

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Russian Federation: Explosion

DREF operation n° MDRRU004
19 April 2010

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 29,973 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 22 August, 2009 to support the National Society in delivering assistance to some 2,100 beneficiaries.

An explosion at the Sayano-Shushenskaya hydropower station in eastern Siberia killed 75 people in August 2009. One settlement close to the station lost its water supply due to the oil slick in the Yenisei river.

The Russian Red Cross provided assistance to more than 2,100 people through psychosocial support to the affected families (300 people) and through the distribution of drinking water (targeting 1,800 people) until the damaged water systems were repaired. The operation was implemented during a period of four months.

The psychosocial support activities included regular home visits by Red Cross volunteers, group sessions as well as various community events aiming at assisting people in reducing the psychological effects of the disaster and in solving legal and social issues.

The people assisted noted that the presence of the Red Cross volunteers in their daily lives was greatly appreciated.

As a result of the operation, the Khakassia regional Red Cross branch has become yet another branch of the Russian Red Cross that has built up its capacity in psychosocial support and is now going to include such activities in other programme areas.

Another valuable outcome of recent disaster response operations including the current one is that the National Society has now a more or less standard scenario for the psychosocial support component of response operations that was used in the operations responding to the fire in Perm in December 2009 as well as the floods in Volgograd region in April 2010.

ECHO contributed EUR 10,000 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>



Drinking water distribution in Maina settlement in August 2009.
Photo: Russian Red Cross

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The situation

On 17 August 2009 an explosion at Sayano-Shushenskaya hydropower station in eastern Siberia destroyed the walls and the ceiling of a turbine room which then flooded. Seventy-five people were killed by the explosion.

In Cheremushky settlement where the majority of the population works at the hydropower station, there was a strong need for psychosocial support to the families that lost their members as a result of the explosion.

The accident also produced an oil slick that by 18 August stretched over 80 kilometers down the Yenisei river. Although EMERCOM workers localized the slick and started the rectification of the river, one of the settlements, Maina was still cut off from drinking water supply for about one week. Therefore about 1,800 most vulnerable people (people with disabilities, older people living alone, multi-child families and single-parent families) from Maina settlement were in urgent need of portable drinking water. Although one of the trucks of the local authorities brought water to the settlement once a day, it was difficult for the older people and people with disabilities, constituting the majority of the population in the village, to take this water home. Moreover, there were cases when the quality of this water was not adequate for drinking. The authorities of the settlement provided the regional Red Cross branch with a list of the most vulnerable people and asked the National Society to organize the distribution of bottled water directly to the beneficiaries' homes.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Immediately after the disaster the Russian Red Cross branch in the Republic of Khakassia started assessing the situation and collecting money for the people affected. The response operation built on the profound experience of the Russian Red Cross in psychosocial support gained through operations responding to recent disasters such as the Beslan crisis, mine explosion in Kemerovo and the South Ossetia refugee crisis.

Achievements against outcomes

Emergency health care

Objective: The psychological effects in the aftermath of the hydropower station explosion are reduced through the provision of psychosocial support to the affected families (300 people) and to the rest of the community in Cheremushki settlement.	
Expected Results	Activities planned
Psychosocial support is provided to 300 family members.	Red Cross staff and trained volunteers will provide psychosocial support to the 300 family members affected by the explosion to address their needs and to improve their psychological conditions.

Impact:

Regular psychosocial support was provided to more than 120 families/ 260 people by 12 trained volunteers through home visits and phone calls. In total 997 home visits were carried out.

Assistance in solving legal and social issues was also provided through group sessions (19 meetings).

Furthermore, community events were organized by the Red Cross including the following events:

- Attending mourning events at the cemetery and providing psychosocial support to the relatives of the deceased people on the site.
- Delivering Christmas presents to the children of the deceased workers (85 children) – “Christmas joy” event.



Christmas event for the children who lost their parents. Photo: Russian Red Cross

- Publishing and distributing 500 information leaflets “*Surviving trauma*” with recommendations on coping with trauma and loss among the affected people and the general population of the area.
- Assessing the psychological state of the target group through questionnaires and interviews four months after the disaster.

The counselling and group sessions as well as community events that the Russian Red Cross ran in the course of this operation all helped the people affected by the explosion to face their difficult situation.

People assisted noted that their state was improving and that the presence of the Red Cross volunteers in their daily lives was very important and appreciated.

Nikolay Zholob, head of the “Steps to life” group said about the Red Cross psychosocial programme: “*Thank you for your volunteers, for giving water to the people, you’re doing a great job. This support is needed for the families, support, not just pity*».

