

TASHKENT (regional)

COVERING: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan



The regional delegation in Central Asia was opened in 1992. It assists governments in implementing IHL instruments and integrating IHL into academic curricula. It also supports the integration of IHL into armed forces' doctrine, training and sanctions, and promotes international norms among police and security forces dealing with law enforcement. It endeavours to protect and assist people affected by tensions or violence and people detained for security reasons and, in Kyrgyzstan, provides support on health-related issues, particularly tuberculosis, in places of detention. The ICRC contributes to strengthening the capacities of the region's National Societies, particularly in the fields of restoring family links and promoting IHL.

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	5,672
Assistance	23,782
Prevention	3,245
Cooperation with National Societies	2,129
General	-

► **34,828**

of which: Overheads 2,056

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	93%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	51
National staff (daily workers not included)	127

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- with the relevant National Societies, provided almost 400,000 people affected by the violence in southern Kyrgyzstan, including those who took refuge in neighbouring countries, with food, essential household items and clean water
- in Kyrgyzstan, supplied 64 health facilities with medical materials and equipped first-aiders
- through a cash-for-work programme, reconstructed 317 destroyed houses in Kyrgyzstan to enable people to have shelter before the winter
- continued visits to detainees in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, while supporting tuberculosis control measures in Kyrgyzstan and pursuing discussions with the interim government there on a formal agreement on access to all detainees in the country
- in Tajikistan, with the National Society, provided emergency assistance to medical facilities and victims of clashes between armed groups and security forces in Rasht district

CONTEXT

In April, thousands of people took to the streets of Bishkek and Talas in Kyrgyzstan to protest against the arrest of senior leaders, price increases and alleged corruption. The government of President Kurmanbek Bakiyev was overthrown and an interim government, headed by Roza Otunbayeva, installed in its place. Tensions persisted, however, and in May violent riots broke out, particularly in Jalal-Abad and Osh, opposing supporters of the interim government and followers of the former president. These were followed by interethnic clashes, including between young people of Kyrgyz and Uzbek origin. According to the official death toll, almost 400 people were killed and thousands wounded. The clashes also prompted the burning of houses and public buildings. Tens of thousands of people were internally displaced, some 100,000 others fled into Uzbekistan, and a few hundred crossed into Tajikistan.

By end-June, the situation was slowly calming down and people were returning home. Although a referendum on the new constitution

went smoothly, tensions between communities remained high. In July, Ms Otunbayeva was sworn in as caretaker president until presidential elections in 2011. In October, the country held parliamentary elections – the first step in moving from a presidential system to a parliamentary democracy.

Violence was also on the rise in Tajikistan later in the year, particularly in the Rasht valley, where attacks on law enforcement and security forces triggered major security operations.

Tensions persisted between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan over border-demarcation and energy- and water-related issues.

In Turkmenistan, reforms of the judiciary, law enforcement and penitentiary system got under way, leading to the approval of a new penal code.

Kazakhstan became the first post-Soviet State to assume the chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS			
PROTECTION			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)			
Red Cross messages	Total	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected	152		
RCMs distributed	209		
Phone calls facilitated between family members	25		
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations	Total		
People reunited with their families	3		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons	Total	Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	88	6	9
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	42		
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2010 (people)	55	4	4
UAMs/SCs,* including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers	Total	Girls	Demobilized children
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC/National Society	3	3	
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society	3	3	
Documents			
People to whom travel documents were issued	104		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)			
ICRC visits¹	Total	Women	Minors
Detainees visited	7,390		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	1,084	120	4
Detainees newly registered	724	59	4
Number of visits carried out	147		
Number of places of detention visited	51		
Restoring family links	Total		
RCMs collected	315		
RCMs distributed	208		
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support	4		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	1		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

1. Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS				
ASSISTANCE				
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security, water and habitat				
		Total	Women	Children
Food ²	Beneficiaries	396,059	20%	65%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	200,709		
Essential household items ²	Beneficiaries	93,627	20%	65%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	38,255		
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives ³	Beneficiaries	3,754	20%	65%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	1,502		
Water and habitat activities ¹	Beneficiaries	73,360	40%	30%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	8,800		
Health				
Health centres supported	Structures	24		
Average catchment population		133,288		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat ³				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	800		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals ¹				
Hospitals supported	Structures	40		

1. Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan

2. Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

3. Kyrgyzstan only

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In partnership with the relevant National Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC launched a large-scale operation to respond to the needs of people affected by the violence in Kyrgyzstan and appealed for additional funds.

