

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Georgia: Earthquake

**DREF operation n° MDRGE002**  
**GLIDE n° EQ-2009-000191-GEO**  
**14 September 2009**

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 61,016 (USD 58,793 or EUR 40,337) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 750 people. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** An earthquake of magnitude 6.2 on the Richter scale struck northern Georgia 8 September 2009. Its epicentre was 80 kilometres from the city of Kutaisi, in the Oni district in Racha-Lechkhumi region. Several aftershocks have been registered.

Some 1,400 houses have been damaged or destroyed. Almost 1,500 families have been affected, of which many are now residing in tents. The Georgian Red Cross Society, supported by the International Federation, aims to assist 150 families, amounting to 750 people, with mattresses and blankets.

This operation is expected to be implemented over two months, and will therefore be completed by 15 November 2009; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 15 February 2010).

[<click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details>](#)



Georgia Red Cross assessing needs in damaged house in Oni district. **Georgia Red Cross Society.**

## The situation

An earthquake of magnitude of 6.2 on the Richter scale struck northern Georgia on 8 September 2009. Its epicentre was 80 kilometres from the city of Kutaisi, in the Oni district in Racha-Lechkhumi region. Tremors were also felt in the capital Tbilisi, the central town of Gori and in Zugdidi, in the west.

There have been several aftershocks. Another earthquake measuring 4.4 on Richter scale struck Oni on 12 September.

According to assessments by the local authorities, mainly the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation, some 1,400 houses have been damaged or destroyed. Some 1,460 families have been affected and many cannot return to their houses, either because of destruction or because they feel unsafe. The most affected location is Oni with 443 houses destroyed and 868 damaged. In Sachkhere 146 houses were destroyed. Many houses were also affected in the villages of Nigavzebi, Utsera, Ghari and Nakieti.

No fatalities have been reported to date, while six people are reported injured. No damage has been reported in water supply systems and sewage. People are afraid to go back to their houses for fear of new earthquakes and the damage to their houses. This fear is further fuelled by ongoing aftershocks. People are however staying in tents next to their damaged and destroyed houses as they do not want to leave their houses and belongings. This is merely a temporarily solution though as winter is approaching with lower temperatures.

## Coordination and partnerships

Within the Movement the Georgia Red Cross Society is taking the lead in response to the earthquake, coordinating its work with the International Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). A meeting between the Movement partners took place on 11 September in which the latter offered support to the society.

The Georgian Red Cross Society is also coordinating its efforts with state authorities. The National Society seeks to fulfil its role as an auxiliary to the government in Georgia and its role as the sole organization being included in the National Disaster Response Plan of Georgia. Close coordination and information sharing is thus maintained with the State Emergency Department of Georgia, under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia in Tbilisi and the affected area.

The National Society and the International Federation has had correspondence with UNHCR in the affected areas and are sharing information to avoid duplication and ensure that the most vulnerable are reached. UNHCR have provided tents, sleeping bags, pillows, blankets, wool blankets, jerry cans and mattresses directly to Oni. UNICEF has provided tents and water kits and Save the Children has provided tents. Other international organizations, such as WFP will be distributing relief items such as hygiene kits. UNICEF estimates that to date tents have been provided to accommodate a total of more than 5,000 persons.

The National Society and the International Federation, along with the State Emergency Department, UNHCR and other international organizations, attended a meeting with UNDP on 10 September in order to map the actions undertaken by the different actors. During the meeting the head of the Emergency Department expressed satisfaction on the cooperation with the Georgian Red Cross.

The Georgian Red Cross has furthermore approached embassies and the corporate sector with a request for additional assistance to the affected population.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Georgian Red Cross disaster management team from the headquarters in Tbilisi and volunteers from Kutaisi branch, together with a Federation disaster management delegate, arrived in the affected area the same day as the earthquake struck and undertook a quick assessment of the situation. The team followed up the assessment by meeting with the state authorities including the State Emergency Department. Visits were paid to several affected villages and families to assess the situation on the ground and identify needs.

