

# DREF operation update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Tajikistan: Poliomyelitis

DREF operation n° MDRTJ009  
Update n° 3  
14 October 2010

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 emergency response. 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.

**Period covered by this update:** 7 September through 13 October 2010.

**Summary:** CHF 260,221 (USD 240,145 or EUR 181,413) was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 30 April 2010 to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,692,500 beneficiaries, including 660,040 children under the age of five, to be vaccinated during the national polio immunization campaign.

The main activities were launched on 1 May 2010. The

National Society started community mobilization while Government was organizing immunization campaigns in the capital and 21 districts of Khatlon province and Direct Rule Districts (DRD). Some 420 volunteers have been mobilized from the health and disaster management programmes of the National Society.

According to the Immunization Center, some 700 new cases of acute flaccid paralysis had been reported on 12 August. As of 12 August 2010, Tajikistan reported 452 laboratory-confirmed cases of wild poliovirus type 1.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan decided and agreed with UN health cluster to conduct additional national polio immunization days in October and November 2010, as there were two more confirmed adolescent cases. Immunization for children aged 0 to 15 was planned. Therefore, the DREF operation for additional polio immunization rounds had been extended to include Round 5 and Round 6.

The fifth round of immunization campaign was conducted on 4-8 October 2010, the sixth round will be held on 8-12 November 2010. Moreover, the Government, together with WHO and UNICEF, decided to conduct a mop-up round for children and adolescents in target districts, which was held on 13-17 September 2010.

The operation will be completed by 30 November 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (28 February 2010).

ECHO contributed CHF 208,177 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The DREF allocation has already been replenished up to 80 percent, but further contributions are still welcome.



Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan volunteers conducting end- process monitoring  
Photo: Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan

[<click here for contact details>](#)

## The situation

In April Tajikistan reported an outbreak of poliomyelitis with 128 cases of acute flaccid paralysis registered since the beginning of the year in 20 districts of the country including Dushanbe city. Starting from 2002, the Republic of Tajikistan, along with other European states, was declared a polio-free country. Since 1997 not a single case of polio has been reported in the republic. Though, the neighbouring Afghanistan annually recorded cases of polio, and there has been a possibility of the occurrence of this disease in Tajikistan.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) of the Republic of Tajikistan initially declared three rounds of vaccination, targeting children aged 0-6. Due to registered fatal cases among adolescents, however, children up to 15 years of age were included for the third and fourth rounds of vaccination.

As of 1 August 2010, Tajikistan had reported 452 laboratory-confirmed cases of wild poliovirus type 1, with 21 deaths. The latest confirmed poliomyelitis cases had disease onset on 4 July 2010 (WHO, August 2010). As reported by the MoH the vaccination coverage was 99,3 percent in Tajikistan.

The Ministry of Health of Tajikistan together with WHO and UNICEF were planning to conduct a 5<sup>th</sup> and a 6<sup>th</sup> round of mass polio immunization of children and adolescents aged 0 to 15, allowing the MoH to reach all target groups and the transition to a permanent routine immunization. The fifth round of the immunization was held in October, and the sixth round is prepared and will be organized in November.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has been closely cooperating with the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, local NGOs and local authorities. The National Society and International Federation country representation are participating in coordination meetings with the government authorities and other actors in the national working group. During additional rounds of national polio immunization campaign, the Red Crescent National Society /International Federation will cooperate with the National Coordination Committee.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Besides their main activities Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan volunteers were involved in independent monitoring during the mop-up campaign.

The results of DREF operation activities for mop-up campaign are the following:

#	District	Number of children aged 0-15	Number of children vaccinated	Total number of guests	Guests out of region	Coverage %
1	Bokhtar	77,476	77,002	31	5.0	99.3
2	Vakhsh	58,200	58,000	221	38.0	99.6
3	Kumsangir	42,601	42,399	187	48.0	99.5
4	Kubodiyon	52,334	52,001	256	59.0	99.3
5	J. Rumi	60,843	60,398	431	39.0	99.2
6	A.Jomi	49,200	48,867	272	48.0	99.4
7	Kurgantube	23,386	23,256	556	2.0	99.4
8	Shahrituz	38,040	37,877	79	31.0	99.6
9	Panj	35,200	34,988	187	56.0	99.4
10	Jilikkul	33,800	33,590	359	32.0	99.4
11	Sarband	14,863	14,769	501	9.0	99.4
12	Nosiri Khusrav	11,555	11,465	43	14.0	99.2
<b>TOTAL</b>		497,468	494,604	3,123	381.0	99.4

