

DREF final report

Kazakhstan: Extreme winter conditions

DREF operation n° MDRKZ006 GLIDE n° CW-2012-000204-KAZ 19 June 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 158,584 was initially allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society in delivering immediate assistance to 2,000 beneficiaries. Due to the continuation of the adverse weather conditions and newly arisen needs, however, the National Society revised its operational plans with a budget increase of CHF 111,586. The revised total budget for this operation amounted to a CHF 270,170.

The operation started on 18 December 2012 when freezing temperatures, minus 40-46 degrees Celsius, hit Kazakhstan. As a result of low temperatures and heavy snowfall, electric power supply and hot-water supply cuts ensued in various localities of the northern, eastern and central parts of the country. Over 5,000 people – stranded truck drivers, residents, homeless people and street children – were affected by severe frosts and the resulting hot-water pipes and electricity systems breakdowns and heating interruptions in those areas.



The Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society provided homeless people with hot meals to support them during the cold spell.

Photo: Kazakhstan Red Crescent, Karaganda

In the initial phase of the response operation, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent conducted a rapid needs assessment and provided humanitarian aid in the cities of Karaganda, Petropavlovsk and Semey from its own prepositioned stocks. With the help of the allocated DREF funds, the three involved Red Crescent branches were distributing hot meals to 620 homeless adults and 299 street children from 3 January to 28 February 2013. In addition, homeless adults and street children were given non-food items: blankets, warm clothes and footwear.

The European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) contributed CHF 67,324 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation.

Other major donors and partners of 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 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. On behalf of the Kazakh National Society, the IFRC would like to extend its thanks to all donors and partners for their generous contributions.

CHF 270,167 was allocated for the implementation of the operation. The utilisation rate is practically 100%. There is a remaining balance of CHF 3 left, which will be returned to the DREF.

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The situation

Freezing temperatures reaching minus 40-46 degrees Celsius hit Kazakhstan in December 2012: a cold spell covered the northern, eastern and central parts of the country. As a result of low temperatures, the adhesion of snow to the power lines and the ensuing tearing, cuts in power supply and hot-water supply followed in various localities of the mentioned regions of Kazakhstan. Several main roads remained closed for a substantial period of time, and about 20-25 trucks got stranded. Over 5,000 people were affected in these geographic areas by severe frosts and the breakdowns and interruptions of hot-water pipes, heating and electricity. The number of affected people included stranded truck drivers, residents hit by the power and heating supply cuts as well as homeless people and street children exposed to the cold.

The temperatures went up to minus 20-23 degrees Celsius during the first week of January 2013, but fell again to minus 30-35 degrees Celsius in the second half of the month. Besides, the first month of the new year, 2013, brought strong snowfalls to Kazakhstan.

The local authorities focused their efforts on ensuring an uninterrupted electricity and heating supply. All urban services were on alert, and in most areas the situation remained under control. Local authorities and emergency departments also organized rescue activities, set up hot meal distribution points and provided shelters for the stranded truck-drivers.

The most vulnerable groups affected by extreme temperatures in the three mentioned geographical regions were homeless people and street children. About 45 per cent of them were put up in social adaptation centres, 25 per cent were hospitalized with frost bites and other related sicknesses but the remaining 30 per cent could only seek shelter on the ground floors of apartment blocks or along the heating pipelines. The local authorities also accommodated that latter category of homeless people in former bomb-shelters, where the Kazakhstan Red Crescent reached them with hot meals and non-food items.

Coordination and partnerships

The Kazakhstan National Society maintained close contacts with the Ministry / local Departments for Emergencies, the Ministry / local Departments for Social Protection of the Population, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, local administrations, local Departments of Internal Affairs and the media. During the rapid assessment held at the beginning of the operation, the involved Kazakh National Society branches cooperated with the local administrations, local emergency departments and the apartment owners' housing cooperatives.

As the operation progressed, district police officers referred homeless adults and street children from their precincts to Red Crescent hot meal distribution points. The Red Crescent also received support from local non-government organizations during the distribution. In Karaganda, one of the parishes of the Orthodox Church provided hot meals to 30 homeless people.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society responded to the situation on 18 December 2012 by deploying six staff members and twelve of its volunteers and National Disaster Response Team members to conduct a rapid needs assessment and provide humanitarian aid from its own prepositioned stocks in the cities of Karaganda, Petropavlovsk and Semey.

