

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Kyrgyzstan: Poliomyelitis¹

DREF operation n°MDRKG006
GLIDE n°ER-2010-000112-KGZ
10 December 2010

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 81,579 (USD 70,936 or EUR 58,611) has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate support for the vaccination of some 227,000 children aged under 5 in Bishkek city and in Jalalabad region.

In order to prevent transmission of polio infection into Kyrgyzstan following the polio outbreak in neighboring Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Ministry of Health decided to conduct National Immunization Days (NID) against poliomyelitis in July and August, 2010.

The immunization campaign was delayed for two weeks due to security concerns following the violence in the country's south regions in early June that resulted in massive population movement. The campaign was also expanded to cover the whole country. The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society mobilized and trained 600 volunteers who carried out community mobilization and monitored the vaccination in Bishkek city and Jalalabat region. Besides, the National Society arranged the dissemination of key messages on radio and television through video and audio reels to ensure extensive media coverage of the vaccination campaign and worked with media representatives to raise their awareness and to improve the quality of disseminated information on polio campaign. As a result of the two rounds of the immunization campaign the all-country coverage made 96.5 per cent.



A puppet show performed for children in Bishkek.
Photo: Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent.

The Netherlands Red Cross contributed to this operation with CHF 27,174. 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>

¹ Poliomyelitis - Children spinal paralysis, an acute, highly contagious infectious disease caused by the defeat of the gray matter of the spinal cord poliovirus and characterized mainly by disorders of the nervous system. In general, there are no symptoms or abortive form. It sometimes happens that the poliovirus enters the central nervous system, multiplies in the motor neurons, which leads to their death, irreversible paresis or paralysis of innervated muscles

The situation

An outbreak of poliomyelitis provoked by a wild poliovirus of type I was reported in Tajikistan in March. By 25 May, Tajikistan had reported 545 acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases of which 141 had been confirmed for wild poliovirus type I. The number of reported lethal cases was 32. Uzbekistan has also reported one AFP case in Tashkent.

In order to prevent transmission of polio infection to Kyrgyzstan following the polio outbreak in the neighboring Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Ministry of Health decided to conduct National Immunization Days against poliomyelitis in July and August. About 670,165 children aged below five were planned to be covered during the campaign.

Kyrgyzstan's southern regions – Osh, Jalalabat and Batken – that border Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were seen as highly vulnerable to the spread of the epidemic. The Kyrgyz health authorities raised concerns about children of migrant families around Bishkek and Osh who were unable to receive vaccination on time. Besides, low level of registration of acute flaccid paralysis cases in Osh, Batken and Chui regions and Bishkek city compared to other territories suggested that there was a lack of alertness to poliomyelitis among health workers.

Both rounds of the immunization campaign were postponed for about two weeks due to security concerns following the violence in the country's south regions in early June. The Ministry of Health also decided to conduct the vaccination country-wide, thus expanding it from the five locations initially targeted.² The violence led to a massive population movement towards and across the Uzbek/Kyrgyz border. Most refugees later returned back to Kyrgyzstan but the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees in the country was estimated at 375,000.

Coordination and partnerships

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent became a member of the national communication working group that worked to develop and oversee the implementation of communication and social mobilization activities. The UNICEF and WHO provided technical support to this group that also included representatives of the Republican Centre for Health Promotion (RCHP) and the Republican Centre for Immunoprophylaxis and the Mother and Childhood Welfare Department under the health ministry. The three above-mentioned governmental agencies were responsible for the vaccination activities and WHO and UNICEF for the procurement and delivery of the vaccination material.

The National Society role was to support social mobilization and promotion of the vaccination campaign. The Red Crescent headquarters maintained communication with its local branch network in the country to coordinate actions and forged close links and cooperation with local authorities. The IFRC supported the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent in coordinating its actions with the governmental agencies, UNICEF, and the media. To this end the Federation regional health manager attended one of the working group meetings in Bishkek together with the National Society.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In total 600 volunteers were trained to carry out the community mobilization and monitoring of the vaccination in Bishkek city and Jalalabat region. All volunteers who passed the training distributed communication materials and carried out awareness raising campaign activities in places assigned to them by the National Society. The Red Crescent arranged the dissemination of key messages on radio and television through video and audio reels to ensure extensive media coverage of the vaccination campaign and worked with media representatives to raise their awareness and improve the quality of disseminated information on polio campaign. Besides, the National Society arranged four live radio and TV shows.

