

Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Kazakhstan: Drought

DREF Operation n°	MDRKZ010	Glide n°:	DR-2021-000085-KAZ
Date of issue:	27 July 2021	Expected timeframe:	3 months
		Expected end date:	31 October 2021
Category allocated to the disaster: Yellow			
DREF allocated: CHF 497,168			
Total number of people affected:	71,000	Number of people to be assisted:	5,750
Provinces affected:	Mangistau, Turkestan and Kyzylorda regions	Provinces/Regions targeted:	Mangistau and Turkestan regions
Host National Society presence: 1,797 active volunteers and 70 employees across the country, 18 regional branches, while five branches have vehicles and the ability to mobilize more human resources if necessary. National disaster response teams, together with volunteers on the ground, assess the situation and provide all possible assistance to the population in food and drinking water. In addition, the Red Crescent carries out information work on the prevention of COVID-19, heatstroke, as well as on fire safety during the heatwave.			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: IFRC, UAE Red Crescent			
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: State organizations and local executive bodies, Bulat Utemuratov Foundation, Fortebank, corporate sector.			

A. Situation analysis

In the Republic of Kazakhstan, the heatwave that began in June 2021 in the Southern and Western regions of the country (Kyzylorda, Mangystau and Turkestan provinces) led to [record temperatures](#)¹ up to 46.5°C (recorded on 7 July) in the area with a baseline average of 28.3°C.

This has seriously affected the main livestock farms. According to the local meteorological service "Kazhydromet", the influx of hot and dry air masses from the region of Iran preserves abnormally hot weather on the territory of most of the Republic of Kazakhstan. According to the data provided by the Global Drought Observatory (GDO), a high risk of drought and arid conditions are observed in several regions of the country (Mangystau, Turkestan, Kyzylorda). (see Map 2)

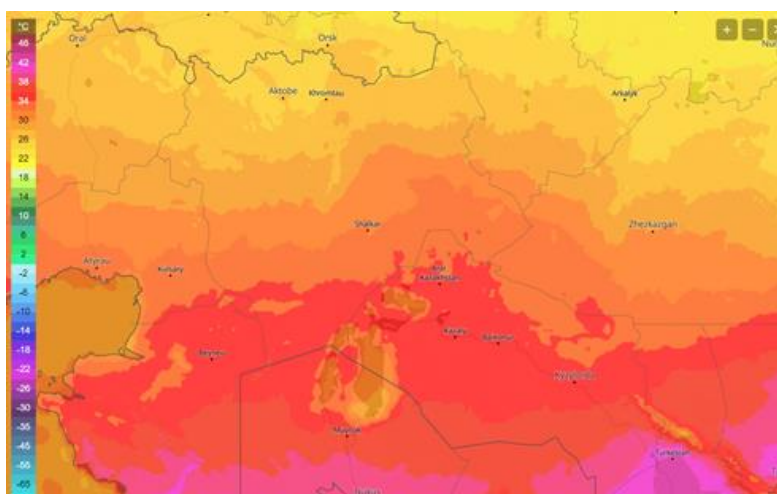


Image 1 - Screenshot of temperatures in Kazakhstan on 26 July. For an interactive map with further retrospective data, [please click here](#).

¹ [Weather in Kyzylorda - climate monitor for July 2021 \(pogodaiklimat.ru\)](#)

