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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Georgia: Flash Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRGE005
GLIDE n° FF-2012-000120-GEO
23 July 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.



A residential building destroyed by the floods. Photo: Georgia RC

CHF 178,771 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Georgia Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 770 households (3,500 people). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: The southern and eastern parts of Georgia (Gurjaani, Lagodekhi and Telavi municipalities of Kakheti Region, Akhaltsikhe, Adigeni, Aspindza and Vale municipalities of the Samtskhe-Javakheti Region and Bulachauri village of the Mtskheta-Mtianeti Region) were severely hit by rains, hail and storm on 19th July 2012. Over 1,200 families have been severely affected, roads were blocked, and further rains are predicted. Water has flooded houses, farmlands, orchards, and vineyards. Roads and communication lines have been disrupted. The affected areas have been disconnected from the electricity

network. Great numbers of cattle and poultry were killed. The walls of several houses collapsed, 770 houses became unroofed according governmental estimation and eighteen people have been injured. The Georgia Red Cross Society is aiming to assist 770 families comprising of 3,500 people with non-food items (NFI), i.e. mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits and tarpaulins.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 23rd October 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 23rd January 2013).

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

The situation

The southern and eastern parts of Georgia (Gurjaani, Lagodekhi and Telavi municipalities of the Kakheti Region, Akhaltsikhe, Adigeni, Aspindza and Vale municipalities of the Samtskhe-Javakheti Region and Bulachauri village of the Mtskheta-Mtianeti Region) were severely hit by rains, hail and storm on 19th July 2012. Altogether, over 1,200 families have been severely

affected, roads were blocked and further rains are predicted. Water has flooded houses, agricultural lands, orchards and vineyards. Roads and communication lines have been disrupted. The affected areas have been disconnected from the electricity network. Great numbers of cattle and poultry were killed. Walls of several houses collapsed, 770 houses were unroofed (according governmental estimation) and eighteen people have been injured.

According to the weather forecast, further rains are predicted therefore there is a possibility that the situation will evolve. Mudslides and water have inundated houses, agricultural lands, roads, bridges, drainage canals, water system and disrupted the communication network. The affected areas have been disconnected from the water and gas system. The local and the central governments are working on the rehabilitation of the roads and bridges, cleaning the draining channels, reconstructing the roads, fixing the electricity system.

This flooding is the largest disaster in Georgia since the August 2008 military conflict. The government of Georgia estimates the total amount of the losses at 150 million GEL, or approximately 89 million CHF, with 20,000 households affected and 22,000 hectares of arable land devastated in Kakheti alone.

The government of Georgia is active in the affected areas, focusing on road clean-up, infrastructure rehabilitation, and debris removal. Furthermore, the government has started the distribution of fertilizers and pesticides to aide the preservation of damaged plants as well as the implementation of a compensation scheme for the lost agricultural output.

Coordination and partnerships

In the affected area, the Georgia Red Cross Society is taking the lead in response to the floods coordinating its work with the International Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross and Partner National Societies. The GRCS is providing regular update on the situation and activities planned. At this stage, an exchange of information is taking place with the ICRC Delegation in Georgia and in case the situation worsens, the ICRC might also be involved in the operation in close cooperation with the NS and IFRC, to avoid any duplication.

The Georgia Red Cross Society is also coordinating its assistance with the national and local authorities. The National Society seeks to fulfil its auxiliary role to the Government of Georgia and its role as the sole Georgian humanitarian organization being included in the National Disaster Response Plan of Georgia. Close coordination and information sharing is maintained with the State Emergency Department of Georgia under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia in Tbilisi, and the Red Cross Branches in affected areas.



Devastation in a flooded garden. Photo: Georgia RC

Georgia Red Cross Society representatives are involved in the Field Operational Centre established by the government (Emergency Management Department under the Ministry of Interior) in the affected Kakheti Region (Eastern Georgia). The Emergency Management Department has sent rescue teams to all disaster-stricken areas for rescuing the affected people after the heavy rain and hail. Local and central authorities are working on rehabilitation of the roads.

The National Society is in contact with the European Commission (EC) Tbilisi Office, and information is being shared in the form of coordination meetings, in order to avoid duplication and ensure that the most vulnerable are reached. The Georgian Red Cross is participating in the coordination meetings and is updating the civil society on a regular basis. Information from other organisations (UNDP, OXFAM, UNICEF) working in the country is being collected and response will be coordinated.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Georgia Red Cross Society Disaster Management Department has sent DM teams from the headquarters in Tbilisi and from the Telavi Branch to the affected areas: Kakheti region (Eastern Georgia), Mtskheta-Mtianeti region (Eastern Georgia) and Samtskhe-Javakheti region (Southern Georgia) to conduct a rapid assessment of the situation. 15 staff and 30 volunteers of the Georgia Red Cross Society are in the affected area, carrying out the assessment.

