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# Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Azerbaijan: Earthquake

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## DREF operation n° MDRAZ003 GLIDE n° EQ-2012-000085-AZE 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012

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.

**CHF 286,454 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,500 beneficiaries (700 families). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** The earthquake measuring 5.6 on Richter scale struck the south-western part of the country in Zagatala and Gakh, on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2012. As a result 3,124 houses and public buildings were either destroyed or damaged. Following this earthquake strong and regular aftershocks were again registered in both Zagatala and Gakh regions. On 18<sup>th</sup> May another earthquake hit the region with a magnitude 4.8. Due to the aftershocks and the latest earthquake the number of destroyed and damaged buildings has been increased.



**Family from Zagatala who has house was damaged due to earthquake. Red Crescent volunteers are estimating the level of damage and needs of this family. Photo Azerbaijan Red Crescent**

So far only in Zagatala more than 6,500 houses and public objects suffered from the earthquake; 680 houses were completely destroyed and inhabitant's property was buried under the debris. 6,949 families were evacuated and settled either in tents or nearby houses. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent aims to provide food and non-food items to the most vulnerable 3,500 persons (700 families) in Zagatala whose houses and property was completely damaged, to support them coping with the consequences of the disaster.

This operation is expected to be implemented for four months, and will therefore be completed by 23 September, 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 23 December, 2012).

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

## The situation

The first and the most powerful earthquake of magnitude 5.6 occurred on 7<sup>th</sup> May near Zagatala. There was another strong earthquake of magnitude 4.8 in Zagatala on 18<sup>th</sup> May. The regions most affected are Zagatala and Gakh, in the north-western part of Azerbaijan more than 400 km from Baku.

As a result of the earthquakes and aftershocks many private and public buildings were damaged. The Ministry of Emergency Situations conducted damage assessment on 5,074 buildings, which resulted in confirming that 1,993 buildings are in an emergency situation, and are considered uninhabitable. It has been decided to rebuild these houses. The electricity supply to the homes and facilities in emergency areas is shut down.

The table below demonstrates affected regions

District	Damaged/Destroyed houses	Houses under threat of collapsing	Number of families evacuated
Zagatala	6,506	162	6,949
Gakh	500	1,235	2160
Balakend		169	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,006</b>	<b>1,566</b>	<b>9,109</b>

The construction work on damaged schools in the Manyrh and Gezbarah villages and Zagatala city school No2 have already begun. Fourteen out of the 49 damaged schools, which are in an emergency situation, will be rebuilt.

From 16<sup>th</sup> May secondary schools and kindergartens are temporarily closed due to continuing tremors in the region: 77 schools, gyms and preschool institutions are in an emergency condition. The situation of the damaged houses has worsened due to downpours in the affected area and there is an increased risk of more houses being collapsed.

Fifteen people from Zagatala were injured and received first aid at one of the central hospitals. The Ministry of Emergency Situations continues its work on assessing the extent of damage and informs regularly the central government about the results. It has been decided to rebuild the destroyed houses of the affected families. The operative teams under the Ministry of Emergency Situations provided 2,823 families with food parcels and 4,887 families with tents. After the earthquake on 18<sup>th</sup> May, the Ministry of Emergency Situations has sent additional forces to the site. Along with existing 50 tents were additionally established for the residents.

The Red Crescent already mobilized its team at Headquarters level and in the region to provide necessary support with existing items from emergency stocks and held additional assessment to define further steps of assistance.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Red Crescent Society regularly receives detailed and updated information about the situation in the affected territories from other stakeholders. The National Society has established close cooperation with the Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, the Azerbaijan Institute of Seismology and Hydrometeorology as well as with local authorities. The Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society regularly updates its partners within the Movement about the process and steps taken. ICRC Delegation was informed about situation and actions taken so far.

Both, the International Federation Country Office and IFRC Europe Zone Office have followed the situation closely, and were updated about the necessary information for providing further support.

