

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tajikistan: Cold Wave

DREF operation n° MDRTJ004
GLIDE n° CW-2008-000015-TJK
12 February 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 172,062 (USD 156,199 or EUR 107,071) has been 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. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: The combination of unusually cold weather conditions and electrical shortages has had a negative impact on human life and welfare beyond what is normally the case during winter in Tajikistan.

This operation will support the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan to provide immediate non-food relief to some 2,149 elderly people living alone in the capital city of Dushanbe and the towns of Kurgan-Tube, Vakhdat and Somoniyon. The operation will also promote hygiene among the general public targeting around 3,000 families in the same towns.

This operation is expected to be implemented during a period of three months, and will therefore be completed by 12 May 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 12 August 2008).

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



As a consequence of the shortage of energy, combined with severe weather conditions, many people were left living in cold, dark homes.

The situation

Tajikistan is experiencing its harshest winter for three decades with temperatures since early January plummeting below minus 20 degrees Celsius. To date, reports indicate that the combination of unusually

cold weather and electrical shortages has had a negative impact on human life and welfare beyond what is normally the case during winter in Tajikistan.

Tajikistan's potential to produce electricity through its hydroelectric capacity is estimated to be the highest in the region, but it depends on its neighbors, notably Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, for electricity during the winter months. However, due to power shortages in those two countries, the amount that could be sent to Tajikistan has been vastly reduced this winter.

This has left people in some villages with only one or two hours of electricity a day. The capital of Dushanbe is also experiencing severely reduced supplies of electricity with the Tajikistan power company introducing strict rationing since 7 February. The supply of daily electrical power is reduced to ten hours – five hours of electricity in the morning (from 5:00 AM to 10:00 AM) and five in the evening (from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM), meaning no electricity overnight. The rationing has affected all residential buildings and businesses, with the only exceptions being “*facilities of state-wide importance.*”

Taking into consideration that the centralized heating systems in Dushanbe and other cities have been almost entirely paralyzed since the early 1990s, residents in apartment blocks have no alternative means to heat their homes in the absence of energy from the city.

An additional difficulty facing people is that water levels in the main reservoir have fallen to the critical level of 860 metres above sea level; this is drawing very close to the *dead point*, meaning a shortage of water. The Asia-Plus information agency reports that the Tajikistan electricity system is taking urgent measures to avoid such a critical situation.

Many antiquated water pipes around the country have either burst, become frozen or have clogged up. This evidently has had a major impact on the availability of water, and with sub-zero temperatures expected to continue, water shortages will remain an added hardship for the population, already struggling through this harsh winter.

The government of Tajikistan has requested assistance from the international community in the form of an appeal for fuel and food, although a state of emergency has not been declared nationally.

Coordination and partnerships

The International Federation and the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan along with other REACT (rapid emergency assessment and coordination team) members like CARITAS, the United Nations Multi-country Demobilization and Reintegration Programme (MDRP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Save the Children (USA) and Mission East working in Tajikistan carried out a rapid survey on the impact of the power blackouts on the population in some of the major urban areas.

The REACT forum has held several meetings to inform its partners of the situation and discuss the response needs. Five sectors under REACT, namely food; health; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); education and shelter have been mobilized to coordinate further in-depth assessments.

In the field of water, sanitation and hygiene, the response of Save the Children, Mission East and Oxfam takes into account life saving measures that will ensure the availability of safe drinking water and sanitation in priority areas. The primary target groups will be primary schools, hospitals and residential child care institutions.

The World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Oxfam and Save the Children is ready to cope with the critical public health issues and fill the gaps in the health sector which the local authorities are unable to bridge.

The World Food Programme (WFP) and CARE International's response includes the provision of wheat flour and vegetable oil, direct cash disbursements for household purchases of needed food and non-food items from local markets and cash for work.

The International Federation was leading the coordination meetings on emergency shelter and non-food items with key operational agencies including CARITAS, CARE International and Save the Children. The response of this sector is aimed at assisting with warm clothing for children, bedding, plastic sheeting and glass panes for windows and doors, water containers, candles, cash disbursements, fuel and heating supplies targeting orphans, the elderly, the disabled and pensioners.

