

**DREF operation n° MDRKZ006
GLIDE n° CW-2012-000204-KAZ
26th December 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 158,584 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay the DREF assistance are encouraged.

Summary: Freezing temperatures reaching minus 40 to 46 degrees Celsius have been hitting the northern, eastern and



Eastern Kazakhstan: Homeless exposed to the severe cold
Photo: Tengrinews.kz

central parts of Kazakhstan since 17 December 2012. As a result of low temperatures, the adhesion of snow to the power lines and the ensuing tearing caused power supply cuts in various localities of the mentioned regions of Kazakhstan.

As a first response to the situation, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society (KZRCS) conducted a rapid assessment and provided humanitarian aid to 488 homeless people and street children. This relief was provided from own resources and prepositioned stocks of the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society. The support included 51 blankets, 12 sleeping bags, 600 kg of various second hand clothes, 32 bedding sets, medicine and bandages for 81 people, hot meals for 488 people.

The branches of the Kazakh National Society have been in daily contact with the relevant administrative and emergency authorities in order to monitor the situation and to develop their response mechanisms.

This operation will support the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society in providing immediate non-food and food relief to 2,000 beneficiaries in Petropavlovsk, Semey and Karaganda cities in three geographic regions of Kazakhstan (northern, eastern and central parts) by distributing blankets, warm clothing, footwear, hot meals and food parcels. Another 1,500 people will be reminded, through awareness raising, of the appropriate behaviour in case of extreme cold through information materials placed in public places.

This operation is expected to be implemented during a period of two months, and will therefore be completed by the 28th of February 2013 with a final report due on the 28th of May 2013.

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

The situation

Freezing temperatures reaching minus 40 to 46 degrees Celsius have been hitting Kazakhstan since 17 December 2012. A cold spell covered the northern, eastern and central parts of the country.

According to the weather forecasts, the frost will ease and the air temperature will rise by 5-10 degrees in Kazakhstan by the end of the week. But the second cold spell is expected soon after that. A cold cyclone will reach the same parts of the country in January and February according to the national meteorological agency, Kazgidromet.

As a result of low temperatures, the adhesion of snow to the power lines and the ensuing tearing caused power supply cuts in various localities of the mentioned regions of Kazakhstan. Kindergartens and schools (Grades 1 to 11) were closed as it is stipulated by the law when the temperature falls below a certain level. Several main roads in Kazakhstan also remained closed for a period of time. About 20-25 trucks were stranded on three national (inter-regional) roads in the eastern, northern and central regions of Kazakhstan. However, by now the roads have been cleared.

Over 5,000 people in these geographic areas were affected by severe frosts and the resulting hot-water pipe and electricity systems breakdowns and heating interruptions. This number includes the stranded truck drivers, residents who were affected by the power and heating supply cuts as well as homeless people and street children exposed to the cold.

Local authorities are focusing their main efforts on ensuring un-interrupted electricity and heating supply. More than 1,000 special technical teams and 300 mechanized units were engaged daily in the repair of the broken hot-water pipes, electricity and heating systems. All urban services were placed on alert even before the temperature plunged, and in most areas the situation remained under control.

The most vulnerable groups affected by extreme temperatures in the three mentioned geographical regions are homeless people and street children. About 45 percent of them are accommodated in social adaptation centres, 25 percent are hospitalized with frost bites and other related sicknesses but 30 percent are still searching for shelter, most often on the ground floors of apartment blocks. This latter group badly needs hot meals and warm clothes.

Coordination and partnerships

As the principal emergency response agency operating in the field, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society (KZRCS) maintains close contacts with the Ministry and the Departments for Emergencies, the Ministry and the Departments for Social Protection of Population, the respective Health and Education Ministries, the local administrations and the media. During the rapid assessment the involved National Society branches cooperated with local administrations, emergency departments and the condominiums' cooperatives.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The KZRCS has responded to the situation starting from the 18th December 2012 by deploying six staff and twelve of its volunteers and National Disaster Response Team members to conduct rapid needs assessment and provide humanitarian aid in the cities of Karaganda, Petropavlovsk and Semey. The following items were already distributed by the Red Crescent Society from its own prepositioned stocks: 51 blankets, 18 mattresses, 12 sleeping bags, more than 600 kg of second hand clothes, 32 bedding sets, medicines and bandages for 81 people and hot meals for 488 people, mainly homeless adults and street children. The items were provided to the most vulnerable groups such as elderly people aged over 60 living alone (500 people); homeless (700 people); and street children (87 people).

The hot meals were provided in Petropavlovsk with the support from the regional Emergency Department that provided the National Society branch with soup kitchens. The regional branch also called for the population to support the people in need with donations of warm clothing and funds: four local newspapers have published the Red Crescent Society's announcement. The Red Crescent Hospital in Semey has been providing medical services to the affected people requiring such support.