In Karaganda, the Red Crescent branch distributed 51 blankets, 12 sleeping bags, 28 kg of second-hand clothes, 32 bedding sets as well as medicines and bandages for 81 people. In Petropavlovsk, hot meals were distributed with the support of the regional Emergency Department that provided the National Society branch with soup kitchens. In total, 488 people were reached. The regional branch also called for the population to support the people in need with donations of warm clothing and funds: four local newspapers published the Red Crescent Society's announcement. As a result, the branch collected 85,000 Kazakh tenge (about 540 Swiss francs) and more than 275 kg of second-hand clothes.

Besides, the Red Crescent Hospital in Semey provided medical services to the affected people requiring such support. The hospital rendered first aid to 25 homeless people with cases of frostbites, and helped them with hygienic procedures and relevant treatment for other diseases. In addition, five homeless people were assisted by the Red Crescent branch in the replacement of their missing identification documents.

Progress towards outcomes

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, in accordance with the Red Crescent's assessment. • Mobilize volunteers and provide them with guidance 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 appropriate behaviour in case of cold temperatures.
Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 branches operating in the three target cities – Petropavlovsk, Semey and Karaganda – prepared the lists of beneficiaries in cooperation with local authorities (*akimats*), social protection departments and cooperatives of apartment owners. Following the tendering procedures, all three target Red Crescent branches identified suppliers of food, warm clothes, blankets and footwear, and procured the required items. The three Red Crescent branches involved in the operation signed agreements with the departments of emergency that provided field soup kitchen equipment and transport means for these kitchens so that the National Society was able to deliver and distribute hot meals among the target beneficiaries.

There were four categories of beneficiaries to whom assistance was provided, as shown in the table below.

Table 1 Beneficiaries reached by the DREF operation

Target group	Number of beneficiaries in the target cities			Total
	Karaganda	Petropavlovsk	Semey	
Homeless people	204	206	210	620
Street children	124	75	100	299
Single women with children under 15 years	177	150	160	487
Older people aged over 60, living alone	204	190	200	594
Total	709	621	670	2,000

All three implementing branches of the Kazakh Red Crescent Society distributed hot meals to 620 homeless adults and 299 street children from 3 January to 28 February 2013. Distribution points were organized as follows: in Karaganda, hot meals were delivered to and distributed at two social adaptation centers; in Petropavlovsk at a railway station, in a former bomb-shelter and in a district where homeless people found shelter (along the main hot-water pipe-line); and in Semey – in the Red Crescent hospital, one social adaptation centre and the main hot-water generating station. In total, 919 target beneficiaries received hot meals daily.

Besides, homeless people and street children received non-food items: blankets, warm clothes and footwear. The procured non-food items were distributed through social adaptation centres, the Red Crescent Hospital and at other places of hot meals distribution.

Table 2 Number of distributed non-food items

Non-food items	Number of distributed items by city			Total
	Karaganda	Petropavlovsk	Semey	
Blankets (pcs)	268	266	266	800
Warm clothes (sets)	100	216	216	532
Footwear (pairs)	268	266	266	800

The National Society distributed food packages to single women with under-aged children and older people living alone on two occasions, in January and February 2013, in accordance with the prepared beneficiary lists (see the numbers in Table 1). Thus, the total number of distributed food packages was 2,162. The individual food packages were meant for one month and included the following items:

- rice (5 kg)
- flour (4 kg)
- vegetable oil (2 litres)
- macaroni (5 packs of 400 g each)
- buckwheat (2 kg)
- condensed milk (3 tins of 200 ml each)
- tea (2 packs of 250 g each)
- sugar (3 kg).

The distribution points were set up at the National Society branch premises. The Red Crescent organized the delivery of the packages for the most vulnerable beneficiaries (people with disabilities) to their homes.

In addition, the Kazakh Red Crescent Society printed 150 posters (billboards) with rules of behaviour in extreme cold weather and advice on measures in case of frostbites. In the three target cities, the posters were placed at railroad stations, public transport stops, entrances of apartment buildings; and some posters were distributed among the cooperatives of apartment owners.

The Kazakh National Society ensured the visibility of its services and distribution points through banners, the distribution of flyers, and face-to-face meetings with beneficiaries and stakeholders. Information was disseminated by Red Crescent volunteers, local authorities and the cooperatives of apartment owners.

The National Society's response activities were highlighted through the media. Namely, five video shots (footages) from the hot meals distribution points appeared in the news on the three national TV channels and twelve articles were published in local newspapers.

