

Final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tajikistan: Cold Wave

Final report
Emergency appeal n°
MDRTJ004

GLIDE n° CW-2008-000015-TJK
3 December 2008

Period covered by this Final Report: 6 March to 31 August 2008.

Appeal target (current): CHF 572,678 (USD 500,155 or EUR 392,245);

Final Appeal coverage: 86 per cent with a DREF allocation of CHF 172,062;

[<click here to go directly to the final financial report , or here to view the contact details>](#)

Appeal history:

- This emergency appeal was launched on 6 March 2008 for CHF 572,678 (USD 500,155 or EUR 392,245) for 6 months to assist 5,097 beneficiaries.
- CHF 172,062 was initially allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to 2,149 beneficiaries through the distribution of non-food items and around 3,000 families through hygiene promotion. The DREF operation focussed on the urban population and the emergency appeal on rural population. The total number of beneficiaries is therefore 7,246 people, plus 3,000 families who received health promotion materials.



Red Crescent volunteers monitored yielding of the beneficiary families to see the impact of the operation. *Photo: International Federation.*

Summary: The initial DREF operation was extended to an emergency appeal operation to include the distribution of basic relief non-food items to female-headed families with children under 15 years of age (1,547 households) and elderly people (456) living alone in Rudaky and Vahdat districts. The planned activities were successfully completed; each beneficiary received a food package containing wheat flour, sunflower oil and beans to supplement the food they had in the stock and help sustain them through the planting phase of cultivating next season's crop.

The Tajikistan Red Crescent Society also improved the coping mechanisms of the rural population in two districts by providing them with potato, carrot, bean and onion seeds and with two types of fertilizers. Proper hygiene practices were promoted among the population of two targeted districts through information materials. The purification tablets, hygiene kits, jerry cans and water filters delivered to beneficiaries helped to reduce the risk of waterborne and other communicable diseases in the poor sanitary conditions.

The operation has received financial and in-kind contributions from the Red Cross Societies of Belgium, Canada, Finland, Japan, Monaco and Sweden and the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates.

The situation

Tajikistan experienced its worst winter in 44 years this year. January and February temperatures averaged minus 15° Celsius; the usual average temperature is between minus 1°C to plus 3°C. Such uncommonly cold, and precipitous, weather lasted until mid-February.

Tight rationing of power for industry and factories led to the crisis that cost the economy 850 million US dollars worth of damage and lost revenue according to the UN Tajikistan Flash Appeal 2008. Many urban workers lost one month's income as businesses shut following the tight rationing of electricity. The power limitations on most residential areas of Dushanbe, and even a complete cut off of electricity in the majority of rural areas kept many people in the dark for much of the winter.

The exceptionally cold winter caused breakdowns in electric, gas and water services across the country. Essential services were also affected with many health facilities and schools forced to close. The lack of electricity for water pumps forced people to use unprotected water sources, contributing to the poor sanitation and hygiene conditions. Heating was limited in urban areas while the price of heating materials increased.

The severe cold also damaged crops and seeds, contributing to increased morbidity and mortality among livestock. High food prices, combined with the poor agricultural harvests of 2007, forced many households to sell their remaining assets of production to purchase food and medicines.

A locust invasion further stretched the capacities of households to successfully cope with their increasing food insecurity. While Tajikistan characteristically loses up to 30 percent of its harvests due to pests- this is recognized as one of main threats to food security- the recent outbreak was of a significantly larger scale.

The cold winter was followed by record high temperatures in spring and summer; significantly higher than normal across the country. According to Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) analysis it is estimated the dry/hot conditions have caused a 40 per cent reduction in agricultural output. Grain harvest totals for 2008 are down between 30 percent and 40 percent over the previous year. The losses have reached 40 per cent at the national level for fruit and wines, 35 per cent for potatoes, 30 per cent for wheat and 20 per cent for vegetables.

The price of bread and cooking oil has doubled, while prices for most other basic commodities have increased by 50 per cent. The cost of petrol, diesel, gas and electricity has also been rising steadily since last autumn. The economic impact was also severe, with an estimated 50 per cent reduction in growth during the first quarter of 2008, further reducing people's livelihood opportunities.

