The ICRC and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The ICRC is the founding Institution of the Movement. Based on the Movement’s statutes, the ICRC has specific responsibilities, such as “… to maintain and disseminate the Fundamental Principles of the Movement, … to ensure the operation of the Central Tracing Agency, as provided in the Geneva Conventions of 1949, … and to work for the understanding and dissemination of knowledge of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) applicable in times of conflict”. The ICRC is as well responsible to recognise new National Societies, when they meet the legal conditions for recognition.

In Central Asia, the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan was recognised by the ICRC on 24.08.95, the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan on 24.08.95, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan on 19.03.97 and the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan on 06.11.97. A few months later, they became members of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The ICRC, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies together with each National society form the Movement. Within Central Asia only the Kazakh Red Crescent and Red Cross Society is not recognised, because of the Government’s decision to use both of the protective emblems the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

The ICRC Cooperation Policy is in compliance with the Federation’s Development Policy, and in accordance with the Seville Agreement, aiming to build up the capacity of the National Societies in areas of mutual interest, taking into account the National Societies own development plan.

Bearing in mind the ICRC mandate, cooperation activities consequently aim to reinforce the National Societies’ response capacity in times of armed conflict, through dissemination of the Fundamental Principles and International Humanitarian Law to a large Public, building up tracing departments and maintaining close contacts with National Societies to assist in developing a strategy for “core” activities to be deployed in times of conflict.

Cooperation activities within Central Asia

• **Dissemination:**
  The ICRC conducts training workshops, thus enhancing the National Societies staff to build up knowledge and capacity in disseminating IHL and the Fundamental Principles (FP). For the year 2001, a special focus will be given to the subject of the emblem. The National Societies themselves conduct seminars at Headquarters and Branch levels about IHL and FP for the large Public, the volunteers of the Red Crescent Societies and for the local authorities.

• **Tracing:**
  The ICRC conducts tracing workshops, with the aim to update permanently the knowledge of the National Society staff about the newest modalities in tracing work! The National Society itself conducts seminars at Oblast level in order to train their staff as well at Branch level and aiming to make this activity well known among the population.

• **Conflict Preparedness and Response:**
  The ICRC supports training sessions for youth and volunteers at branch level about conflict resolving strategies and humanitarian values. This activity is carried out in close cooperation with the Federation. The ICRC conducts as well «Round Tables» in order to discuss a possible strategic Plan of Action to be deployed in times of conflict, based on National Society’s Disaster Preparedness Capacity.

Published by the ICRC Regional Delegation for Central Asia
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