

# 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° 3  
26 June 2008

**Period covered by this Ops Update:** 30 April to 30 May, 2008

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

**Appeal coverage:** 89 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 545,408 or EUR 357,924) to assist some 2,003 families or 5,097 beneficiaries during a period of six months.  
[<click here to go directly to the interim financial report>](#)
- **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.



How water filters should be put together and properly used is demonstrated at a distribution point.

*Photo: International Federation's representation in Tajikistan*

### Summary:

With support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan continued to provide assistance to the most vulnerable groups affected by the cold wave that hit the country in January and February 2008. The provision of seeds, fertilizers and food to 1,547 female-headed households in Rudaki and Wahdat districts was completed in April, as reported in the previous operations update. The distributions of non-food items namely, blankets, candles, water filters, water purification tablets and hygiene kits under the emergency appeal were continued in May. To date, all targeted 1,547 female-headed households and 456 older people living alone in Wahdat and Rudaki districts have been covered by these distributions. Not all planned non-food items were procured and distributed because distributions had to fit within the limits of funds available for the operation. The procurement of items for the disaster preparedness stock was also completed in the past month.

So far, the operation has received financial and in-kind contributions from the Red Cross Societies of Sweden, Finland, Canada, Japan and Belgium, the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates, and the Red Cross of Monaco.

However, further contributions are encouraged in order to meet the appeal target and carry out the entire intended operation.

[<click here to view contact details >](#)

## The situation

As reflected in previous operations updates, the crisis in Tajikistan cannot be attributed to one single cause. Rather, it is the result of a combination of shocks on existing vulnerabilities that evolve and amplify each other. A long series of factors, including a cold winter of unprecedented length and severity, a critical energy shortage, the loss of seed stocks and livestock, a sudden rise in temperatures in March, cyclical floods, landslides, mudslides and droughts, locust infestation, failed harvests and rapidly rising food prices have left the population with almost exhausted coping mechanisms.

The latest large-scale locust infestation represents an additional threat to household food security. Nearly half a million US dollars was allocated from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support the government of Tajikistan in its efforts to prevent the spread of the infestation. Over two million people whose crops and livelihoods are at risk from the highly destructive pests will directly benefit from these CERF funds. Every year, Tajikistan loses up to 30 percent of its harvests due to pests, as one of main factors posing a threat to food security. Despite this, the current outbreak is significantly larger than previous infestations, and could pose a serious blow to household food security in Tajikistan.

Food security remains one of the main concerns for the country's humanitarian organizations. The compound crisis is taking place in the context of rising food prices and other basic household items. Surveys on food security carried out by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the State Statistics Service have continued in urban areas of the country and point to a stark situation.

The melting of heavy snow packs now presents a danger of even more extensive flash floods and landslides. Again this is a seasonal phenomenon in Tajikistan, but in the current context with other factors making vulnerability more acute, is more profound. The mudslides and floods have already affected three villages in Khatlon and four villages in Sughd province. To prepare for the response to these potential disasters, the humanitarian actors in-country have decided urgently to pre-position stocks of essential shelter and non-food items in the critical locations.

In mid-May the electricity rationing was lifted in the provinces due to the increase in water inflow to the Vakhsh River. Usually, electricity rationing is introduced in October and lasts through to April of the following year. The move seeks to curb the country's rising electricity consumption during the autumn-winter period and also stems from a decline in the water level in the Norak reservoir. This year, the electricity rationing has been lifted a little later because mountain snow has melted late, according to the source.

## Coordination and partnerships

As a coordination mechanism, the REACT meetings continued throughout May. Representatives from the International Federation/Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, German Agro Action, CARITAS International, CARE, Save the Children, WFP, OCHA, FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance, UNHCR discussed the disaster information and recent updates. An overview of the situation in Tajikistan in the first quarter of 2008 was given with an update on the locust invasion, revision of the UN flash appeal, review of REACT Charter and terms of reference for rapid response team and cluster updates.