Joint (WFP, FAO, UNICEF) food security, livelihoods, agriculture and nutrition needs assessments conducted at the end of April in rural areas and in June in urban areas, found some 2.2 million people (34 per cent of the rural population and 37 per cent of the urban population) to be food insecure, of which approximately 800,000 people were severely food insecure (including a very poor food intake) and required immediate support to ensure a minimum adequate level of nutrition. Almost one-third of Tajikistan's 6.7 million inhabitants may not have enough to eat this winter, United Nations experts worry. In an attempt to avert an emergency, on 25 September the UN issued a global appeal for nearly 35 million US dollars to provide a temporary food safety net for 800,000 of the most vulnerable people in Tajikistan until the end of next year. See: <http://www.untj.org/files/FSMS/documents/>

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

To address the urgent humanitarian needs in mid-January the Tajikistan Red Crescent assisted 2,149 elderly people living alone in Dushanbe, and the towns of Kurgan-Tube, Vahdat and Somoniyon with funds available from the International Federation's DREF. People received locally procured basic non-food items including thermos flasks, flash lights, candles, socks and quilts. For more details, please, see *the operations update # 1* at: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/08/MDRTJ004ea01.pdf>

The initial DREF operation become an emergency appeal, including the distribution of food and basic non-food relief items to female-headed families with children under 15 years of age (1,547 households) and

elderly people (456) living alone in Rudaky and Vahdat districts. The planned activities were successfully completed; each household received the food package of wheat flour, sunflower oil and beans to supplement the food they have in the stock to sustain them through the planting phase of cultivating next season's crop. The beneficiaries received their food rations in one round over one month.

The food security in the country remained one of the main concerns. The Tajikistan Red Crescent Society improved the coping mechanisms of the rural population in two districts by providing them with potato, carrot, bean and onion seeds and with two types of fertilizers. The time of distribution was chosen as an optimum time for sowing the seeds to avoid them being washed away with the flood waters.

Some of the non-food items were used to replenish the Red Crescent's emergency response stocks. The procured water reservoirs (5 cubic metres each) have been stocked by the ten Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan disaster preparedness centres.

However, because the appeal was not fully covered, the following activities have not been completed:

- i) Printing and distribution of disaster preparedness and response awareness materials;
- ii) The standardization of response equipment for ten Red Crescent Society disaster management centres;
- iii) Refresher courses for disaster response teams.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To provide 1,547 female-headed households with children under 15 years of age with essential food for one month and non-food items and to provide 456 elderly people living alone with basic non-food items.

Expected results	Activities planned
<p>i) 1,547 female-headed households in Rudaky and Vahdat districts of Direct Rule Districts (DRD) are provided with non-food items including blankets, thermos flasks, candles, plastic sheeting, gas stoves, disaster preparedness and response awareness materials.</p> <p>ii) 1,547 female-headed households in Rudaky and Vahdat districts of DRD are provided with seeds and fertilisers including onion seeds 2.5 kg; potato 100 kg; carrots 1.5 kg; beans 2 kg; sodium nitrate 10kg; carbomide 10 kg; and food to sustain people as they work including wheat flour 36 kg; sunflower oil 3 litres; beans 5 kg; salt 250 gm.</p> <p>iii) The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan contingency disaster preparedness stock for 200 families in ten Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan centres are replaced including mattresses, pillows, blankets, bed linen, water cans, kitchen utensils, hygiene kits, kerosene stoves, winter and summer tents, water reservoirs 5 m³.</p> <p>iv) The response capacity of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan disaster preparedness centres has been enhanced through the standardization of response equipments for ten Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan disaster management centres, and through conducting refresher courses for disaster response teams.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare lists of beneficiaries together with the social welfare authorities ▪ Conduct monitoring of beneficiary lists ▪ Procure selected items and store in warehouses ▪ Develop beneficiary coupons (talons) and distribute them to selected beneficiaries ▪ Support the National Society technically and financially in logistics, warehousing, distribution and control supply movements ▪ Transport the goods to the distribution sites ▪ Prepare distribution sites ▪ Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. ▪ Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide ▪ Reporting on distributions

i) All 1,547 female-headed households and 456 elderly people living alone had received non-food items by 25 May. However, the number of items distributed differed from the plan so as to match the amount raised through the appeal: 4,641 blankets, 1,547 water filters, 456 thermoses and 1,547 gas stoves. (See <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/08/MDRTJ004ea03.pdf>)

ii) The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan carried out distributions in close co-operation with the local social welfare authorities. Due to shortage of funds the amount of distributed items was reduced.

