

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Uzbekistan: Explosions

DREF operation n° MDRUZ001
28 July, 2008

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the International 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 58,770 (USD 57,618 or EUR 36,503) has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to 500 families or around 4,000 people residing in temporary settlements. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Explosions two weeks ago at a military arms depot in the town of Kagan in southern Uzbekistan killed 6 people, left 2 missing, wounded around 30 people and forced about 68,000 people to leave their houses. Although most of the evacuated populations were able to return home days after the emergency, some families have recently been resettled in temporary shelters because their houses had been affected by the blast wave. On 25 July it was decided that some 180 houses and 4 apartment blocks will be demolished as they are unsafe to live in.

The Uzbekistan Red Crescent will address the needs of people accommodated in temporary shelters by providing them with food and non-food relief including hygiene items.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 30 October, 2008; a final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by the end of January, 2009).



**The National Society distributed tents and beddings to evacuated families.
Photo: Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society**

[<click here for the DREF budget, or here for contact details>](#)

The situation

A series of explosions at a Soviet-era arms depot shook southern Uzbekistan on 10 July, 2008. The explosions occurred in the town of Kagan outside the ancient city of the regional centre Bukhara. The explosions that started at 01:48 AM local time (GMT+5) and continued through the night killed at least 6 people and left 2 missing, wounded around 30 people and smashed windows in buildings as far as 18 km away from the site.

According to the government, the explosions at the missile and artillery ammunition depot were caused by fire. The Ministry of Defense cordoned off the area around the depot and in the first days evacuated 68,000 people from the town of Kagan and the Kagan region. People were moved to three districts of Bukhara region and Bukhara city, and three districts of Navoi region and Navoi city. The evacuated populations were accommodated in temporary shelters, about 4 per cent of them in schools, kindergartens and higher educational institutions, the rest with host families; and were provided with food and other necessary assistance by the government in 48 evacuation points. All those injured have received necessary medical assistance.

The government formed a commission comprising leaders of the government, the national security service, the prosecutor's office, the ministries of defense and emergencies and the internal ministry and other structures to manage the situation, ensure the security and assist the affected people.

Days after the accident the evacuated people could return home and by now most of them have gone back. However, the governmental commission established that some houses that were damaged by the blast are unsafe for living. Consequently, on 25 July the decision was made to demolish more than 180 houses and 4 apartment blocks. The relocated people (about 700 families) will be settled in two temporary shelters – summer camps – managed by the government in the suburbs of Kagan town. By now about 370 families have been relocated; the rest are expected to be moved over the coming two weeks.

Coordination and partnerships

The National Society is closely coordinating its response actions with the government at national and local levels and is represented in the emergency commission. The Uzbekistan Red Crescent headquarters and the affected branches will be key implementers of the operation. The International Federation's regional representation in Almaty will provide general supervision and coordination.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The regional Bukhara branch of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society and volunteers from the disaster response team were mobilized immediately to work with the organized central staff. They arranged first-aid points at the central evacuation point in Bukhara city and at the headquarters of the emergency ministry in Kagan town and have been serving the affected population. The branch carried out a situation assessment to identify the impact of the explosion and the needs of the evacuated people in Kagan town and the neighbouring host districts.

The National Society allocated relief items and medical supplies from the regional disaster stocks to the affected population as an immediate response. The Bukhara regional branch distributed hygiene items including toilet and washing soap, detergent, tooth brushes and towels; kits for new-born babies, bottled water (8,300 litres) and bread (7,850 loafs) to some 200 evacuated families. Twenty tents have been also handed over to the regional emergency department. The Navoi regional branch distributed mattresses (40 pieces), blankets (11 pieces) and hygiene items among 80 families.

The needs

According to the results of the assessment there is a need for a prolonged and more comprehensive assistance to the affected people accommodated in the two summer camps. Among them priority will be given to families with many children, elderly people living alone, people with disabilities and low-income families. Urgent needs include hygiene items, food and beddings (mattresses, blankets and bed-linen), kitchen sets and jerry cans. The proposed humanitarian response operation will target 500 families or 4,000 people. The National Society will also assist the authorities with water treatment and ensuring proper sanitary conditions in latrines by providing hypochloride lime for water purification.

