

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

GEORGIA FLOODS

24 October 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 05EA011; Operations Update no. 2; Period covered: 1 August to 30 September 2005

Appeal target: The original appeal budget was **467,007** (USD 367,722 or EUR 301,295). With this operations update, the appeal budget has been revised to **CHF 403,725.23** (USD 317,894 or EUR 260,468). Current income is **CHF 344,893.50** (DREF allocation **CHF 50,000** is included) and revised appeal coverage is **85 %**. Outstanding needs are **CHF 58,831.73** (*Please click here to go directly to the attached revised budget*).

Appeal history:

- The emergency appeal was launched on 24 May 2005 for CHF 467,007 (USD 367,722 or EUR 301,295) in cash, kind, or services to assist 16,000 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 50,000.

Outstanding needs: CHF 58,831.73 (USD 46,324 or EUR 37,956)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Operational Summary:

In Spring 2005, heavy rains, floods and landslides have affected adversely the population and infrastructure, adding to the existing deficits in the health, water and sanitation services as a result of long-term economic decline, in the western Georgia regions of Racha-Lechkhumi, Lower (Kvemo) Svaneti, Imereti and Samegrelo-Upper (Zemo) Svaneti.

The Oni water supply system in Racha-Lechkhumi region, for instance, has collapsed. In addition, heavy landslides in Svaneti region, in the northwest, blocked the roads to Mestia region and left its population unreachable for several weeks. The Red Cross Society of Georgia, supported by the Federation country Delegation, has responded to the needs of the population in the floods-affected regions and distributed food and non-food items in Mestia, Khulo and Oni regions.

800 hundred food parcels were donated by the Turkish Red Crescent Society and also 5,600 hygiene kits were distributed among the most affected population in Mestia, Oni and Khulo regions (4,800 hygiene kits were delivered to Mestia, 750 kits were distributed in Khulo and two kindergartens of Oni region received the remaining 50 kits). In addition, the Red Cross Society of Georgia distributed jerry cans kindly donated by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to some 950 households in Oni, so that the population can collect and store water from natural spring sources located several kilometres away from the town.

The Federation also employed a technical consultant to evaluate the feasibility of rehabilitation of the water supply system in Oni. The scope of workers and price list for the construction work was developed and a construction company was selected to carry out the works.

Donor response to the emergency appeal has been CHF 344,893.50 which is 74% of the initial appeal budget and 85% of the revised appeal budget. Additionally, CHF 58,831.73 (USD 46,324 or EUR 37,956) is required to enable the International Federation to achieve all the set objectives by the end of this year.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- *Mr. Giorgi Gigiberia, Secretary General of the Georgian Red Cross; phone +995 32 940 650; Fax +995 32 960 698; email ggigiberia@redcross.ge*
- *Mr. Ashot Sargsyan, Federation representative in Georgia; phone +995 32 922 248; Fax +995 32 922 249; email ashot.sargsyan@ifrc.org*
- *Ms. Sylvie Chevalley, Regional Officer for Turkey, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia, Federation Secretariat, Geneva phone + 41 22 730 4276 email sylvie.chevalley@ifrc.org*

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

Heavy rainfall, warm temperatures and a sudden onset of seasonal snow melt resulted in floods in the western Georgian regions of Racha-Lechkhumi, Lower (Kvemo) Svaneti, Imereti and Samegrelo-Upper (Zemo) Svaneti on 25-26 April 2005. On 27-30 April, the eastern regions of Inner (Shida) Kartli, Lower (Kvemo) Kartli, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Adjara and part of Samtskhe-Javakheti were also affected. Landslides and mudflows have occurred in many mountainous areas. While fortunately there has been no loss of human life, the damage to already poor infrastructure, residential buildings and agriculture has been extensive. Populations from a number of villages have been relocated due to fears for their safety. Families from damaged or destroyed houses have mostly found temporary shelter with relatives, friends, or neighbors. Transport infrastructure has been heavily affected also. Many bridges and kilometers of road have been washed away isolating some of the villages. On 28 April 2005, the Georgian government appealed for international assistance. On the same day (28 April 2005), the Federation launched a minor emergency alert to inform the international community of the disaster.

CHF 50,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) was deployed to collect information on the scale of damage, identify the needs, recommend on Red Cross action and initiate an appropriate response to the disaster. Based on FACT team findings, on 24 May 2005, the Federation launched an emergency appeal to help 16,000 people in Mestia region (16 villages), Oni and Khulo for seven months.

Operational developments

Donor response to the initial emergency appeal budget has been 74%. The DREF allocated CHF 50,000 (actual expense was more than the allocated fund and totalled to CHF 57,093.80) and this amount was spent for FACT mission early in May. The first contributions from the Finnish Red Cross (CHF 49,408) and the Swedish Red Cross (CHF 67,320) arrived within a week after the appeal was launched. In addition, CHF 90,400 was donated by the British Red Cross (funding arrived at the beginning of June 2005). In July 2005, the German Red Cross donated further CHF 82,672.49 and in September, the Icelandic Red Cross has contributed CHF 5,093.01.