In March 2013, the operation timeframe was extended by 25 days to accommodate a joint monitoring trip to one of the project sites and a workshop on lessons learnt. The mentioned monitoring trip was undertaken to Karaganda city by the representatives of the ECHO Regional Office for Central Asia, the IFRC Representation in Almaty and the Kazakh National Society's DREF operation focal point. On the site, the monitoring team met with beneficiaries from the group of homeless people. The team also attended the "lessons learned" workshop that gathered representatives of all three branches involved in the response

operation as well as local non-governmental organizations (like the Association of Single Mothers etc.), older people living alone who had supported the Red Crescent during the operation and active volunteers. The contacted homeless people and the workshop's participants highly appreciated the support provided by the Kazakh National Society during the operation. The support was especially important for homeless people and street children, although the Red Crescent faced certain challenges in servicing this beneficiary group. The challenges and measures taken to overcome them are described below. The operation demonstrated the need to continue and expand Red Crescent services for the homeless people. It also attracted the attention of the local authorities to the Kazakh National Society, helped to advocate the needs of vulnerable people and showcased the Red Crescent's capacity to work as an auxiliary to the Kazakh Government in addressing these needs.

Challenges

The Kazakhstan Red Crescent faced the following challenges in work with homeless people:

- Lack of experience in supporting this beneficiary group.
- Limited access. To overcome that, the Kazakh National Society disseminated information about the services through the most active homeless people (peer-to-peer communication) and worked in partnership with the local authorities and relevant government bodies.
- The Kazakh National Society used this opportunity also for public relations activities, and it advocated for the needs of vulnerable people through the mass media and in direct contacts with the population so as to diminish any stigma that might occur towards homeless people from the part of some residents.
- The distribution of hot meals in the extremely cold weather required working in shifts because volunteers could not work outdoors for a very long period of time. The National Society liaised with local non-governmental organizations and engaged their volunteers too, thus reducing the burden on Red Crescent volunteers. In total, the operation was supported by 127 volunteers.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 26 December 2012 for CHF 158,584 for two months to assist 2,000 beneficiaries.
- A DREF Operation Update (Update №1) was issued on 15 January 2013.
- The budget of the operation was revised to CHF 270,170 (Operations Update №1).
- The timeframe of the operation was extended until 23 March 2013.



[Click here](#)

1. Click [here](#) to see the final financial report of the DREF operation
 2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page
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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.

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRKZ006 - Kazakhstan - Extreme Winter

Timeframe: 26 Dec 12 to 26 Feb 13

Appeal Launch Date: 26 Dec 12

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2012/12-2013	Programme	MDRKZ006
Budget Timeframe	2012/12-2013	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget		270,170				270,170	
B. Opening Balance		0				0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		270,170				270,170	
C4. Other Income		270,170				270,170	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		270,170				270,170	
D. Total Funding = B + C		270,170				270,170	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance		0				0	
C. Income		270,170				270,170	
E. Expenditure		-270,167				-270,167	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		3				3	

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III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Expenditure						TOTAL	Variance
	Budget	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			270,170			270,170		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	29,750		33,354			33,354	-3,604	
Food	212,826		210,440			210,440	2,386	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	242,576		243,794			243,794	-1,218	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	2,200						2,200	
Distribution & Monitoring	1,500		519			519	981	
Transport & Vehicles Costs			2,304			2,304	-2,304	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	3,700		2,823			2,823	877	
Personnel								
International Staff			75			75	-75	
National Society Staff	1,000		1,021			1,021	-21	
Volunteers	1,800		635			635	1,165	
Total Personnel	2,800		1,731			1,731	1,069	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	2,500		2,277			2,277	223	
Total Workshops & Training	2,500		2,277			2,277	223	
General Expenditure								
Travel	1,000		1,027			1,027	-27	
Information & Public Relations	105		254			254	-149	
Office Costs			1,299			1,299	-1,299	
Communications	750		474			474	276	
Other General Expenses	250						250	
Total General Expenditure	2,105		3,053			3,053	-948	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recove	16,489		16,489			16,489	0	
Total Indirect Costs	16,489		16,489			16,489	0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	270,170		270,167			270,167	3	
VARIANCE (C - D)			3			3		

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IV. Breakdown by subsector

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
BL2 - Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people							
Disaster response	270,170	0	270,170	270,170	270,167	3	
Subtotal BL2	270,170	0	270,170	270,170	270,167	3	
GRAND TOTAL	270,170	0	270,170	270,170	270,167	3	