

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Kazakhstan: Mine blast

DREF operation n° MDRKZ001
GLIDE n° AC-2008-000008-KAZ
17 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 43,626 (USD 38,437 or EUR 26,233) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 191 families (approximately 800 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: A mine blast in the Karaganda region of Kazakhstan on 11 January 2008 killed 30 people, leaving a further 18 injured. The miners injured in the accident, their families and the families that lost members are in shock and showing signs of stress that require psychosocial assistance and counseling. The National Society will organize immediate support and longer-term recovery for the 191 affected families.



A mine blast in the Karaganda region of Kazakhstan has taken the lives of 30 people.
Source: Vremya newspaper

This operation is expected to be implemented over six months, and will therefore be completed by 31 July, 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 31 October, 2008).

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

The situation

At 09:20 AM on 11 January, 2008 a methane gas explosion occurred in the Abay mine in Kazakhstan's Karaganda region, followed by fires. The Ministry of Emergencies reported that 191 people were in the mine at the time of the explosion, out of which 161 were taken to the surface, with 14 taken to the hospital suffering from severe trauma. Four more people were hospitalized in the subsequent two days. Seven miners were reported dead immediately after the accident. The situation of the other 23 people still in the mine remained unclear until 13 January when these miners were officially declared dead, as the fire and the toxic substances in the mine excluded the possibility of their survival.

The Ministry of Emergencies has formed a commission to investigate the case. Specialized rescuers were working on the site to find and take the miners to the surface. As the methane concentration increased and

the risk of further explosions escalated, the decision was taken to finish the rescue activities and flood the mine with water.

The government is planning to make payments to children and disabled members of the families that lost their providers, and expects the company that owns the mine to make immediate compensatory payments to the families of the deceased and the injured miners.

The affected families suffer mostly from psychological trauma - shock, fear and depression – according to the staff of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society. The stress, induced by the death or injury of their relatives and related to the uncertainty about the future, is complex and requires professional counseling and support, as many people can not overcome the traumatic effects of the disaster on their own. Based on the experience of the Red Cross Societies of Russia and Ukraine from similar accidents, the National Society of Kazakhstan believes that a period of up to six months is required for the full psychological recovery of the affected 191 families (approximately 800 people).

Coordination and partnerships

The Ministry of Emergencies held several interdepartmental coordination meetings, attended by the president of the Red Crescent's Karaganda branch. On 13 January the Ministry of Emergencies requested the National Society to assist in providing psychological support to the affected families, as this is considered to be the most urgent need of the affected population. Meanwhile, with the coordination of the government, teams of social security workers, psychotherapists and insurance officers were providing psychological aid to the miners and their families by organizing group discussions.

The Russian Red Cross has gained considerable experience in counseling people affected by mine explosions and has offered to help the Kazakhstan Red Crescent by providing consultancy, training and methodical support.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Karaganda branch of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society responded within hours of the explosion by setting up a post in one of the mine administration's buildings. Within days of the accident, the Red Crescent staff working at the post provided first aid and psychological support to people who were waiting to hear news about their relatives caught in the mine. Snacks were also served. In addition, the National Society arranged space and facilities for people to sleep and relax (mattresses, pillows and bed linen for up to 15 persons). Red Crescent staff and volunteers accompanied the relatives of the deceased and injured miners during funerals and visits to hospitals.

Due to the very limited current capacities of the National Society to respond to the existing needs for psychological assistance, further support requires the involvement of experienced partners within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Discussions to agree on the terms of such assistance and the appropriate logistics arrangements which took place with the sister National Societies led to certain delays in further response.

The needs

Assessments by National Society staff and volunteers – at the Red Crescent post, and later during home visits to families – have shown that one of the basic needs of the affected people is for psychological counseling and support. Some 191 families (approximately 800 people) require such support to different degrees, which will be provided without discriminating by gender, race or age. Women and children are particularly affected by this disaster and therefore are often in most need of urgent counseling. Additional assessments will help identify the families that need sustained longer-term support.

The proposed operation

Soon after the accident in Karaganda, the Russian Red Cross branch in the Siberian Kemerovo region came with a proposal to assist the Kazakhstan Red Crescent in coping with the situation, as it is similar to recent mine blasts in Russia. Thus this planned response builds on intraregional experience of providing psychosocial support (PSS) after industrial, especially mine, accidents. The Russian Red Cross and the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Societies will utilize the learning from the Kemerovo operation to set up a functioning PSS team in Kazakhstan, which after the end of the operation is expected to receive full support at local government/community level.

Psychosocial support and counseling

Objective: To minimize the psychological effects in the aftermath of the mine explosion by providing direct individualized psychosocial assistance to 191 families for two to six months.

Activities planned:

- Arrange for the arrival of trained specialists from the Russian Red Cross at the project site.
- Select a team of volunteers and train them.
- Through the newly formed branch PSS team provide psychosocial support at home to affected individuals and families in the first two months following the mine explosion.
- Through the newly formed team provide psycho-social support at home during the recovery period to affected individuals and families for six months following the mine explosion.
- Accompany the affected families as they deal with the needs or obligations related to the accident (visits to cemeteries, hospitals or government institutions distributing compensation).
- Organize self-support groups for people affected by the explosion.
- Produce and distribute teaching materials to the PSS team.

