

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tajikistan: Earthquake

DREF operation n° MDRTJ007
GLIDE n° EQ-2010-000001-TJK
Update n° 2
7 April 2010

The International Federation's 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 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.

Period covered by this update: 18 January to 5 April 2010.

Summary: CHF 95,705 was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 6 January, 2010 to support the National Society in delivering assistance to some 640 beneficiaries, and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks.

An additional DREF contribution of CHF 36,317 was allocated on 15 January to cover the revised plan of action, which was a result of the psychological effects of the disaster and its aftershocks, the increase of the number of fully destroyed houses from 98 to 162 (with 1,134 residents), and the total number of affected households to 958 (with 6,706 residents).



Damage and need assessment after another aftershock.
Photo: Sh. Bekov, Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan

At the early stage of the disaster people were evacuated to local mosques, schools or to neighbours and relatives. As of April 2010 all affected households moved from the schools to tents and currently 158 households are living in winterized tents.

Since 6 January the 98 most affected households were provided with non-food items as planned. Also winterized tents were distributed to the most affected households in Vanj district centre and Gishkhun village. Construction materials were procured and sent to Vanj district for further distribution to the 10 most vulnerable households. A psychosocial support workshop was also conducted for Red Crescent staff and volunteers with the aim of establishing a team that can provide assistance to the affected families.

This operation is expected to be implemented over four months, and completed by 5 May, 2010. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 5 August, 2010).

ECHO contributed EUR 42,080, the Netherlands Red Cross CHF 44,630, and the Canadian government CHF 25,268 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The Turkish Red Crescent contributed EUR 5,000 directly to the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan.

Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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The situation

As a result of the earthquake on 2 January 2010, some 23 villages were affected in Yazgulyam and Vanj jamoats of Vanj district. Tremors have continued since then and according to the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES) and the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan more than 417 aftershocks were registered. Consequently the total number of affected households reached 958 (with 6,706 residents) out of which 162 houses were uninhabitable, 106 under threat of collapse, 130 houses partially damaged and some 560 houses slightly affected with small cracks on the walls.

Some of the damaged blocks in five schools were closed for a while and the classes were held in shifts, and UNICEF provided 22 school tents to substitute them. People, who were previously accommodated in school buildings moved from schools to tents and now 158 households, are living in winterized tents. At the moment, the schools are open and functioning.

Heavy snowfall on 6 February caused significant damages to the tents: in total, 31 winterized tents in five villages collapsed due to the snow. Later, 25 tents were reinstalled by the Red Crescent national disaster response team members. The remaining 6 tents were seriously damaged and could not be restored.

A joint assessment carried out by Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) partners and the governmental Disaster Response Commission identified 264 houses in Vanj district in need of reconstruction or major rehabilitation work. The district authorities decided to relocate the households living within 250 metres from the bottom of the mountain in Gishkhun village, since, according to seismologists, this part of the village is considered to be a highly disaster-prone area.

A vulnerability capacity and livelihood assessment was conducted by a team of 16 members representing the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES), UNDP, Focus Humanitarian Assistance, Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (MSDSP), the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and independent specialists. The assessment showed that 71 per cent of the households are highly vulnerable and may lack the resources to reconstruct their houses. www.untj.org.)

The government has developed a master plan for the new settlement for 200 families affected by the earthquake. Plans and designs for the houses and social infrastructure are being developed and construction has started. REACT members, involved in relief and recovery, held a recovery planning meeting on 18 February. The recovery plan shows that support for house construction is the biggest gap.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society has provided food and non-food items to the government of Tajikistan for the benefit of the people affected by the earthquake.

Immediate humanitarian needs have been largely met, although considerable more recovery and rehabilitation work needs to be done. The government requested support with construction materials to allow families to begin rebuilding as soon as possible, and is developing plans for the relocation of households from areas designated as unsafe. The detailed needs assessment is currently being completed and will provide the basis for more detailed planning of the immediate and long-term recovery process.

Coordination and partnerships

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan with support of the Federation country representation is the leading humanitarian organization for the coordination of the emergency shelter and non-food relief items cluster during disasters in Tajikistan. The National Society has been working as an auxiliary to the government and coordinated its response activities with all stakeholders, particularly as a member of REACT, headed by the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence.

Two coordination meetings of the shelter and non-food items cluster were held since 18 January with the participation of sectorial members including IFRC, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, German Red Cross, Caritas, Mission East, ACTED, CoES, UNDP, Habitat, and UN Humanitarian Affairs. The main topic of the meetings was update on the response activities and further plans of the cluster members.

- The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan had supported the most vulnerable families by providing construction materials for 10 houses.
- Global Partners is planning to construct 20 new houses for the affected people.
- The Directorate on Construction of State Infrastructure is planning to build a school for 380 children and a health centre in the new settlement. According to the Directorate, partial funding has been allocated already.

