

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Russia: Wild Fires

DREF operation n° MDRRU008  
GLIDE n° WF-2010-000147-RUS  
11 March 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.

**CHF 111,772 has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Russian Red Cross in delivering immediate assistance to 1,700 families.**

**Summary:** Unusually long heat wave with temperatures peaking at 40 Celsius in the shade caused wild fires in more than 20 regions (oblasts) of the Russian Federation, thereby seriously affecting the economy and the environment across Russia by engulfing several thousand hectares of land and killing more than 50 people. Thousands of people were affected by the raging fires, and lost their homes and basic livelihoods.



The Russian Red Cross responded to the situation through delivery of humanitarian aid to the severely affected families in the six mostly hit regions: Moscow, Nizhniy Novgorod, Kirov, Ivanovo, Ryazan and Voronezh. The Russian Red Cross branches were active in providing information to the general public on safety rules. National Society branches supported the fire-fighting units of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and other specialized agencies in assisting the affected population by distributing relief to the most affected citizens.

The Russian Red Cross provided direct assistance to 5,067 people (1,708 families) who lost their homes and basic livelihoods. The operation was implemented during a period of four months.

The aid included provision of bed linen sets, blankets, pillows, disposable dishes, detergents and hygiene kits, food parcels and basic clothing for covering the immediate needs of the affected until the launch of the government aid operation was organized and their houses and livelihoods were restored.

The beneficiaries of the Red Cross support noted with appreciation that the presence of the Red Cross support was very timely and efficient.

As a result of the operation, Russian Red Cross branches attracted and trained a number of new volunteers. Some Red Cross branches and volunteers had not been previously involved in such a distribution of relief items that was a new approach for them. The experience through this operation helped to enhance and strengthen their capacity.

This operation has now been finalized, and all activities have been completed. A limited number of expenditures from branches have been included as a provision, and an interim financial report is attached. The final financial report will be posted once remaining field returns have been fully processed.

ECHO contributed CHF 108,250 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>.

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

## The situation

Unusual and long heat waves with temperatures peaking at 40 Celsius in the shade caused severe bushfires in more than 20 regions of the Russian Federation. The situation resulted in widespread economic and environmental losses across Russia, engulfing several thousand hectares of land and killing more than 50 people. Thousands of people were affected by the raging fires and lost their homes and basic livelihoods. Many rural settlements (around 2,200 houses) in some European parts, the Ural Mountains and West-Siberia were completely destroyed by fire.

An alert for the state of emergency had been officially announced in 14 regions in the beginning of August 2010, extending to the Orenburg, Belgorod and Volgograd regions and Altayskiy Kray by the end of the month. Among the most severely affected regions were Voronezh, Belgorod, Ivanovo, Kirov, Nizhniy Novgorod and Moscow.

Around 30,000 wild fires that have covered around 1 million hectares, were registered in 2010 in the Russian Federation. According to Russian media, direct damage of the wild fires in Russia was estimated to be around \$15 billion (Roubles 450 billion) which is around 1% of Russian annual GDP. The fires destroyed or affected a number of conservation parks, national heritage objects and seriously damaged Russian crops harvest and therefore its export (as an important source of income for the national budget). Statistics agencies reported that mortality rates almost doubled in the affected areas due to reasons of smoke pollution and unusual heat wave, which most likely affected the elderly and those with lung and cardiac health problems.

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The Ministry of Emergency Situations, together with firefighting services and with the support of specialized army units, was working in their full capacity to stop the spreading of fire and localizing burning spots. Russian Orthodox Church played a significant role in providing in-kind support to the affected families. A number of foreign governments sent equipment and fire-fighting aircrafts to assist the Russian authorities in coping with this massive disaster. The Russian Government issued a decree regarding the support to those who lost their houses. With federal and local support, these people received financial aid and were assisted to build up their new homes. At the same time these people lost all their basic livelihoods and were in need of humanitarian assistance. As of 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010, all the families who lost their houses due to the fires, received the keys to their new apartments and houses, provided by the federal and local authorities.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Ministry of Emergency Situations was in charge for the coordination of emergency and rescue activities in cooperation with the local authorities at the regional level. The Russian Red Cross branches were in permanent contact with the regional authorities and within the scope of their competence and available means participated in the provision of relief to the affected population.

