

# Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Georgia: Demonstrations

<b>DREF Operation n°</b> MDRGE013	<b>Glide n°</b> <a href="#">OT-2019-000073-GEO</a>
<b>Date of issue:</b> 4 July 2019	<b>Expected timeframe:</b> 3 months <b>Expected end date:</b> 3 October 2019
<b>Date of the crisis:</b> 20 June 2019	
<b>Category allocated to the crisis:</b> <b>Yellow</b> (imminent)	
<b>DREF allocated:</b> CHF 38,138	
<b>Total number of people affected:</b> 240 individuals were reported to be injured out of which 80 are police.	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> 80 volunteers and 19 HQ staff of the GRCS are prepared to assist at least 2000 persons with first aid, PSS and other services as need arises.
<b>Host National Society presence:</b> Georgia Red Cross Society (GRCS) HQ with 9 HQ staff and 80 volunteers	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> Emergency Management Agency of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour, Health, and Social Affairs	

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

On 20 June 2019, citizens of Georgia have blocked Rustaveli Avenue in front of the Parliament. The above was initially resisted by law enforcement officers, but later they allowed protesters to block the road. The protests started against the fact that a Russian member of Parliament presided over the session of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy in the Parliament of Georgia<sup>1</sup>. Demonstrations have since been ongoing - involving the gathering of several thousand people every night - and may be ongoing for an indefinite time until a satisfactory solution is found.

20 June saw clashes taking place between protesters and police, as the latter was not letting the demonstrators to enter the parliament building. The confrontation started when protesters tried to push through the police cordon. Police used water cannons, tear gas, rubber bullets and rubber slugs<sup>2</sup> to disperse



Image 1: Clashes on Rustaveli street. Photo: Interpressnews.

<sup>1</sup> The Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy constitutes a permanent communication structure between parliamentarians of the members' states, aiming at unity in diversity of Orthodox Christians on the basis of the principles and values of Christianity and democracy.

<sup>2</sup> "Javelin Law Enforcement Projectile" see description here: <https://www.firequest.com/NL122.html>

the demonstrators. In total 240 people were injured and taken to hospital. The situation might continue for a prolonged period, as the protesters state that they are going to stay on the streets until their demands are met.

### **Summary of the current response**

Since the clashes between the demonstration participants and the police have started, the Georgia Red Cross Society has activated its contingency plan according to the role stipulated by the Civil Safety National Plan, called for the Task Force meeting and elaborated a plan of action to respond to emerging needs.

The Secretary General of the Georgia Red Cross Society, in her capacity as Task Force Leader is in contact with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, with the Emergency Unit of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories and with the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, which has reactivated mobile units to help those who might get injured during the demonstration. The Ministry recommended the Georgia Red Cross Society to support with additional mobile units if needed - in case clashes will take place again.



**Image 2:** GRCS Disaster Response Team mobilized in the HQ office. *Photo: GRCS.*

The Georgia Red Cross Society has formed three mobile units composed of volunteers and staff who are ready to respond 24/7 in case of need with first aid and psychosocial first aid to the people attending or participating in the demonstrations. The mobile units are distributing drinking water donated by the Georgia Red Cross Society's corporate partners. 12,500 bottles of water have been mobilized by the National Society Fund Raising team from EDS "Borjomi", "Bon Aqua", "SNO" for supporting people in need during the protest.

Volunteers and staff have been updated on safety and security rules of the Georgia Red Cross Society, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the mobile units' members. NS response included the following components: assembling of the Task Force (TF), communicating with state authorities, mobilizing volunteers, mobilizing drinking water from corporate donors, distribution of water.

### **Overview of Host National Society**

The GRCS is coordinating its assistance and activities with the national and local authorities. The National Society seeks to fulfil its auxiliary role to public authorities in the humanitarian field and its role as the sole Georgian humanitarian organization being included in the Civil Safety National Plan of Georgia. Close coordination and information sharing are maintained with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories and the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia.

Situation reports are shared regularly with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) representatives as well as with the representatives of the Red Cross Societies of Denmark and Austria that are based in Georgia. By this time no support to the affected population is foreseen from the partner National Societies in Georgia.

In the affected area (Tbilisi), the Georgia Red Cross Society is taking the lead among Movement partners in the response, and is sharing information about its work with IFRC and the ICRC as well as with NGOs working in the Disaster Management field through regular updates on the situation (SitRep) and the planned activities to avoid any duplication of activities.

## Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Georgia Red Cross Society Disaster Management Department is constantly sharing information with non-state actors in Georgia working in the Disaster Management field (Bridge innovation, RDFG, Save the Children, ASB, CENN, People in Need, Caritas, Salvation Army, etc.) on the on-going response activities conducted by the Government and the GRCS. Ambulances and medical staff are mobilized, but there is additional need in first aid responders in case situation escalates. Psychosocial support will be provided by the Georgian RC only due to the NS positioning and capacity.

## Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

As the demonstrations are planned to continue for an indefinite time and are taking place every day since the outbreak of the protests on 20 June 2019, the situation requires the Georgia Red Cross to be ready to provide - as and when needed - on-site first aid, evacuation to hospitals, psychosocial support and other services based on identified needs. Should the situation escalate, the Ministry of Health will require additional support from GRCS in provision of First Aid and PSS to the people affected. NS has an essential role to play in the casualty-care chain: evacuation of casualties from the scene of clashes (transported by stretchers or manual-carrying technique) and acting as an auxiliary to health-care professionals (ambulance service 112).

Considering the uncertainty of the situation, regular DREF updates will be provided to inform whether the DREF operation needs to increase or decrease.

GRCS First Aid (FA) volunteers are on standby and will also receive training and support from the Ukrainian Red Cross (under the RDRT scheme) who have experience in situations of unrest. PSS volunteers are also mobilized and are on stand-by.

There is a need to provide on-site training, guidance and support to the Georgia RC volunteer teams on key communication (internal and external) protocols, principles and actions in such situations. Ukrainian Red Cross has a vast experience in managing situations of unrest and demonstrations. It is therefore planned to invite at least two persons from the Ukrainian RC under the RDRT scheme to work closely with the Mobile Volunteer Units of the Georgia RC and with the Georgia RC HQ to develop a preparedness plan, elaborate SOP on civil unrest and share practical skills and knowledge. During a recent debrief analysing the response during the first days of demonstrations it was concluded by the NS Branches with support from the ICRC that these events represent an opportunity to enhance the NS's image. If it is well recognized and visible, this will facilitate a successful response. These situations emphasize the essential value of applying the Fundamental Principles and represent an opportunity to strengthen relevant practice to allow for safer access.

The following needs have also been identified to improve the response capacity of the Georgia RC in situations of mass manifestations and unrest:



**Image 3:** GRCS Team ready to distribute water to the demonstration participants. Photo: GRCS Communication Coordinator Anuki Talakhadze.

Needs for improvement of the response capacity of the National Society	Number / pcs.
Refresher first aid sessions for the GRCS mobile response teams on situations of mass events and manifestations (study group of 15 people, training period 2 days, 16 hours curriculum. Sessions to be provided by an expert in the Movement)	2
First aid kits and dressings to provide first aid to the population	5
Backpacks with Red Cross emblem for volunteers and staff on site	60
Visibility waistcoats for volunteers and staff	60

Flashlights	100
Helmets	100
Tents with RC emblem	2
First aid manual printing, PSS and DM brochures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSS – stress management, psychosocial First Aid</li> <li>• DM- Safer Access</li> <li>• FA –FA manual for the volunteers – topics on basic FA</li> </ul>	100
Blood pressure measuring device	10

## B. Operational strategy

### Overall operational objective

The overall operational objective is to enhance capacity of the GRCS to be ready to provide psychosocial assistance, first aid and other relevant services to at least 2000 people when needed.

### Proposed strategy

The operation is expected to support the Georgia RC to be fully ready to respond immediately and assist at least 2,000 people including 1,000 people with PSS interventions, and provide first aid help to as many people as required, including transportation to ambulances or hospitals if the capacity of state health services will be overwhelmed.

The following activities will be implemented by the GRCS within the DREF operation by staff and volunteers:

- Provide specific first aid training focusing on mass events and manifestations to 30 volunteers and 19 staff of the GRCS.
- Purchase first aid kits (with replenishment materials) for effective responding to the situation (see Table 1 for the content of the first aid kits).
- Provide refresher PSS training to 30 volunteers.
- Provide equipment for the volunteers for effective response to the situation.
- Provide training and orientation to additional 50 volunteers nation-wide in basic first aid, Safer Access Framework, safety and security, the Code of Conduct, internal and external communication, ethics, emblem protection and basic communication.
- Coordinate closely with relevant authorities, Ministries and other organisations.
- Provide first aid to the population by volunteers at the Red Cross points as needed.
- Continue to monitor the situation and conduct needs assessment specifying the extent and scope of impact. These will be agreed with the authorities.
- Be ready to assist at least 1000 affected people (the number of people may change depending on the developments of the situation) with PSS.
- Promotion of Red Cross Principles and Values through mass media and the public awareness campaign to ensure population is aware about activities of the GRCS mobile volunteer teams and raise awareness of the GRCS neutrality and focus on humanitarian support to people who require help.

