

DREF operation n° MDRTJ012
GLIDE n° OT-2012-000040-TJK
13th March 2012

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

CHF 189,270 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,000 beneficiaries (500 families). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

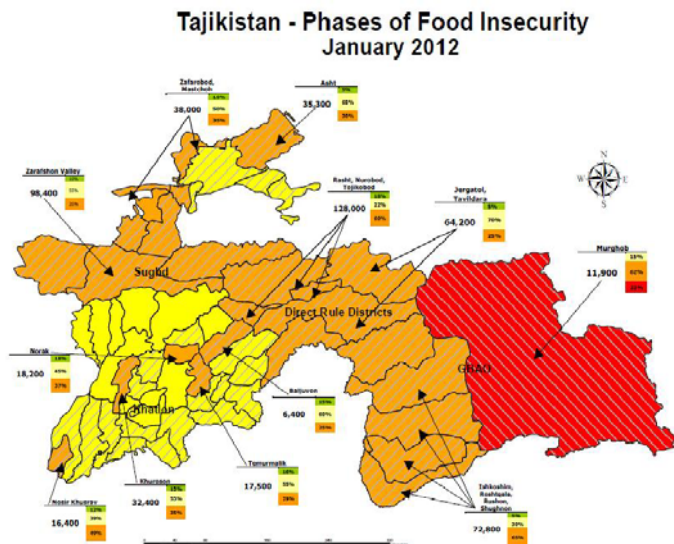
Summary: In addition to the recent global economic, financial and food crisis, Tajikistan had to face a fuel crisis in 2011 leading to a further increase of fuel prices, which in turn caused overall price hikes and adversely affected the vulnerable groups of the Tajik population.

On 27 February 2012, at a meeting with the representatives of international organizations, Tajikistan Deputy Minister of Agriculture Sijouddin Isroilov announced that Tajikistan's agrarian sector is in an acute need of international aid to mitigate the effects of prolonged unfavourable weather conditions like a dry autumn in 2010 and a dry spring in 2011, coupled with an early drop of temperatures in the autumn of 2011, and heavy snowfalls, which caused serious damage to the country's agrarian sector.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification report, prepared by the World Food Programme in January 2012, shows that the most affected area in Tajikistan is Murgab district, which is located in a remote, hardly accessible, mountainous area in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO). The Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast is considered to fall under the category of humanitarian emergency according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification report.

The assessment of the situation related to food insecurity, conducted by the Tajikistan Red Crescent's Murgab district branch, revealed the danger that the situation can deteriorate because of severe climate conditions, remoteness and inaccessibility of roads to the district areas, reduced food stocks, fewer employment opportunities and less income from foreign remittances. The number of vulnerable people may further increase due to the deep snow and the blockage of roads, which can hamper the provision of social and medical assistance.

Based on the situation, this DREF operation is focusing on providing support and assistance to the most affected population in six administrative centres (Jamoats) of Murgab District. Food assistance is urgently needed for the identified 500 households (3,000 people spread in six administrative centres).



This operation is expected to be implemented over 4 months, and will therefore be completed by 30th June 2012. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation, i.e. by 30th September 2012.

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

The recent global food and financial crises in combination with a fuel crisis and a prolonged harsh winter had severe negative consequences on food security in Tajikistan.

High dependence on food imports made Tajikistan extremely vulnerable to the increasing global food prices.

Excessive reliance on labour remittances further exacerbated Tajikistan's food insecurity and the vulnerability of the Tajik households.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report, prepared by the World Food Programme in January 2012, examines the impact of recent food and economic crises on macro- and household-level food security in the

country. According to the IPC phases classification, 599,052 people in twenty districts (33% of country districts) in Tajikistan have been affected by recent food insecurity situation (out of which 19 districts are classified as acute food and livelihood crisis (Phase 3) and the remaining one district is classified as humanitarian emergency crisis area (Phase 4).

Speaking at the meeting with representatives of international organizations, Tajikistan Deputy Minister of Agriculture Sijouddin Isroilov noted that Tajikistan's agrarian sector is now in acute need for international aid to mitigate effects of the prolonged unfavourable weather conditions (<http://news.tj/en/news/tajikistan-seeks-international-aid-agrarian-sector>).

