

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Kyrgyzstan: Poliomyelitis¹

DREF operation n° MDRKG006
GLIDE n° EP-2010-000112-KGZ
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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 emergency response. 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 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 under 5 years of age. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: After the reported outbreak of poliomyelitis provoked by a wild poliovirus of type I in Tajikistan in March, Uzbekistan has also reported one AFP (acute flaccid paralysis) case in Tashkent. It is the first outbreak of imported poliomyelitis in WHO European region since it was certified polio-free in 2002.

The polio outbreak in the region can have severe adverse impact on public health and is a signal to the introduction of a higher state of anti-epidemic preparedness in all neighbouring countries. Although the vaccination rate in Kyrgyzstan officially is around 95 percent, anecdotal evidences suggest that coverage might be less (around 60 percent) in certain areas, particularly among migrants and in remote settlements.

To address the situation, and based on a plan agreed between the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF and the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent, the National Society will support the planned National Immunization Days with community mobilization activities in Bishkek city, with a focus on migrant communities, and in Jalalabad region carried out by 400 volunteers.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 11 September 2010; a Final Report will be made available by 11 December 2010.

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



The Red Crescent monitors the vaccination of a child referred through a home visit by the National Society.
Photo: Kyrgyzstan RC

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. It is the first outbreak of imported poliomyelitis in WHO European region since it was certified polio-free in 2002. By 25 May 2010, Tajikistan had reported 545 AFP (acute flaccid paralysis) cases of which 141 had been laboratory confirmed for wild poliovirus type I. The number of lethal cases increased to 32. Uzbekistan has also reported one AFP case in Tashkent which was under investigation. Tajikistan has already completed the three-round nationwide vaccination campaign in May. Uzbekistan launched a nationwide vaccination campaign in the middle of May.

Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are bordering Kyrgyzstan's southern regions – Osh, Jalalabad and Batken. Moreover, there is a significant flow of labour migrants from Tajikistan to the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek and Chui region. Consequently, those regions are highly vulnerable to the spread of the epidemic. Although the official vaccination rate in Kyrgyzstan is around 95 per cent, anecdotal evidences suggest that coverage might be less (around 60 percent) in certain areas, particularly among migrants and in remote settlements. Standard surveillance of AFP in Kyrgyzstan leads to an annual detection of around 40 cases, but no wild polio virus has been detected since 1996.

The Kyrgyz health authorities have concerns about children of migrant families around Bishkek and Osh who are unable to receive vaccination on time. In 2008 a quick assessment conducted during the European Immunization Days revealed that about 40,000 children below five years of age living in migrant settlements were not covered by vaccination. A two-month break in vaccine supplies in 2009 has also contributed to the increased number of unvaccinated children and children with incomplete vaccination course. Low level of registration of AFP cases in Osh, Batken, Chui regions and Bishkek city compared to other territories suggests that there is lack of alertness to poliomyelitis among health workers.

In response to the polio outbreak in Tajikistan and in order to prevent transmission of polio infection into the country, the Kyrgyzstan Ministry of Health plans to conduct National Immunization Days against poliomyelitis on 5-9 July and 9-13 August, 2010. About 670,165 children below five years of age will be covered through vaccinations.

Communication Context

There is some amount of dismay about the sudden risk of importation of the polio virus. Conducting national immunization campaigns will require large scale mobilization of human resources and logistics that were most likely needed by other planned public health priorities of the country. The health ministry has recently conducted an immunization campaign in the migrant settlements around Bishkek.

Key communication challenge

The key challenge is to provide information to the families in a short span of time which would encourage them to make it a priority to bring their children under five years to FAPs and FGPs (primary health care centres) or mobile polio immunization units during the NIDs.

There is a need to provide reasons in a convincing and timely manner to families, journalists and even members of the medical community for conducting polio immunization campaigns on a national scale all of a sudden and in addition to the routine immunization schedule of children.

Families and communities are usually open to immunization and there is no recorded data about resistance to immunization from families. However, according to the Republican Centre for Immunoprofilaxis, some mothers refuse routine vaccination based on advice from private clinic doctors and Internet sources, which talk out parents from vaccination.

Advocacy and social mobilization in certain territories (southern region of Jalalabad, home region of the ousted president) may be hindered by insecure political situation.

