

KAZAKHSTAN: FLOODS

23 May, 2001

appeal no. 13/2000

final situation report

period covered: 26 May 2000 - 31 October 2000

In a four month operation the Federation and the Red Crescent and Red Cross Society of Kazakhstan, working closely with the local authorities, helped those affected by flooding in 5 rayons (9 settlements) and Kostanaj city. The appeal sought CHF 179,000 to assist 3,000 people. The operation successfully distributed the intended food supplies, detergents, clothing and bedding during the disaster response phase and continued with post-disaster rehabilitation assistance to the most vulnerable individuals (coal, winter clothes and shoes, school materials, medicines and treatment, cattle fodder, building materials for repairs). The remaining balance of funds will be used for general relief and DP activities.

The context

Heavy rains in April 2000 in Russia necessitated the release of water from reservoirs dangerously nearing capacity, causing widespread flooding downstream in the Kustanaj Oblast in Kazakhstan. Homes were flooded, crops destroyed and many animals were killed by the floodwaters. Altogether, 2,500 people were directly affected, with most of them left homeless in four Rayons and part of Kustanaj city. The National Society of Kazakhstan, with support from the Federation, provided emergency relief to the affected population. The Federation launched Emergency Appeal no. 13/2000 on 26 May to:

- alleviate the immediate and medium term consequences of the disaster for the displaced population, by distributing supplementary food and basic hygiene items.
- provide food support to those host families caring for the displaced.
- replace essential bedding and clothing items lost in the flood.
- help elderly people without family, and other vulnerable individuals or groups, to resettle in their homes.
- The appeal was also intended to replenish the National Society's preparedness stocks.

The time-frame of the appeal was originally planned for three months with two distinct phases: one month of rapid emergency response followed by two months of long-term rehabilitation support. For a variety of reasons, including funding delays, the implementation of the second part of the operation began later than planned and had to be extended to 31 October 2000.

Achievements and Constraints

Objective 1: To alleviate the immediate and medium-term consequences of the disaster for the displaced population, by distributing supplementary food and basic hygiene items.

The provision of food was essential since most of the food stock had either been washed away or had been spoiled by the flood waters. Although most of the population attempted the re-sowing of flooded lands, it did not yield sufficient crops to stretch throughout the long winter. Since the government did not take responsibility for pumping the water out of the basements, nor for reconstruction and purification of flooded water reservoirs, there was a need for distribution of hygiene supplies.

Achievements: The National Society of Kazakhstan carried out four food distributions throughout four months of the programme duration, providing the affected population with regular food support. These distributions included the following food items, wheat flour, rice, pasta, vegetable oil, cereals, and canned meat, allowing beneficiaries to stretch their resources to cover other essential needs. Supported by the Federation, the National Society was able to provide a total of **57 mt of food** to more than **2,500 beneficiaries** on the basis of a 2,100 kcal nutritional value per person per day for a period of two weeks during the emergency phase, and 1,500 kcal per person per day for three months of the rehabilitation phase. The amount of food support was increased against the original plan when estimates of this year's harvest showed that it was insufficient to satisfy the nutritional requirements of the population. Most of the food was procured locally, except for 17 MT donated in kind.

The National Society delivered **2,500 chlorine tablets** (25 packages 100 tablets each) to Zhitikara village, where flooding destroyed the water supply pipelines and people were lacking any potable water until temporary pipelines were installed. Inhabitants of this and other settlements also received **1,641 hygiene kits**, allowing them to wash clothing, maintain their living conditions and prevent possible waterborne diseases. Each hygiene kit (for a family of three) consisted of detergent (450 g.), washing soap (200 g.), and toilet soap (300 g).

Analysis of the distribution lists showed that 35% of beneficiaries belong to vulnerable groups, such as isolated elderly (20% of all the beneficiaries), multi-children families (10%) and families with one breadwinner (5%). Most of the remaining 65% of beneficiaries are poor families. The following table reflects the distribution of food and hygiene supplies.

Phase	Duration	Food supplies (kg)	Hygiene supplies (kits)	Chlorine tablets (pieces)	Number of beneficiaries	
					People	Families
Emergency phase	1 month	18,030	928	2,500	2,209	682
Rehabilitation phase	3 months	39,400	713	-	2,609	764
Total:		57,430	1,641	2,500		

Constraints: The National Society faced two major constraints in terms of implementing objective 1:

- Lack of warehouse facilities. Due to the fact that the limited budget did not allow allocation of funds for warehouse rent the National Society had to use the facilities provided by local suppliers which were not always suitably situated and sometimes widespread, causing logistical and transport delays.

