



MAINSTREAMING CASH-BASED PROGRAMMING AT RED CRESCENT SOCIETY OF KYRGYZSTAN



Kyrgyzstan, with a total population of 6.1 million people, ranks at 120 among 180 countries on human development indicators and has about 1 in 3 people living under the poverty line. The country experiences more than 200 small-to-medium level disasters annually, including flash floods, mudflows, landslides and earthquakes. In addition to natural disasters, Kyrgyzstan faces other challenges in the sectors of employment, economic development, public health care, education, social care, and other areas.

In this context, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan (RCSK) plays an important role in delivering essential services to the most vulnerable population of Kyrgyzstan. The National Society's programmes in emergency response and preparedness, public health and social care complement the government's and other actors' efforts. Established in 1926, the RCSK is the largest local humanitarian organization in the country with over 200 staff and 2,600 active volunteers across Kyrgyzstan.

The organization has been optimizing its service delivery during emergencies and through development programmes by integrating progressive approaches into its systems. As such, the RCSK has been

utilizing cash-based assistance in its emergency response and early recovery operations. The National Society has been also introducing similar modalities in its developing programming in the areas of health and social care.

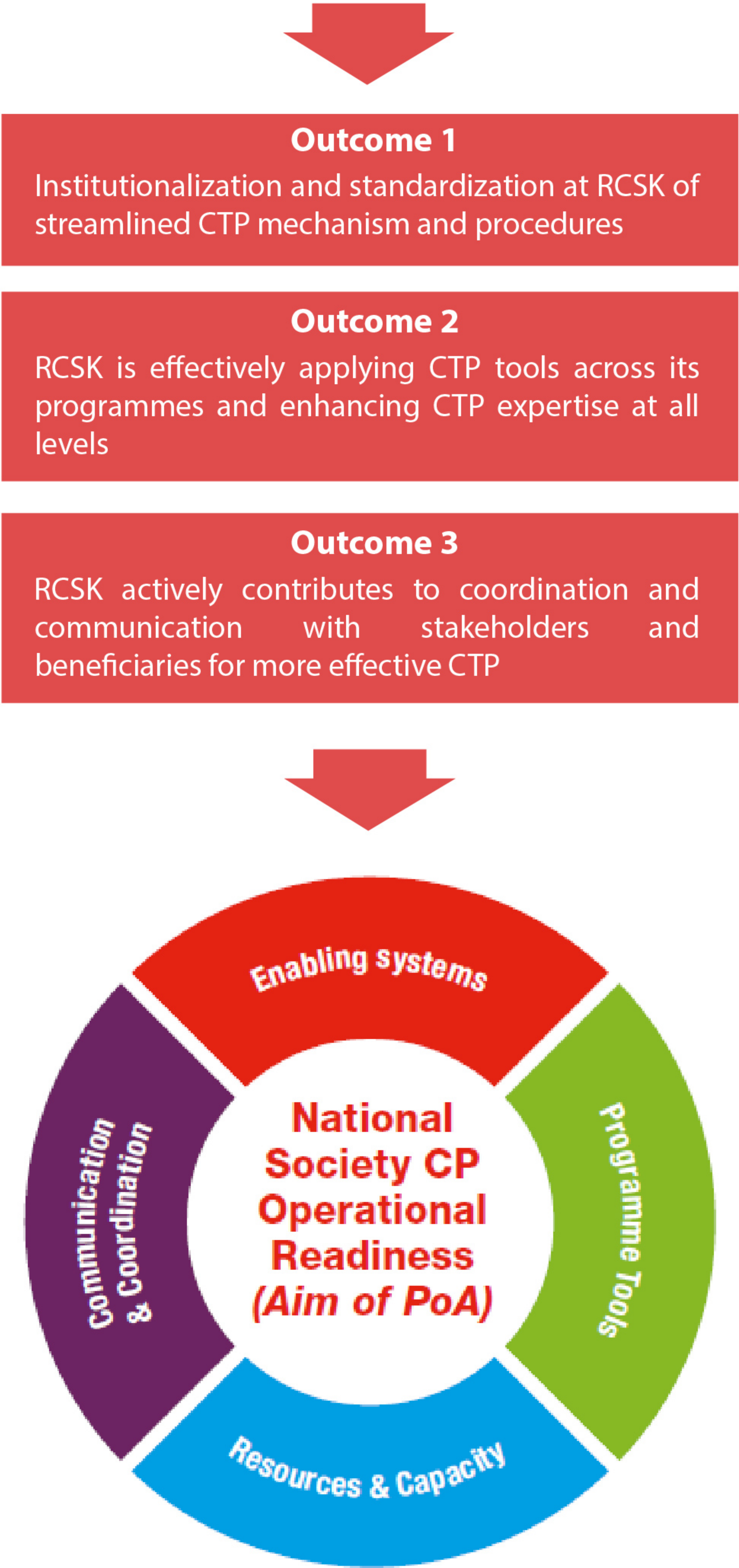
Swiss Red Cross



Since 2017, with support of the Swiss Red Cross, the RCSK has initiated the mainstreaming process of cash-based assistance across its systems and programmes. The ongoing initiative is built around the following goal and outcomes:

