

# DREF operation update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## KAZAKHSTAN: FLOODS

DREF operation n° MDRKZ002  
GLIDE n° FL-2008-000032-KAZ  
Update n° 01  
18 April, 2008

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:** 5 March to 10 April, 2008

**Summary:** A total of CHF 259,858 (USD 258,730 or EUR 164,681) has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society in delivering assistance to households affected by floods.

The initial DREF allocation has been utilized by the National Society to procure and distribute non-food items and start providing food aid to the most vulnerable 370 families affected by floods in the South-Kazakhstan region. Based on

additional needs assessments in the disaster-struck area, the National Society has revised the response operation to target 800 households (including the 370 targeted by food and non-food assistance) currently accommodated in tent camps with household and sanitary items within the initial operational timeframe using a supplementary DREF allocation. Special acknowledgement should be given to the Netherlands Red Cross and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs who have repaid the funds released from the DREF for this operation.



The non-food relief assistance from the Red Crescent included bedding as well.

Photo: Kazakhstan Red Crescent

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## The situation

Heavy rains and the melting snow due to a sudden rise in temperatures caused floods in the South Kazakhstan oblast (region) at the end of February 2008. Final assessments conducted by the Ministry of Emergency Situations demonstrated that 51 localities have been affected with 8 schools, 2 primary medical centres, 2 bridges and 411 houses destroyed, 2,396 houses inundated; 1 person died and 13,002 people were displaced. The government estimated the economic losses at 125 million US dollars. After the waters had fallen by mid March, 15 tent camps were set up in the disaster-struck area that currently give refuge to 800 families (about 5,000 people). The rest of the evacuees have been accommodated with their neighbours and relatives. The tents and bedding have been loaned by the government to the affected families

accommodated in camps and these items should be returned in June. Also, the government arranged immediate distribution of food products to all affected people and allocated funds for the reconstruction of schools, primary medical centres and housing.

## Coordination and partnerships

At the planning stage of the response operation the National Society branch participated in the inter-departmental coordination meetings organized by the Ministry of Emergency Situations. The International Federation's regional representation shared the information about the DREF-supported operation with the OCHA office in Almaty.

In the beginning of March the UN Inter-Agency Assessment Mission that included OCHA, WHO, the International Conservation and Education Fund (INCEF), UNDP and UNHCR visited the disaster site to assess the needs of the affected population. Based on the findings outlined in the Rapid Needs Assessment Report, UNDP provided 1,850 hygiene kits. The kits were handed to the South-Kazakhstan regional branch of the Red Crescent Society for further distribution among beneficiaries who are not covered by the DREF operation. The distribution was finalized by the end of March.

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society' regional branch also received medical items worth of 6,500 US dollars from a local pharmaceutical company. Part of these items will be used to supply a first-aid point that the National Society is planning to establish in one of the tent camps.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

From day one of the disaster the South Kazakhstan branch of the Red Crescent in Chimkent, with 15 volunteers and 3 staff members, has taken an active part in the rescue and evacuation activities together with the units of the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

Based on initial assessments the National Society used its disaster response stocks to provide humanitarian assistance by distributing shoes, clothing, bed-linen and food to the most affected people. In the first week of March the Red Crescent Society delivered beds, water containers, cooking and eating utensils, clothing and sleeping bags to the disaster site from its warehouse in Almaty. Most was distributed among the affected population in camps; some was stocked at the local disaster preparedness warehouse or handed to the department of emergencies. First-aid kits available from the local disaster stocks were also distributed.

Within the framework of the DREF operation the Kazakhstan Red Crescent targeted 370 most vulnerable disaster-affected families with a one-time supply of non-food items and part of the food package. Food distributions will continue until the full planned package is provided and the replenishment of the National Society's disaster response stocks is to follow.

Further assessments by the National Society on the disaster site revealed that people who are still staying in the tent camps have needs that remain unmet. Rising spring temperatures in this southern region of the country are forcing people to stay outside the tents even at night-time and during the day they need screens to protect themselves from the sun. Besides, the affected families need stoves to cook food and water containers. To ensure personal hygiene, dignity and well-being, special groups such as women and children require sanitary materials and additional hygiene items.

Responding to these needs the Red Crescent Society set two additional objectives under the current disaster response operation within relief and water and sanitation sectors (see below) and requested a supplementary allocation from the DREF. The additional relief items will be procured and distributed within the original timeframe of the DREF operation. The initial 370 vulnerable families targeted by food and non-food relief are among the 800 families planned to be covered by the next distributions.

## Additional objectives

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Objective: To provide 800 affected families accommodated in tent camps with non-food household items.**

The 400 awning screens that are going to be provided will be used to form a shaded external space adjacent to the shelter for food preparation or sleeping: one for two households. The households will also receive 400 gas stoves, one for two households as well.

Each family will also be provided with a 10-litre jerry can to be used for water storage. The water supply for the affected communities accommodated in temporary shelter (tent camps) is ensured by the local authorities.

