

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Kyrgyzstan: Earthquake

DREF operation n° MDRKG004
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Update n° 01
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The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update: 8 October to 7 November 2008.

Summary:

CHF 219,741 (USD 200,860 or EUR 139,962) has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society in delivering immediate assistance to people affected by the earthquake and residing in temporary shelters.

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has released EUR 70,000 (CHF 109,900) from its Bilateral Emergency Fund towards the replenishment of the DREF allocation for this operation.

With funds available from DREF the Red Crescent Society procured the footwear, family hygiene parcels, bed linen sets, mattresses, blankets and kitchen sets. The footwear was distributed by the end of October to meet the priority needs of the population. In total, 818 people received footwear appropriate to the season. As the affected population had been provided with sufficient quantity of food from different sources the Red Crescent Society decided to hold back on the procurement of food parcels. On the other hand, the National Society increased the quantity of hygiene items to be distributed among affected families so that the hygiene parcels are enough not for one but for three months. The quantity of bed linen sets and mattresses to be provided was also adjusted and decreased as the Red Crescent took into consideration the assistance being provided from other sources that partly covered the needs. The distributions of the remaining non-food relief items, including jerry-cans and clothing, will start after 14 November and are expected to be completed by 24 November.

Meanwhile, the assisted population that lost their houses in the earthquake moved from a tent camp and other temporary shelters to mobile housing units provided by the government with support from the donors. The units are shipping containers that have been modified to make them appropriate for living. The construction of new houses for the affected population is expected to start in April 2009.

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Warm footwear was recognized one of the priority needs of affected people.
Photo: Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent

The situation

On 5 October, 2008 at 21:53 an earthquake measuring 8 points on the 12-point MSK scale hit Osh region of Kyrgyzstan. The epicentre was situated 220 km south-east of Osh city, on the territory of Tajikistan. The tremors were felt in Uzbekistan also. Nura village of Alai district suffered the most: 75 people were killed including 18 pre-school children, 25 schoolchildren, 20 adults and 12 pensioners; 150 injured; and 133 out of 135 houses were ruined. The infrastructure was damaged, for instance an obstetric post and a library are in need of capital repair and the school utility rooms have been destroyed. The injured people have been evacuated by helicopters of the Ministry of Emergencies and the Ministry of Defence to hospitals in Osh or neighbouring villages, 56 of them are still in the hospitals undergoing treatment.

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster the government accommodated 100 families who had lost their houses in a tent camp of 40 tents. The camp was set up 1.5 km away from Nura village. Other people left homeless stayed in the customs building and other administrative offices located at the border control area as the village is situated close to the border between Kyrgyzstan and China. The situation assessment reports prepared by joint teams of aid agencies estimated the population of Nura village at 818 people or 179 families.

The government later decided to use 140 shipping containers as temporary winter shelters for those who lost their houses in the earthquake. The containers have been modified to make them suitable for living, windows have been made and the containers have been winterized, and each made a mobile housing unit of one or three rooms. At present, the affected people have been moved to the housing units and the tent camp has been dismantled. It is expected that people will reside in these shelters until April 2009 when the reconstruction of houses is to start.

The Ministry of Emergencies, regional and district governments, commercial and government structures have sent to the affected area food (about 77 tons), tents, bedding, warm clothes and footwear, construction materials (bricks), coal (76.5 tons), and fuel (20.5 tons). The governments of the United States of America, Russia, Japan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Qatar and Northern Cyprus have granted 537 tents, 3,953 blankets, 296 tons of food, construction materials (cement, covering slate, timber and bricks), power generators, wood stoves, and warm clothes. In addition, more than 15 million Kyrgyz Soms (about CHF 432,000) will be allocated by the government for the affected people with support from different donors. Based on the findings of the UN Inter-Agency Assessment Mission, the UN agencies (WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF) with support of ACTED¹ provided winterized tents (300), blankets and mattresses (26,900), hygiene items (1,200), medicines, stoves (300), and cooking sets (70).

Throughout the month following the earthquake the aftershocks continued. Thus, an earthquake measuring 4.8 on the Richter scale was registered on 18 October 145 km south-southeast away from Osh; three more earthquakes were registered on 21, 27 and 31 October some 110-130 km south-east of Osh².

Coordination and partnerships

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society is closely coordinating its response with the government at national and local level and is represented in the emergency commission. The local authorities expressed their full support of the National Society activities. The regional Osh Red Crescent branch is in close contact with the local authorities and the regional coordinator for emergency situations. The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent is present at regular meetings of the coordination group convened in the capital city of Bishkek alongside UN agencies, European Commission representation and other international and non-governmental organizations.

The International Federation's regional representation in Almaty has been exchanging information about the response activities with the UNDP office in Bishkek and the regional OCHA office.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In the first five hours following the earthquake a disaster response team of 24 staff and volunteers from Osh, Jalalabat and Batken branches of the National Society was mobilized to go to the disaster affected area. Tents, blankets and warm clothing were dispatched from the regional pre-positioned disaster stock to the affected population as an immediate response. More first aid instructors, the information and the disaster management coordinators arrived to the disaster site from Bishkek on 6 October. The Red Crescent staff

¹ The Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) is an apolitical, and non-confessional international relief agency, [website](#).

² Source: The US Geological Survey Earthquake Hazards Program, [website](#).

and volunteers provided first aid and also gave comfort to relatives of the deceased before and after the burials. The disaster response team carried out a situation assessment to identify the impact of the earthquake and the needs of affected people in Nura village.

During the first week following the disaster the Red Crescent Society procured 100 food parcels and distributed them among 100 families in Sary-Tash village of Alai district that was also affected though to a different degree than Nura. The funds for this food aid – 10,000 Swiss francs – have been allocated to the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent directly by the German Red Cross. The Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates has also bilaterally contributed 10,000 US dollars to the Red Crescent response efforts.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective 1: To provide full food rations for a period of 10 days to 866 people or approximately 200 families.

As the affected population has been provided with sufficient quantity of food from different sources the Red Crescent Society decided to hold back on the procurement of food parcels. The situation with needs of the beneficiaries and gaps in addressing those needs is closely monitored and will inform further developments of the National Society response operation.

Objective 2: To provide bedding, kitchen sets, jerry cans, hygiene items and warm clothes and footwear to approximately 200 families or 866 people.

Progress and impact:

Over the period the Red Crescent Society procured the following relief items: 818 pairs of footwear, 600 family hygiene parcels, 1,506 sets of bed linen, 753 mattresses, 1,506 blankets and 200 kitchen sets. The National Society increased the quantity of hygiene items to be distributed among the affected families so that the hygiene parcels are enough not for one but for three months. This became possible because the food parcels have not been procured. The quantity of bed linen sets and mattresses decreased as the National Society took into consideration the assistance being provided from other sources that partly covered the needs.

All relief items have been procured locally in Bishkek city following the International Federation's standard tendering procedures. The National Society has agreed on free delivery of all procured goods to Nura village by vehicles of the Ministry of Emergencies and on free storage in a warehouse provided by the government until the distributions finish.

The footwear was distributed by the end of October to meet the priority needs of the population. In total, 230 men, 278 women, 130 children (under age of 7) and 180 adolescents (107 girls and 73 boys) from affected families of Nura village received footwear appropriate to the season. The distributions of other relief items will start after 14 November and are expected to be completed by 24 November; jerry-cans and clothes will also be procured and delivered to the disaster site by then.

The speedy efforts of the local and neighbouring branches of the National Society to assess the damage and identify the needs of the affected households demonstrated their capacities to handle emergency situations. This is the result of training during workshops provided to the staff in the past years.

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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