

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Russia: Boat Accident

**DREF operation n° MDRRU012**  
**GLIDE n° AC-2011-000086-RUS**  
**15 July 2011**

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 emergency response. 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 25,358 has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Russian Red Cross in delivering immediate psychosocial assistance to some 200 families. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**



**Survivors of "Bulgaria" rescued by "Arabella" cruiser ship are brought ashore. Photo: Reuters**

**Summary:** The cruise ship "Bulgaria" was caught in a storm on the Volga river in Tatarstan on Sunday, 10 July 2011, at about 14.00 and sank within minutes at one of the widest points of the river claiming the lives of 130 people, 60 of which are believed to be children.

The Russian Red Cross will provide psychosocial support to the affected families of the deceased and to the survivors in order to minimize the psychological effects in the aftermath of the boat accident. Most of the victims are residents of Tatarstan.

This operation is expected to be implemented over six months, and will therefore be completed by 15 January 2012; a Final Report will be made available by 15 April 2012.

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

## The situation

The double-decker vessel "Bulgaria" was caught in a storm in Tatarstan on Sunday, 10 July 2011, at about 14.00 local time (10.00 GMT) while sailing from Bolgary to the regional capital, Kazan. It sank within minutes at one of the widest points of the river, near the village Syukeevo and went around 20 metres deep. The Minister of Emergencies, Mr Sergei Shoigu said the boat was overcrowded, carrying 209 people, of whom 25 had not been registered as passengers. Officials say the boat's capacity was 120 passengers and crew, but it had been carrying over 200 people.

The first survivors were picked up by a passing riverboat called the Arabella. Officials have confirmed rescuing at least 78 people. The local authorities confirmed the death toll at 63, but more than 60 people remain missing and the likelihood to find anyone still alive is almost zero.

According to the Ministry of Emergency Situations in Russia, 223 people and 37 units of equipment, among them 80 divers and 2 speedboats are working at the site. The team of divers had been scouring the sunken boat in the murky river for survivors. They reported through the Ministry of Emergency (EMERCOM) officials to the media that they had seen about 100 bodies - many of them children - trapped inside the sunken vessel. According to Russian news reports, about 60 children are believed to have been on board: 'Practically no children made it out,' a survivor said: 'There were very many children on the boat, very many.'



Survivors arriving ashore. Photo: Reuters

The Central Department of Emergency Situations in Tatarstan has established an operational headquarters. A telephone hotline was opened (+7 (843) 227-46-56) for those in need of clarification of the current situation and the lists of the rescued and injured.

The bad weather, mechanical failure on the 55-year-old vessel and overcrowding have all been cited as possible reasons why the boat sank.

Meanwhile, a criminal investigation has begun related to the accident. Alexander Bastrykin, the head of Investigative Committee in Russia, arrived at the crash site to organize and coordinate the investigations. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev

in his turn requested the head of the Republic of Tatarstan Rustam Minnikhanov to provide all the necessary assistance to the victims and their relatives. In addition, the President drew attention to the need to assist the bereaved families. Dmitry Medvedev declared 12 July a national day of mourning for the disaster that killed 130 people in Russia's worst river accident in three decades.

Although state authorities have pledged to provide material compensation to the affected families, people are in a deep shock and in need of psychosocial support.

## Coordination and partnerships

The government of the Russian Federation started the rescue activities immediately after the accident. The Ministry of Emergencies, EMERCOM, is in charge of the overall emergency response including search and rescue activities in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport and the local authorities. The Russian Red Cross Tatarstan branch contacted EMERCOM and the local authorities immediately after the accident and proposed to provide support to the affected people, their family members and the relatives of the deceased. The local Centre for Psychology's staff expressed their readiness to participate in Red Cross PSP training and to run a psychosocial project in the region on a voluntary basis.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Russian Red Cross has profound experience in rendering psychosocial support to the population affected by natural or man-made disasters. Over the last seven years, six long and mid term PSP projects were implemented by the National Society with the support of IFRC Moscow Regional Representation. All of them were appreciated by the affected communities and local authorities.

The Russian Red Cross Headquarters has opened a bank account for collecting donations that will be duly transferred to the affected families.

The Russian Red Cross Tatarstan branch contacted the local administration and EMERCOM. The staff of the branch in Kazan has carried out an assessment of the situation. The Head of the Republican Centre for Psychology initiated discussions with the Russian Red Cross about the provision of psychological support for the families of the deceased people.

## The needs

The boat accident resulted in 130 people being killed, 2 people being injured and 78 people being rescued in a state of shock. Most of the victims and affected families are local residents in Tatarstan. According to the information of the Tatarstan Russian Red Cross branch and local authorities of the Republic the expected number of families in need of psychosocial support will be at least 200.

## The proposed operation

Following the request of the local authorities to the Russian Red Cross to be engaged in the psychological support to the families affected by the “Bulgaria” accident, the Tatarstan Red Cross branch started working with the authorities and the affected families and prepared a plan of action. The Russian Red Cross headquarters is supporting the branch in its efforts to respond to the situation.

The aim of the operation will be to minimize the psychological effects in the aftermath of the “Bulgaria” accident through provision of psychosocial support to affected population in Tatarstan.

In the frameworks of the planned operation, the Russian Red Cross will take the following actions:

- Prepare 20 volunteers who will provide immediate and mid-term community-based psychosocial support to the affected individuals and families.
- Arrange social support for the affected individuals and families and help them resolve their social or legal problems related to the accident.

