

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tajikistan: Earthquake

DREF operation n°MDRTJ003
GLIDE n° EQ-2007-000108-TJK
14 January, 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 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 55,000 (USD 44,716 or EUR 33,196) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 25 July 2007 to support the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan in delivering immediate assistance to some 720 beneficiaries and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks.

Summary:

This operation was to support the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan to provide immediate relief to the affected population in the eastern part of the country where houses had been totally destroyed and the families lost their homes and properties as a result of the earthquake. The people affected in the region received relief items including plastic sheeting, bed linen, mattresses, pillows, hygiene packets, cooking sets, quilts, plastic buckets, blankets, hoes, shovels and water cans to improve their life condition and to help them repair the damage done to their property. This operation was implemented over three months and completed by 30 October 2007.



Almost 300 houses in Rasht valley collapsed and buried scarce belongings of their inhabitants.

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The situation

An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale hit 19 villages of Kalai Surh and Nusratullo Makhsum Jamoats (administrative centres) in Rasht district 200 km from Dushanbe city, in the eastern part of Tajikistan at 03:44 AM local time on 22 July, 2007 (UTC 22:44, 21 Jul, 2007). The detailed assessment conducted jointly by the governmental Emergency Commission¹, the rapid emergency assessment and coordination team (REACT) and the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan's disaster response team (DRT) in Rasht district showed that three boys from one family had been perished, 293 houses were totally destroyed

¹ The commission is set up under the Tajik government when a disaster occurs with the purpose of mobilizing and coordinating the overall disaster response in the country. It includes all state agencies working in disaster management.

and more than 1,200 houses were partially damaged, leaving three persons hospitalized with one severe case. Six schools, five teahouses, four libraries and one youth centre were also damaged. Those affected by the disaster acutely needed temporary shelter, food and non-food items as well as construction materials. The earthquake had the most severe affect on adobe houses, including accessory buildings (like warehouses); large fragments or whole walls collapsed, destroying the inhabitants' belongings. Partial damage included cracks in the walls up to 3-5 cm width. The majority of the destroyed houses were adobe buildings built over the last 3-10 years without adherence to house building standards and with improper construction materials (cement, iron bars and framework, timber wood etc.) due to the severe poverty of the population. A marked difference was that the houses built 20-30 years ago with proper construction materials and in accordance with the local building standards and design had no major damage at all. The government of Tajikistan requested assistance from the international community to address the severe emergency situation in Rasht district. Since 22 July, a number of international and national agencies undertook various response measures, including the provision of food, temporary shelter, basic construction materials, medical and non-food items, water and sanitation sets. In close collaboration with the REACT members an emergency appeal was launched by the United Nations Disaster Risk Management Project (UNDRMP).

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Rasht district branch of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan was the first actor responding to the earthquake by mobilizing its own resources and providing assistance to the affected population within the first hours. The Rasht valley disaster response team (DRT) consisting of ten trained National Society volunteers, the branch staff together with 40 local disaster committee (LDC) members from the two affected district administrative centers were deployed to render first aid, conduct situation assessments and provide relief assistance from its pre-positioned stock in Rasht valley's and Dushanbe city's central Red Crescent disaster preparedness warehouses. To make the response more effective in each of the affected areas and to ensure systematic communication with the headquarters and the district branches, the Rasht valley disaster response team was divided into two and it set up its presence in both affected district administrative centers. Such a set-up also helped to coordinate the assistance provided by other agencies and to avoid the duplication of activities.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: Provide non-food items to the 120 most affected families (720 people)².

Activities planned: The results of the needs assessment conducted by the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan showed that the assistance to the affected people should be expanded. Thus, on the National Society's request 55,000 Swiss francs was released from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to meet the needs of the 120 most vulnerable affected households (720 people).

DREF funds were used for the procurement, transportation and distribution of disaster preparedness items to the affected population and for the replenishment of the Red Crescent central warehouse stock of Dushanbe city. In total 360 lengths of plastic sheeting, 480 sets of bed linen, 480 mattresses, 480 pillows, 480 hygiene packets, 120 cooking sets, 480 quilts, 480 plastic buckets, 480 blankets, 120 hoes, 120 shovels and 480 water cans were provided to the targeted 120 families (720 people) from the Red Crescent stock available on the spot and purchased from the DREF allocation. The distributions were completed by 30 October 2007. As some of the items had been taken from the Dushanbe disaster preparedness warehouse during the operation, DREF funds were also used to replenish the disaster preparedness stock of this central warehouse in Dushanbe. Thus, 100 lengths of plastic sheeting, 100 sets of bed linen, 100



Red Crescent relief distributions targeted 720 people in the affected area

² The original DREF request was aiming at providing immediate assistance to some 600 beneficiaries, but further assessments showed a need to increase the number of targeted beneficiaries to 720.

mattresses, 100 pillows, 16 hygiene packets, 16 cooking sets, 100 quilts, 50 plastic buckets, 100 blankets, 32 hoes, 32 shovels and 16 water cans were purchased under DREF funds and were afterwards provided to the disaster preparedness stock in the central Red Crescent warehouse of Dushanbe city.