The needs

The results of the assessment have revealed that from among the affected population, it is the elderly people living alone, the homeless people and the street children who are the most vulnerable in this situation and the ones most in need of support. The National Society is targeting the most vulnerable people among the affected population. Based on the results of the assessment, the main needs of the identified groups are for warm clothes and footwear, blankets, thermos flasks, torches and food in the form of parcels with durable items and hot meals.

The beneficiaries have actually been selected according to the rapid assessments and consultations with local authorities. The following methods have been used:

1. official information from local authorities and the departments of emergencies;
2. direct observations;
3. semi-structured interviews.

The following categories will be provided with humanitarian aid:

- elderly people aged over 60 living alone within reach of the National Society branches (30% of the total number of beneficiaries);
- single women with children (25% of the total beneficiaries);
- homeless people (35% of the total number of beneficiaries);
- street children (10% of the total number of beneficiaries).

The proposed operation

The main focus of the operation is to distribute basic relief items including food and non-food items to meet the needs of the people who have been identified as being the most vulnerable and the ones most in need of support in the badly affected districts of Petropavlovsk, Semey, and Karaganda cities.

487 single women with children under 15 years old, 594 elderly people living alone will receive food parcels that will be distributed in two rounds to 1,081 people (total of 2,162 food parcels will be distributed).

620 homeless people and 299 street children (919 persons) will receive hot meals and warm clothing (650 sets), blankets (800 pcs), footwear (800 pairs). Based on the continuous needs assessments the National Society will try to address the arising additional needs in case this will be necessary.

Under the circumstances of the present cold wave, the assistance of the Red Crescent will be of special value during the upcoming extremely cold period, as the ordinary social shelters for the homeless, operated by the local authorities, are overloaded, and the local authorities cannot provide shelter and meals to all people who are in need.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
Outcome: Coping mechanisms of the most vulnerable people exposed to extreme temperatures in three target cities have improved.
Output 1: Hot meals and non-food items have been provided to 620 homeless people and 299 street children. Food items have been provided to 487 single women with children under 15 years of age and 594 elderly people living alone. Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare the lists of beneficiaries together with the social welfare department and in accordance with the Red Crescent's assessment.• Mobilize volunteers and provide them with orientation on distribution protocols.• Identify, register, verify and mobilize beneficiaries for food distributions.• Organize hot meals points (with soup kitchens in Karaganda and Petropavlovsk and through the Red Crescent hospital in Semey) to 620 homeless people and 299 street children.• Distribute food packages to 487 single women with children under 15 years of age and 594 elderly people living alone.• Distribute non-food packages (blanket, warm clothing, footwear).• Conduct post-distribution surveys.• Monitor and report on distributions.
Output 2: 1,500 people in target cities have raised their awareness of correct behaviour in case of cold temperatures.

Activities:

- Print 150 posters with rules of behaviour in case of low temperatures.
- Place posters in public places (railroad stations, bus stations, markets etc.) in each of the three target cities.

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society will provide hot meals jointly with local authorities (mayor's offices) and departments of emergency. This will be a supplementary ration (1,000 Kcal per person) provided once a day. In Semey and Karaganda cities the RC has its own canteens where they will cook lunches (soup as a first dish, second dish and hot tea), then the departments of emergency will provide the soup kitchen equipment (special field kitchen cars used by the military), whereas the local authorities and the RC volunteers will organise information campaigns for homeless and street children through the condominium cooperatives. In Petropavlovsk city, the staff of the Department of Emergency will do the cooking in its canteen, and then the RC staff and volunteers will distribute, together with the local authorities through the condominium cooperatives, the hot meals at the most typical places of concentration for the homeless adults and street children.

The food parcels will be distributed in two rounds. The first distribution will be arranged in January and the second in February 2013. All food and non-food items will be purchased locally according to IFRC standards and procedures.

The contents of a food parcel with durable items meant for one month are the following:

Item	Amount	Caloric value (Kcal)
Rice	5 packs x 1kg	13,480
Flour	2 packs x 2kg	10,600
Vegetable oil	2 bottles x 1litre	18,000
Macaroni	5 packs x 400g	7,000
Buckwheat	2 packs x 900g	6,250
Condensed milk	3 cans x 200ml	1,320
Tea	2 packs x 250g	n. a.
Sugar	3 packs x 1kg	8,850

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society has established a reliable reporting system. The programme personnel will prepare the required narrative and financial reports based on the progress during the implementation of the operation. The projects will be regularly monitored and evaluated by using interviews and questionnaires. Weekly operation updates will be sent to the European Zone Office of the IFRC. A beneficiary satisfaction survey will be conducted after the distribution of the items so as to assess if the beneficiaries have received the assistance in a timely and well-organized manner.

