

# DREF operation update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Kyrgyzstan: Civil unrest

**DREF operation n° MDRKG007**  
**GLIDE n° OT-2010-000113-KGZ**  
**Update n° 2**  
**5 July 2010**

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:** 22 June to 2 July 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 violence 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 294, with 2,239 people having sought medical assistance.



A team of volunteers are distributing relief items for internally displaced persons in Kyrgyzstan.  
Photo: Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent

The Humanitarian Country Team<sup>1</sup> estimates the total number of internally displaced persons and returnees in the country at 375,000 of whom most are now with host families. The overall situation remains calm but very fragile in southern Kyrgyzstan as more humanitarian relief is distributed. All refugees, who crossed the border with Uzbekistan fleeing the violence, have reportedly come back except 395 who need hospital treatment. Relief items that were originally intended for the refugees in Uzbekistan were moved to Kyrgyzstan, as agreed by the government of Uzbekistan and arranged by UN agencies. The International Federation also proposed to transfer a proportion of the goods imported into Uzbekistan to Kyrgyzstan, while using the remaining part to replenish the stock of the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan proceeded with the DREF operation following the constitution referendum on 27 June. Blankets and food parcels for the 513 most vulnerable affected families, as well as 600 hygiene kits, have been procured and distribution points are being identified. Twenty Red Crescent staff members and volunteers were trained in psychosocial support (PSS) and are ready to

<sup>1</sup> The Humanitarian Country Team, under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator, is the centre-piece of the humanitarian coordination architecture established by Humanitarian Reform. It is composed of organisations that undertake humanitarian action in-country and that commit to participate in coordination arrangements.

work with the affected population. The Red Crescent Society identified children as the main target group for its psychosocial support following the situation developments. Also, the Society distributed 1,000 litres of bottled water to the population near the border transit points.

The International Federation's country representative for Kyrgyzstan, supported by an experienced staff member seconded by the Europe zone office in Budapest, is developing a plan of action and associated resource requirements for the continuation of the operation, while discussing with the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent, the ICRC in Kyrgyzstan, and other partners in the Movement present in the country, options for obtaining resources.

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## The situation

On 27 June, Kyrgyzstan held a referendum on a new constitution. The Kyrgyzstan Central Elections Committee reported that more than 90 per cent had voted in favour of the new constitution. No major security incidents were reported.

The Ministry of Health has updated the death toll of the civil unrest in Osh and Jalal-Abad regions on 28 June 2010 to 294 from the previous figure of 192 people on 18 June. According to UNOSAT's initial satellite imagery analysis there are 2,000 to 3,000 houses destroyed in Osh, mostly in residential areas<sup>2</sup>. A total of 330 affected buildings were identified within the city of Jalal-Abad. Of this total, 291 buildings were totally destroyed and 39 severely damaged. Almost all affected buildings appear to have been residential or situated within the residential neighbourhoods.<sup>3</sup>

The interim government reinstated the curfew on 28 June in Jalal-Abad region, Osh and Uzgen cities and Kara-Suu and Aravan districts of Osh region until 10 August and the sale of alcohol is prohibited in the areas where the curfew is in effect. The curfew was lifted temporarily on 26 June before the referendum.

The Humanitarian Country Team estimates the total number of internally displaced persons (IDP) and returnees at 375,000 of whom most are with host families. The team estimated the total number of people in need of food and non-food items assistance at 560,000 including IDPs, returnees and host families. However, the situation remains fluid and the numbers are subject to change. According to the government of Uzbekistan all refugees, who crossed the border fleeing the violence in the southern Kyrgyzstan, have left the country except 395 who need hospital treatment.

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. The main UN agencies – UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP and others – have already spent a large amount of money of own resources to deliver aid, shelter materials, urgent medical supplies, water and sanitation equipment and so on, to the communities that have been affected, but expect the international community to respond to the crisis and to support the rehabilitation efforts.<sup>4</sup>

The government of the Republic of Uzbekistan announced its wish that goods brought into Uzbekistan for humanitarian purposes related to the refugee situation should be forwarded to the Kyrgyz Republic, so as to follow the intended beneficiaries of international assistance. It is understood that the government of Uzbekistan respects the need of agencies to remain accountable for the use of these resources and is therefore planning to facilitate the transfer of materials within agencies present on both sides of the border. The government offered to provide trucks and to pay for the logistics, with the intention to complete the transport of goods within a week, by 7 July.

