

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Kyrgyzstan: Earthquakes

DREF operation n° MDRKG003  
GLIDE n° EQ-2008-000002-KGZ  
9 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 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 100,000 (USD 88,106 or EUR 60,132) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,500 beneficiaries.**

**Summary:** Several earthquakes hit Kyrgyzstan at the end of 2007 and the beginning of 2008. The largest one occurred on 1 January 2008 with an epicentre in the region of Osh. To date, 968 families have been displaced and are in need of winterised tents, heating devices, food supplies and construction materials. Taking into account the support already provided, the National Society will distribute food rations to 500 poor and vulnerable families affected by the earthquake.



One of the houses severely damaged by the earthquake in Osh. Source: Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent, Osh branch

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months and will therefore be completed by April 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by July 2008).

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

## The situation

Out of several separate earthquakes hitting Kyrgyzstan the largest one with a magnitude of 5.6 occurred in the south of the country at 12:32 PM on 1 January 2008 in a remote area some 30 kilometers from the city of Osh causing damage to housing and infrastructure.

Assessments conducted by the Ministry of Emergencies confirmed the following damage in various locations of Osh region as of 8 January 2008: four private houses destroyed, 990 houses severely damaged and not considered secure for living in, one secondary school destroyed; seven schools and one hospital severely damaged and considered unsafe; 4,363 private houses, 15 secondary schools, one primary school and three kindergartens requiring minor repair. The State Commission for Architecture is currently assessing the damage to buildings and the final report is due on 10 January.

The localities hit by the earthquake are situated in remote mountain areas that are not easily accessible. In winter the roads are often blocked due to the weather conditions, making them even more cut off than at other times of the year. The weather this January is especially cold, and, according to forecasts, will stay at around minus 15-20 degrees Celsius in the coming week or weeks; this is considerably lower than usual for January. Besides, during the second half of 2007 Kyrgyzstan suffered from the sharp increase of prices on the world markets that translated into price increases within the country for bread and basic food staples. The large increase in the cost of basic food staples is having a disproportionately hard impact on the poor that form a large segment of the Kyrgyz population.

According to the assessments of the Ministry of Emergencies as of 6 January, 700 families (approximately 3,500 people) were displaced and require humanitarian assistance. Out of the total number of displaced people, 348 families had received tents and 352 families had moved in with their relatives or were accommodated in public buildings. The results of further assessments show that the number of displaced families is even higher increasing to 968 families (5,300 people). Many people are not willing to leave their scarce assets and cattle and therefore families put up tents near their damaged houses. Due to traditional family ties, with several generations living together or close to each other, women and children would usually receive refuge with their relatives, while men would live in tents. The food reserves (wheat flour, rice and potatoes) that the population usually stores for the winter to safeguard against snow avalanches, have been partially lost as a result of the earthquake, as people cannot enter the damaged buildings to recover them, or the stocks became frozen in the cold weather.

The temporary shelter- 357 summer tents as of 8 January- provided by the Ministry of Emergencies is not sufficient because of the harsh winter conditions; consequently the provision of winter tents and heaters has been the priority for the government and its partners.

The government has called for immediate support from the international community to address the consequences of the earthquake. The official government request on 4 January included: 500 winterized tents (200 for four persons and 300 for eight persons), 500 charcoal stoves, 2,500 warm jackets, 1,000 pairs of winter footwear for adults, winter footwear (quantity unspecified) for children, 22 tons of flour, 3,000 liters of cooking oil, 11,250 cans of meat, 4.5 tons of sugar, 150 kg of tea, 2.25 tons of pasta products and 3.75 tons of construction materials. The list was first shared with the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent and then with the international community.

## **Coordination and partnerships**

The Ministry of Emergencies has thus far organized three coordination meetings with the members of the international community (on 3, 4 and 8 January) in the capital city of Bishkek, with a video conference link to Osh. The fourth meeting is planned for 15 January. The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent participates in all of the meetings.

Immediate support has already been provided or confirmed by a number of international agencies. The UN Agencies have offered 203 mattresses, 200 sleeping bags, 400 blankets, 477 kitchen sets, 1,872 pieces of soap, 729 children's winter shoes, 443 children's winter sweaters and 20 sacks of various clothing from their joint warehouse in Osh. Some of the items were already distributed by the UN, through the Ministry of Emergencies on 6 January. Also 80 heaters and ten tons of

potatoes provided by German Agro Action<sup>1</sup> were distributed on 6 January. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has offered USD 30,300 for additional heating devices as well as petrol for transportation of relief items to the affected population. OCHA has also made an offer to release 120 winterized tents (scheduled to arrive on 9 January), donated by the Norwegian government, to be dispatched from the joint UN warehouse in Brindisi, Italy.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) will provide 75,000 Swiss francs for the reconstruction of public infrastructure and is considering supplies of tents and heaters. The Counterpart International<sup>2</sup> will provide several sacks of clothes (funded through the US Agency for International Development).

