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DREF operation update

Kazakhstan: Extreme winter conditions

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRKZ006
GLIDE n° CW-2012-000204-KAZ
Operation update n°1
15 January 2013

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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:

26th December 2012 to 14th January 2013.

Summary: CHF 158,584 was initially allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Kazakhstan Red Crescent in delivering immediate assistance to 2,000 beneficiaries. Due to the continuation of the adverse weather conditions and newly arisen needs, however, the National Society has revised its operational plans with a budget increase of CHF 111,586. **The revised budget for this operation amounts to a total of CHF 270,170.**

To go to the revised budget, click [here](#).

The operation started on December 18th as freezing temperatures reaching minus 40-46 degrees Celsius hit Kazakhstan. As a result of low temperatures and heavy snowfall there were power supply and hot-water supply cuts in various localities of the northern, eastern and central parts of the country. Over 5,000 people – stranded truck drivers, residents, homeless people and street children – were affected by severe frosts and the resulting hot-water pipe and electricity systems breakdowns and heating interruptions in these geographic areas.

In the initial phase of the response operation the Kazakhstan Red Crescent conducted a rapid needs assessment and provided humanitarian aid in the cities of Karaganda, Petropavlovsk and Semey from its own prepositioned stocks. With the DREF funds made available, the three involved Red Crescent branches completed the tendering procedures and identified the suppliers of foodstuff, warm clothes, blankets and footwear to be distributed among the beneficiaries. The Kazakhstan National Society started, on January 3rd, distributing daily hot meals to 919 homeless people and street children. Since there is a further decrease of temperature forecasted, the National Society plans to prolong the hot meals distribution until 28th February 2013 and requests therefore an additional allocation from the DREF according to the revised budget.



The Red Crescent Society started distributing hot meals to homeless people in three target cities affected by the cold spell. Kazakhstan Red Crescent, Karaganda

The situation

Freezing temperatures reaching minus 40-46 degrees Centigrade hit Kazakhstan in December 2012: a cold spell covered the northern, eastern and central parts of the country. As a result of low temperatures, the adhesion of snow to the power lines and the ensuing tearing, power supply and hot-water supply cuts followed in various localities of the mentioned regions of Kazakhstan. Several main roads remained closed for a period of time and about 20-25 trucks were stranded. Over 5,000 people in these geographic areas were affected by severe frosts and the resulting hot-water pipe and electricity systems breakdowns and heating interruptions. This number includes the stranded truck drivers, residents who were affected by the power and heating supply cuts as well as homeless people and street children exposed to the cold.

The temperature went up to minus 20-23 degrees during the first week of January 2013 but fell again to minus 30-35 degrees on 11 January. Besides, the first month of the new year brought heavy snowfalls to Kazakhstan. The roads get periodically closed because of snow-storms. A new cold cyclone is expected in the same areas of the country on 18-19 January 2013 according to the national meteorological agency "Kazgidromet" and snow storm warning was announced on 14 January. Low temperatures below minus 40 degrees are also expected in February.

Local authorities continue focusing their efforts on ensuring uninterrupted electric power and heating supply. All urban services are on alert, and in most areas the situation is under control. Local authorities and emergency departments also arranged rescue activities, set up hot meal distribution points and provided shelters for the stranded truck-drivers.

The most vulnerable groups affected by extreme temperatures in the three mentioned geographical regions are homeless people and street children. About 45 percent of them were accommodated in social adaptation centres, 25 percent were hospitalized with frost bites and other related sicknesses but 30 percent find shelter on the ground floors of apartment blocks or along the heating pipelines. Local authorities have also been accommodating these latter homeless people in former bomb-shelters, where the National Society is reaching them with hot meals and non-food items.

The current weather conditions and the expected decrease in temperatures mean that the homeless people and the street children in the affected geographical areas remain unprotected and require support to survive the last and coldest winter month, which is February. In this connection the Kazakhstan Red Crescent requests an additional allocation from DREF to continue the distribution of hot meals to homeless people and street children in Petropavlovsk, Semey and Karaganda cities until 28th February 2013.

Coordination and partnerships

The Kazakhstan National Society maintains close contacts with the Ministry/Departments for Emergencies, Ministry/Departments for Social Protection of Population, the Health and the Education Ministries, local administrations, departments of internal affairs and the media. During the rapid assessment held at the beginning of the operation, the involved Kazakh National Society branches cooperated with local administrations, emergency departments and apartment owners' cooperatives.