The Red Crescent local branches in Zagatala, Gakh and Balakend that are the members of Local Emergency Commissions were part of the operational teams under the Ministry of Emergency and actively participated in the process of evacuation, and settlement of the affected population. Tents were erected in the yards of the affected families close to the damaged houses and also tent camps were established by the Ministry of Emergency Situations. The assessment has shown that right after the earthquake the most needed support

was for temporary shelter and psychological assistance. Later on it was revealed that certain number of the affected families is also in need of household items as their own property has been lost under destroyed houses.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Crescent Society mobilized 143 staff and volunteers from Zagatala, Gakh, Balakend and Sheki local branches to carry out preliminary and detailed assessment of the situation indentifying the needs of the affected families.

On behalf of the President of the National Society and right after the earthquake official letter was presented to the Ministry of Emergency mentioning that the National Society is ready to provide assistance for the vulnerable families within its own resources and via international support. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Azerbaijan Red Crescent and the Ministry of Emergency that defined role of the National Society during emergencies, including regulations for the work of competent working group capable to carry out needs assessment, mobilizes existing human and technical reserves, ensures early warning and mitigation of effects of disasters, and in coordination with the Ministry of Emergency provides affected population with necessary food, supplies and drinking water, blood and blood components, supports authorities in organizing blood recruitment campaigns, health services, psychosocial support, first aid, distributes humanitarian relief as well as carries out tracing and rescue activities.

The Deputy Secretary General/Disaster Management Coordinator visited together with the local Red Crescent branch teams the affected regions to participate in the assessment process and collect additional information as well as to clarify the level of support to be provided by the National Society.

The Red Crescent team actively participated in the process of evacuation, tents establishment (nearby destroyed/damaged house or in establishment tent camp) and relief distribution as members of the operative teams under the Ministry of Emergency. Local branches of Zagatala and Gakh that are members of Local Emergency Commission sent official request to the President of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent in order to share information about the situation in their regions.

In response to the earthquake the National Society already distributed relief items for 30 families (150 persons) from its central warehouse and purchased from its own funds: 150 blankets, 150 mattresses, 300 towels, 150 bedding, 30 gas stoves.

Name of the item	Available and the central warehouse	Purchased	Number of people/family received
Blankets	150		150 people (one per person)
Towels	354		300 (2 per person)
Mattresses	37	113	150 people (one per person)
Bedding	131	19	150 people (one per person)
Gas stoves	63		30 families (one per family)
<b>Total</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>132</b>	

## The needs

Based on the detailed needs assessment conducted by the Red Crescent team and by the local authorities, it is planned to provide support to the most vulnerable families according to the identified needs. The results of the assessment show that the most affected families were selected according to the below criteria:

- Those families, whose houses were completely destroyed,
- The families that were evacuated
- Families who lost their property
- Households without bread winner or socially vulnerable or status is not clear
- Households with disabled children (physically and mentally)
- Refugees/IDPs

There are downpours in the region further worsening the situation of the affected families. Due to the mellow soil and mud in the area reconstruction of the houses is hampered. As most of the families have their properties severely affected by the earthquakes the most needed relief goods are food and non-food items (bedding, blankets, towels, mattresses, hygienic kits, kitchen sets, rubber boots). The local population is using spring water, therefore there is no need to distribute clean potable water for them.

Due to the frequent aftershocks in the affected area and recently occurred new earthquake in Zagatala and Sheki regions the National Society is also going to replenish the items that they have purchased and have already distributed<sup>1</sup>.

## The proposed operation

The Red Crescent Society is planning to provide assistance to the most affected families whose needs are yet uncovered and will be addressed through the DREF allocation. The National Society has prepared a plan of action to implement the operation. Based on the collected lists of the most affected families and their identified needs a coupon system will be created that will mention name of each member of the family and number of ID cards to lighten the process of distribution. A tender commission will be established to analyze suggested prices as well as quality of items and identify the most reasonable vendors for procurement. The purchased items will be stored at the central warehouse to carry out packing. All logistics/procurement processes will be conducted according to the International Federation standards. Trucks will be rented to deliver purchased items to the warehouse and to the affected area (sign contracts with the drivers in Baku and Zagatala). The National Society will conduct the loading and unloading processes in Baku and Zagatala. Red Crescent staff and volunteers will be mobilised to conduct the distribution in the affected areas and set up distribution points. National Society is planning to open 5 distribution points (by number of Zagatala region villages). As far as the items purchased and packed they will be stored at the warehouses kindly offered for use by the local authorities to Red Crescent Zagatala local branch. As long as all items will be collected for distribution the process will be announced and carried out by the National Society. The National Society volunteers will contribute to conduct the beneficiary satisfaction survey after the implemented operation.