The teams are also coordinating with the local authorities and NGO's working in the affected regions. The next steps for the National Society, following the approval of this DREF, include a detailed assessment by identifying and selecting the most

vulnerable families, procuring and distributing relief supplies to affected people. All assessments and procurement procedures will be conducted according to IFRC standards. 15 staff and 30 volunteers of the Georgia Red Cross Society are in the affected area, carrying out the assessment.

The needs

Based on the information received from local authorities, and from the GRCS assessment teams, the needs of people affected by the heavy rains and landslides are tents, blankets, kitchen sets and hygiene kits. It is also of imminent importance to protect the affected families from further exposure to the predicted bad weather conditions through the provision of family tents for temporary shelter. There are no reports of serious food shortages. People to be reached will be specified following an assessment in the affected region to identify the most vulnerable households.

The needs among affected people by the heavy rains, hail and storm are non-food items such as mattresses blankets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits and tarpaulins. There are no reports of serious food shortages. Out of the estimated 1.200 households which have been affected, the National Society aims to cover 770 families of the most affected households, estimated 3500 people.

The beneficiaries are selected according to the following criteria:

- Older individuals living alone;
- People living with disabilities;
- Families with small children;
- Alone standing mothers.

The proposed operation

Based on the needs in the affected areas the Georgia Red Cross Society, supported by the International Federation and Sister National Societies, aims to provide mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits and tarpaulins to the 770 most affected households amounting to 3500 people. The operation will be implemented over three months.

The actions by Georgia Red Cross Society seek to complement other actors' support to affected people such as UNHCR which will provide the flood-stricken people with, 10 litre jerry cans, folding beds, mattresses, blankets and pillows, bed sheet sets, as well as tents that can accommodate 10 people each. The Mercy Corps have started the assessment for recovery activities. Measures to avoid duplication are undertaken through meetings and information sharing.

The Georgia Red Cross Society is mandated by the Presidential decree to coordinate disasters in Georgia through an established coordination forum. The focus area for the operation will be Kakheti, Mtskheta-Mtianeti and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: The most affected population (770 households /3,500 people) are provided with basic non-food items to help them manage with the consequences of floods

Output 1: 770 families (3,500 people) will receive non- food items

- Assess the affected area to identify the most affected households
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance
- Procure relief supplies from local suppliers according to Federation standards
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions Supplies and amounts to be procured and distributed:

The following items are planned to be procured and distributed among the affected population:

- Mattresses will be provided to the families. One mattress per family is planned to be distributed.
- Blankets will be provided to the families. One blanket per family is planned to be distributed.
- Kitchen sets containing frying pad, cooking pot, knife, spoon, plate, and cup will be distributed.
- Hygiene kits will include such items as shampoo, tooth paste, tooth brush, toilet paper, soap, bath towel, washing powder.
- Tarpaulins.

The whole humanitarian operation led by Georgia Red Cross Society will adhere to the SPHERE humanitarian standards.

The Red Cross Society Headquarters will, in close cooperation with the International Federation, monitor the progress and provide necessary technical advice.

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.

The visibility of Georgia Red Cross Society activities and strengthening of the National Society's image 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 Cross branches
- Procure and utilize Red Cross t-shirts, caps, ID-cards for volunteers and staff of the Georgia Red Cross Society
- Conduct a 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:

- **Georgia Red Cross Society**, Medea Margania - Avaliani, Secretary General, phone: +995 322 940650; email: mmargania@regcross.ge
- **IFRC Country Representation**: Ekaterine Kristesashvili, Acting Country Representative in Tbilisi, phone: phone+995 599 145717;., email: ekaterine.kristesashvili@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Europe Zone Office**: Alberto Monguzzi, Acting Disaster Management coordinator; office phone:+36 1 8884 500; email: alberto.monguzzi@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva**: Christine South, Operations Support, phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org



Click here

1. DREF operation budget **[below](#)**
2. Click **[here](#)** to see the map of the affected area
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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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