As the operation progresses, district police officers refer homeless and street children on the territories they are in charge to the Red Crescent hot meal distribution points. The Red Crescent also welcomes support during the distribution from local non-government organizations. In Karaganda one of the parishes of the Orthodox Church is providing hot meals to 30 homeless people.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The KZRCS has responded to the situation starting on the 18th December 2012 by deploying six staff and twelve of its volunteers and National Disaster Response Team members to conduct rapid needs assessment and provide humanitarian aid in the cities of Karaganda, Petropavlovsk and Semey from its own prepositioned stocks. The hot meals were provided in Petropavlovsk with the support from the regional Emergency Department that provided the National Society branch with soup kitchens. The regional branch also called for the population to support the people in need with donations of warm clothing and funds: four local newspapers have published the Red Crescent Society's announcement. The Red Crescent Hospital in Semey has been providing medical services to the affected people requiring such support.

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Outcome:	Coping mechanisms of the most vulnerable people exposed to extreme temperatures in three target cities have improved.
Output 1:	Hot meals and non-food items have been provided to 620 homeless people and 299 street children. Food items have been provided to 487 single women with children under 15 years of age and 594 elderly people living alone.
Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare the lists of beneficiaries together with the social welfare department and in accordance with the Red Crescent's assessment. • Mobilize volunteers and provide them with orientation on distribution protocols. • Identify, register, verify and mobilize beneficiaries for food distributions. • Organize hot meals points (with soup kitchens in Karaganda and Petropavlovsk and through the Red Crescent hospital in Semey) to 620 homeless people and 299 street children. • Distribute food packages to 487 single women with children under 15 years of age and 594 elderly people living alone. • Distribute non-food packages (blanket, warm clothing, footwear). • Conduct post-distribution surveys. • Monitor and report on distributions.
Output 2:	1,500 people in target cities have raised their awareness of correct behaviour in case of cold temperatures.
Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print 150 posters with rules of behaviour in case of low temperatures. • Place posters in public places (railroad stations, bus stations, markets etc.) in each of the three target cities.

Progress:

Over the reporting period the Kazakhstan Red Crescent branches in three target cities – Petropavlovsk, Semey and Karaganda – completed the lists of beneficiaries in cooperation with local authorities (akimats), social protection departments and cooperatives of apartment owners. There are four categories of beneficiaries reflected in the lists, as shown in the table below:

Category	Number of beneficiaries in a target city			Total
	Karaganda	Petropavlovsk	Semey	
Homeless people	204	206	210	620
Street children	124	75	100	299
Single women with children under 15 years old	177	150	160	487
Older people aged over 60 living alone	204	190	200	594
Total	709	621	670	2,000

All three target Red Crescent branches completed the tendering procedures and identified suppliers of food, warm clothes, blankets and footwear.

In Karaganda and Petropavlovsk the Red Crescent Society has signed agreements with the departments of emergency that provide field soup kitchens and transport means for these kitchens so that the National Society can deliver and distribute hot meals among the target beneficiaries.

All three target branches of the Red Crescent Society started distributing hot meals to homeless and street children on 3rd January 2013. Distribution points have been organized as follows: in Karaganda hot meals are delivered to and distributed at two social adaptation centers, in Petropavlovsk at a railway station and in a district where homeless people find shelter (along the main hot-water pipe-line), and in Semey – in the Red Crescent hospital, one social adaptation centre and the main hot-water pipe-line location. In total, 919 target beneficiaries receive hot meals daily. With the help of the second DREF allocation of CHF 111,586 the hot meal distribution can be prolonged until 28th February 2013.

The National Society ensures visibility of the services and distribution points through banners, distribution of flyers, meetings with beneficiaries and stakeholders. Information is disseminated by Red Crescent volunteers, local authorities and cooperatives of apartment owners.

The National Society response activities have been highlighted through media. Namely, a video shot from one of the distribution points appeared in the news on three national TV channels and an article was published in a local newspaper.

Challenges:

During the New Year holidays (from 31 December 2012 to 2 January 2013) government bodies, local authorities, banks and most business structures were closed. This resulted in delays of activities that required consultations and cooperation with these structures like compiling beneficiary lists, identification of hot meal distribution points as well as collection of bids for the tender.

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent has also identified a challenge in the distribution of hot meals in such a cold weather as the volunteers have to work outdoors for a long time. The National Society contacted local non-governmental organizations for sharing distribution time in shifts and reducing the burden on Red Crescent volunteers.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF history:

This DREF was initially allocated on 26th December 2012 for CHF 158,584 for two months to assist 2,000 beneficiaries.



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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 (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.

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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.
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DREF OPERATION

14/01/2013

Kazakhstan Extreme Winter Condition

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	29,750
Food	212,826
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	242,576
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	2,200
Distribution & Monitoring	1,500
Transport & Vehicle Costs	0
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	3,700
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	1,000
Volunteers	1,800
Total PERSONNEL	2,800
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	2,500
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	2,500
Travel	1,000
Information & Public Relations	105
Office Costs	
Communications	750
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	250
Shared Office and Services Costs	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	2,105
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	16,489
Total INDIRECT COSTS	16,489
TOTAL BUDGET	270,170