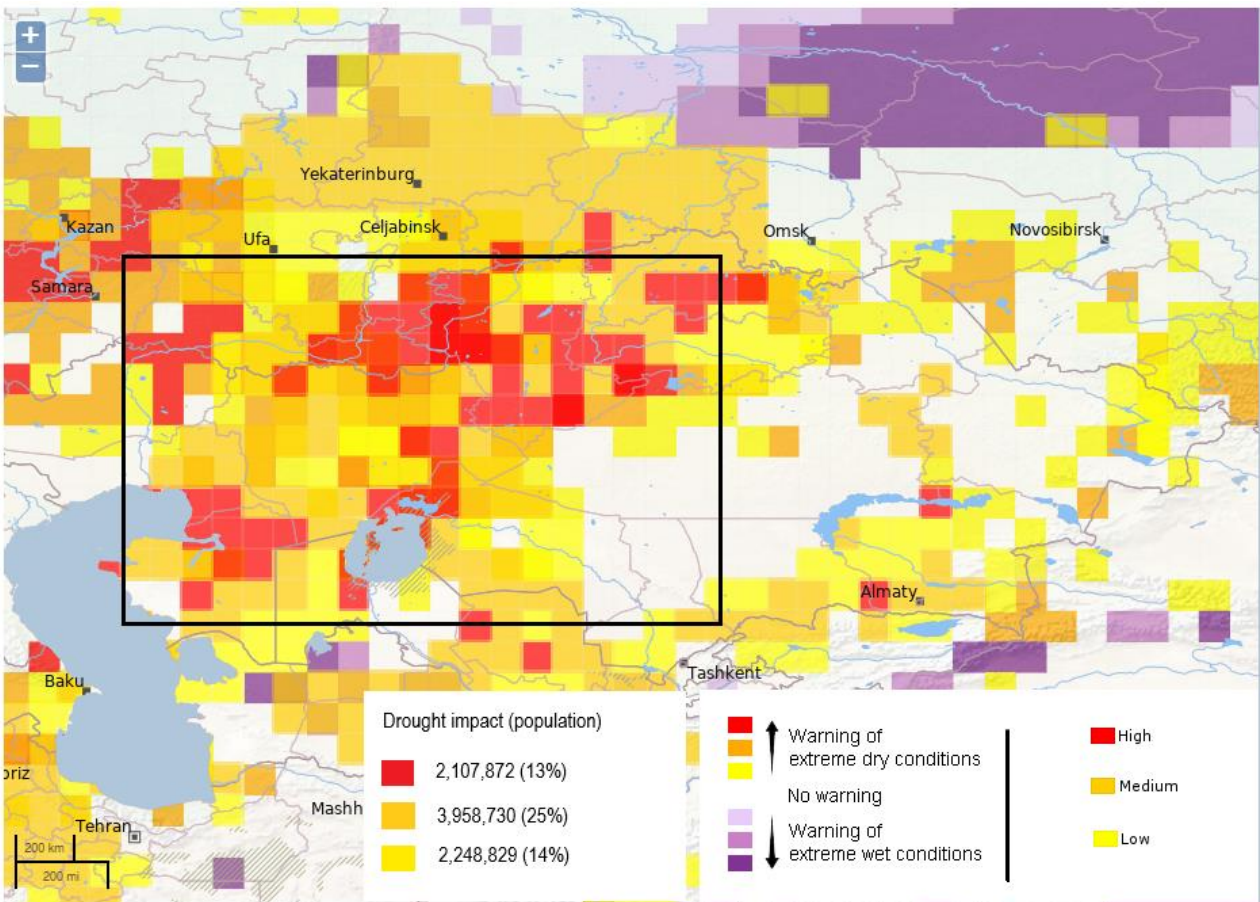


**Kazakhstan, Drought
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund**
MDRKZ010
DR-2021-000085-KAZ
2021/07/22
Map data source: ICRC
DCC | IM | BUD



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map 1: Kazakhstan, affected and targeted regions



Map 2: Risk of drought impact on agriculture; Copernicus – Global Drought Observatory, as of the first ten-day period of July 2021. Highlighted area - 13% of Kazakhstan's population facing the highest threat level.



Photos 1 and 2: *Death of livestock as a result of drought;* [source: social media](#)

As a result of the abnormally high air temperature in various country regions, rapid runoff of rivers and reservoirs occurs. As a result, the soil dries up to a depth of 50 cm, which causes a lack of vegetation and natural feed on pastures. Due to the impossibility of grazing livestock, the minimum reserves of feed and water are exhausted, which leads to the mass death of animals. To date, the end of more than 2,000 units of livestock has been recorded in the target regions, and this figure is increasing every day. In addition, crops are also being destroyed by the heat, which can [potentially](#)² lead to a major food crisis in several regions of the country, where cattle are a key object of vital activity due to the geographical and climatic features of the southern and western parts of Kazakhstan. The death of livestock and crops in the three regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Mangistau, Kyzylorda and Turkestan regions, see *Picture 2*) causes severe damage to the local population since animal husbandry is the only source of income and constitutes a vital activity.

According to statistics, more deaths occur in arid regions. The climate is especially harmful to older people, as it increases the risk of cardiovascular diseases. Some families resort to harmful coping practices, such as cutting and selling the meat of already dead animals, which leads to various diseases. Natural drought is the cause of a sharp reduction in water entering the root system of cultivated crops. At the same time, the ratio between transpiration (evaporation of moisture by the plant) and the inflow of water from the ground changes. The water saturation of plant tissues drops sharply, photosynthesis and carbon balance are disturbed. Rivers and lakes are drying up; there is no drinking water for the livestock. The remaining water sources become polluted, and the population risks not having access to clean drinking water, especially in remote villages. In the example of the Kyzylorda region, the state plans to dig 15 wells for the population who have lost access to safe water. With a slow onset of drought, subsistence farmers are more likely to migrate because they do not have alternative food and income sources, or alternatively face hunger, poverty and an increased risk of mortality. There are no alternative sources of income-generating activities in these regions. Eighty per cent of the population takes out loans to raise livestock; however, with the death of livestock, the population does not have the opportunity to pay off loans and provide their family with basic needs.

The drought has greatly affected the food security of the regions, which leads to cheaper livestock and higher prices for feed, food and drinking water, which are used to ensure the vital activity of the population. Therefore, the possible negative consequences due to the sharp deterioration of the socio-economic situation include the lack of adequate nutrition.

The desiccation of the soil and grass litter also leads to an increased risk of fires. This year alone, more than 1,000 hectares of land caught fire on the territory of the Karaganda region due to drought, which in turn led to the death of 1 person and 200 heads of cattle.

In addition, the rural population is spread out on a sizeable territory with low population density, unsatisfactory road transport, poorly developed communication links, including telecommunications, is negatively affected and is facing constraints to access timely, affordable, qualified and high-quality specialized medical care.

According to the Turkestan branch of the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan, in all seven regions where there was a drought, outpatient care is organized through paramedic visiting teams from nearby district centres, that is, there are no medical

² [Drought in Kazakhstan: "It is necessary to recognize jute and move to a state of emergency" \(azattyq.org\)](#)

organizations in these villages, and assistance is provided by inviting paramedics from the nearest district centres. Also, the Mangystau regional branch confirmed the availability of outpatient care in all towns.

According to residents, at the initial stages of the drought, there were cases when the meat of diseased cattle was used for cooking. As a result, there was an increase in the incidence of acute intestinal infections. Since the abnormal heatwave began relatively recently, there is no information on those who fell ill due to the drought. However, the risk of developing infectious and non-communicable diseases in the villages remains high. Abnormal heat can worsen the health status of people with chronic diseases and older people, the probability of getting heatstroke also remaining high. Even though the local authorities are taking all measures to destroy the products of dead livestock, the use of the meat of a sick animal for food is not excluded.

