

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Tajikistan: Poliomyelitis

DREF operation n° MDRTJ009  
30 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 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.

**CHF 260,221 (USD 240,145 or EUR 181,413) has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,692,500 beneficiaries, including 660,040 children under the age of five, to be vaccinated during the national polio immunization campaign. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** By 21 April 2010, Tajikistan had reported 120 cases of acute flaccid paralysis<sup>1</sup> in 20 districts of the country including Dushanbe city. On 23 April the number of cases had increased to 128;

10 children died. The vast majority of the cases are among children under five years old. Preliminary data suggests that more than 45 per cent had four or more doses of oral polio vaccine. The majority of them had onset of paralysis within the past two weeks, prompting the government to notify WHO of an outbreak.

In response to the outbreak, on 22 April, WHO collected samples for analysis from 124 sick children and sent them to the Institute of Laboratory Diagnostics in Moscow, to confirm the diagnosis of poliomyelitis. On the same day, full confirmation of the diagnosis for all cases analysis was received. Starting from 23 April, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan mobilized all its national disaster response teams and volunteers to conduct house-to-house survey, thereby helping local medical centres in getting more information concerning the disease and the children infected. The reports from the teams provided information on the number of cases from each district, thus helping health facilities in gathering essential data.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 28 July 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 28 October 2010).

[<click here for the DREF budget, or here for contact details>](#)



**Rapid assessment of polio diseases.** Photo: Nisso Pakaeva, Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan

<sup>1</sup> Poliomyelitis - Children spinal paralysis, an acute, highly contagious infectious disease caused by the defeat of the gray matter of the spinal cord poliovirus and characterized mainly by disorders of the nervous system. In general, there are no symptoms or abortive form. It sometimes happens that the poliovirus enters the central nervous system, multiplies in the motor neurons, which leads to their death, irreversible paresis or paralysis of innervated muscles.

## The situation

In 2002, the Republic of Tajikistan, along with other European states, was declared a polio-free country. Since 1997 not a single case of polio has been reported in the country. However, neighbouring Afghanistan annually recorded cases of polio, and for this reason there has been a possibility of occurrence of this disease in Tajikistan. For this eventuality the government of Tajikistan has prepared a plan for prompt action to prevent this disease, and every emerging disease similar to polio is under strict epidemiological surveillance.

Over the past few years, some 25-40 cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) were registered in the country. In the first quarter of 2010, the number of AFP cases gradually increased.

By 21 April 2010, Tajikistan had reported 120 cases of acute flaccid paralysis in 20 districts of the country. On 23 April the number of cases had increased to 128; 10 children died. The vast majority of the cases are children under five years old. Preliminary data suggests that more than 45 per cent of the 128 cases had four or more doses of oral polio vaccine<sup>2</sup>. The majority of them had onset of paralysis within the past two weeks, prompting the government to notify WHO of an outbreak.

According to the Medical Statistics and Information Centre of the Republic of Tajikistan, there are 1,749,000 children under five years old registered in the country as of December 2009, who are more vulnerable to the virus. Therefore the planned vaccination campaign intends to cover all these children with at least 99 per cent coverage.

On 23 April 2010, poliovirus type 1 was detected in diagnostic samples from AFP cases in Tajikistan. This represents the first importation of poliovirus in the WHO European Region since it was certified polio-free in 2002.

## Coordination and partnerships

In order to respond timely and effectively, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and its branches has been closely cooperating with the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF and local authorities in the 20 districts of Tajikistan.

The Red Crescent Society with the support of the Federation country representation and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health has mobilized 400 Red Crescent volunteers to gather information about the infected children and to participate in an effort to ensure that all children under five years have been reached with oral polio vaccination.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Within 24 hours of the polio outbreak the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan deployed its volunteers and medical instructors to conduct a rapid assessment in 20 districts of Tajikistan. Some 400 volunteers have been mobilized from the health and disaster management programmes of the National Society. Preliminary assessments are being carried out in coordination with the government authorities and Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) partners. REACT is a local disaster management coordination mechanism between the government, UN agencies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and the Federation country representation are participating in coordination meetings with the government authorities and other actors and are included in the national working group developing response activities to the outbreak of polio.

## The proposed operation

The Red Crescent Society through its 400 mobilized volunteers, and with support from the Federation secretariat, will support the government in the national vaccination campaign and to raise public awareness through community health promotion, information and media campaigns in 20 districts (three regions) of Tajikistan where cases of polio has been detected (see table). All volunteers will receive a one-day training

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<sup>2</sup> According to the immunization schedule every child in Tajikistan has to receive four doses of polio vaccine before the age of one.

on personal protection, water disinfection and social mobilization. The training will be carried out in the three regions at the same time. The National Society headquarters together with Federation staff will create a pool of facilitators to conduct the trainings. The social mobilization activities will start right after the training of volunteers in every village of the 20 districts in close cooperation with community leaders, who will help in gathering people in one place. Information on all children under the age of five will be collected from each district. The immunization campaign will be carried out in three rounds. The first round will be held from 4 to 7 May. During the campaign National Society volunteers will assist health authorities in mobilizing the population for immunization, through organizing community meetings and raising awareness about the importance of vaccination for all children under five; participating as external observers at vaccination points in the monitoring of the vaccination; and making door-to-door visits to detect non-immunized children. Between the rounds Red Crescent volunteers will continue the social mobilization activities.

