



A destroyed house at Paldorak village, Sughd province. Photo: The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST)

Appeal: MDRTJ035	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 188,888	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Earthquake
Glide Number: EQ-2023-000043-TJK	People Affected: 2,202 people	People Targeted: 1,908 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 07-04-2023	Operational End Date: 31-08-2023	Total Operating Timeframe: 4 months

Targeted Areas: **Districts of Republican Subordination, Sughd**

The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

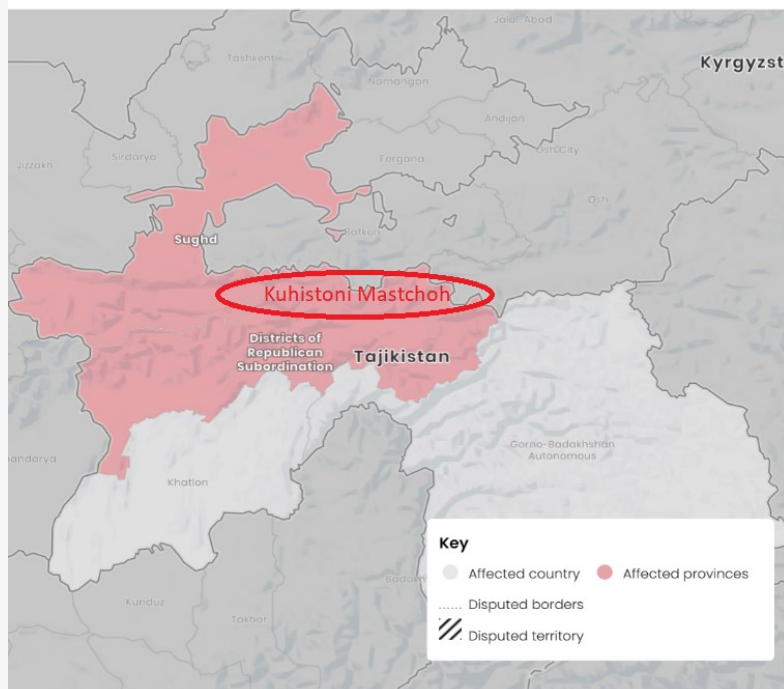
Description of the Event



+CIFRC

TJK: Earthquake - 2023-03 - Earthquake in Tajikistan

25 март 2023 р.



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Data sources: IFRC, OSM contributors, Map box. Map Sources: ICRC, UN CODs

Map of Tajikistan and the affected area. (Source: IFRC)

What happened, where and when?

On 23 March 2023, two earthquakes were registered on the territory of Tajikistan. The first one occurred at 1:07 local time. The epicenter of the earthquake was registered 6-7 km away from Paldorak village, Langar rural jamoat of Kuhistoni Mastchoh district of Sughd Region. The intensity of the first tremors was of 5 to 6 magnitude in the aforementioned districts, 4 to 5 magnitude in Rasht district, and 3 to 4 magnitude as measured in Dushanbe city.

The second earthquake occurred at a depth of 40 km at 07:53 local time, with a magnitude of 4.8. In Dushanbe, the intensity of the tremors was 1 to 2 magnitudes and a tremor of 2 magnitudes struck Rasht district. According to preliminary information, no deaths were reported, however, three residents of the Kuhistoni Mastchoh district were injured.





Cash distribution to the affected households in Kuhistoni Mastcho, Langar Jamoat. Photo credit: RCST



Distribution of essential household items and construction tools to the affected households in Kuhistoni Mastcho, Langar Jamoat. Photo credit: RCST

Scope and Scale

On 28 March 2023, the Tajikistan Governmental Commission identified the scale of damages and losses, which included 318 damaged houses in Kuhistoni Mashoh district of Sughd province. All damaged properties were inspected by the Emergency Situations Commission in Paldorak, Yarm, and Pakshif villages of Langar rural jamoat of Kuhistoni Mashoh district.

