

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## AZERBAIJAN: FLOODS

DREF operation n° MDRAZ002  
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000089-AZE  
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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.

**CHF 171,321 (USD 150,953 or EUR 122,201) has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,195 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** On 4 May 2010 heavy rains caused flooding in 40 districts surrounding the Kur (Kura), Azerbaijan's main river. Three people lost their lives and the total number of affected people in seven regions is around 70,000. Only in Sabirabad district and its 11 villages more than 24,000 people have been affected. Some 20,000 houses have been flooded, 300 of them ruined, and more than 2,000 houses are under threat to be destroyed. Around 50,000 hectares of cultivated land and pasture are under water. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent aims to provide food and non-food items to **2,195 persons** (400 families) evacuated from Sabirabad villages and temporarily placed in schools, administrative buildings and camps of Shirvan town to help them cope with the consequences of the disaster.



Floods in Sabirabad region with many houses under water and totally destroyed. **Photo: Azerbaijan Red Crescent.**

This operation is expected to be implemented over four months, and will therefore be completed by **17 September 2010**; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 17 December 2010).

[<click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details, or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

## The situation

Heavy rains lasting for as much as ten days have caused flooding and landslides in seven regions of Azerbaijan including Sabirabad, Shirvan, Neftchala, Tar-Tar, Aghjabedi, Salyan and Zardab. The regions are located in the central and southern parts of the country. The most affected district is Sabirabad.

Some 20,000 houses in 40 districts in the 7 regions are under water, and about 300 houses are fully destroyed and more than 2,600 are under threat to be destroyed. Some 50,000 hectares of lands are flooded in the Kur-Aran lowlands. Dams and main roads in Shirvan and Sabirabad regions have been destroyed and for several days access to the areas for doing proper assessment and providing support was limited. The number of affected villages has increased during the days of rain. Also, as a result of snowfall and landslide 36 villages of Guba and Shabran districts, which are in the northern part of Azerbaijan, were completely isolated from the centres.

Based on assessment information received by the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Sabirabad regional centre from local authorities the situation from 4 to 13 May was as follows in the following districts in Sabirabad region:

District	Damaged/ destroyed houses*	Houses* under water	Houses* under threat	People evacuated (fam./pers.)	Additional information
Sabirabad	5,059	5,400	1,650	5,397/24,989	People evacuated to Shirvan town, Imishli and Hajigabul districts, Navahi settlement and reside in schools, public bldgs and camps.
Imishli	51	2,650	250	32/150	People evacuated reside in 39 schools and 12 communal bldgs.
Beylagan	12	1,980	81	7/36	People evacuated now reside in temporary camps in Hajigabul.
Aghjabedi	15	847	81	26/90	People evacuated to Shirvan town.
Hajigabul	-	20	-	6/31	People evacuated reside in the hospital in the Navahi settlement.
Salyan	53	3,000	218	76/380	Buildings under water include five schools and three kindergartens. People evacuated reside in the district hospital.
Zardob	34	880	74	34/170	Around 2,000 hectares of cultivated land destroyed. People evacuated reside in tents, public buildings or with relatives.
Kurdamir	32	730	141	902/3,635	Buildings under water include 26 communal buildings.
Shirvan	25	521	125	546/2,184	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,281</b>	<b>16,028</b>	<b>2,620</b>	<b>7,026/31,665</b>	

**Table 1:** Houses destroyed/damaged by the floods; houses under water; houses under threat of being flooded; people

The Ministry of Emergency Situations sent water pumps to Sabirabad region to drain fields and smallholdings flooded by the Kur and Garasu rivers. The ministry evacuated people from several districts to three camps in Shirvan town, and Haji-Gabul and Zardab regions with 4,000 tents. People are still being evacuated. Red Crescent staff and mobile volunteer teams have been involved in the evacuation of people together with the affected population, the military and the police, municipal staff and the fire services.

The Ministry of Emergency Situations is working to repair roads, restore destroyed dams and reinforce river banks. The floods have been brought under control in nine villages which will enable the government to complete the reinforcement of the broken dam in the area. Further the water will be absorbed with 60 strong pumps. People are expected to be able to return to their villages if the precipitation does not increase.

According to the Hydrometeorological Center under the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources the flooding has been mainly caused by an increase in the level of water in the Kura river and the subsequent reduction of the river's spillway capacity. The increase is due to heavy rainfall and a rise in the levels of groundwater which increased the level in the Kura river which subsequently led to dams collapsing which again caused the flooding.

A disaster of this scale has not occurred in 50 years in Azerbaijan and the damages caused by the current floods will demand longer-term efforts including restoring infrastructure; compensating residents for lost income and livelihoods; providing people with drinking water; and controlling the health situation to avoid spreading of malaria and inflectional diseases.

## Coordination and partnerships

The President of Azerbaijan has instructed responsible ministries and government bodies including the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources to prioritize work in the affected areas. Measures to evacuate affected people and to prevent further flooding are key tasks. Cleaning out mud in the Kura River and reconstructing and strengthening dams are the main priorities. Measures to provide people with medicines, medical treatment and means for preventing infectious diseases have been taken.

Specialists from the Reclamation and Water Management Company, Azerenerji Company and various scientific institutes inspect the area with helicopters and analyse the soil. A state commission has been created including representatives from relevant ministries, departments and organizations. The commission will deal with issues such as analysing the terrain structure, strengthening the river banks and improving the systems to control water levels in the rivers of Azerbaijan.

Owing to the scale of the disaster the authorities have requested assistance from the Azerbaijan Red Crescent to deal with the current situation. The Red Crescent has so far distributed items from its own stock as well as assisted in the evacuation of affected people to safe areas.

