

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° 3
2 June 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: 10 April to 31 May 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 (1,134 residents), and the total number of affected households to 958 (6,706 residents).

An earthquake on 2 January hit 23 villages and affected 958 households. At the early stage of the disaster people were evacuated to local mosques, schools or to neighbours and relatives.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan with support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) provided the 98 most affected households with non-food items as planned. Also winterized tents were distributed to the 50 most affected households in Vanj district centre and Gishkhun village. Construction materials were procured and sent to Vanj district for further distribution to 10 households. A psychosocial support workshop was also conducted for the Red Crescent staff and volunteers with the aim of establishing a team that can provide assistance to the affected families. In total, 140 most affected and vulnerable households (980 people) received psychosocial support by the members of the psychosocial support team.

This operation was implemented over four months as initially planned, 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).

The Netherlands Red Cross contributed CHF 44,630 and the Canadian government CHF 25,268 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The DREF allocation is already replenished by 75 per cent. The Turkish Red Crescent contributed EUR 5,000 directly to the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan. Details of all donors can be found on



The national disaster response team conducting an assessment after continuing aftershocks.
Photo: Sh . B ekov, Re d Cr escent Socie ty of Taiikistan

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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The situation

An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale hit 23 villages in Yazgulyam and Vanj jamoats of Vanj district at 7:15 AM on 2 January 2010. According to the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES) and the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan more than 417 aftershocks were registered. As a result of tremors/aftershocks the total number of affected households reached 958 (with 6,706 residents) out of which 162 houses were uninhabitable, 106 houses under threat of collapse, 130 houses partially damaged and some 560 houses were slightly affected with small cracks on the walls.

Poor construction techniques have undoubtedly played a significant role in the damage induced by the earthquake on buildings. Some of the damaged blocks in 5 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 158 households were living in winterized tents.

Due to the heavy snowfall on 6 February, some 31 winterized tents in 5 villages collapsed. 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. Some 61 per cent of the households reported that their members became ill after the earthquake. The common illness was flu, associated with living in tents or in one room where the infection could spread quickly.

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 works.

A vulnerability capacity and livelihood assessment was conducted by a team of 16 members representing CoES, UNDP, Focus Humanitarian Assistance, Mountain Societies Development Support Programme, 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.

Immediate humanitarian needs were largely met; although considerably more work needs to be done on recovery and rehabilitation. 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.

Coordination and partnerships

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan continues working with the government and other stakeholders in disaster response activities and assessments. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan with support of the Federation country representation convenes coordination meetings of the emergency shelter cluster and distributes non-food relief items during disasters in Tajikistan. The National Society has been working as an auxiliary to the government and coordinated its response activities with all disaster response stakeholders, particularly as a member of REACT, headed by the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence (CoES).

The following response activities were carried out by the different stakeholders:

- The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan had supported the most vulnerable families by providing construction materials for 10 houses.
- Global Partners is constructing 20 new houses for the people affected.
- The construction of a school by Directorate on Construction of State Infrastructure is underway for 380 children and a health centre in the new settlement.
- 20 tonnes of wheat seeds, 150 tonnes of potato seeds and 50 tonnes of fertilizers were provided by FAO and distributed to the families whose livelihoods were affected.
- Caritas Switzerland allocated its private funds for house construction in Vanj district. At the same time, the organization mobilized additional donor funding to increase the project size and therefore the number of families who would receive a new house.
- The construction of 120 houses some 17 kms from Vanj district is going on.

- Psychosocial support was provided to the affected population by CoES, WHO and the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan.
(For more information on coordination and situation developments please visit: www.untj.org)

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan immediately mobilized resources to respond to the needs of the families whose houses had been destroyed or their property damaged. In total, 21 Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan staff and volunteers were deployed in response to the disaster. National disaster response team members conducted rapid assessment, rendered first aid and participated in evacuation activities.

The National Society's trained staff and volunteers also actively participated in the implementation of the joint REACT vulnerability assessment.

The weekly monitoring of the situation was conducted by national disaster response team members and local disaster committee members as the aftershocks continued and the reports received were shared with REACT partners.

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:

In total, 98 most affected households were provided with basic family sets including winterized tents, bedding sets, blankets, hygiene kits, water cans, kitchen sets, hoes and shovels. The people received non-food items according to criteria agreed with local authorities, beneficiary representatives, CoES and REACT partners. The delivery of the stocks was implemented by the Red Crescent Society's logistics department and controlled by disaster management officers.

The disaster preparedness stock replenishment in Vanj district and Dushanbe warehouse has been also completed.

The monitoring of the activities was done by the Federation/ Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan headquarters disaster management staff and concluded that all items were distributed according to the prepared list. In order to involve people reached in the monitoring of the operation, the people assisted were asked by team members on the activities implemented by the Red Crescent Society and the appropriateness of the distributed items.

Challenges: The spring of 2010 characterized by unusual heavy precipitation, triggering avalanches, floods, mudslides, rock flows and landslides all over the country slowed down the operation.

Table 1: Non-food items distributed

Item	Number
Blankets	640
Bedding sets	98
Hygiene kits	98
Water cans	98
Kitchen sets	98
Hoes	98
Shovels	98

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 Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan strengthened its capacity on rendering psychosocial support through conducting a workshop for its 22 staff and volunteers. The gained knowledge was put into practice in the most affected villages of Vanj district. In total, 140 most affected and vulnerable households (980 people) received psychosocial support by trained psychosocial support team members.

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:

In coordination with REACT partners the National Society provided 50 most affected households with 50 winterized tents. All 98 households were provided with construction tools to rebuild their houses and to repair damages. Furthermore 10 households were also provided with construction materials including nails 100 mm, nails 150 mm, roofing nails, roof iron, cement, framing timber, door, door hinge, window, and window hinge to help them in the recovery process.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will conduct a survey in June among the people reached to find out what they felt about the goods and services received. The results of the survey will be summarized in the final report.

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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