

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tajikistan: Floods and mudslides

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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.

Period covered by this update: 13 May to 2 June 2010.

Summary: CHF 184,879 (USD 167,613 or EUR 129,833) has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 200 families (1,200 people) and to replenish emergency stocks. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.



Red Crescent volunteers distributing food items provided by WFP. Photo: Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan

Heavy rainfall on 7 May 2010 resulted in floods and mudslides in the southern part of Tajikistan affecting 10 districts, including Vose, Muminabad, Temurmaliq, Baljuvon and Shurabad districts and Kulyab town of Kulyab region, as well as Nurek, J. Rumi, Yovon and Jilikul districts of Kurgan-tube region.

According to the detailed assessment conducted by the Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES), Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) partners and the Tajikistan Red Crescent regional branches, the number of houses affected by the disaster in Khatlon province is 1,068 houses (or 6,408 people), out of which 388 houses were totally destroyed and 680 houses damaged and uninhabitable.

Up to date the National Society assisted 159 households (954 people) through the distribution of basic non-food items to help them cope with the consequences of the disaster. Also the 50 most affected households were provided with temporary shelter; the procurement of construction tools to support the reconstruction of the affected houses has started. Seventy families have already received hygiene kits, water cans and purification tablets, and the distribution of these items is ongoing. Information about the activities of the National Society was shared through the mass media.

This operation is expected to be implemented over four months, and will therefore be completed by 11 September; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 11 December 2010).

The European Commission's Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and the Netherlands Red Cross through its Silent Emergency Fund contributed EUR 80,000 (CHF 111,211) and 15,250 (CHF 21,357) respectively 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>

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The situation

The spring of 2010 has been characterized by unusually heavy precipitation triggering floods, landslides and mudflows in many districts of the country. Torrential rains hit East Khatlon on 7 May 2010; the surrounding rural areas including Vose, Muminabad, Temurmalik, Baljuvon, Dangara and Shurabad districts and Kulyab town of Kulyab region, as well as Nurek, J. Rumi, Yovon and Jilikul districts of Kurgan-tube region were heavily affected.

A detailed assessment, conducted by the Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES), Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) partners and the Tajikistan Red Crescent regional branches showed that the number of houses affected by the disaster in Khatlon province is 1,068 houses (or 6,408 people), out of which 388 houses were totally destroyed and 680 houses damaged and uninhabitable. Forty people were killed, 33 remain missing and 300 were severely injured by the floods. Only in Kulyab town about 4,500 children, women and men were displaced since their houses were destroyed or severely damaged by torrents of water, stones and debris. In total, 16,000 people were directly affected by the disaster: some had their houses destroyed, others lost their livelihoods when their crops and agricultural land were buried under mud and rocks or their livestock were killed. Some 70,000 people were affected in their access to safe drinking water. Social and other infrastructure was severely damaged.

The government responded rapidly to the emergency with support of the international community and REACT partners through search and rescue operations and evacuation of the affected families. Within a week three tent camps were set up in Kulyab town to accommodate 4,500 people displaced by the floods. Medical care was provided to injured people. Heavy machinery was made available to help the cleaning of mud, rocks and rubble in the affected areas and to repair or reinforce river banks. The government has further allocated land for resettlement of the affected families and is in the process of finalizing a master plan for the new site. The private sector and individuals made generous donations. REACT partners distributed relief items and helped to install safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in the camps.

The official request on international assistance was issued by the government on 12 May 2010. The REACT appeal to respond to this request and to address the priority outstanding humanitarian needs was launched on 19 May 2010. (For more information please refer to www.untj.org)

Coordination and partnerships

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan is closely coordinating its activities with the local government and authorities as well as REACT forum members for smooth running of the operations.

Until the beginning of June, two shelter and non-food items cluster coordination meetings were convened by the International Federation's country representation in Tajikistan with participation of CoES, ACTED, Mission East, UNDP and UNDRMP to elaborate the sector strategy and response plan. The sector strategy and plan were developed and included in the REACT flood appeal.

The overall responsibility for the coordination of the response activities was under the leadership of REACT. The REACT website, www.untj.org, was used as a tool for information exchange, communication and monitoring of the response.

REACT operates through clusters and the cluster lead organizations are responsible for coordinating and monitoring implementation in their respective sectors:

- Child protection and education – UNICEF and Save the Children
- Food security and livelihoods – WFP and FAO
- Health – WHO
- Shelter/Non-food items – IFRC/ Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan
- Water and sanitation – UNICEF

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan immediately responded to this emergency by activating two national disaster response teams (NDRT), including the deployment of local disaster committee members, and establishing a plan of action for this DREF operation. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan staff and volunteers were mobilized in the affected branches to conduct damage and needs assessments in coordination with REACT, CoES and local authorities.