Unfortunately, repeated heavy rains in some regions of Georgia triggered more landslides and mudflows and caused further damage to the already poor infrastructure. The Red Cross Society of Georgia delivered food and non-food items to the particularly affected regions.

The Red Cross Society of Georgia has completed distribution of 800 food parcels and 4800 hygiene kits (six month ratio) in Mestia region as well as 750 hygiene kits in Khulo region to flood-affected households. Two representatives from the Secretariat of the Red Cross Society of Georgia and the Federation Field Officer monitored the distribution process. At the same time, the Red Cross Society of Georgia distributed 1,900 jerry cans to some 950 households so that the population can collect and store water from the natural spring sources located several kilometres away from the town.

In addition, the Red Cross Society of Georgia is preparing to conduct public health and hygiene campaigns through a network of community volunteers. A training curriculum for volunteers has been already developed and community training will start soon.

In order to reach planned objectives, the national society has employed health & care and first aid coordinators in August 2005. The health & care coordinator visited the Armenian Red Cross to share experience in health and care activities as well as to discuss training modules for health/hygiene promotion campaigns. In addition, the Federation has employed a technical consultant to evaluate the feasibility of rehabilitation of the water supply system in Oni (Racha-Lechkhumi region). The consultant together with a local geologist and an engineer from the state planning agency visited Oni to assess the condition of the water supply system there. Their findings indicated that it is more durable to build a new system there instead of investing into rehabilitation of the old one, which was first partially damaged by April floods and has then been destroyed by the June 2005 floods. The scope of works and price list for the construction work has been developed. The construction company “Mshenebeli - XXI” was contracted to carry out the works.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact



Destroyed water supply system in Oni region

Water

Objective

3,300 people (950 families) in Oni town (Racha-Lechkhumi region) have access to sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking, personal and domestic hygiene.

Progress

To respond to the immediate needs of the population, the Red Cross Society of Georgia distributed 1,900 jerry cans to some 950 households.

The original plan was also to provide the residents of Oni with water purification tablets. Unfortunately, chlorine powder was received instead of purification tablets. The State Sanitary Department advised not to distribute chlorine powder, as it

needs a very precise dosage for proper use, which cannot be done by the population. For this time, the chlorine powder is stored at the Red Cross Society of Georgia warehouse until the suitable solution will be worked out.

The Federation has employed a technical consultant to establish the feasibility of rehabilitating the water supply system in Oni. The consultant together with a local geologist and an engineer from the state planning agency visited Oni to assess the condition of the water supply system there. Their findings concluded that it is more durable to invest into building a new water supply system instead of repairing the old one, which was demolished by the June 2005 floods. During the reporting period, the Federation technical consultant visited Oni several times. Preliminary works were conducted for the water debit evaluation. Four wells with 3-4 meters of depth were excavated and tested. The testing results are positive and also are approved by the state planning agency. At this time, the contract agreement with “Georgian Water project” planning agency was signed for the project preparation activities. The scopes of works and price list for the construction work were developed and a tender was opened to identify the construction company which carries out the works. Total cost of the project is GEL¹ 239,606 (CHF 170,000 including taxes). GEL 15,000 (CHF 10,643) was paid to “Georgia Water project” company for preparation of the project. GEL 172,773 (CHF 122,582) is to be spent for Headwork construction and GEL 51,833 (CHF 36,775) is needed for Trunk pipeline.

In parallel, the local Authorities and population of Oni are ready to undertake community participation. According to the preliminary agreement, the Oni government will provide necessary amount of pipes for the construction.

Outside the current appeal, the Red Cross Society of Georgia has signed the bilateral contract with the OXFAM for the rehabilitation of sewage and water supply system in Khulo. The national society, as an implementing

¹ Stands for Georgian Lari which is Georgia’s currency

partner, took responsibility to recruit relevant staff and select construction company “Poni” to carry out rehabilitation works.

Impact:

The water supply system construction will make it possible to provide the population of Oni and the neighboring villages with safe potable water (in total some 1,100 Oni families or 3,300 people; in summer, the number increases to 6,000 people as many families return to their homes from Tbilisi, the capital city, to where they usually escape to survive harsh winter months). Currently, people walk several kilometers high up in the mountains to collect water from natural spring sources.

Constraints:

Notwithstanding the fact, that Federation is direct tax exempt², however the tax exemptions do not apply to the third party, namely the Federation contracted company. The State Tax Department requires the contracted company to pay all official taxes (including Value Added Tax). The total tax payment is resulting in the substantial increase of the project cost for up to GEL 62,297. Taking into account that donor response to the revised appeal is 85%, the additional expenses arise serious financial problems for the project implementation. CHF 58,831.73 is required to enable the Federation to accomplish the project.

Health**Objective**

The effected communities in Mestia region and Khulo have reduced vulnerability to health related risks.

Progress

The Red Cross Society of Georgia delivered 4,800 hygiene kits from the national society’s warehouse to Mestia and 750 kits to Khulo regions and distributed among the flood affected households. Two representatives of the Red Cross Society of Georgia joined the Federation Field Officer to monitor the distribution process.