The situation is complicated because animal breeders have a considerable number of bank loans for breeding livestock, which is currently dying. Accordingly, to compensate for their losses and continue their lives, pastoralists need a free and gratuitous supply of large volumes of feed to preserve the number of the remaining livestock until the end of the drought (end of September). However, despite the measures taken by the state, there is still a shortage of feed in the region. Therefore, on behalf of the President, the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan temporarily restricted the export of feed to support farmers and households suffering from drought.

In the Aral region of the Kyzylorda region, due to drought and acute shortage of feed, a state of [emergency was introduced on 14 July](#).³ The last time a state of emergency was declared on the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan was in the Kazakh SSR in 1975. The decision to introduce an emergency regime in the Turkestan and Mangistau regions is being considered by the Ministry of Emergency Situations and local executive bodies. In the latter two regions, written requests for assistance were sent from the administration of these regions dated July 19.

Table 1 - As of 19 July, according to [governmental records](#), the situation regarding the spread of COVID-19 in the areas of the planned operation is as follows:

Region	People infected (PCR+)	People infected (PCR-)	People recovered	Region Status
Turkestan Region	8,398	2,101	7,169	Red
Mangystau Region	11,198	1,508	7,712	Yellow

As the situation with the spread of COVID-19 worsens, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan predicts a peak in the incidence rate in August 2021, leading to an increase in possible restrictive measures to prevent the spread of the infection. Currently, there is a ban on holding mass events, and there are restrictions on the operation of some retail and non-retail outlets. In addition, a project called "Ashyq" was launched in Kazakhstan, which allows tracking potential contact persons quickly and monitoring compliance with quarantine measures.

In general, the epidemiological situation in the country remains tense with a tendency to worsen; 5,179 new cases of the disease were registered only over the past day. There are 15 regions of Kazakhstan categorized 'red', including Almaty and Nur-Sultan.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society Response Action

The branches of the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan in the Kyzylorda, Turkestan and Mangistau regions have been conducting a preliminary assessment of the situation. These teams are composed of staff and volunteers who undergo trainings on annual basis and also some of them being the NDRT members, they do have sufficient competencies to work in the field conducting assessments before the arrival of the additional teams from HQ. Also, the branches transmit the necessary information to the headquarter and actively work with local executive bodies on the ground.

Staff and volunteers of the branches provide food and drinking water to the affected people. The Red Crescent of Kazakhstan has an active memorandum with the Ministry of Emergency Situations, stipulating that employees and volunteers have access to the affected areas. Also, the RCSK's branches are in constant contact with local authorities, so access to the affected region is always open. Lists of the affected population are provided as the data is processed and the situation is assessed. When assessing the situation, the NS's staff and volunteers also distributed the following items to the affected population in two locations; including Turkestan and Mangystau regions. Please see table 3 for details.

Also, the National Society in all regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan is conducting an active information campaign on the prevention of heatstroke, fire safety and COVID-19.

In the regions of the proposed operation, the branches of the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan are in the administrative centres of the areas, capable of mobilizing up to several dozen volunteers in a couple of days. Regional branches are in the administrative centres of Kyzylorda (Kyzylorda city), Mangistau (Aktau city) and Turkestan (Turkestan city) regions. However, the remoteness of administrative centres from the most drought-affected areas can exceed 100 km, which will require additional travel costs. There are four employees and 30 volunteers working in the regions directly involved in assessing the risks and needs of the affected population. In addition, an operational emergency response cell has been established at the headquarters of the NS, which coordinates the actions of branches and provides technical support. The crisis management cell includes the General Director, Director of the Department of Public Health, Director of the Department of Organizational Development, Director of the Department of Social Assistance, National Emergency coordinator, public relations specialist.

Earlier last year, the NS gained good experience in the framework of the DREF operation to respond to a dam break in the territory of the neighboring republic, which led to large-scale flooding of the Maktaaral district, Turkestan region. As part of that operation, more than 6,000 people were assisted, the [DREF has been utilised to provide 1,030 families \(6,128 people\)](#) with beddings, kitchen sets and hygiene kits. In addition, the National Society actively worked in cooperation with emergency services and the local administration in evacuation points, as well as during the DREF operation. In the future, the results of the operation were covered in the media.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in-country

The operation will be carried out with direct technical support from the Regional Office for Europe and the IFRC country office in Bishkek. The IFRC Country Cluster Support Team, based in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, supports five National Societies in Central Asia including the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan and provides technical assistance in disaster management, and health as well as National Society institutional capacity strengthening, advocacy and partnerships development. IFRC teams both in the regional and country cluster offices will provide technical support to the RCSK teams including the Cash and Vouchers Assistance implementation and monitoring of the implementation through the deployment of technical staff from country cluster delegation.

On the eve of the Muslim holiday "Eid al-Adha", the UAE Red Crescent will provide support in the form of 10 kg of meat for orphans per family, 7 kg of meat for low-income families. Today, 55 families affected in the Turkistan region and 44 families affected in the Mangystau Region have been assisted by the support of the UAE Red Crescent.

The main partners of the RCSK are Swiss Red Cross (focusing on fundraising) and Spanish Red Cross (focusing on youth engagement and volunteering development).

ICRC is present in Nur-Sultan, the capital of Kazakhstan, and supports the National Society in various areas including dissemination of the International Humanitarian Law, services on restoring family links and first aid.

Overview of non-RCRC actors' actions in-country

The National Society has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Guard. The Red Crescent of Kazakhstan is also a member of the Interdepartmental State Commission for Disaster Preparedness and Response. In addition, all branches of the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan have partnership agreements with regional emergency departments. The Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction is also one of the partners that helps the National Society access information, coordination, and networking. This agreement allows employees and volunteers of the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan to move freely and get access to the affected areas. Especially now, due to the restrictions associated with COVID-19, safe access will be provided.