A convoy of 28 trucks carrying humanitarian relief arrived on 30 June in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, from Andijan, Uzbekistan. This will now support the humanitarian response to the IDP, returnees and host families in and around Osh and Jalal-Abad.

The overall situation remains calm in southern Kyrgyzstan as more humanitarian relief is distributed. The needs of the vulnerable persons have changed, according to UNHCR and partners' protection monitoring in

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

<sup>3</sup> Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyzstan Damage Assessment by UNITAR/UNISAT – 30 June.

<sup>4</sup> Source: United National Radio <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MUMA-86Y3LW?OpenDocument&RSS20=02-P>

Osh. The need for food and water appeared to have decreased as people had found ways to access these commodities. Conversely, vulnerable groups continued to find it difficult to access medication either due to limited funds, lack of functioning pharmacies or lack of specific types of drugs.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent continued close coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation, and formal Movement coordination mechanisms have been established. The National Society is also cooperating with the appropriate governmental ministries in its auxiliary role. The ICRC and the International Federation are supporting the National Society in its coordination with governmental agencies, external partners and donors, and the media.

The interim government of Kyrgyzstan 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.

The Kyrgyzstan Humanitarian Country Team convened its first substantive meeting on 29 June in Bishkek, following the preliminary meeting of 25 June. Five organizations representing the NGO community participated (ACT Alliance/Helvitas, Alliance 2015, Mercy Corps, HelpAge and Save the Children) as well as the ICRC as an observer.

The clusters for food security, health, protection, shelter, WASH, logistics and emergency telecommunication, as well as OCHA, have a presence in Osh. WHO opened a sub-office in Osh on 1 July.

There are now three sub-clusters established under the protection cluster: human rights led by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; child protection led by UNICEF; and gender-based violence led by UNFPA and UNIFEM with support of UNICEF. The protection cluster has also set up thematic sub-groups on older people led by HelpAge and people with disabilities led by Eurasia foundation. The protection cluster plans to convene regular coordination meetings in Osh.

The 20 early recovery cluster members are identifying priorities and carrying out activities in the areas of rehabilitation of livelihoods; cash-for-work projects; clean-up of affected areas; counseling; restoration of the local food chain; restoration of local small-scale businesses; and provision of transitional and permanent shelter. The Kyrgyz authorities have established a directorate on recovery and reconstruction in Osh.

On 2 July 2010 the Kyrgyz government organized a meeting for all stakeholders on the assistance provided to the population and the results of the needs assessment that has to be addressed by future steps. In the meeting the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent, the ICRC and the International Federation were also represented. The government requested international actors to cooperate and to create a common assessment of the situation for reconstruction in the post emergency and recovery state and urged them to liaise directly with local authorities and to align the activities with their planning.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent completed the distribution of 150 tents from its stocks to returnees whose houses were burnt. 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. With the support of ICRC the Red Crescent also organized three water distribution points at the border transit points when massive return from Uzbekistan was taking place.

The ICRC in partnership with the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent continues to provide humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people affected by the recent violence. Food and non-food items, water and medical assistance have been delivered over the past days. With the support of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent, the ICRC continued to provide essential household items to several hundred families and to distribute food to more than 20,000 families. The ICRC has also been supporting the water board in Osh town and donated three water trucks. Together with the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent, it also continued to restore and/or maintain contact between family members separated by the violence.

On 29 June a team composed of six Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent headquarters staff members – human resources, organizational development, volunteer management, press-secretary, international humanitarian law and assistance specialists – was deployed to Osh city to support local staff in assessments, to strengthen the coordination and work in their respective areas. Two of them, namely press-secretary and organizational development staff are already back to Bishkek. Also, a disaster management team of three staff members from three northern branches of the National Society arrived to Osh on 1 July and will stay for about two weeks. The headquarters disaster management coordinator stretches her support between the headquarters and affected regions, she is Osh on 2 July.

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.

