

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

KAZAKHSTAN: FLOODS

18 July 2001

Appeal No. 17/2001

Launched on 07 June 2001 for CHF 261,917 for 6 months.

DREF Allocated: CHF 50,000

Beneficiaries: 4,500

Operations Update No. 1; Period covered: 7 June - 14 July 2001

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 15%

Outstanding needs: CHF 222,522

The Disaster: In May 2001, heavy rains and excessive snow melt caused severe flooding in eastern Kazakhstan, affecting 4500 people in 27 settlements throughout six rayons and Ust-Kamenogorsk city. Flooding also resulted in debris flows and mudslides. According to governmental estimations, the damage caused by the floods exceeds USD 3.3 million. The Red Crescent and Red Cross Society of Kazakhstan provided assistance for some 823 families (over 3,000 people) in a total of 22 inhabited localities in close cooperation with local authorities and with support from the International Federation. An allocation was made from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to run the first phase of the rapid response. The disaster relief phase of the operation, aiming at supporting the affected population in their rehabilitation efforts before the onset of the winter period has now begun. Additional funding is required to allow full implementation of the operation.

Operational Developments:

Severe flooding in 10 rivers of eastern Kazakhstan affected 4,500 people in 27 settlements. The Red Crescent and Red Cross Society of Kazakhstan provided immediate support to flood victims and distributed food, detergents, bedding and other essential supplies from its regional disaster preparedness stocks.

By 10 June, the water level finally returned to normal, but the effects of the floods continued for many, despite all the protective measures taken by local authorities. For examples, all 617 inhabitants of Burobai village, settled at the emergency camp, as well as those previously staying with their friends and relatives returned to their homes by 12 June. However, it is still difficult for them to restore their dwellings to previous standards needed to withstand the winter ahead.

According to the Emergency Commission, which is made up of local authorities and community representatives, some 65 per cent of houses were seriously damaged. About 10 per cent of these have already been repaired and some 10 per cent are beyond reconstruction. Most of the inhabitants attempted re-sowing, however, there is little hope for sufficient harvest this year. Some of the dwellings still have standing water in their basements; ground water levels remain high as well. Ninety per cent of the affected population cannot afford to provide their families with sufficient nutrition and rations and are far from being able to recover from their damaged position.

It has to be underlined, that since the rate of snow melt in the mountains remains high, there is still a threat of further flooding.

Red Cross Red Crescent action w

The emergency response operation is split into two phases: rapid disaster response, targeting the immediate needs of the affected population and secondly the disaster relief phase, aimed at supporting the communities in their longer-term recovery from the effects of the flooding.

DREF funding was allocated to cover the immediate needs of the affected population (food, medicines, bedding, hygiene supplies, seeds and water purification products) with all the subsequent administrative costs. So far, the national society provided assistance to some 823 affected families (over 3,000 people) in a total of 22 settlements and Ust-Kamenogorsk city. The details on delivered assistance may be found under specific appeal objectives.

Despite the fact that there was only limited local, external response to the appeal (Canadian Embassy in Almaty and a few local industries in East Kazakhstan) as well as the international contributions from the Swedish and Japanese Red Cross Societies, the national society is lobbying among local agencies, businesses and the communities for donations. In response, a number of local enterprises delivered direct assistance to areas most in need. One such action was undertaken by the local Titan and Magnum Factory, which delivered assistance amounting up to USD 2,000 to Burobai village.

In-kind donations released by the Finnish and Spanish Red Cross Societies are expected to arrive by the end of summer. These shall be allocated to cover the population's needs in winter clothing and shoes; part of the donations will be maintained at the national society's DP warehouse in order to restock its emergency response capacity.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Society w

Two branches (East Kazakhstan *oblast* committee and Semipalatinsk territory committee, located 600 km from each other) and the headquarters are directly involved in this emergency response operation. This involves over 20 staff members and 50 volunteers (disaster preparedness, relief, logistics, information, finance, health and youth sectors). All paid staff had been previously trained in disaster response and are providing on-the-job coaching to volunteers when necessary.

The resources of the regional DP warehouse in Almaty were during the emergency response phase of the operation. Taking into consideration the fact that emergency stocks of the regional DP centre in Semipalatinsk were not replenished, national society's present response capacity is seriously reduced.

The East Kazakhstan *oblast* committee played a leading role in the response operation. However, it lacks such basic resources as transport and office equipment. The branch used the communication facilities (telephone, fax and email connection) available through the Agency for Emergencies' local department.