The distribution of seeds, fertilizers and food had been successfully completed by mid April and targeted 1,547 female-headed households (4,641 beneficiaries) in Rudaki and Vahdat districts of DRD. Each household received onion seeds (250 gm), potato (36 kg), carrots (150 gm) beans (2 kg), sodium nitrate (10 kg), carbomide (10 kg). In general, 154.7 hectares of farmlands have been cultivated with potato, carrot, onion and beans.



Distribution of non-food items by the RCST volunteers. Photo: International Federation's country representation in Tajikistan

Each beneficiary also received a food package of wheat flour 36kg; vegetable oil 3ltr; beans 5kg.

Table 1: Food, seeds and fertilizers distributed

District	Number of families	Wheat flour (MT)	V. Oil (L)	Bean (MT)	Potato seeds (MT)	Carrot seeds (MT)	Onion seeds (MT)	Bean seeds (MT)	Carbomide (MT)	Sodium nitrate (MT)
Rudaky	867	31.212	2,601	4.335	30.345	0.130	0.217	1.734	8.670	8.670
Vahdat	680	24.480	2,040	3.400	23.800	0.102	0.170	1.360	6.800	6.800
TOTAL	1,547	55.692	4.641	7.735	54.145	0.232	0.387	3.094	15.470	15.470

iii) The procurement and delivery of the following items for the disaster preparedness stock was successfully completed over the six months of the operation. The quantity of procured plastic sheets for the disaster preparedness stock was reduced by half from the originally planned; blankets, winter and summer tents were not procured.

Table 2: Total amount of items procured for the National Society DP stock

Mattresses (pcs)	Pillows (pcs)	Bed linen (pcs)	Hygiene kits (pcs)	Kitchen sets (pcs)	Kerosene stove (pcs)	Gas stove (pcs)	Water reservoir (pcs)	Plastic sheets (pcs)	Water filters (pcs)
1,000	1,000	1,000	200	200	200	500	10	100	300

iv) The Red Crescent Society response capacity was strengthened due to the establishment and training of two Local Disaster Committees (LDCs) established at the RCST primary organizations in Rudaki and Vahdat districts in March. The teams consisting of 20 RCST active volunteers and community members were trained in assessment, monitoring, distributions and first aid techniques. The teams are now equipped with basic disaster response tools like shovels, hoes, first aid kits, vests with logo and stretchers.

Impact

During a five-day monitoring mission within the first week of August, 400 female-headed households (46 per cent of beneficiary households) in Rudaky district and 370 FHH (54 per cent of beneficiary households) in Vahdat district were randomly visited by 42 volunteers of two RCST branches and 17 Jamoat representatives of both districts. All visited households had properly completed the cropping period and started land preparation for winter planting. Due to unfavorable winter conditions and low precipitations, the average yield received by one household was slightly less than expected: potato – 300kg, onion – 110kg, carrot – 100kg and beans – 35kg.

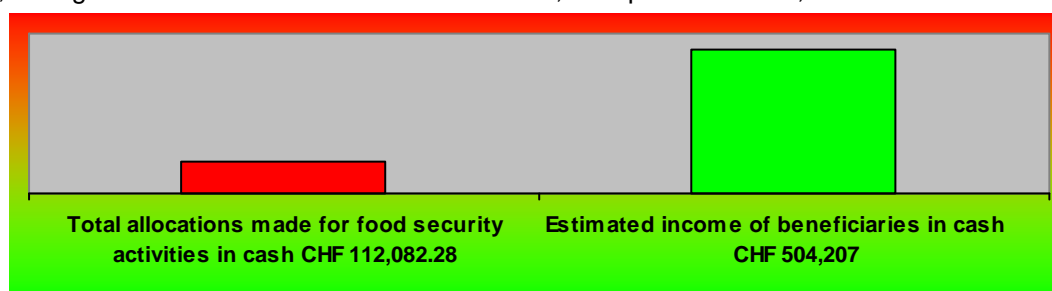
A total yield of potato made 464.100MT, carrot – 154.700MT, onion – 170.170MT and beans – 54.145MT. It will secure 1,547 female-headed households (4,641 people) in Rudaki and Vahdat districts with food till the next growing season and the money saved on food can be used on other family needs. It will also allow the households to use the one-fifth of this year's yield as seeds for the next growing season and gives them an opportunity to cultivate their farmlands without any external support for one-three years ahead.

