

# Information bulletin



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Kyrgyzstan: Aeroplane crash

Information bulletin n° 01  
25 August, 2008

This bulletin is being issued for information only. On 24 August 2008 at 20:30 a passenger plane crashed near the Manas airport of the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek. The reports say 65 people from the plane died on the spot and 25 were injured. Starting from morning of August 25 the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society has been assisting the relatives of the deceased by providing drinks, snacks and hygiene items. The National Society has also been assisting with translation services. The non-remunerated blood donation campaign is under consideration.

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society, with the support of the International Federation, has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)



The Red Crescent brings comfort to victims' relatives. Photo: Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society.

## The Situation

On 24 August a passenger plane (Boeing 737-200) crashed 5 kilometres from the Manas airport of the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek. The plane, owned by a local private carrier, was chartered by an Iranian company and bound for Tehran. The crash took place at 20:30 local time (GMT+6), 10 minutes after taking off from the airport.

The government of Kyrgyzstan issued an official statement indicating that the plane was carrying 90 people including 83 official passengers, 6 members of the crew and 1 representative of the state air department. The passengers included 59 foreign citizens from Iran (52 people), Kazakhstan (3), Canada (2), China (1), Turkey (1). There were 17 teenagers (12-15 years) onboard who were members of the Kyrgyzstan youth volleyball team. It is reported that 65 people died on the spot and 25 were injured. The crash survivors are currently undergoing specialized medical treatment and some are reportedly in a critical condition.

The state rescue teams, fire brigades and medical staff arrived at the crash site immediately. The headquarters has been set up with the Ministry of Health to assist the effected people. The exact cause of the catastrophe has not yet been identified, although the crew reported some technical problems after taking off and tried to return to the airport. A government commission has been formed to investigate the plane crash.

By Monday midday (August 25) the rescue works on the crash site had finished. Also, the bodies of 23 people have been identified. Three psychologists have started working with relatives of the deceased.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the morning of August 25 the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society headquarters' staff and volunteers (ten people) have been on duty distributing drinks, snacks and hygiene items for relatives of the deceased who have been identifying bodies at the morgue. For that purpose a shaded place has been arranged nearby for people waiting outside in the summer heat; the temperature in Bishkek is about 35 degrees centigrade.

By Monday afternoon, 100 hot meals had been provided for affected relatives. The Red Crescent staff and volunteers are also assisting the psychologists by serving snacks and drinks and arranging a place for relaxation. Besides, they are communicating with people trying to support them and ease the tension related to the disaster. The Red Crescent has also provided two translators for Iranian and Turkish languages who are assisting with communication between the local authorities and relatives/representatives of the foreign passengers from the crashed plane.

The National Society is considering announcing a campaign for voluntary non-remunerated blood donations if there is a need identified in the coming hours.

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