**Activities planned:**

- To purchase the goods locally
- To prepare a plan for the distribution of relief items
- To distribute the relief items
- To monitor the effectiveness of the aid provided

### **Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion**

**Objective: To address the specific needs of women, girls and children from the affected population accommodated in tent camps (800 families) with the provision of appropriate personal hygiene items in order to improve their sanitary conditions.**

Sanitary materials will be distributed among 1,700 women and girls and 200 infants and children up to two years will receive diapers. 300 younger children will receive chamber pots and basins for washing.

The National Society also plans to distribute hygiene promotion flyers available from the health and care programme among the beneficiaries in tent camps.

**Activities planned:**

- To purchase the goods locally
- To prepare a plan for the distribution of relief items
- To distribute the relief items
- To distribute hygiene promotion flyers
- To monitor the effectiveness of the aid provided

## **Progress towards initial objectives**

### **Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)**

**Objective: To support the most vulnerable groups of the population affected by the floods (370 families or 1,900 people) in meeting their basic needs during three months.**

**Progress and impact:**

The staff and volunteers of the National Society completed the lists of beneficiaries with updated information about their current places of accommodation by 20 March. The most vulnerable groups identified as requiring assistance were families with many children and single-parent families, pensioners and disabled people.

Non-food and food items have been procured locally and in line with the agreed list of components and rations calculated for one family. The authorities supported the procurement by negotiating low prices with local suppliers; it has also been agreed that the goods will be delivered by the suppliers to the disaster site at their own expense. The procurement was carried out in accordance with the International Federation's procedures and completed by 28 March. Every food package for one family for three months includes:

- 20 kg of pasta products
- 20 kg of rice
- 20 kg of sugar
- 5 litres of vegetable oil
- 1 kg of tea
- 15 tin of canned fish
- 3 kg of iodized salt

While making the procurement, the Red Crescent Society prepared a plan for the distribution of relief items setting the dates and locations. The target beneficiaries were informed about the distribution schedule well in advance to ensure their attendance and hand to hand delivery.

The distributions of non-food items and of the first lot of food products were carried out between 2 and 6 April. The elders from the affected communities actively participated in the distributions and in sharing the information with fellow community members about the operation. The items were distributed in accordance with the beneficiary lists; the beneficiaries had to identify themselves first and sign in the book after receiving the aid.

During the first round of food distributions the following rations have been provided for each family: 7 kg of pasta products, 7 kg of rice, 7 kg of sugar, 2 litres of vegetable oil, 0.5 kg of tea, 5 tins of canned fish and 1 kg of iodized salt.

**Table 1: Number of covered beneficiaries and the amount of distributed food**

Total number of people	Number of families	Distributed food products						
		Pasta products, kg	Rice, kg	Sugar, kg	Vegetable oil, l	Tea, kg	Canned fish, tin	Salt, kg
1,917	370	2,590	2,590	2,590	740	185	1,850	370

The set of non-food items provided for each target family included:

- a hygiene set (10 pieces of soap, 3 kg of washing powder, 5 tubes of toothpaste)
- a cooking set (1 pot, 1 kettle, 5 mugs, 5 plates, 5 spoons)
- bed linen (5 mattresses, 5 blankets, 5 sets of sheets)
- candles – 20 pieces

In total, 370 families have been targeted with sets of non-food items.

The team from the National Society's headquarters has visited the affected area twice. During the first visit the team accompanied the humanitarian aid cargo from the National Society's stocks in Almaty and assisted the regional branch in organizing local teams of staff and volunteers for relief distributions on the spot. During the second visit the team from the headquarters participated in the first round of distributions and conducted additional assessments of needs.

As a result of the Red Crescent operation vulnerable disaster-affected households gained access to the following items to ensure their health, hygiene, dignity and well-being:

- soap and other items to ensure personal hygiene
- cooking and eating utensils
- blankets and bedding
- means of artificial lighting (candles) to use at night-time, particularly when giving care to children and older people
- food rations for household to prepare meals (first lot that should be enough for one month) to meet their nutritional needs

## Revised budget

<b>RELIEF NEEDS</b>	<b>216,017</b>
Shelter	11,320
Clothing & Textiles	89,060
Food	33,726
Water & Sanitation	25,000
Utensils & Tools	56,911
<b>TRANSPORT, STORAGE &amp; VEHICLES</b>	<b>6,400</b>
Transport & Vehicles Costs	6,400
<b>PERSONNEL</b>	<b>10,000</b>
National Staff	6,000
National Society Staff	4,000
<b>GENERAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>10,550</b>
Travel	3,750
Information & Public Relations	5,500
Office running costs	1,300
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>242,967</b>
<b>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</b>	<b>16,891</b>
Programme Support - PSR	16,891
<b>Total DREF Budget (Cash &amp; Kind)</b>	<b>259,858</b>

## 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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