As mentioned in the previous operations update, with the ending of the cold wave emergency and the scaling back of distribution activities, the International Federation ceased its cluster convener role on 28 April 2008. Formal communication was sent to the UN Resident Coordinator who thanked the International Federation for the work done. FOCUS's shelter and non-food items relief aid distribution to schools, health facilities and households in partnership with WHO, the Ministry of Health and Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) was completed at the end of April/ beginning of May. These beneficiaries had been affected by heavy snowfall and avalanches. Food aid distribution in partnership with WFP was completed by the end of May. German Agro Action provided communities with coal and also observed the food security situation in determined areas. CARE International's pending activities include the procurement of warm clothes for blind individuals in Hissar and the distribution of cash assistance in Dushanbe and Wahdat. In addition to several generators that had already been distributed, CARE is distributing a one-month supply of fuel to these beneficiaries.

Save the Children has completed 75 per cent of its planned activities within the compound crisis UN Flash Appeal. Cash, non-food items and flour were distributed and the preparing of schools for winter is in progress in 11 districts of Khatlon by the end of May. Presently 30,000 beneficiaries have received aid; and 75,000 direct/indirect beneficiaries, or 7,250 households, are expected to be positively impacted upon through the completion of these activities. WFP was also planning to visit cluster members to learn more of the conditions, opportunities and activities and offered assistance to agencies related to logistics.

#### National Society Capacity Building:

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan contingency disaster preparedness stock for 100 families in ten Red Crescent centres have been replenished with mattresses, pillows, blankets, bed linen, water cans, kitchen utensils, hygiene kits and water reservoirs 5 m<sup>3</sup>. This contributes to the enhancement of the response capacity of the Red Crescent disaster preparedness centres.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Overview

Following the initial relief distributions of basic non-food items among elderly people living alone in the capital city of Dushanbe and the towns of Kurgan-Tube, Wahdat and Somoniyon at the beginning of the response operation to address the consequences of cold wave and energy crisis, the National Society continued distributing non-food items to 1,547 female-headed households and 456 elderly lone people in Rudaki and Wahdat districts. All received blankets, candles, water filters, water purification tablets and hygiene kits during the second distribution phase. The National Society's contingency disaster preparedness stock for 100 families was replenished.

### 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 <b>non-food items</b> 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 <b>seeds and fertilisers</b> including onion seeds 2.5 kg; potato 100 kg; carrots 1.5 kg; beans 2 kg; sodium nitrate 10kg; carbomide 10 kg; and <b>food to sustain people as they work</b> 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:

i) The distribution of non-food items for female-headed households and elderly people living alone in Wahdat and Rudaki districts started according to the revised distribution plan, on 16 May and was completed on 25 May 2008. In the period being reported upon, 1,547 female-headed households and 456 elderly people living

alone have received non-food items. However, not all basic items planned in this first stage have been distributed. See below.

*Table 1: Number of non-food relief items distributed to beneficiaries*

District	# of Female-Headed Households	# of Elderly People Living Alone	Blankets (pcs)	Candles (pcs)
Wahdat	680	146	146	16,520
Rudaky	867	310	310	23,540
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,547</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>40,060</b>

ii) The post-distribution monitoring of female-headed households in Rudaki district and Romit Jamot, the most remote place, of Wahdat district revealed that all 1,547 target beneficiaries had properly cultivated and fertilized the seeds that had been distributed earlier. In total 154.7 hectares of farmlands are cultivated with potato, onion, carrot and beans. According to beneficiaries, they expect the average harvest for one family to be potato- **350kg**; onion- **375kg**; carrot- **250kg**; and beans **45kg**.

The expected average harvest will secure 1,547 female-headed households in Rudaki and Wahdat districts with food till the next growing season. It will have a positive impact on a family's socio-economic situation as the saved money can be used for other family needs. Moreover, the families will be able to use one-fifth of this year's harvest as seeds for the next cultivation season.

iii) The procurement and delivery of the following items for disaster preparedness stock was also completed over the past month. As mentioned in the previous operations update, the original amount of items for the disaster preparedness stock has been decreased from 200 families to 100 families. See below for details:

*Table 2: Number of non-food items for 100 families to be stocked in 10 RCST disaster response centres.*

Plastic sheets (pcs)	Mattresses (pcs)	Pillows (pcs)	Bed linens(pcs)	Kitchen set (pcs)	Kerosene stove (pcs)	Hygiene kits (pcs)	Water reservoir (pcs)
100	500	500	500	100	100	100	10

**Challenges:** Due to incomplete funding of the emergency appeal, the preliminary list of non-food items to be distributed was revised, therefore, the 1,547 female-headed households received only candles, but the 456 elderly people living alone received blankets and candles. The remaining needs are for 4,641 blankets, 1,547 gas stoves for female headed households and 456 thermos flasks for elderly people living alone.