Health w

Objective 1: Prevention of diseases spreading within the displaced population in the camp.

The national society procured and delivered 16 items of basic medical supplies to the temporary camp to prevent the spread of the following diseases among the displaced population:

- diarrhoea (antibiotics, rehydron, glucose);
- cold and pulmonary diseases (aspirin, paracetamol);
- eye inflammation and skin dermatitis (albuclid and lincomicin ointment);

- minor wounds and cuts (antiseptics, bandages);
- cardiovascular diseases (corvalolum).

During the month that the camp functioned, medical assistance was provided to 100 people. After the last 80 people left the camp on 12 June, all inhabitants of the Burobai settlement received medical assistance through a rural ambulance. Medicines were issued upon prescription and registered through individual patient's cards and the ledger.

The national society plans to allocate the remaining medicines (for about 400 affected people) through rural ambulances in four of the most severely affected areas. Medicine allocation will be strictly based on doctor's prescriptions and distributed through local Red Cross representatives. This will allow the development of a demand analysis for medicines related to a specific disaster and more targeted assistance in future disasters.

Objective 2: Prevention of acute intestinal diseases and malaria fever prophylactics

The national society distributed some 150 booklets on acute intestinal diseases prophylactics among the affected communities. However, implementation of this activity has been hampered by a lack of funding for printing materials. It is hoped that further response to the appeal will allow this objective to be met in full.

It is vital to act soon because, with the existing poor epidemiological conditions, there is high risk that cases of intestinal diseases and hepatitis will increase. This underlines the importance of public awareness activities among the affected communities.

Water-sanitation w

Objective 1: Water purification for support of the affected population's living conditions

The national society delivered some 5,000 chlorine tablets to the area, including 1,000 tablets which were distributed among the displaced population in the camp. Post-distribution monitoring indicated that the local population possessed very limited knowledge about water purification practices, which is why the national society set a priority to disseminate basic drinking water safety procedures alongside the distribution of chlorine tablets.

Objective 2: Advocacy for affected population in terms of access to safe water

The national society has repeatedly requested local sanitary-epidemiological services to share the results of their water analysis and purification measures. According to the information available the local epidemiological services cross-checked and cleaned 173 wells in Burobai, the most severely affected settlement, and reported no deviations in water quality from the norm. However, there is a need to continue such advocacy activities to ensure that effective water and sanitation measures are taken by respective services.

Relief distributions w

Objective 1: Basic life support to affected population

Activity 1: Support adequate nutritional status of affected population.

To provide supplementary food support to those most severely affected, the national society procured and distributed some eight metric tons (MT) of staple foods (wheat flour, sugar, cereals and vegetable oil) of the main rations (2,100 calories per person for a period of 10 days). These were distributed to 2,622 of the most affected people during the emergency response phase of operation.

After the first round of distribution, the national society moved into the emergency relief phase, having procured 42 MT of supplementary 1,000 calorie rations for two months support during the emergency relief phase of the operation. This relief distribution is under way now.

Activity 2: Support to minimal living standards of affected population.

The national society allocated from its disaster preparedness stocks and procured: 300 mattresses, 300 blankets and 290 bed linen sets, which constitutes one-third of the planned amounts (as per the appeal). These were

distributed to 199 families. If there is further donor response, the national society plans to procure and distribute the remaining amounts to support the affected population and replenish the allocated DP stocks.

Activity 3: Support maintenance of the minimal sanitary/hygiene norms among the affected population. The national society distributed 490 family hygiene sets (consisting of detergent, washing soap and toilet soap) during the emergency response phase. Funds are sought to deliver 2,000 more sets.

Objective 2: Strengthening the capacity of the affected population through targeted replenishment of food stocks and other shelter materials for the winter period.

Potato seeds were distributed to some 50 affected families, followed by immediate re-sowing on non-affected land, allocated by local authorities. Only a limited amount of seeds was planted because there was a lack of seed potatoes available locally by the end of the sowing season. However, the national society plans to procure and distribute the outstanding amounts to reinforce the food security situation among the affected communities for the next year.

Funding is currently sought to provide recovery support to the most vulnerable people among the affected population, such as multi-children and single-parent families, isolated elderly and the disabled. The national society plans to deliver individual assistance through distribution of the following items:

Item	Amount
Coal	750 MT
Winter shoes for men/women	100 pairs
Winter shoes for children	75 pairs
Rubber boots	50 pairs
Winter clothing for adults	100 pieces
Winter clothing for children	200 pieces
Construction materials	500 kg
Cattle fodder	50 MT

It is hoped to cover a part of these items through in-kind donations from the Finnish and Spanish Red Cross Societies.