The National Society received assistance offers from several sister National Societies (Turkey, Estonia, Belarus and others), which were gratefully accepted. ICRC provided in-kind donation which was delivered to the Voronezh region.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Russian Red Cross opened a special bank account to collect donations to serve the needs of the affected population. Local Red Cross branches joined the campaign to receive donations in cash and in-kind to provide aid to the most vulnerable, primarily those who lost their homes. The Red Cross branches were disseminating information and guidance among general public on safe behavior during fires.

According to the assessments made by the relevant Russian authorities about 2,200 houses have been totally destroyed by the fires, though affecting some 6,000 people.



Humanitarian aid distribution in Arzmasskiy district, Nizhniy Novgorod region, by RRC staff (chairlady of the branch) and volunteers of Nizhniy Novgorod region RRC branch, September 2010.

**Photo: Russian Red Cross**

The affected population had been accommodated in temporary shelter by the local authorities. The Ministry of Emergency Situations provided hot meals, water and sleeping facilities in the temporary shelters. The volunteers of the Red Cross branches were assisting those staying in the temporary shelters through food distribution, provision of first aid and other basic assistance.

The assessment done by the Russian Red Cross branches in the affected regions showed that around 1,700 families in **Voronezh, Belgorod, Ivanovo, Kirov, Nizhniy Novgorod and Moscow regions** were in need of support by respective regional branches during their stay in the temporary shelters or hosting families.

Immediately after the disaster the Russian Red Cross branch in the Republic of Perm started assessing the situation and collecting money for the affected, through local community as well as through federal Red Cross website and its regional branches' homepages. The response operation was built on the Russian Red Cross Headquarters' experience in relief aid distribution.

Based on the needs assessment conducted by the Russian Red Cross, the following needs and expected results were identified among the affected population as a priority:

Needs identified	Items and quantity*
Shelter and non-food relief items	bed-linen sets, blankets, pillows, disposable dishes, detergents and hygiene kits for 1,600 families
Food items	food parcels for 1,700 families and drinking water for 650 families
Clothing and textiles	Basic clothing and shoes for 360 families
Medical & first aid	Protective face masks for the people residing in most fire-prone regions

\*Numbers of families eligible for assistance differs based on the concrete results of the assessments in different regions and specific quantities of relief supplies requested by different branches.

## Achievements against outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
<p><b>Outcome: 1,700 families in Voronezh, Belgorod, Ivanovo, Kirov, Nizhniy Novgorod and Moscow regions (oblasts), who have lost their homes and basic livelihoods, are provided with immediate humanitarian assistance in the form of basic food and non-food items, reducing the impact of the disaster on their lives.</b></p>
<p><b>Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute relief items and provide hot meals to the affected families in temporary shelters.</li> <li>• Distribute relief supplies to the affected families enabling them to return to their homes. The Russian Red Cross established distribution points in the wild fire affected areas for the distribution of bed-linen sets, blankets, pillows, detergents, disposable dishes, hygiene kits and food parcels.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> </ul>

### Impact:

Humanitarian aid (in the form of bed-linen sets, hygiene kits, pillows and blankets and food parcels) was distributed during September-October 2010 in the following regions:

Region	Districts	Nr. of families assisted	Nr. of volunteers attracted
Moscow	Lukhovitskiy	138	10
Ivanovo	Yuzhskiy	46	10
Ryazan'	Ryazanskiy, Spas-Klepikovskiy, Kasimovskiy, Sasovskiy, Novo-Derevenskiy, Miloslavskiy, Korablinskiy and Skopinskiy	537	8
Nizhniy Novgorod	Shakhunskiy, Arzamasskiy, Navashinskiy, Pilninskiy, Chkalovskiy, Urenskiy, Krasnobakovskiy, Sharangskiy, Koverninskiy and Voskresenskiy	695	321
Kirov	Urzhumskiy, Vyatsko-Polyanskiy, Malmydzhskiy, Sovetskiy and Sanchurskiy	33	33
Voronezh	Voronezh city, Kamenskiy, Kamtemirovskiy, Ramonskiy, Kashirskiy, Anninskiy, Gribanovskiy, Novousmanskiy, Verkhnemamonovskiy, Bobrovskiy, Liskinskiy, Rossoshanskiy, Semilukskiy and Ostrogozhskiy	259	10

Each family received at least one item from each group of the mentioned relief goods. In some regions where the local Red Cross branches were able to negotiate lower prices (Moscow, Kirov and Ivanovo), the beneficiaries received aid per person, not per family.

