

DREF operation n° MDRGE005 GLIDE n° FF-2012-000120-GEO

21st January 2013

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 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 178,771 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Georgia Red Cross Society in delivering assistance to some 770 households (3,500 people).

The southern and eastern parts of Georgia (Kakheti, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Mtskheta-Mtianeti regions) were severely affected by heavy rains, hails and storm on 19th July 2012. According to the *initial* assessment, it had seemed that only 1,200 families, about 6,000 people, had been affected, but after the *final* assessment, which was completed by October 2012 due to the general political tension in the country and the inaccessibility to certain regions, the assessing local authorities determined that the impact was much greater, and the total number of the affected population was increased up to 20,000 households. Roads had been blocked. Water had flooded houses, agricultural lands and fruit gardens. Vineyards were ruined. The affected areas became disconnected from the electricity network. Cattle and poultry got killed in high numbers. The walls of several houses collapsed and 770 houses were unroofed, according to Georgian government information.



Georgia Red Cross Society Disaster Management assessment team is visiting a damaged house in Telavi district.

In response to the disaster, upon a detailed needs assessment of the affected population, the Georgia Red Cross Society (GRCS) decided to prioritize according to its the mandate to save lives, and the most vulnerable 770 families, 3,500 people, were selected for assistance with non-food items (NFI), i.e. mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits and tarpaulins. The hygiene kit included some hair shampoo, hand soap, toothpaste, washing powder, toilet paper, dish sponge, towel, toothbrush, and dishwashing liquid. The kitchen kit comprised aluminium non-stick utensils, clamshell, cups, knives, extractor, canvas, and trash container.

CHF178,771 was allocated for the implementation of the project activities. Utilisation rate is 100%. There is no balance left.

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

The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Directorate (ECHO) and the Netherlands Red Cross with the Netherlands Government contributed with CHF 143,017 and CHF 38,392 respectively to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation, covering 100% of the total amount of the operation's costs.

The major donors and partners of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Australian, American and 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 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 Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. Details of all donors can be found at http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2012.pdf

On behalf of the Georgia Red Cross Society, the IFRC would like to extend their thanks to all of them for their generous contributions.

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, hails and storms on 19th July 2012. Altogether, thousands of families were severely affected: the number went up from an initial 1,200 to 20,000. Roads were blocked, and the water flooded houses, agricultural lands, orchards and vineyards. Communication lines became disrupted. The affected areas were disconnected from the electricity and gas network. Great numbers of cattle and poultry got killed. The walls of several houses collapsed, 770 houses were unroofed (according to governmental assessments) and eighteen people got injured.

That flooding represented one of the largest disasters in Georgia's history after 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 was active in the affected areas, focusing on road clean-up, infrastructure rehabilitation, and debris removal. Furthermore, the government 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

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

The Georgia Red Cross Society is mandated by a presidential decree to coordinate activities in case of disasters in Georgia through an established coordination forum. Non State Actors' coordination meetings are held on a regular basis for sharing information and experience, as well as for coordinating the key stakeholders' activities to avoid duplication. Within the Movement, 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 providing regular update on the situation and activities planned.

During the operation in question, the Georgia Red Cross Society coordinated its work with the national and local authorities of the affected areas. Close coordination and information sharing was maintained with the State Emergency Department of Georgia, the community based organisations working in Georgia and the

Red Cross Branches in the affected regions. Coordination meetings were held at the GRCS headquarters involving key stakeholders to reach the most vulnerable families in the affected regions.

The National Society's work in response to the floods was closely coordinated with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as well as Partner National Societies (Danish Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross), with the GRCS providing regular updates on the situation and the implemented activities.

GRCS as well as other key stakeholders received information from the NGO "World Vision" about their action after the disaster in Kakheti: according to the information 80 households in Kakheti, the villages Shalauri, Akura, Kisiskhevi, Busheti and Vanta have received support package which provides families with assistance to plant cereal crops; a further 51 households have received support packages which help them to care for their vineyards with fertilizers, pesticides, nourishing supplements and protection treatment for sleeping buds.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Georgia Red Cross Society (GRCS) Disaster Management Department has sent DM teams from the headquarters and Telavi Branch (Telavi is a regional centre of Kakheti) 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. The teams were also coordinating with the local authorities and NGOs working in the affected regions. 10 GRCS staff members from HQ/Branches and 50 volunteers were involved in total.