Within the framework of responding to natural disasters, NS has experience working with local executive bodies (emergency departments, medical institutions, law enforcement services and city administrations), as well as various non-governmental organizations and the business sector that provide all possible support for the activities of the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan in the country.

Mangystau and Kyzylorda regions have reached an agreement with the Aktobe region on the provision of feed at an affordable price and the use of their pasture lands for haymaking. The Aktobe region has prepared 700 tons of feed to the Mangystau region, but the problem is the transportation of feed to the affected area.

After coordination meetings on 12-13 July between the National Society, the Bulat Utemuratov Foundation and the Akimat of the Kyzylorda region, it was decided that the Bulat Utemuratov Foundation, which is a permanent partner of the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan in responding to emergencies since 2017, will assist in the form of providing feed to the drought-affected population in the Aral district, Kyzylorda region directly in cooperation with the local administration. As part of the assistance from the Bulat Utemuratov Foundation, 800 low-income families of the Aral region will receive 900 tons of mixed feed. This volume will be enough for the period from November 2021 to May 2022.

Out of the 71,000 affected people, 1,150 families (approx. 5,750 people) are planned to be supported by the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan with the rest supported by the government and private donors (Bolot Utemuratov Foundation).

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

The drying of the land cover to a depth of up to 50 cm in the southern regions leads to a lack of natural feed for livestock and mass death of animals in farms and households, which is the primary income and vital activity source. In addition, there is a massive drying of natural reservoirs, which also adversely affects the condition of livestock. According to a preliminary assessment by the state, farmers and households need 7,500 tons of livestock feed for their initial needs. The main problem is the lost grazing feed in the regions affected by drought and the procurement and transportation of feed from the other Republic of Kazakhstan.

Getting fodder and hay to smallholder herders are the immediate challenges. In this situation and based on the initial information received from both local and national stakeholders, cash would be the quickest means of providing immediate relief and allowing smallholder herders to decide the best way to utilize the cash assistance in addressing their immediate needs due to the impact of the drought.

RCSK is also working closely with key decision-makers and counterparts over the next weeks and months. The aim is to support an appropriate response to short-term needs and continue to deepen with medium-term CCA interventions complementary to government actions that will contribute to reducing smallholder herders' vulnerability to drought and other climate risks

The sources of livelihood have suffered dramatically because of the lack of feed for livestock, as cattle die, get sick and are exhausted, which makes it impossible to use them as livestock products (milk, meat, hides, sale, and breeding). Since smallholder herders' income is generated from raising livestock (horses, cows, and sheep), people lose their livelihoods. In addition, in remote areas, there is no opportunity to be hired for occasional work to replenish the family budget for the purchase of necessities (food, medicine, etc.), which can lead to poor health, exacerbation of chronic diseases, malnutrition, inability to attend school due to the lack of clothing, office supplies and money for travel and utilities. Furthermore, Kazakhstan is one of the countries experiencing water stress, and the level of water availability in the republic decreases annually. Currently, there are severe problems with the rural population's access to water, and there are 1.2 million people living in 2,607 villages that are still not provided with high-quality drinking water. In the 60s, the total water flow was 120 cubic kilometres; now, it has decreased to 101. By 2030, the river flow is expected to reduce to 72 cubic kilometres. At the same time, the needs of the population and economic sectors for water resources are also increasing in the country. According to the forecasts of the World Bank, by 2050, the annual GDP may decrease by 6% due to water scarcity in the regions of the country.

In the Turkestan region, the population accesses drinking water by hand pumps from wells. This is also used for watering livestock. Water trucking is used to supply all villages of the Mangystau region according to a set schedule. On average, there are from 1 to 5 heads of cattle (cows and/or horses) and from 5 to 20 heads of small cattle (sheep) in one household. Due to the drought and lack of feed, 12,000 households in the Mangystau region suffered: some families completely lost their livestock, some families lost their livestock partially, others faced the spread of infectious diseases of livestock (gastrophilosis, parenchymatosis, etc.). Because of this, there was a sharp drop in cattle prices. For example, it is impossible to sell a horse 5 times cheaper than the market value because the local population cannot buy it due to lack of funds, and selling to other regions is impossible because the animals are exhausted and die on the way.

Table 2 - According to the assessment completed by regional branches, the drought has affected :

Region	Number of families	Number of people
Kyzylorda region (Aral district)	800	4,000
Mangystau region	12,000	60,000
Turkestan Region	1,400	7,000
TOTAL	14,200	71,000

In this regard, the affected families are in urgent need of funds that will enable them to cover their primary needs and the purchase of feed and medicines for animals.

Targeting

In this regard, the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan plans to aid residents of two areas affected by drought: Mangystau and Turkestan regions.

The National Society has defined additional criteria for the selection of target groups of the population, which were used in the preliminary assessment by employees and volunteers of regional branches. Accordingly, the following criteria have been set forth for the affected people to become eligible for cash support:

- Smallholder herder families who are registered as poor and vulnerable by local government branches consisting of single-parent families, large families, families with disabled members, families with a small herd size of maximum five heads of large cattle and 20 heads of medium cattle with livestock as the only source of income, having lost all or half of their herd.

The list of beneficiaries will be compiled by local authorities and validated by the RCSK's National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) in coordination with local branches and local village councils.

In the Mangystau district of the Mangystau region, 500 households are falling under the above criteria.

In the seven targeted districts of the Turkestan region, 650 households are falling under the criteria mentioned above.