At normal times, the post-harvest period is characterized by fewer natural disasters, the better availability of food products, satisfactory stock reserves and an increased dietary diversity. A poorer harvest compared to that in 2010, the increase of fuel prices and the early onset of an unexpectedly cold weather negatively affected the overall food security situation in the country. The situation in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) worsened compared to the last years, especially in Murgab, where food and fuel prices, the remote location and severe climatic conditions combined with reduced income and unemployment resulted in food insecurity of almost a quarter of the population. The Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast is considered to fall under the category of humanitarian emergency according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification report.

Murgab District is located 350 km away from the oblast administrative centre Khorog city and 843 km from the capital city. Dushanbe. The Murgab District has a total population of 14,633 people (51% female). The district is populated mainly by ethnic Kyrgyz groups. Due to the non-availability of arable lands with irrigation, the main source of income for the population is cattle breeding. Food for family consumption is mainly delivered from the nearest local marketplace, which is located in the oblast administrative centre, Khorog city. At the same time, food to Khorog is delivered from the capital city Dushanbe, which is located 843 km far from Murgab district and some 723 km far from Khorog city. Because of the transportation, the price of food in Murgab district is significantly higher compared to the food prices in capital city and other regions of Tajikistan.



Photo by: RCST Muraab district branch

Coordination and partnerships

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) is working closely with the Government's Committee of Emergency Situations as well as the Ministry of Agriculture so as to provide relief assistance to the most vulnerable residents. At the same time, the National Society is closely coordinating its activities with the IFRC Tajikistan Country Representation in Dushanbe, which is going to provide technical and financial support in carrying out the planned operation.

On 6 March 2012, the IFRC Country Representation initiated a meeting with Movement Partners (RCST, ICRC, the German RC, the French RC and the Norwegian RC) in Dushanbe. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the food insecurity situation in the country, especially in Murgab District and Zeravshan Valley, the primary needs of the affected population, RCST/IFRC actions taken and further steps to support vulnerable population. The German Red Cross started negotiations about the food insecurity situation in Tajikistan and is seeking for funds to support the affected people in Zeravshan Valley.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross Society of Tajikistan is one of the major actors in food security in Tajikistan as part of the food security cluster. It is covering gaps especially in most vulnerable areas and strata of the population.

The RCST has conducted several meetings and consultations with other stakeholders (the Tajik Ministry of Agriculture, the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), Aga Khan Foundation, World Food Programme (UN WFP) and INGO German Agro-Action (GAA)) working in the disaster affected area. The results of the meetings and consultations are the following:

- Concerning the recent food insecurity situation, WFP has deployed its Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) and conducted households' survey in the affected areas. Based on the results of the monitoring (data collection still is going on) WFP is planning to seek for funds in order to support affected people with supplementary food rations and the outcomes of the survey will be shared also with the Red Crescent Society in Tajikistan.
- WFP is implementing its School Feeding Programme in all the twenty affected districts, supporting schoolchildren with supplementary food, during the school year. However, WFP is not implementing other programme in Murgab district to support the vulnerable families.
- The RCST has discussed and agreed with WFP that the National Society will fulfil the task to provide supplementary food to the most vulnerable groups. The amount and items of supplementary food ration to be provided to affected people in Murgab District have been discussed and agreed with WFP.
- Based on the results of the FSMS in April 2012, the additional provision of seeds and fertilizers to other most affected districts will be revisited.

In order to assess the situation related to food insecurity in Murgab District, the RCST has deployed 25 volunteers and 3 members of the RCST's Murgab district branch staff to the most affected areas. The team is working together and coordinating its activities with the representatives of six district municipalities, the Committee of Emergency Situation (CoES) branch and the communities' leadership.

The needs

Some 13,800 residents, an estimated 2,300 families, out of the population of 14,633 in Murgab District are affected by food insecurity. The food stock that they would usually pile up for the winter period was used up for own consumption before the end of the winter season in 2012, due to the severe and long winter weather conditions. Therefore the shortage of food stock led to low food consumption and poor dietary diversity during the first quarter of 2012.

Poor food consumption and low dietary diversity will adversely affect most vulnerable categories of population (women, children and elderly people) and increase malnutrition, adversely affecting their health situation.

The selection of the beneficiaries was conducted by the RCST along the following methods.

- Door-to-door survey by volunteers;
- Coordination with local administration, local government institutions and community leaders in order to avoid any potential overlapping or duplication.