During the monitoring in the harvesting period the RCST Rudaki and Vahdat branches volunteers made an analysis to see the income received by beneficiary households as a result of the operation. The calculation of an average income (price per unit multiplied by weight of cropped culture) per household amounts to 968 Somoni¹ (CHF 325.92).

Table 3: Estimated harvest and its money equivalent per household

Prices in local markets (in Somoni ¹ per kg)				Average yield received by one family (kg)				Money equivalent (Somoni)			
Potato	Carrot	Onion	Bean	Potato	Carrot	Onion	Bean	Potato	Carrot	Onion	Bean
1.5	2	1.3	5	300	100	110	35	450	200	143	175

The chart below demonstrates the measurable impact of allocations made. The income of 1,547 female-headed households in Rudaki and Vahdat districts from the operation activities aimed at food security totals CHF 504,207 against the allocations of around CHF 112,082 spent for seeds, fertilizers and food.



Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through providing water filters, water purification tablets and hygiene promotion information materials to elderly people living alone and female-headed households in Wakhdad and Rudaki districts.

Expected results

The health status of the population is improved through distributing hygiene kits, water purification tables and water filters to 1,547 female-headed households and 456 elderly people living alone

Activities planned

- Distribute water purification tablets and hygiene kits
- Distribute water storage (i.e. jerry cans and water filters)
- Reprint and distribute hygiene promotion information materials

¹ 1 CHF = 2, 97 Somoni as of 1 November

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan distributed water purification tablets, hygiene kits comprising a towel, toilet paper, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap; dishwashing powder and washing powder as well as water filters and 20 litre jerry cans. The hygiene promotion leaflets (2,000) raised the awareness of the population and contributed to preventing diseases. Due to incomplete appeal coverage only three hundred water filters planned for distribution among female-headed households were procured, and now are stocked at the central RCST disaster preparedness warehouse.

Table 4: Total amount of water and hygiene items distributed:

District	# of Female Headed Households	# of Elderly Lonely People	Hygiene kits (set)	Water purification tablets(pcs)	Water filters (pcs)	Hygiene promotion information materials (pcs)
Wahdat	680	146	826	102,000	146	1,000
Rudaky	867	310	1,177	130,050	310	1,000
TOTAL	1,547	456	2,003	232,050	456	2,000

Impact: The knowledge of proper hygiene practices of the population in two targeted districts improved through hygiene information materials. The items delivered to beneficiaries mitigated further waterborne and other communicable diseases outbreaks, particularly in poor sanitation conditions. This finding came from beneficiaries' information during the monitoring visits.

Conclusion

Coordination and partnership

To further improve the respond to the Cold Wave and Energy crisis in the country, the UN Resident coordinator after consultation with the Chair of the Rapid Emergency Assessment Coordination Team (REACT) forum and other REACT members decided to apply the Global Cluster Approach in Tajikistan. Along with other clusters, the Shelter and Non Food items (NFI) one was activated in February and the International Federation was officially asked to coordinate the cluster as a convener. The International Federation provided coordination until April through six specialist-cluster coordinators deployed for this purpose. The coordinators convened five cluster meetings with all stakeholders involved in the shelter/NFI sector-related activities.

The team of coordinators was also tasked to investigate the possible effects of the annual spring thaw in the country. The "Spring Thaw Scenario" report was made on all study work carried out under the auspices of this cluster. Moreover, the Master List of Shelter and Non Food items (MLoSNFI) for Tajikistan was also prepared by International Federation Cluster coordinators and presented to other REACT members. See <http://www.untj.org>

The overall role of the International Federation in the country was a success and it reflected well on the image of the organization. Other agencies acknowledged the professionalism of the staff deployed and the value they added in rapidly changing circumstances. The results of the evaluation (July 2008) of the International Federation's leading emergency shelter role in the Cold Wave operation, lessons learned and recommendations have been compiled in the report which will soon be placed on the International Federation's public site.

The Tajik National Society has a good working relationship with the governmental authorities at the central, regional and local levels and attended regularly the inter-agency REACT coordination meetings. Throughout the whole operation period, the weekly coordination meetings with sister National Societies working in the country like the Finnish, Netherlands and German Red Cross Societies took place as well. These meetings proved the need to improve the coordination and information sharing capacity, during response operations in particular.

