

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

KAZAKHSTAN: FLOODS

18 May, 2001

Information Bulletin N° 1/01

DREF Allocated: CHF 50,000

This Information Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting information available at this time. A DREF allocation of CHF 50,000 has been released, and based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation on behalf of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent and Red Cross Society will consider international support through an Appeal. Support to the operation or to repay the DREF may be directed to the Federation Bank Account: UBS S.A./Geneva-Swift: UBSW CH ZH 12A, Account: 240-CØ 128346. On-line funding: www.ifrc.org.

The Situation

Excessive snow melt and rains in east Kazakhstan resulted in heavy flooding of the Kurchum, Bukhtarma, Uba and Ulba rivers, affecting 6 rayons and Ust-Kamenogorsk city, the capital of eastern Kazakhstan (a total of 24 inhabited localities). On the night of 13 May 13, some 904 houses were flooded, affecting some 3,668 people (937 families), including some 1,163 people displaced. Water destroyed 3 dams, 5 bridges, power lines, roads and other infrastructure. An emergency situation was announced on 16 May by the government for 7 rayons and Ust-Kamenogorsk. Information on two more rayons is to follow. Water level in eight rivers maintain at the critical level. Forecasts for high temperatures and intensive precipitation indicate that the situation may deteriorate.

The entire Burobai settlement was washed away by flood waters. The majority of inhabitants (546 people, 168 families) are placed in an emergency camp of 34 tents, others are settled with their friends and relatives in the vicinity. Local authorities report one casualty; the overall situation remains unstable. Though the exact number of affected population and scale of the damage is still being calculated by the National Society, it is already clear that this year's disaster exceeds last year's flooding in Kostanay.

Local authorities put their main efforts into dams reinforcement and infrastructure reconstruction. The Agency for Emergencies deployed an ambulance station to assist the displaced and the affected population. Some 42 people are hospitalised with different pulmonary, heart, and infectious diseases. Due to the lack of potable water as well as to the fact that there are dead bodies of domestic animals floating in the flooded areas, there is a serious threat of infectious diseases outbreak. One acute intestinal case has already been registered at the camp. Food for displaced population in the camp is being collected from the neighbouring settlements.

The National Society has commenced a rapid disaster response operation and needs assessment, which will be followed by an Emergency Appeal.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

CHF 50,000 has been allocated from the Federation Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to cover the immediate needs of the displaced population such as food, medicines, mattresses, hygiene sets and other supplies. The National Red Crescent and Red Cross Society released **20 MT** of the following relief items from its disaster preparedness stocks in Almaty:

Item	Units	Quantity
Used clothing	kg	2,160
Quilts	pieces	300
Mattresses	pieces	100
Bed linen	sets	80
Tents/Alternative shelter	pieces	50
Water cans	pieces	100
Stoves	pieces	10
Kitchen sets	sets	20
Candles	pieces	1,500
Chlorine tablets	packages	500
Detergent	packages	200
Toilet soap	pieces	300

Three emergency response teams formed by two Red Cross branches (East Kazakhstan and Semipalatinsk) are leaving to the field on May, 18. The task so far has been to deliver basic food supplies and clothing to the affected community and to compile a detailed and inclusive needs assessment. The Oblast Committee has distributed the following food and non-food supplies to meet immediate needs:

Food supplies	Units	Quantity
Rice	kg	200
Sugar	kg	200
Wheat flour	kg	200
Vegetable oil	kg	280
Non-food supplies		
Used clothing	kg	500
Quilts	pieces	70
Toilet soap	pieces	216

Table below reflects the preliminary calculations for the intended operation:

Item	Quantity
Food items (wheat flour, sugar, grains, pasta, vegetable oil, rice)	75 MT
Medical emergency kits (for 1,000 people for 2 weeks)	1,000 kits
Mattresses	900 pieces
Quilts	1,800 pieces
Bed linen	1,800 sets
Hygienic family sets	1,000 sets

The local government organised the evacuation of people and domestic animals affected by the disaster, providing transport and other resources to resettle them, and ensuring security in the area. The government has also issued a decree releasing 7.5 million tenge (around 50,000 USD) for dams reinforcement and infrastructure reconstruction. As a principal emergency response agency operating in the field, the National Society maintains close contacts with the Agency for Emergencies and local administration.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

For further details please contact :

- *The Kazakhstan National Society in Almaty; Phone: (3272) 91 92 91; 91 61 01; Fax: 91 81 72; E-mail: kazrc@aport2000.ru*
- *Federation's Regional Delegation for Central Asia, Phone: (3272) 91 41 56; 91 41 67; 91 88 38; 91 80 63; Fax: 91 42 67; E-mail: ifrckz01@ifrc.org*
- *Susanna Soderstrom, Central Asia Desk Officer, Phone 41 22 730 44 24; Fax 41 22 733 0395; E-mail: soderstr@ifrc.org*

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head, a.i.
Relationship Management Department

Martin Faller
Head a.i.
Europe Department