS Day was developed and carried out during November-December 2012. The wide informational campaign through the mass media was a core of the joined plan. Moreover, there were a lot of public events to increase the awareness of the population about HIV and discuss the problem on different levels – a concert entitled “Hip-Hop against AIDS”, “red ribbon” actions, youth activities, flash-mobs and round table discussions. The joint actions helped the organizations to demonstrate the fact that efforts against HIV are built in a coordinated and harmonized way in the country. Additionally, it was a good opportunity for the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent to boost its image among partners and the general population.

Constraints and Challenges:

During the reporting period the HIV programme was financially supported by the IFRC, the Finnish Red Cross and the British Red Cross (01.01.2012 – 31.03.2012), and the lack of funds has become a major challenge for its implementation. Long-term financial support (at least for three years) will help to develop practical approaches to make the programme more sustainable.

Programme Component: Health and Care, Tuberculosis

Outcome 1:

- The quality of care and support provided to targeted clients with TB and their families has increased.

Outcome 2:

- Awareness of the general population on the TB-related issues has increased.

Outcome 3:

- System of NS-based care and support provision to TB clients and their families is sustained.

Achievements

The RCSK's TB prevention programme is implemented at six sites (Bishkek city, Osh city, Kara-Suu district, Chui region, Jalalabat region, and Batken region) of the country with the main goal being to contribute to the national efforts to control the spread of tuberculosis in Kyrgyzstan and reduce the incidence of tuberculosis in the country by mobilizing communities for TB prevention. The programme is implemented across three priority spheres:

- Developing of treatment adherence among clients of the programme;
- Improvement of treatment outcomes of the programme clients;
- Advocacy and health promotion activities.

During the reporting period 1,283 TB clients of the 1st and 2nd categories in the continuation phase of treatment under the direct observation of treatment (DOTS) programme in the TB dispensaries were visited regularly by sixteen RCSK nurses and received hygienic kits on a monthly basis. Starting from January 2012 every NS nurse had to visit Multi-Drug Resistant (MDR) TB clients, and provide direct observation of treatment (DOT). In total, 85 MDR TB clients were under the NS patronage. The work of nurses was supported by the 28 ex-TB volunteers, who helped to provide psychosocial support to TB clients and their families. In addition to home visits, TB clients were supported through peer groups, also facilitated by ex-TB volunteers and nurses. Due to these efforts, 89.3% of TB clients completed their treatment.

TB categories 1 and 2	Number
Red Crescent beneficiaries under the NS visiting nurses patronage	1198
Beneficiaries with defined treatment outcomes	829
Among them:	
Treatment completed	110 (13,27%)
Cured	624 (75,28%)
Interrupted	15 (1,8%)
Treatment failed	48(5,8%)
Died	8 (0,95%)
Transferred	24 (2,9%)
Continued treatment	369

MDR TB	Number
Red Crescent beneficiaries under the NS visiting nurses patronage	85
Beneficiaries with defined treatment outcomes	21
Among them:	
Treatment completed	10 (47,7%)
Cured	2 (9,52%)
Interrupted	3 (14,28%)
Treatment failed	2 (9,52%)
Died	1 (4,7%)
Transferred	3 (14,28%)
Continued treatment	64

The RCSK informational activities during the reporting period were mostly aimed to raise awareness among the population, and reduce stigma and discrimination towards TB patients. In March 2012 the National Society conducted informational educational campaigns dedicated to the World TB Day (24th of March) in all the regions of the country; short video and audio programmes on TB were developed and broadcasted on TV and the radio, having reached approx. 35,000 people. In 2012 more than 62,000 people were covered by the informational educational campaigns.

In order to involve local authorities in the NS's activities in the sphere of TB, several round table discussions were conducted in collaboration with partner organizations. This immediately brought positive results: with support from the local authorities, the housing problem of one National Society TB client was resolved in Kara-Suu district (temporary accommodation in a dormitory was provided to the TB client and his family for free).

During the reporting period the programme launched mobilization activities in 12 communities, having enrolled groups of TB promoters (40 people) focusing their work on prevention, early detection, adherence and completion of treatment. Using the educational materials and modules developed for them, they selected for training and trained on TB prevention 120 volunteers from the communities. In their turn, these volunteers briefed 5,147 families (approx. 16,350 people) in their communities about TB-related issues.

Constraints and Challenges:

The high rate of internal and external migration in Kyrgyzstan and its consequences (the legal residence status of migrants) remains the main challenge for TB prevention activities. Clients with MDR-TB receive long-term treatment (during 24 months). The adherence support work is very difficult to conduct for this category of the patients, because it requires much patience from both sides – patients and visiting nurses.