As part of the cooperation the Azerbaijan Red Crescent regularly receives detailed information from local authorities in the affected territories. The Red Crescent has been requested to support affected families displaced by the floods. Shortly after the flooding started the National Society's disaster team paid visits to the affected areas to determine if an intervention was needed and of what scale and type. The situation among the affected people showed that the most needed support was for temporary shelter, rubber boots, household items and psychological support.

The IFRC country office in Azerbaijan has kept close contact with the National Society. Contacts have also been established with the UNDP and USAID offices in Azerbaijan to ensure coordination of support to the affected people.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent through its regional and local branches actively participated in evacuating people and reinforcing the river banks of Kura and Araz rivers as well as providing psychological support to affected people. Representatives of the National Society who are members of local emergency commissions have collected information about damages. Staff and volunteers of the regional Sabirabad Red Crescent centre and branches in all other affected districts have been mobilized to continue the assessment of needs and registering affected families.

On 8 May the National Society visited the affected areas of Zardab, Salyan and Kurdamir. The main needs were for the evacuation of people, strengthening of river banks and providing people with various relief items such as food parcels, hygiene kits and rubber boots.

So far the National Society supported 70 families in Zardob district and another 70 families of the Hajikend settlement in Kapaz district (see table 2 for items and amounts of items distributed to families). In order to ensure sufficient supply of clean water the National Society is planning to contact one of the water companies and request to regularly deliver water to the families.

### The needs

The water masses have destroyed or damaged houses and public buildings forcing people to move into temporary shelter. Assessments carried out by local authorities in close cooperation with local Red Crescent staff and volunteers have shown that needs among affected people are mainly for food and non-food items. Needs are related to food, cooking equipment, hygiene items, rubber footwear and items of sleeping.

Item and unit	Distr. NS own stock Families
Food parcels (families)	140
Kitchen sets (families)	70
Hygienic kits (families)	70
Jerry cans (families)	70
Mattresses (persons)	70
Bedding (persons)	70
Blankets (persons)	70
Rubber boots (pairs)	140
Tents	70
Sleeping bags	70

**Table 2:** Items distributed to affected families from the National Society's own stock.

## The proposed operation

Based on the assessment the Red Crescent in Sabirabad district has developed a plan of action to cover the needs of **400** families (or 2,195 people) who are evacuated from the villages of Sabirabad district to Shirvan town. People reside in the Youth Sport Lyceum (150 families/ 420 people), the Proficiency Lyceum (50 families/ 275 people); in the camps (200 families/ 1,500 people)<sup>1</sup>. The needs of these families are uncovered and will be addressed through the DREF allocation.

The plan of action includes the verification of people to be covered; procuring of relief items according to Federation standards; storing in warehouse; renting of trucks and signing of contracts with workers in Baku and Sabirabad region. Moreover visits will be paid to the region and field personnel will be mobilized including mobile volunteer teams, National Society regional and branch staff and volunteers. Distribution points will be set up and distribution of food and non-food items to the 400 families will be carried out. The operation will be followed up by a satisfaction survey among people reached to find out whether the operation met the needs of people and if it did so in a satisfactory way. Table three shows the type and amount of items to be distributed as well as items for replenishment of the National Society's warehouse.

Item	Planned distr. through DREF	For NS stock through DREF
Food parcels (families)	400	-
Gas stoves (families)	200*	140
Kitchen sets (families)	400	-
Hygienic kits (families)	400	70
Jerry cans (families)	400	70
Mattresses (persons)	1,500*	350
Bedding (persons)	2,195	350
Blankets (persons)	2,195	350
Rubber boots (pairs)	400*	140
Towels (persons)	2,195	700

**Table 3:** Items to be distributed and put in stock as replenishment through the DREF allocation.

\*Gas stoves, mattresses and rubber boots (two pairs per family) will be given to 200 families located in tents.

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

**Objective: 400 evacuated families from the villages of Sabirabad district have received food items for two months and non-food items to cope with the consequences of floods.**

#### Activities planned:

- Prepare beneficiary lists and carry out verification of lists.
- Develop targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance to the most affected people.
- Procure relief supplies in a transparent and efficient manner following logistics procedures.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user according to Federation standards.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Develop an exit strategy.

### Visibility, accountability and performance management

**Objective: The Azerbaijan Red Crescent has promoted its relief activities, strengthened the National Society's image and ensured that the voices of affected people have been heard.**

#### Activities planned:

- Maximise the visibility of the National Society through relief distributions, visits to the affected people, monitoring and evaluation by volunteers of Red Cross branches.
- Procure and utilize Red Cross t-shirts, caps, ID-cards for volunteers and staff of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent.
- Conduct a satisfaction survey to verify the appropriateness of the operation and to get feedback from targeted people to improve future operations.

<sup>1</sup> The list and the exact number of families has been provided by the Azerbaijan Red Crescent's regional coordinator based on the information received from Sabirabad local authorities.

## BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Clothing & Textiles	83,920	83,920
Food parcels	24,800	24,800
Utensils & Tools	11,490	11,490
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	26,957	26,957
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>147,167</b>	<b>147,167</b>
Storage	3,106	3,106
Distribution & Monitoring	3,618	3,618
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,059	3,059
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>9,782</b>	<b>9,782</b>
National Society Staff	980	980
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>980</b>
Travel	1,758	1,758
Information & Public Relation	668	668
Office Costs	120	120
Communications	120	120
Financial Charges	270	270
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>2,936</b>	<b>2,936</b>
Program Support	10,456	10,456
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>10,456</b>	<b>10,456</b>
Services & Recoveries	0	0
Shared Services	0	0
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>171,321</b>	<b>171,321</b>

## 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 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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