

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Uzbekistan: Explosions

DREF operation n° MDRUZ001
6 February 2009

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 58,770 (USD 57,618 or EUR 36,503) was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 28 July, 2008 to support the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society in delivering assistance to some 500 families affected by explosions at a military arms depot.

In the first days following the evacuation of people from the disaster area and after the evacuees had returned the National Society provided first aid and distributed relief items and medical supplies from its disaster stocks. Initial distributions targeted 2,142 people (488 families). The allocated funds were used to procure and distribute food and non-food relief items and to replenish the National Society's emergency stocks. These distributions of relief items reached 1,901 people (410 families). As a result, the disaster-affected households improved their living and sanitary conditions. The rendered assistance also contributed to the reduction of social and economic tension in the affected region.

The Red Crescent Society faced difficulties with procurements of quality relief and when targeting the affected population because even after people had returned from temporary evacuation they continued moving.

The Netherlands Red Cross has contributed CHF 32,700 through its Silent Emergency Fund towards the replenishment of the DREF allocation for this operation.

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The Red Crescent's humanitarian assistance helped to restore the damaged property of affected families. Photo: Uzbekistan Red Crescent

The situation

A series of explosions at the arms depot near the town of Kagan in southern Uzbekistan on 10 July, 2008 killed 7 people, injured 30 people and caused damage to housing and property in the town and adjacent territories. The accident entailed temporary evacuation of 68,000 people from the town of Kagan and Kagan region to the neighbouring Bukhara and Navoi regions.

The explosions damaged the houses and apartments of 379 families. In addition, the houses of 310 families located within the three-kilometre right-of-way around the depot have been also demolished. Thus, 689 families or 2,760 people lost their homes; among them 379 families (1,301 people) lost part or all of their property.

The authorities compensated some affected families for the loss of homes by providing 56 apartments in two apartment blocks and 161 plots of land and financial aid to cover construction materials at the amount of around 25,000 Swiss francs (through construction companies). The rest of the affected families received compensation to cover the restoration of their houses and property at the amount between 2,180 and 35,000 Swiss francs, according to the scale of damage estimated by a special commission.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In the first days following the evacuation of people from the disaster area the staff and volunteers from Bukhara, Navoi and Samarkand Red Crescent branches worked with the organized central staff and in 14 evacuation points. During the period of temporary evacuation and after the evacuees returned the National Society provided first aid and distributed relief items and medical supplies from the disaster stocks. The Red Crescent provided 2,142 people (488 families) with food (bread and fruits), bottled water, hygiene and medical items, bedding and second-hand clothes and shoes. The Red Crescent point in Kagan town ran for a month disseminating information, providing tracing services and assisting with applications for government compensations.

A tent camp of 40 tents from the Red Crescent stock was set up at the outskirts of Kagan town when people returned. However, the camp was soon dismantled as the affected people preferred to move tents to their new land plots or yards of their damaged houses while they constructed new houses.

Table 1 Relief items distributed from stocks

Items	Units	Distributed
Bread	loaf	2,350
Watermelon/ melon	pcs	2,200
Mineral water	bottle	2,800
Tents	pcs	64
Plastic sheets	roll	15
Mattresses	pcs	225
Quilts and blankets	pcs	217
Bed linen	set	160
Hygiene supplies: washing soap	pcs	300
toilet soap		250
tooth brush		200
packed detergent		300
Chlorine tablets	pack of 10 tablets	223
Kitchen sets	set	40
Jerry cans	pcs	40
Candles	pcs	450
First aid kit	set	20
Second hand clothing	kg	1,830
Footwear	pair	170

The Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society closely coordinated its response actions with the government at national and local levels and was represented in the emergency commission. The International Federation's regional representation in Almaty provided general supervision and coordination.

The actions carried out by the Red Crescent Society across the affected region involved all staff of Bukhara regional, Kagan district and town branches (8 people) and approximately 40 volunteers, assisted by 5 members from the headquarters.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective 1: To provide food and non-food relief items to 500 vulnerable affected families residing in temporary shelters.

Activities carried out:

The allocated funds were used to procure and distribute food and non-food relief to the affected population and to replenish the National Society's emergency stocks. The relief items were purchased in the capital city of Tashkent in accordance with the International Federation's standard tendering procedures.

In total, the Uzbekistan Red Crescent procured almost 6 tonnes of food (500 food parcels), 500 mattresses, 550 quilts, 600 sets of bed linen, 500 hygiene packs, 50 kitchen sets, 200 jerry cans, and 3,000 candles. The National Society changed the planned composition and quantity of relief items: pillows have been replaced by blankets; the quantity of mattresses increased and the quantity of kitchen sets decreased, plastic sheeting and hypochlorite lime were not procured. Free delivery of goods to Bukhara region and free storage in a warehouse has been ensured.

The Red Crescent distributions reached 410 most affected families (1,901 people), among them: 1) families who lost family members; 2) families who lost their houses and property; 3) families whose houses were severely damaged; and 4) most vulnerable families from those whose houses were demolished. Additional criteria of vulnerability taken into account when delivering assistance were: presence of older people and people with disabilities in the families, number of children, and absence of one parent or low income. The distributions took place in September; target beneficiaries were informed about the distribution schedule in advance.

The 399 affected families (1,834 people) from the first three groups mentioned above received food parcels. The food was provided as supplementary for 10 days. Each food parcel included: wheat flour (3 kg), rice (3 kg), sugar (2 kg), pasta products (2 kg), vegetable oil (1l), tea and salt.