In Kyrgyzstan, to ensure that the wounded received adequate treatment, the ICRC supplied medical facilities, equipped National Society first-aiders, and trained surgeons. IDPs and their hosts received food rations, essential household items, and clean water trucked in while existing water systems were rehabilitated. This assistance, along with support to health centres, helped avoid outbreaks of disease. Psychological support was provided by an association set up with National Society/ICRC support. A few family members separated by the violence kept in touch using RCMs, and the ICRC gave technical support to Kyrgyz forensic practitioners to contribute to efforts to clarify the whereabouts of people unaccounted for.

To complement the efforts of the authorities in Uzbekistan to care for refugees, the ICRC delivered three planeloads of relief materials and installed showers, latrines, water points and rubbish collection boxes in camps. In Tajikistan, with the National Society, the ICRC provided first aid and transport to refugees and returning Tajik nationals.

Once the emergency phase was over, as part of a cash-for-work programme, the ICRC supported the reconstruction of 317 destroyed houses in Osh, to enable people to be accommodated before the winter, and provided roofing materials to other families.

Later in the year, with the Tajik National Society, the ICRC also provided emergency medical assistance to hospitals and food and shelter materials to victims of the clashes between

armed groups and government military and security forces that broke out in Rasht district.

ICRC delegates continued to visit detainees in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to monitor their treatment and living conditions and provided confidential reports to the relevant authorities. After the change of government in Kyrgyzstan, the ICRC established contacts with the interim authorities to pursue discussions on a formal agreement on access to all detainees in the country, including those arrested in connection with the violence. In parallel, it continued to support the Health Ministry and the GSIN, an independent State agency under the direct responsibility of the prime minister, in efforts to control multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR TB), particularly in implementing the directly observed treatment, short course (DOTS)-plus programme and upgrading infrastructure.

With ICRC support, the region's authorities pursued work to implement IHL, drafting related legislation and improving training in IHL and international norms relating to law enforcement. In all dialogue, the ICRC reminded authorities and weapon bearers of their obligation to protect people not participating in but affected by violence. Through various media, including radio and mobile phone messages (SMS), it raised awareness of humanitarian principles among the general public and organized events to help sustain IHL teaching in universities, schools and military lyceums.

As well as being key partners of the ICRC during emergencies, the region's National Red Crescent Societies continued to receive financial, technical and material support to boost their emergency preparedness, family-links services and IHL dissemination skills. Throughout the region, Movement components coordinated their activities with those of other humanitarian actors to maximize impact while avoiding duplication.

CIVILIANS

During the violence in Kyrgyzstan, people approached the ICRC to report abuses by weapon bearers. The authorities were reminded of their obligations to protect people not participating in but affected by the violence, to meet their basic needs and to allow medical and humanitarian workers safe access to them. To respond better to victims' material needs, Kyrgyz National Society personnel underwent training and received equipment to boost its capacities to provide emergency relief items and a clean water supply. National Society/ICRC partnerships in all three countries affected (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) were instrumental in ensuring an effective response to the needs of victims (see below).

People affected by violence in Kyrgyzstan able to meet their immediate needs

In Kyrgyzstan, some 325,000 people who had lost their food stocks or ability to procure food themselves or who had shared their own limited supplies with IDPs received a one-month food ration and hygiene items. More than 80,000 of these people received food/goods on more than one occasion. In addition, some 92,000 people were given essential items such as tents and blankets or cash to buy winter footwear. In support of the efforts of the Uzbek government and National Society to assist refugees arriving from Kyrgyzstan, the ICRC sent three planeloads of relief items (food, shelter materials, first-aid kits, etc.) to the country, enough to assist a further 70,000 people. In Tajikistan, the most needy among the refugees and returning nationals received first aid or help with their transport.