Business line 4: TO HEIGHTEN RED CROSS RED CRESCENT INFLUENCE AND SUPPORT FOR OUR WORK

In order to support the country-wide activities in the humanitarian sphere, the Movement partners in Kyrgyzstan initiated in the first half of 2012 regular monthly Movement coordination meetings (MCM) that brought together representatives of the IFRC, the ICRC, the RCSK and partner National Societies based in Kyrgyzstan as well as in other countries of Central Asia. The minutes of MCM are shared not only with partners having their representatives locally, but also with those just working with the Kyrgyzstan National Society or intending to cooperate with it.

The above mentioned Partnership Meeting conducted in Bishkek in October 2012 was a dialogue platform to discuss achievements/constraints of the RCSK's activities as well as Plans for 2013-2015 among the internal and external counterparts of the National Society.

At the beginning of the year 2012, supported by the IFRC, the RCSK got engaged in a collaboration with HelpAge International on integrated programming and strengthening the National Society's capacity to fulfil the Vienna Commitments on active, dignified, and inclusive ageing. The RCSK was included as an implementing partner in the HelpAge International's concept note in response to the European Commission's call for proposals. The identified activities match both the RCSK's experience in disaster preparedness and response and its activities for older people within the Issyk-Kul region's integrated programme.

Business line 5: TO DEEPEN OUR TRADITION OF TOGETHERNESS THROUGH JOINT WORKING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Programme Component: Organizational Development / Capacity Building

The International Federation's support to the Organizational Development (OD) programme was provided only for the first half of 2012.

Outcome 1:

- Management and governance effectively support the delivery of the National Society programming.

Achievements

The internal crisis that struck the National Society in 2011 revealed the need for the RCSK to analyse and revise its structure, with special regard to the OD and DM Departments. In order to support the RCSK in the revision of its structure, the IFRC facilitated two workshops for the OD and DM Departments of the RCSK respectively, gathering key staff members at HQ and branch level, including all five Branch Directors. The participants agreed on the strategic directions and priorities for 2012 and revised the structure of the OD and DM Departments. Among other decisions, they approved of the new job descriptions and rationales that had been defined in 2011 for the positions of both Heads of Departments. The new structure was approved by the newly elected Governing Board in May 2012. The revised organigram, reflecting the Integrated Program Approach, was developed and presented during the GB meeting in the autumn of 2012.

Also a post-crisis team-building training was conducted for the whole staff of the RCSK's Headquarters and several branch staff and some volunteers in March 2012. The main aim of that training was to bring the staff together and to remove the potential psychological barriers after the crisis. The training campaign also helped form the psychological profile by the most active staff members of the corporate atmosphere in the organization.

The financial management was revised and streamlined too. The NS introduced a codification system for budgeting and accounting items and developed standard budgeting and financial reporting formats. Mechanisms of transportation costs calculation (taking into consideration travel distances, technical inspection and maintenance, repair and purchase of spare parts, and transport taxes) were also developed to capture all future costs in advance, already during the planning phase. Per diems and training courses were also codified. This new unified approach aims at helping both the Financial Department and the project coordinators to plan and monitor the financial aspect of project management.

Following the creation of a Logistics position, internal procedures on logistics were developed together with procurement procedures. The way ahead includes the establishment of a supplier database.

The contract on the modified 1C accounting system installation and development was signed with the consultancy agency and was implemented by the end of 2012. The new coding system will also be introduced into this accounting system so that the whole staff can use it starting from 2013.

Strengthening the position of the RCSK Governing Board is part of the change process. It aims to ensure a more active participation of the board members in identifying strategic directions, promoting RC activities externally and engaging in humanitarian diplomacy. The National Society is currently developing a plan of trainings for the members of the Governing Board for their more active involvement in Red Crescent activities.

The new version of Statute was developed by the Governing Board (GB) working group and shared with the IFRC / ICRC Joint Commission on National Societies' Statutes. After the recommendations from the Joint Commission had been received, the new Statute, with attention to the recommendations and suggestions of Joint Commission, was approved at the 20th Extraordinary Congress, held in April 2012 by written questioning of the delegates. Later, the 21st Extraordinary Congress was held on 12th May 2012, where the new Governing Board, the

Financial Commission and the Chairman were elected. On the same day the first Governing Board meeting took place, where the General Director was appointed and the composition of the Senior Management Team (SMT) was approved.

OCAC

In order to make a professional assessment of the NS's Organizational Capacity, the RCSK started to engage in the process of Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC), initiated by the International Federation. By the end of 2012, the National Society passed through OCAC Phase 1. With the support of the facilitators from the International Federation, the National Society made a self-assessment exercise and identified priorities for further capacity building of the organization. Afterwards, the Plan of Action will be finalized in 2013, to be adopted by the Governing Board and SMT (Senior Management Team).

Bridging the Digital Divide

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent was granted the opportunity to implement the "Bridging the Digital Divide" Project, an initiative of the International Federation to improve the IT environment of the National Societies. The main objective of the project is to establish the centralized cloud-based corporate portal, which will allow to exchange and store all informational materials and documentation of the NS with 24-hour access through the Internet.

Outcome 2:

- Increased capacity for programme development and management.