- FAO is procuring 20 tonnes of wheat seeds, 150 tonnes of potato seeds and 50 tonnes of fertilizers to be distributed to the families whose livelihoods were affected.
- Caritas Switzerland intends to allocate private funds from its own resources for house construction in Vanj district. At the same time, the organization is trying to mobilize additional donor funding to increase the project size and therefore the number of families who would receive a new house.
- The government estimates that 200 families currently living in tents, in damaged houses or in dangerous zones of Vanj district need to be relocated to Surkhsangob area.

(For more information on coordination and situation developments please visit: www.untj.org)

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The National Society continued its response activities in support of the affected households. All 98 targeted families received non-food items. In total 50 families received winterized tents in Vanj district centre and Gishkhun village and all 98 families were provided with construction tools.

The continuous tremors created panic amongst the population in Vanj district and thus the Red Crescent Society conducted a needs assessment to define the need for psychosocial support.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
Objective: 98 most affected households (640 people) in Vanj district are provided with basic non-food items.
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct detailed emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver assistance. • Prepare lists of beneficiaries together with the local authorities and in accordance with the Red Crescent's assessment procedures and format. • Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from the point of dispatch to the end users. • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and report on the relief distributions. • As part of the monitoring and evaluation activities, conduct a survey among the people reached to find out what they felt about the goods and services received.

Progress:

The joint needs assessment was completed on 12 February and the list of beneficiaries was prepared according to previously agreed criteria with local authorities and responding agencies. The Red Crescent Society has subsequently distributed the following items to 98 targeted households (640 inhabitants):

Item	Number
Tarpaulins	196 (2 per family)
Bedding sets	98
Hygiene kits	98
Water cans	98
Kitchen sets	98
Hoes	98
Shovels	98

The National Society's disaster preparedness stock for 98 families was replenished in the Vanj district disaster management centre and the Red Crescent central warehouse in Dushanbe.

The Red Crescent national disaster response team members and volunteers continued conducting awareness-raising campaigns in order to assist the population and give them the necessary information for being prepared in case of another tremor.

Challenges: Frequent aftershocks and avalanches caused damage and destruction of bridges and roads, and access to the villages in the mountain area was difficult. At times, this caused delays in assessments and the provision of humanitarian aid.

Emergency health

Objective: 140 households (980 people) have benefited from psychosocial support to recover from the effects of the earthquake aftershocks.

Activities planned:

- Complete the detailed psychosocial support needs assessment.
- Develop community and beneficiary targeting strategy in coordination with local and health authorities.
- Prioritize beneficiaries (children, women, and older people).
- Establish a psychosocial support team with support from an internationally deployed consultant who will provide training to 16 Red Crescent staff and volunteers.
- Deliver psychosocial support to prioritized beneficiaries.
- Conduct beneficiary satisfaction survey in all targeted villages.

Progress: The psychosocial support needs assessment revealed that the population living in the area was heavily affected, due to the frequent aftershocks and unclear information on the occurring tremors. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and local authorities agreed to provide psychosocial support to schoolchildren and women at the beginning of April 2010.

According to the planned activities a three-day psychosocial support workshop was conducted for 22 Red Crescent staff, national disaster response team members and volunteers. The National Society is planning to conduct psychosocial support for 140 targeted households in the affected villages of Vanj district starting from mid-April.

Challenges: Lack of specialists trained in psychosocial support is the main challenge in the country, which results in a situation where the people affected by disasters cannot receive psychosocial assistance timely i.e. during disaster response activities.

Emergency shelter

Objective 1: 50 most affected households out of 98 preliminary targeted households are provided with family winterized tents.

Objective 2: 10 households out of 98 households are provided with construction materials and tools to help them cope with the consequences of the earthquake, and preserve their human dignity.

Activities planned:

- Complete the detailed emergency shelter needs.
- Prepare lists of beneficiaries together with the local authorities and in accordance with the assessment procedures and format.
- Procure and transport items to affected areas.
- Distribute supplies and control supply movements from the point of dispatch to the end users.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief and psycho-social support activities and report on the relief distributions.
- Conduct beneficiary satisfaction survey in all targeted villages.

Progress:

50 households out of the 98 targeted received winterized tents in Vanj district centre and Gishkhun village. All 98 households were provided with construction tools to rebuild their houses and to repair damages. Construction materials including nails 100 mm, nails 150mm, roofing nails, roof iron, cement, framing timber, door, door hinge, window, and window hinge were procured and transported to Vanj district for further distribution to the 10 most vulnerable households. The distribution is planned to take place by mid-April.

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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