

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

KAZAKHSTAN: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRKZ003
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000051-KAZ
19 March 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 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 134,552 (USD 127,176 or EUR 92,671) has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to 480 beneficiaries and to replenish emergency stocks. Some 1,300 people will be targeted with hygiene promotion also. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: On 11 and 12 March 2010 floods hit again the Almaty region as a consequence of the plentiful precipitation (snow and rain) and the sharp rise in the temperature that triggered the snow melting. On the evening of 12 March four settlements were completely flooded and another eight settlements partially flooded in addition to the number of flooded farms. In total about 1,500 residential houses were flooded, part of them completely destroyed. Around 10,000 people had to be temporarily resettled to safe locations.



One of the many houses in Kyzylagash village that has been destroyed. **Photo: Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society**

The purpose of this operation is to provide food (hot meals) and non-food items (hygiene kits) to the 480 most vulnerable people among the affected population, and to reduce the risk of water-related diseases through hygiene promotion among those temporarily resettled.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by mid-June, 2010. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by mid-September, 2010).

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

The situation

Initial flooding, late February 2010

Starting in the third week of February 2010 abundant snow thawing, heavy rain and a rise in the temperature in the Almaty region resulted in flooding 19 locations including Karasai, Zhambyl, Ili, Panfilov, Koksusk, Eskeldinsk and Uighur districts. Some 420 houses were flooded, 2 bridges destroyed, parts of highways and railroads washed up; and as a result some 6,800 people had to be temporarily resettled to safe locations. By early March the situation in the affected area stabilized.

The Ministry of Emergency Situations jointly with the Almaty region authorities conducted emergency rescue activities including evacuations and other urgent operations. The government mobilised 2,679 people including 1,628 staff from different rescue units. Rescue equipments such as boats, diving tools, water pumps, pipes for water drainage and other items were mobilised as well. Specialists of the state institution "Kazselezaschita" (dealing with rescue activities in emergency situations) were deployed to coordinate the work.

The rescue operation included pumping of water from the flooded houses, cleaning of infrastructure/channel systems, replacement and reconstruction of water tubes, construction of protecting dams, as well as cleaning of drainage tubes. The rescue teams provided first aid to the evacuated population. The affected people were accommodated with relatives, in available hotels, hospitals and other premises adapted for temporary accommodation. In addition, in the Ili region a tent camp was installed for 300 people. The camp was supported with food, medical care and basic necessities.

Recent flooding, March 2010

On 11 and 12 March 2010 the situation deteriorated sharply in Karatal, Aksus, Kerbulak, Koksusk, Uighur district and Taldykorgan (Almaty region) due to the continuing rain and melting snow.

As a result of the wash-out of the dam in Karatal district 230 homes were flooded affecting 2,120 people. In the Aksus district, as a result of the dam burst the villages of Kyzylagash, Koltaban, Sagabien and Egensu were completely flooded. More than 500 homes were flooded and 4,500 people lost their homes and property. The flooding left 35 people dead, 58 missing, and 4 people hospitalized. In addition 700 heads of cattle were killed.

Some 480 people were evacuated from Kyzylagash village to Taldykorgan and accommodated in a military unit's barracks. Some 150 families were accommodated in the local hospital. The most affected 250 people were evacuated by helicopter to Taldykorgan. The rest of the affected population was placed with relatives and friends. The government set up a tent camp for approximately 1,000 affected people from the Kyzylagash village. However, the camp conditions are very basic: tents are not isolated from the soil; and beds, mattresses and bedding are missing. Food supplies are insufficient and the hygiene and epidemiological situation is poor. Some people found refuge in the buildings that remained unaffected on the disaster site. The conditions in those accommodations are also bad because there are around 20–30 people in one (usually small) house. Some people do not want to leave the area to be sure that they will be able to rescue sugar beet which is their main crop. A bridge on the national highway Almaty-Oskemen close to the Kyzylagash village was washed away but the government has set up a pontoon bridge. In Koksusk district 400 people were affected. In the Uighur area 393 houses were flooded and about 2,000 people affected. There is additional danger of flooding in two more settlements (with a population of over 7,000 people) because of the risk of dam burst. In total, around 2,600 heads of cattle were killed.