A Red Crescent workshop will be held on the national level with the participation of the teams involved in the implementation of the disaster response operation to share experiences and lessons learned during the operation. Visibility of the work of the volunteers is going to be provided during the operations through publications and regular information to the media.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[Click here](#)

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

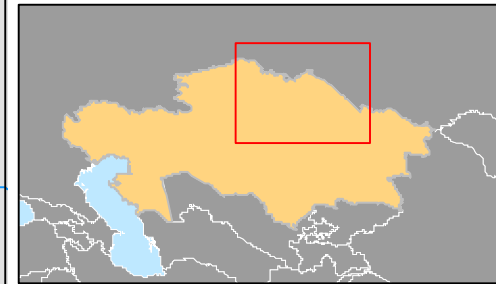
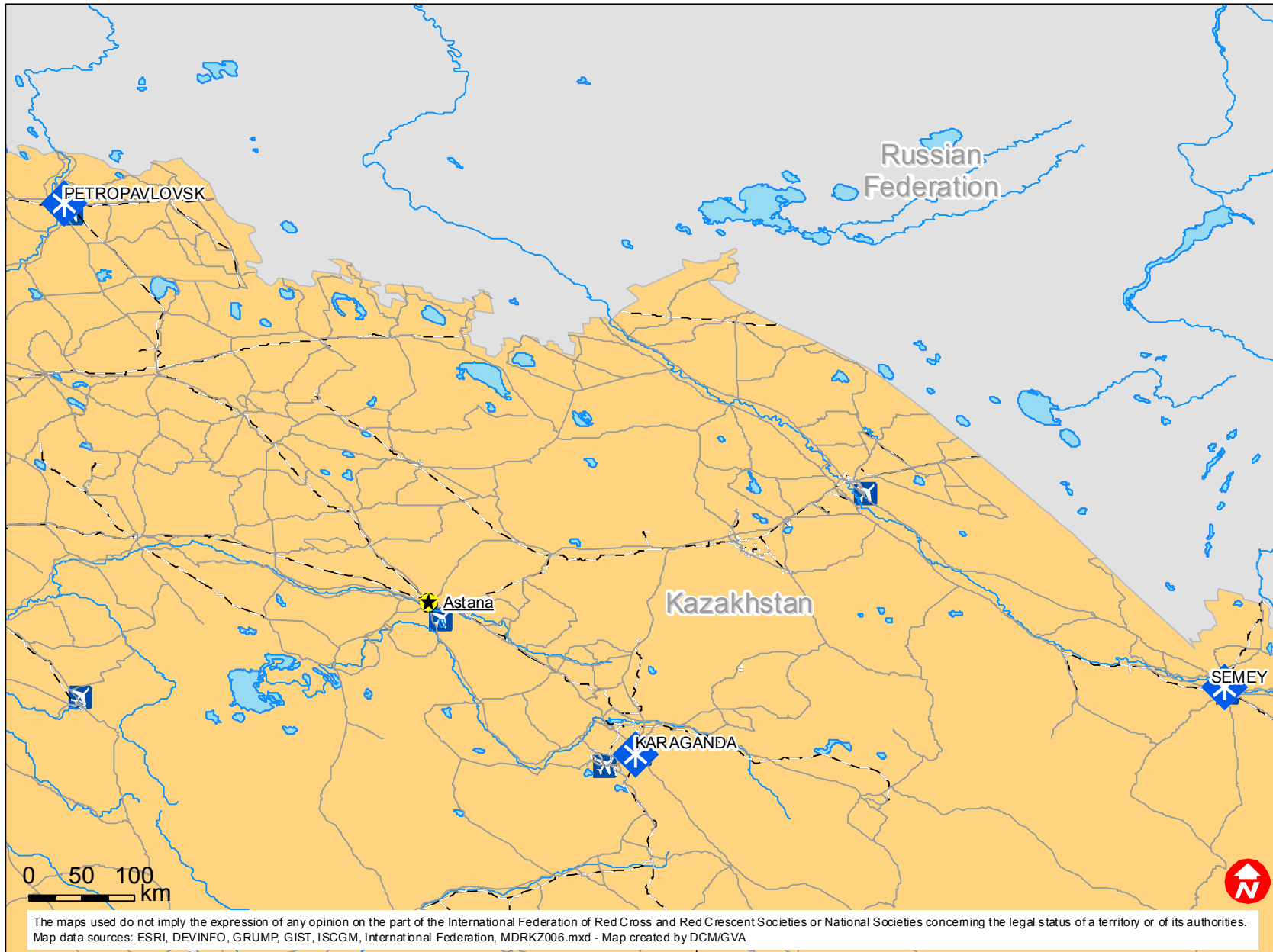
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MDRKZ006 Kazakhstan: Extreme Winter Condition

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	29,750
Food	108,050
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	137,800
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	2,200
Distribution & Monitoring	1,500
Transport & Vehicle Costs	0
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	3,700
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	1,000
Volunteers	1,800
Total PERSONNEL	2,800
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	2,500
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	2,500
Travel	1,000
Information & Public Relations	105
Office Costs	
Communications	750
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	250
Shared Office and Services Costs	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	2,105
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	9,679
Total INDIRECT COSTS	9,679
TOTAL BUDGET	158,584



Kazakhstan: Extreme winter conditions



Target cities