Non-food items were distributed depending on the needs of the affected people. The National Society also has replenished the stocks in the regional and central warehouses.

Table 2 Non-food items procured, distributed and stocked

Items	Units	Distributed	Stocked	Total
Mattresses	pcs	284	216	500
Quilts	pcs	283	267	550
Bed linen (1 blanket cover, 1 bed sheet, 1 pillow cover)	set	411	189	600
Hygiene supplies:				
washing soap	pcs	736	264	1,000
toilet soap		736	264	1,000
tooth paste		474	26	500
tooth brush		1,946	554	2,500
packed detergent		736	264	1,000
Towels	set	491	9	500
Kitchen sets	set	10	40	50
Jerry cans	pcs	187	13	200
Candles	pcs	2,472	528	3,000

Following the distributions, interviews with randomly selected beneficiary families (23) were conducted to find out whether they were satisfied with the assistance. Although the beneficiaries expressed general satisfaction with the Red Crescent response operation, one comment was that the humanitarian aid was provided late. Also, the distributions were not always arranged with due consideration to beneficiaries convenience. None of interviewed beneficiaries admitted participation in the beneficiary selection process and distributions as well as in planning of the operation. Besides, some beneficiaries said they had not been informed explicitly about the time and place of distribution or about the content and quantity of distributed items.

Impact:

The DREF funds received from the International Federation enabled the Uzbekistan Red Crescent to respond to the needs of the affected population and to replenish the National Society stocks. As a result of the Red Crescent operation the disaster-affected households improved their living and sanitary conditions. The rendered assistance contributed to the reduction of social and economic tension in the affected region.

The National Society played the auxiliary role vis-à-vis the government in the humanitarian field. For the first time in many years the Uzbekistan Red Crescent used one of the International Federation's response tools – the DREF – to provide assistance to its population. The Society gained practical skills in aid procurement, distribution, gathering and presenting data about the operation. In addition, the operation strengthened the visibility and positive image of the National Society in front of the government and public.

Challenges

The character of the accident and the fact that the affected area stayed cordoned off for a while hindered the National Society in responding promptly and assessing the needs.

Targeting the affected by distributions was difficult because even after they had returned home after temporary evacuation people kept moving from one place to another or out of the region. Also, the distribution through the point arranged for that purpose was problematic because of poor public transportation or personal physical limitations of beneficiaries. Therefore, for majority of such beneficiaries the goods were delivered directly to their homes.

The Red Crescent Society faced difficulties when making procurements. It was quite problematic to find a supplier of non-food items and especially kitchen sets that would be according to the standards recommended by International Federation's emergency items catalogue in the country. This and the tender process in compliance with the International Federation's tendering caused a significant delay in procurement. Thus, the operation demonstrated the need in closer cooperation and network building with sister National Societies in central Asia and common disaster response mechanisms, including a database with a virtual warehouse listing goods for sharing in case of emergency.

The communication flow in the National Society and between the National Society and the International Federation's secretariat regional representation needs to be improved.

Conclusion

Lessons learned:

- The beneficiary satisfaction survey demonstrated that a more careful approach should be taken to planning and selection of beneficiaries. The varying needs and capabilities of different beneficiary groups (like extended families and people with special needs) should be taken into account. For that purpose the National Society should involve in the planning process the affected people and ensure diversity and due consideration for gender.
- This operation has confirmed that sufficient funds and resources should be available at local level to provide an effective response in the first days following an emergency.
- The need of training for regular personnel and volunteers of affected branches in preparedness for response has been identified. This will be addressed through regular programming.
- The National Society needs to ensure proper visibility during the distributions and make an extra effort to inform the beneficiaries adequately not only about the details of the operation but about RC principles and programming.
- Fast assessment by the affected Red Crescent branch and prompt communication with headquarters are important to plan a timely response.
- The results of the response operation stress the importance of the contingency plan revision to include both man-made and natural disasters as new risks evolve, as well as update the standard operating procedures.

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

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRUZ001 - Uzbekistan - Explosion

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/07-2008/11
Budget Timeframe	2008/07-2008/10
Appeal	MDRUZ001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	58,770					58,770
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	58,770					58,770
C5. Other Income	58,770					58,770
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	58,770					58,770
D. Total Funding = B + C	58,770					58,770
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	58,770					58,770
E. Expenditure	-58,770					-58,770
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		58,770					58,770	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	850						850	
Clothing & textiles	17,650	23,203				23,203	-5,553	
Food	10,560	14,036				14,036	-3,476	
Utensils & Tools	4,200	2,455				2,455	1,745	
Other Supplies & Services	7,140	5,740				5,740	1,400	
Total Supplies	40,400	45,434				45,434	-5,034	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	450						450	
Distribution & Monitoring	3,510	1,446				1,446	2,064	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,500	1,165				1,165	335	
Total Transport & Storage	5,460	2,611				2,611	2,849	
Personnel								
National Society Staff	4,590	4,374				4,374	216	
Total Personnel	4,590	4,374				4,374	216	
General Expenditure								
Travel		1,175				1,175	-1,175	
Information & Public Relation	1,500	176				176	1,324	
Office Costs	2,400	745				745	1,655	
Communications	600	273				273	327	
Financial Charges		161				161	-161	
Total General Expenditure	4,500	2,531				2,531	1,969	
Programme Support								
Program Support	3,820	3,820				3,820	0	
Total Programme Support	3,820	3,820				3,820	0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	58,770	58,770				58,770	0	
VARIANCE (C - D)		0				0		