The distribution of damaged houses was as follows:

- 165 houses were damaged in Paldorak village;
- Pakshif village reported 49 damaged houses;
- Yarm village documented 23 damaged houses;
- 11 damaged houses were identified in Dashti Miyona, 18 in Dehmanoro, 44 in Rogh, 7 in Samjon, and 1 in Khudqifi Bolo, all due to the earthquake.

The earthquake furthermore resulted in the destruction of numerous cattle sheds, leading to a significant loss of both large and small livestock (18 large cattle, 27 small cattle, and two horses).

Furthermore, the earthquake inflicted damage upon a 750-meter irrigation canal, which significantly increased the vulnerability of the local population engaged in agriculture. This canal also served as a source of drinking water. Since the canal was damaged, affected individuals have been compelled to travel long distances to access water for their needs.

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	No
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	-

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Central Asia team has been working closely with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) and has been providing technical support for the development of response plans and the DREF application.</p> <p>The response of RCST focused on several key areas, including Psychological First Aid (PFA), evacuation efforts, debris clearance from public infrastructure and affected</p>
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	<p>households, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) activities by distributing hygiene kits, conducting information sessions, and the initiation of rapid assessments.</p> <p>The RCST Kuhistoni Mastchoh branch promptly activated its staff and volunteers on the ground from the onset of the disaster, starting on 23 March. Disaster Management volunteers immediately alerted the Emergency Response Center (ERC) in Sughd province and initiated early response measures. These measures included conducting rapid assessments, providing crucial PFA to affected individuals, and collaborating with the Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES) teams to facilitate the evacuation of the population to safer locations. Furthermore, they assisted affected households in the arduous task of cleaning and restoring their residences.</p> <p>A total of 20 RCST volunteers and 12 members from the National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT) were deployed to the affected areas to bolster the relief efforts.</p> <p>RCST volunteers played a pivotal role in administering PFA to 62 affected individuals. Additionally, they continued to support affected households by aiding in the cleaning and rehabilitation of their homes, along with conducting brief sessions addressing hygiene and water sanitation concerns.</p> <p>Furthermore, a specialized team comprising six RCST staff members from various branches, including Headquarters (HQ) and the Sughd provincial branch, was mobilized to conduct a more comprehensive assessment of the affected regions.</p> <p>On 28 March, RCST issued a field report on the IFRC GO platform, followed by a series of situation updates that underscored the necessity for a DREF operation. This formal request was based on the official appeal received from local authorities on 28 March 2023. Throughout this period, RCST kept the information on the disaster up-to-date on the IFRC GO Platform, ensuring that the evolving situation was accurately documented and shared.</p>
Participating National Societies	N/A

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

N/A

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	<p>The local authority of Kuhistoni Mastchoh sent an official letter on 28 March 2023 to RCST, requesting assistance for the affected population.</p> <p>The assistance provided by national and local authorities of Tajikistan to support the earthquake-affected population is as follows:</p> <p>The local government of Sughd province and Rasht district provided food items, construction materials, and shelter to affected people.</p> <p>Food assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10,000 kg of wheat flour, 700 lt of oil, 100 kg of meat, 400 kg of macaroni, 1,000 kg of rice, 100 kg of carrot, 100 kg of onion, and 1,000 loaves of bread were delivered to Kuhistoni Maschoh district of Sughd province; - 1,600 kg of wheat flour, 160 lt of oil, and 320 kg of rice were delivered to the Rasht district of Sughd province.



	<p>Construction materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roofing slate - 300 pcs, cement - 111,6 tones, wood - four cubes, and 79 family tents for Kuhistoni Maschoh district of Sughd province.
UN or other actors	<p>Assistance provided by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other actors to support the earthquake-affected population:</p> <p>King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center provided essential household items to the affected population in Kuhistoni Mastchoh of Sughd province, namely 320 coal-stoves, 6,400 kg of coal, and 960 blankets.</p>

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Needs Assessment:

Based on the information received from CoES, a total of 363 houses had experienced partial damage, while an additional four houses were completely destroyed. The predominant requirements identified revolved around construction materials and tools, encompassing items such as roofing materials, boards, nails, and various other essential components. The utmost priority was assigned to the reconstruction of the fully destroyed houses and the repair and maintenance of the partially severely damaged ones. Individuals whose homes had incurred either full or partial damage had temporarily relocated to stay with their relatives, with the intention of rebuilding their residences in due course.

