

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Kyrgyzstan: Socio-economic crisis

DREF operation n° MDRKG002  
21 May, 2008

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 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.

**Summary:** CHF 58,286 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 14 December, 2007 to support the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan in delivering assistance to 2,852 vulnerable children.

The Red Crescent Society provided supplementary food rations to vulnerable children through residential institutions, medical and service-provision institutions in three regions in the north of the country. The response operation addressed the food insecurity situation that resulted from a dramatic increase in prices for basic food products in the country in the second half of 2007. As a result, 2,852 children received additional food that improved their daily rations.

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Children from a boarding school of Naryn town are among the beneficiaries of the Red Crescent food aid operation. Photo: Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan

## The situation

In the second half of 2007 Kyrgyzstan saw a dramatic increase in prices for bread and other basic food staples. According to the International Monetary Fund, the country's annual inflation surpassed 20 per cent by the end of 2007.

The government's Food Security Council has developed a plan of action to curb inflation in 2008 that stipulates measures aimed at increasing the strategic reserves, ensuring uniform budget spending throughout the year and tax revenues. Administrative measures to prevent speculative trading are also foreseen.

Between November 2007 and March 2008 the prices generally stayed at the same level.

**Table 1: Comparative analysis of prices for basic food products**

<b>Food products</b>	<b>Price as of 1 April 2007 (Kyrgyz Soms)</b>	<b>Prices as of 1 November 2007 (Kyrgyz Soms)</b>	<b>Prices as of 1 March 2008 (Kyrgyz Soms)</b>
Flour	12	24	25
Beef	110	220	215
Milk	17	40	30
Eggs	25	50	40
Vegetable oil	50	110	100
Cheese	82	180	160
Rice	30	70	30

*The staff of the National Society public canteen in Bishkek provided this data based on the analysis of its procurement documents.*

Experts estimate that after the price hike in Kyrgyzstan the number of people living below the poverty line increased by 400,000-450,000 people<sup>1</sup>. The number of needy people whose income does not exceed 25 US dollars per month reached 49 per cent of the whole population by the end of last year. The reason is that the great majority of people in the country are very sensitive to bread prices and even minor price increases in food staples can easily push them below the poverty line.

The government allocations to children's institutions officially increased in January 2008. However, by March 2008 the higher allocations of 1.77 US dollars per child per day had been received only in Chu region. According to the director of the rehabilitation centre for street children in the capital city of Bishkek the higher allocations were first distributed in February 2008.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

At national level and through the regional branches the National Society maintained contacts with the authorities to monitor the situation as it developed and to coordinate the response. While planning the response the Red Crescent Society also liaised with Mercy Corps and UNICEF who work with children's institutions in the country. The National Society through its regional branches has identified the most vulnerable children who suffered from the shortage of food to be the children in residential institutions, medical or service-provision institutions in the three poorest regions in the north of the country.

At the same time the Red Crescent Society launched a fund-raising initiative on television and contacted business structures and banks with the appeal to help vulnerable children. The raised funds were later spent on New Year gifts (sweets, biscuits, fruits) for vulnerable children.

## **Progress towards objectives**

### **Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)**

**Objective: To provide supplementary food rations for three months for 2,852 vulnerable children in order to reduce the threat of malnutrition.**

#### **Activities carried out:**

In early January 2008 the staff and volunteers of the National Society's three regional branches carried out an assessment to update and confirm the list of target institutions and the number of beneficiaries in them. At the same time the headquarters dealt with the procurement of the required goods. The supplementary ration procured for one child included:

- Pasta products 3 kg
- Rice 3 kg
- Flour 1 kg
- Vegetable oil 1.5 l

The quoted price of flour during the procurement was higher than the budgeted price and the decision was taken to reduce the amount of flour in the food packages from planned 4.5 kg to 1 kg.

<sup>1</sup> Based on the report by the Bishkek Centre of Economic Analysis.

Issyk-Kul and Naryn regions were targeted first. In Issyk-Kul region the representatives of the target children's institutions received 3,239 kg of the food aid in the office of the National Society's regional branch according to the lists of beneficiaries in each of these institutions. In Naryn region a round table was arranged for personnel of 12 boarding schools and kindergartens from the beneficiary lists prior to the distributions. During the meeting the National Society informed the participants about the food aid rations per child and discussed the issues of food security and food hygiene. After that the Red Crescent distributed the delivered 12,155 kg of food products directly to the target institutions.

In Bishkek, the National Society headquarters arranged a press-conference for the mass media and representatives of the target children's institutions from Chu region and Bishkek city prior to the distribution. On the same day 8,848.5 kg of food aid was distributed among 8 beneficiary institutions in the Red Crescent office.

