

# Operations update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Tajikistan: Cold Wave

Emergency appeal n° MDRTJ004  
GLIDE n° CW-2008-000015-TJK  
Operations update n° 1  
10 April 2008

**Period covered by this Ops Update:** 6 March to 7 April, 2008

**Appeal target (current):** CHF 572,678 (USD 545,408 or EUR 357,924)

**Appeal coverage:** 78 per cent with a DREF allocation of CHF 172,062

### Appeal history:

- This **Emergency Appeal** was initially launched on 6 March 2008 seeking an amount of CHF 572,678 (USD 572,678 or EUR 363,836) to assist some 2,003 families or 5,097 beneficiaries during a period of six months.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 172,062 was initially allocated from the International Federation's DREF to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to 2,149 beneficiaries through the distribution of non-food items and around 3,000 families through hygiene promotion.

### Summary:

With support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan continued providing relief assistance to the most vulnerable groups affected by the cold wave that hit the country in January and February 2008. To date, more than 1,000 female-headed households in Wahdat and Rudaki districts have received seeds, fertilizers and food to sustain them as they work. Priority was given to the distribution of seeds and food items by mid April so as not to miss the planting season. With funds from the DREF available at the initial phase of the response operation prior to the launch of the emergency appeal, the National Society had managed to reach 2,149 elderly people living alone with non-food relief items and 3,000 families with hygiene promotion materials to raise their awareness on the subject.

So far, the operation has received financial and in-kind contributions from the Red Cross Societies of Sweden, Finland, Canada, Japan and Belgium. However, further contributions are encouraged in order to meet the appeal target and carry out the entire intended operation.

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Not to lose the planting season, the priority of the current operation has been the distribution of seeds, fertilizers and food.

Photo: Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan

## The situation

The extremely cold weather during January-February 2008 with heavy snowfalls and frozen rivers caused damage to water pipes and increased the demand for heating and lightning while at the same time affected the electricity supply capacity in Tajikistan. There were periods when roads between several districts remained blocked by snow, curtailing local supplies of food, fuel and other basic non-food commodities as well as access

to health services. The uncommonly cold and precipitous weather lasted until mid-February, when the cold wave passed and temperatures began to rise.

The economic and social shocks as a result of the cold weather have worsened an already precarious food security situation in the country. As a result of tight electricity rationing to industry and factories, the Tajik government estimates that the crisis cost the economy 850 million US dollars in damage and lost revenue (source: UN Tajikistan Flash Appeal 2008). The unusually cold winter exhausted food and fuel stocks, which in turn led to a steep increase in prices.

Even though the cold wave has passed the effects remain. The damage to crops and vital seed stocks contributed to increased morbidity and mortality among livestock and food insecurity will last at least until the next harvest in mid summer. This harvest has now been placed at severe risk due to unseasonably hot and dry weather that is hampering spring planting.

The difficulties the vulnerable population face are expected to be further exacerbated as the snow that fell in higher than usual quantities during the spring melts, and the likelihood of flooding, landslides and mudslides deeply affecting already vulnerable people rises. The food prices are rising rapidly and the vulnerable populations have to limit themselves to the use of available food stocks. This increases the need for an effective support under this appeal to help sustain their livelihoods.

## **Coordination and partnerships**

On 31 January 2008 the government of Tajikistan requested the United Nations Resident Coordinator's assistance in mobilizing international assistance in response to the situation. The emergency response is managed through the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) – Tajikistan's Disaster Management Partnership comprising the civil society, NGOs, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, and the United Nations. On 21 February, the cluster approach was activated. Following this approach, REACT is subdivided into sectoral groups for which UN agencies and the International Federation provide coordination support. Rapid assessments were carried out by the respective sectors, namely water and sanitation, health, food, logistics, education and shelter and non-food items.

The International Federation's country representation has been the convener of the shelter and non-food items (NFI) sector, and provided coordination with the deployment of six specialists as cluster coordinators. The coordinators have convened five cluster meetings of all stakeholders involved in shelter/NFI activities. The coordinators team was also tasked to investigate the possible effects of the annual spring thaw in the country. The spring thaw disaster scenario and analysis, which suggests that the heavy snowfalls may increase annual spring thaw-related disasters, was presented at the heads of clusters meeting in Dushanbe on 25 March. Using this document as an example, UNDP has further encouraged other clusters to prepare similar spring thaw preparedness proposals. The report is also a valuable tool for REACT and other agencies to proceed with the disaster response plans. In particular, it helped UNDP to develop a proposal for a standard Household Emergency Assistance Package (HEAP) – a family kit of non-food items relevant and appropriate for local households that would be pre-positioned in several locations across the country. The coordinators team is also developing a master list of commonly distributed shelter/NFI items in time of disaster drawing on the institutional knowledge of the cluster partners. The specifications for the HEAP are based on this list.