Risk Assessment:

The RCST HQ maintained a close and vigilant monitoring stance, providing technical support to both regional and district branches. Simultaneously, collaborative efforts were undertaken with local authorities in the selection process of people to be assisted, ensuring a high degree of accountability and transparency throughout the entire procedure.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Needs Assessment:

Initial assessments revealed that the affected families had suffered significant losses, primarily in terms of their homes and cattle, which constituted the primary source of income for the majority of them. In total, 318 households, whose residences were either entirely or partially damaged, were provided with cash grants to help them address the repercussions of the earthquake.

Risk Assessment:

A total of 365 households were impacted by the earthquake, and the evaluation of the extent of damage to housing, household possessions, and livelihoods posed a challenge. Due to the complexity of the situation, difficulties in identifying vulnerable people who are eligible for assistance were also found as a potential challenge. To mitigate these challenges, RCST HQ closely monitored the situation and extended technical support to its regional and district branches. In parallel, collaborative efforts were made with local authorities in the selection of people assisted to ensure a high degree of accountability and transparency throughout the procedure.



Health

Needs Assessment:

During the needs assessment, RCST identified that 62 people affected by the disaster needed Psychological First Aid (PFA). PFA emerged as a primary health requirement for the affected individuals in light of the losses they had experienced, and the psychological stress induced by the aftershocks. Taking into account the potential health-related risks caused by the disaster, the local RCST branch staff and volunteers reported that they have provided PFA to 62 affected people from the earthquake.

Risk Assessment:

The earthquake caused considerable emotional distress among the impacted population due to their material losses and the ongoing emotional strain from aftershocks. On 28 March 2023, the local authorities in Kuhistoni Mastchoh formally reached out to RCST, seeking



support for the affected community. A comprehensive assistance effort was initiated, with PFA being one of the integral components. The execution of all activities was conducted in close collaboration and coordination with the local government.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Needs Assessment:

RCST conducted a thorough needs assessment and identified that the primary Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) requirements of the affected population included hygiene kits, dignity kits, and improved access to drinking water and sanitation facilities. In response to this assessment, a total of 318 hygiene kits were distributed to meet the needs of the affected population.

Risk Assessment:

Effective coordination among partners, health sector stakeholders, and local government entities was deemed essential. Additionally, close monitoring of the quality of sanitation improvement and hygiene promotion sessions and campaigns, along with active community participation and engagement, was recognized as necessary to garner the attention and involvement of local residents.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The overall objective of the DREF operation was to provide hygiene promotion, psychological first aid, and multi-purpose cash assistance to 318 households, reaching a total of 1,908 individuals.

The cash assistance was calculated at CHF 301.78 per family. This calculation was based on the minimum salary per family (3 people x TJS 600 = TJS 1,800), where three family members (two parents and the eldest child) were assumed to be employed. The average transfer value was then multiplied by two months (2 months x TJS 1,800 = TJS 3,600 / CHF 301.78 for two months). The purpose of this cash assistance was to help the affected households cover income losses, compensate construction workers, and meet basic food needs.

These 318 households were identified during the assessment process, which involved coordination with representatives from the National Emergency Response Commission, local authorities, and representatives of earthquake-affected individuals.

In addition to cash support, the operation included a hygiene promotion campaign aimed at reaching 7,500 people residing in the affected areas. This campaign was designed to educate and promote proper hygiene practices. Furthermore, the operation provided PFA to vulnerable children and women affected by the earthquake.