In Batken, Jalal-Abad and Osh, the water board received trucks, electrical transformers and other equipment so that they could continue to provide essential services, such as water distribution, sewage management and power supply, benefiting some 10,000 people. Furthermore, some 25,000 people around Osh benefited from the rehabilitation of 12 boreholes. In villages hosting IDPs, existing water resources were already insufficient for the usual inhabitants. Thus, with ICRC support, the water board trucked in water for 15,000 people (780m³ of drinking water over five weeks), installed extra water points and repaired others. Following a National Society/ICRC assessment of needs in 27 refugee camps in Uzbekistan, more than 12,000 people were provided with showers, latrines, water points and storage tanks, and rubbish collection boxes. Once the refugees had returned home, the facilities remained for the people who usually used the premises hosting the refugees.

While such water and sanitation work aimed to prevent disease, people in need of curative care attended 24 primary health care centres in Osh supplied or rehabilitated by the ICRC. Furthermore, with National Society/ICRC support, local psychologists, psychiatrists and the ombudsman for the southern region set up an association to provide support to victims of violence, including sexual violence.

Communities in Kyrgyzstan begin to rebuild their lives

Upon their return home, IDPs and refugees often found their homes uninhabitable. More than 10,000 people benefited from an emergency shelter programme, which included the reconstruction of 317 houses allowing 3,000 people to be accommodated before winter, and the provision of roofing kits to other families. Additionally, 1,021 daily labourers received cash for clearing rubble for preparing the houses for rehabilitation, and for the reconstruction work, helping them support themselves and their families (3,754 people).

With a view to assisting other people who had lost their jobs/assets, the ICRC assessed local markets to determine the impact of the violence on household economies and began to plan livelihood-support projects for 2011.

Forensic capacities receive a boost

People generally managed to keep in touch with relatives by their own means, although a few RCMs were exchanged and three children were reunited with relatives. Many people, however, remained without news of relatives unaccounted for since the unrest. Furthermore, some human remains could not be immediately identified. The Kyrgyz authorities received ICRC support in the management and identification of the human remains. The Jalal-Abad and Osh forensic departments received technical advice, Osh central morgue was renovated, and ICRC-donated equipment facilitated the work of forensic practitioners in the field. Alongside, National Society volunteers were trained in ante-mortem data collection, to better enable comparison of ante- and post-mortem data, in parallel with DNA analysis initiated by the authorities.

Victims of violence in Tajikistan's Rasht district better able to cope

Ninety people (18 households) whose homes were severely damaged during clashes between armed groups and security and military forces, or who were affected by mines, received an emergency food ration, shelter materials and essential household items from the National Society/ICRC.

CIVILIANS		KYRGYZSTAN	TAJIKISTAN	UZBEKISTAN
Economic security, water and habitat				
Food	Beneficiaries	325,433	90	70,536
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>			70,536
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	92,137	90	1,400
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>			1,400
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries	3,754		
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>			
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	60,980		12,380
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>			8,800

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People in places of detention under the authority of the Interior Ministry and the GSIN in Kyrgyzstan and under the authority of the Interior Ministry in Uzbekistan received visits from delegates, carried out in accordance with standard ICRC procedures. They monitored detainees' treatment and living conditions, paying particular attention to potentially vulnerable inmates, such as people held on security-related charges, women, minors, foreigners, and detainees serving life sentences, and informed the relevant authority confidentially of their findings and any recommendations.

In Kyrgyzstan, visits took place despite the lack of a formal agreement with the authorities on ICRC access to all detainees. Following the unrest, the ICRC made an offer of services to the new authorities and intensified efforts to visit people detained in relation to the violence, including to follow up allegations of arrest. In August, at the request of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the ICRC handed over a proposal for an agreement on visits to all detainees for review by the ministries and agencies concerned.

In Turkmenistan, there was no tangible progress regarding the initiation of ICRC visits to places of detention as an agreement on use of the organization's standard procedures had yet to be reached.

