

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Russia: Forest Fire Imminent Crisis

**DREF operation n° MDRRU011**  
**GLIDE n° WF-2011-000065-RUS**  
**10 June 2011**

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of unearmarked 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.

CHF 33,015 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Russian Red Cross (RRC) in performing assessments in the high risk areas where the forest wild fires threaten the population's livelihoods.

This assessment mission is expected to be implemented over one month, and will therefore be completed on 13 July 2011; a Final Report will be available and made public immediately on the completion of the mission. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

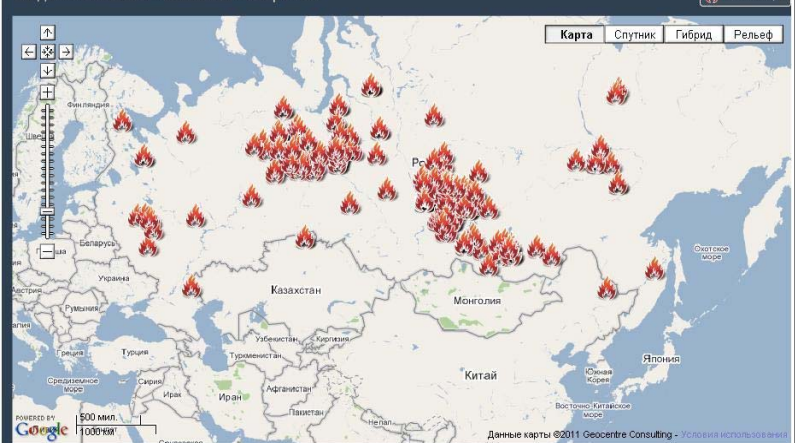
**Summary:** Since April 2011, the Russian government has been implementing an emergency forest fire assistance contingency plan. 142 hotbeds of wildfires with the total area 5,139.85 hectares have been registered in the Russian Federation mainly in Siberia and the Far East but rapidly spreading to the Urals and European regions within last twenty four hours. 127 hotbeds within the area of 3,855.05 hectares have been extinguished. 185 hotbeds, including those that emerged earlier and 16 large ones continue burning. The area of active burning is 342.43 hectares.

According to the authorities, approximately seven million residents live in the areas prone to extreme forest fire conditions that can impact not only their livelihoods but can severely affect their health conditions as well. This DREF allocation will support the Russian Red Cross to assess the necessary preparedness activities and reinforce their capacity to develop an early action in an imminent crisis. As the situation evolves in the country, the Russian Red Cross Society may consider a DREF extension to cover future response activities.

This DREF is reflecting the first step to address the imminent crisis, and as the situation evolves in the country, the Russian Red Cross Society would consider a DREF extension to cover future response activities.

### Природные пожары на территории России в 2011 году

По данным космического мониторинга



Wild fires in Russia. According to space monitoring data.

Photo: RIA Novosti

<http://eco.rian.ru/ecoinfogr/20110425/368006452.html>

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

## The situation

The wildfires season in 2011 started earlier than usual and is imposing an even greater danger than last year when around 56,000 people were estimated to have died from the effects of the smog and heat wave<sup>1</sup>. So far, the most acute scenario is unfolding in the south of Siberia and Far East, in the Republics of Tyva, Yakutiya, Buryatia, and in Krasnoyarsk, Irkutsk and Khabarovsk Kray (regions). The Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations (EMERCOM) has issued a warning about impending disaster to take place in the European part of Russia where the woods are full of tree trunks broken during the icy rain in the winter and resemble a 'tinder box'. The state forest service acknowledges the problem but pledges to clean the woods only in two or three months. The State Meteorological Service issued the weather forecast for the summer 2011, assuming with a 72% likelihood that air temperatures will again be higher than average.

The current situation is worse than that in May 2010; the area covered by fires is 181,084,94 hectares which is by 38% larger than in 2010. Peat bogs around Moscow are beginning to burn. As of 6 June 2011, the area covered by the wild fires in Siberia is daily expanding by 1,000 ha, now covering The Republics of Buryatiya, Yakutiya, Krasnoyarskiy kray, Irkutskaya oblast and the region of the Far East. Numerous wild fires have been registered in the Urals region. Some forest fires are being registered in the European part of Russia – in the Vladimir, Moscow and Yaroslavl regions. The situation of "extreme fire hazard" is noted in Astrakhan, Voronezh and Kalmykiya regions.

Heavy smog and respiratory problems can be just some of the health effects of the wild fires especially if those are combined with extreme heat wave as it happened in 2010. At that time the combination of the smoke from the fires and the resulting heavy smog blanketing large urban regions and the record-breaking heat wave put stress on the Russian healthcare system.

