

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Russia: Mine blast

DREF operation n° MDRRU007
GLIDE n° AC-2010-000093-RUS
17 February 2011

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 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 29,348 has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 250 beneficiaries.

Summary: As a result of two methane blasts in the Raspadskaya coal mine in Siberia's Kuzbass region on 8 May 2010 91 people were killed and 129 were injured. The Russian Red Cross provided psychosocial support to the affected individuals and to their families in order to minimize the psychological effects in the aftermath of the mine explosion. The National Society also worked on raising awareness of the local population on mechanisms to cope with stress through distribution of information leaflets and by organizing public events.



Left to right: A volunteer of the Novokuznetsk RRC branch, Ludmila, and a beneficiary, Marina (lost her 20 y. o. son), during their weekly meeting, November 2010.
Photo: IFRC

The Russian Red Cross provided assistance to 247 people from the affected families through psychosocial support. The operation was implemented during a period of six months.

The psychosocial support activities included regular home visits conducted by Red Cross volunteers, group sessions, as well as community events aiming at assisting people to reduce the psychological effects of the disaster and to solve legal and social issues.

The feedback from people assisted revealed that the presence of the Red Cross volunteers in their daily lives was highly appreciated.

The Novokuznetsk city branch of Kemerovo regional Red Cross branch is now known as an unofficial reference centre for psychosocial support among other Red Cross branches based on their experiences in two projects for mine blast affected population support from 2007 and a project related to the explosion of a hydropower station in Khakassia, in 2009. As a result of the operation the Red Cross branch in the region has further strengthened its capacity in providing psychosocial support.

There is a remaining balance of CHF 1,469 after the operation that will be reimbursed to the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund.

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Two explosions occurred in Russia's biggest coalmine Rospadskaya in the town of Mezhdurechensk, in Kemerovo (Kuzbass) region in Western Siberia. The first methane blast occurred on 8 May. Out of the 359 miners that were inside 295 managed to escape safely to the ground. However, a second blast occurred when rescue teams (54 people) went down to save other people. As a result of these two explosions 91 people were killed, 129 people injured including 84 hospitalized, 15 people are still missing. They were admitted dead because their relatives asked the authorities to do so after six months of search and rescue operation as it entitled the relatives of the dead to receive compensation and financial support for their lost family member. These numbers include both miners and rescue team members. The rescue operation was supported by about 600 people; the search and rescue operation was stopped on 14th December 2010. Coal extraction was resumed at the mine's full capacity on 13 November 2010.

During the first days after the tragedy the Prime Minister of Russian Federation visited the region as well as the injured in the local hospital. The governor of Kemerovo had the rescue operation under his control together with the minister of emergencies.

State authorities have pledged compensation to the affected families, the families received financial support, had their mortgages and children high school fees paid, but the people were in a great shock and in need of psychosocial support. Tension around the missing miners and their relatives' inability to receive financial support (because they were not officially admitted dead) were adding to the generally very high level of stress in the community.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action



A volunteer of the Novokuznetsk RRC branch, Svetlana and Sergey (9 y.o.), who lost his father due to the blast. Art therapy session, November 2010.
Photo: IFRC

The Kemerovo (Novokuznetsk) regional Red Cross branch was involved back in 2007 in the response to the mine blasts at the Ulyanovskaya and Yubileynaya mines in Novokuznetsk, which is in the same area as the Rospadskaya coalmine.

After the mine blast in May 2010, the Russian Red Cross contacted EMERCOM and the local authorities, right after the explosion and offered its services to the administration of the Rospadskaya coalmine proposing to provide support to the affected people and their family members.

The volunteers of the Red Cross branch in Mezhdurechensk have been assisting EMERCOM and have been involved in the assessment of the situation as well as accompanying family members of the deceased people during the identification of dead

bodies in the forensic medicine department. The Chief Psychiatrist of Kemerovo region and local authorities initiated discussions with the Russian Red Cross about the provision of psychological support for the families of the deceased people. The staff of local state centre for social support worked as Red Cross volunteers under the guidance of three psychosocial consultants from Novokuznetsk Red Cross branch.

The response operation built on the profound experience of the Russian Red Cross in psychosocial support gained through operations responding to recent disasters such as the Beslan crisis, mine explosion in Kemerovo and Khakassia and the South Ossetia refugee crisis.

The Kemerovo Red Cross branch together with the authorities and the affected families and prepared a plan of action. The Russian Red Cross headquarters and IFRC Representation were supporting the branch in its efforts to respond to the situation.

The aim of the operation was to minimize the psychological effects in the aftermath of the coalmine explosion through the provision of psychosocial support to affected people.

The Russian Red Cross took the following actions in the framework of the programme:

- Volunteers were trained to provide immediate and long-term psychosocial support to affected individuals and families.

- Information materials on coping with stress were published and distributed among the local population.
- Social support was provided to the affected individuals and families helping them resolve their social and legal troubles.