To facilitate the restoration of irrigation and drinking water supply systems, fuel was provided to support the cleaning efforts of the canal. Shelter support included the distribution of construction toolboxes, which were intended to assist families in the reconstruction and repair of their houses.

Operation strategy rationale

In its response strategy, RCST aimed to provide direct assistance to 318 families, comprising 1,908 individuals who were affected by the earthquake, addressing their immediate and essential needs over the subsequent four months.

Additionally, RCST indirectly extended its reach to 7,500 people residing in affected villages by disseminating information materials and conducting hygiene promotion activities. Specifically, within the scope of WASH responses, the goal was to directly engage with 318 households. The delivery of information and messages on safe sanitation and hygiene was carried out through awareness-raising materials, which included two distinct types of WASH information materials titled "Water for life" and "Fresh water is safe."

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

This operation aimed to provide direct assistance to 318 families, totaling 1,908 individuals, by offering WASH/Health support. Additionally, 318 households, comprising 1,908 people, who had either fully or partially damaged houses or had suffered losses in terms of cattle or income-generating property, received multi-purpose cash assistance. The identification of these 318 families took place during



the assessment phase, involving collaboration with representatives from the National Emergency Response Commission, local authorities, and representatives of individuals affected by the earthquake.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Due to the fact that most damages occurred in the Kuhistoni Mastchoh district, as a result of the earthquake, RCST covered 318 families whose houses were either partially or fully damaged, as well as those who had suffered losses in terms of cattle or income-generating property in that specific area. Notably, RCST did not include 49 households from districts of Republican Subordination as their houses had incurred only minor damage.

RCST focused on providing support to families who have been heavily affected by the earthquake, including those who had experienced partial or full destruction of their homes, as well as those who had lost cattle or income-generating property. The identification of these 318 families, who had their homes completely or partially destroyed or had suffered losses in cattle or income-generating property, had already taken place during the assessment phase in coordination with representatives from the National Emergency Response Commission and local authorities.

Total Targeted Population

Women	348	Rural	100%
Girls (under 18)	644	Urban	0%
Men	321	People with disabilities (estimated)	1.3%
Boys (under 18)	595		
Total targeted population	1,908		

Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
No significant risks or security concerns were identified during the past assessment that could have potentially impacted the operations. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that the State Agency for Hydrometeorology of Tajikistan had forecasted continued heavy rainfall and snow melting from the mountains at that time. This weather forecast indicated a heightened risk of elevated water levels in rivers and potential incidents of stone falls.	In the event of another disaster, RCST would activate its contingency plan and mobilize its pre-existing disaster response resources from various locations across the country and use funds within existing programmes funded by USAID BHA through IFRC and ECHO PPP.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

In the context of this operation, safety and security were paramount concerns, particularly regarding the welfare of NS's volunteers. Measures were taken to ensure the well-being of all involved parties. The staff and volunteers received regular updates on security protocols and procedures. Furthermore, RCST maintained ongoing coordination with development and national partners to monitor the security situation in the target communities, with daily communication.

COVID-19 precautionary measures were implemented and rigorously followed. RCST staff and volunteers adhered to personal protective equipment (PPE) usage and practiced physical distancing when providing direct assistance to individuals. Both assistance providers and affected individuals utilized PPE to mitigate COVID-19 transmission risks. RCST staff, NDRT members, and local volunteers received training on protective measures against COVID-19 to ensure their safety and that of the communities they served.



Implementation



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 20,157

Targeted Persons: 1,908

Assisted Persons: 1,908

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of households provided with essential relief items (construction tools)	318	318

Narrative description of achievements

To ensure timely construction works, each affected household was provided with one construction toolbox.

- A truck was used to transport essential household items, specifically construction toolboxes, from the Dushanbe warehouse to the affected areas.