The main focus of the response activities was in Kulyab, the mostly affected town, where the disaster response coordinator and the emergency officer from the headquarters of the National Society were temporarily based.

The tent camps were set up on 8 May 2010 and the National Society's first aid and operational points started functioning from the first day.

The head of the governmental emergency commission and REACT partners agreed that the Red Crescent Society with support of CoES will be responsible for camp management. In order to enhance the camp management capacity of the Red Crescent Society's response teams, a specialist on camp management was deployed from IFRC's Europe zone office to support them in management activities and coordination. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan conducted daily monitoring in all three tent camps and the gathered information was shared with response agencies to provide further humanitarian aid and to meet the needs of the people living in tents. The distribution of the food and non-food items received from different agencies was also implemented through volunteers of the National Society and NDRT members.

Evacuation of the population from the tent camps to the newly allocated land around the town started on 24 May 2010 and the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan also relocated its operational and first-aid point to be able to directly support the people in need.

The National Society is continuing to monitor the situation in close coordination with REACT partners and CoES.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: The 200 most affected households are provided with appropriate non-food relief items to help them cope with the consequences of the disaster.

Activities planned:

- Complete joint needs assessment in Kulyab and Kurgan-tube regions.
- Complete the beneficiary lists according to the criteria agreed with local authorities and partners.
- Finalize the distributions in all selected districts.
- Provide technical and financial support in logistics, warehousing, and distribution and controlling supply movements.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and produce reports on relief distributions.
- Conduct beneficiary satisfaction survey in all targeted areas to find out what people reached thought about the operation and whether their needs were met.

Progress:

The joint needs assessment was completed on 14 May and the list of beneficiaries was prepared according to previously agreed criteria with local authorities and responding agencies. According to the list, the Red Crescent Society has already distributed non-food items to 159 households (954 people) in Kulyab town, Shurobod, Muminobod, Jilikul, J.Rumy, Nurek and Yovon districts.

The procurement of non-food items meant for the replenishment of the emergency stocks in Kurgan-tube and Kulyab disaster management centres and the central warehouse in Dushanbe is ongoing and is expected to be completed by mid-June 2010.

Item	Number
Blankets	6
Matresses	6
Bed linen	6 sets
Pillows	6
Kitchen sets	1 set

Emergency shelter

Objective: The 200 most affected households have construction tools to support the reconstruction of their houses; out of them the 50 most affected households are provided with temporary shelter.

Activities planned:

- Complete joint needs assessment in Kulyab and Kurgan-tube regions.
- Complete the beneficiary lists according to the criteria agreed with local authorities and partners.
- Provide 50 displaced households with tents in Kulyab town.
- Provide 200 households with construction tool kits including hammer, saw, nail driver, hand plane, spirit level, crowbar, sledge hammer, metal bucket, 10 mm rope 10 m long, string line, pliers, tin snips, axes, pick axes).
- Procure relief items and replenish the disaster preparedness stock with 50 tents and non-food items for 200 households in Dushanbe, Kurgan-tube and Kulyab warehouses.

Progress:

At the first stage of the response activities 50 households were provided with tents in Kulyab town in tent camp number 1. Taking into consideration the needs of the population and the request from the government, the National Society provided 20 additional tents to the affected population with support of German Red Cross.

Procurement of construction tools for distribution to the 200 most affected families is under process and is planned to be completed by mid-June when the reconstruction activities start.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: The risk of water-borne and water-related diseases is reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion to 200 displaced families (1,200 people).

Activities planned:

- Procure and distribute 200 hygiene kits to the 200 most affected households.
- Provide water storage facilities and water purification tablets for 200 households for one month.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and produce reports on distributions.

Progress:

In total, 70 households were provided with hygiene kits, water cans and purification tablets by the beginning of June. The distribution is going on in both regions and will be completed by mid-June.

Communication and cooperation

Objective: Timely sharing and analysis of information about the Red Crescent activities with the affected communities, REACT and other stakeholders contributes to effective communication and cooperation during the response operation.

Activities planned:

- Provide communication and coordination support to the Red Crescent Society's disaster management, health and care and information officers.
- Post articles on newspapers and web-sites.
- Provide the mass media with information to be disseminated through TV channels and radio.

Progress:

Two coordination meetings were conducted among National Society departments to improve the coordination and communication among them. The main objective of the meetings was to develop an integrated response to disasters with effective cooperation and communication.

During the Red Crescent response activities, relevant articles and information were published in the local newspaper "Hakikati Kulob". The National Society's activities were also broadcasted in national (TV 1, Jahonnamo and Safina), Central Asian regional (K+) and Khatlon oblast TV channels.

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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