

DREF operation update



Kyrgyzstan: Poliomyelitis¹

DREF operation n°MDRKG006
GLIDE n°ER-2010-000112-KGZ
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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 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.

Period covered by this update: 12 June to 15 July, 2010.

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. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

In order to prevent transmission of polio infection into Kyrgyzstan following the polio outbreak in neighbouring Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Ministry of Health has planned to conduct National Immunization Days (NID) against poliomyelitis from 5 to 9 July and from 9 to 13 August, 2010.

However, the immunization campaign has been postponed due to security concerns following the violence in the country's south regions in early June that resulted in massive population movement. The new dates for the vaccination campaign are 19 to 23 July and 23 to 27 August; the campaign has also been expanded to cover the whole country. The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society has mobilized and trained 418 volunteers to carry out community mobilization and monitoring of the vaccination in Bishkek city and Jalalabat region. Arrangements have also been made by the National Society for extensive media coverage of the campaign.

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.

The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO.



Red Crescent volunteers are trained to carry out the community mobilization and monitoring of the vaccination in target areas. Photo: Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent

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

Details of all donors can be found on:

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

The situation

In order to prevent transmission of polio infection into Kyrgyzstan following the polio outbreak in neighbouring Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Ministry of Health has planned to conduct National Immunization Days against poliomyelitis from 5 to 9 July and from 9 to 13 August. About 670,165 children aged below five are planned to be covered during the campaign.

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 is 32. Uzbekistan has also reported one AFP case in Tashkent.

Kyrgyzstan's southern regions – Osh, Jalalabat and Batken – that border Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are 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.

The immunization campaign has been postponed due to security concerns following the violence in the country's south regions in early June. The violence led to a massive population movement towards and across the Uzbek/Kyrgyz border and it is estimated that some 92,000 people crossed the border. Most refugees later returned back to Kyrgyzstan and the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees in Kyrgyzstan is estimated at 375,000.

The new schedule for the vaccination campaign indicates that the first round will take place from 19 to 23 July and the second round will take place from 23 to 27 August. Moreover, the Ministry of Health has decided to conduct the vaccination country-wide, thus expanding it from the five locations initially targeted.²

Coordination and partnerships

The Republican Centre for Health Promotion (RCHP) in collaboration with the Republican Centre for Immunoprophylaxis (RCI) is responsible for public awareness on polio and the vaccination campaign. The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent is a member of the national communication working group, which has worked to develop and oversee the implementation of communication and social mobilization activities. UNICEF and WHO provide technical support to this group that also includes representatives of the Republican Centre for Health Promotion (RCHP), the Republican Centre for Immunoprophylaxis and the Mother and Childhood Welfare Department under the Health Ministry.

In addition, the National Society headquarters maintains communication with its local branch network in the country to coordinate actions and forge close links and cooperation with local authorities. The IFRC supports the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent in coordinating its actions with 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

Although the vaccination campaign has been postponed due to the civil unrest, the National Society continued with preparation activities. Totally 418 volunteers have now been trained to carry out the community mobilization and monitoring of the vaccination in Bishkek city and Jalalabat region. Arrangements have also been made for extensive media coverage of the vaccination campaign.

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

Progress towards 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

Progress: Over the reporting period the working group on national communication met at least twice a week, 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.

Between 7 and 12 July the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent, in partnership with the Republican Centre for Health Promotion, conducted a series of induction trainings for 300 volunteers from communities in Jalalabat region. Volunteers received information about poliomyelitis, learnt how to conduct social mobilization through household visits and their specific tasks and duties during the campaign. The training was arranged as planned. Please see table one for the training schedule in Jalalabat region.

| Date | Target area |
|---------|------------------------------|
| 7 July | Jalalabat city |
| 9 July | Aksy district |
| 10 July | Alabuka district |
| 11 July | Chatkal, Toguztoro districts |
| 12 July | Toktogul district |

Table 1: Training schedule for volunteers in Jalalabat region connection with the vaccination campaign in Kyrgyzstan.

The induction training in Suzak district, planned for 12 July, was postponed because of a rally organized by the local population.

Between 8 and 11 July induction courses for 118 volunteers were organized in 19 suburb districts of Bishkek city. In Bishkek the National Society involved volunteers already involved in the Red Crescent programmes.

Hence, in total 418 volunteers have been trained to carry out community mobilization and monitoring of the vaccination in Bishkek city and Jalalabat region.

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

Progress: Between 5 and 11 June 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 started to distribute communication materials and awareness raising campaign activities on 14 July in places assigned to them by the National Society.

To ensure extensive media coverage of the vaccination campaign and to boost the produced video and radio reels free of charge or at a discount price, the National Society made arrangements to disseminate key messages on radio and television. For this purpose agreements were signed with the National TV and Radio Company, Channel 5 and EI TV which are all broadcasting country-wide, and with Independent Bishkek TV broadcasting in Bishkek and Jalalabat TV Radio broadcasting in Jalalabat. Moreover agreements were signed with Evropa Plus radio station and Kyrgyzstan Obondoru and Russkaya Volna radio channels. The media campaign started on 14 July.

In the coming days the Red Crescent will work with media representatives to raise their general awareness and improve the quality of disseminated information.

Challenges:

The vaccination campaign has been postponed due to the violence in the targeted areas. A new schedule has been prepared. Moreover the National Society has faced difficulties in its interaction with the target population as people appear to be frightened by the recent violence and possible future disorders.

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.

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