Achievements

A Senior Management Team (SMT) was established with the primary goal to identify the Organisation's strategic directions and to assist in their implementation. The idea of the SMT stemmed from the necessity to promote a more consultative and wider decision-making process within the National Society and to clarify the delegation of authority in the absence of the Secretary General (General Director), so as to foster the decision-making process. An external HR consultant (funded by the British RC and the IFRC) supported the RCSK in developing the Terms of Reference for the SMT along with an action plan for the SMT development and functioning.

Training on project management

In August 2012, the American Red Cross organized a training in Bangkok on PMD Pro - project management for development professionals for the National Societies that are partners of the American Red Cross as well as for the staff of the American Red Cross itself. The essence of the course was related to the different stages of the project cycle – planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The PMER Officer of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent took part in the event and received a certificate after the completion of the complex course.

Outcome 3:

- Volunteer capacity improved through relevant training and participation in core activities.

Achievements

The resource centres for volunteers have been established at five Regional Branches (Osh, Jalal-Abad, Batken, Issyk-Kul, and Chui). They are now fully operational and have become an essential part of Volunteer Management in the regions. Volunteers can exchange their experience and improve their skills according to their profiles. Furthermore, the resource centres provide a knowledge base for RCSK staff as well. The induction course, delivered twice a month to new volunteers, is under revision with participation of the HR Department of the RCSK.

Volunteers, branch staff members, and members of the DM Department conduct courses on a quarterly basis, aimed at preparing volunteers to react to emergency situations. The course, which consists of both theoretical and practical elements, includes components of First Aid, restoration of family links (RFL), International Humanitarian Law, and Safer Access.

The Volunteer Management Strategy is under development. It will codify the role of volunteers, the recruitment and selection process, communication mechanisms, training and development issues, as well as volunteer attraction and retention strategies. On the basis of that Strategy, a Volunteer Management Guidebook is also under development, as well as a Volunteer Handbook (i.e. a manual distributed to volunteers) containing all the necessary information on volunteering.

On 16th March 2012 the group of the most active volunteers came together with the Head of the OD department and the Volunteering Manager so as to identify the core directions of their activities and to establish the RCSK Youth Movement together. During the meeting, the volunteers were encouraged to work with vulnerable children and elderly people, to implement advocacy campaign on providing the vulnerable children with free access to sports courses and training and to activate fundraising activities. All those activities were conducted on a regular basis. All this helped to attract the volunteers to the planning process, and so their Youth Movement operational plan is almost ready.

Stakeholder participation and feedback

Regardless of the subject of its programmes, the National Society strives at all times to involve the representatives of the target communities and to promote a participatory approach to the programme implementation. Community level volunteers are trained and motivated to assist the National Society in its humanitarian activities on the grass roots level.

The Red Crescent of Kyrgyzstan is actively cooperating with the local authorities to jointly address the challenging issues of TB, HIV/AIDS, irregular migration, etc. In the framework of this cooperation the State Agency on Drug Control has granted a Letter of Recognition to the RCSK for its contribution to the work in the sphere of drug control through its HIV/AIDS programme activities.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
<p>Positive Formal establishment of the Senior Management Team and its involvement in the discussion of the most important and principal issues in the National Society's activities will allow for balanced and optimal solutions to many emerging challenges.</p>	H	The SMT approach should be developed further and it should be implemented in practice.
<p>Risks The RCSK is currently generating regional initiatives like the Regional Leadership Forum for Central Asia. The concept is not new, but the fact of its being initiated by the National Society makes it a challenge.</p>	H	Supportive position is hoped from the International Federation and ICRC.
<p>Positive The new team of the National Society currently comprises experienced specialists and new people with a broader outlook.</p>	M	The National Society has to ensure the professional development of its staff and its active volunteers.

Lessons learned and looking ahead

As a result of the global economic crisis, external financial support for the activities of the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan is shrinking along with the programmes' coverage. This, however, stimulates the National Society to mobilize its internal resources and seek new funding opportunities for its programmes. As of today, the NS has a team of professionals that is capable

of the development and implementation of high quality projects supporting the humanitarian mission of the National Society.

Based on the accomplishments, analysis and self-assessment conducted in 2012, the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent identified the following priorities for 2013:

- capacity building;
- staff development;
- improvement of internal procedures on financial and procurement measures;
- improvement of monitoring and evaluation;
- development and implementation of an electronic database;
- search of other sources for support;
- programme fundraising;
- partnership development;
- development of relations with the business sector.

All priorities mentioned above will help the National Society to:

- increase its organizational capacities
- improve accountability among the partners
- reinforce its image among the population.

Financial situation

Click here to go directly to the financial report.

[http://www.ifrc.org/docs/LTPF Process/LTPF/2012/SP570KGLTPF_12arf.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/LTPF%20Process/LTPF/2012/SP570KGLTPF_12arf.pdf)

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations](#) (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.



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

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

Contact information

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