

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

KYRGYZSTAN: EARTHQUAKE

Appeal No. MDRKG001
1 February 2007

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 11 to 29 January, 2007; Appeal target: CHF 487,745 (USD 391,474 or EUR 301,872); Appeal coverage: 34.7%; Outstanding needs: CHF 318,485 (USD 254,255 or EUR 196,360) *Please [click here](#) to go to the attached contributions list, also available on the website.*

Appeal history:

- Launched on 11 January 2007 for CHF 487,745 (USD 391,474 or EUR 301,872) for five months to assist 6,660 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 100,000 (USD 80,855 or EUR 62,143) in December 2006.

Operational Summary:

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society responded immediately after the earthquake and, with the support of the Federation, began providing relief assistance to the affected communities. To date, the National Society has targeted 800 most vulnerable households left homeless, addressing their food insecurity and hygienic needs as a top priority. The donor response has covered 34.7 per cent of the appeal budget and that allows Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent to proceed further with the planned activities within emergency relief. The Federation is using this opportunity to express its appreciation of the valuable support from donor National Societies. However, more funds are urgently requested to support more than 700 target families that have completely lost their homes in the disaster and are still residing with their host families. As most of the targeted population is amongst the poorest of the poor, relevant humanitarian assistance is needed to prevent a worsening of these families' vulnerability.

The International Federation undertakes activities that 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.

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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.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

Background

An earthquake measuring 5-6 on the Richter scale occurred in Kyrgyzstan on 26 December 2006 at 02:00 local time. The epicentre was located in Kochkor district, Naryn oblast, 140 km south-east of the capital city of Bishkek. In Kochkor district, 31 of 34 localities were reported affected by the earthquake. There were no casualties, but over 34,000 people residing in this area have been affected (some 60 per cent of the total population of 56,639).



People left homeless are still living with host families

Assessments revealed that of the 6,883 affected residential buildings 20 were ruined, 1,312 are heavily damaged and can not be rebuilt, 2,392 buildings require full repair, and 3,159 buildings require partial repair. Thus, 1,332 households (6,660 people) have lost their houses completely.

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society (KRCS) responded immediately after the disaster and, with the support of the Federation (partly based on the CHF 100,000 released from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund), began providing immediate assistance to affected communities.

On 8 January at 11:21 PM local time another earthquake measuring 5-6 on the Richter scale struck Kyrgyzstan. The epicentre was at the border with Tajikistan, 90 km south-west from the province centre Batken. A joint assessment carried out by Red Crescent provincial branch staff and emergency ministry in three districts of the province demonstrated that 1,225 houses received moderate damage and 25 totally collapsed.

The National Society distributed relief items (mattresses, blankets, hygiene kits, bed linen, pillows, rubber shoes, candles, jerry cans, first aid kits), delivered from the Red Crescent south disaster preparedness centre, among 173 affected households (865 people). Multi-children families, families with no provider and with disabled were identified as a primary target group of

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this operation. Spanish Red Cross agreed to provide 12,000 Euro to support the most vulnerable people from the affected area with food.

Operational developments

After the quake in Kochkor people left homeless were accommodated with their neighbouring relatives and are still living with host families. The affected population – both hosting families and homeless people – has limited food stocks for the winter and therefore addressing their food insecurity is the key priority of the Red Crescent response.

The government is focusing its support on the reconstruction of damaged houses, and intends to provide support in the form of loans to the population. By 25 January, the government had allocated construction materials – roofing, glass, cement, paint, fibreboard, lime and transformers – in a total amount of 4,808,882 Kyrgyz Soms (approximately 129,000 US Dollars) to be used by communities. The materials are currently being stocked in warehouses and the distribution and reconstruction works are still to follow, based on the needs of each affected household. Also, the government decided to exempt all communities residing in Kochkor district from electricity supply payments for three months in winter.

The monitoring of the health situation of the affected population has been done by a mobile medical team – part of the health ministry structure – that has been carrying out medical examinations and distributing medicines in the disaster area.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

On 4-5 January, the Red Crescent Society distributed 400 food parcels among the most vulnerable households from 11 villages of Kochkor district. Priority in humanitarian relief was particularly given to vulnerable families out of the entire population currently homeless – those with no provider, families with five and more children, and families with disabled people. Lists of beneficiaries have been prepared by local self-governing bodies based on information from neighbourhood commissions.