During visits, detainees were able to restore/maintain contact with their families through RCMs. In Kyrgyzstan, four children visited their detained mothers. In Uzbekistan, with the consent of the authorities, 17 foreign detainees were able to notify their embassies of their detention, via the ICRC. Discussions continued, meanwhile, regarding family visits for detained women and minors and phone calls for foreign detainees. In Tajikistan, where the ICRC had suspended active negotiations regarding access to detainees in 2009, family-links services were provided by the National Society.

Detainees' health prospects improve

Kyrgyzstan had one of the world's highest rates of MDR TB, posing a serious health threat both within and outside prisons. The GSIN and Health and Justice Ministries continued to address

the problem, including by implementing the DOTS-plus programme. TB detection, diagnostic and treatment activities were undertaken with ICRC funding and technical back-up, while MDR TB patients were monitored for treatment side-effects and given medication to combat them, along with dietary supplements. Detainees benefited from improved treatment conditions following rehabilitation of a TB laboratory and hospital and ventilation systems.

From January, detainees with TB and staff working in Colony 27 were supported by an ICRC psychologist, while GSIN nurses were supervised and trained by an ICRC nurse, who also conducted health education sessions for detainees and staff. The GSIN created a working group to draft TB guidelines for the penitentiary system, and its staff began training in the use of ICRC software for managing MDR TB data. Negotiations with the national TB control programme, and thus preparations for a pilot project to help MDR TB sufferers complete their treatment after their release, were interrupted by the violence and postponed. To support the authorities in their long-term planning, five GSIN officials conducted a study tour of facilities accommodating detainees with TB in Azerbaijan and Georgia, where the ICRC also ran support programmes.

TB sufferers were among the detainees in five Kyrgyz places of detention, including three police stations, who benefited from improvements to infrastructure, including water and electricity systems, and from ICRC support for ongoing maintenance. As GSIN donors were not forthcoming with funds for the renovation of Colony 19, ICRC expertise was not required for the project.

In Uzbekistan, four disabled detainees received wheelchairs; two more wheelchairs were donated to a penitentiary hospital.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Thousands of people wounded as a result of the violence in Kyrgyzstan received emergency medical treatment at 37 ICRC-supplied medical facilities and from ICRC-equipped National Society volunteers. To strengthen the country's emergency preparedness, the National Society trained almost 200 law enforcement

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	KYRGYZSTAN	TAJIKISTAN	UZBEKISTAN
ICRC visits			
Detainees visited	6,583		807
Detainees visited and monitored individually	277		807
	<i>of whom women</i>		113
	<i>of whom minors</i>		0
Detainees newly registered	248		476
	<i>of whom women</i>		54
	<i>of whom minors</i>		4
Number of visits carried out	100		47
Number of places of detention visited	32		19
Restoring family links			
RCMs collected	39	7	269
RCMs distributed	13	16	179
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support	4		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued			1

staff in first aid, and 250 doctors from the Health and Interior Ministries and from hospitals under the State Service for National Security and the Border Service learnt war-surgery techniques during three ICRC-held seminars.

People wounded during the armed clashes in the Rasht district in Tajikistan received treatment at three ICRC-assisted medical facilities in Dushanbe and Gharm.

The Tajik Labour and Social Protection Ministry continued to run the physical rehabilitation centre in Dushanbe with technical and financial support from the ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled. The delegation monitored the services and discussed with the centre possibilities for diversifying funding. Two State technicians underwent training abroad to help further boost the quality of the services provided.

AUTHORITIES

Given the violence in Kyrgyzstan, the movement of many of the people affected into Uzbekistan, and the clashes in Tajikistan, the region's authorities were reminded of their obligations under applicable laws to protect and assist those affected and to allow medical and humanitarian workers access to them.

In parallel, the authorities and the ICRC discussed the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties. Officials attended a range of events that aimed to create momentum. For example, representatives of the Kazakh and Kyrgyz IHL committees participated in the third Universal Meeting of National IHL Committees in Geneva, Switzerland (see *International Law and Cooperation*), as did an Uzbek official to learn more about the workings and benefits of such bodies. Meanwhile, future members of the Turkmen IHL working group within the interministerial committee on human rights took part in a round-table on the same topic. Furthermore, officials from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan attended the third regional seminar on IHL implementation in Belarus (see *Moscow*).

