

# ***UZBEKISTAN: EXPLOSIONS IN TASHKENT***

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## ***Information Bulletin N° 1***

### ***The Disaster***

Six blasts in various districts of Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, rocked the city on 16 February. The explosions left 12 dead and 128 seriously injured, besides causing extensive damage to houses, schools, administrative and other buildings, including the Headquarters of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society. Twelve houses were completely destroyed. In a radius of 500 meters from the blast centres, windows of houses and schools were shattered by the explosions.

The total number of people affected and in urgent need of assistance is over 2,500. Because it is wintertime, there is a danger of illnesses related to cold and exposure.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan has set up an emergency task force of five staff working on a 24 hour basis. An emergency meeting was held for branch chairpeople, who conducted needs assessments together with volunteers at the disaster sites and provided comprehensive information about the nature and scale of the disaster, the number of people affected and the need for assistance.

The National Society provided emergency relief to families whose houses had been totally destroyed or heavily damaged: 12 families received food parcels, mattresses, bed linen, warm clothes and other items, while five families received tents. It has begun distributing food to 140 vulnerable families (700 beneficiaries) and medical items to the hospitals that took in the injured.

### ***Needs***

- \* The most urgently needed medical items are dressing materials and disinfectants.
- \* Family Food Parcels are needed, to enable the Society to continue assistance to 140 families.

The Federation today released CHF 13,100 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Society's relief action. Cash or in-kind contributions are sought to cover this allocation and to enable the Society to continue its relief efforts.

Peter Rees-Gildea  
Director  
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Renny Nancholas  
Director  
Europe Department

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