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DREF final report Kazakhstan: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRKZ004
GLIDE n° FL-2011-000038-KAZ
19 October, 2011

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 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.

Summary: CHF 193,479 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 19 April, 2011 to support the national society in delivering assistance to 2,700 affected beneficiaries.

This operation supported the Kazakhstan Red Crescent in providing relief to the affected population in Western Kazakhstan region, where families lost their homes and/or possessions as a result of the floods. In total, 688 most affected families received non-food relief items (bedding, hygiene parcels, kitchen sets). The National Society also disseminated key messages on safe hygiene and sanitation to prevent diseases in 13 target rural settlements, Uralsk town and other areas affected by the floods.

The rendered assistance helped to improve living and sanitary conditions in shelters and the disaster affected households and contributed to the reduction of social and economic tensions in the affected region.

The Red Crescent Society faced certain difficulties with needs assessment and procurement of non-food items on the site because there is no National Society branch office in the affected region and the deployment of the headquarters staff to the area stretched the capacities.

The Netherlands Red Cross/government and the Canadian Red Cross contributed CHF 64,549 and CHF 18,225 respectively to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) contributed CHF 107,474. These contributions replenished 98 percent of the total allocation for the Kazakhstan Red Crescent response operation in west Kazakhstan.

The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on:

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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The Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society distributed needed non-food items in the most affected 13 villages of Western Kazakhstan region. **Kazakhstan Red Crescent**

The situation

Abundant snowmelt and heavy rains between 9 and 15 April, 2011 raised water levels in rivers and caused flooding in 7 districts (out of 12) and the regional centre town of Uralsk in Western Kazakhstan region. The water flooded 37 settlements in Zelenovsky, Burlinsky, Taskalinsky, Trekinsky, Akjaiksky, Kaztalovsky, Chigirlausky rural districts and part of Uralsk town.

More than 16,000 people were directly affected by the flooding. According to official data, the estimated damage costs increased to 20 billion Kazakhstan tenge (120 million Swiss francs).

As a result of floods 2 persons were killed, 1,254 families were left homeless and about 8,800 people (including 500 children under 15 years old and 82 pregnant women) were temporary evacuated and accommodated with relatives, friends and in collective centres in public buildings. In collective centres the government provided the evacuees with food, medical services and partly with bedding and hygiene supplies.

The floods severely damaged 2,650 houses (including 1,254 houses totally destroyed), as well as 8,700 summerhouses, 9 health facilities and 16 educational facilities. Most of the destroyed and severely damaged buildings were made of poor local materials such as airbrick. More than 1,300 heads of livestock perished, while food stores and infrastructure – 120 km of power lines, 10 km of telephone lines, 50 km of roads and 3 bridges – were destroyed.

The assessment carried out by the Ministry of Emergency (MoE) and the Kazakhstan Red Crescent's disaster response team (DRT) together with one Regional Disaster Response Team member identified Zelenovsky district and Uralsk town as the most affected by the disaster: 90 percent of all destroyed houses were located there.

The Ministry of Emergency managed the overall response to the floods. The water distribution system, sanitary sewers, gas, electric power and telephone grids in the affected settlements, as well as damaged roads were cleaned and repaired by different government services. By the beginning of October building companies and volunteer students brigades mobilized by the government constructed 182 new houses in 3 rural settlements (Peremetnoe, Taskala, Zeleny) of Zelenovsky district, 4 apartment buildings (1 nine-storied building for 240 families and 3 five-storied buildings for 90 families each) and 4 public buildings (health and education facilities) in Uralsk. A total of 692 homeless families received new housing. In other villages of the affected districts the population has been repairing their damaged houses themselves with financial support from local governments. In addition, the government of Kazakhstan paid compensation to each affected family, depending on the scale of damage estimated by a special commission.

To mitigate the effect of floods about 17 billion Kazakhstan tenge (or CHF 102 million) was allocated to Western Kazakhstan region; the amount includes the funds from the government (local and national resources) and resources collected by the country population to support the affected countrymen.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society immediately responded to this emergency by activating two staff from the neighbouring regional branches to conduct a rapid assessment and to start up the response activities. Six national DRT members were deployed from the National Society headquarters and Chimkent to start the implementation of the planned response activities under DREF. Also, one member of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) has been deployed from the Tajikistan Red Crescent Society to the affected areas and assisted the responding team in the implementation of detailed assessment and preparation of the report.

The detailed needs assessment, which was carried out by the Red Crescent in 23 villages of Zelenovsky district and Uralsk town – that were the most affected areas –, identified 13 rural settlements and shelter collective centres in Uralsk as target areas for the emergency relief operation. The National Society decided to concentrate its efforts on providing assistance to the most vulnerable groups affected by the floods: older people, families with disabilities member, low income and multi-child families.

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society closely coordinated its activities with the local government and the authorities. Representatives of the MoE, local authorities held periodical meetings with representatives of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society, and, as a result, effective liaison was established with the leadership of the region in order to respond effectively and in a timely manner to the needs of the affected population, avoiding any duplication of activities.