² Osh, Jalalabat, Batken, Chui regions and Bishkek city.

During the first round 226,041 children under the age of 5 were vaccinated in the target regions of the country thus making coverage of 95.2 per cent. In the second round of the campaign 210,221 children under the age of 5 received the needed vaccines. This allowed reaching nation-wide coverage of 96.5 per cent. The massive awareness raising campaign and volunteers' successful interaction with the communities contributed to the high level of coverage.

Achievements against outcomes

Emergency health

Objective: To contribute to the high coverage of the national polio vaccination campaign through community mobilization.

Activities planned

- Conduct meetings and round tables with all stakeholders
- Mobilize 400 volunteers to conduct assessment, mobilization and door-to-door sensitization of the population
- Participate as external supervisors during the national immunization campaign
- Carry out monitoring and evaluation of all activities
- Monitor the two rounds of the national immunization campaign, ensuring full coverage of the target population

Impact: The working group on national communication met regularly discussing the messages to be used for the public awareness campaign, video and audio reels, and clarifying the responsibilities of the actors and progress to date.

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent, in partnership with the Republican Centre for Health Promotion prepared 400 volunteers from communities in Jalalabat region through a series of induction trainings. Volunteers received information about poliomyelitis, learnt how to conduct social mobilization campaign through household visits and about their specific tasks and duties during the campaign. Induction trainings in Suzak district of the region were delayed due to periodic flashes of civil unrest.

In 19 suburb districts of Bishkek city the induction courses prepared 200 volunteers but here the National Society attracted volunteers who had been already involved in the Red Crescent programmes/activities. Hence, in total 600 volunteers were trained to carry out community mobilization and monitoring of the vaccination in Bishkek city and Jalalabat region. The figure is bigger than initially planned as the National Society trained extra volunteers because of the high turnover of people due to internal population movement and concerns over security resulting from the violence in the south of the country.

Different methods of work with volunteers and target groups were used according to regional context in the two target regions. The new CBHFA *in action* approaches that were introduced by the IFRC in the beginning of 2010 were also used widely during the campaign. In Jalalabat the Red Crescent volunteers encouraged people to join the campaign and vaccinate their children using stories of real people who had been affected by polio in the childhood and became disabled. There were some evident and touching examples of local people that became disabled because of polio who were known to the majority of the region's population.

There was a meeting with volunteers arranged in August in two target regions prior to the second round of the immunization campaign. The participants and the National Society staff discussed strengths and weaknesses of their work during the first phase of the campaign. Also, the volunteers provided evidence lists from the first round and received new reporting forms for the second round. The final meeting with volunteers took place after the campaign to collect all information related to data reporting and to distribute incentives and reimburse transport expenses of volunteers.

Communication and cooperation

Objective: To raise public awareness through community health promotion, information and media campaigns; including the distribution of information and communication materials.

Activities planned:

- Mobilize district authorities and community leaders to support the public awareness campaign
- Contact the beneficiary representatives, especially community leaders to conduct information campaign

- Produce and distribute information, education and communication materials (posters and leaflets)
- Use different channels of communication including local newspapers, TV and radio for hard-to-reach groups
- Perform interpersonal communication to raise awareness in the most remote areas

Impact: The National Society supported the development of video and audio clips, posters and booklets by the national communication working group.

During the induction training in Jalalabat region and Bishkek city, volunteers received visibility materials produced specifically for this operation including T-shirts and caps with the logo of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent, questionnaires and information, education and communication materials produced by UNICEF. All volunteers who passed the training distributed communication materials and carried out awareness raising campaign activities in places assigned to them by the National Society.