Food parcels – containing flour, rice, sugar and vegetable oil – will support people who suffer from food insecurity during winter time until the new harvest.

On 16 January, the Red Crescent national disaster response team of 15 staff members conducted another detailed assessment in Kochkor village – visiting households whose houses were destroyed by the earthquake, talking with community leaders and confirming beneficiary needs. Priority needs of the affected people remain the same: food and hygiene items, and construction materials.

When visiting households of the affected people the disaster response team disseminated booklets with rules of conduct during earthquakes and first aid brochures.

Emergency relief

Objective: Provide an emergency food ration for 4 months consisting of rice, flour, sugar and vegetable oil for approximately 1,332 families (6,660 people).

No relevant action has been taken over the reporting period to achieve this objective. As soon as more funds become available through the Emergency Appeal, the National Society will proceed with procurement and distribution of food parcels to reach all targeted beneficiaries.

Objective: Provide immediate non-food relief items consisting of hygiene kits for 1,332 families (6,660 people).

By 18 January, KRCS had procured 400 hygiene kits and delivered them to the worst affected Kochkor village in the disaster area. On 19 January, the kits were distributed in the village by the national disaster response team

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according to the beneficiary list compiled earlier. Each hygiene kit includes: 5 kg of washing powder; 25 pieces of soap; 25 tooth paste tubes; 5 tooth brushes; and 2 bottles of shampoo.



Essential hygiene items can be a luxury for most vulnerable families

The hygiene kit is to be used by one family during five months. The Red Crescent disaster response team arranged the delivery of relief items to each household from the beneficiary list, handing them to heads of families. 30 volunteers from the target communities supported the National Society in the distribution. On receipt, the beneficiaries signed in the registration journal.

Rehabilitation

Objective: Reconstruct a damaged school in Semiz Bel village.

Due to insufficient appeal coverage there have been no activities implemented against this objective.

Impact

The first lot of 400 food parcels was distributed among worst affected households on 4-5 January. Non-food relief items – hygiene kits – for another

400 households were distributed over the reporting period. Thus, the humanitarian assistance by the Red Crescent Society within this Emergency Appeal targeted 800 households in Kochkor district. The impact is as follows:

- Food parcels have significantly improved the food security of the most vulnerable families who have lost their homes in disaster.
- Non-food relief have built sufficient supply of essential hygiene items in households who were too poor to maintain the supply even before the earthquake.

Constraints

Given the poor living conditions of the population in this region and overall political instability in the country the situation around humanitarian relief was tense. The security of the Red Crescent staff, volunteers and relief aid was an issue during the food distribution. Also, compiling the lists of beneficiaries was difficult in these circumstances. To overcome these issues the National Society initiated repeat household visits to get the first hand information about the affected communities and later delivered hygiene kits to target households directly.

Looking forward

Within the limits of funding available from multilateral donors, the Red Crescent has prepared a priority list of activities of the relief operation. Thus, the National Society plans to procure and distribute the following:

- mattresses, blankets and bed linen for 400 families
- food parcels for 200 families for five months (same ratio as for the previous distribution)
- hygiene kits for 200 families for five months (same content as for the previous distribution)

The target households will be selected according to the developed criteria and after visiting each household in the villages of Tendik and Cholpon in the affected area. Those households that have already received assistance from the Red Crescent will not be covered this time.

In addition, a monitoring trip by the Federation's regional delegation staff is planned for the period following the next distribution.

However, more funds are urgently needed to support the rest 732 target families that have completely lost their homes in the disaster. As most of the targeted population is amongst the poorest of the poor, relevant humanitarian assistance is needed to prevent a worsening of these families' vulnerability. It is important that Red Crescent aid

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reaches the affected people as soon as possible as it is supposed to address their today's situation, weakened by appalling living conditions and severe weather.

Federation Coordination

The KRCS has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Emergencies (MoE) stipulating the auxiliary role of the National Society to the government in disaster response. The National Society continues cooperation with the MoE at national and local level, as well as with other organizations involved in the response operation, so as to avoid overlapping or duplication. During local coordination meetings, conducted on the disaster site, the Red Crescent shares its experience in distribution with other stakeholders who lack experience in managing the distribution process.

