

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tajikistan: Poliomyelitis

DREF operation n° MDRTJ009
Update n° 1
16 August 2010

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 emergency response. 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: 1 May to 10 August 2010.

Summary: CHF 260,221 (USD 240,145 or EUR 181,413) was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 30 April 2010 to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,692,500 beneficiaries, including 660,040 children under the age of five, to be vaccinated during the national polio immunization campaign.

On 1 May 2010, the National Society started community mobilization while Government launched immunization campaign in the capital and 20 districts of Khatlon province and Direct Rule Districts (DRD). Some 420 volunteers have been mobilized from the health and disaster management programmes of the National Society.



RCST volunteer distributing information materials to schoolchildren.
Photo: Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan

According to the Immunization Center, some 695 of new cases of acute flaccid paralysis had been reported on 19 July. As of 28 June 2010, Tajikistan has reported 334 laboratory-confirmed cases of wild poliovirus type 1.

Staff and volunteers of the National Society were also active with other operations, as two mid-scale disasters occurred during the implementation of the planned actions of this DREF operation. The evaluations and monitoring carried out during the period resulted that there is a need to participate in rehabilitation activities as part of health cluster activity plan.

On 21 June, the health cluster meeting Polio Rehabilitation Working Group discussed strategies and a joint proposal on follow-up polio rehabilitation activities. Based on the results of the coordination meeting with all partners, it is planned to start rehabilitation project in 10 districts of Kurgan-tube region. Implementation of this project is planned from September 2010. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has been requested to participate in the rehabilitation process, and to work with the families and communities affected by polio over the next year.

This current operation was expected to be implemented over three months, but as activities were

expanded to a larger target group, it has now been extended for one additional month, also ensuring a well-prepared transition to the next rehabilitation phase. It will therefore be completed by 31 August 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 30 November 2010).

ECHO contributed CHF 198,596 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The DREF allocation is already replenished by 80 percent, but further contributions are still welcome.

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The situation

In April Tajikistan reported an outbreak of poliomyelitis with 128 cases of acute flaccid paralysis registered since the beginning of the year in 20 districts of the country including Dushanbe city. Since 2002, the Republic of Tajikistan, along with other European states, was declared a polio-free country. Starting from 1997 not a single case of polio has been reported in the republic. Though, the neighbouring Afghanistan annually recorded cases of polio, and there has been a possibility of occurrence of this disease in Tajikistan.

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Tajikistan declared three rounds of vaccination, targeting children aged 0-16 (15 years old 11 months 29 days). Due to the registration of fatal cases among children and teenagers (6-15 years of age) Government decided to hold a fourth round of immunization among target group aged 6-15, on 1-6 July. As agreed with the IFRC, the National Society decided to participate in the latest round of immunization against polio as well. Some 420 volunteers were involved in conducting population awareness and external monitoring for the fourth round of immunization campaign.

As of 1 August 2010, Tajikistan had reported 452 laboratory-confirmed cases of wild poliovirus type 1, with 20 deaths. The latest confirmed poliomyelitis cases had disease onset on 4 July 2010 (WHO, August, 2010). According to the MoH 25 percent of confirmed cases will have long-term disability. As reported by the MoH the vaccination coverage was 99,3 percent in Tajikistan. 0,7 percent (2,500 children) will receive polio vaccine during routine vaccination.

Coordination and partnerships

Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has been closely cooperating with the Ministry of Health, Operation Mercy, Handicap International, WHO, UNICEF and local authorities.

The National Society and International Federation country representation are participating in coordination meetings with the government authorities and other actors in the national working group.

During rehabilitation process Red Crescent volunteers together with Operation Mercei, Handicap International, and ICRC will cooperate on community based response.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Besides their main activities Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan volunteers were involved in independent monitoring during the National Polio Immunization campaign.

The results of DREF operation activities are following:

District	Population	Total N of children <6	% vaccinated	N of households visited by National Society	N of children <6 referred for vaccination by Red Crescent volunteers	Non immunized children
DRD	2109146	325300	99,3	33640	60070	2236
Kurgan-tube	1266300	290856	99,3	65970	133524	1493
Kulyab	3381107	669532	99,3	8238	19027	663
Total	6756553	1285688	99,3	107848	212621	4392

Progress towards outcomes

Emergency health

Outcome: To contribute to the high coverage of the national polio vaccination campaign through community mobilization.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Conduct meetings and round tables with all stakeholders.
- Recruit 420 volunteers to conduct assessment, mobilization and door-to-door sensitization of the population.
- Participate as external observers at vaccination points.
- Carry out monitoring and evaluation of all activities.
- Monitor the four rounds of the national immunization campaign jointly with WHO, the Ministry of Health and UNICEF, contributing to a high coverage of the target population.

Progress: Before and after each immunization round, programme volunteers conducted household rounds of pilot districts. The volunteers were selected among schoolteachers, householders, and medical staff. Each volunteer was provided with separate hygiene kit, safety masks, sterile gloves, as well as T-shirts, baseball caps, vests with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan /Federation logos.

In accordance with the programme requirements a systematic monitoring of the volunteers' activity, households rounds registration, and immunization points was conducted by the regional health coordinators.

National Society Health Manager in Kurgan-tube branch has joined the first training on polio rehabilitation provided by Operation Mercy for medical personnel in Kurgan-tube central hospital on 23 July.

During the four rounds of immunization against poliomyelitis, activities of the regional health coordinators have been fully integrated with the regional centres of Healthy life style.

The information on number of polio patients with residual paralysis had been collected in Kurgan-tube region by the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan.

Number of polio affected in Kurgan-tube region

Target Districts	Number of patients registered	Number of patients with residual effects	Suffered from Polio in the past
1. Bokhtar	48	48	
2. Shahrituz	56	27	
3. Vakhsh	46	46	16
4. Jilikul	22	22	
5. Panj	19	9	
6. J. Rumi	37	27	
7. Kabodiyon	26	No info	
8. Jomy	44	20	16
9. Sarband	11	6	
10. Yovon	9	6	
11. Beshkent	6	2	
Total	324	213	32

Communication and cooperation

Outcome: To raise public awareness through community health promotion, information and media campaigns; including the distribution of information and communication materials to 2,692,500 beneficiaries in 20 districts and Dushanbe city of Tajikistan.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Mobilize district authorities and community leaders to support the public awareness campaign.
- Contact beneficiary representatives, especially community leaders to conduct information campaign.
- Produce and distribute information, education, and communication materials (posters and leaflets).
- Use different channels of communication including local newspapers, TV and radio for hard-to-reach groups (such as people living in remote areas).
- Perform interpersonal communication to raise awareness in the most remote areas.

Progress: The volunteers conducted meetings among population in the targeted districts that aimed at providing information on the immunization rounds. The meetings were organised at the community level with the participation of community leaders, spiritual leaders, and at the level of secondary schools. Information materials were distributed by the volunteers. Some 20, 000 leaflets, 100 posters were distributed in June 2010.

In July a press-conference with the participation of the MoH, UNICEF, WHO, Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan was held among journalists of the “Shabakai avval”, “Safina”, “Jahonnamo” television channels; “Asia Plus”, “Avisenna” newspapers; “Mir” TV company.

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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The International Federation's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

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