To discuss the distribution of humanitarian aid, a number of meetings were held in advance with community leaders from the affected areas and all heads of local government (district, region levels). At these meetings the responsibilities of the Red Crescent and the criteria for beneficiaries of humanitarian aid from the Red Crescent were defined. During the operation local authorities ensured security and assisted the Kazakhstan Red Crescent with transporting the shipments with aid. The IFRC Regional Representation in Almaty provided technical support to the National Society in logistics and reporting; the IFRC disaster management, financial, logistics and information officers shared their regional experience and expertise.

The DREF operation was implemented primarily by the Kazakhstan Red Crescent headquarters and the national DRT members from the Southern Kazakhstan branch. The 2,700 affected people (688 families) received basic non-food items such as: blankets, bed-linen sets, mattresses, towels, kitchen and hygiene sets, including specific items for children and women (diapers, sanitary pads).

Besides, the headquarters of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent conducted a fund-raising campaign to collect resources at the local level. Thanks to the donation of 50,000 US Dollars (or 46,000 Swiss francs) from "Shevron" the National Society provided 168 affected families with children (60 multi-children families, 9 single parent families and 99 low income families) in target areas with new warm children's clothing. The Red Crescent procured and distributed 293 sets of clothes and footwear for children with due consideration to age and gender.

On 12 July, 2011 when the relief operation was terminated, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent conducted a round table to discuss the re-opening of the Red Crescent branch in Western Kazakhstan region with support from local stakeholders. The National Society presented the report on relief operation and general activities of the Red Crescent Society. Representatives of the governmental structures, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and media attended this meeting and highlighted the significance of the Red Crescent activities for affected people, while also pledging support with re-establishing the branch office in the region.

Achievements against outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 620 households (2,700 people) must be provided with basic non-food items to help them cope with the consequences of floods according to assessment and selection criteria that identified actual needs and vulnerable groups.

Activities planned:

- Conduct detailed emergency needs assessments.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Prepare the lists of beneficiaries together with the local administration and in accordance with the KZRCS assessment procedures.
- Procure and deliver relief non-food items to the affected areas and KZRCS operation points.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from the point of dispatch to the end users.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and report on the relief distributions.

Impact: The DREF funds were used for the detailed assessment, procurement, transportation and distribution of disaster response items to the affected population.

The relief items were purchased in Uralsk through the International Federation's standard tendering procedures. In total, 2,700 blankets, 2,300 bed-linen sets, 1,200 mattresses, 600 towels sets, 600 kitchen sets, 2,700 individual hygiene parcels, 1,000 packs of hygiene pads for women and 120 packs of diapers for babies were procured. The quantity of procured bed-linen sets was by 400 sets less than planned because the actual prices exceeded the budgeted prices.

While making the procurement, the Red Crescent Society prepared a plan of distribution of the relief items setting the dates and locations. The target beneficiaries were informed about the distribution schedule well in advance to ensure their attendance and hand to hand delivery.

All humanitarian aid items were distributed to the most affected families from 13 rural settlements of Zelenovsky district that lost their homes and belongings and among people temporary settled in shelter collective centres of Uralsk town.

Table 1 Distributed humanitarian aid items

	Blankets	Bed-linen sets	Mattresses	Towel sets	Kitchen sets	Hygiene parcels	Hygiene pads (packs)	Diapers (packs)
Rural settlements	2,124	2,039	1,066	583	583	2,124	780	-
Uralsk shelter collective centres	576	261	134	17	17	576	220	120
Total	2,700	2,300	1,200	600	600	2,700	1,000	120

The aid reached 688 families. The beneficiary group included 181 older people living alone (that made 116 families including people living together as couples); 22 families with a disabled member of the family (78 people); 30 multi-child families (203 people); 9 single parent families (24 people) and 517 low income families (2,214 people).

The distributed sets of aid items were composed based on specifications of the IFRC emergency items catalogue 2009 with slight modifications to the content according to local traditions and market accessibility at the local level.

Table 2 Content of aid items sets

Item	Size/Weight/Quantity
Bed-linen set	
Bed linen	215 cm x 145 cm/ 1 pc
Blanket cover	215 cm x 140 cm/ 1 pc
Pillow cover	65 cm x 65 cm/ 2 pc
Towel set	
Hand towel	70 cm x 30 cm/ 1 pc
Bath towel	136 cm x 72 cm/ 1 pc
Family kitchen set	
Cooking pot, 7 litres	1 pc
Kettle, 3 litres	1 pc
Tea kettle, 0.5 litre	1 pc
Cup, 0.3 litre	5 pcs
Plate, 0.5 litres	5 pcs
Spoon	5 pcs
Tea spoon	5 pcs
Kitchen knife	1 pc
Bucket, plastic, 10l, clip-on cover	1 pc
Personal three-month hygiene parcel	
Washing powder	0,9 kg/ 1 pack
Toilet soap	100 g/ 2 pcs
Toothbrush	1 pc
Tooth paste	75 ml/100g/ 1 tube
Shampoo	250 ml/ 1 bottle

Distribution of the above listed basic non-food items and hygiene supplies ensured minimal living and hygiene standards: people had access to personal hygiene items, appropriate utensils to cook meals, and bedding for comfortable night rest that also helped to ensure dignity.

