

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## KAZAKHSTAN: FLOODS

DREF operation n° MDRKZ002  
GLIDE n° FL-2008-000032-KAZ  
5 March, 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.

**CHF 199,858 (USD 190,341 or EUR 124,911) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to some 370 families (about 1900 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** Heavy rains and the melting snow due to a sudden rise in the temperatures have caused floods in the South Kazakhstan oblast (region) on 20 February 2008. As of 25 February 24 localities have been flooded with 259 houses being destroyed and 2,345 flooded; 12,744 people have been displaced, 1 person died. The operation aims to provide immediate support to the most vulnerable groups of the population by distributing basic food and non-food items.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months and therefore will be completed by 5 June 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 30 September 2008).



Red Crescent disaster management coordinator of South Kazakhstan oblast branch is visiting the settlement of Gani Muratbaev where houses have been destroyed by the recent floods.  
Source: TV Channel Kazakhstan Chimkent branch.

[<click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details, or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

## The situation

In the second half of February 2008, on the territory of the South Kazakhstan oblast, which is the most densely populated oblast on the border with Uzbekistan, and along the Sir-Darya river, due to the sudden increase in air temperature, causing snow melting, and the heavy rains the level of water increased significantly, leading to floods in 24 settlements of the Sary-Agash, Ordabasyn and Aryss rayons (secondary subdivisions). According to the data at the end of February, in the oblast a total of 2,345 houses were inundated, 259 buildings were destroyed; 8 schools, 2 primary medical centers and 2 bridges were

destroyed, large portions of roads were washed out, 1 person died and 12,744 people were displaced, which is practically the entire population of the area.

Such a disaster is the first one in the last 50 years in this region. The population was not prepared for the disastrous effect of huge masses of snow, melted due to the sun and rain, and thus flooding their houses and destroying their assets and cattle. The situation is worsening, as it continues to rain. There is a threat that several dams on the Sir-Darya river will be damaged, as the level of water in the Shardarya water reserve is getting high. This means that the situation could escalate and a larger number of people could be displaced.

According to the initial assessment carried out by the Kazakhstan Red Crescent staff in the first days of the emergency, the people who suffered from the floods lost most of their assets, cattle, poultry, and food reserves and many of them have their houses beyond repair. In many villages the agricultural land was covered by clay and sand and it will be impossible to kick-start usual agricultural works in spring. The population was evacuated and accommodated in the nearby sanatoriums or with relatives and friends.

In the disaster-affected area the sanitation and epidemiological situation is worsening, there are cases of respiratory and stomach diseases, there is a potential for outbreaks of infectious diseases and surge in the state of chronic illnesses.

As of the beginning of winter, the electricity supply was affected by bigger needs of heating. In this emergency situation the electricity supply has been additionally affected by the floods and the difficulties in fixing the damage.

The Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) and the local administration of the South Kazakhstan oblast are conducting emergency response to determine the scope of the disaster and perform rescue and evacuation activities. A team of 1,360 people was formed for rescue works, equipped with 194 units of motorized equipment, including 584 staff and 90 equipment units of fire departments, staff from emergency rescue units, from the Kokshetau Technical Institute, the Medical Centre for Emergencies of the MES, all equipped with boats and diving equipment.

During the rescue activities 12,744 people were evacuated from the affected area, the water was pumped out from 408 houses and 3 schools, 2 segments of roads were restored. The rescue teams are providing first aid to the people with injuries or illnesses and help the evacuation process. The evacuated people find refuge in schools and other public buildings, with their relatives.

The government is exploring the possibility of giving financial support to those affected by the floods.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) has organized several inter-departmental coordination meetings where the representative of the Red Crescent branch office took part. The Kazakhstan Red Crescent was asked by the government bodies to provide immediate humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable groups of the population affected by the floods. The ministry has expressed its readiness to support the Red Crescent in the provision of humanitarian assistance.

The only other organization present in the area is the Cross Roads Foundation. As an immediate assistance they distributed kitchen items, towels and bed sheets for 50 affected families.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

From day one of the disaster the staff and volunteers of 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.