The European Community Civil Protection Mechanism sent two official notifications to Member States requesting them to inform the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC)<sup>3</sup> if they are able to offer any of the assistance requested. The Swedish Rescue Services Agency (SRSA) offered 90 winterized tents with heaters. Austria and the Slovak Republic have also offered assistance through the European Commission's MIC. Slovakia is donating 25 winterized tents (S-65, for ten persons) as well as 1,000 items of winter clothing. Austria is donating 20 winterized tents (Atika K45, for eight-ten persons) together with 20 heating units for the tents (through the Austrian Red Cross). Austria is paying for the transportation of both the Austrian and the Slovak relief assistance and the plane is due to leave Vienna on 8 January. Both offers have been accepted by the government of Kyrgyzstan. Bulgaria has offered an assistance of 20 winterized tents with heaters; the transport of these items it still to be arranged.

The Federation's regional representation is closely coordinating with the UN OCHA Regional Office in Almaty by sharing assessment reports, plans and actions already taken.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society has reacted very promptly to the earthquakes. The southern regional branch office provided immediate assistance on 3 January, using its regional disaster management stocks. In the localities affected by the earthquake in the Karasuy district (Osh oblast) they have distributed 259 mattresses, 478 bed linen sets, 134 towels, 90 sacks of second-hand clothes and five sacks of footwear.

The National Society's regional branch is in permanent contact with the local administration and the Ministry of Emergencies to monitor the developments and the reaction mechanisms that are put in place. The National Society in Bishkek takes part in coordination meetings organized by the government and keeps in contact with international organizations. The National Society staff and volunteers continue to assess the needs in cooperation with the Ministry of Emergencies.

The Federation's regional representation in Almaty is closely monitoring the situation and is supporting the activities of the National Society.

## **The needs**

Taking into account the support that has already been provided or is underway, and in accordance with the government's request, the National Society's assessment of the needs shows that there is a significant shortage of food supplies that is not being addressed.

The National Society's assessment also shows that the majority of the displaced families belong to the poor and/or vulnerable groups of the population, as the region is one with a high incidence rate

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<sup>1</sup> German Agro Action is a non-profit organization, [Website](#)

<sup>2</sup> Counterpart International is a non-profit international development organization, [Website](#)

<sup>3</sup> The Monitoring and Information Centre is responsible for the mobilization and coordination of EU member states' civil protection assistance in the event of major emergencies.

of poverty. Many families have five and more children, or have older family members or people with disabilities living with them. As outlined above, the population affected by the earthquake currently has no food stocks and no means to provide the necessary supplies in the coming months. The most vulnerable groups are the focus of the National Society because it believes, jointly with the government, that food assistance is required to help these families overcome the consequences of the earthquake in the most difficult season of the year, when people can not easily get food on their own.

## The proposed operation

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Objective: To provide supplementary food rations for three months to 500 vulnerable displaced families (approximately 2,500 people), in order to help them recover from the earthquake and reduce the threat of malnutrition during the winter.**

The beneficiary families are selected according to the following criteria:

- Families who live in temporary lodging (tents, public buildings, with their relatives);
- Families with five and more children;
- Families with a disabled member of the family.

It is proposed to distribute food in packages, as such distributions are easier to arrange and manage in the current setting when there is a number of small localities affected that are widely spread in the mountainous areas. The proposed option also better suits the local tradition of food being prepared within, and for, the larger family or tribe. The food products included in the package are commonly used by Kyrgyz people.

Each food package will contain the following food ration for one family for three months:

- 50 kg of wheat flour;
- 22 kg of pasta products;
- 25 kg of rice; and
- 5 litres of vegetable oil.

#### Planned activities:

- Finalize rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments;
- Complete the list of beneficiaries;
- Procure, transport and distribute food supplies to the target beneficiaries;
- Record, monitor and report on relief distributions.