An operational headquarters was established under the leadership of the deputy regional governor and the head of the Department for Emergency Situations of the Almaty region. More than 330 staff of different levels of the Ministry of Emergency and more than 40 different units were deployed to assist the affected population on the disaster site. In the near future the government plans to mobilize people from the affected population to clean and undertake recovery activities in the disaster area.

In accordance with the initial assessment of the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan, the majority of the affected people lost their homes and property, as well as all food supplies, including cattle and food reserves in cellars and gardens. Moreover shops with food were affected as well. In addition the sanitary-epidemiological situation has deteriorated in the affected areas: there were cases of diarrheal and respiratory diseases in combination with acute or chronic illness of affected population. In relation to the living conditions of the evacuated population, who are usually accommodated in crowded places, there is a risk of outbreaks of diseases transmitted by contact (like skin disease).

According to needs assessments the primary needs are for:

- food items
- non-food items (hygiene items, bedding, kitchen sets, clothing, footwear)
- psychological and social support

Almost all of the affected population belong to the most vulnerable groups: families with many children, people with disabilities, pensioners, single mothers and unemployed people.

According to the National Society headquarters team that arrived to the disaster site on 14 March water still remained in the area and houses, including farms, are still under water. Animal remains could be seen all around. The weather forecast anticipated rain and temperature increase in the coming days. The number of people accommodated in the military unit's premises, student hostels, hotels, a children's house and those hospitalized in Taldykorgan meanwhile increased to 1,300. Among them there are a lot of small children.

Coordination and partnerships

At present, coordination between the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society's Almaty regional branch and the Ministry of Emergencies and its officials is insufficient due to the large disaster site and the high workload. Local authorities provided oral information about the situation. The National Society was facing difficulties obtaining correct information about the number of people relocated from the different districts. With regards to the children's needs in the disaster area, UNICEF has planned to make an assessment.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In response to the floods that occurred in late February, the Almaty regional Red Crescent branch assisted 44 affected people living in the Panfilov district with second-hand clothing, footwear, bedding and hygiene items. However, this assistance was insufficient to meet the vital needs of the most vulnerable groups.

For the people affected by the floods that happened on 11-12 March and who have been accommodated in the barracks near Taldykorgan own, the Almaty regional branch has distributed 15 bedding sets (including mattresses and bed sheets) and 300 kilogrammes of second-hand clothes.

On 14 March the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society headquarters sent the following humanitarian cargo to Taldykorgan: 300 mattresses, 300 bed-linen sets, 300 blankets, 80 kitchen sets (kettles, pots, plates, spoons, cups), 80 plastic jerry cans, 80 buckets, 80 towels, and 700 hygiene kits (washing powder, toilet soap, soap and towels). The shipment will be distributed in cooperation with local authorities to the most vulnerable population. In addition, the headquarters' team of six people (disaster management department head, assistant, logistician, national disaster response team member and a volunteer) have arrived to Taldykorgan to continue the assessment of the situation and the needs. On arrival the team had a meeting with the press announcing their arrival and plans. Since 15 March about 480 people received hot meals from the National Society canteen in Taldykorgan on a daily basis; the meals were delivered to people's accommodation. The canteen has employed additional staff to ensure its smooth operation; and local authorities agreed to cover the canteen utilities costs for one month. The delivered relief items have been distributed in the military unit (213 people) and in the hostel (85 people) in cooperation with local authorities. Besides, the National Society allocated 120 mattresses, bedding sets and hygiene kits for the most vulnerable among those accommodated in the hospital in the disaster area. However, these families will be transferred to Taldykorgan because of the danger of further flooding.