The branch volunteers and staff performed an initial assessment and used its disaster response stocks accordingly to provide humanitarian assistance by distributing shoes, clothing, bed-linen and food worth of 19,430 Swiss francs to the most affected people. However, it was not sufficient to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable categories of population.

On 4 March 2008 the Red Crescent Society plans to send a humanitarian shipment from the warehouse in Almaty, including beds, water tanks, clothing and sleeping bags, with a total value of over 55,669 Swiss francs.

## The needs

The basic needs of the affected population have been identified as shelter, food (food reserves have been destroyed in the houses affected by water and mud), household items such as bed sheets, mattresses, cooking sets (again destroyed in the houses affected by water and mud), hygiene items, candles (to respond to the limited or no electricity supply in the affected areas) and basic first-aid items.

**Beneficiary selection:** The National Society's assessment shows that the most vulnerable groups are families with many children and single-parent families, pensioners, and disabled people. At present this group includes 370 families (around 1,900 people). As the forecasts indicate that the situation will worsen, this group can further expand. The government requested the Kazakhstan Red Crescent to prioritize the mentioned categories as the most vulnerable and the first to be assisted.

## The proposed operation

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

**Objective:** To support the most vulnerable groups of the population affected by the floods (370 families or 1900 people) in meeting its basic needs during three months.

The operation envisages an initial, one-time supply of the target beneficiaries with non-food items and the provision of food packages during three months.

Every food package is going to include the following items, calculated for one family for three months:

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

The non-food items that are going to be provided initially will include the following components for one family:

- a hygienic 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

The procurement will be done locally in order to support the local market and put transportation costs to the minimum. The content of the food and hygiene parcels was developed in accordance to the local nutrition habit and hygiene needs taking into consideration the needs of the local communities and special groups such as women, old people and children and were based on the Sphere standards.

Activities planned:

- To organize on the spot a team for the distribution of food and non-food items, including National Society staff and volunteers: the team from the headquarters will visit the affected area in the first week of March and assist the local branch
- To prepare the lists of beneficiaries in coordination with the local authorities: special attention will be given to gender balance, with the aim of reaching out in an equal manner to both boys and girls, and men and women
- To purchase the goods locally
- To prepare a plan for the distribution of relief items and organize the affected communities to do distribution: special attention will be given to ensure that groups with specific needs, like children, older people, disabled people and women, receive their packages
- To distribute the relief items with the affected communities as the principal partners
- To monitor the effectiveness of the aid provided: a gender lens will be used during the monitoring and special attention will be given to the equality between boys and girls and men and women benefiting from the support
- To organize and implement sessions on floods preparedness for the affected population
- To conduct training of trainers on floods preparedness
- To distribute information material on community/family/individual preparedness
- To prepare and present the final report on the operation

## DREF Budget

<b><u>RELIEF NEEDS</u></b>	
Clothing & Textiles	70,510
Food	63,726
Water & Sanitation	15,680
Utensils & Tools	9,102
Other Supplies & Services	3,700
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>162,717</b>
<b><u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE &amp; VEHICLES</u></b>	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	5,400
<b><u>PERSONNEL</u></b>	
National Staff	4,000
National Society Staff	6,850
<b><u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u></b>	
Travel	1,900
Information & Public Relations	5,000
Office running costs	1,000
<b><u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u></b>	
Programme Support - PSR	12,991
<b>Total Operational Needs</b>	<b>37,141</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>CHF 199,858</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