Table 3 - 3W (who, what, where) of reconciliation response to the affected population

Entity	Affected regions	Districts selected for response	People supported directly		People supported indirectly	
			HHs / people reached	Type of response support	HHs / people reached	Type of response support
Red Crescent of Kazakhstan	Mangystau Region	Mangystau	500 families / 2,500 people	Detailed assessment by NDRT Provision of cash transfer assistance Distribution of information material	1,000 families / 6'000 people	Distribution of information material through regional branches and local authorities
	Turkestan region	Sozaksy, Shardarinsky, Otyrarsky, Saryaghashsky, Kazygurtsky, Maktaaralsky, Baidibeksky	650 families / 3,250 people	Detailed assessment by NDRT Provision of cash transfer assistance Distribution of information material	2,000 families / 12,000 people	Distribution of information material through regional branches and local authorities
Government	Kyzylorda region	Aral district (state of emergency declared)	800 families / 4,000 people	Reduction of livestock feed prices, procurement of water trucks and agricultural machinery, restoration of pasture water supply, cleaning of irrigation channels, drilling of 15 water wells and repair of a water pump on the Syrdarya River		
	Mangystau Region	Beineu, Karakiyansky, Munailinsky, Tupkaragansky, Mangistau	11,500 families / 57,500 people	2'000 rolls of hay (1 roll of 300-350 kg) prepared in the Aktope region for Mangystau region and reduction of livestock feed prices		
	Turkestan region	Sozaksy, Shardarinsky, Otyrarsky, Saryagashsky, Kazygurtsky, Maktaaralsky, Baidibeksky	750 families / 3,750 people	Reduction of livestock feed prices, procurement of water trucks and agricultural machinery, restoration of pasture water supply, cleaning of irrigation channels		
Bulat Utemuratov Foundation	Kyzylorda region	Aral district (emergency mode declared)	same 800 families / 4,000 people	Allocation of 200,000,000 tenge for the purchase and delivery of 900 tons of hay		

Estimated disaggregated data for population targeted:

Category	Estimated % of target group	% Female	% Male
Young Children (under 5 years)	10%	49%	51%
Children (5-17 yrs)	16%	49%	51%
Adults (18-49 yrs)	51%	50%	50%
Older adults (>50 yrs)	23%	68%	32%
People with disabilities (across age groups)	5%	44%	56%

Scenario planning

The current dry conditions in the Turkestan and Mangistau regions have a negative impact on the primary sources of income of most residents. Among other things, financially poor households, small landowners, and households that rely on sharing are most at risk.

The reduction of agricultural production will limit farmers' income and limit the opportunities for obtaining a livelihood to ensure a continuation of covering their basic needs.

In addition to the dry conditions, there is also a risk of the spread of COVID-19, and factors such as increased food prices play a significant role, which can worsen the humanitarian situation in the affected regions.

As part of the planned operation, as noted above, the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan intends to provide short-term emergency financial assistance to the most vulnerable people (poor, large families, families with disabled or older members) and those cattle-breeding households that have entirely or partially lost their livestock.

In addition, the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan also plans to conduct a detailed needs assessment in the areas most affected by the current dry conditions to have a clearer understanding of the impact of the drought period on agriculture, living conditions, including a sharp drop in income, a decrease in foodstock and the inability to purchase necessities, and food security among the most vulnerable people (poor, large families, families with disabled or older members).

Potential scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Response
The drought and the loss of livestock continue	Increase in the number of affected families. Lack of resources to provide timely assistance to the affected population.	The Red Crescent of Kazakhstan is mobilizing additional teams to increase coverage in the assessment and implementation of cash assistance and requesting other financial resources through the DREF.
The deterioration of the situation with COVID-19	The closure of cities and regions to stabilize the epidemiological situation and the inability to reach the affected areas. The limitation of supplies due to the restrictions of movement and access between the regions.	The Red Crescent of Kazakhstan will gain access to the affected regions through memorandum and cooperation agreements with local state organizations.

Operation Risk Assessment

One of the risks identified earlier was that the drought could continue for several months, which could lead to further livestock deaths and further withering and loss of crops, potentially prolonging the humanitarian operation. People's livelihoods will be increasingly affected, as crops and livestock will be lost due to excessive heat, leading to a severe drought. It can also limit the access of the affected population to fields and grazing areas and pose a security threat to the employees of the NS and volunteers working on the ground. Therefore, all the teams of the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan on the ground must be aware of the danger of heatstroke and are well prepared to take measures to mitigate the consequences of the heatwave.

One of the most critical risks in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan is the unstable situation of the spread of COVID-19. In this connection, regions and cities periodically fall into the red zone with high restrictive measures, which requires special attention to the epidemiological situation and additional resources for personal protective equipment. As one of the risks of cash assistance, there may be many bank loans from the affected population, potentially leading to the write-off of the received funds to repay the loan. To eliminate this risk, it will be necessary to work out transfers with the Bank, which will act as an intermediary in the operation. Also, the remoteness of banks and ATMs for cash

withdrawal from some populated areas, as well as problems with communication and access to district centers can be a risk. In this regard, the bank cards will remain valid during the entire DREF operation.

National Society responses to COVID-19 are supported through the [IFRC global appeal](#), which will facilitate keeping them to maintain critical service provision while adapting to COVID-19. This DREF operation is aligned with and will contribute to the current global strategy and regional Emergency Plan of Action for COVID-19 developed by the IFRC Regional Office for Europe, coordinating with international and regional partners. IFRC continues to assess how emergency operations in response to disasters and crises should adapt to this crisis and provide necessary guidance to its membership. The NS will keep monitoring the situation closely, focusing on the health risks, and revise accordingly if needed taking into consideration the evolving COVID-19 situation and the operational risks that might develop, including operational challenges related to access to the affected population, availability of relief items and procurement issues, and movement of NS volunteers and staff as well as an international team. For more information, please consult [the COVID-19 operation page on the IFRC GO platform](#).