**Table 2: Distributed food and number of beneficiaries**

Region and institution	Number of beneficiaries	Distributed food products, kg or litre			
		Pasta products	Rice	Flour	Vegetable oil
<b>1. Issyk-Kul region</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>571</b>
Kindergarten №11	50	150	150	50	75
Aksu orphanage	106	318	318	106	159
Aiany boarding school	20	60	60	20	30
Orphanage «Good family»	30	90	90	30	45
Rehabilitation centre «Thank You»	30	90	90	30	45
Orphanage «Karakol»	46	138	138	46	69
RC rehabilitation centre for working and street children	45	135	135	45	67
RC school for street children	54	162	162	54	81
<b>2. Naryn region</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>4,290</b>	<b>4,290</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>2,145</b>
Cholpon boarding school	77	231	231	77	115.5
(Former) At-Bashy orphanage	65	195	195	65	97.5
Kindergarten «Nur»	50	150	150	50	75
Kindergarten «Yntymak»	150	450	450	150	225
Kindergarten «Yiman»	80	240	240	80	120
Rehabilitation centre «Kadam »	75	225	225	75	112.5
Kindergarten «Altyn-Balalyk»	150	450	450	150	225
Kindergarten «Baktyлуу-Balalyk»	280	840	840	280	420
Kindergarten «Cheburashka»	220	660	660	220	330
Kindergarten «Skazka»	80	240	240	80	120
Naryn regional boarding school	114	342	342	114	171
Naryn schools	89	267	267	89	133.5
<b>3. Chu region and Bishkek city</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>3,123</b>	<b>3,123</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>1,561.5</b>
Specialized school №30	136	408	408	136	204
Children's tuberculosis clinic №2	70	210	210	70	105
Krasnorechensk boarding school	150	450	450	150	225
Republican boarding school for children with hearing disorders	362	1,086	1,086	362	543
Public fund «Uzak-Omur»	150	450	450	150	225
Rehabilitation centre for street children	74	222	222	74	111
Petrovsk boarding school	65	195	195	65	97.5
Karabalta orphanage	34	102	102	34	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,852</b>	<b>8,556</b>	<b>8,556</b>	<b>2,852</b>	<b>4,277.5</b>

Following the distributions the staff of the National Society's regional branches has randomly monitored the provision of food to children in institutions by visiting them at meals time (breakfast, lunch, dinner) and making observations. Also, the books where food products are being recorded have been checked, which show that the distributed products will last longer than the planned three months. The joint International

Federation/ National Society monitoring trip to Naryn and Issyk-Kul regions in February also demonstrated that the distributed products were of good quality and appropriate to local food traditions. In Naryn region a separate monitoring was arranged to visit the households who accepted 65 children from the At-Bashy orphanage – one of the target institutions that had been closed over the period of this operation.

**Impact:**

The supplementary rations distributed by the Red Crescent ensured access to adequate food for children in target institutions during winter months and in some cases beyond. The opinion of the director of a rehabilitation centre for street children was that having basic food products from the Red Crescent Society the centre managed to improve the quality of meals for children and include products supplying not only carbohydrates but proteins, fats and vitamins.

The operation also provided an opportunity for the National Society to build its capacities in the area of needs assessment, distribution and monitoring of response operations. The Red Crescent regional branches of Chu, Issuk-Kul and Naryn regions strengthened their cooperation with the government bodies and local authorities.

**Challenges:**

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan usually carries out direct relief distributions during the response operations. Under this DREF operation the food aid was distributed to institutions and subsequent monitoring of food provision to children was a challenging task for the National Society.

Changes have been made to the original beneficiary lists of the institutions at regional level. Thus, At-Bashy orphanage in Naryn region was dissolved and children were placed with host families. The food aid was distributed to families accordingly. In Issuk-Kul region some institutions initially included in beneficiary lists had received aid from other sources by the time the Red Crescent's support became available and consequently were replaced by other institutions. A similar replacement took place in Chu region as well.



Red Crescent food aid meant meat and other protein products could be included in children's daily meals. Photo: Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan

**Conclusion**

**Lessons learned:**

- In cases where the relief is not distributed to beneficiaries directly the National Society should always develop an appropriate system of further monitoring and allocate sufficient time and resources for it at the planning stage of the response operation.
- The staff and volunteers of the Red Crescent regional branches need to improve their practical skills in needs assessment, distribution and monitoring of response operations. This will be further addressed under the current disaster management programme of the National Society.

<b>How we work</b>	
<p><i>All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the <a href="#">Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief</a> and is committed to the <a href="#">Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere)</a> in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.</i></p>	
<p>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".</p>	<p><b>Global Agenda Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</li> <li>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross</li> </ul>

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

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**[<final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)**

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDRKG002 - Kyrgyzstan - Socio Economic Crisis

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/12-2008/04
Budget Timeframe	2007/12-2008/03
Appeal	MDRKG002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Consolidated Response to Appeal**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>		58,286				58,286
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		58,286				58,286
<b>C5. Other Income</b>		58,286				58,286
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)</b>		58,286				58,286
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>		58,286				58,286
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>		100%				100%

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>C. Income</b>		58,286				58,286
<b>E. Expenditure</b>		-58,286				-58,286
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>		0				0

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/12-2008/04
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**III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure**

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>58,286</b>					<b>58,286</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Food	46,174		46,295			46,295	-121	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>46,174</b>		<b>46,295</b>			<b>46,295</b>	<b>-121</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Distribution & Monitoring	2,000		2,473			2,473	-473	
Transport & Vehicle Costs			126			126	-126	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>2,000</b>		<b>2,599</b>			<b>2,599</b>	<b>-599</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
National Staff	2,200		1,874			1,874	326	
National Society Staff	841		491			491	350	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>3,041</b>		<b>2,365</b>			<b>2,365</b>	<b>676</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	1,500		1,899			1,899	-399	
Information & Public Relation	1,000		421			421	579	
Office Costs			31			31	-31	
Communications	783		303			303	480	
Financial Charges			584			584	-584	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>3,283</b>		<b>3,238</b>			<b>3,238</b>	<b>45</b>	
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	3,789		3,789			3,789	0	
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>3,789</b>		<b>3,789</b>			<b>3,789</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>58,286</b>		<b>58,286</b>			<b>58,286</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>0</b>			<b>0</b>		