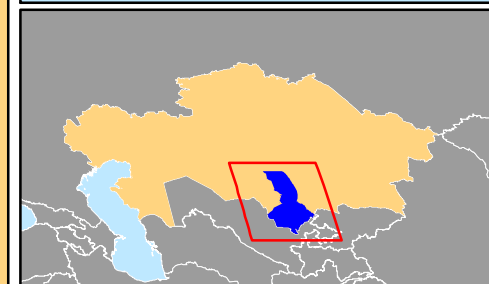
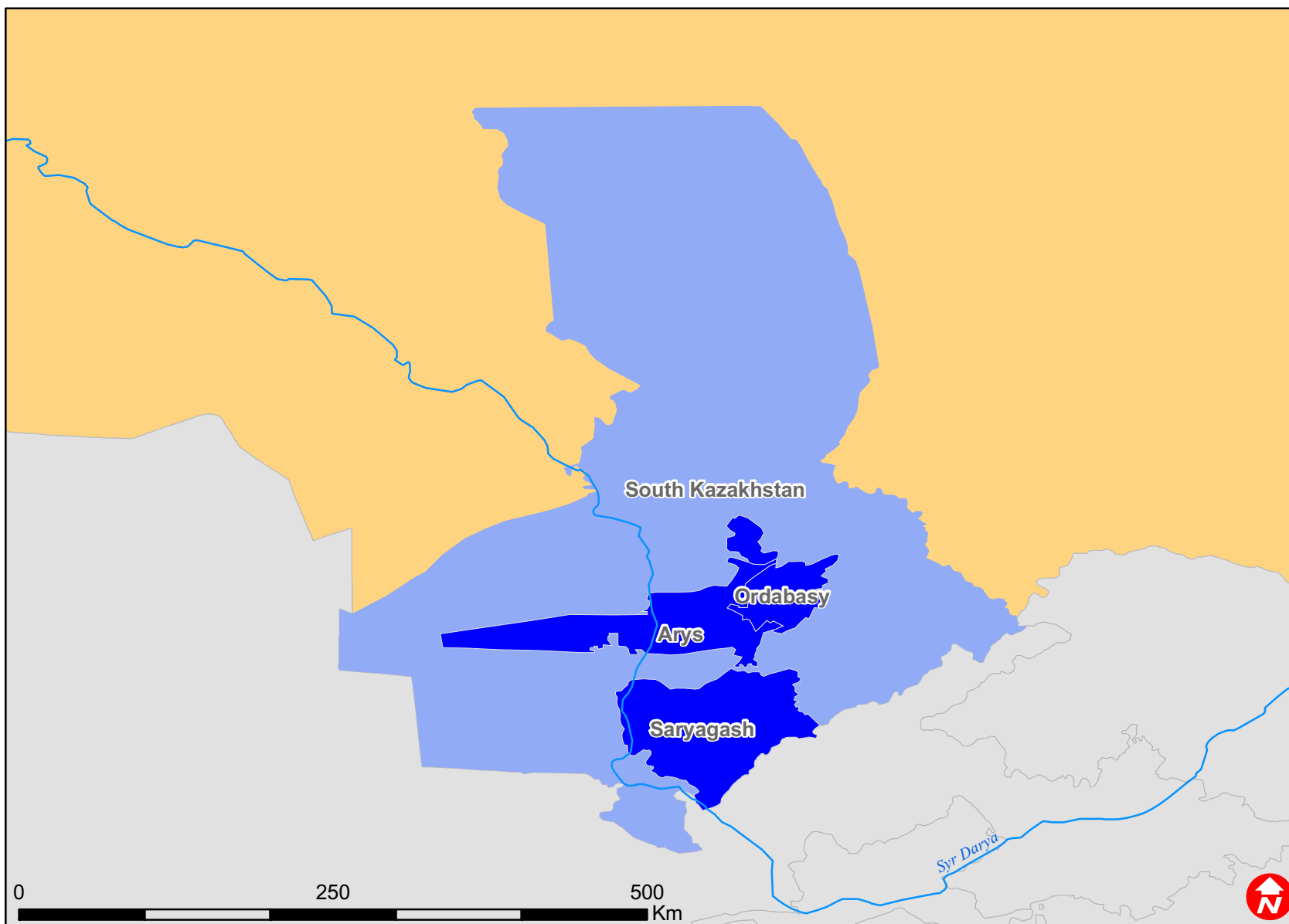
### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[<Map below: click here to return to the title page>](#)



## Kazakhstan: Floods



- Affected secondary subdivisions
- South Kazakhstan oblast

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, Federation