The Finnish Red Cross country office, through the Tajikistan Red Crescent, is planning to distribute family parcels to 422 elderly people in the towns of Vakhdat and Somoniyon towns. These people will also be included as beneficiaries of the distributions of non-food items as part of the DREF operation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In addition to the rapid survey conducted by REACT, an assessment of the current situation and the humanitarian consequences of the prolonged blackouts was carried out by the RCST disaster response teams' staff and volunteers jointly with the state social security in Dushanbe, Somoniyon, Kurgan-Tube and Vakhdat. Female-headed families, elderly people and TB patients were chosen as the target groups for the assessment.

The needs

The results of the assessment revealed that elderly people living alone are the most vulnerable in this situation and the most in need of support. In addition to poverty, exacerbated by recent high inflation rates and low pensions of less than USD 6 a month, this segment of the population often has no relatives to take care of them.

To address the current situation, the International Federation together with the RCST is planning to support a total number of 2,149 elderly lonely people in Dushanbe, Kurgan-Tube, Vakhdat and Somoniyon with basic non-food items, including thermos flasks (3 litres - for hot water or keeping food warm), flash lights, candles, woolen socks and quilts.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To provide basic non-food items for 2,149 elderly lonely people to help them cope with the consequences of the prolonged energy crisis and the unusually cold winter.

Activities planned:

- Prepare the lists of beneficiaries together with the social welfare department and in accordance with the Red Crescent's assessment;
- Procure and deliver relief supplies to the respective RCST branches;
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from the point of dispatch to the end users;
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and report on the relief distributions.

The table below shows the distribution of non-food items per target areas:

Target area	Number of beneficiaries	Thermos flasks (pcs)	Flash lights (pcs)	Candles (2 packs -10 pcs)	Quilts-(pcs)	Socks
Dushanbe	1,037	1,037	1,037	2,074	----	2,074
Kurgan-Tube	690	690	690	1380	690	1380
Vakhdat	262	262	262	524	262	524
Somoniyon	160	160	160	320	160	320
Total	2,149	2,149	2,149	4,298	1,112	4,298

Hygiene promotion

Objective: The risk of waterborne and water-related diseases has been reduced through hygiene promotion to 3,000 families (or 15,000 beneficiaries) in the towns of Kurgan-Tube, Vakhdat and Somoniyon.

Activities planned:

- Reprinting of hygiene promotion materials that are already developed;
- Community awareness raising including distributing hygiene promotion materials to the targeted population and follow up.

The beneficiaries of these activities are families who do not have access to water due to the frozen pipes and are forced to use water from open sources or water tanks. Hygiene promotion activities are planned in cooperation with the respective operational agencies, all targeting different districts.

Target area	Hygiene promotion booklets (pcs)
Kurgan-Tube	5,000
Vakhdad	5,000
Somoniyon	5,000
Total	15,000

The above listed items under both objectives will be procured locally.