**The National Society is going to purchase the following items for distribution to the affected population:**

Items	Quantity
<b>Food parcels</b> (rice, flour, granulated sugar, vegetable oil, dried milk, black beans, melted butter, salt, tea and pasta) (one parcel per each family) to be distributed in two months	<b>1,400</b>
<b>Rubber boots</b> (two pairs per family) to be distributed in one month	<b>1,400</b>
<b>Hygienic kits</b> (detergent, shampoo, toilet and laundry, soap, toothpaste and brush, shaving set, sanitary towel, towel) (one per each family) to be distributed in one month	<b>700</b>
<b>Kitchen sets</b> (one per each family) to be distributed in one month	<b>700</b>
<b>Mattresses</b> (one per person) to be distributed in one month	<b>3,463</b>
<b>Blankets</b> (one per person) to be distributed in one month	<b>3,350</b>
<b>Bedding set</b> (one per person) to be distributed in one month	<b>3,369</b>
<b>Towels</b> (one per person) to be distributed in one month	<b>3,146</b>

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Outcome: 700 evacuated families (3,500 people) from Zagatala and its villages are provided with food items for two months and non-food items to cope with the consequences of earthquake**

**Outputs (expected results) and activities planned: 700 families provided with necessary food and non-food items**

- Develop targeting strategy and registration system towards the most affected families to deliver intended assistance;
- Procure relief supplies in a transparent and efficient manner following logistics procedures;
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user according to Federation standards;
- Based on conducted assessment of the affected area and identified needs monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions;
- Develop an exit strategy and prepare final report on carried out process.

The Red Crescent Society Headquarters, in close cooperation with IFRC Country Representation will monitor the progress and provide necessary technical advice. Weekly operation updates will be sent to the IFRC

<sup>1</sup> items are listed in the table under Red Cross Red Crescent Action

Europe Zone office in Budapest. The National Society will be supported by IFRC Europe Zone office in conducting the beneficiary satisfaction survey and analysing the results of the survey. At the end of the operation a workshop will be organized on the national level with the participation of the teams involved in the implementation of the disaster response operation to share experiences and lessons learnt during the operation.

In order to ensure that the people assisted recognise the relief activities of the National Society, the image of Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society will be ensured through the following activities:

- Maximize the visibility of National Society through relief distributions, visits to the affected people, monitoring and evaluation by volunteers of Red Crescent branches
- Procure and utilize Red Crescent t-shirts, caps, ID-cards for volunteers and staff of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society involved in the implementation activities
- Conduct a beneficiary satisfaction survey to verify the appropriateness of the operation and get feedback from targeted people to improve future operations.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

- **Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society:** Baylar Talibov, Secretary General; phone +994 12 493 84 81; email: [baylar.talibov@redcrescent.az](mailto:baylar.talibov@redcrescent.az)
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**Click here**

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2. **Map of the affected areas** [below](#)
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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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**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.