The beneficiaries for the food security operations have been selected according to the following criteria:

- Older individuals living alone;
- People living with disabilities;
- Families with young children;
- Female-headed households.

In accordance with the RCST needs assessment report conducted in Murgab District, it has been revealed that some 500 households consisting of 3,000 people, some 22% of the population in Murgab District, are the worst affected ones and are in need of urgent support to reduce malnutrition and food insecurity.

Taking into consideration the geographical features and weather conditions of Murgab District, the targeted group of the population will receive four months` supplementary food rations to improve their daily dietary and food intake in terms of wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and tea to meet the basic food need of the targeted group of population.

The proposed operation

This proposed DREF operation will address the needs of affected population through:

- Provision of four months` supplementary food for 3,000 people (500 families) affected by food insecurity in Murgab District, consisting of wheat flour, cooking oil, sugar and tea. The process will be facilitated/coordinated through an RCST specialist in close cooperation with local authorities and community leaders. The operation will add to the improved nutrition of the affected population. Dietary advice will also be provided to the beneficiaries.
- Conducting of training for 200 volunteers participating in the operation on nutrition in emergencies and food security assessment in all the twenty affected districts across the country. The purpose of this training is to have trained volunteers for the DREF operation in the field of food security assessment, in order to reveal the real needs of affected population in twenty districts of Tajikistan, in terms of supplementary food, seeds, and fertilizers. This training will be conducted in collaboration with government agricultural services; the food security cluster and other international agencies.
- RCST members will perform continuous needs assessment in all the twenty affected districts, and in case the situation deteriorates, the National Society will consider preparing a detailed plan of action and launching an emergency appeal.

Food distribution aims covering the supplementary needs of the population for four months, the targeted households are situated in Murgab district centre and other five administrative centres (Jamoats). See below the table:

Name of the administrative centre (Jamoat)	Number of families to be reached by RCST	Number of people to be reached by RCST
<i>Murgab</i>	175	1,050
<i>Kuhnakurgan</i>	76	456
<i>Karakul</i>	90	540
<i>Kyzylrabort</i>	50	300
<i>Alychur</i>	67	402
<i>Rangul</i>	42	252
Total	500	3,000

The food aid basket will consist of wheat flour, sugar, vegetable oil and tea. See table below:

Amount of food to be distributed

Number of beneficiaries	Wheat flour (kg)	Vegetable oil (litres)	Sugar (kg)	Tea (kg)
3,000	151,200	9,000	18,000	500

Food security and livelihoods

Outcome: Assist 500 of the most vulnerable farmer families in Murgab District with humanitarian aid consisting of supplementary food items for 4 months

Outputs

Output 1: 500 families received food parcel of Wheat flour (302,4kg), Sugar (36kg), Vegetable oil (18ltr) and Tea (1kg) to complement their diet for 4 months

Activities planned:

- Develop beneficiary identification and targeting strategy and registration system to deliver the intended assistance.
- Local procurement, of the 151,200 kg of wheat flour, 18,000 kg of sugar, 9,000 litres of vegetable oil and 500 kg of tea, storage, transportation, and distribution of food items.
- Monitor distribution of food relief supplies to 500 households and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Conduct nutrition in emergencies and food security assessment training for 200 volunteers participating in the operation in all the 20 affected districts.

The Tajik National Society consulted with the governmental agencies leading the emergency response about the contents of the standard food parcel, which was shaped in line with caloric values, traditions and healthy diet.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Click here

1. DREF budget is available **here**
2. Map of the affected area is available **here**
3. Click **here** to return to the title page

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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Saving lives, changing minds.