The Georgia Red Cross Society responded, in active cooperation with Emergency Management department under the Ministry of Interior, immediately to the urgent needs of the affected population after the natural disasters and distributed 4800 m² tarpaulins to 200 families in Kakheti Region.

GRCS local branch volunteers actively participated in the packaging and distribution of 1,500 loaves of bread provided by the NGO **Care International** to the affected population.

The GRCS urgently convened a Non State Actors meeting at the GRCS HQ for information sharing and coordination with the key stakeholders. After the DREF approval, the National Society conducted detailed assessment for identifying and selecting the most vulnerable families, and procured and distributed relief supplies to them. All assessments and procurement procedures were completed according to IFRC standards.

The National Society covered 975 most vulnerable families: 770 families through the DREF operation, and an additional 205 families with the support of other donors. The selection criteria took into account the amount of damage that the houses of the affected families suffered, and the primary focus was on families, which were not receiving support from any other sources. Thus vulnerable elderly, pensioners, multi-children families, families under the poverty line and low income families were considered the target group for the operation.

Achievements against outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
<p>Outcome: The 770 most affected families (3,500 people) are provided with non-food items (770 blankets, 770 mattresses, 1,950 hygiene parcels, 770 kitchen sets and 200 tarpaulins (4,800 m²).</p> <p>Output 1: 770 most affected families have received non-food items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the affected area to identify the most affected households Development of beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver the intended assistance Procurement of relief supplies from local suppliers according to Federation standards Distribution of relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user Monitoring and evaluation of the relief activities and reporting on relief distributions

Impact: The DREF funds were used for the detailed needs assessment, for identification of the most vulnerable and affected families with the support of local authorities using criteria like social conditions, single mothers and lonely elderly, procurement of relief goods and transportation and distribution of disaster response items to the affected population.

The relief items were purchased following the International Federation's standard tendering procedures. In total, **770 blankets, 770 mattresses, 1,540 hygiene parcels, 770 kitchen sets and 200 tarpaulins (30,000 m²)** were purchased.

Humanitarian relief items distribution list

Location	Austrian RC	Danish RC	DREF	TOTAL
Vachnadziani Village (Gurjaani district, Kakheti Region)	-	-	641	641
Bazaleti village (Dusheti district, Mtskheta-Mtianeti Region)	51*	80	78	209
Ivlita village (Akhaltzikhe district, Samtshkhe-Javakheti Region)	-	74	51	125
TOTAL	51	154	770	975

* Only the hygiene parcels for 29 families (out of the total of 51 families) were purchased with funds provided by Danish Red Cross. Rest of the items were purchased by funds received from Austrian RC.

On 21st September 2012, the GRCS Disaster Management Department with the support of Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of the International Federation of the RC/RC Societies (IFRC) distributed relief items to the 641 families living in Vachnadziani village. According to preliminary detailed assessment, which was conducted jointly by GRCS staff/volunteers and local authorities, it was the most affected village in Kakheti Region (later, this fact was confirmed by all non state actors during the coordination meeting organised by GRCS on 7th November 2012). Damage was estimated as 90% there. This was the main reason why population of that village was identified to receive relief items in Kakheti Region.



Georgia Red Cross Society Disaster Management Department distributed relief items in Vachnadziani village

On 5th of October 2012 relief items were distributed in Dusheti municipality to 209 most affected families with the support of the DREF, Danish Red Cross and Austrian Red Cross.

On 10th of October 2012 the GRCS distributed relief items to 125 most affected families in Akhaltzikhe with the support of DREF and Danish Red Cross.

The identification of the affected families and their needs was based on the assessment carried out by GRCS staff (4 DM staff) and 15 volunteers in the target regions in close cooperation and coordination with local authorities in the DREF operation during 3 months.

Challenges:

During the pre-election period (August-September 2012) the State Authorities and the Government at local and central levels were completely occupied by the pre-election process and even refused (in all regions

where distribution was planned) to accept the already purchased and stocked relief items for distribution (in spite of own initial official request for support). This was the main reason behind postponing some earlier agreed dates of distribution. All partners involved in operation were informed immediately. Only after several attempts with participation of GRCS Secretary General, DM team, Acting Head of IFRC Country Office and DM Program working in country on the base of Integration Agreement with IFRC, the problem was solved positively.