The operation will be guided according to the scenarios of the development of the situation.

Scenario description	Key indicators	GRCS action
Likely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No violence occurs.</li> <li>▪ Demonstrations end during July</li> <li>▪ Changes are made and accepted.</li> <li>▪ Normal socio-economic and political activities remain undisturbed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mobilize and Train volunteers</li> <li>▪ Mobilize support from Ukrainian RC (under the RDRT scheme).</li> <li>▪ Equip volunteer teams with required response and protection items.</li> <li>▪ Monitor the situation and provide regular updates.</li> </ul>

Most Likely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Requested changes are not made and protests continue for an indefinite time.</li> <li>▪ Sporadic clashes occur during daily protests and First Aid is required.</li> <li>▪ Families of people who suffered severe physical injuries, and people themselves, require PSS support from GRCS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Revision of DREF to reduce the request.</li> <li>▪ Mobilize and Train volunteers.</li> <li>▪ Mobilize support from Ukrainian RC (under the RDRT scheme) for preparedness capacity strengthening</li> <li>▪ Deploy the Mobile Teams work, including staff and volunteers.</li> <li>▪ Erection of the first aid and PSS GRCS stations (tents).</li> <li>▪ Equip volunteer teams with required response and protection items.</li> <li>▪ Provide regular help and keep track of all provided services and expressed needs.</li> <li>▪ Establish regular and emergency contact scheme with GRCS HQ and within the Movement in Georgia.</li> <li>▪ Establish contacts and coordination links with nearby health facilities.</li> <li>▪ Monitor the situation and provide regular updates.</li> </ul>
Unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The changes are not accepted and tensions increase among protesters.</li> <li>▪ Police takes stronger actions to disperse the crowds leading to increase in injuries and further protests.</li> <li>▪ Clashes and violence.</li> <li>▪ Escalation of the situation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased deployment of GRCS</li> <li>▪ Increased operation and revision of DREF</li> <li>▪ Use additional resources to cope with the situation.</li> <li>▪ ICRC steps in, in line with the Movement Statutes.</li> </ul>

**Table 1 - Content of first aid kits**

Content of first aid kit	Quantity
Betadine solution	2
Elastic bandages	10
Disposable gloves	60
Sterile gauze pads (double-layer)	10
Adhesive plaster	6
Sterile bandages 5X10	30
Sterile bandages 7X14	30
Medical scissors	2
Fixer and knee support	2
Medical face mask	20
Hydrogen peroxide	4
First Aid bag	15

The listed items above are standard for the National Society.

GRCS staff and volunteers will be involved in the implementation of the above-mentioned activities. Two technical staff (Experienced PSS and FA specialists) will be hired to support the successful implementation of the actions.



**Image 4:** Clashes on Rustaveli street. *Photo: Interpressnews.*

## Operational Support Services

### Logistics and supply chain

The Georgia Red Cross has a logistics department and procurement guidelines which were developed in full compliance with IFRC procurement standards and the locally pertaining legal requirements and were formally approved by the GRCS. Procurement will be done by GRCS in consultation with IFRC GLS as required.

### Communications

GRCS Communication Coordinator will share information with partner journalists and informational sources. Information will also be shared on social media. NS will ensure that key messages are elaborated, and a spokesperson is identified to cover the response actions in line with the Brandbook toolkit of the Movement.

### Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

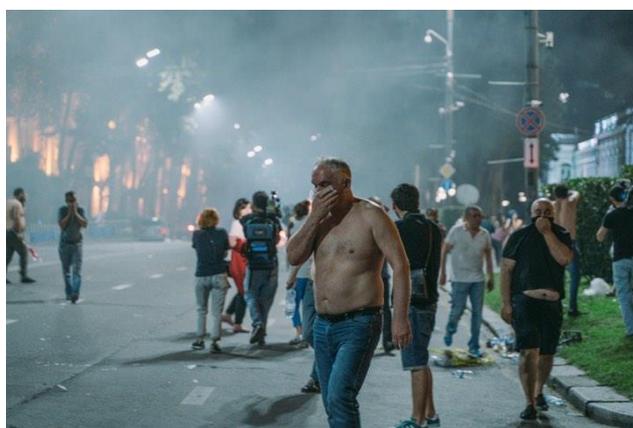
GRCS and the IFRC Country Cluster Support Team for Southern Caucasus (based in Tbilisi) will jointly monitor the action. A lessons learned workshop will be organized together with GRCS staff and volunteers and with IFRC and ICRC to review the activation of the Contingency Plan, coordination, communication and to ensure that key lessons are included into the updated Contingency Plan and response protocols.