Besides, the National Society printed and distributed 80 poster sets and 4,463 leaflet sets on safe hygiene and sanitation promotion to prevent diseases. Each set included key messages on sanitation, use of clean water for drinking and cooking, and measures to prevent diarrheal diseases and hepatitis A. The posters were placed in public places and leaflets were distributed together with the humanitarian aid in targeted areas and among the affected population in other disaster areas through volunteers. Hygiene promotion contributed to reduce the risk of water-borne and water related diseases.

The Red Crescent's relief operation has boosted the reputation of the National Society among the affected population and local authorities. New contacts have been established with the local authorities that demonstrate more interest in the activities of the National Society.

The Red Crescent Society also gained more practical experience in several aspects of the operation implementation, including aid procurement and distribution and collecting and presenting data about the operation. One of the lessons learnt for future is that the number of target beneficiaries should be planned more carefully so that different needs of bigger or smaller families can be adequately met. Also, geographical features of the affected region must be taken into account when planning the transport of humanitarian aid.

This operation has confirmed the necessity of local funds and resources for effective response in the first days of an emergency situation. The operation has also demonstrated the necessity to have trained regular personnel and volunteers on the site who should also work actively to prepare for emergency situations.

Challenges

It should be mentioned that the National Society faced difficulties in arranging a detailed needs assessment and a quick start of the response operation due to the absence of the regional branch in the Western-Kazakhstan region and lack of capacities in the neighbouring regional branches. The National Society had to deploy NDRT members from the headquarters and the Southern Kazakhstan region with their branches' transport to run the operation. The remoteness of the region¹ and thorough preparations for autonomous work in the disaster area delayed the arrival of the deployed team to the operation site. It took some time for the team to also establish links with relevant stakeholders and set a temporary office, and public holidays in May delayed the negotiations with suppliers. Because of the difficulties with the tender process the National Society requested support with procurement from the IFRC that was provided on the site by relevant staff of the Regional Representation.

Concerning the spending of the DREF budget some changes appear in the financial report. The real costs of kitchen sets and bedding were higher than during the budgeting process so the corresponding budget lines were overspent. However sanitation and hygiene promotion items were less and this line was under spent. The cost of transport was also higher due to the increase of prices, this line was overspent. Extra travel expenses were related to IFRC staff trips to the operation site to support the procurement.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 19 April, 2011 for CHF 193,479 for 3 months to assist 2,700 beneficiaries.
- DREF operation update №1 was issued on 18 May, 2011.

¹ The regional centre town of Uralsk is 2,700 kilometres away from Almaty and 2,000 kilometres away from the Southern Kazakhstan regional centre town of Shymkent.



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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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Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/4-2011/9
Budget Timeframe	2011/4-2011/9
Appeal	MDRKZ004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Funding

	Pledge	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget		193,479					193,479
B. Opening Balance		0					0
Income							
Other Income							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		193,479					193,479
C4. Other Income		193,479					193,479
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		193,479					193,479
D. Total Funding = B + C		193,479					193,479
Appeal Coverage		100%					100%

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	193,479					193,479
E. Expenditure	-193,479					-193,479
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRKZ004 - Kazakhstan - Floods

Appeal Launch Date: 19 apr 11

Appeal Timeframe: 19 apr 11 to 19 jul 11

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/4-2011/9
Budget Timeframe	2011/4-2011/9
Appeal	MDRKZ004
Budget	APPEAL

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III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)	193,479						193,479	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	96,300	100,816				100,816	-4,516	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene		11,245				11,245	-11,245	
Utensils & Tools	21,000	29,249				29,249	-8,249	
Other Supplies & Services	35,600						35,600	
Total Relief items, Construction, Supplies	152,900	141,310				141,310	11,590	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	1,800	2,674				2,674	-874	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	900	5,853				5,853	-4,953	
Logistics Services	2,250						2,250	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	4,950	8,527				8,527	-3,577	
Personnel								
National Society Staff	15,320	19,622				19,622	-4,302	
Total Personnel	15,320	19,622				19,622	-4,302	
General Expenditure								
Travel	3,000	4,301				4,301	-1,301	
Information & Public Relations	3,500	3,293				3,293	207	
Office Costs	1,000	479				479	521	
Communications	1,000	2,711				2,711	-1,711	
Financial Charges		1,426				1,426	-1,426	
Total General Expenditure	8,500	12,211				12,211	-3,711	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	11,809	11,809				11,809	-0	
Total Indirect Costs	11,809	11,809				11,809	-0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	193,479	193,479				193,479	-0	
VARIANCE (C - D)		-0				-0		