Coordination and partnerships

The Republican Centre for Health Promotion in collaboration with the Republican Centre for Immunoprofilaxis will be responsible for public awareness and polio vaccination campaign. UNICEF and WHO provide technical support to the national communication working group, which will develop and oversee the implementation of communication and social mobilisation activities. This group includes

representatives of Republican Centre for Health Promotion, Republican Centre for Immunoprofilaxis, Mother and Childhood Welfare Department under the health ministry, WHO, the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society and UNICEF. On 30 April, 2010 the communication working group met to agree plans for communication and social mobilisation activities, and to assign roles for partners and materials to support vaccination. In line with that plan the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society was tasked to support the NID through community mobilization in Bishkek city with a focus on migrant communities and in Jalalabad region.

The National Society will mobilize 400 volunteers to ensure that all children under five years in targeted areas are reached with oral polio vaccination.

In addition, the National Society headquarters maintains communication with local branch network within the country to coordinate actions and close links and cooperation with local authorities. The International Federation supports the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society in coordination with the governmental agencies, UNICEF and the media.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Upon receipt of information on polio outbreak in Tajikistan, the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society has conducted several meetings with partners in the healthcare sector. The Red Crescent gathered information from various sources, including the official data from the Ministry of Health, and will carry out the initial assessment of the situation in the regions together with Ministry of Health structures through its regional and district branches. The assessment of readiness and availability of active volunteers to conduct possible information campaign has also been carried out.

The Red Crescent Society participates in weekly coordination meetings with the government authorities and other actors and is included in the national working group to jointly develop a plan of activities to respond to an outbreak of polio in the neighbouring country.

The proposed operation

To address the situation, the Red Crescent Society, with support from the International Federation, will deploy 400 volunteers to assist Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF and local medical points with vaccination campaign and to raise awareness of the population on polio disease in target areas.

Table 1 Population in the target areas

Target area	Population	Number of children under 5 years
Bishkek city	849,200	90,134
Jalalabad region	994,000	137,075
Total	1,843,200	227,209

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society will print the information materials developed by UNICEF to be distributed during the campaign. The vaccination campaign will be carried out in two rounds. The first one is planned for the week of 5-9 July; the second will take place on 9-13 of August. Before the vaccination rounds the National Society will be carrying out information campaign with TV and radio reels, distribution of information leaflets on polio and vaccination points. Moreover, the Red Crescent together with Ministry of Health will form teams of volunteers, who will be trained to deliver training on social mobilization, personal safety and information on polio. Trainings will be carried out in Jalalabad and in Bishkek. The Ministry of Health is preparing lists of children under five years with contact information. The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society volunteers will visit targeted families and encourage them to get the vaccination. Moreover, volunteers, supported by community leaders, will conduct village meetings to inform the population about possible outbreak of polio and encourage them to vaccinate children. During the campaign the National Society volunteers will assist health authorities in the vaccination process. Between the rounds the Red Crescent volunteers will continue social mobilization activities.

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent will mobilize volunteers supporting its programmes in various fields: disaster management, migration, social support for vulnerable women and community-based health and first aid.

Within the framework of the information campaign the National Society plans to educate mass media representatives on polio to raise general awareness and improve the quality of disseminated information.

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

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

Monitoring and Communication

The visibility of the Red Crescent and the International Federation will be promoted through banners with the Red Crescent/ International Federation logos at vaccination points as well through the distribution of printed materials about the disease. The International Federation's regional representation will support monitoring of the National Society activities through field visits.

Budget

BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Clothing & Textiles	5,600	5,600
Total Supplies	5,600	5,600
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0
Distribution & Monitoring	3,000	3,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,500	2,500
Total Transport & Storage	5,500	5,500
National Society Staff	3,000	3,000
Other Staff benefits	24,000	24,000
Total Personnel	27,000	27,000
Workshops & Training	3,000	3,000
Total Workshops & Training	3,000	3,000
Travel	8,000	8,000
Information & Public Relation	25,000	25,000
Office Costs	500	500
Communications	2,000	2,000
Total General Expenditure	35,500	35,500
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0
Program Support	4,979	4,979

Total Programme Support	4,979	4,979
Total Services	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	81,579	81,579