Within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement coordination meetings are being held between the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and the International Federation team and with the Finnish, German and Netherlands Red Cross's representatives working bi-laterally with the Tajik National Society in the country. The Spanish Red Cross has also pledged to provide bilateral support which the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan intends to use to strengthen its operational capacity. The Red Crescent has received financial assistance from the Chinese Embassy in Tajikistan and distributed blankets and food contributed by the Turkish Red Crescent Society.

### **National Society Capacity Building:**

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has been responding to varying community needs and at the same time improving its disaster response operational capacity. The members of two community-level local disaster committees (LDCs), with 20 members in each committee, were activated in the targeted areas for assessment, pre-monitoring and further distribution of items under the emergency appeal. This process allows them to directly participate in the response and gain experience in disaster response activities, which is also reinforced by the

consistent technical support from the experienced staff in the headquarters of the Red Crescent Society and the International Federation's country representation.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Overview

In mid-February 2008 the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund allocated 172,062 Swiss francs as a start-up of the Red Crescent's response operation to render assistance to some 2,149 elderly people living alone in the capital city of Dushanbe and the towns of Kurgan-Tube, Wahdat and Somoniyon. These people were identified as the most in need of support because of their low pensions, rising prices and because of no relatives taking care of them. They received thermos flasks, flash lights, candles, quilts and socks. In total, 3,000 families (or 15,000 beneficiaries) in the same towns increased their hygiene awareness through re-printed hygiene promotion materials distributed by the National Society. Thus, the objectives of the initial phase of the operation were fully met. All relief items were procured locally and in accordance with the International Federation's procurement procedures.

**Table 1: Non-food items distributed through the DREF operation**

Target area	No. of beneficiaries	Thermos flasks (pcs)	Flash lights (pcs)	Candles (2 packs of 10 pcs each)	Quilts (pcs)	Socks (pcs)
Dushanbe	1,037	1,037	1,037	2,074	0	2,074
Kurgan-Tube	690	690	690	1,380	690	1,380
Wahdat	262	262	262	524	262	524
Somoniyon	160	160	160	320	160	320
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,149</b>	<b>2,149</b>	<b>2,149</b>	<b>4,298</b>	<b>1,112</b>	<b>4,298</b>

The operation, initially supported from DREF, expanded to target more than 5,000 beneficiaries with food, non-food and hygiene items through the emergency appeal. The Red Crescent Society has been operational since 12 January 2008 – amid the cold wave and energy crisis – by mobilizing its staff and volunteers to conduct situation assessment and to prepare beneficiary lists in close cooperation with the local authorities and community leaders in the targeted areas.



With funds available from DREF the National Society first targeted 2,149 lonely older people

The Red Crescent staff and volunteers conducted initial non-food, seeds and water sanitation needs assessments in Rudaki and Wahdat districts of the province of Direct Rule Districts (DRD). In order not to miss the planting season, priority was given to the procurement and distribution of seeds and fertilizers along with food items to female-headed households by mid April. The distribution of food, seeds and fertilizers targeting 1,547 female-headed households in Rudaki and Wahdat districts of DRD is being implemented according to the distribution plan. The procurement of non-food and water and sanitation items is ongoing in accordance with the funds raised through the emergency appeal. The operation has thus far been meeting the

intended timeframe. Other planned activities will be implemented depending on the available funds.

## Progress towards objectives

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

**Objective: To provide 1,547 female-headed households with children under 15 years of age with essential food for one month and non-food items and to provide 456 elderly people living alone with basic non-food items.**