The Red Cross Society of Georgia has already developed a curriculum to train community volunteers on basic health and hygiene. Public education campaigns will start shortly.

Impact

The evolution of hygiene behaviour level will be monitored over the time and reported through further operations updates. As a result of public education campaigns and the training arranged by the Red Cross Society of Georgia health and care coordinator, the epidemic risk will be reduced.

Food**Objective**

Distribute food parcels to 800 floods-affected families in the Mestia region.

Progress

As the World Food Programme (WFP) is a leading international agency in food distribution in Georgia, the agreement was reached between the Federation and WFP on distribution of food parcels. To avoid duplication of the efforts, the distribution was conducted during the gap of WFP activities in the region. 800 food parcels, donated by the Turkish Red Crescent, were distributed by the volunteers of Red Cross Society of Georgia to the most affected families in Mestia region. The list of beneficiaries has been established by the Red Cross Society of Georgia Mestia branch in coordination with the local government.

² According to the Agreement (Article 6) between the Government of Georgia and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, “the Government of Georgia shall make appropriate administrative arrangements for the remission or return of the amount of excise duties or taxes on the sale movable and immovable property which form part of the price to be paid (such as Value Added Tax), when the Delegation is making important purchases for official use of property or relief supplies on which such duties and taxes have been charged or are chargeable .”

Impact

The Red Cross activities contributed to food security in the floods affected region, where many families have lost the agricultural land, pasture land, fodder, livestock and seeds.

Advocacy**Objective**

The Red Cross Society of Georgia has worked with the government to revitalize the dialogue with the local population living in geologically high risk areas to ensure their safety.

Progress

The FACT team findings were shared with all key actors in Georgia, including the United Nations (UN), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Swiss Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Embassy of the United Kingdom. The Red Cross called also for a press conference and communicated through media its concerns about the population living in the high risk areas, such as the Becho village in the Mestia region of Upper Svaneti region and parts of Khulo in Ajara region. The families there should urgently relocate, at least temporarily until a more durable solution acceptable to all involved is found.

While the Appeal revision was being prepared, flood and landslide occurred in western Georgia. The evacuation process of population took place spontaneously. Consequently, the purpose of international organizations' cooperation meetings is to involve the local government bodies in turning evacuation of population into more controllable process during such cases.

The issue is complex and highly sensitive but it is important that the dialogue between the government and the population continues. The relevant branches of Red Cross Society of Georgia are engaged in the negotiations with the local governments on highlighting the problems and level of the risk which the population in the affected regions is facing.

The campaign is deemed to be important since most people while acknowledging the threat do not realize its potential and force. In view of the risk of yet more landslides, first aid courses are also initiated to strengthen the population's disaster response capacity.

National Society Capacity Building**Objective**

The Georgian Red Cross society's capacity to manage programmes in order to meet the needs of the vulnerable communities is strengthened.

Progress

The emergency operation has offered a tremendous learning opportunity for the Red Cross Society of Georgia. All activities are implemented primarily by the national society testing its planning and management skills. The Federation Secretariat through its country delegation in Tbilisi has been providing technical support and guidance. In addition, a number of training sessions on Project Planning Process (the Federation's main planning tool), financial management, participatory approaches and training methodology are planned for Red Cross branch staff and volunteers involved in the implementation of the emergency operation. The Federation provided help to the National Society in hiring experienced personnel in order to achieve objectives of the Organisational Development Program.

The Red Cross Society of Georgia has signed the bilateral contract with the OXFAM for the rehabilitation of sewage and water supply system in Khulo.

Coordination

Besides the Red Cross Society of Georgia, there are a number of other actors – government and non-governmental organizations - involved in the response operation helping the floods-affected population. These include: World Food Programme, OXFAM, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Adventist Development and Relief Agency and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The World Food Programme is focusing primarily on food distribution and OXFAM is focusing on water and sanitation. In addition, the United Methodist Committee on Relief and Adventist Development and Relief Agency work in the health sector. The Red Cross Society of Georgia coordinates its activities with all organizations via regular meetings to ensure the efforts are not duplicated and the resources are directed to where they are most needed.

Revised Budget is attached below. Please click here to return to the title page and contact information

BUDGET SUMMARY

APPEAL No. 05EA011

Georgia Floods (revised appeal)

TYPE	PREVIOUS BUDGET	REVISED BUDGET
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF	IN CHF
Water & Sanitation	106,878	170,000
Medical & first aid	4,269	4,269
Teaching Materials	26,518	3,852
Other supplies - Hygiene kits	37,359	38,669
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	175,024	216,790
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
Computers & telecom. equipment		638
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme support (6.5% of total)	30,356	26,242
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>		
Warehousing & Distribution	2,100	1,481
Transport & Vehicle Costs	40,657	12,991
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
Expatriate staff	32,577	21,774
National staff	103,330	41,616
Consultants	18,860	5,300
Workshops and training	32,879	31,327
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>		
Travel & related expenses	9,907	31,277
Administrative & general expenses	16,287	9,613
Communication expenses	5,030	4,676
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	291,983	186,935
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	467,007	403,725
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		344,893
NET REQUEST		58,832