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective:

As part of the DREF operation, the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan will conduct a detailed needs assessment on the ground with the participation of the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) with the assistance of local, regional branches and the provincial administration to determine the short-and medium-term needs of the drought-affected population in the Turkestan and Mangistau regions.

The Red Crescent of Kazakhstan plans to provide emergency assistance to 5,750 people in 8 districts in urgent need of emergency support.

The planned intervention is listed below:

- Conducting a detailed need assessment;
- Providing emergency cash assistance to 5,750 people; One-off family cash grant amount will be determined based on the size of the affected and eligible family;
- Awareness raising for the whole community on health issues such as heat stroke, fire safety dissemination;
- Training of employees and volunteers in first aid skills and basics of PFA.
- RCSK, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Academy of Sciences, will start facilitating the development of the capacity-building information session module for introducing the "concept of adaptation" to inform the affected people on how they can move to active measures. The module is to include the following aspects: community mobilization, awareness raising, new behaviours and systems, e.g. building stock of hay fodder and culling livestock in spring, buying livestock insurance, switching livelihoods and income generation through vocational training and microenterprise development (livelihoods diversification). RCSK volunteers will use the module to disseminate the knowledge to the affected people post-emergency response phase.
- RCSK will start developing the drought longer-term emergency response networks and protocols defining the role, place, approaches and tools to respond to future similar emergencies more effectively and efficiently.

Activities:

- ✓ DREF lessons learned workshop (the budget already provisioned) with development of the plan of action
- ✓ Drafting MoUs with the State Hydrometeorological Service (Early Warning System), Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Labor (livelihoods diversification through skills transfer and employment for smallholder herders).
- ✓ Conducting eVCA (enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment) in selected communities (when and if COVID-19 pandemic situation permits). The report is to be summarized and included in the PoA mentioned above.

Cash assistance will be issued to each targeted affected family in the value of KZT 34,302 (approximately CHF 73.78 per person). This amount is the minimum monthly subsistence established for 2021 in the Republic of Kazakhstan based on the cost of a consumer basket. Grants will be distributed through value-charged bank cards, which can be cashed from ATMs fee or commission free.

The subsistence minimum (SM) in Kazakhstan is regulated by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Minimum Social Standards and Their Guarantees. The SM for 2021 was approved on 2 December 2020 by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On the Republican Budget for 2021-2023". The SM consists of a set of necessary food products, vital services, and non-food products. In 2021, the composition of the consumer basket is distributed as follows: food: 55%; non-food products: 45%. For the purchase of a set of products necessary for maintaining human life per month, the

government has determined KZT 18,866.1, and for the purchase of industrial goods and payment for services — KZT 15,435.9. In total, the food basket of the country's consumers includes 43 items of food products. The established average daily energy value is 2,175 kcal. In Kazakhstan, the physiological method of calculating the consumer basket is used. In this method, the set of products is determined by the physiological norms of food consumption, which have been calculated and scientifically justified.

The Red Crescent of Kazakhstan plans to cover 5,750 affected people in two regions: Turkestan (7 districts) and Mangistau (1 community). Emergency cash assistance to impacted households will allow them to meet their primary needs.

The implementation of the planned activities within the framework of the DREF operation will be carried out in close coordination and cooperation with local branches of the government and IFRC. The Red Crescent of Kazakhstan will provide emergency cash assistance in the Turkestan and Mangistau regions. Cash will be credited to value-charged ATM cards. One family will get one card.

The unconditional cash grant will allow the target recipients to purchase the food, feed the remaining livestock and meet other needs. This method will also help to revitalize local markets. IFRC and the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan will ensure an all-inclusive approach to guarantee that those most in need will equally have access to a cash grant. In case of an appeal from any targeted family members, additional cards may be issued to ensure equal access to cash. Such cases are to be verified by the NDRT in cooperation with the local Ministry of Internal Affairs' branches.

With the approval of the DREF project for drought and livestock deaths in the Turkestan and Mangistau regions, the RCSK agrees with an existing Financial Service Provider (FSP - Fortebank) to issue assistance cards for the affected population. A similar project between the National Society, the Bulat Utemuratov Charitable Foundation (hereinafter referred to as the Foundation), and the Fortebank has been operating since 2017. Assistance to the population under the above-mentioned project is also provided at the funds' expense to FSP's payment cards.

RCSK and the IFRC country cluster teams, along with the support of regional logistic and supply chain expert will ensure that the procurement and contracting processes for the financial service provider and the implementation of the CVA programme under DREF operation will be fully in line with the DREF procedures and guidelines.

Health protection measures will be taken, since the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan considers the latest events (the COVID-19 outbreak) in the country when providing humanitarian services. The risks associated with the distribution of funds during COVID-19 will be fully recognized and minimized. All measures of protection and prevention of the disease will be strictly applied to implement the activities planned within the framework of this DREF. Cash withdrawals at ATMs will be carried out in compliance with sanitary and epidemiological standards under the supervision of bank employees. In turn, the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan, in cooperation with the local administration, will provide the issuing points with all the necessary means to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19 and maintain social distance. In addition, it will be discussed in advance at the local level so that banks will treat with understanding and provide full assistance to avoid queues. Also, trained volunteer teams will be on duty at the places where money grants are issued to inform the population about the risks of heatstroke, monitor compliance with sanitary and epidemiological standards and provide first aid, if necessary, in conditions of abnormal heat. Now, markets, shops and pharmacies continue to work in both regions, which will allow the population to make purchases.