Thanks to its image in the country the National Society managed to arrange the dissemination of key messages on radio and television (free of charge or at a discount price) to ensure extensive media coverage of the vaccination campaign. For that purpose the National TV and Radio Company, Channel 5 and EI TV broadcasting country-wide, Independent Bishkek TV broadcasting in Bishkek and Jalalabat TV Radio Company broadcasting in Jalalabat were used, together with Europa Plus radio station and Kyrgyzstan Obondoru and Russkaya Volna radio channels. The press-conference initiated by UNICEF and Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan was launched right after the beginning of the media campaign. The Red Crescent also worked with media representatives to raise their awareness and improve the quality of disseminated information on polio campaign.

Besides, the National Society arranged four live radio and TV shows attracting specialists from the Ministry of Health to take part in it. Moreover, a human-height puppet theatre show in the beginning of the second phase of the immunization involved 10,000 children living in the capital city suburbs. Children also received juices and toys.

The raised awareness of the population helped to achieve a high level of the immunization coverage in the target areas that contributed to the country-wide coverage.

Challenges:

The challenges faced by the National Society related to the unstable situation in the country. Thus, the vaccination campaign was carried out with delay due to the violence in the target areas of the country. Moreover, the Red Crescent Society found it difficult at times to interact with the target population as people appeared to be frightened by violence and possible disorders. It required patience and strict adherence to the RCRC fundamental principles from the staff and volunteers to overcome the fear and built trust in people.

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

The International Federation'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 International Federation'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:

- **In the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan:** Ravza Shayahmetova, General Secretary, Bishkek, email: redcross@elcat.kg, phone: + 996 312 300 119, fax: + 996 312 300190
- **In the Country Representation for Kyrgyzstan:** Olga Dzhumaeva, Senior Advisor, phone: +996 779 231 311, email: olga.dzumaeva@ifrc.org
- **In the Europe Zone Office:** Slobodanka Curic, Disaster Management Coordinator, Budapest, email: slobodanka.curic@ifrc.org, phone: +36 1 8884 510, fax: +36 1 336 1516
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator, email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org, phone: +41 22 730 4381, fax: +41 22 733 0395

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

MDRKG006 - Kyrgyzstan - Polio

Appeal Launch Date: 11 jun 10

Appeal Timeframe: 11 jun 10 to 11 sep 10

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/6-2010/11
Budget Timeframe	2010/6-2010/9
Appeal	MDRKG006
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	81,579					81,579
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
Other Income						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	<i>81,579</i>					<i>81,579</i>
C6. Other Income	81,579					81,579
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	81,579					81,579
D. Total Funding = B + C	81,579					81,579
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	81,579					81,579
E. Expenditure	-78,023					-78,023
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	3,556					3,556

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRKG006 - Kyrgyzstan - Polio

Appeal Launch Date: 11 jun 10

Appeal Timeframe: 11 jun 10 to 11 sep 10

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/6-2010/11
Budget Timeframe	2010/6-2010/9
Appeal	MDRKG006
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

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)		81,579					81,579	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	5,600							5,600
Total Supplies	5,600							5,600
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	5,000	398				398		4,602
Transport & Vehicle Costs	500	2,559				2,559		-2,059
Total Transport & Storage	5,500	2,956				2,956		2,544
Personnel								
National Society Staff	27,000	26,493				26,493		507
Total Personnel	27,000	26,493				26,493		507
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	3,000	1,846				1,846		1,154
Total Workshops & Training	3,000	1,846				1,846		1,154
General Expenditure								
Travel	8,000	8,547				8,547		-547
Information & Public Relation	25,000	29,701				29,701		-4,701
Office Costs	500	1,493				1,493		-993
Communications	2,000	2,020				2,020		-20
Financial Charges		213				213		-213
Total General Expenditure	35,500	41,973				41,973		-6,473
Programme & Service Support								
Programme & Service Support	4,979	4,755				4,755		224
Total Programme & Service Support	4,979	4,755				4,755		224
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	81,579	78,023				78,023		3,556
VARIANCE (C - D)		3,556				3,556		