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DREF final report

Tajikistan: Extreme winter conditions

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRTJ016
GLIDE n° CW-2013-000018-TJK
3 July 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 164,103 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,640 beneficiaries, basically 2,560 residents in 512 households, and additionally 80 people who were either elderly or people with special needs.

Extreme and unusual winter conditions brought hardships to the residents of the most remote part of Tajikistan, Murghob District, in the middle of January 2013 for several weeks. Heavy snowfalls cut off the district from the rest of the country. The temperatures reaching minus 35 to 55 degrees Celsius especially worsened the living conditions of the most vulnerable people.



The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan distributed non-food items to vulnerable families in Murghob district.
Photo: RCST

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) received an official request for assistance from the local authorities and accordingly conducted a rapid assessment activating the Local Disaster Committee (LDC) members and the local branch of the RCST.

According to the assessment results, the RCST requested DREF support to provide assistance to the identified most affected and most vulnerable 512 households with 2,560 people, and also to further 80 people who were either elderly or people with special needs. The humanitarian operation included the provision of coal, warm clothes, blankets, footwear, candles and shovels.

The implementation of the operation was completed on 7th April 2013.

The Government of the Netherlands contributed CHF 52,547 through the Netherlands Red Cross to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation, covering 32 per cent 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. On behalf of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, the IFRC would like to extend their thanks to all of them for their generous contributions.

The allocation of CHF 164,103 was used up completely in accordance with the approved budget.

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

The situation

The cold weather and unexpected snow blast lasted for several weeks, causing unceasing shortages in electricity and blockage of transportation routes, which resulted in worsening the living conditions of the residents of Murghob district, the most remote part of Tajikistan. Temperatures falling to minus 35 to 55 degrees Celsius and snowstorms totally isolated several villages in the district for weeks in January-February 2013. Even in the centre of Murghob, households had electric power only for two hours per day. In the areas far from the centre and in the villages there was no electricity at all. The electric company managed to fix all broken power lines only by the end of winter. Blocked roads, power shortages and broken communication lines made it even more difficult to reach the affected areas. The governmental emergency response structures made their best to clean the roads before the start of the RCST's humanitarian operation, which was the only way to access and supply these villages.

On 25 January 2013, an operational point was established by the Government of Badakhshan province to response to the needs of the residents. The Government and the Committee of Emergency Situation of the area cleaned the roads, fixed the power lines, as well as provided some coal and firewood to the schools, orphanages and hospitals. In addition, some 157 vulnerable households, mostly headed by females, were provided with cash support ranging from 100 to 300 Tajik Somonies¹. At the same time firewood and coal were given to the vulnerable households at a reduced price from the governmental reserves

Coordination and partnerships

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, being one of the major humanitarian actors in Tajikistan, conducted several meetings and consultations with other stakeholders, among them the competent governmental agencies and the international organizations that were active in the region. The RCST responded to the situation starting from the first day of the emergency by deploying two staff members, three NDRT members from Khorugh city Emergency Response Centre and twenty volunteers, who are members of the Local Disaster Committee, to conduct a rapid needs assessment and provide humanitarian aid.

From the group of the international partners, the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) supported the population through making the houses warmer by the insulation of windows.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

This DREF operation addressed the needs of 2,640 affected residents of Murghob district

(1) through the one-time provision of non-food items in the form of coal, children's warm clothes and blankets, children's footwear, children's warm socks, quilts, candles, shovels to 512 households (2,560 people);

(2) through a one-time distribution of supplementary food parcels of buckwheat, vegetable oil, sugar, rice, macaroni, iodized salt, milk and tea for further 80 elderly and handicapped people.

In coordination with the local authorities and governmental bodies, the following criteria were used to select the beneficiaries under this DREF operation:

(1) the most vulnerable and affected multi-children households, (2) elderly people and people with special needs. The following methods have been used for the selection of the beneficiaries:

- official information from local authorities and the departments of emergencies,

¹ 1 USD = 4, 76 TJS at the National Bank of Tajikistan's exchange rate.

- direct observations,
- semi-structured interviews.

The elderly people and the people with special needs belong to the most vulnerable categories of population in terms of their diet too, so they were also included in the list of the beneficiaries and were provided with supplementary food parcels.

The assessment team prepared the beneficiary lists of vulnerable households in all targeted areas and the lists were endorsed by the local authorities, the communities' leaders and the committees for emergencies (CoEs). After finalizing the beneficiary selection, the RCST procured the required volume of humanitarian aid and transported the goods to the district. This humanitarian operation targeted households in Murghob district centre and the most affected villages in Kuhnakurgan, Modiyon, Chechtube, Rangkul, Chichekdeh, Karakul, Tokhtamish, Shaymok, Alichur, Bashgunbez, and Bulunkul.