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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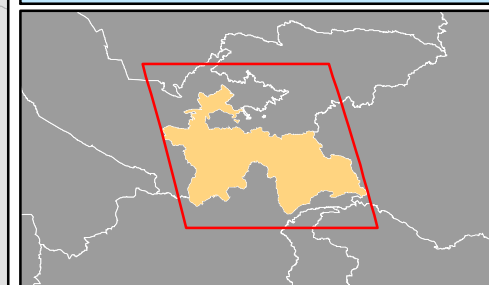
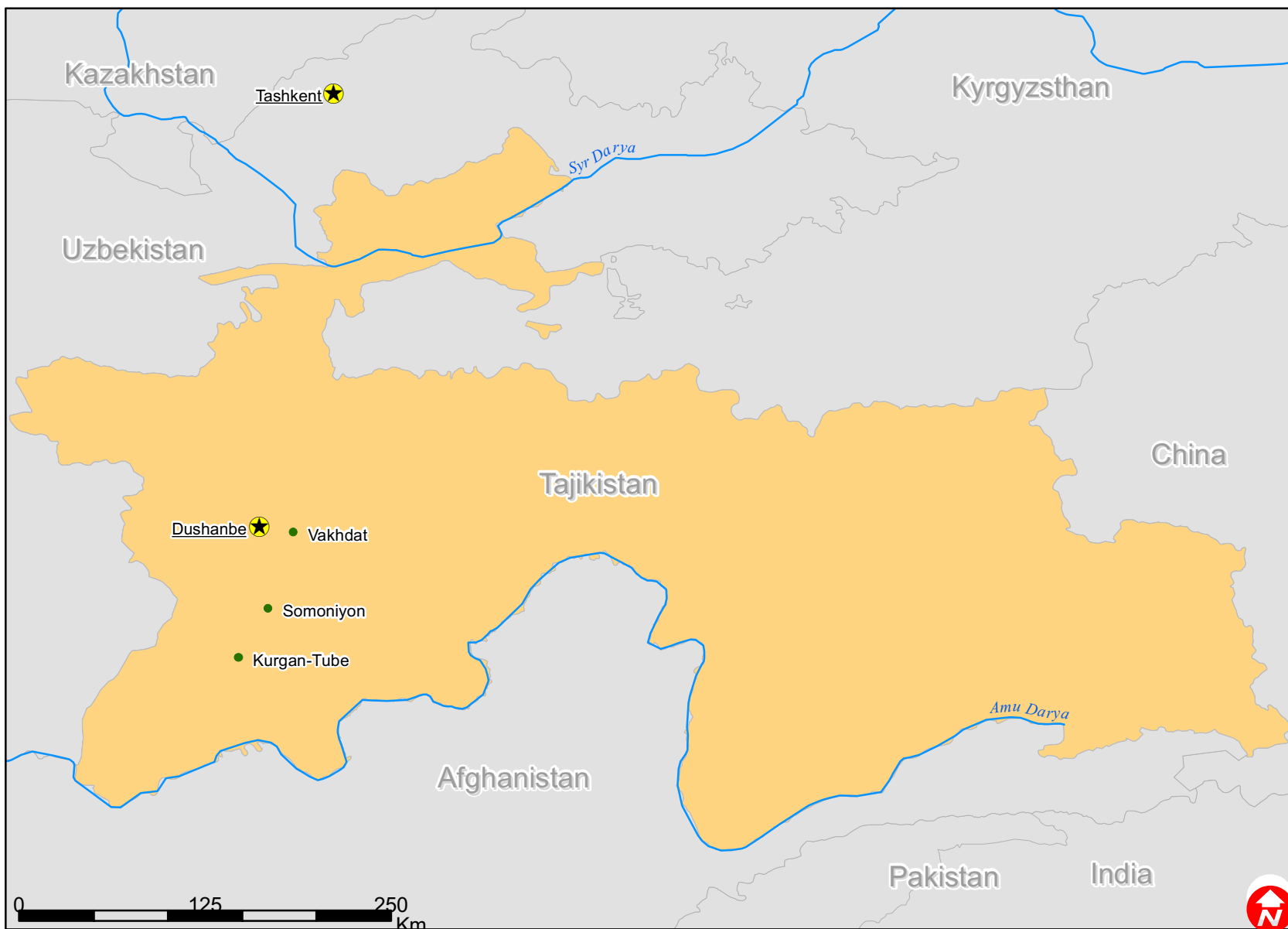
[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

Budget

Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit price	Total CHF
SUPPLIES/Subtotal				145,142.60
Blankets and quilts	pcs	2149		26,947.60
Warms socks (2 pieces per 1 person) and clothes	pcs	2149		17,192.00
Thermoses 3 litres	pcs	2149		63,395.50
Candle (2 pack 20 pieces)	pcs	2149		10,745.00
Flash light	pcs	2149		26,862.50
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE				
TRANSPORT & VEHICLE/Subtotal				1,900.00
Transportation DP Stock				1,900.00
PERSONNEL EXPENDITURES/Subtotal				9,838.10
IFRC DREF personnel (3 people)	month	1	1,885.00	1,885.00
NS DREF personnel (3 people)	month	1	1,000.00	1,000.00
Volunteers allowance	person	42	153.55	6,449.10
Accommodation	times	7	44.00	308.00
Per diem	days	7	28.00	196.00
WORKSHOPS SEMINARS/Subtotal				
GENERAL EXPENSES/Subtotal				4,000.00
Reprinting Hygiene Promotion Materials	pcs	3000	1.00	3,000.00
Transport expenses *Monitoring				1,000.00
FIELD BUDGET/Subtotal				160,880.70
PROGRAMME SUPPORT BUDGET/Subtotal				11,181.22
GRAND TOTAL				172,061.92



Tajikistan: Cold wave



The combination of unusually cold weather conditions and electrical shortages has had a negative impact on human life and welfare beyond what is normally the case during winter in Tajikistan.

This operation will support the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan to provide immediate non-food relief to 2,149 elderly lone people in Dushanbe city, Kurgan-Tube, Vakhdat, Somoniyon towns as well as to promote hygiene to the general public targeting around 3000 families in Kurgan-Tube, Vakhdat and Somoniyon towns