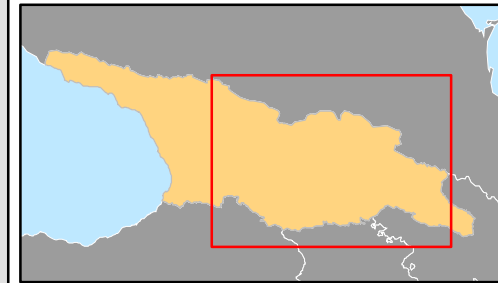
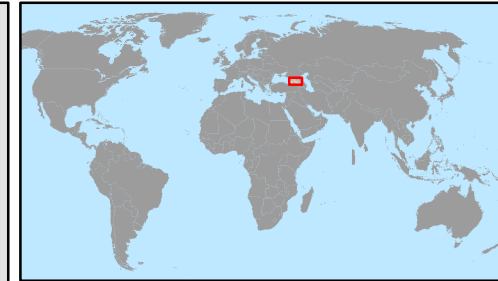
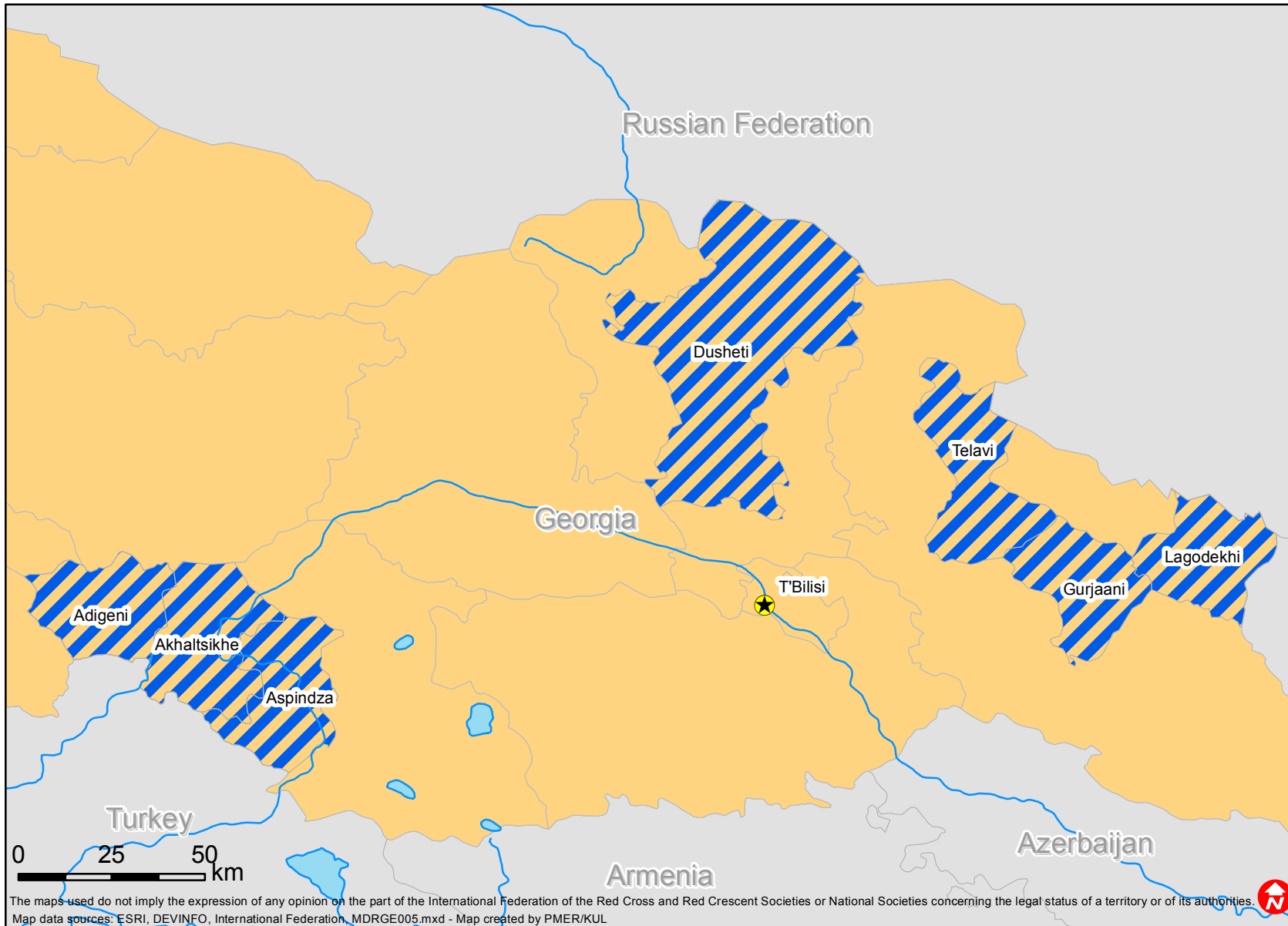
7/20/2012

DREF OPER/ Georgia Flash Floods

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	23,100
Clothing & Textiles	52,360
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	33,800
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	34,650
Other Supplies & Services	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	143,910
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	3,500
Distribution & Monitoring	2,500
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,300
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	10,300
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	4,900
Volunteers	3,000
Total PERSONNEL	7,900
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	3,000
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	3,000
Travel	
Information & Public Relations	700
Office Costs	
Communications	750
Financial Charges	200
Other General Expenses	600
Shared Office and Services Costs	500
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	2,750
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	10,911
Total INDIRECT COSTS	10,911
TOTAL BUDGET	178,771



Georgia: Flash floods



 Affected districts/ municipalities