Food and non-food relief assistance to the affected communities has also been provided by foreign and local organizations and businesses. However, the assistance is not coordinated in a systematic way. For instance, Turkish embassy in Kyrgyz Republic provided food – waffles, biscuits, tea, bread, milk – which was distributed by local authorities among households in Semiz Bel. The business association of Kyrgyzstan allocated funds in cash that were distributed to families in Isakeevo village, on the ground that Semiz Bel communities had already received food assistance from the embassy. In parallel, local businessmen, corporations and religious organizations rendered food assistance (meat and flour) to affected people in Kochkor village. Disproportional amount of allocated recourses raised concerns in the affected communities.

The World Health Organization and City Hope International (working in the public health sector) allocated 711,849 Kyrgyz Soms (19,300 US Dollars) to the Ministry of Health for medicines and medical equipment to be supplied to medical centres in the affected area. The UN has provided the government with construction materials to repair five obstetric centres and two school buildings with moderate and/or average damage.

Also, 500 kerosene stoves, granted by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, are in the pipeline and are expected to be distributed to the worst affected families by the Red Crescent Society in February.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The earthquake response operation in Naryn province is guided by Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent's mission and the Movement principles. Red Crescent relief distributions are carried out according to the Federation standards and National Society rules and procedures.

Addressing the gender issue, the National Society prioritized humanitarian assistance to families where the only provider is a woman who has under age children, or is a widow or a single mother.

National Society Capacity Building

Before the earthquake struck there had been Tuberculosis programme running in Kochkor district and covered by one Red Crescent staff member. The programme focuses on raising awareness of TB to reduce the incidence rate in this area. No disaster management activities have been implemented in Kochkor area as according to the official data, the area has not been classified as a highly disaster prone (no disasters have been registered over the past five years). However, following the response operation the National Society intends to carry out a community-based disaster preparedness project on the site.

For the period following the earthquake, the number of Red Crescent volunteers in Kochkor area has increased from two to 60. New volunteers are community members who were involved in the Red Crescent relief distribution and who wish to continue volunteering for the National Society.

The operation is building the response capacity of the National Society at branch level. Red Crescent branch disaster response team from Naryn province – among other branches – was trained in situation assessment and relief distribution in 2006. The earthquake response operation in Kochkor district serves as a test for the branch team who has to apply the knowledge it gained at the training in practice.

In general, the National Society response operation raised the image of the Red Crescent in the disaster area. Local authorities, emergency committee and community members have reported that Red Crescent is the only organization present on the disaster site providing a highly professional response.

Communications

Contacts with the media are maintained by Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society on regular basis. The National Society continues close collaboration by commenting on its relief operations, issuing press releases and organizing meetings.

The first media reports by the Red Crescent (29-31 December 2006) attracted public attention to the affected area and prompted the government response.

The media received timely information about the upcoming Red Crescent relief operations. Though media people were not always able to visit operation sites, the National Society used its own resources – photo and video equipment and a cameraman – to prepare several reports for newspapers, TV and the web.

On 10 January the KRCS, as a leader of the response operation, hosted a press-conference for the mass media to advocate for beneficiaries needs, align actions and maintain the profile of the response operation. At the conference the National Society demonstrated a video clip on the Red Crescent action on the disaster site. Responding to the questions of journalists, Red Crescent staff focused on beneficiary selection criteria, the Movement Fundamental Principles, response coordination and future plans.

Currently, Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent is preparing a joint issue of a district newspaper on the Principles and history of the Movement, humanitarian operations of the National Society and beneficiaries' stories with photos, tips on how to overcome distress related to disasters and rules of conduct during earthquakes.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

Kyrgyzstan earthquake

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MDRKG001

PLEDGES RECEIVED

30/01/2007

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				487,745		34.7%
BRITISH - RC		15,000	GBP	35,978	19.01.07	PROCUREMENT OF BLANKETS, MATTRESSES & BED LINEN
JAPANESE - RC		12,900	USD	15,732	19.01.07	
NETHERLANDS - RC		40,000	EUR	64,300	17.01.07	
SWEDISH - RC		300,000	SEK	53,250	19.01.07	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				169,260	CHF	34.7%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	