The International Federation's country representative for Kyrgyzstan, supported by an experienced staff member seconded by the Europe zone office in Budapest, is developing a plan of action and associated resource requirements for the continuation of the operation, while discussing with the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent, the ICRC in Kyrgyzstan, and other partners in the Movement present in the country, options for obtaining resources. The International Federation's support to Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent in strengthening its emergency response capacity is complimentary to the ICRC appeal. The ICRC and the International Federation will ensure complimentary and coordinated appeals and plans as part of the coordinated Movement approach in Kyrgyzstan.

In response to the mass movement of refugees into Uzbekistan the International Federation launched a preliminary emergency appeal and deployed goods and personnel to the country to reinforce and to support the efforts of the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan. Following the orderly return of refugees to Kyrgyzstan, the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan has announced its wish that goods brought into Uzbekistan for humanitarian purposes related to the refugee situation should be forwarded to the Kyrgyz Republic, so as to follow the intended beneficiaries of international assistance. The International Federation agrees with this approach, as does the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan which has, moreover, received confirmation from the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan that the latter is ready, able and willing to receive the goods in question for additional support of their efforts to assist the returnees.

Nevertheless, and in full understanding with the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan, the International Federation has proposed to the government of Uzbekistan that a portion of the goods channeled before to Uzbekistan as part of the response of the International Federation should be reserved to replenish the stocks of the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan that were utilised to support the refugees when they arrived across the border.

For that purpose, the International Federation in Tashkent, while awaiting a response from the government of Uzbekistan to its proposal, is working to establish a detailed overview of which goods would be transferred to Kyrgyzstan and which would be handed over to the Red Crescent branches in the regions of Andijan, Namangan and Fergana, keeping in mind both the need for replenishment and the need to respect donor intent.

The ICRC is also working on a full budget extension appeal to revise the preliminary appeal launched on 14 June for the emergency operation in southern Kyrgyzstan. ICRC's main axes of support to the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent are restoring family links, assistance in the form of humanitarian aid and support to the emergency preparedness and response capabilities of the National Society, particularly in the areas of first aid and safer access to people affected by conflict and violence.

## Progress towards outcomes

The activities identified as priorities for the DREF operation continued after the referendum of 27 June.

<b>Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)</b>
<b>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).</b>
Outputs and activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Procure 2,565 blankets</li><li>• Procure and prepare food parcels</li></ul>

- Deliver food parcels and blankets to transit points
- Distribute the blankets and food to the people in biggest need

**Progress:** The planned number of blankets and food parcels has been procured and distribution points are being identified. Preparations for distributions are in progress. At the beginning of the week of 5-11 July, the blankets and food items will be delivered to the field for distribution. The lists of beneficiaries have also been prepared in accordance with the selection criteria and in cooperation with local authorities and the Ministry of Emergency Situations. Thus, 513 most vulnerable among the affected families were selected.

## Emergency health

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

**Outputs and activities planned:**

- Select 20 National Society staff and volunteers to be trained in the provision of psychosocial support during a situation of violence
- 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:** Twenty-five Red Crescent staff members and volunteers were trained in Osh in psychosocial support (PSS) and are ready to work with the affected population. The trainings were facilitated by local psychologists and psychologists of the Turkish Red Crescent Society. Three PSS teams consisting of a professional psychologist and eight volunteers have been established to undertake PSS activities in most targeted areas. The Red Crescent Society identified children as the main target group for its psychosocial support through several PSS groups that will be organized.

From 3 July these three teams will undertake coordination meetings with the local authorities in the three most affected areas, namely Mady, Furkat and Shaytepe settlements and start to implement their knowledge and skills in PSS. It is expected to conduct PSS assistance in two steps:

1. Invite psychologically stressed parents and children to school (because people are still afraid to leave their homes).
2. Invite stressed people to branch offices of the National Society.

## 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

**Progress:** The Red Crescent Society distributed 1,000 litres of bottled water near the border transit points to the population. The planned hygiene kits have been procured and are ready for distribution.

After 26 June 2010 two large tents (for 12 people each) of the Kyrgyz Red Crescent Society Osh branch were erected during one week near Dostuk and VLKSM transit points. Osh branch volunteers provided returnees with bottled drinking water and as well with first aid assistance and psychosocial support when it was required.

## 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.

## Contact information

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