Expected results	Activities planned
<p>i) 1,547 female-headed households in Rudaki and Wahdat districts of Direct Rule Districts (DRD) are provided with non-food items including blankets, thermos flasks, candles, plastic sheeting, gas stoves, disaster preparedness and response awareness materials.</p> <p>ii) 1,547 female-headed households in Rudaki and Wahdat districts of DRD are provided with seeds and fertilisers including onion seeds 2.5 kg; potato 100 kg; carrots 1.5 kg; beans 2 kg; sodium nitrate 10kg; carbomide 10 kg; and food to sustain people as they work including wheat flour 36 kg; sunflower oil 3 litres; beans 5 kg; salt 250 gm.</p> <p>iii) The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan contingency disaster preparedness stock for 200 families in ten Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan centres are replaced including mattresses, pillows, blankets, bed linen, water cans, kitchen utensils, hygiene kits, kerosene stoves, winter and summer tents, water reservoirs 5 m<sup>3</sup>.</p> <p>iv) The response capacity of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan disaster preparedness centres has been enhanced through the standardization of response equipments for ten Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan disaster management centres, and through conducting refresher courses for disaster response teams.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare lists of beneficiaries together with the social welfare authorities</li> <li>• Conduct monitoring of beneficiary lists</li> <li>• Procure selected items and store in warehouses</li> <li>• Develop beneficiary coupons (talons) and distribute them to selected beneficiaries</li> <li>• Support the National Society technically and financially in logistics, warehousing, distribution and control supply movements</li> <li>• Transport the goods to the distribution sites</li> <li>• Prepare distribution sites</li> <li>• Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on distributions</li> </ul>

### Progress:

Pre-monitoring of households that were included in the beneficiary lists in Wahdat and Rudaki districts has been conducted in close cooperation with the social welfare authorities. The beneficiary lists were prepared by the social welfare services and submitted to the National Society and the International Federation's country representation for further consideration and actions. Out of the proposed 1,547 female-headed households 464, or 30 per cent, were randomly verified. All monitored households complied with the National Society's beneficiary selection criteria.

With the funds raised so far under the emergency appeal the following items were procured: food, seeds and fertilizers.

Three days prior to the distributions 680 female-headed households in Wahdat district and 327 in Rudaki district were notified and coupons with information concerning the relief items and the date of the distribution were disseminated. To date the distribution of relief items has been finalized in seven village administrative centres of Wahdat district and four village administrative centres of Rudaki district.

**Table 2: Number of beneficiary families and the amount of relief items distributed**

#	District	Number of families served	Wheat Flour (MT)	Vegetable Oil (Ltr)	Bean (MT)	Potato Seeds (MT)	Carrot Seeds (MT)	Onion Seeds (MT)	Bean Seeds (MT)	Carbomide (MT)	Sodium Nitrate (MT)
1	Wahdat	680	24.480	2,040	3.400	23.800	0.102	0.170	1.360	6.800	6.800
2	Rudaki	327	11.772	981	1.635	11.445	0.049,05	0.081,75	0.654	3.270	3.270
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,007</b>	<b>36.252</b>	<b>3,021</b>	<b>5.035</b>	<b>35.245</b>	<b>0.151,05</b>	<b>0.251,75</b>	<b>2.014</b>	<b>10.070</b>	<b>10.070</b>

To monitor the distribution activities, 11 visits were made jointly by the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and the International Federation's country representation team in the 11 village administrative centres of the two districts. The monitoring revealed no cases of misconduct; and no complaints from the beneficiaries regarding the family

food rations, the quality of food or seeds were recorded. The distribution of the procured food and fertilizers will continue for another week.

**Table 3: Relief items currently stocked at the warehouse**

#	District	Number of families to be targeted	Wheat Flour (MT)	V. Oil (Ltr)	Bean (MT)	Potato Seeds (MT)	Carrot Seeds (MT)	Onion Seeds (MT)	Bean Seeds (MT)	Carbomide (MT)	Sodium Nitrate (MT)
1	Wahdat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Rudaki	540	19.440	1,620	2.700	18.900	0.081	0.135	1.080	5.400	5.400
<b>Total</b>		<b>540</b>	<b>19.440</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>2.700</b>	<b>18.900</b>	<b>0.081</b>	<b>0.135</b>	<b>1.080</b>	<b>5.400</b>	<b>5.400</b>

Weekly monitoring visits by the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan showed that the distributed items reached the target population and improved their situation by meeting their needs in food and planting materials that are expected to sustain their livelihood in a short-term perspective. All beneficiaries are from the rural areas and have limited financial and other resources to cope with the consequences of the cold weather and energy crisis. The impact of the operation will continue to be observed and the results will be reported through further updates.

### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

<b>Objective: The risk of waterborne and water-related diseases has been reduced through providing water filters, water purification tablets and hygiene promotion information materials to elderly people living alone and female-headed households in Wahdat and Rudaki districts.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
The health status of the population is improved through distributing hygiene kits, water purification tablets and water filters to 1,547 female-headed households and 456 elderly people living alone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute water purification tablets and hygiene kits</li> <li>• Distribute water storage (i.e. jerry cans and water filters)</li> <li>• Reprint and distribute hygiene promotion information materials</li> </ul>

#### Progress:

Over the reporting period 456 water filters have been procured and are being stocked at the warehouse. A separate round of distributions is planned to take place at the end of April and in early May. The procurement of the remaining items and the re-printing of hygiene promotion materials are postponed and will depend on the emergency appeal coverage.

### Logistics

**Progress:** Logistics support was provided by the International Federation's country representation in the procurement, delivery and distribution of relief items according to the operation. All relief items were procured locally and in accordance with the International Federation's purchasing procedures. The support encompassed coordinating the mobilization of relief goods, reception of all incoming goods, warehousing, centralized provision of standard vehicles as required and coordination and efficient dispatch of goods to the final distribution points.

### Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has improved its communication capacities by establishing and maintaining communication links with the beneficiaries and other stakeholders including the mass media. The National Society's information officer has been engaged in meetings on cluster issues as an additional contact person.

The Red Crescent response operation has been highlighted by national and local television channels and by printed media. In total, five press-releases were distributed among national media services and placed at the National Society's web site (<http://www.rcst.tj>) and other news sites covering Tajikistan and the central Asian region.

## 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 \(NGOs\) 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:

- In the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan: Zafar Muhabbatov, Secretary General, Dushanbe, email: [rcstj01@mail.ru](mailto:rcstj01@mail.ru), phone: + 992372 24 03 74, fax: + 992372 24 53 78
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[<Interim financial report attached below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDRTJ004 - Tajikistan - Cold Wave

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/02-2008/03
Budget Timeframe	2008/02-2008/08
Appeal	MDRTJ004
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
<b>A. Budget</b>		572,678				572,678
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)</i>		53,500				53,500
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		48,000				48,000
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>		85,000				85,000
<b>C1. Cash contributions</b>		<b>186,500</b>				<b>186,500</b>
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>Belgium Red Cross (Flanders)</i>		39,350				39,350
<i>Canadian Red Cross</i>		23,512				23,512
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>		27,300				27,300
<b>C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</b>		<b>90,162</b>				<b>90,162</b>
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		172,062				172,062
<b>C5. Other Income</b>		<b>172,062</b>				<b>172,062</b>
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)</b>		<b>448,724</b>				<b>448,724</b>
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>		<b>448,724</b>				<b>448,724</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>		<b>78%</b>				<b>78%</b>

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>C. Income</b>		448,724				448,724
<b>E. Expenditure</b>		-293,305				-293,305
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>		155,419				155,419

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRTJ004 - Tajikistan - Cold Wave

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/02-2008/03
Budget Timeframe	2008/02-2008/08
Appeal	MDRTJ004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### 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
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>572,678</b>					<b>572,678</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief	1,500						1,500	
Clothing & textiles	62,079		39,783			39,783	22,296	
Food	59,506		59,506			59,506	0	
Seeds,Plants	52,690		52,629			52,629	61	
Water & Sanitation	159,572		25,147			25,147	134,425	
Medical & First Aid	1,128						1,128	
Utensils & Tools	67,164		51,540			51,540	15,624	
Other Supplies & Services	74,668		20,750			20,750	53,918	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>478,307</b>		<b>249,355</b>			<b>249,355</b>	<b>228,952</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	5,200						5,200	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	14,043						14,043	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>19,243</b>						<b>19,243</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
National Staff	5,861		2,133			2,133	3,728	
National Society Staff	26,240						26,240	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>32,101</b>		<b>2,133</b>			<b>2,133</b>	<b>29,968</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	3,000						3,000	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>3,000</b>						<b>3,000</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Information & Public Relation	2,803		2,803			2,803	0	
Other General Expenses			85			85	-85	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>2,803</b>		<b>2,888</b>			<b>2,888</b>	<b>-85</b>	
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	37,224		19,065			19,065	18,159	
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>37,224</b>		<b>19,065</b>			<b>19,065</b>	<b>18,159</b>	
<b>Operational Provisions</b>								
Operational Provisions			19,864			19,864	-19,864	
<b>Total Operational Provisions</b>			<b>19,864</b>			<b>19,864</b>	<b>-19,864</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>572,678</b>		<b>293,305</b>			<b>293,305</b>	<b>279,373</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>279,373</b>			<b>279,373</b>		