Anna, 58, lost her husband due to the disaster: «*Some officials only rely on financial support, they don’t talk to people. Thank you from all of us. The most terrifying thing is to be forgotten. Thank God you are around!*»

Nina, 53, volunteer: “*With one of them (beneficiaries) we became friends, we agreed to meet every week and take walks. After one of our walks I felt so low that I felt like crying. But then I realised that by listening to her I helped her, she shared her grief with me and I immediately felt better after realising it. Who else is going to help her if not the Red Cross?*”

The Khakassia Red Cross branch, which supported the local branch of Sayanogorsk in the coordination of the operation, has become yet another branch that has built up its capacity in psychosocial support and is now going to include such activities in other programme areas, for instance in the TB control programme.

The experience of other Russian Red Cross branches in psychosocial support was utilized during the operation through the Kemerovo branch providing support and advise to the volunteers in Sayanogorsk. The psychosocial workers of Kemerovo branch conducted on-site master classes on psychosocial support right after the explosion, working with families of the deceased people and attending mourning events. Fifteen volunteers of the Khakassia branch were familiarized with practical psychosocial approaches. The second part of their training was conducted by a psychologist, who has been working with the Russian Red Cross as a consultant on psychosocial issues for several years.

A well-knit, strong and devoted team of trained volunteers was built during the project implementation that can carry out effective work in similar situations in the future.

Another valuable outcome of recent disaster response operations including the current one is that the National Society has now a more or less standard scenario for the psychosocial support component of response operations that was used in the operations responding to the fire in Perm in December 2009 as well as the floods in Volgograd region in April 2010.

Challenges:

The main challenge was (and still is) the uncertain status of the power station. People are dependent on it and did not receive consistent information on whether and how soon it will be opened again and they will have their jobs back. This added to the general level of anxiety in the area, along with the anxiety about the safety of the area due to its location next to the station.

The DREF operation ended on 21 December 2009, and the National Society’s local branch is now spending its limited funds for the continuation of the activities, funds that were collected within the first month after the explosion, and is also trying to attract more funds from the hydropower station owner, RusHydro. This would allow the Russian Red Cross to ensure that psychosocial follow-up is provided to those in need by prolonging the support they are rendering till August 2010.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: Safe water supply is provided to 1,800 people in Maina settlement during a seven-nine day period.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Safe water is provided to 1,800 people until the damaged water systems are restored.	Each person will receive 5 bottles of drinking water (5 litres each) until the water in the river is purified and safe water supply is restored.

Impact:

The Sayanogorsk local Red Cross branch together with the local community (women club, disabled people’s council and veterans’ council) developed a beneficiary list with the 1,800 most vulnerable people.

The people reached belonged to the following most vulnerable groups:

Vulnerable group	Number of people assisted
People with disabilities	457
Multi-child families	154
Single-parent families	84
Older people living alone	1,105
Total	1,800 people

Nineteen Red Cross staff members and volunteers distributed in total 9,000 bottles of drinking water during five days. Each person received 25 litres of drinking water. After five days the water systems were restored.

The support provided was highly appreciated by the local authorities. A letter of gratitude was received from the head of Sayanogorsk administration thanking the assistance provided by the Red Cross and expressing gratitude for ensuring drinking water supply for the most vulnerable community members of Maina settlement as part of the joint relief efforts.

The remaining balance of 68 Swiss francs will be reimbursed to DREF.

How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRRU004 - Russia - Explosion Hydropower Station

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/7-2010/2
Budget Timeframe	2009/7-2010/2
Appeal	MDRRU004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	29,973					29,973
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	29,973					29,973
C6. Other Income	29,973					29,973
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	29,973					29,973
D. Total Funding = B + C	29,973					29,973
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	29,973					29,973
E. Expenditure	-29,905					-29,905
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	68					68

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Budget	APPEAL

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		29,973					29,973	
Supplies								
Food		9,437				9,437	-9,437	
Water & Sanitation	9,500						9,500	
Teaching Materials	750						750	
Total Supplies	10,250	9,437				9,437	813	
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	500						500	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	500	188				188	312	
Total Transport & Storage	1,000	188				188	812	
Personnel								
National Staff		262				262	-262	
National Society Staff	4,200	4,316				4,316	-116	
Total Personnel	4,200	4,579				4,579	-379	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	10,600	11,925				11,925	-1,325	
Total Workshops & Training	10,600	11,925				11,925	-1,325	
General Expenditure								
Travel	875	833				833	42	
Office Costs	300	307				307	-7	
Communications	800	611				611	189	
Financial Charges		81				81	-81	
Other General Expenses		-0				-0	0	
Total General Expenditure	1,975	1,832				1,832	143	
Programme Support								
Program Support	1,948	1,944				1,944	4	
Total Programme Support	1,948	1,944				1,944	4	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	29,973	29,905				29,905	68	
VARIANCE (C - D)		68				68		