

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Uzbekistan: Population Movement

Emergency appeal n° MDRUZ002
GLIDE n° OT-2010-000113-UZB
Operations update n° 1
13 August 2010

Period covered by this Ops Update: 15 July 2010 - 12 August 2010

Appeal target (current): CHF 1,166,159 (USD 1,107,423 or EUR 864,904) in cash, kind, or services to support the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society which provided assistance to tens of thousands of refugees from Kyrgyzstan in June and July 2010. The revised appeal will cover the period of six months and will be completed by the end of December 2010. A Final Report will be made available by 31 March 2011, three months after the end of the operation.

Appeal coverage: 99 per cent as of 13 August 2010 [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched, on a preliminary basis, on 16 June 2010 for 6 months to assist 24,000 beneficiaries.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 300,000 was initially allocated from the International Federation's DREF to support the National Society response to the looming crises caused by the arrival of almost 100,000 refugees from the neighbouring Kyrgyzstan.
- Given the quick change of the situation in Kyrgyzstan and return by 24 June 2010 of the majority of refugees back to their homes, the Emergency Appeal and the initial plan of action were to be revised with the subsequent operational budget adjustment. Revised Emergency Appeal, including revised budget, was issued on 15 July 2010.

Summary: Violent clashes in the south of Kyrgyzstan started on 10 June 2010 resulted in massive population movement towards and across the Uzbekistan border. An estimated number of 92,000 refugees were registered in Uzbekistan and accommodated in camps in the areas of Andijan, Namangan and Fergana. The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan (Uzbekistan Red Crescent), acting as an auxiliary to the public authorities, was immediately engaged in the provision of relief assistance to the people who were arriving from the neighbouring Kyrgyzstan.

In response to this emergency situation, the International Federation deployed field assessment and coordination team (FACT) to Uzbekistan, issued a preliminary Emergency Appeal for the total of CHF 4,15 million, made a DREF allocation of CHF 300,000 and arranged for the delivery of emergency non-food items by air-freight from Dubai and Helsinki (via the Finnish RC) to Uzbekistan.

Two relief flights organized by the International Federation arrived to Uzbekistan from Dubai on 20 June carrying non-food items, a combination of in-kind donations from a number of partner National Societies



Branch chairman and volunteers are loading the last truck from Andijan at midnight. Photo: Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan

(Canadian, British, and Danish Red Cross Societies). To support the Federation appeal the Finnish Red Cross sent a consignment of similar goods that arrived on 23 June.

An airplane with food and non-food items, donated by the Turkish RC, arrived in Andijan on 23 June too.

All measures to ensure timely and effective meeting the needs of the growing number of refugees arriving from Kyrgyzstan to Uzbekistan were taken by the Federation Secretariat as required. In the meantime the general political situation in Kyrgyzstan started to change allowing the population of Kyrgyzstan to quickly return to their homes in Jalal-Abad and Osh regions (oblasts). On 24 June the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan announced that all refugees had returned to Kyrgyzstan and that no further assistance was required. With that announcement the components of the Movement as well as other international organisations halted their operations and began a reassessment of their role and plans in a new situation.

On 15 July 2010 the International Federation revised its emergency appeal on behalf the Uzbekistan Red Crescent. The revised appeal has been aimed to help the Uzbekistan Red Crescent to replenish the stocks of relief supplies fully utilised during the emergency phase to meet the acute needs of refugees in June, to enhance its capacity to respond to the sudden population movement emergencies, and to assist the National Society in positioning itself as a competent and capable institution to respond in crises situations.

The situation

According to the report of the State Border Service in Kyrgyzstan 74,320 refugees, or the majority of them, returned to Kyrgyzstan by 25 June 2010. The Government of Uzbekistan informed international organisations involved in the efforts to support the refugees from Kyrgyzstan that their contributions had been highly appreciated, but no further assistance was needed.

Up to date there have been no further official reports regarding refugee movement across the border with Kyrgyzstan. Still there have been estimates that a considerable number of Uzbek ethnic minority population that fled the clashes in south of Kyrgyzstan in June 2010 has remained in Uzbekistan with host families. Their number is difficult to determine as they have not been registered when they were crossing the border (no visa requirements exists between the two countries).

Nevertheless, in full cooperation with the Uzbekistan Red Crescent, the International Federation proposed that part of the relief items delivered to Uzbekistan by the International Federation in response to the sudden and massive arrival of refugees from Kyrgyzstan should be used to replenish the exhausted stocks of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent, while the other part should be relocated to Kyrgyzstan to support the needs of returnees - houses of hundreds of them have been either totally destroyed or severely damaged.

On 27 July the Government of Uzbekistan informed the Uzbekistan Red Crescent and the International Federation about its support to the transfer of part of the relief consignment received through the Federation in Uzbekistan to Kyrgyzstan. It also ensured the opening of humanitarian corridor and collaboration of all relevant authorities to complete the transfer of relief supplies to Kyrgyzstan.

On 6 August, after completion of all the necessary preparatory work, a convoy made up of three trucks carried the allocated part of goods (38 mt) to Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society branch warehouse in Osh.

Coordination and partnerships

In order to ensure proper co-ordination of Movement action in responding to the humanitarian needs of the refugees in Uzbekistan the Director of Europe Zone made a brief visit to Uzbekistan. She met in Tashkent with representatives of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the National Society leadership, the International Federation team, the ICRC, representatives of UN and other international organisations present in Uzbekistan.