# DREF OPERATION

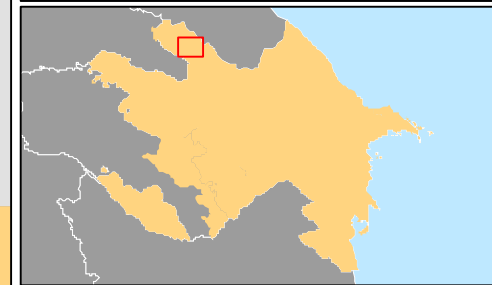
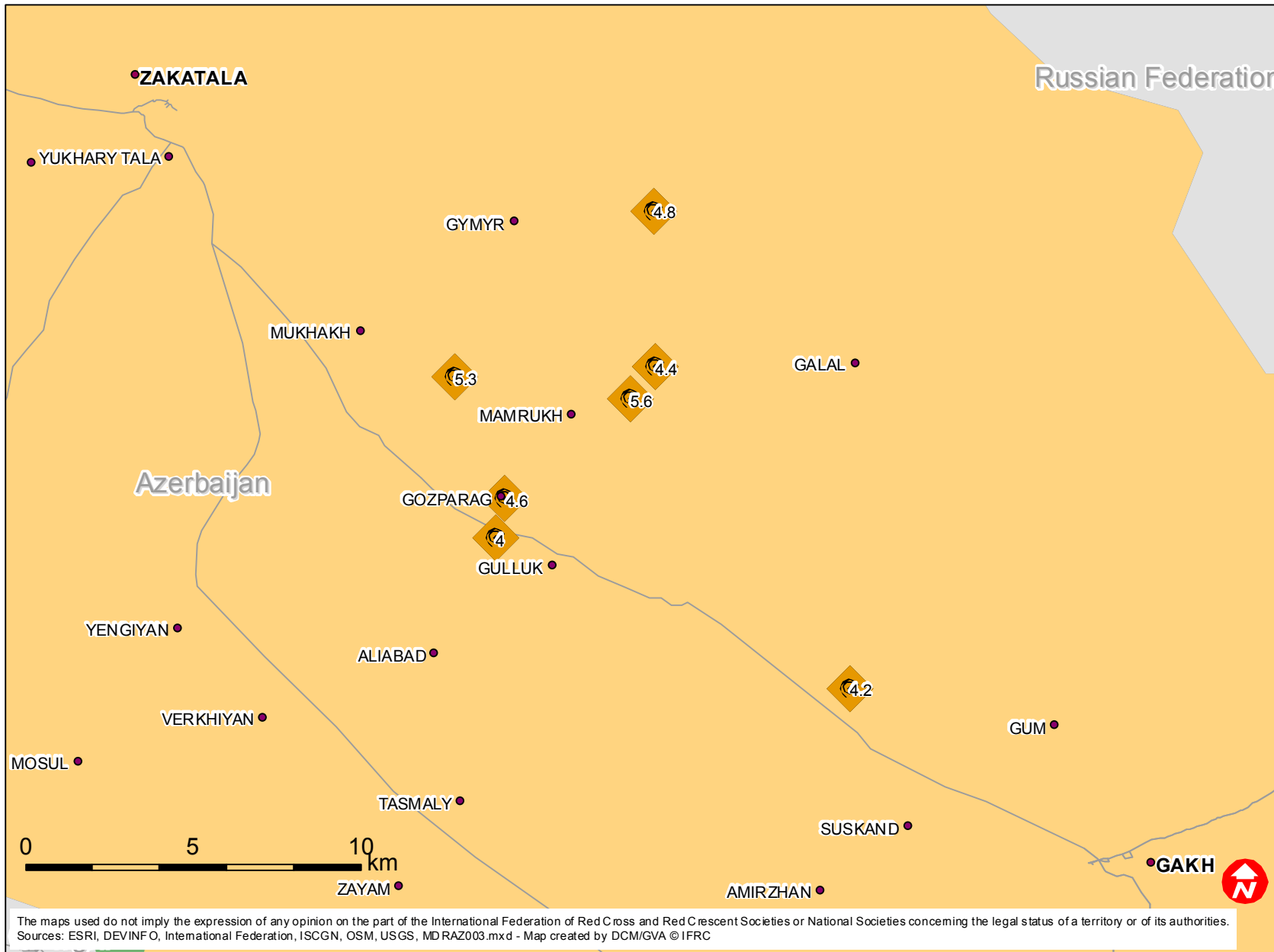
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Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	140,639
Food	38,640
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	47,880
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Ustensils & Tools	21,353
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>248,512</b>
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage, Warehousing	2,123
Distribution & Monitoring	8,400
Transport & Vehicle Costs	685
Logistics Services	0
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>11,208</b>
International Staff	3,000
National Staff	960
National Society Staff	2,304
Volunteers	715
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>6,979</b>
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>
Workshops & Training	1,188
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>1,188</b>
Travel	0
Information & Public Relations	0
Office Costs	0
Communications	195
Financial Charges	619
Other General Expenses	270
Shared Support Services	0
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>1,084</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	17,483
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>17,483</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>286,454</b>



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Earthquakes