Emergency health and care	
<b>Objective:</b> The psychological effects in the aftermath of the Bulgaria boat accident are reduced through the provision of psycho-social support to about 200 affected families.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Psycho-social support is provided to about 200 families.	➤ Provide psycho-social support to about 200 families members affected by the Bulgaria boat accident through Red Cross staff and trained volunteers to address people’s needs and to improve their psychological condition.

## Monitoring and Communication

The Tatarstan Republican Russian Red Cross branch will be responsible for the implementation of the psychosocial support activities in Tatarstan. The Russian Red Cross Headquarters, in close cooperation with the IFRC Regional Representation in Moscow, will monitor the progress towards the objective of the operation and provide technical support and advice. The visibility of the work of volunteers will be ensured throughout the operation through regular updates to the media. The International Federation Regional Representation in Moscow will update weekly the Europe Zone Office on the implementation of the operation.

## 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

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

- **In Russia:** Raisa Lukutsova, Chairperson, Russian Red Cross; phone: +7 495 126 7571; email: [mail@redcross.ru](mailto:mail@redcross.ru)
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[<Map and budget below, click here to return to the title page>](#)

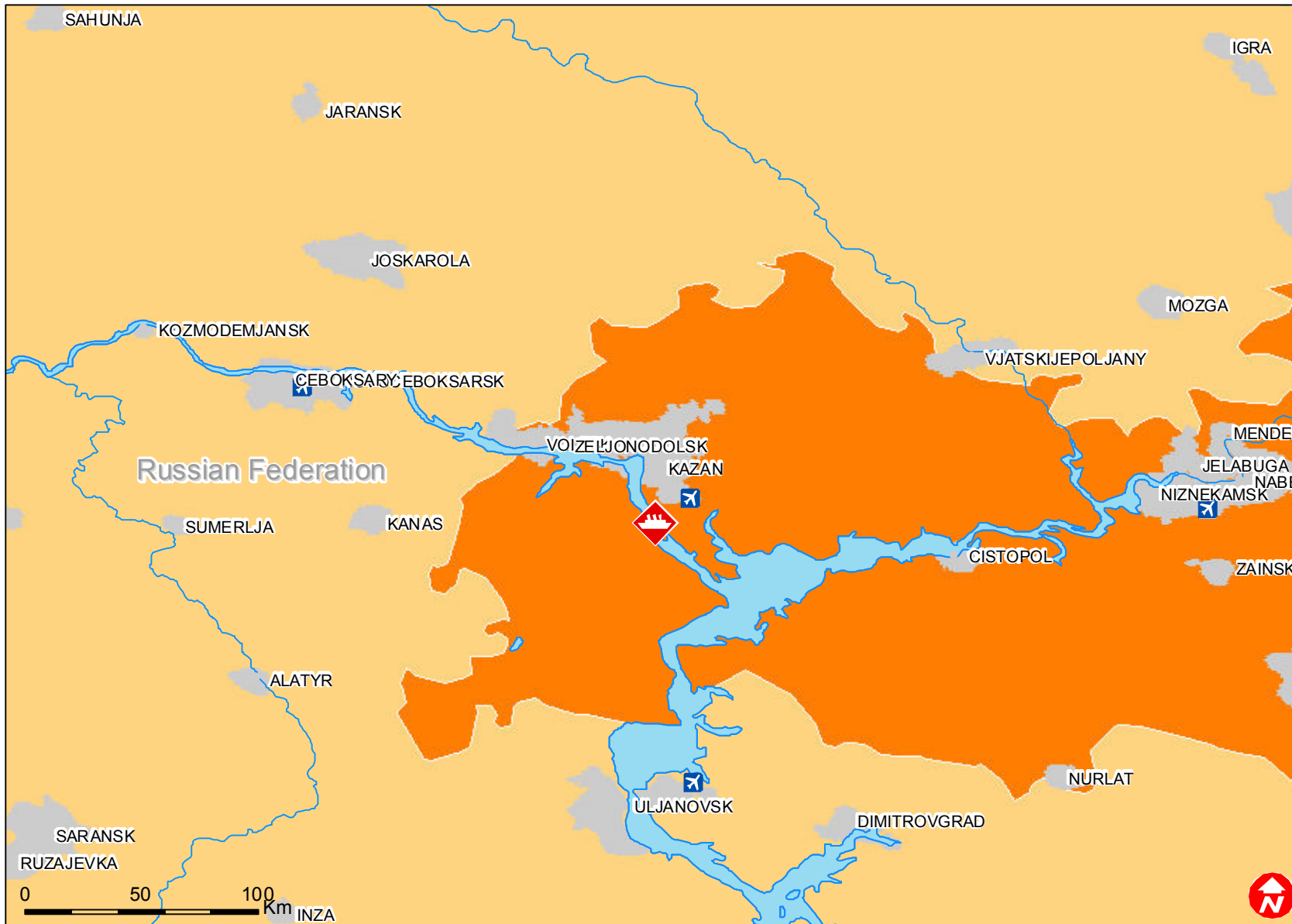
# International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



## BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Total Supplies	0	0
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0
Distribution & Monitoring	3,080	3,080
Total Transport & Storage	3,080	3,080
National Society Staff	6,600	6,600
Total Personnel	6,600	6,600
Workshops & Training	8,580	8,580
Total Workshops & Training	8,580	8,580
Travel	1,650	1,650
Information & Public Relation	1,500	1,500
Office Costs	1,200	1,200
Other General Expenses	1,200	1,200
Total General Expenditure	5,550	5,550
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0
Program Support	1,548	1,548
Total Programme Support	1,548	1,548
Total Services	0	0
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>25,358</b>	<b>25,358</b>



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-  Tatarstan
-  Approximate place of the accident