Budget

Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit price	Total CHF
SUPPLIES/Subtotal				2,075.00
First aid kit	unit	25	17.00	425.00
Utensils & Tools	unit	25	66.00	1,650.00
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE				
TRANSPORT & VEHICLE/Subtotal				1,200.00
Transport & vehicle				1,200.00
PERSONNEL EXPENDITURES/Subtotal				16,635.00
PMER Coordinator				2,000.00
Finance Officer				2,000.00
National Society Coordinators				12,635.00
WORKSHOPS 7 SEMINARS/Subtotal				10,950.00
Training for PSS team				8,650.00
Meeting with stakeholders				500.00
Group meeting with beneficiaries				1,800.00
GENERAL EXPENSES/Subtotal				9,930.00
Admin expenses				6,930.00
Visibility				3,000.00
FIELD BUDGET/Subtotal				40,790.00
SUBTOTAL PROJECT				40,790.00
PROGRAMME SUPPORT BUDGET/Subtotal				2,836.00
GRAND TOTAL				43,626.00

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

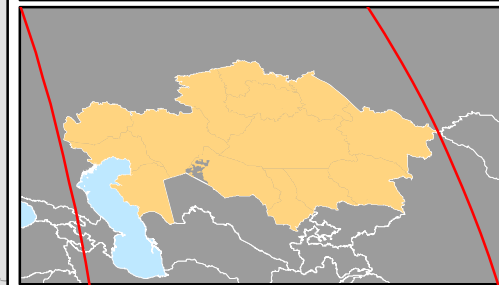
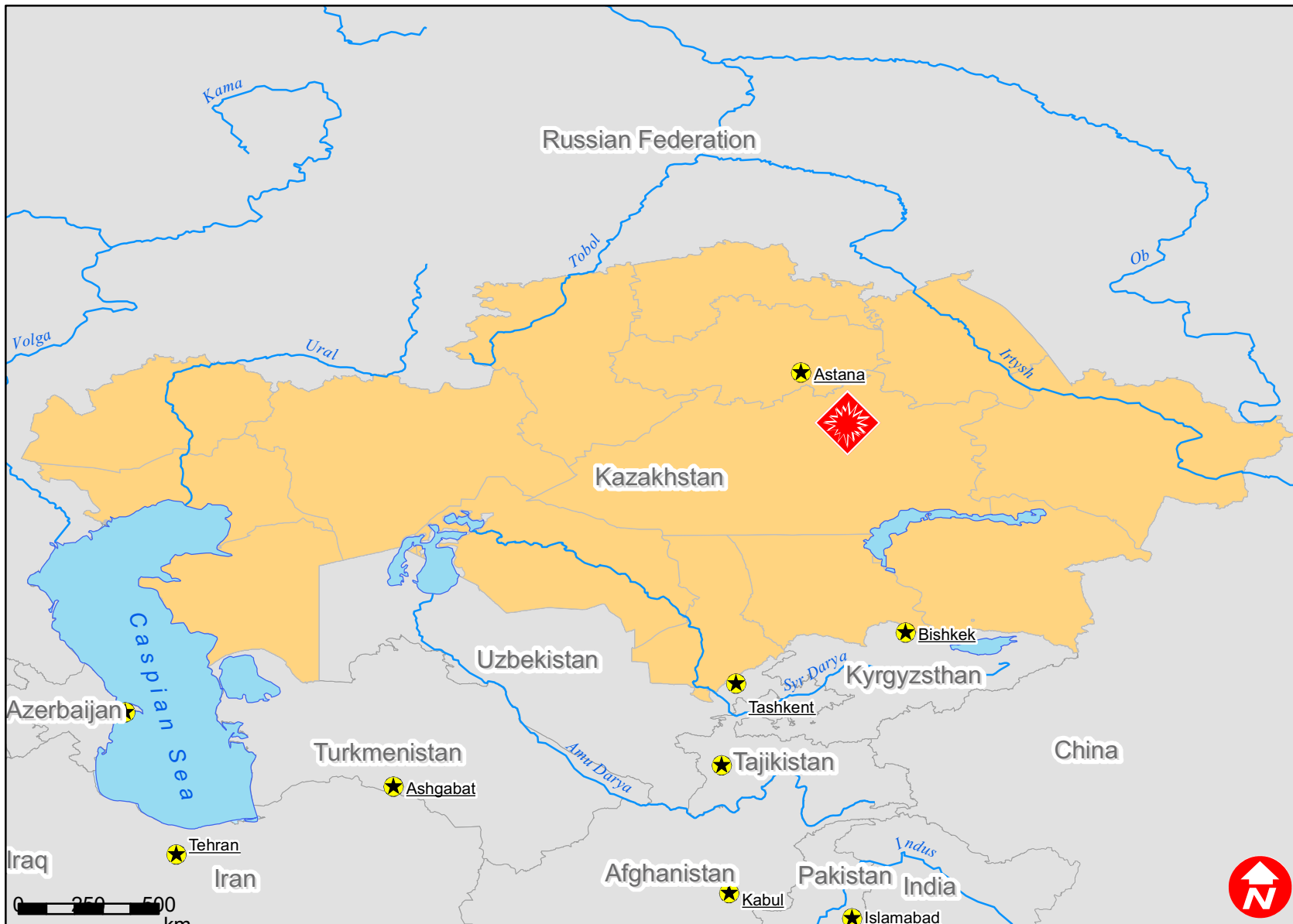
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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



Kazakhstan: Technical accident



A mine blast in Karaganda region of Kazakhstan on 11 January 2008 killed 30 people, 18 have been injured.



Abay mine blast