At national level, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan received advice on revising draft laws regulating the status of their National Societies, while with the support of the Kazakh Justice Ministry and the ICRC, the Kazakh National Society began drafting a law to protect the emblems. The Tajik authorities and the ICRC discussed the need for a study on the compatibility of national legislation on missing persons with model legislation promulgated by the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States, while law professors began drafting a legal commentary on war-crimes articles in the criminal code. Discussions continued with the Kazakh authorities regarding a headquarters agreement to formalize the ICRC's status and presence in the country.

Members of the diplomatic community attended briefings and received newsletters on Movement activities that aimed to enlist their support.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Weapon bearers were reminded of their obligations to protect people not participating in violence and to respect relevant international norms relating to law enforcement. At its own request, the Tajik Interior Ministry received 320 copies of the ICRC booklet *Code of Conduct for Combatants* for troops in Rasht. With ICRC support, it also set up a working group to consider ways of improving training for law enforcement troops. A plan of action based on the group's recommendations was submitted to the ministry for consideration.

The region's Defence Ministries and the ICRC discussed integration of IHL into the armed forces' decision-making processes and into their training. High-ranking officers in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and military instructors in Turkmenistan participated in ICRC workshops. In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, these officers made progress in assessing the extent to which IHL featured in operational documentation, while similar work began in Uzbekistan. For the first time the Collective Security Treaty Organization invited the ICRC to attend, as an observer, a military field exercise in Tajikistan.

All participants in discussions and courses were briefed on the ICRC's mandate and activities.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Following the violent events in Kyrgyzstan, community leaders and other influential figures were encouraged to help restore an environment conducive to maintaining law and order. A communication campaign involving the two largest mobile phone operators and four radio stations was organized via SMS and radio spots to promote the protection of people not participating in the violence, including health care and humanitarian workers.

Otherwise, opinion-makers and the general public across the region increased their awareness of humanitarian principles thanks to media coverage based on ICRC press releases, events such as round-tables and competitions for journalists, the broadcast of ICRC films and publicly distributed fact sheets.

Senior academics, lecturers and students deepened their IHL knowledge at national and regional training events and competitions, while law faculties in Astana, Bishkek, Dushanbe and Osh received equipment and publications to develop IHL resource centres.

The region's Education Ministries and National Societies pursued efforts to ensure the continuity of IHL teaching in secondary education. Uzbek teachers and curriculum writers attended ICRC round-tables, conferences and guest lectures at teacher-training universities, while the Tajik Defence and Education Ministries integrated IHL into a new pre-military training curriculum. Ten years of ICRC support to the secondary school programme drew to a close at the end of the year, with the ICRC/Education Ministry producing final reports on the programme's evolution with a view to ensuring sustainability.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Kyrgyz, Tajik and Uzbek National Societies were key ICRC partners in efforts to assist people affected by violence and to enable them to restore contact with family (see *Civilians* and *Wounded and sick*). All Movement partners present in the area closely coordinated their activities.

With ICRC support, the region's National Societies continued to build their capacities and strengthen their legal bases (see *Authorities*). The Turkmen National Society hosted the annual regional meeting, at which common goals and strategies were formulated, while the heads of all five National Societies participated in the Russian-speaking Leadership Meeting in Ukraine.

The National Societies worked to boost their disaster preparedness. Staff and volunteers underwent training in the Safer Access approach and first aid, and the Kyrgyz and Turkmen National Societies worked to better integrate tracing and RCM services into their emergency response. All National Societies organized training to enhance family-links services in general, and the Uzbek National Society developed electronic data-management tools.

The National Societies continued to disseminate IHL and humanitarian principles. In Kyrgyzstan, a new dissemination method and training module improved the quality of the work undertaken. In addition, the Tajik National Society pursued its activities to raise awareness of mine risks.