

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tajikistan: Poliomyelitis

DREF operation n° MDRTJ009
Update n° 2
10 September 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: 11 August to 6 September 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 21 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.



Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan volunteer distributes information materials to children.

Photo: Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan

According to the Immunization Center, some 700 of new cases of acute flaccid paralysis had been reported on 12 August. As of 12 August 2010, Tajikistan has reported 452 laboratory-confirmed cases of wild poliovirus type 1.

Two mid-scale disasters occurred during the implementation of this DREF operation that delayed the planned activities and the immunization campaign.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan decided and agreed with Health cluster that there is a need to conduct additional national polio immunization days in September and October 2010, as there are two more adolescent confirmed cases. It is planned to conduct immunization for children aged 0 to 15.

Because of the new registered cases and the governmental decision about the additional immunization days, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan DREF activities are extended in order to participate in the National Polio Immunization days in September and October 2010.

Activities for additional rounds of the National Polio Immunization Campaign will be as follows:

- Community social mobilization for vaccination of target groups
- Distribution of information and communication materials
- Internal or in-process monitoring during vaccination campaign to insure quality of

- immunization
 - End-process monitoring to ensure full immunization coverage

The operation will be completed by 30 November 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (28 February 2010).

ECHO contributed CHF 208,177 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 adolescents (6-15 years of age) Government decided to hold a forth 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 last 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.

The Ministry of Health of Tajikistan together with WHO and UNICEF are planning to conduct 5th and 6th rounds of mass polio immunization of children and adolescents aged 0 to 15, allowing the MoH to reach all target groups and the transition to a permanent routine immunization.

Coordination and partnerships

Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has been closely cooperating with the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, local NGOs 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 additional rounds of national polio immunization campaign Red Crescent NS/IFRC will cooperate with the National Coordination Committee.

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	2,109,146	325,300	99,3	33,640	60,070	2,236
Kurgan-tube	1,266,300	290,856	99,3	65,970	133,524	1,493
Kulyab	3,381,107	669,532	99,3	8,238	19,027	663
Total	6,756,553	1,285,688	99,3	107,848	212,621	4,392

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 200 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 two additional 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.

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.

Internal or in-process monitoring during vaccination campaign to insure quality of immunization will be conducted by the National Society in the following campaigns. An end-process monitoring is planned to be implemented by the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan in order to insure full immunization coverage among target population.

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.
- 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.

MoH of Tajikistan announced the 5th round of Polio immunization campaign on 13-17 September 2010 for the target group 0-15 years old. UNICEF is coordinating all activities during National Immunization Campaign.

For the next 5th round of polio campaign Red Crescent Society will implement community mobilization activities and monitoring of vaccination process in all districts of Kurgan-tube region. In total 200 volunteers will work in 12 districts of Kurgan-tube region. As in the previous campaigns the National Society will distribute information materials among targeted population.

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

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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