

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Kyrgyzstan: Civil unrest

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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: 18 June to 22 June 2010

Summary: CHF 171,625 (USD 154,437 or EUR 124,546) was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 18 June 2010 to support the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society in delivering assistance to some 2,600 beneficiaries, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks. Unearmarked contributions to replenish DREF are encouraged.

Internal conflicts in the spring of 2010 in Kyrgyzstan flared up again in June 2010. Violence was concentrated to the cities of Osh and Jalal-Abad near the Uzbek border. According to the Kyrgyz health ministry the official death toll from the violence in southern Kyrgyzstan is 251, with 2,192 people having sought medical assistance.



Distribution of blankets to the most affected people in Osh. Photo: Abaidullaiev Daniyar, Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent

As of the 22 June, the location of 112,800 internally displaced people (IDPs) in Osh and Jalal-Abad provinces has been confirmed. However the estimated total number of IDPs is higher than that. UNHCR maintains that the overall number of displaced in Kyrgyzstan is 300,000 people. There are six locations in the two provinces where 62,240 people are accommodated in either schools or kindergartens or are sleeping out in the open. Others are living with host families.

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The situation

Tensions in Kyrgyzstan have been growing following the overthrow of the previous government in early April this year. They subsequently led to an outbreak of violence that started in the southern city of Osh, Kyrgyzstan, on Thursday 10 June, and escalated rapidly to the surrounding district of Kara Suu and neighbouring Jalal-Abad region.

On 20 June the situation remained tense and humanitarian access to the most affected regions in the south continued to be limited. The government has extended the state of emergency in the Osh region

districts of Uzgen and Aravan until 25 June. The security situation is still the main obstacle for humanitarian aid delivery. However, authorities are still planning to go ahead with a planned referendum on a new constitution on 27 June.

As of 22 June, the Kyrgyz health ministry reported that 251 people had died and about 2,200 required medical treatment in ethnic fighting in Osh and Jalal-Abad regions.¹ According to UNOSAT's initial satellite imagery analysis there are 2,000 to 3,000 houses destroyed in Osh, mostly in residential areas².

The widespread violence has caused a massive exodus from Osh and Jalal-Abad cities and the surrounding rural areas. The estimated total displacement is 375,000 people, of whom 75,000 people have fled to neighbouring Uzbekistan. These refugees are Kyrgyz citizens who may wish to return home once conditions are met and should remain an integral part of the context and analysis of the crisis. Others, both Uzbeks and Kyrgyz, have fled to rural areas while some people, mainly men and older people, unable or unwilling to flee, are hiding in various shelters within the affected cities, or guarding property³.

According to the UN Flash Appeal launched on 18 June 2010 several thousand people injured in the violence are in need of health care assistance. The conflict has also affected the health and livelihoods strategies of people living in conflict areas who have remained in their homes. All these groups require psychosocial support. Key protection concerns include killings of civilians, gender-based violence, separation of families particularly of children and older persons, and unequal access to humanitarian assistance.

The Kyrgyz Border Guards Service reported that a total of 35,000 people have now returned from Uzbekistan. Of these, 4,419 people returned over a 24-hour period from the 21 to the 22 June.⁴

UNHCR is carrying out a survey with its governmental and non-governmental partners to identify population movements and locations. As of the 22 June, the location of 112,800 internally displaced people (IDPs) of whom 91,300 are in Osh province and 21,500 in Jalal-Abad province has been confirmed. There are six locations in the two provinces where 62,240 people are accommodated in either schools or kindergartens or are sleeping out in the open. Others are living with host families. UNHCR maintains that the overall number of displaced in Kyrgyzstan is 300,000 people.

International relief agencies in the field in Kyrgyzstan have been reporting severe difficulties in accessing conflict-affected areas. Roadblocks and insecure access routes prevented assistance from reaching trapped populations. The main road from Osh airport to the city remained insecure and the government warned that it was not yet able to provide the required level of security of aid convoys.

The UN Flash Appeal is seeking 71,145,639 US dollars to address the needs of more than one million people affected by violent conflict in southern Kyrgyzstan. At the time it was launched no formal assessments had been conducted yet in southern Kyrgyzstan due to prevailing insecurity in the affected areas. The ICRC and some other operational agencies had been able to produce field reports which, combined with preliminary results of rapid assessment conducted by the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent, gave some idea of the conditions in the affected areas. The United Nations in Kyrgyzstan has conducted preliminary assessments, and technical sectoral assessments are ongoing.

Coordination and partnerships

The interim government has requested international support to deal with the humanitarian consequences of the recent violence in southern Kyrgyzstan. It has established coordination centres for humanitarian assistance in the cities of Osh and Bishkek. In Osh the centre is chaired by the interim government's representative on social affairs. The Ministry of Emergencies has been assigned a technical role to deliver and distribute humanitarian assistance. OCHA has deployed staff to support the UN resident coordinator.