The Red Crescent distributed bedding sets, blankets, buckets, towels and hygiene items for the people accommodated in the military barracks. **Photo: Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society**

The needs

Beneficiary selection: According to the preliminary assessment, the most vulnerable people among the affected families are those with many children, people with disabilities, pensioners, single mothers and unemployed people.

This operation will target 480 affected people from Kyzylagash, Egensu and Koltaban villages who are now accommodated in Taldykorgan. The needs are primarily for food, sanitation and hygiene, as well as clothing and footwear.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
Objective: Hot meals and hygiene items are distributed to 480 people temporarily accommodated in Taldykorgan.
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organize teams for the distribution of humanitarian assistance from National Society staff, volunteers and the affected population• Compile a list of beneficiaries to receive assistance• Locally purchase the goods needed for distribution• Develop a plan for the distribution of humanitarian aid• Distribute the relief items to the target group• Monitor and evaluate the assistance and provide reporting on relief distributions• As part of the monitoring and evaluation activities conduct a survey among people reached to find out whether their needs were met and to seek their opinion on how the services were delivered

Hot meals for 480 affected people will be provided through the Almaty regional branch canteen located in Taldykorgan. The targeted people will be provided with three meals a day during 30 days. The meals will be delivered to places of accommodation: four hostels, two hotels and a children's house.

Non-food assistance will include the following hygiene items for one person for one month:

Hygiene kit items (for one month)	Amount
Laundry soap	1 piece
Toilet soap	2 pcs
Washing powder	0.5 kg
Toothpaste	1 tube
Toothbrush	1 piece
Shampoo (200 ml)	1 bottle
Toilet paper	4 rolls

In addition, women will be provided with sanitary pads - one pack (20 pieces / pack) for one month, and children under two years will be provided with diapers - one pack (72 pieces / pack) for one month. In total 200 packs of sanitary pads and 50 packs of diapers will be distributed.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion
Objective: The risk of water-borne and water related diseases has been reduced through hygiene promotion to 1,300 people temporarily resettled in Taldykorgan.
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Locally purchase the goods needed for distribution• Print the leaflets• Distribute the items among the target group.

The National Society will distribute salts for dehydration as well as hygiene promotion leaflets to the people temporarily resettled in Taldykorgan (around 1,300 people). Volunteers will visit the people, inform them about the hygiene rules and distribute the items and leaflets.

Budget

APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

MDRKZ003

19 March 2010

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief		0
Shelter - Transitional		0
Construction - Housing		0
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		0
Construction - Materials		0
Clothing & Textiles	20,000	20,000
Food	77,280	77,280
Seeds & Plants		0
Water & Sanitation	14,020	14,020
Medical & First Aid		0
Teaching Materials		0
Ustensils & Tools		0
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	5,970	5,970
Total Supplies	117,270	117,270
Land & Buildings		0
Vehicles		0
Computer & Telecom		0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		0
Medical Equipment		0
Other Machiney & Equipment		0
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0
Storage		0
Distribution & Monitoring	500	500
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,500	1,500
Total Transport & Storage	2,000	2,000
International Staff		0
Regionally Deployed Staff		0
National Staff		0
National Society Staff	5,470	5,470
Other Staff benefits		0
Consultants		0
Total Personnel	5,470	5,470
Workshops & Training		0
Total Workshops & Training	0	0
Travel	500	500
Information & Public Relation	500	500
Office Costs		0
Communications	600	600
Professional Fees		0
Financial Charges		0
Other General Expenses		0
Total General Expenditure	1,600	1,600
Cash Transfers to National Societies		0
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		0
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0
Program Support	8,212	8,212
Total Programme Support	8,212	8,212
Services & Recoveries		0

Shared Services		0
Total Services	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	134,552	134,552