Achievements against outcomes

Emergency health and care	
Objective: The psychological effects in the aftermath of the explosion in Rospadskaya mine are reduced through the provision of psycho-social support to about 250 affected family members.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Psycho-social support is provided to about 250 family members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide psycho-social support to about 250 family members affected by the explosion through Red Cross staff and trained volunteers to address people's needs and to improve their psychological conditions. ➤ Increase awareness of the affected population and their family members about ways of coping with stress through the distribution of information booklets and leaflets during individual visits and public actions.

Impact:

Regular psychosocial support was provided to 247 people by 10 trained volunteers through home visits, group counselling sessions and phone calls. 630 home visits were carried out and 153 group sessions and events organized.

Furthermore, community events were organized by the Red Cross including the following events:

- Attending mourning events at the morgue, cemetery and providing psychosocial support to the relatives of the deceased people on the site.
- 43 sessions of play therapy were organized for the children from the families affected by the mine blast
- Publishing and distributing of information leaflets *"How to help survive grief"*, *"Memory cards for the grieving"* and *"How to cope with emotional burnout"* with recommendations on coping with trauma and loss among the affected people, the helpers and the general population of the area.
- Monthly assessment of the psychological situation of the target group through questionnaires and interviews.
- Volunteers worked in partnership with well-known local social psychologists strengthening community-based approach.
- Volunteers and psychologists gathered for 18 sessions to prevent emotional burnout and had 36 case management meetings with the supervising consultants.
- "Diary of psychosocial worker" was developed and published in order to facilitate psychosocial follow up for the volunteers. It has become a unique and very useful tool that will be adopted in other RRC regions during their psychosocial interventions.

The counselling and group sessions as well as community events that the Russian Red Cross conducted in the course of this operation all helped the people affected by the explosion to face their difficult situation.

People assisted noted that their state was improving and that the presence of the Red Cross volunteers in their daily lives was very important and appreciated.

A team of trained volunteers built during the project implementation was able to replace the city RC branch that was closed from July 2010 in its psychosocial activities.

The operation had regular media coverage, the local TV channel broadcasted three TV programmes about the project, the local newspaper covered the news of the programme in its three big articles.

The DREF operation ended on 17 November 2010, and the local state social centre pledged to continue providing volunteer support to the affected until the summer in 2011.

"I didn't even think that somebody would remember about us. I was glad when I was offered support by the Red Cross because I soon had realized that I wouldn't cope on my own. Thank you for so quietly being always there for me." Elena, 48, lost her younger 21 year old son due to the blast.

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

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Russia:** Raisa Lukutsova, Chair person, Russian Red Cross; phone: +7 495 126 7571; email: mail@redcross.ru
- **In Russia:** Davron Mukhamadiev, acting Regional Representative, Moscow; phone + 7 495 126 15 66; email: jaap.timmer@ifrc.org
- **In the Europe Zone Office:** Slobodanka Curic, Disaster Management Coordinator, Budapest, phone: +36 1 8884 510, fax: +36 1 336 1516, email: slobodanka.curic@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator, phone: +41 22 730 4381, fax: +41 22 733 0395, email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org

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MDRRU007 - Russia - Mine Blast

Appeal Launch Date: 17 may 10

Appeal Timeframe: 17 may 10 to 17 nov 10

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/5-2010/12
Budget Timeframe	2010/5-2010/12
Appeal	MDRRU007
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	29,348					29,348
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
Other Income						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	29,348					29,348
C6. Other Income	29,348					29,348
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	29,348					29,348
D. Total Funding = B + C	29,348					29,348
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	29,348					29,348
E. Expenditure	-27,879					-27,879
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	1,469					1,469

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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)		29,348					29,348	
Supplies								
Food		912				912	-912	
Medical & First Aid	225	222				222	3	
Utensils & Tools		24				24	-24	
Total Supplies	225	1,158				1,158	-933	
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	4,700						4,700	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	300	816				816	-516	
Total Transport & Storage	5,000	816				816	4,184	
Personnel								
National Staff		165				165	-165	
National Society Staff	13,732	12,404				12,404	1,328	
Consultants	1,500	3,178				3,178	-1,678	
Total Personnel	15,232	15,747				15,747	-515	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	2,460	1,579				1,579	881	
Total Workshops & Training	2,460	1,579				1,579	881	
General Expenditure								
Travel	1,200	2,834				2,834	-1,634	
Information & Public Relation	1,040	1,411				1,411	-371	
Office Costs	1,800	291				291	1,509	
Communications	600	382				382	218	
Financial Charges		1,959				1,959	-1,959	
Total General Expenditure	4,640	6,877				6,877	-2,237	
Programme & Service Support								
Programme & Service Support	1,791	1,702				1,702	90	
Total Programme & Service Support	1,791	1,702				1,702	90	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	29,348	27,879				27,879	1,469	
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,469				1,469		