¹ Source: Institute for War and Peace Reporting (<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MYAI-86P57H?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=kgz>)

² Source: OCHA <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/VDUX-86LMVE?OpenDocument>

³ Here and below the source used is the UN Flash Appeal for Kyrgyzstan

⁴ Source: OCHA [http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/VVOS-86NPJX/\\$File/full_report.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/VVOS-86NPJX/$File/full_report.pdf)

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society continued close coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation, and formal Movement coordination mechanisms have been established. On 21 June staff of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent met the International Federation and ICRC representatives in Osh branch to strengthen cooperation between the Movement components. The meeting proved an occasion for the National Society, supported by the International Federation, to engage in constructive dialogue with the local representatives of the ICRC, and resulted in significant progress in terms of mutual understanding and thereby facilitates co-operation on the ground.

Also a Movement co-ordination mechanism was activated in Kyrgyzstan with the following main coordination bodies:

- A *Movement Coordination Platform* which makes decisions on strategic issues, and which is composed of senior representatives of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent, the Head of Delegation of the ICRC and the Federation Country Representative.
- A *Cooperation Management Group* which supports the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan in assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of its emergency activities and is composed of Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent management and/or coordinators, ICRC cooperation delegates and coordinators, Federation coordinators, and Partner National Society representatives.
- *Technical Committees* will be established as required by the nature of the emergency situation. They are established by the Cooperation Management Group with specific time-bound terms of reference to discuss technical issues related to activities of the components of the Movement.

Another meeting aimed at improving cooperation took place and discussed beneficiary selection criteria for further distributions and data on distributed items since the first days of the response.

The National Society is also cooperating with the appropriate governmental ministries. The ICRC and the International Federation are supporting the National Society in its coordination with governmental agencies, external partners and donors, and the media.

At the latest shelter cluster meeting that brought together UNHCR, UNICEF, Habitat for humanity, UN Resident Coordinator Office, ACTED, Save the children, IOM, MERCY Corps, UNDP, the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent and the International Federation, it was confirmed that UNHCR has the cluster lead role.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent has been working closely with ICRC responding immediately to the situation. The day after violence broke out in Osh and following basic needs assessment, the National Society's south regional representation provided food items and medical supplies to the city hospital in Osh. Moreover in cooperation with ICRC the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent has provided medical supplies to six hospitals in and around Osh to help them cope with the high number of wounded people. The supplies included food provided by ICRC, non-food and medical items from the National Society stock. The joint ICRC and Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent response activities including tracing services and distributions of food, medical items and non-food items are currently ongoing in Osh and surrounding areas.

Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent staff and volunteers have also been distributing humanitarian aid received from the private sector and other agencies. The distribution of 150 tents to returnees whose houses were burnt started on 22 June. It was agreed with local authorities and responding agencies that the tents will be erected nearby burnt houses and no tent camp will be set up.

The distribution of the first cargo with humanitarian aid received from the Turkish Red Crescent has been completed; 408 food parcels, 300 kitchen sets, 500 blankets and 109 medical items were distributed in Osh city. The second cargo plane from the Turkish Red Crescent with blankets (500), kitchen sets (400) and food parcels (420) arrived on 23 June.

The International Federation is alert to the need for – already expressed by the National Society – early recovery, reconstruction and post recovery activities. Specific areas of intervention in this regard are being identified by and with the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent.

Furthermore, the International Federation, working towards a plan for support to the National Society, working as an auxiliary to the public authorities, and to its efforts to assist the affected populations, is

emphasising the need for psychological support programmes and will be in touch with the Reference Centre in Copenhagen for this purpose.

Progress towards outcomes

Volunteers and staff of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent continue their activities in Osh and the surrounding areas, focusing in particular on the distribution of food and restoring family links (RFL) activities supported by the ICRC.

The specific activities that were identified as priorities for the DREF operation will be implemented after the referendum scheduled for 27 June. However some preparations have already been made in terms of the selection of volunteers as well as the identification of psychologists.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 513 families (2,565 people) have been assisted with basic non-food items (including blankets and jerry cans) and food items (including biscuits and canned food).

Outputs and activities planned:

- Procure 2,565 blankets
- Procure and prepare food parcels
- Deliver food parcels and blankets to transit points
- Distribute the blankets and food to the people in biggest need

Progress: The selection of the volunteers for the implementation of the planned activities is under way. Thus, 200 volunteers will be selected by the end of the month in Osh and Jalal-Abad.

Challenges: Roadblocks and insecure access routes prevented assistance from reaching affected populations.

Emergency health

Outcome: Affected population passing the border benefited from psychosocial support to recover from the effects of the conflict shocks.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Select 20 National Society staff and volunteers to be trained in the provision of psychosocial support during a conflict situation
- Identify most urgent needs and provide psychosocial support at main transit points
- Develop community and beneficiary targeting strategy in coordination with other responding agencies
- Prioritize beneficiaries according to the needs

Progress: The employment of psychologists in Osh is about to start. They will be reinforced by psychologists from Bishkek to be identified in the coming days before deployment to Osh.

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent has emphasised the need for psychosocial support, as many people have been traumatized by their experiences and the loss of relatives and friends. It is of high importance that psychosocial personnel have appropriate language skills so that they can provide adequate support to the affected people.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of water-borne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Deploy 20 trained staff and volunteers
- Set up the operational and first-aid points in borders, near transit-points
- Identify immediate needs and capacities as well as key actors in water and sanitation
- Develop beneficiary registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Procure and deliver hygiene kits to operational points in the border
- Provide safe drinking water to the population passing border

Challenges: The security situation still remains of concern; the implementation of most of the activities will start after the referendum.

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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