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

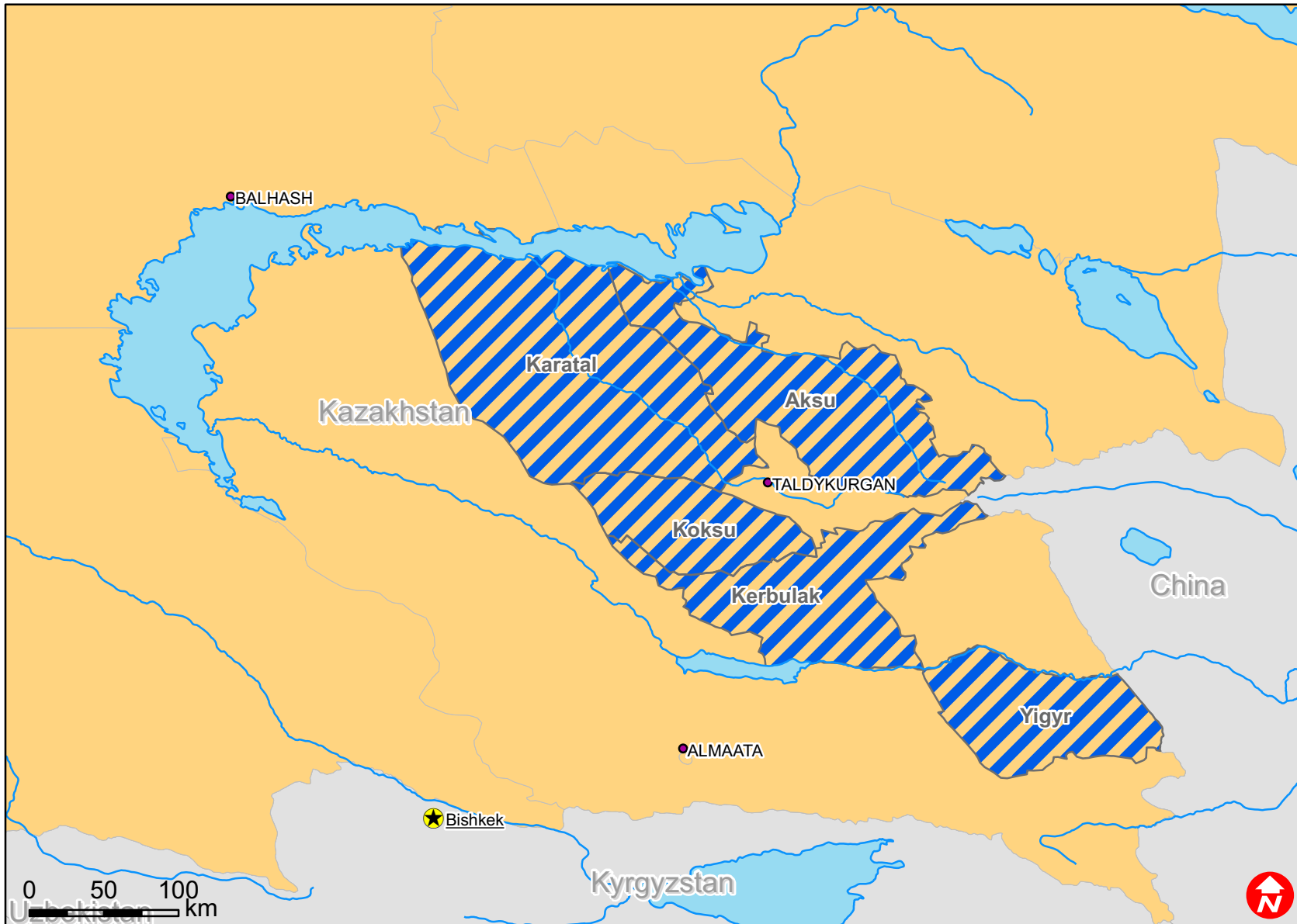
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[<Map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



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 Affected districts