Besides this, 37 family tents from pre-positioned stock were distributed to the 37 most affected families. As part of the visibility efforts 30 vests, 30 T-shirts and 30 caps with Federation and Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan logo were procured and distributed to the volunteers involved in response activities.

The relief items distributed to the affected population were selected according to the criteria agreed with the local authorities, REACT partners and the local government, thus assistance was provided to the most vulnerable households, whose houses were totally destroyed and who lost their home properties.

Due to the presence of other agencies responding to the disaster, the National Society selected the 120 families considered as the most vulnerable out of the 293 mostly affected families. Throughout the whole operation period, the disaster management department of the Red Crescent Society's headquarters with the support of the Federation's country representation was providing technical support and advice to the Rasht district branch. The distribution process was organized by the Rasht district branch in close cooperation with the local authorities, state social services and the State Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence representatives.

Adequate response of the Rasht district branch in terms of timely first-aid service, situation assessment and relief distribution to the affected population was constantly receiving a special emphasis during UN and government partners' coordination meetings and through local media sources.

The Federation's support to the National Society in establishing and training the national disaster response team at the district level and the LDC at the community level as well as the application of the National Society's contingency plan allowed the National Society to provide good quality response to the earthquake. The contingency plan was tested during the response activities in the earthquake-affected area. In early September the president of Tajikistan together with the Tajik governmental delegation visited the earthquake-affected villages. During the visit the president addressed the disaster-affected population who received support from the Red Crescent Society. The affected people expressed their gratitude to the Red Crescent for its effective and timely response during the first hours after the earthquake. At the meetings summarizing his visit, the president laid a special emphasis on the good job done by the Red Crescent Society.

Impact:

The operation provided an opportunity for the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan to strengthen its disaster response capacity. The district branch of the National Society, the regional DRT and the local disaster committee members in the affected area upgraded their practical skills to work together with governmental and local authorities. Better response, coordination and cooperation were forged also with other non-governmental organizations responding to this disaster.

Challenges:

To further strengthen the disaster response capacity and awareness of disaster-prone communities, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, the disaster response teams and the local disaster committee members through disaster management and first-aid training; and the organization of disaster response simulation exercises still remain the main challenges.

Co-ordination

The disaster response of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan was tightly coordinated with REACT partners, the State Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence and the governmental Emergency Commission. The Red Crescent relief items were distributed in coordination with the United Nations Disaster Risk Management Project, the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, CARE International and the State Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence.

The National Society had been in close contact with the Federation's country representation and received support in developing effective disaster response. Furthermore, the REACT partners had been kept informed of the actions taken by the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan as part of the response operation.

The State Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence under the government of Tajikistan, in partnership with the UN Resident Coordinator and REACT, coordinated the overall assistance, the relief items' delivery and the manpower mobilization for reconstruction activities.

The United Nations Disaster Risk Management Project through REACT managed the operational coordination of the assistance provided by REACT partners.

The educational component of the assistance was provided by UNICEF in partnership with the Ministry of Education and local authorities.

The World Food Programme has provided logistics support to the humanitarian community and food support to the affected households.

Conclusion

The DREF funds received through the Federation enabled the Red Crescent of Tajikistan to adequately respond to the needs of the affected population. The Red Crescent achieved the objective of providing relief assistance to the people in need. During the response activities and the monitoring, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan once more faced the need to raise the capacity of the local branches' volunteers. The remaining balance of 4,607 Swiss francs will be returned to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund.

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

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRTJ003 - Tajikistan - Earthquake

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2007/12
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2007/12
Appeal	Mdrtj003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		55,000				55,000
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		50,393				50,393
C6. Other Income		50,393				50,393
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		50,393				50,393
D. Total Funding = B + C		50,393				50,393

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		50,393				50,393
E. Expenditure		-50,393				-50,393
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		55,000					55,000	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	4,320		4,285			4,285	35	
Clothing & textiles	26,370		23,569			23,569	2,801	
Utensils & Tools	10,560		10,372			10,372	188	
Other Supplies & Services	3,360		3,319			3,319	41	
Total Supplies	44,610		41,544			41,544	3,066	
Transport & Storage								
Storage			89			89	-89	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,543		1,873			1,873	670	
Total Transport & Storage	2,543		1,962			1,962	581	
Personnel								
National Staff	2,788		2,568			2,568	220	
National Society Staff	670		650			650	20	
Total Personnel	3,458		3,218			3,218	240	
General Expenditure								
Office Costs			393			393	-393	
Communications	814						814	
Total General Expenditure	814		393			393	421	
Programme Support								
Program Support	3,575		3,276			3,276	299	
Total Programme Support	3,575		3,276			3,276	299	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	55,000		50,393			50,393	4,607	
VARIANCE (C - D)			4,607			4,607		