## Budget

Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit price CHF	Total CHF
Supplies				
Pasta products	Kilogram	11,000	1.63	17,930
Rice	Kilogram	12,500	1.37	17,125
Vegetable oil	Litre	2,500	3.99	9,975
Flour	Kilogram	25,000	1.34	33,500
Subtotal				78,530
Transportation & Distribution				
Transportation				5,000
Geneva costs				
Programme Support Recovery				6,500

6,5%				
Personnel				
DM NS Coordinator (2 months)				1,070
PMER Coordinator (1 month)				2,000
Finance Manager (1 month)				2,200
General Administration, Information				
PR activities				2,000
Communication, monitoring, other				2,700
Total				100,000

## 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

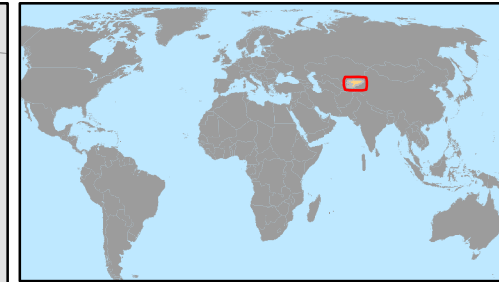
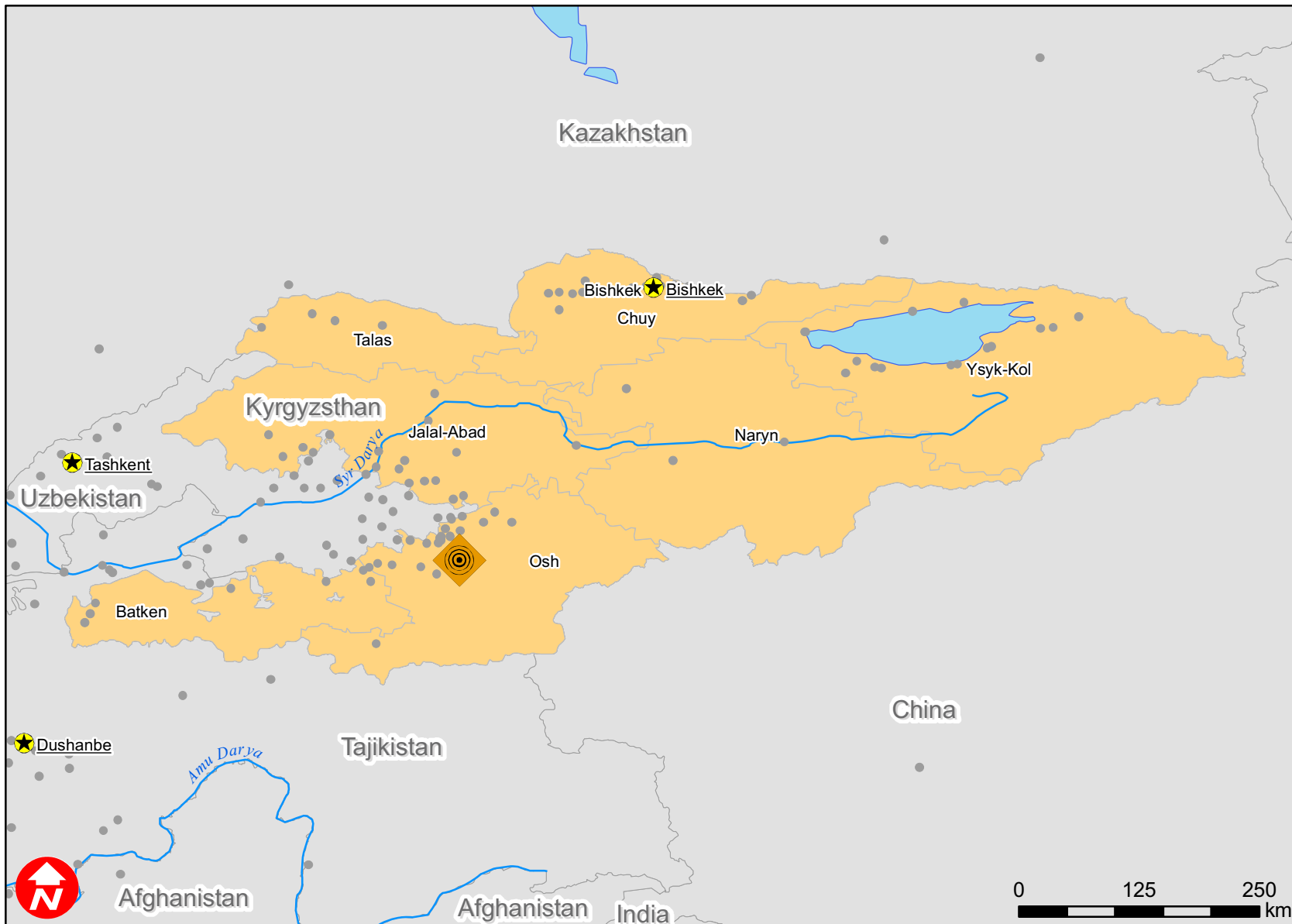
**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**





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



# Kyrgyzstan: Earthquakes



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-  Regions

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, Federation