Impact

Improved CTP preparedness and operational readiness of RCSK to deliver quality response to vulnerable and crisis-affected people in Kyrgyzstan



The main activities include:

1. Enabling Systems

- Involvement of RCSK leadership and technical experts
- Conducting planning workshop including self-assessment of current status to define gaps and way forward
- Establish a Plan of Action and roadmap for the project implementation
- Integration of approved procedures into existing strategic documents including contingency planning and response plans and standard reporting formats

2. Programme tools

- Development of CTP policy and SOP's including stress-test, modifications are applied where necessary
- Application of CTP tools across RCSK programmes (emergency and development)
- Development, updating and translating FAQ's fostering timely and relevant communication and messaging to beneficiaries and other stakeholders
- Database management: centralized online database is established
- Testing of process and tools with involvement of stakeholders, real-time simulation exercise
- Development of Mini Pilot projects in DM, Social and Health department

3. Capacity and resources

- Develop and conduct context specific trainings and refreshers for RCSK leadership, staff and volunteers (CTP, RAM etc.)
- Peer-to-peer support, exchange visits and application of lessons learned
- Resource mobilisation options for CTP implementation are assessed

4. Communication and Coordination

- Raising and promoting the profile of RCSK to be the partner of choice for stakeholder in CTP implementation
- Training of RCSK staff on CEA
- Development of communication materials (reports, videos, pictures, stories etc.)
- Conduction of evaluation and lessons learned workshop

Building on the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's guidelines for mainstreaming and preparedness, the mainstreaming process has been organized along four parallel tracks, each of which contributes to the operational readiness.

Achievements

The RCSK recognizes the cash-based initiatives as an effective way to support people affected by emergencies and other humanitarian challenges, which serves as a tool to maintain dignity and choice of people, while fostering local economies as well as promoting the localization agenda. Guided by the IFRC Cash Strategic Framework and Roadmap, the RCSK has undertaken several steps to mainstream its relevant systems and procedures in order to improve its effectiveness to deliver quality programming to vulnerable people in Kyrgyzstan. The following has been achieved by the National Society in the mainstreaming process:

RCSK CBI Policy developed and approved

Several modalities tested, in different sectors (health, disaster management and social care):

- Commodity vouchers
- Cash in envelopes
- Banking cards

Human resources development:

- RCSK staff (2) trained in PECT
- RCSK staff (4) trained in CALP-2
- RCSK all regional directors (7), Heads of Departments (4), key staff (10) sensitized on CBIs and mainstreaming processes
- RCSK NDRT volunteers (over 60) received basic training on CBIs
- Context-based CTP training (2-day) developed



Over the past three years, the following RCSK initiatives utilized CBA tools and reached 4,360 beneficiary families (or around over 17,000 people) across Kyrgyzstan

Name of Initiative	Month/Year:	Sector:	Area:	Number of direct beneficiaries:	Modality used:	Conditionality:	Key partners:
Earthquake Response (Chaichi)	11/2015 - 03/2016	Emergency Response	Osh province	300	Banking cards	Unconditional, Unrestricted	Ministry of Emergency Situations, local administrations, RSK Bank, IFRC
Assistance of victims of plane crash	01/2017	Emergency Response	Dacha-Suu, Chui province	19	Banking cards	Unconditional, Unrestricted	Ministry of Emergency Situations, local administrations, Demir Bank, local communities
Earthquake Response (Chong-Alay, Alay)	05/2017 - 08/2017	Emergency Response	Osh province	550	Banking cards	Unconditional, Unrestricted	Ministry of Emergency Situations, local administrations, Asia Bank, IFRC
Landslides Response	08/2017 - 09/2017	Emergency Response	Osh province	11	Cash in envelopes through direct distributions	Unconditional, Unrestricted	Ministry of Emergency Situations, local administrations, local communities and private sector
Winter Assistance Project	01/2018 - 03/2018	Social Care	All provinces and Bishkek City	1002	Commodity Vouchers	Unconditional, Restricted	Ministry of Social Development, local administrations, private sector, Swiss Red Cross
Support to Vulnerable Families and Children	07/2018 - 08/2018	Social Care	Bishkek city	800	Cash in envelopes and commodity vouchers	Unconditional, Restricted	Ministry of Social Development, Bishkek City Administration, Qatar Embassy and Charity Organization
Support to MDR-TB patients	12/2018	Health	Chui	21	Commodity Vouchers	Conditional, Restricted	Ministry of Health, local administrations, private sector, Swiss Red Cross
Support to Single Mothers w/ Children w/ Disabilities	12/2018 - 01/2019	Social Care	Jalal-Abad and Talas Provinces, Bishkek City	325	Testing new modalities: Cash in envelopes through Kyrgyz Post Office; Mobile Money	Unconditional, Unrestricted	Ministry of Social Development, local administrations, private sector, Swiss Red Cross
Winter Assistance Project	12/2018 - 02/2019	Social Care	All provinces and Bishkek City	1,332	Cash in envelopes through Kyrgyz Post Office	Unconditional, Unrestricted	Ministry of Social Development, local administrations, private sector, Swiss Red Cross
Total:				4,360			