The results of the fifth round of immunization:

#	District	Number of children aged 0-15	Number of children vaccinated	Coverage %	Not vaccinated	Total number of guests	Guests out of region
1	Bokhtar	77,696	77,694	100	2	133	15
2	Vakhsh	58,200	57,844	99.4	356	139	17
3	Kumsangir	42,840	42,669	99.6	171	144	34
4	Kubodiyon	53,229	52,786	99.2	443	85	32
5	J. Rumi	61,370	60,924	99.3	446	310	24
6	A.Jomi	49,700	49,476	99.5	224	248	65
7	Kurgantube	23,368	23,341	99.9	27	1,812	1
8	Shahrituz	38,349	38,317	99.9	32	21	4
9	Panj	35,575	35,270	99.1	305	129	73
10	Jilikkul	34,592	34,373	99.4	219	168	17
11	Sarband	14,937	14,889	99.7	48	220	1
12	Nosiri Khusrav	11,387	11,378	99.9	9	13	10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>501,243</b>	<b>498,961</b>	<b>99.6</b>	<b>2,282</b>	<b>3,422</b>	<b>293</b>

## Progress towards outcomes

### Emergency health

**Outcome: To contribute to the high coverage of the national polio vaccination campaign through community mobilization.**

**Outputs and activities planned:**

- Conduct meetings and round-tables with all stakeholders.
- Recruit 200 volunteers to conduct assessment, mobilization and door-to-door sensitization of the population.
- Participate as external observers at vaccination points.
- Carry out monitoring and evaluation of all activities.
- Monitor the two additional rounds of the national immunization campaign jointly with WHO, the Ministry of Health and UNICEF, contributing to a high coverage of the target population.

**Progress:** During the mop-up campaign and the fifth round of immunization against poliomyelitis, activities of the regional health coordinators have been fully integrated with the Regional Centres of Healthy Lifestyle.

In accordance with the programme requirements a systematic monitoring of the volunteers' activity, households rounds registration, and immunization points were conducted by the regional health coordinators.

Internal or in-process and end-process monitoring during vaccination campaign to insure a good quality of immunization were conducted by the National Society volunteers as required by WHO and UNICEF.

For mop-up campaign and both the fifth and sixth rounds of immunization, the National Society was involved only in Kurgantube region (12 districts). The quantity of volunteers has been reduced to 16 per district and total number of volunteers is 200.

In compliance with the requirements of the programme, a health coordinator from Kurgantube region systematically monitored the activities of volunteers, households' registration, and reporting formats for WHO and programme reports, as well as monitoring of immunization points.

### Communication and cooperation

**Outcome: To raise public awareness through community health promotion, information and media campaigns; including the distribution of information and communication materials to 2,692,500 beneficiaries in 20 districts and Dushanbe city of Tajikistan.**

**Outputs and activities planned:**

- Mobilize district authorities and community leaders to support the public awareness campaign.
- Contact beneficiary representatives, especially community leaders to conduct information campaign.

- Distribute information, educational, and communication materials (posters and leaflets).
- Use various channels of communication including local newspapers, TV and radio for hard-to-reach groups (such as people living in remote areas).
- Perform interpersonal communication to raise awareness in the most remote areas.

**Progress:** In the targeted districts, volunteers conducted meetings among population that were aimed at providing information on the immunization rounds. The meetings were organised at the community level with the participation of community leaders, spiritual leaders, and at the level of secondary schools.

During households visits volunteers provided information about the upcoming rounds of immunization, the nearest vaccination points, and information posters were hung out at the most crowded places. These posters were obtained from UNICEF for distribution at the district level.

## 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The International Federation's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

## 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: [zmuhabbatov@redcrescent.tj](mailto:zmuhabbatov@redcrescent.tj), phone: + 992372 24 03 74, fax: + 992372 24 53 78
- **In the Country Representation for Tajikistan:** Eric Michel-Sellier, Country Representative, email: [eric.michellsellier@ifrc.org](mailto:eric.michellsellier@ifrc.org), phone: + 992372 244296 or 245981, fax: +992372 248520
- **In the Europe Zone Office:** Slobodanka Curic, Disaster Management Coordinator, Budapest, email: [slobodanka.curic@ifrc.org](mailto:slobodanka.curic@ifrc.org), phone: +36 1 8884 510, fax: +36 1 336 1516
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator, email: [pablo.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:pablo.medina@ifrc.org), phone: +41 22 730 4381, fax: +41 22 733 0395

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