### Community Engagement and Accountability

Through implementation of the Safer Access Framework, public communications, and direct engagement with people affected by the unrest, it is ensured that staff, volunteers and the wider public are familiar with the role and mandate of the Red Cross, the rationale for why they are assisting people, and how this fits with the Red Cross commitment to neutral, impartial humanitarian action. A brief Q+A document should be prepared outlining these points for staff and volunteers to understand and share. Key messages on neutrality and impartiality should also be prepared for inclusion in public communications materials and activities.



**Image 5:** GRCS Disaster Response Team mobilized in the HQ office. *Photo: GRCS communication Coordinator Anuki Talakhadze.*



**Image 6:** Clashes on Rustaveli street. *Photo: Interpressnews.*



	Conduct, internal and external communication, ethics, emblem protection and basic communication.												
AP023	Purchase required equipment for the volunteer mobilise response teams (First Aid kits (with replenishment materials, helmets, flashlights)		x	x	x								
AP023	Provide first aid and PSS to the population by volunteers at the Red Cross humanitarian aid stations (as needs arise)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
AP023	Inform the population through the media about activities of the RC rapid response teams and the nature of the RC presence at the sites		x		x			x					X
AP023	Elaboration of SOP on civil unrest						x	x	x	x			
AP023	Development of preparedness plan						x	x	x	x			
AP023	Good practice and skills sharing			x	x				x	x			

## Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 11,310

P&B Output Code	<b>S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform</b>												
	<b>Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated 80 volunteers who are protected</b>												
	Activities planned / Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AP040	Activate volunteers for the implementation of the plan,	x	x	x									
AP040	Deploy staff experts for the implementation of the plan	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
AP040	Conduct regular monitoring of the implementation	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
AP040	Insurance for the volunteers	x	x	x									
AP040	Conducting a lessons learned workshop											x	x
AP040	Ensure volunteers are properly trained in FA, DM and PSS			x	x	x	x						

## D. Budget

The total budget of this DREF operation is **CHF 38,138**. Please click [here](#) to see the budget.



**Click here**

1. Click [here](#) to return to the title page.

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## 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 (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian 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:



**Save lives.**  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**  
and a culture of  
**non-violence** and **peace.**

# DREF OPERATION

Georgia - Demonstrations

4-Jul-19

<b>Budget Group</b>		<b>Multilateral Response</b>	<b>Appeal Budget CHF</b>
500	Shelter - Relief	0	0
501	Shelter - Transitional	0	0
502	Construction - Housing	0	0
503	Construction - Facilities	0	0
505	Construction - Materials	0	0
510	Clothing & Textiles	0	0
520	Food	0	0
523	Seeds & Plants	0	0
530	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0	0
540	Medical & First Aid	7,380	7,380
550	Teaching Materials	0	0
560	Ustensils & Tools	0	0
570	Other Supplies & Services	8,520	8,520
571	Emergency Response Units	0	0
578	Cash Disbursements	0	0
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRU</b>		<b>15,900</b>	<b>15,900</b>
580	Land & Buildings	0	0
581	Vehicles	0	0
582	Computer & Telecom Equipment	0	0
584	Office/Household Furniture & Eq	0	0
587	Medical Equipment	0	0
589	Other Machinery & Equipment	0	0
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EC</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
590	Storage, Warehousing	0	0
592	Dsitribution & Monitoring	0	0
593	Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,200	2,200
594	Logistics Services	0	0
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT</b>		<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,200</b>
600	International Staff	0	0
661	National Staff	0	0
662	National Society Staff	3,600	3,600
667	Volunteers	900	900
669	Other Staff Benefits	0	0
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>		<b>4,500</b>	<b>4,500</b>
670	Consultants	0	0
750	Professional Fees	0	0
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFE</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
680	Workshops & Training	4,000	4,000
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>		<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>
700	Travel	3,000	3,000
710	Information & Public Relations	3,200	3,200
730	Office Costs	1,500	1,500
740	Communications	560	560
760	Financial Charges	150	150
790	Other General Expenses	800	800
799	Shared Office and Services Costs	0	0

	<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>9,210</b>	<b>9,210</b>
		0	0
830	Partner National Societies	0	0
831	Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0	0
	<b>Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS</b>		<b>0</b>
599	Programme and Services Support	2,328	2,328
	<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>2,328</b>	<b>2,328</b>
	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>38,138</b>	<b>38,138</b>
	<b>Available Resources</b>		
	Multilateral Contributions		0
	Bilateral Contributions		0
	<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NE</b>	<b>38,138</b>	<b>38,138</b>