

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tajikistan: Mudslide

DREF operation n° MDRTJ005
GLIDE n°MS-2009-000083-TJK
Update n° 1
5 May 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 and 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.

Period covered by this update: 23 April to 30 April 2009.

Summary: CHF 157,347 was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 23 April 2009 to support the National Society in delivering assistance to some 750 people and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks.

According to the updated information from the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, the number of families in need of shelter is 114 (684 persons). The total population affected is around 1,836 people (306 households) out of 6,000 residents of the village against the initially estimated number of 1,500 people (300 households). The non-food items were transported from the Red Crescent central warehouse to the Kurgan-Tube regional branch and distributed among 101 households (493 people) based on the lists of beneficiaries compiled together with the local administration, the State Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES) and in accordance with the Red Crescent's assessment.



The affected households have settled in a tent camp.
F.Kassimov / International Federation

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The European Commission's Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and the Netherlands Red Cross through their Silent Emergency Fund¹ have announced a contribution of EUR 50,000 and EUR 30,000 respectively in replenishment of the DREF allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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¹ Ninety per cent of the funding for the Silent Emergency Fund is provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands government, and the remaining 10 per cent by the Netherlands Red Cross.

The situation

As a result of heavy rains for over a week, on 21 April at 8 pm local time, a mudslide affected 306 households, or around 1,836 people and killed a seven year old boy in Khuroson district, jamoat Ayni, 18th Hizb village in Khatlon province, Kurgantube region. The disaster site is located 30 km from Kurgantube city and 75 km from the capital city of Dushanbe. This mudslide is reported by the local population to be the biggest over the past 50 years.

The mudslide continued moving through the canyon up to 24 April affecting further houses in the area. According to the updated information from the Tajikistan Red Crescent, the number of families in need of shelter is 114 (684 persons). The total population affected is around 1,836 people (306 households) out of the 6,000 residents of the village against the initial number of 1,500 people (300 households).

The affected population with support from the CoES continued saving their belongings and some construction materials from their houses. In total 87 houses are in inhabitable conditions. Some of the affected people were relocated to relatives and neighbours.

The newly set up tent camp is located 1.5-2 km away from the village hit by the disaster. On 26 April 107 tents for the worst affected households were installed where now 642 people are settled. Four mobile water tanks (5MT capacity each) released from the UN Emergency Reserve were installed by the CoES in the camp. Water in the tanks is refilled on a daily basis by water trucks provided by local authorities. A separate cooking area with two fireplaces has been arranged in the tent camp. Four public latrines were also built at the territory of the tent camp; and more latrines are being constructed.

Food rations for 20 days were provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the private sector for 107 households in the tent camp and to 193 households (1,134 persons) whose houses had been partly damaged.

Coordination and partnerships

On 23 April an extraordinary Kurgantube regional Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) meeting was conducted where CoES, WFP, Save the Children, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, the International Federation, Mission East, Office for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OCSE), NGO "Star" and UNDP Disaster Response Management Project (DRMP) participated. REACT partners have been requested by the CoES to assist in the preparation of a request for assistance on behalf of the CoES, covering all relevant sectors (food, non-food items/shelter, water and sanitation/health (WASH), health, early recovery) as REACT partners can provide required technical expertise. It was also decided to distribute relief assistance jointly by representatives of donating organizations, the CoES and local administration bodies (hukumat/jamoat).

The Local Disaster Management Commission (LDMC) has been relocated to the newly set up tent camp. The meetings of the commission chaired by the deputy Khatlon governor with participation of local authorities, CoES representatives, UN and NGO representatives are conducted twice a day. The heads of the affected families are also welcomed to these meetings.

The prime minister of Tajikistan assured the affected people that the government will provide them with new land plots and will assist with the construction of new houses.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) has released 70 tents from its stock in Dushanbe and 5,000 litres of diesel to transport water to the tent camp.

A multi-sector needs assessment by the food security, health and WASH sectors was conducted on 27 April. The results of the assessments on the identified outstanding needs in these specific sectors are expected on 4 May.