- Local procurement proved to be an efficient, timely, and resource saving method. However, due to the limited amount of food available at some of the distant markets it would have been preferable to do the procurement in the nearest centre, and transport supplies.
- Throughout programme implementation the National Society continually identified additional beneficiaries who had been affected by the flooding but who were not included in the initial lists due to various reasons. Therefore, the lists of beneficiaries underwent regular updates, a time consuming enterprise.

Objective 2: To provide food support to those host families caring for the displaced.

Achievements: Host families who provided shelter to the displaced population were included in the lists of beneficiaries for the two month rehabilitation phase of the operation. These families received supplementary food support and hygiene supplies. Please refer to the achievements in Objective 1.

Objective 3: To replace essential bedding and clothing items lost in the flood.

Achievements: The National Society delivered more than **5 MT of clothing, 500 mattresses, 1,100 quilts and 1,306 bed linen sets to 2,259 beneficiaries** to reimburse their essential belongings destroyed by the flood waters. The bedding was distributed to displaced persons who had to look for temporary shelter before the onset of winter and those who returned to their homes, but still had little remaining to cope with the low temperatures typical for that region. Beneficiary selection was facilitated by the fact that flooding affected the poorest groups of people who were the only ones settled along the river banks. These people have been regularly affected by minor flooding in previous years, gradually losing their coping mechanisms without any compensation. Poor families constituted 52% of the target groups; the remaining supplies were shared between isolated elderly (30%), multi-children families (10%) and families with one breadwinner (8%). The following table reflects the distribution of clothing, shoes and bedding.

Phase	Duration	Clothing and shoes (kg)	Mattresses (pieces)	Quilts (pieces)	Bed linen (sets)	Number of beneficiaries	
						People	Families
Emergency phase	1 month	2,160	200	200	200	397	113
Rehabilitation phase	3 months	3,000	300	900	1,106	2,259	564
Total:		5,160	500	1,100	1,306		

Constraints: The National Society faced the following constraints in terms of implementation of objective 3:

- Disaster Preparedness stocks were insufficient to cover all the affected population (5 settlements covered out of 10 affected). In order to ensure better support a decision was taken to make an additional local procurement of clothes and bedding.
- The type of in-kind donations of used clothing did not match the season (lack of warm clothing), sizing (small sizes only) and gender (lack of men's and children's clothing).
- In-kind donations did not meet with the request for warm clothing and shoes. As a result, more than a half of the clothing (summer dresses for girls and women's underclothing) remained undistributed as it was unacceptable to the beneficiaries. It is planned to make a future distribution to elderly homes and orphanages to utilize these items.
- The National Society received no preliminary information on donated clothing specifications, such as type and amount of goods, which complicated the overall implementation of objective 3.
- Poor marking and uneven packing of in-kind donated goods delayed the distribution.

Objective 4: To help elderly people without family, and other vulnerable individuals or groups, to resettle in their homes.

Achievements: The National Society provided personal assistance to the elderly and especially vulnerable families or individuals with an objective of helping them to resettle and prepare their homes for the winter period. This was accomplished through specific “mini-projects” carried out by National Society staff, according to individual needs. As a result of this, ***132 vulnerable families*** received individual assistance at an average cost of CHF 50-150 per family, totaling ***CHF 17,800*** of overall support. The following reflects individual assistance distributed to the most vulnerable.

Type of assistance	Amount (CHF)	Number of beneficiaries	
		People	Families
Building materials (6 items: paint, cement, etc.)	756	107	33
Coal	9,627	389	132
Winter clothes and shoes	6,287	196	64
Medicines	286	198	66
Medical treatment	116	1	1
School stationery	554	148	47
Cattle fodder	175	8	2
Total:	17,800		

Constraints: The complicated procedures for selection of beneficiaries for individual projects. Preliminary information on the affected population was provided by the state departments for social welfare, after that the National Society identified the most vulnerable and their existing needs through a number of interviews with the selected families. In order to keep this information updated and to monitor project implementation, National Society representatives made regular visits to the beneficiaries. Final lists along with the project budgets were approved at the National level with the involvement of Federation representatives.