Logistics w

Objective 1: Building the national society's disaster response capacity

The national society dispatched a 20-MT container with DP stocks from Almaty immediately upon demand from the *oblast*. It also successfully undertook a series of local procurements (food, bedding, medicines) and distribution arrangements throughout the affected area. The local administration provided the storage facilities and transport in support to the Red Cross' emergency response initiatives (allowed the national society to reduce some of its programme-related administrative costs).

Telecommunications w

Objective 1: Building the national society's disaster response communication capacity

Despite great demand for prompt telecommunication facilities at the NS's branch level, no funding has been issued to cover this need so far.

Visibility w

Objective 1: Promotion of the national society's image among the communities

The national society is using this opportunity to promote its image among the affected communities, local administration and other NGOs. The rapid response by the national society, supported by the Federation, was highly appreciated by the local communities and the authorities in the area. The emergency response operation was covered by a number of TV channels and newspapers, showing the existing needs and the Red Cross' response to them. One of the national society's branches also made a video capturing all the stages of the

programme implementation. It is hoped that additional funding will allow it to purchase a photo camera, as planned.

National society capacity building w

The emergency response operation allowed the national society to develop its capacity in the following directions:

- application of theoretical disaster response knowledge obtained by the Red Cross staff and volunteers through DP training in practice;
- more active national society “presence” in the region; strengthening and expansion of branch activities.

The national society’s headquarters representatives (DP, Logistics and Information departments) made several trips to the field in order to support the local branch in implementation of all aspects of the disaster response operation: needs assessment, local procurement, relief distribution and monitoring. They also provided on-the-spot coaching and advice to the branch officers and volunteers.

Functioning in one of the most affected and disaster prone *oblasts*, located 1,500 km away from the capital, the national society’s east Kazakhstan branch needs to build up its response capacity. Taking the lead role in disaster preparedness and response in the country, the national society plans to compose a DP stock of non-food items such as blankets, tents, cooking utensils, bedding materials at Ust-Kamenogorsk city, which is in compliance with its strategic DP directions.

Federation Delegation w

The Federation’s regional delegation in Almaty provides day-to-day technical, advisory and communication support to the operation’s implementation. The regional disaster preparedness, relief and health departments are among the most directly involved. The regional disaster preparedness delegate and relief assistant visited the operational site recently for monitoring and follow up.

Coordination

Being the only organization, functioning at the disaster site, the national society complements the local authorities' efforts in assisting the affected area. However, while the local administration and the Agency for Emergency concentrated on infrastructure reconstruction, the national society’s focus has been on the affected population.

The Government of Kazakhstan allocated USD 360,000 to cover flood-related activities and infrastructure reconstruction costs as well as partial compensation for losses to the affected population.

Joint governmental forces (local authorities and national agency for emergencies) reconstructed 21 dams, spread over 33 km, 25 km of roads, seven pipelines and 43 bridges. It is also planned to rebuild 85 houses. At present, the local administration is paying a total of USD 200,000 in loss compensation to 381 persons in the three most severely affected settlements and Ust-Kamenogorsk.

Outstanding needs

People are struggling to return to their normal living conditions before the onset of the country's six-month winter period. The national society identified the following priorities to support the affected population’s recovery efforts: food, winter clothes and shoes, warm blankets and mattresses, hygiene supplies, seeds and coal for targeted assistance to the most vulnerable. As revealed through monitoring visits, there is a need for an extensive public awareness campaign on prevention of infectious diseases, safe water drinking practices and water purification techniques.

The majority of the affected population also indicated a need for basic construction materials such as cement, planking, paint and lime.

The overall socio-economic environment is poor and harsh weather conditions in this region (first frost usually strikes in September and temperatures drop down to 50° below zero by January). This means it is important to

begin the emergency relief phase of the operation as soon as possible. There is an urgent need for funding to carry out the planned assistance to help meet the immediate needs of the affected population and to help them rebuild their livelihoods before winter.

For further details please contact:

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's web site.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation web site at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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Kazakhstan floods						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 17/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				18.07.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				261,917		TOTAL COVERAGE 23.9%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA		20,000	CAD	23,284	15.06.2001	
JAPANESE - RC		1,000,000	JPY	14,570	02.07.2001	
SWEDISH - GOVT		150,000	SEK	24,825	03.07.2001	FOOD, SEEDS, WATER SANITATION
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				62,679	CHF	23.9%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%