In addition, 150 blood pressure sensors were purchased to re-equip destroyed rural first aid stations in the Voronezh region in order to enable them to provide support to the affected population of the region.

300 most seriously affected families in the Moscow region received basic clothing to cover their immediate needs and ensure their children's access to school.

Together with the Russian Firefighting Society, Red Cross produced leaflets on safety rules during fires and distributed those among general public and via media.

A survey was conducted among the beneficiaries; all of them noted the timeliness of Red Cross intervention and expressed their gratitude to the National Society and its donors. Lonely people without family support as well as the elderly and families with many children, being the most vulnerable groups of population during this kind of disasters, were especially grateful.

*Maria Frolova, a mother of four children, 42 years old, lost her house due to the fire, in Ivanovo: "You, Red Cross, did not leave us alone to face this dreadful disaster. The world seemed to have come crushing down. But your kind, warm hearts were open towards us. We could see it. You brought faith and hope back to us, the hope that we were not alone. You shared our grief. We are infinitely grateful."*

Teams of volunteers were established or existing teams were strengthened during the project implementation that can carry out effective work in similar situations in the future, which will surely increase the Red Cross capacity to deal with emergencies and disasters.

The DREF operation ended on 12 December 2010, and the National Society's local branches were able to establish or reinforce good links with the local authorities and media, which resulted in recognition of the humanitarian efforts of the Russian Red Cross

and the strengthening of its image in the affected regions.

### Challenges:

Red Cross branches faced some complications during the project implementation, such as the lack of warehouses, limited transportation resources and difficult access to certain rural districts, but they were able to successfully overcome them, thanks to their partners and volunteers.



A family receiving aid from the Moscow regional Red Cross branch.  
Moscow region, September 2010.

**Photo: Russian Red Cross**

## 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:**

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[<interim financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



MDRRU008 - Russia - Wild Fires

Appeal Launch Date: 11 aug 10

Appeal Timeframe: 11 aug 10 to 11 dec 10

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/08-2010/12
Budget Timeframe	2010/08-2010/12
Appeal	MDRRU008
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
<b>A. Budget</b>	111,772					111,772
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>Income</b>						
<b>Other Income</b>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	111,772					111,772
<b>C6. Other Income</b>	111,772					111,772
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)</b>	111,772					111,772
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	111,772					111,772
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	100%					100%

**II. Movement of Funds**

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>C. Income</b>	111,772					111,772
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	-111,637					-111,637
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	135					135

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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
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>111,772</b>					<b>111,772</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Clothing & textiles	53,250	55,226				55,226	-1,976	
Water & Sanitation	28,800						28,800	
Other Supplies & Services		17,765				17,765	-17,765	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>82,050</b>	<b>72,991</b>				<b>72,991</b>	<b>9,059</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Distribution & Monitoring	4,000	761				761	3,239	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,000	523				523	1,477	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>1,284</b>				<b>1,284</b>	<b>4,716</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
National Staff	1,500	412				412	1,088	
National Society Staff	12,000	7,676				7,676	4,324	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>8,089</b>				<b>8,089</b>	<b>5,411</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel		363				363	-363	
Information & Public Relation	2,500	795				795	1,705	
Office Costs		370				370	-370	
Communications	700	255				255	445	
Financial Charges	200	6,619				6,619	-6,419	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>8,402</b>				<b>8,402</b>	<b>-5,002</b>	
<b>Programme &amp; Service Support</b>								
Programme & Service Support	6,822	6,814				6,814	8	
<b>Total Programme &amp; Service Support</b>	<b>6,822</b>	<b>6,814</b>				<b>6,814</b>	<b>8</b>	
<b>Operational Provisions</b>								
Operational Provisions		14,058				14,058	-14,058	
<b>Total Operational Provisions</b>		<b>14,058</b>				<b>14,058</b>	<b>-14,058</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>111,772</b>	<b>111,637</b>				<b>111,637</b>	<b>135</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>135</b>				<b>135</b>		