The aim of the response operation is to reduce the vulnerability of the population affected by explosions. The beneficiaries will be targeted while they are living in temporary settlements and have limited coping capacities. It is anticipated that the assistance will be provided during this transitional period only. Within

three to six months the families are expected to be assisted in resettlement by the authorities; however until then their situation will be closely monitored by the Red Crescent.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To provide food and non-food relief items to 500 vulnerable affected families residing in temporary shelters.

The selected families will receive food parcels, hygiene items, beddings and household items such as plastic sheeting, candles, kitchen sets and jerry cans. Food parcels will consist of rice, sugar, vegetable oil, flour, salt, canned meat, water and matches to support families during one month. The hygiene items include toilet and washing soap, tooth brushes, tooth paste, towels and toilet paper. Part of the bedding will be used to replenish the National Society's disaster stocks.

The society will also arrange hygiene promotion campaigns in the two camps to prevent water-related diseases.

Within the framework of the planned operation, the Uzbekistan Red Crescent will implement the following activities:

- Procure relief items
- Distribute food and non-food items
- Monitor the distribution
- Arrange hygiene promotion campaigns and distribute health promotion materials
- Provide advocacy on behalf of the target population in case of need

The emergency response operation is planned to be implemented over three months.

Budget

Description	Quantity	Unit	Unite price	Total CHF
Supplies				40,400.00
Plastic sheeting	50	ROLL	17	850.00
Bed linen	600	UNIT	15.7	9,420.00
Matressess	400	UNIT	15.7	6,280.00
Pillow	300	UNIT	6.5	1,950.00
Jerry cans (10ltr)	200	UNIT	6	1,200.00
Food parcels	500	UNIT	21.12	10,560.00
Hypochloride lime for water purification	200	KG	1	200.00
Kithen sets	100	SET	30	3,000.00
Hygiene family parcels	500	UNIT	11.3	5,650.00
Candle	3000	UNIT	0.43	1,290.00
Transport & Storage				5,460.00
Loading/unloading	3	MONTH	150.00	450.00
Fuel for transportation	3	MONTH	500.00	1,500.00
Monitoring (Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society)	3	TRIP	170.00	510.00
International travel costs (IFRC monitoring)	2	UNIT	1500.00	3,000.00

Personnel				4,590.00
Programme coordinator	3	MONTH	395.00	1,185.00
Finance administrator	3	MONTH	285.00	855.00
Logistic	3	MONTH	170.00	510.00
Local coordinator	3	MONTH	170.00	510.00
Driver	3	MONTH	170.00	510.00
Volunteer allowances	3	MONTH	340.00	1,020.00
General & Admin expenses				4,500.00
PR activities	2	UNIT	250.00	500.00
Publicity	1	UNIT	1,000.00	1,000.00
Communications & other administrative costs of the National Society	3	MONTH	800.00	2,400.00
Communication IFRC	3	MONTH	200.00	600.00
FIELD BUDGET/Subtotal				54,950.00
PROGRAMME SUPPORT BUDGET/Subtotal			6,5%	3,820.05
GRAND TOTAL CHF:				58,770.05

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:

- **In the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society:** Eleonora Tajibaeva, Executive Director; email: eleonora33@rambler.ru; phone: +99871 150 81 15; fax: +99871 256 18 01
- **In the Regional Representation for Central Asia:** Drina Karahasanovic, Regional Representative, Almaty, email: drina.karahasanovic@ifrc.org; phone: +7727 291 80 63; fax +7727 291 42 67
- **In the Europe Zone Office:** Leon Prop, Deputy Head of Zone, Budapest, phone: +36 1 8884 502; fax: +361 336 1516; email: leon.prop@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Linda A. Stops, Operations Coordinator, phone: +41 22 730 4300, fax: +41 22 733 0395, email: linda.stops@ifrc.org

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