

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

DREF final report Tajikistan: Food Insecurity

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tajikistan: Food Insecurity

DREF operation n° MDRTJ012
GLIDE n° OT-2012-000040-TJK
5 October 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 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 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.

In addition to the 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.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification report, prepared by the World Food Programme in January 2012, showed that the most affected area in Tajikistan is Murghob district, which is located in a remote, hardly accessible, mountainous area in Badakhshan Autonomous Region. Badakhshan Region is considered to fall under the category of humanitarian emergency according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification report. The inhabitants of Murghob district were considered most vulnerable 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.

Based on the situation, this DREF operation focused on providing support and assistance to the most affected population in six administrative centres (jamoats) of Murghob. Food assistance was urgently needed for the identified 500 households (3,000 people spread in six administrative centres). The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan took the lead in provision of food assistance and contributed timely to easing the food challenges among the population, as well as to preventing the possible hunger in most vulnerable households.



The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan distributing urgently needed food assistance to the vulnerable families in Murghob district. Photo credit: IFRC

The operation was successfully completed by 30th June 2012 as it was scheduled. The targeted vulnerable families, the local authorities and the government of Badakhshan Region expressed their high gratitude and satisfaction with the programme and believed that the operation prevented the district from the severe food challenges. Murghob local authorities as a sign of thankfulness to the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan for this support were keen to assign a room in the building of local government to serve as a branch office for RCST. The staff and volunteers of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan in the region improved their skills in conducting assessments, planning and implementation of distribution operation, as well as in reporting. The whole operation from the start until the end was fully supervised by IFRC.

The Red Crescent 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 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 to coordinate the planned actions and to avoid the duplications in the operations.

The Government of the Netherlands contributed CHF 30,171 through the Red Cross Society of the Netherlands to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation.

The major donors and partners of the DREF operation in Tajikistan include the Australian, the American and the Belgian Governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and the Canadian Government, the Danish Red Cross and the Danish Government, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the Irish and the Italian Governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg Government, the Monaco Red Cross and the Monaco Government, the Netherlands Red Cross and the Netherlands Government, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Norwegian Government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and the Swedish Government, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. On behalf of the Tajikistan Red Crescent Society, the IFRC would like to extend their thanks to all of them for their generous contributions.

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

The 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, examined the impact of 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).

The Badakhshan Region was considered to fall under the category of humanitarian emergency according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification report. The situation in the remotest district of the region – Murghob was the worst of all, where the food and fuel prices, the distant location and severe climatic conditions combined with reduced income and unemployment resulting in food insecurity of almost a quarter of the population. Murghob district is located 350 km away from the region administrative centre - Khorugh city and 843km from the capital city Dushanbe. Murghob district has a total population of 14,633 people (51% female). The district is populated mainly by ethnic Kyrgyzs. Due to the non-availability of arable lands with irrigation, the main source of income for the population is cattle breeding. 99% of the territory is occupied by mountains and highlands (more than 3-5 thousand meters in altitude). The population usually lives from animal husbandry and plant growing. Food for family consumption is mainly delivered from the nearest local marketplace, which is located in Khorugh city. At the same time, food to Khorugh is delivered from the capital city Dushanbe, located 843 km far from Murghob and some 723 km far from Khorugh. Because of the transportation, the price of food in Murghob is significantly higher compared to the food prices in capital city and other regions of Tajikistan.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

This DREF operation addressed the needs of most affected population in six administrative centres (jamoats) of Murghob district. Four months' supplementary food assistance was provided for the identified 500 households (3,000 people). The operation added to the improved nutrition of the affected population.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan as one of the major actors in food security in Tajikistan conducted several meetings and consultations with other stakeholders amongst them related governmental agencies and international organizations active in the region. In coordination and consultations with other stakeholders, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan deployed 25 volunteers and 3 staff from its Murghob branch to assess the situation related to food insecurity in Murghob district.

After finalizing the beneficiary selection RCST procured the required volume of wheat flour, sugar, vegetable oils, and tea and transported them into region. After finalizing the beneficiary selection RCST procured the required volume of wheat flour, sugar, vegetable oils, and tea and transported them into region. See table below:

Amount of food distributed

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

The operation was successfully completed by 30th June 2012 as it was scheduled. The whole operation from the start until the end was fully supervised by IFRC.

Achievements against outcomes

Relief distributions (food assistance)

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

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.

Impact: The DREF Operation covered 3,000 out of about 15,000 population of Murghob, remotest and most vulnerable district of the republic of Tajikistan. These were the most vulnerable of the population: multi-children families, female-headed and older people living alone, in total 500 families (more than 20% of Murghob district population) were provided with four months supplementary food. The targeted groups of the population received wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and tea to meet the minimum ratio of basic food need.