The UNICEF is distributing water purification tablets through the State Sanitary Service with the help of the Tajikistan Red Crescent volunteers.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: 150 households (750 people) are provided with basic non-food items to help them cope with the consequences of the mudslide.

The actual needs and the target groups were identified based on the results of the rapid assessment.

Activities planned:

- Conduct detailed emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Prepare the lists of beneficiaries together with the local administration and in accordance with the Red Crescent's assessment.
- Procure and deliver relief supplies to the respective Red Crescent branch.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from the point of dispatch to the end users.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and report on the relief distributions.
- As part of the monitoring and evaluation activities, conduct a survey among the people reached to find out what they felt about the goods and services they received.

Progress and impact: The non-food items were transported from the Tajikistan Red Crescent's central warehouse to the Kurgantube regional branch and distributed among the most affected 101 households (493 people) relocated to the tent camp. The lists of beneficiaries were compiled together with the local administration, the CoES and in accordance with the Red Crescent's assessment. Plastic sheeting (4x6m) – 10 pcs was provided to shade the cooking area.

Table 1: Items distributed by 30 April

	Family tents	Plastic sheeting	Blankets	Bed –linen sets	Mattresses	Pillows	Hygiene kits	Kitchen sets	Shovels	Hoes	Water cans	Buckets
	35	10	493	493	493	493	200	100	300	100	200	200
<i>Planned</i>	35	300	750	750	750	750	300	300	300	300	300	300

Please note that "cooking sets" column mentioned in the original DREF Bulletin was excluded as it is the same as "kitchen sets"; the correct figure is shown in this table. It corresponds to the approved budget.

Members of the Red Crescent Kurgantube disaster response team and the local disaster committee of Khuroson district convoyed the truck to the distribution point. They also visit the disaster site every two days to monitor the operation and report on the distributions which are going on. All items for distribution were delivered to the disaster site and are being distributed. Out of the 150 target households, 43 households that were relocated to relatives and neighbours will get their "family set" (all items included in the table above) in the first week of May.

Kitchen sets (pot, ladle, scoop, plates, spoons, forks, knives, cups) and hygiene sets (soap for hand, laundry soap, towel, washing powder, shampoo, washing liquid, tooth paste, tooth brush, toilet paper) for one household are standardized. The latter lasts for one month.

The procurement process of items to be replenished in the Tajikistan Red Crescent's central and the Kurgantube regional disaster preparedness warehouses has started.

Emergency shelter

Objective: 35 most affected households (175 people) out of 150 households are provided with family tents and 150 households with construction tools to help them cope with the consequences of the mudslide, and preserve their human dignity.

Activities planned:

- Procure and deliver family tents and construction tools through the respective Red Crescent branch.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from the point of dispatch to the end users.
- Monitor and evaluate the activities through field visits and report on the distribution.

Progress and impact: Thirty five tents provided by the Tajikistan Red Crescent with support from the International Federation have been installed and the population relocated to these tents. The Red Crescent Society together with the Federation secretariat requested secure space for the storage of non-food items to be distributed. CoES provided a warehouse. The construction tool (hammer, saw, ruler, claw, nails) sets are in the procurement process. They are planned to be distributed by the second week of May, i.e. in the operation’s recovery phase.

Public awareness and hygiene promotion

Objective: The affected population and the population of surrounding villages (some 3,000 households in total) are provided with basic disaster awareness and hygiene promotion information materials.

Activities planned:

- Reprint and deliver disaster awareness and hygiene promotion materials to the Red Crescent branch.
- Organize public awareness campaigns among the village population.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of the conducted activities.

Progress and impact: Over the period 3,000 pieces of disaster awareness materials to increase the people’s knowledge on the appropriate behaviour in such cases and 3,000 pieces of hygiene promotion materials to prevent any infectious diseases’ outbreak were reprinted and delivered to the Kurgantube Red Crescent branch for further distribution to the affected population and those living in surrounding villages.

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 \(NGOs\) 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

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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