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

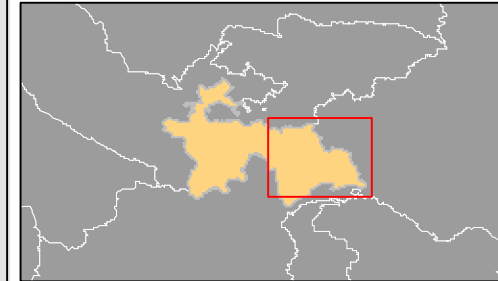
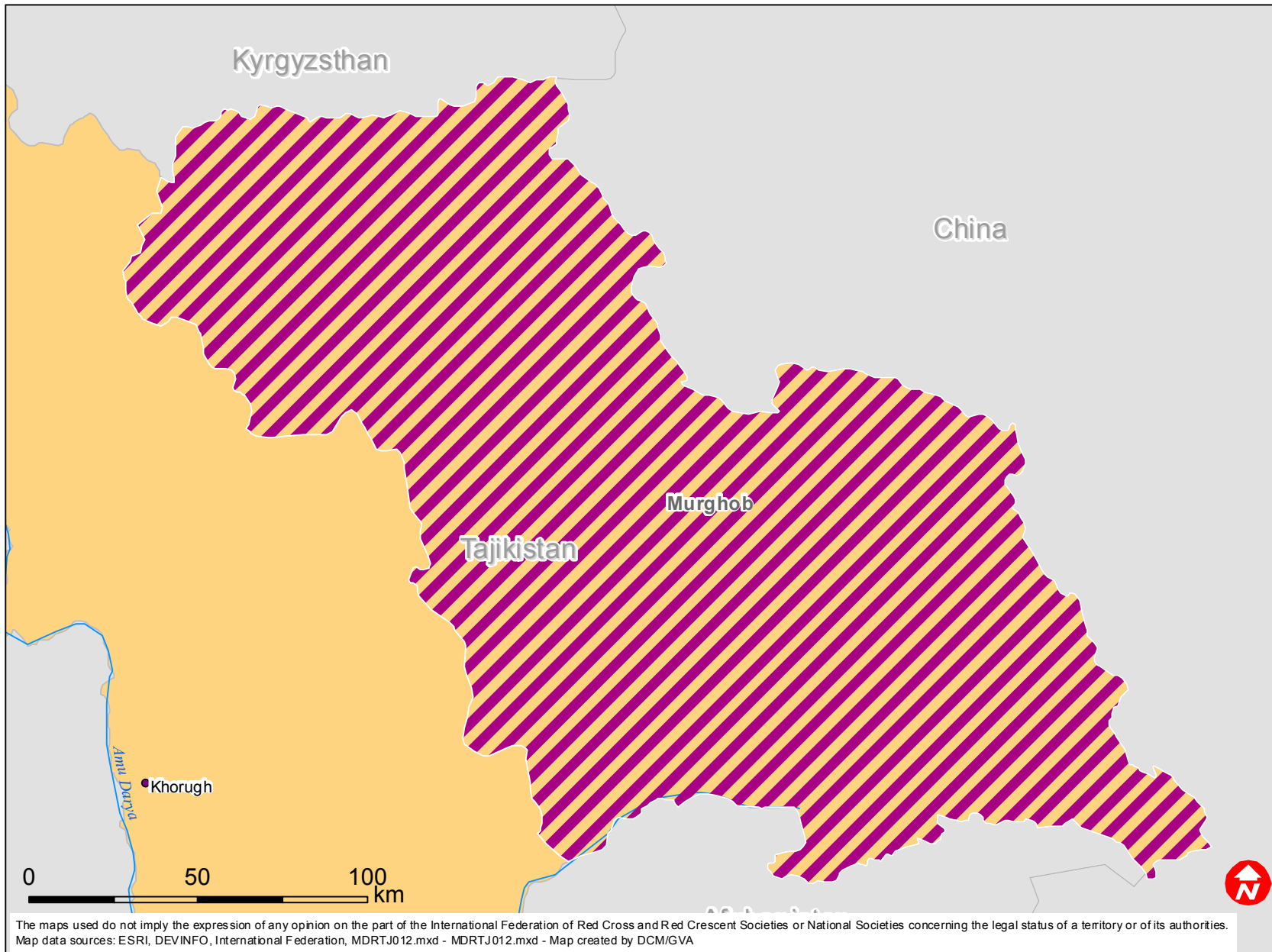
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MDRTJ012 Tajikistan: Food insecurity

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	131,574
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Ustensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	131,574
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	
Distribution & Monitoring	3,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	31,400
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	34,400
International Staff	
National Staff	1,830
National Society Staff	
Volunteers	2,465
Total PERSONNEL	4,295
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	5,000
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	5,000
Travel	
Information & Public Relations	1,500
Office Costs	
Communications	950
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	2,450
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	11,552
Total INDIRECT COSTS	11,552
TOTAL BUDGET	189,270



Tajikistan: Food insecurity



- Oblast administrative centre
-  Most affected district