The planned action will be implemented in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF and local authorities.

The visibility of the Red Crescent and the the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) will be promoted through banners with Red Crescent/ IFRC logos at vaccination points as well as through the distribution of printed materials on disaster awareness.

The total population of the targeted areas is 2,692,500 people (or 448,751 families). See below the details:

| Target Districts | Number of total population | Number of Families | Total number of children under 5 years old | Target Districts | Number of total population | Number of Families | Total number of children under 5 years old |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Rudaky           | 333,100                    | 55,517             | 79,944                                     | Rumy             | 154,200                    | 25,700             | 37,008                                     |
| Hissor           | 239,800                    | 39,967             | 57,552                                     | N. Khisrav       | 27,800                     | 4,633              | 6,672                                      |
| Tursun-zoda      | 233,200                    | 38,867             | 55,968                                     | Sarband          | 37,800                     | 6,300              | 9,072                                      |
| Vahdat           | 271,500                    | 45,250             | 65,160                                     | Pyanj            | 96,500                     | 16,083             | 23,160                                     |
| Fayzabad         | 80,600                     | 13,433             | 19,344                                     | Bokhtar          | 212,300                    | 35,383             | 50,952                                     |
| Shahrinav        | 94,500                     | 15,750             | 22,680                                     | Vakhsh           | 149,200                    | 24,867             | 35,808                                     |
| Varzob           | 63,200                     | 10,533             | 15,168                                     | Jilikul          | 90,700                     | 15,117             | 21,768                                     |
| Kabadiyan        | 141,200                    | 23,533             | 33,888                                     | Kurgan-Tube      | 71,500                     | 11,917             | 17,160                                     |
| Shahrituz        | 99,900                     | 16,650             | 23,976                                     | Khovaling        | 47,300                     | 7,883              | 11,352                                     |
| Jomy             | 73,100                     | 12,184             | 31,392                                     | Vose             | 175,100                    | 29,183             | 42,024                                     |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>1,630,100</b>           | <b>271,684</b>     | <b>405,072</b>                             | <b>Total</b>     | <b>1,062,400</b>           | <b>177,066</b>     | <b>254,976</b>                             |

## Emergency health

**Objective 1: To contribute to the high coverage of the national polio vaccination campaign through community mobilization.**

### Activities planned:

- Conduct meetings and round tables with all stakeholders
- Recruit 400 volunteers to conduct assessment, mobilization and door-to-door sensitization of the population
- Participate as external observers at vaccination points
- Carry out monitoring and evaluation of all activities
- Monitor the three rounds of the national immunization campaign jointly with WHO, the Ministry of Health and UNICEF, contributing to a high coverage of the target population

## Communication and cooperation

**Objective 2: To raise public awareness through community health promotion, information and media campaigns; including the distribution of information and communication materials to 2,692,500 beneficiaries in 20 districts of Tajikistan.**

### Activities planned:

- Mobilize district authorities and community leaders to support the public awareness campaign
- Contact beneficiary representatives, especially community leaders to conduct information campaign
- Produce and distribute information, education and communication materials (posters and leaflets)
- Use different channels of communication including local newspapers, TV and radio for hard-to-reach groups (such as people living in remote areas)
- Perform interpersonal communication to raise awareness in the most remote areas

## Budget

### BUDGET SUMMARY

| Budget Group                                   | DREF Grant Budget | TOTAL BUDGET CHF |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
| Clothing & Textiles                            | 19,200            | 19,200           |
| Water & Sanitation                             | 2,040             | 2,040            |
| Medical & First Aid                            | 3,720             | 3,720            |
| Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements | 5,200             | 5,200            |
| <b>Total Supplies</b>                          | <b>30,160</b>     | <b>30,160</b>    |
| Distribution & Monitoring                      | 6,400             | 6,400            |
| Transport & Vehicle Costs                      | 6,400             | 6,400            |
| <b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>           | <b>12,800</b>     | <b>12,800</b>    |
| National Society Staff                         | 74,992            | 74,992           |
| <b>Total Personnel</b>                         | <b>74,992</b>     | <b>74,992</b>    |
| Workshops & Training                           | 12,887            | 12,887           |
| <b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>          | <b>12,887</b>     | <b>12,887</b>    |
| Travel   | 52,900            | 52,900           |
| Information & Public Relation                  | 58,000            | 58,000           |
| Office Costs                                   | 100               | 100              |
| Communications                                 | 2,500             | 2,500            |
| <b>Total General Expenditure</b>               | <b>113,500</b>    | <b>113,500</b>   |
| Program Support                                | 15,882            | 15,882           |
| <b>Total Programme Support</b>                 | <b>15,882</b>     | <b>15,882</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>                            | <b>260,221</b>    | <b>260,221</b>   |

## How we work

All International Federation 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 International Federation'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 International Federation'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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