The following activities have also been postponed also because of a shortfall in funding of the appeal. Reprinting and distributing of disaster preparedness and response awareness materials, ii) the standardization of response equipments for ten Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan disaster management centres, iii) conducting refresher courses for disaster response teams. The remaining needs are to run a ten day workshop or refresher course for ten disaster response team members, the printing of disaster preparedness raising awareness material and disaster preparedness stock for remaining 100 families.

## Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

**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.**

Expected results	Activities planned
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:

A pre-monitoring check of beneficiary list of 456 elderly people living alone submitted by 7 jamoats of Wahdat and 13 jamoats of Rudaki districts was conducted from 1 May to 10 May 2008. Around 60 per cent of the listed

beneficiaries were verified by the National Society/International Federation representatives in close co-operation with social welfare authorities. No violations of selection criteria were observed during the pre-monitoring.

Notification of project beneficiaries was made in the same way as previously, i.e. three days prior to the distribution. The beneficiaries have been provided by coupons with information about whereabouts of distribution points, the date of distribution and items to be distributed.

*Table 2: Number of non-food relief items distributed to beneficiaries:*

District	# of Female Headed Households	# of Elderly People Living Alone	Hygiene kits (set)	Water purification tablets(pcs)	Water filters (pcs)
Wahdat	680	146	826	102,000	146
Rudaki	867	310	1,177	130,050	310
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,547</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>2,003</b>	<b>232,050</b>	<b>456</b>

Monitoring visits were conducted by National Society/International Federation representatives in 7 jamoats of Wahdat and 13 jamoats of Rudaki districts. No complaints regarding how the distribution was organized, or of the quality of distributed items were noted.

**Challenges:** Due to incomplete funding of the emergency appeal, the reprinting and distribution of hygiene promotion information materials has been postponed. The procurement of 1,547 water filters and printing hygiene promotion materials are still pending.



Red Crescent volunteers are delivering water filters and candles to elderly people who were unable to pick up their aid at the distribution point.

*Photo: International Federation's Representation in Tajikistan*

## Logistics

### Progress:

Logistics support was provided by the International Federation's country representation in the procurement, delivery and distribution of relief items in the course of 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 second distribution round of the Red Crescent response operation has been highlighted through press-releases 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. The operation was also covered by a few national newspapers. The overview article about the operation as a whole is planned to be issued in a national highest ranking newspaper by mid-June.

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

MDRTJ004 - Tajikistan - Cold Wave

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/02-2008/05
Budget Timeframe	2008/02-2008/05
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
A. Budget		552,952				552,952
B. Opening Balance		0				0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>Belgium Red Cross (Flanders)</i>		41,025				41,025
<i>Canadian Red Cross</i>		23,512				23,512
<i>Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)</i>		53,500				53,500
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		48,000				48,000
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>		27,300				27,300
<i>Monaco Red Cross</i>		16,150				16,150
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>		85,000				85,000
<b>C1. Cash contributions</b>		<b>294,487</b>				<b>294,487</b>
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>United Arab Emirates Red Crescent</i>		10,500				10,500
<b>C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</b>		<b>10,500</b>				<b>10,500</b>
<u>Inkind Goods &amp; Transport</u>						
<i>Belgium Red Cross (Flanders)</i>		14,011				14,011
<b>C3. Inkind Goods &amp; Transport</b>		<b>14,011</b>				<b>14,011</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>491,059</b>				<b>491,059</b>
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>		<b>491,059</b>				<b>491,059</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>		<b>89%</b>				<b>89%</b>

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		491,059				491,059
E. Expenditure		-409,059				-409,059
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>		<b>82,000</b>				<b>82,000</b>