Table 1: Targeted areas and number of beneficiaries

Name of the admin. centre (Jamoat)	Number of villages covered	Total # of households assisted	Total # of household members	# of elderly and people with special needs	Number of people reached by RCST
<i>Murghob</i>	<i>Murghob</i>	<i>324</i>	<i>1620</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>1,660</i>
<i>Kuhnakurgan</i>	<i>Kuhnagurgan, Modiyon and Chechtube</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>190</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>201</i>
<i>Karakul</i>	<i>Karakul</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>125</i>
<i>Kyzylrabot</i>	<i>Tokhtamish and Shaymok</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>149</i>
<i>Alychur</i>	<i>Alichur, Bashkumbez and Bulunkul</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>375</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>395</i>
<i>Rangkul</i>	<i>Rangkul and Chichekdeh</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>110</i>
Total		512	2,560	80	2,640

Achievements against outcomes

Relief distributions (NFI and food)

Outcome: Coping mechanisms of the most affected and vulnerable people exposed to extreme temperatures in the targeted area improved

Output 1: 512 households with 2,560 people received non-food items and further 80 people (elderly and those with special needs) received one-time supplementary food parcels to cope with the extreme winter conditions

Activities planned:

- Complete detailed assessment of the situation.
- Preparation of final beneficiary lists.
- Preparation of distribution plan.
- Procurement of emergency items in Dushanbe and Khorog.
- Transportation to and warehousing in Murgab district centre and the administrative centres.
- Distribution of emergency items by RC branches and their volunteers according to the prepared beneficiary lists.
- Coordination with local emergency departments and social welfare authorities.
- Conduct beneficiary satisfaction survey.
- Conduct a "Lessons Learned" workshop.
- Reporting.

Impact: The DREF Operation covered 2,640 out of the approximately 15,000 residents of Murghob, the most remote and most vulnerable district of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The targeted vulnerable families, the local authorities and the government of Badakhshan Region expressed their gratitude and satisfaction with the programme and confirmed that the DREF operation prevented the district from the consequences of severe food shortages.

Table 2: Distributed items under this DREF operation

Item	No. of units
Food (family food parcel containing buckwheat (2 kg), sugar (2 kg), vegetable oil (2 litres), rice (2 kg), macaroni (2 kg), iodized salt (1 kg), milk (1 kg), tea (0.5 kg))	80 boxes
Children`s blankets	1,536 pieces
Children`s warm clothes	1,536 pieces
Children`s warm socks	1,536 pairs
Children`s footwear	1,536 pairs
Shovels	512 pieces
Candles	5,920 pieces
Coal	153,600 kg

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan was constantly monitoring the distribution process. The beneficiary satisfaction survey showed that the targeted beneficiaries were satisfied with the assistance and quality of the service provided. The distribution was fully monitored and the delivery of the items from the point of distribution to end user was controlled. The whole operation was fully supervised by the IFRC Office in Tajikistan from the start until the end.

Some 168 blankets were procured and warehoused in Khorugh emergency response centre according to IFRC procurement procedures to replenish the already distributed blankets.

At the end of operation, a workshop was organized for the main branch of the RCST disaster management officers and national disaster response teams members of the Tajik Red Crescent for lessons learned and experience shared during the operation. The "lessons learned" revealed a few problems and challenges that occurred during the operation.

From the start until the end of operation, the main challenge remained the remoteness of the district. Murghob is located in the most remote part of Tajikistan, close to the border of China, and the only way to reach the area from the capital is a long and bad road with up to twenty hours of drive. In addition, the jamoats are located far from each other and from the centre of the district, where the items were stored for distribution. Another challenge was the communication with the RCST branch in the district. The mobile telephone and Internet connections are poor due to the remoteness of area, but it was also difficult to charge cell phones and computers due to electric power failures that are especially frequent in winter time. The RCST branch has no permanent office and no communication means, except for a simple cell phone, and the local branch of the "Focus" Humanitarian NGO assisted the RCST branch by allowing them to use their computer and Internet in the NGO's office.

The visibility of the work of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan was provided through the dissemination of a press release among the top national print and online media, publications in the local media of Badakhshan district, as well as regular multimedia publications in the RCST official web-home.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF history:

This DREF was initially allocated **on 8th February 2013** for **CHF 164,103** for two months to assist **512 households (2,640 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.

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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

MDRTJ016 - Tajikistan - Extreme Winter

Timeframe: 07 Feb 13 to 07 Apr 13

Appeal Launch Date: 07 Feb 13

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2013/2-5	Programme	MDRTJ016
Budget Timeframe	2013/2-4	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		164,103				164,103	
B. Opening Balance		0				0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		164,103				164,103	
C4. Other Income		164,103				164,103	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		164,103				164,103	
D. Total Funding = B + C		164,103				164,103	

* 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		164,103				164,103	
E. Expenditure		-164,103				-164,103	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0	

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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)			164,103			164,103		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	68,192		69,804			69,804	-1,612	
Food	2,214		2,254			2,254	-40	
Utensils & Tools	2,048		2,905			2,905	-857	
Other Supplies & Services	42,781		44,627			44,627	-1,846	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	115,235		119,590			119,590	-4,356	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	4,500		4,363			4,363	138	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	22,400		20,153			20,153	2,247	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	26,900		24,516			24,516	2,384	
Personnel								
National Society Staff	1,830						1,830	
Volunteers	2,462		2,344			2,344	119	
Total Personnel	4,292		2,344			2,344	1,949	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	5,000		4,726			4,726	274	
Total Workshops & Training	5,000		4,726			4,726	274	
General Expenditure								
Information & Public Relations	1,660		1,662			1,662	-2	
Office Costs			135			135	-135	
Communications	1,000		1,001			1,001	-1	
Financial Charges			113			113	-113	
Total General Expenditure	2,660		2,911			2,911	-251	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recove	10,016		10,016			10,016	0	
Total Indirect Costs	10,016		10,016			10,016	0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	164,103		164,103			164,103	0	
VARIANCE (C - D)			0			0		

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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	164,103	0	164,103	164,103	164,103	0	
Subtotal BL2	164,103	0	164,103	164,103	164,103	0	
GRAND TOTAL	164,103	0	164,103	164,103	164,103	0	