Operational Strategy:

The Red Crescent of Kazakhstan, in coordination with representatives of state organizations, plans to mobilize two teams of 15 volunteers in two administrative centres (3 volunteers) and in the affected areas (3 volunteers) in the Turkestan and Mangystau regions to respond and provide support to the population affected by the heat wave that led to a severe drought.

The DREF operation is planned for three months so that it is possible to carry out administrative and logistical actions to assess the needs of the population and the departure of the NDRT to the regions affected by drought, where employees and volunteers of the local, regional branches of the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan, with the assistance of the NDRT from the headquarters, will ensure the transfer of funds to remote regions subjected to severe drought and abnormal heat, to provide all possible assistance to farmers who have entirely or partially lost livestock, which is the only source of income and vital activity.

The cash transfers will be made through "Fortebank". The amount of the family grant will be based on the minimum subsistence and the food basket in the Republic of Kazakhstan and number of people in the family. This assistance will be provided to the affected population and farmers who have partially or completely lost their livestock. The money transfer will be carried out through a local second-tier bank RSCSK has successfully cooperated with for several years (there is an agreement, a salary project, as well as all accounts are in this Bank), in cash transfer programs during the previous emergency responses.

The operation will cover the following areas of activity of the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan, namely:

- Detailed assessment of the needs, the registration and validation of recipients in cooperation with local authorities. If there are restrictions related to COVID-19 in the region, permission to access the region/villages and conduct distributions will be obtained from the regional Department of Emergency Situations and the local administration (akimat).
- Cooperation with the financial service provider including design, database development, funds transfer, monitoring, reporting and internal audits.
- Organization and transfer of value-charged bank cards to the affected population. Transfer of specially issued cards with the amount credited to them in advance based on the minimum food basket in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the number of family members.
- To ensure control over the course of the operation, it will be necessary to send employees of the headquarters NDRT to the regions of the DREF operation, providing transportation and accommodation, as well as providing travel expenses.
- Mobilization of 30 volunteers from local communities, as well as their training/retraining in first aid to participate in the response operation. Providing volunteers with the necessary equipment (including personal protective equipment), food, water and transportation costs to complete the tasks set.
- Within the framework of the DREF, training materials will be developed to train volunteers to respond to emergencies and information and educational materials for distribution to the target group. The materials will contain the following topics: Prevention of heat stroke, First aid for heatstroke, Prevention of COVID-19.
- The next step will be to organize and conduct online training of first aid specialists in the Turkestan and Mangistau branches, which will train their volunteers to respond to emergencies.
- Trained volunteers will distribute information materials to the target group, and if necessary, provide first aid.
- Distribution of printed information materials in two languages in the amount of 30,000 pieces, including information on the prevention of COVID-19, heatstroke and fire safety.
- Feedback and complaint mechanism: RCSK will establish and disseminate the direct telephone (WhatsApp) feedback and complaint line for the applicants to be able to inform about the targeting criteria and CVA programme.

This DREF operation will also be used to learn how the adaptation and resilience of vulnerable herders can be supported. This will include focus group discussions, stakeholder consultation, drought awareness raising, supporting the development of early warning systems, exploring the possibilities such as communal pooling of cash and agro-inputs, alternative livelihood, or income generation to render livelihoods of affected smallholder herders resilient to climate change.

Operational support services

Human resources

The DREF operation will take place under the direct supervision of the headquarters of the National Society from the city of Almaty, through the constant exchange of information through a specially created group chat in the WhatsApp messenger, as well as with the advisory and operational support of the IFRC as part of the operation to respond to the drought.

Branches will mobilize the necessary number of volunteers for specific needs, who will provide all possible support in distributing information materials and working with the population when transferring bank cards with funds credited to them.

Four employees from regional branches, five employees from the Headquarters and 30 volunteers will be involved in delivering assistance to the victims. Due to the volume of activities, the National Society plans to send three members of its NDRT to conduct a detailed assessment and support the distribution of bank card transfers and monitoring from headquarters. In addition, the National Society needs support in organizing a survey of the satisfaction of the affected population at the end of the operation. For this purpose, the RCSK will engage one monitoring and reporting consultant for eight weeks, who will advise on the process, tools, and supporting data. The daily allowance will be covered from the operational budget as part of Operation DREF.

Logistics and supply chain

Logistics activities are aimed at effective supply chain management, including procurement, fleet, storage and transportation to the locations of the operation in accordance with its requirements and standards, IFRC processes and

procedures in the field of logistics. Logistics support for this operation will be provided by the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan together with transport companies and government agencies.

The logistics department of the headquarters of the national committee will ensure the search and supply of all necessary resources for the operation, with the support of state bodies and regional branches of the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan, which will determine priority needs and directions in their regions.

Communications

To promote the response, a press release will be issued, which will be supported on the social networks of the National Society and the social media pages of the branches of the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan. In addition, it will be necessary to ensure repeated visits of the person responsible for coverage within the framework of monitoring and scope of the operation to obtain high-quality photos and reports on the operation in social networks and the media during the critical stages of the operation.

Security

With the assistance of local authorities, a safe room and protection from law enforcement units will be provided at the places where bank cards are issued.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)

For monitoring, information will be collected regularly from the target branches about the progress of the operation, and several monitoring trips will also be made.

Random checks with beneficiaries will be conducted to track the progress and collect first-hand information on the implementation.