The National Society delivered 140 tents which were available in their warehouses to people in the affected area on 10 September. The National Society has no more tents in stock. Next steps for the

National Society following this DREF includes tendering, procuring and distributing relief supplies to affected people, including identifying and selecting the most vulnerable families.

### The needs

Needs among people made homeless by the earthquake are among others tents, blankets and mattresses. Some food has already been provided by other actors, although there are no reports of serious food shortages.

People to be reached will be specified following an assessment in the affected region to identify the most vulnerable households. Out of the estimated 1,400 households which have been affected, the National Society aims to cover 150 of the most affected ones amounting to approximately 750 people.

With winter approaching needs among those who have become homeless will become more acute. As the affected area is mountainous and located near the Caucasian mountain range, temperatures might decrease notably in the coming weeks.

### The proposed operation

Based on the needs in the affected areas the Georgia Red Cross Society, supported by the International Federation, aims to provide mattresses and blankets to 150 most affected households amounting to 750 people. The operation will be implemented over two months.

The National Society will identify and assist households with the most damaged houses and who are now accommodated in tents and other temporary shelter facilities. Furthermore, families which have not been receiving support from other sources will be targeted. The actions by the Georgian Red Cross thus seek to complement other actors' support to affected people. Measures to avoid duplication are undertaken through meetings and information sharing. The focus area for the operation will be Oni and surrounding villages.

In terms of procurement the National Society will make a tender and procure items locally. The process will follow Federation procedures and pursue the highest degree of transparency. Depending on the final locations chosen for the operation either centrally organized distribution points or distribution on the spot will be the mode of distributing supplies.

The operation also includes a satisfaction survey among targeted people as to verify the appropriateness of the operation. Feedback from these people will be analyzed and used to improve future operations. Hence the inclusion of target groups is a key priority of the society.

<b>Relief distributions (non-food items)</b>	
<b>Objective: Provide mattresses and blankets to 150 most affected households amounting to 750 people</b>	
<b>Activities planned:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the affected area to identify the most affected households</li> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance</li> <li>• Procure relief supplies from local suppliers according to Federation standards</li> <li>• Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions</li> </ul>	

Supplies and amounts to be procured and distributed:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Mattresses	750
Blankets	750

Table 1: Planned supplies and amounts for distribution.

The operation needs to take into consideration that there is no local Red Cross branch in the affected area. Therefore the National Society will be operating from the Kutaisi branch and its headquarters in Tbilisi. Although the National Society has harvested much valuable experience in the last year, among others through its emergency response to the August conflict over South Ossetia and Abkhazia as well as winterization support, the society's response mechanisms need to be further developed. Communications between the headquarters and branches is a particular area in which improvement is called for and which would thus enhance the response capacity of the National Society. Apart from the 140 tents which have already been delivered to affected area the National Society has no relief items for immediate distribution in stock.

<b>Visibility</b>
<b>Objective: Promotion of Georgia Red Cross Society activities and strengthening of the National Society's image</b>
<b>Activities planned:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise the visibility of National Society through relief distributions, visits to the affected people, monitoring and evaluation by volunteers of Red Cross branches</li> <li>• Procure and utilize Red Cross t-shirts, caps, ID-cards for volunteers and staff of the Georgia Red Cross Society</li> <li>• Conduct a satisfaction survey to verify the appropriateness of the operation and get feedback from targeted people to improve future operations</li> </ul>

## Budget

<b><u>RELIEF NEEDS</u></b>	
Clothing & Textiles	41,250
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>41,250</b>
<b><u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE &amp; VEHICLES</u></b>	
Storage - Warehouse	2,000
Distribution & Monitoring	1,500
Transport & Vehicles Costs	3,500
<b><u>PERSONNEL</u></b>	
International Staff	1,500
National Society Staff	3,500
<b><u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u></b>	
Travel	1,000
Information & Public Relations	500
Communication Costs	800
Financial Charges	300
Other General Expenses	1,200
<b><u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u></b>	
Programme Support - PSR	3,966
<b>Total Operational Needs</b>	<b>19,766</b>
<b>Total Requested Allocation</b>	<b>61,016</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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