To further support these efforts, and to assist the Uzbekistan Red Crescent in developing its role as an auxiliary to the public authorities, building on the good and constructive co-operation established during the crisis, it has been agreed with the National Society that the International Federation is to continue to be present in Tashkent through reopening of its permanent office initially for a period of 12 months. For that purpose after the departure of the FACT team deployed during the emergency phase the team leader remained in country to ensure appropriate

follow up to the outstanding issues related to the current and future Federation cooperation with the National Society.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

After the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan announced on 24 June that majority of refugees had returned to Kyrgyzstan and following the agreement between the Uzbekistan Red Crescent and Director of Europe, the FACT team revised its plan of action. Based on the analysis of the situation at that time and on possible developments it had been decided that there was no need for full scale team to remain in country. Thus, based on the ongoing tasks of team members, within a couple of days the team was gradually dissolved and only the team leader remained in the country.

Progress towards objectives ¹

Logistics

Outcome: Mobilized humanitarian goods are transferred to Kyrgyzstan to follow the intended beneficiaries of international assistance and allocated to the Uzbekistan Red Crescent for enhancing its preparedness stocks and replenishment of own supplies which have been used to support refugees from Kyrgyzstan.

Progress:

While awaiting a response from the Government of Uzbekistan to its proposal on how the goods delivered to Uzbekistan as part of the emergency response will be utilised, the International Federation representative in Tashkent worked on a detailed overview of the goods to be transferred to Kyrgyzstan and of those to be handed over to the Uzbekistan Red Crescent headquarters in Tashkent and branches in the regions of Andijan, Namangan and Fergana. The overview has been based on understanding of the obligation to replenish the used preparedness stocks of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent and the need to honour donor's position. After the overview had been completed, the International Federation asked the Government of Uzbekistan for the assistance in smooth transferring of the relief consignment by opening a humanitarian corridor to Kyrgyzstan.

On 27 July the Government of Uzbekistan through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the Uzbekistan Red Crescent and the International Federation that it was in agreement with the proposed plan and that all the necessary support would be provided by relevant government departments to transfer the humanitarian consignment to Kyrgyzstan. On 1 August a small team consisting of the Federation representative in Tashkent, logistics officer from Federation Regional office in Almaty and Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan disaster management coordinator from Tashkent were deployed to Andijan to assist the local branch in organising the transfer of the defined relief supplies to Osh in Kyrgyzstan.

On 2 August, while starting to work with customs officials it appeared that no customs clearance was completed for any of Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement humanitarian goods upon their arrival to country. However, in a joint effort all the documentation was completed within two days but this delayed the actual movement of the consignment to Kyrgyzstan.

Early morning on 6 August three trucks with relief supplies, escorted by the International Federation vehicle, left from Andijan towards the Uzbekistan/Kyrgyzstan border. The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent and International Federation staff from Osh were waiting for the consignment at the Kyrgyz side of the border to facilitate the customs clearance process and to provide Red Crescent escort to Osh. Crossing both border posts went without accidents; the relief goods were delivered and offloaded in the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent warehouse in Osh.

¹ Please see the Emergency Appeal launched on 15 July 2010 for a complete overview on outcomes, outputs and activities

| Commodity | Blankets | Jerry cans | Kitchen sets | Tents | Hygiene parcels |
|---|----------|------------|--------------|-------|-----------------|
| Unit | pcs | pcs | sets | pcs | pcs |
| Quantities delivered from Dubai and Helsinki to Andijan on 20.06.2010 | 14,390 | 5,160 | 6,596 | 204 | 3000 |
| Quantities distributed through the available distribution channels and left in Tashkent and Andijan to replenish the used preparedness stocks | 8,385 | 5,160* | 3,606 | 204* | 750 |
| Quantities transferred to Kyrgyzstan | 6,005 | | 2,990 | | 2,250 |

Table 1- Uzbekistan Red Crescent replenishment stocks and goods transferred to Kyrgyzstan

The International Federation and the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan are in process of following up the information regarding the distribution of these relief supplies with relevant Government authorities

Capacity building

Outcome: The implementation of plans and activities aimed at building response capacity of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent Society has been intensified in the core areas of disaster management planning, organisational preparedness, community preparedness and disaster risk reduction.

Progress:

While the Uzbekistan Red Crescent responded well during the emergency phase of refugee influx to Uzbekistan the follow up mission of International Federation representatives and discussions with Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan and ICRC identified three main issues that need to be addressed in the nearest future:

- Re-opening of the blocked National Society's foreign currency bank account.
- Adoption of Red Crescent Law in the Parliament of Uzbekistan
- Restarting the Uzbekistan Red Crescent programmes frozen for the last 18 months due to blocked foreign currency bank account

The re-opening of permanent Federation office should facilitate the process of strengthening the Uzbekistan Crescent Society as an auxiliary to the public authorities with the aim to become the leading humanitarian agency in the country.

The process will require close cooperation and coordination between all three components of the Movement and ensuring it would be one of the main tasks of Federation representative in Tashkent. Further steps in this process should be realistic, carefully planned, and adapted to the present capacity of National Society. To ensure longer term and sustainable growth of the National Society the dependence on international funding should be gradually decreased and relevant mechanisms and tools should be developed to find access to local funding.

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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