## Coordination and partnerships

Since the beginning of the crisis the Russian Red Cross has been coordinating its activities on development of a plan of action with the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations (EMERCOM). The Russian Red Cross regional branches are participating in municipal meetings in order to coordinate their actions and avoid duplication of efforts.

Furthermore the Russian Red Cross signed an agreement in February 2011 with the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations (EMERCOM), where the two parties pledged to provide assistance to the affected population in emergency situations.

The International Federation's Zone Office and the IFRC Moscow Regional Representation have been in constant communication with the Russian Red Cross Society to coordinate all the activities that might be required to assist with the forest fire crisis. An IFRC Assessment Team consisting of a team leader, a disaster manager, an RDRT health specialist and a liaison officer from the IFRC Moscow Regional Representation will be deployed in Russia to provide support and assistance in the development of a plan of action in close collaboration with the Russian Red Cross and IFRC Moscow Regional Representation.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In 2010, the Russian Red Cross actively responded to the consequences of the forest fire since the outbreak of the crisis using the support from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund<sup>2</sup>.

Relief items were delivered to 1,708 severely affected families in the six most effected regions: Moscow, Nizhniy Novgorod, Kirov, Ivanovo, Ryazan and Voronezh. The Russian Red Cross branches were active in providing information to the general public on safety rules. National Society branches supported the fire-

<sup>1</sup> Based on information from GREENPEACE and EMERCOM

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRRU008do.pdf>

fighting units of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and other specialized agencies in assisting the affected population by distributing relief goods to the most affected citizens. The Russian Red Cross provided direct assistance to 5,067 people who lost their homes and basic livelihoods.

On the basis of the signed Memorandum of Understanding, the Russian Red Cross Society initiated contacts with the Ministry of Emergency Situations (EMERCOM) inquiring about the required support that might be rendered by the Russian Red Cross. It has also requested the Federation Secretariat to support its preparation activities. The Russian Red Cross is ready to start preparations for the wild fire season in 2011 in order to ensure a timely response operation.

## The needs

This DREF allocation will enable the Russian Red Cross, supported by the Federation Europe Zone Office and IFRC Moscow Regional Representation, to initiate rapid and more in-depth assessment of the situation, analyse the scope and urgency of the potential needs and develop the plan of response action including the contingencies. The plan of action will also address the capacities and the needs to train staff and volunteers of the Russian Red Cross to support the possible complex emergency operation. The DREF allocation will also cover deployment of IFRC mission for rapid assessment.

## The proposed operation

<b>Damage and need assessments</b>
<b>Objective 1:</b> RRC and IFRC team members will perform hazard and risk assessments in the regions affected by the forest fires and will elaborate a response plan.
<b>Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:</b>
<p>A response plan will be elaborated to react to the needs of those people who are most vulnerable to the forest fires.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 meetings with the regional (oblast) branches will be held to analyze the 2010 Forest Fire operations and to plan the new operations;</li> <li>• Conduct a meeting with the Government and other stakeholders;</li> <li>• Conduct emergency hazard and risk assessments in the field;</li> <li>• Elaborate a response plan;</li> <li>• Update the Russian Red Cross Contingency Plan.</li> </ul>

An assessment framework will provide the overall strategic priorities and will identify those sectors that the Russian Red Cross chooses to work in: “where and how we work with disaster affected communities, both rural and urban”.

The Team shall review all existing information relevant to the current operation lead by the Ministry of Emergency Situations (EMERCOM). The Russian Red Cross has a key role to play in the assessment planning and implementation of any action in the country. The Staff of the National Society will play an active role in the assessment and contribute with their knowledge at all levels, including branch level. Additional information will be collected through field visits and will include observation, interviews, and focus group discussions with key stakeholders. The primary source of information will be given by the collected data using participatory approaches with community members.

## 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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[<DREF budget below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Total Supplies	0	0
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0
Total Transport & Storage	0	0
International Staff	2,000	2,000
Regionally Deployed Staff	7,000	7,000
National Staff	0	0
National Society Staff	1,500	1,500
Other Staff benefits	0	0
Consultants		0
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>10,500</b>
Workshops & Training	10,000	10,000
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
Travel	8,500	8,500
Information & Public Relation (Visibility)	0	0
Office Costs	500	500
Communications	1,500	1,500
Professional Fees		0
Financial Charges	0	0
Other General Expenses		0
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>10,500</b>
<b>Total Contributions &amp; Transfers</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Program Support	2,015	2,015
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>2,015</b>	<b>2,015</b>
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>33,015</b>	<b>33,015</b>