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

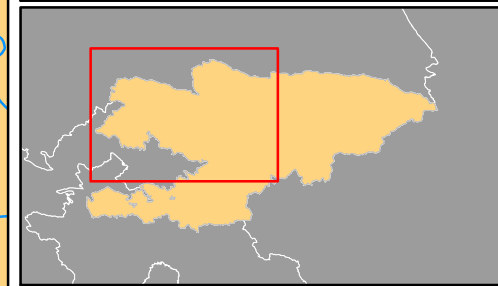
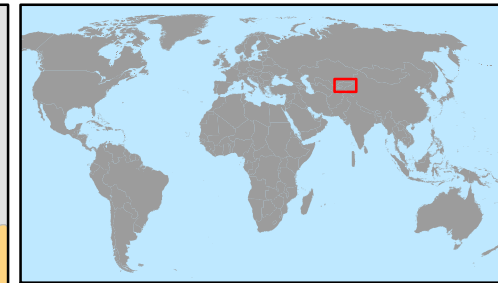
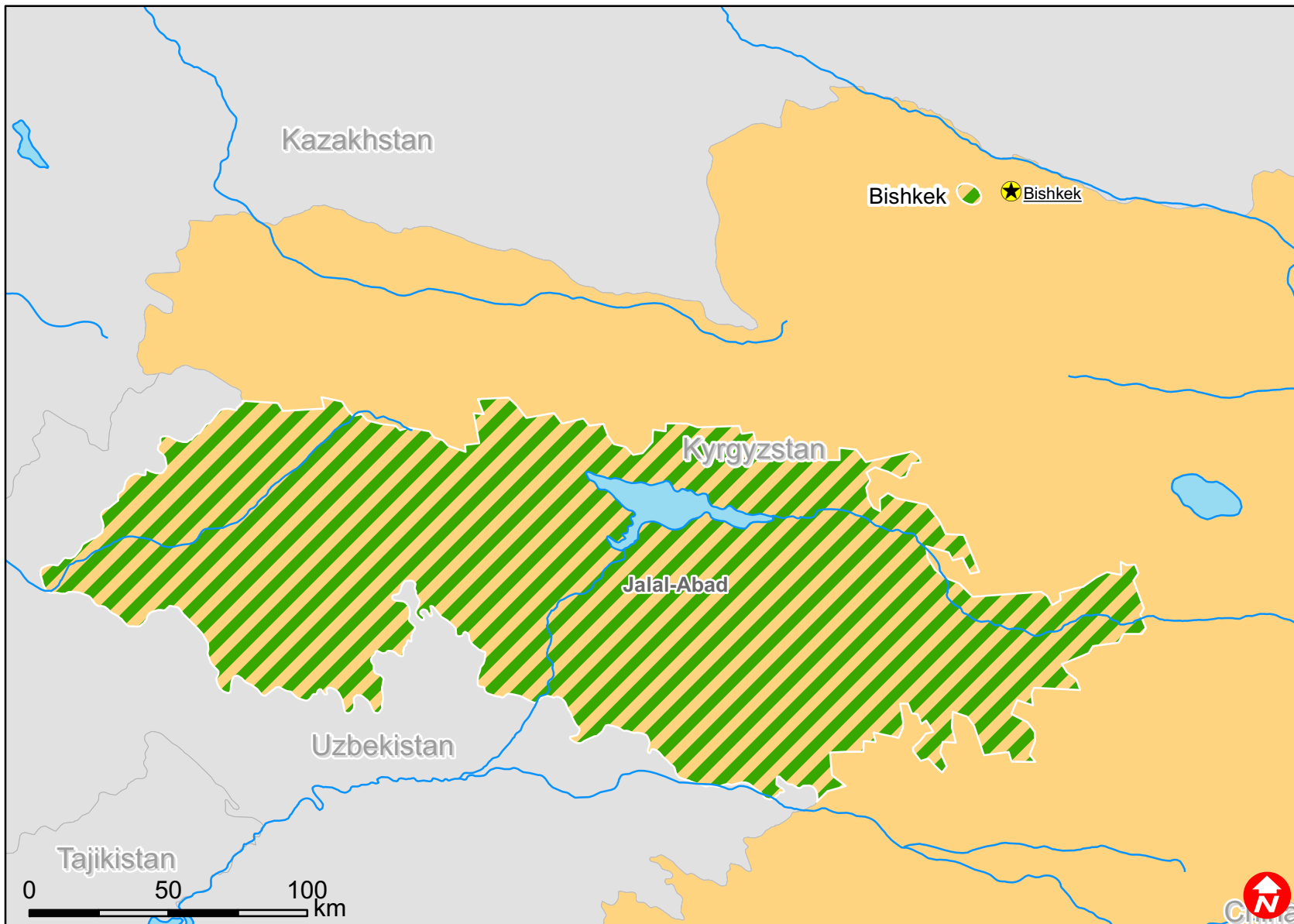
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Kyrgyzstan: Epidemic (Polio)



 Target area for the campaign