Conclusions

Supported by the International Federation, the National Red Crescent and Red Cross Society of Kazakhstan was able to carry out the task assisting people who suffered from flooding. Support provided by the National Society supplemented government efforts, and allowed broader coverage of the affected groups.

The National Society had the opportunity to apply in practice the theoretical knowledge received through the Federation Disaster Preparedness training programme and to obtain skills, knowledge and experience which may be used for future disaster response operations. This process was formalized in a self-evaluation exercise carried out between the National Society and the Federation at the conclusion of the operation.

On the local level, the National Society established close working relationships with local authorities, strengthened its image among the communities and used this opportunity to promote humanitarian values. All the distributions were widely covered by local and national mass media.

Lessons learned:

- The slow donor response resulted in delays in the operations activities which put the National Society under enormous strain in an effort to meet tight deadlines. More realistic operational time-frames are required.
- Improved communications in terms of in-kind donations should be a priority. The National Society should not accept donations which do not correspond with needs in the region. The Federation should take a stronger role in co-ordination between the donor and operating National Societies.
- An evaluation on performance efficiency was undertaken at the conclusion of the operation. It is highly recommended to conduct similar exercises after each future relief operation.

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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES					
				Interim report	
				Annual report	
				Final report	X
Appeal No & title: 13/2000 Kazakhstan floods					
Period: May to December 2000					
Project(s): PKZ507					
Currency: CHF					
I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL					
FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL
	Contributions	Reallocations	Goods/Services	Personnel	INCOME
Appeal budget	178'703.90				
less					
Cash brought forward					
TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT	178'703.90				
Contributions from Donors					
American Government (DGL)	14'823.40				14'823
Canadian Government (DGC)	16'984.62				16'985
Japanese Red Cross (DNJP)	15'572.00				15'572
Kuwait Red Crescent (DNK)	16'395.00				16'395
Monaco Red Cross (DNMC)	4'768.00				4'768
Republic of Korea Red Cross	10'000.00				10'000
Swedish Govt. via Swedish F	37'400.00				37'400
United Arab Emirates Red C	10'000.00				10'000
United States - Private Donors (DPUS)		3'808.97			3'809
Outstanding pledges					
TOTAL	125'943.02	3'809			129'752
Coverage	0.70	2.1%			72.6%
II - Balance of funds					
		Opening balance			
		CASH INCOME Rcv'd	129'752		
		CASH EXPENDITURE	-112'264		

		CASH BALANCE	17'488		
		OUTST. PLEDGES			

Appeal No & title: 13/2000 Kazakhstan floods						
Period: May to December 2000						
Project(s): PKZ507						
Currency: CHF						
III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures						
Description	Appeal Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
SUPPLIES						
Shelter & Construction		2'648			2'648	-2'648
Clothing & Textiles	77'141	33'197			33'197	43'944
Food/Seeds	30'566	20'064			20'064	10'502
Water						
Medical & First Aid	4'851	410			410	4'441
Teaching materials		443			443	-443
Utensils & Tools	165					165
Other relief supplies	8'250	10'142	123'705		133'847	-125'597
Sub-Total	120'973	66'904	123'705		190'609	-69'636
CAPITAL EXPENSES						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles						
Computers & Telecom equip.	1'980					1'980
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures		651			651	-651
Sub-Total	1'980	651			651	1'329
TRANSPORT & STORAGE						
	13'200	5'736			5'736	7'464
Sub-Total	13'200	5'736			5'736	7'464
PERSONNEL						
Personnel (delegates)	8'192	539			539	7'653
Personnel (local staff)		12'874			12'874	-12'874
Training						
Sub-Total	8'192	13'413			13'413	-5'221
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts	5'858					5'858
Travel & related expenses	3'300	4'146			4'146	-846
Information expenses	1'650	914			914	736
Administrative expenses	3'894	2'436			2'436	1'458
External workshops & Seminars						
Sub-Total	14'702	7'496			7'496	7'205
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	19'657	18'064			18'064	1'593
OPERATIONAL PROVISIONS						
Transfer to National Societies						
TOTAL BUDGET	178'704	112'264	123'705		235'969	-57'265
Consumption rate:	Expenditures versus income		182%			
	Expenditures versus budget		132%			