Actions with all appropriate key logistics actors were coordinated to efficiently and effectively use all information and resources. Support through on-the-job training was given to the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan logistics department to build its logistics capacity. Regular press-releases and stories about the activities under the emergency appeal were placed on the International Federation's web site, at the national, regional and international levels.

Bilaterally, the Turkish Red Crescent assisted the Tajikistan Red Crescent response operation with food, the Netherlands Red Cross with generators for psychiatric hospitals and the Islamic Development bank with food and medicines. The Spanish Red Cross also contributed funds bilaterally.

Lessons learned:

- The Local Disaster Committees proved that they are the best response tool at the local level. In total, two RCST National Disaster Response teams (NDRT) and two LDCs were mobilized to extend a helping hand to the affected people. Community members and the Tajik National Society volunteers participated in distributing relief items, disseminating basic but essential messages on hygiene and disease prevention, and monitoring.
- Despite some new staff in the National Society, their lack of personal experience of such emergency operations, the on-job/on-spot training showed that “learning by doing” was the best way to strengthen the National Society’s response capacity.
- The way that the information on relief was provided, i.e. preparation and proper pre-delivery distribution of coupons (talons) to targeted beneficiaries by RCST made the project implementation smoother. Each coupon was issued in the name of recipient (head of family) and had the exact information on the amount of items to be distributed, date, time and place. This procedure allowed any misunderstandings/or complaints regarding non-proper distribution of items or date/time and place from the site of beneficiaries to be avoided.

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

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRTJ004 - Tajikistan - Cold Wave

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/2-2008/8
Budget Timeframe	2008/2-2008/8
Appeal	MDRTJ004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	572,678					572,678
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>Belgium Red Cross (Flanders)</i>	41,025					41,025
<i>Canadian Red Cross</i>	23,512					23,512
<i>Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)</i>	53,500					53,500
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	48,000					48,000
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	27,300					27,300
<i>Monaco Red Cross</i>	16,150					16,150
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>	85,000					85,000
<i>United Arab Emirates Red Crescent</i>	10,484					10,484
C1. Cash contributions	304,971					304,971
<u>Inkind Goods & Transport</u>						
<i>Belgium Red Cross (Flanders)</i>	14,011					14,011
C3. Inkind Goods & Transport	14,011					14,011
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	172,062					172,062
C5. Other Income	172,062					172,062
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	491,044					491,044
D. Total Funding = B + C	491,044					491,044
Appeal Coverage	86%					86%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	491,044					491,044
E. Expenditure	-491,044					-491,044
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRTJ004 - Tajikistan - Cold Wave

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/2-2008/8
Budget Timeframe	2008/2-2008/8
Appeal	MDRTJ004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		572,678					572,678	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	1,500	1,547				1,547	-47	
Clothing & textiles	62,079	84,070				84,070	-21,991	
Food	59,506	59,506				59,506	0	
Seeds,Plants	52,690	52,576				52,576	113	
Water & Sanitation	159,572	54,442				54,442	105,130	
Medical & First Aid	1,128	1,487				1,487	-359	
Utensils & Tools	67,164	75,933				75,933	-8,768	
Other Supplies & Services	74,668	67,365				67,365	7,303	
Total Supplies	478,307	396,925				396,925	81,382	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	5,200	1,507				1,507	3,693	
Distribution & Monitoring		4,016				4,016	-4,016	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	14,043	8,411				8,411	5,632	
Total Transport & Storage	19,243	13,934				13,934	5,309	
Personnel								
National Staff	5,861	5,846				5,846	15	
National Society Staff	26,240	19,856				19,856	6,384	
Total Personnel	32,101	25,702				25,702	6,398	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	3,000	3,375				3,375	-375	
Total Workshops & Training	3,000	3,375				3,375	-375	
General Expenditure								
Information & Public Relation	2,803	18,608				18,608	-15,805	
Total General Expenditure	2,803	18,608				18,608	-15,805	
Programme Support								
Program Support	37,224	32,498				32,498	4,726	
Total Programme Support	37,224	32,498				32,498	4,726	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	572,678	491,044				491,044	81,635	
VARIANCE (C - D)		81,635				81,635		