The National Emergency Coordinator of the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan will participate and monitor the operation's progress. The National Society will provide the IFRC with updated information on the overall progress of the operation weekly. As part of the monitoring and evaluation activities, the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan will conduct a Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey (BSS) among the covered people at the end of the operation to find out their opinion about the operation and improve future operations based on the results of the survey. To this end, the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan organizes a training session on BSS for branch employees and volunteers. A workshop on lessons learned will also be organized to exchange experiences and problems encountered during the operation by the Red Crescent staff of Kazakhstan, the IFRC Secretariat, government organizations and partners. It is expected that this operation will be carried out within three months and, therefore, will be completed by 26 October, 2021. The final report will be submitted three months after the end of the operation, by 26 January, 2022.

The IFRC will monitor the implementation through weekly updates and on-site monitoring visits if the quarantine and restrictions are lifted. The IFRC will also participate in the development and analysis of the BSS workshop and lessons learned. RO IFRC will also provide direct technical support in the implementation of the CVA.

The Telegram-bot developed earlier will be used to receive feedback and complaints from the affected population, which includes a feedback mechanism with access to an email address pr@redcrescent.kz. In addition, RCSK will establish a special monitoring team comprised of NDRT members who will monitor the implementation of the DREF operation in the field.

Affected population satisfaction review will be carried out upon completion of distributions.

Administration and Finance

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent will ensure the proper use of financial resources under the conditions set out in the project agreement signed between the National Society and the IFRC.

AP081	Programmatic preparation of FSP				x	x							
AP081	Unconditional/multipurpose cash distributions.						x	x	x	x			
AP081	Monitoring processes						x	x	x	x			
AP081	Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey											x	x
AP081	Post-distribution monitoring											x	x
AP081	Lessons Learned Workshop and roundtable, evaluation of the results of the operations												x



Health

People targeted: 5,750 (directly) – 24,250 (estimated)

Male: 4,000 (estimated)

Female: 5,000 (estimated)

Requirements (CHF): 2,679

Needs analysis: Creation and training of volunteer groups for informing the population and providing first aid to respond to the DREF operation.

Risk analysis: Insufficient level of training and exceeding the competence of volunteers in providing first aid. Also, the inability to develop and print information materials by the time the DREF operation begins.

Population to be assisted: The total population in the target areas.

Programme standards/benchmarks: SPHERE standards

P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced	# of information materials printed and distributed (Target: 30,000)											
	Health Output 1.1: Target population is reached with health promotion activities												
	Activities planned / Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AP011	Identification of critical topics and components of the information materials (prevention of infectious diseases, heatstroke, sanitation and first aid)	x	x										
AP011	Development and translation (Russian and Kazakh) of materials		x	x									
AP011	Printing of information materials			x	x								
AP011	Printing of information materials Sending / delivery of information materials to the regions of the operation					x	x	x	x				

AP011	Dissemination of information materials in areas affected by severe drought					x	x	x	x				
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P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 2: National Society has increased capacity to manage and respond to health risks	# of volunteers trained on first aid and conducting awareness-raising activities (Target: 30)											
	Health Output 2.1: Formation and development of volunteer teams for public awareness and public education												
	Activities planned / Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AP022	Organizing and conducting online training of volunteers on first aid and public awareness work in the regional branches of the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan (Turkestan, Mangystau)			x	x								
AP022	Organizing and conducting offline training of volunteers on first aid and public prevention of communicable diseases, nutrition, safe water awareness work in the regional branches of the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan (Turkestan, Mangystau,) with practical tasks			x	x								
AP022	Informing about the prevention of heatstroke and providing first aid: prevention of communicable diseases, nutrition, safe water to the affected population in places where monetary assistance is issued					x	x	x	x				

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 17,530

P&B Output Code	S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform	# of volunteers involved in the operation (Target: 30)											
	Output S1.1.1: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected	# of volunteers insured (Target: 30) # of volunteers vaccinated (Target: 30)											
	Activities planned / Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AP040	Ensure that volunteers are insured		x	x									
AP040	Provide complete briefings on volunteers' roles and the risks they face			x	x								
AP040	Provide psychosocial support to volunteers				x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
AP040	Ensure volunteers are aware of their rights and responsibilities			x	x								
AP040	Ensure volunteers' safety and wellbeing			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
AP040	Ensure volunteers are properly trained			x	x	x	x	x	x				

AP040	Ensure volunteers' engagement in decision-making processes of respective projects they implement			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
AP040	Ensure volunteers are equipped by PPE			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

D. Budget

The budget for this DREF operation is **CHF 497,168**. [Please click here to see the budget](#).

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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 Humanitarian 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.

DREF OPERATION

MDRKZ010 - KAZAKHSTAN - DROUGHT

27/07/2021

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Medical & First Aid	575
Teaching Materials	6,902
Cash Disbursement	429,672
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	437,149
Distribution & Monitoring	7,981
Transport & Vehicles Costs	1,078
Logistics, Transport & Storage	9,059
National Society Staff	3,839
Volunteers	2,890
Personnel	6,729
Consultants	1,510
Consultants & Professional Fees	1,510
Workshops & Training	3,348
Workshops & Training	3,348
Travel	5,039
Office Costs	1,122
Communications	291
Financial Charges	2,577
General Expenditure	9,030
DIRECT COSTS	466,825
INDIRECT COSTS	30,344
TOTAL BUDGET	497,168

Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF3	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	476,959
AOF4	Health	2,679
SFI1	Strengthen National Societies	9,521
SFI3	Influence others as leading strategic partners	5,367
SFI4	Ensure a strong IFRC	2,642
TOTAL		497,168