During the distribution process itself – on the same day and same location selected for distribution, the local authorities decided to take advantage of the opportunity and distribute their gifts (wine) to the most vulnerable of Vachnadziani village. Both the GRCS and the IFRC would have preferred that the Government assistance should not be provided at the same time, but were faced with a *fait accompli*. However, since the registration desks for beneficiaries of the GRCS and those of the local authorities were separate, and the relief packages were all clearly identified and marked with proper Red Cross stickers, logos and vests, the GRCS Secretary General, the IFRC Representative and the DM Program Coordinator working in country on the base of an Integration Agreement with IFRC present on distribution spot, considered that the distribution of Red Cross assistance could be properly carried out *in addition to*, and not *in conjunction with*, the government assistance and therefore decided to go ahead with the planned relief distribution.

During the implementation of the operation GRCS local branch representatives and volunteers, as well as the local authorities were collecting feedback from the beneficiaries about their satisfaction with the support they received from the GRCS. Although no formal survey was conducted, the general opinion of beneficiaries about the services provided was positive.

Upon completion of the operation a “lessons learned” workshop was organized at the Georgia Red Cross Society Headquarters for 40 staff and volunteers involved in the implementation. The participants of the workshop discussed the process of DREF operation implementation, with special focus on the relief distribution process. The workshop aimed at collecting feedback and opinions from the operation participants on successes and challenges during the operation as well as possible solutions to such challenges in the future.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Georgia Red Cross Society:** Medea Margania-Avaliani, Secretary General, phone: +995 32 2940650; email: mmargania@redcross.ge
- **IFRC Country Representation:** Ekaterine Kristesashvili, IFRC Head of Office in Tbilisi, phone: +995 599 145717, email: ekaterine.kristesashvili@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Europe Zone Office:** Alberto Monguzzi, 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

DREF history:

This DREF was initially allocated on 23 July 2012 for CHF 178,771. The operation was implemented over 3 months to assist 770 households (3,500 beneficiaries).

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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.

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.
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MDRGE005 - Georgia - Flash Floods

Appeal Launch Date: 21 jul 12

Appeal Timeframe: 21 jul 12 to 21 oct 12

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/7-11
Budget Timeframe	2012/7-10
Appeal	MDRGE005
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	178,771					178,771	
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	178,771					178,771	
C4. Other Income	178,771					178,771	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	178,771					178,771	
D. Total Funding = B +C	178,771					178,771	
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	178,771					178,771	
E. Expenditure	-178,771					-178,771	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0	

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/7-11
Budget Timeframe	2012/7-10
Appeal	MDRGE005
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III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		178,771					178,771	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief		22,183				22,183	-22,183	
Construction Materials	23,100						23,100	
Clothing & Textiles	52,360	50,514				50,514	1,846	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	33,800	33,822				33,822	-22	
Utensils & Tools	34,650	33,595				33,595	1,055	
Total Relief items, Construction, Supplies	143,910	140,114				140,114	3,796	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	3,500	2,881				2,881	619	
Distribution & Monitoring	2,500	2,128				2,128	372	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	4,300	4,485				4,485	-185	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	10,300	9,494				9,494	806	
Personnel								
International Staff		250				250	-250	
National Staff		772				772	-772	
National Society Staff	4,900	6,432				6,432	-1,532	
Volunteers	3,000	1,996				1,996	1,004	
Total Personnel	7,900	9,450				9,450	-1,550	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	3,000	2,922				2,922	78	
Total Workshops & Training	3,000	2,922				2,922	78	
General Expenditure								
Information & Public Relations	700	656				656	44	
Office Costs		1,190				1,190	-1,190	
Communications	750	1,181				1,181	-431	
Financial Charges	200	624				624	-424	
Other General Expenses	600						600	
Shared Office and Services Costs	500	2,229				2,229	-1,729	
Total General Expenditure	2,750	5,881				5,881	-3,131	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	10,911	10,911				10,911	-0	
Total Indirect Costs	10,911	10,911				10,911	-0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	178,771	178,771				178,771	-0	
VARIANCE (C - D)		-0					-0	