The assessment team prepared the beneficiary lists of vulnerable households in all 6 administrative centres of Murghob district and the lists were approved by the local authorities, communities' leaders and CoEs. For these purposes RCST with the support of IFRC developed a new format, with clearly explained selection criteria for the individuals and families to be covered by this DREF Operation to ensure avoiding any potential misunderstandings from the community, i.e. those not fitting the mentioned selection criteria. The targeted households were the inhabitants of Murghob district centre and other five administrative centres (jamoats):

Distribution per administrative centre

Name of the administrative centre (jamoat)	Number of families reached by RCST	Number of people 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 Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan fully controlled the distribution process and post-distribution evaluations showed that the targeted beneficiaries were satisfied with the provided food assistance and with the quality of the service.

The staff and volunteers of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan jointly with the community leaders and local authorities distributed the food relief to 500 targeted households. The distribution was fully monitored and delivery of food items from the point of distribution to end user was fully controlled.

The staff and volunteers of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan in the region improved their skills in conducting assessments, planning and implementation of distribution operation, as well as in reporting. One-day training on nutrition in emergencies and food security assessment was conducted for 200 volunteers in 20 districts which were affected by food insecurity and the volunteers were involved actively into assessment the situation with food security in their districts, as well as into evaluation of the DREF operation in Murghob.

The targeted vulnerable families, the local authorities and the government of Badakhshan Region expressed their high gratefulness and satisfaction with the programme and believed that the operation prevented the district from the severe food challenges. Murghob local authorities as a sign of thankfulness to the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan for this support was keen to assign a room in the building of local government to serve as a branch office for RCST.

The main challenge from the start until the end of operation remained the remoteness of the district. Murghob is located in the most remote part of Tajikistan, close to the border of China and the only way to reach the area is a long and bad road with up to 20 hours of drive. In addition, the jamoats are located far from each other and from the centre of the district, where the food was stored for distribution. It was agreed with the local authorities and local communities that the representatives from each jamoat will transport the required amount of food assistance themselves with their transport. The transportation to each jamoat was controlled and monitored by the deployed RCST staff in order to ensure the delivery of the aid to end users.

Another challenge was communication with the RCST branch in the district. The mobile telephone and Internet connections are poor due to the remoteness of area, but it was also difficult to charge cell phones and computers due to the shortages with electricity common in winter time. RCST branch had no office and no communication means, except simple cell phone, and the local branch of Focus Humanitarian NGO assisted the RCST branch allowing them to use the computer and Internet in its office.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Eric Michel-Sellier, Country Representative in Dushanbe, phone: +992 372 24 42 96, email: eric.michelsellier@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Zone:** Alberto Monguzzi, Acting Disaster Management Coordinator; office phone:+36 1 8884 500; email: alberto.monguzzi@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Support, Phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org

DREF history:

This DREF was initially allocated **on 13 March 2012** for **CHF 189,270** for four months to assist **500 households (3,000 beneficiaries)**.



Click here

1. Click [here](#) for the final financial report
2. 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.

www.ifrc.org

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.

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/3-8
Budget Timeframe	2012/3-7
Appeal	MDRTJ012
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget	189,270					189,270	
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	189,270					189,270	
C4. Other Income	189,270					189,270	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	189,270					189,270	
D. Total Funding = B + C	189,270					189,270	
Coverage = D/A	100%					100%	

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
C. Income	189,270					189,270	
E. Expenditure	-189,266					-189,266	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	4					4	

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance A - B
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)	189,270						189,270	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Food	131,574	117,853					117,853	13,721
Total Relief items, Construction, Supplies	131,574	117,853					117,853	13,721
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	3,000	5,305					5,305	-2,305
Transport & Vehicles Costs	31,400	45,991					45,991	-14,591
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	34,400	51,296					51,296	-16,896
Personnel								
National Society Staff	1,830							1,830
Volunteers	2,465	3,542					3,542	-1,078
Total Personnel	4,295	3,542					3,542	752
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	5,000	3,527					3,527	1,473
Total Workshops & Training	5,000	3,527					3,527	1,473
General Expenditure								
Information & Public Relations	1,500	266					266	1,234
Communications	950	1,008					1,008	-58
Financial Charges		222					222	-222
Total General Expenditure	2,450	1,496					1,496	954
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	11,552	11,551					11,551	0
Total Indirect Costs	11,552	11,551					11,551	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	189,270	189,266					189,266	4
VARIANCE (C - D)		4					4	