- Essential household item distribution, specifically construction toolboxes, was carried out for 318 affected families. Each construction toolbox included various tools such as an axe with a wooden handle, a hammer-claw with a wooden claw, a saw, a small saw, a glasscutter, a handplane, a construction level, a 5-meter steel tape measure, a large trowel, screwdrivers, a 12mm rope (10 meters in length), pliers, scissors, and a ladle. The IFRC procured construction tool sets, charging them to AP081 instead of AP005. Out of the budgeted 20,157 CHF for the shelter line, only 2,526 CHF was utilized, and 17k was reallocated to Multi-purpose Cash. The distribution took place as follows:

- 18 households in Dehmanora village (22 August 2023)
- 11 households in Dashti Miyona village (22 August 2023)
- 49 households in Pakshif village (22 August 2023)
- 166 households in Paldorak village (22 August 2023)
- 1 household in Khudgifi Bolo village (23 August 2023)
- 43 households in Rogh village (23 August 2023)
- 7 households in Samjon village (23 August 2023)
- 23 households in Yarm village (23 August 2023)

A Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey (BSS) was conducted by RCST staff among 95 households out of the 318 households that received construction toolboxes. This included 53 households in Paldorak, 14 households in Rogh, 15 households in Pakshif, 5 households in Dehmanora, 7 households in Yarm, and 1 household in Samjon.

RCST, with the support of IFRC, supplied 1,000 liters of fuel to local authorities for the cleaning and reconstruction of a 750-meter irrigation canal in Paldorak village, which had been damaged during the earthquake.

The Government of Tajikistan provided materials to the affected families, including 300 pieces of roofing slate, 111.6 tons of cement, 4 cubic meters of wood, and 79 family tents.

Various NGOs and actors, including the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center, provided essential relief items to the affected population in Kuhistoni Mastcho. This assistance included 320 coal stoves, 6,400 kg of coal, and 960 blankets.

Lessons Learnt

- It is crucial to ensure transparency in the selection and assessment processes for aid distribution. The affected community should be actively involved, and their feedback should be considered to build trust and confidence in decision-making. Clear and effective communication about the criteria and process for assessing damage and selecting people assisted is essential.



- Strict adherence to established procurement and tendering procedures is vital to avoid deviations from the expected timeline. Oversight and monitoring of the procurement process are crucial to identify irregularities or delays early on.
- Disaster response plans should not only focus on immediate relief but also longer-term resilience-building measures. Capacity-building programs for constructing safer and more resilient housing are crucial for communities in disaster-prone areas.
- RCST collaborated closely with the CoES and local authorities in the distribution of construction and repair tools. This collaboration was effective and contributed to the efficient distribution of the tools to people.

Challenges

- There was widespread dissatisfaction among the people regarding the preparation of the house damage list by the government commission. This resulted in a lack of trust and dissatisfaction within the community regarding the accuracy and fairness of the list, leading to concerns about the equitable distribution of assistance for damaged houses.
- The procurement process for house construction and repairment did not adhere to the established tendering procedures, resulting in deviations from the expected timeline. This non-compliance and procedural irregularities caused delays in the procurement process. The situation became concerning to the extent that the IFRC had to intervene to rectify and expedite the procurement, highlighting the critical nature of the issue.
- The issue at hand pertains to the procedures for constructing safer houses in Tajikistan, given the country's location within a highly disaster-prone area, particularly within seismic risk zones ranging from magnitude 8 to 9 on the Richter scale.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 112,195

Targeted Persons: 1,908

Assisted Persons: 1,908

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people provided with multi-purpose cash	1,908	1,908
Number of families provided with multi-purpose cash	318	318
Number of NDRT members and volunteers for CVA involved in the operation	32	32

Narrative description of achievements

Based on the findings of the needs assessment, RCST, in collaboration with the local emergency commission, selected 318 families whose homes had been either fully or partially destroyed as recipients of multi-purpose cash grants. The list underwent a coordination and verification process and was mutually agreed upon with local authorities and CoES in the Kuhistoni Mastcho district. Each of these families received TJS 3,600 TJS (equivalent to CHF 301.78). The distribution details are as follows:

- 18 households in Dehmanora village (01 June 2023)
- 11 households in Dashti Miyona village (01 June 2023)
- 49 households in Pakshif village (01 June 2023)
- 166 households in Paldorak village (02 June 2023)
- 1 household in Khudgifi Bolo village (03 June 2023)
- 43 households in Rogh village (03 June 2023)
- 7 households in Samjon village (06 June 2023)
- 23 households in Yarm village (06 June 2023)

Furthermore, two post-distribution monitoring (PDMs) were conducted by 20 individuals, comprising volunteers (15) and community



members (5) from the affected villages. PDM activities were carried out among 68 households out of the 318 households that had received multi-purpose cash assistance. Specifically, these assessments were conducted in Paldorak (33 households), Rogh (10 households), Pakshif (11 households), Dehmanora (7 households), and Yarm (7 households).

The cash distribution initiative was highly successful, with positive feedback and significant impact reported by people who have received this type of assistance. The following achievements were observed:

1. Safety and Confidence in Cash Pickup: All 68 households (100%) expressed that they felt safe while picking up their cash assistance. This underscores the security and reliability of the distribution process.

2. High Satisfaction: 66 households (97%) conveyed their satisfaction with the cash distribution process. This high satisfaction rate reflects the effectiveness and efficiency of the operation.

3. Effective Utilization of Cash: The beneficiaries demonstrated responsible use of the cash assistance, as indicated by how the money was spent:

- 16% used the funds to purchase construction materials for shelter, contributing to the reconstruction of their homes.
- 15% allocated the cash to pay workers for house repair and construction works, accelerating the recovery of their dwellings.
- 16% invested in essential home items such as tables and kitchen sets, enhancing their living conditions.
- 11% allocated the cash for food, addressing immediate nutritional needs.
- 14% utilized the funds to purchase basic household items like blankets and tableware, ensuring their comfort and daily needs.
- 7% spent the money on hygiene products, promoting health and sanitation.
- 10% used the cash for clothing, addressing clothing needs.
- 11% allocated the funds to cover medical expenses, contributing to their well-being.

4. Preference for Cash Assistance: When asked about their preference for future assistance, 55 people (80%) expressed a preference for cash assistance over other types of support like food or construction materials. This indicates a strong belief in the flexibility and effectiveness of cash assistance.

5. Debt Mitigation: Significantly, 30 respondents (44%) reported that they had incurred debt as a result of the disaster. For these individuals, the provision of cash support was perceived as the right approach, helping them address their debt-related challenges effectively.

Lessons Learnt

- Instead of a long-term agreement, a short-term agreement was established with the State Savings Bank "Amonatbank" for the distribution of cash. This agreement enabled the distribution of cash to 318 affected families whose houses were partially or fully destroyed. In certain emergency situations, flexibility and adaptability are essential. Opting for a short-term agreement allowed for a rapid response to provide cash to affected families.

Challenges

- Banks were hesitant to engage in long-term contracts with RCST for CVA distribution due to low service fees.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 11,831

Targeted Persons: 7,500

Assisted Persons: 1,908

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of NDRT members and Volunteers for hygiene promotion involved in the operation	32	36



Number of people indirectly covered by hygiene promotion	7,500	1,908
Number of families directly covered by hygiene promotion	318	318

Narrative description of achievements

CoES distributed 400 hygiene kits to households affected by the disaster, and 20 RCST volunteers provided support during the distribution of these kits. Additionally, these volunteers conducted hygiene promotion short sessions among vulnerable children and women who were affected, reaching a total of 180 individuals.

Throughout the operation, training sessions were organized for 24 active community members from the affected villages. Additionally, 12 RCST staff and volunteers in the Kuhistoni Mastcho district received training on WASH and hygiene promotion. These trained people conducted sessions among 1,908 impacted populations.

While water and hygiene kits were provided and training on WASH and hygiene promotion was conducted, some aspects did not go as planned. Specifically, information materials on WASH and hygiene promotion were not printed and disseminated, and there were fewer female volunteers involved in the effort. These are areas where improvements may be needed. The challenges stemmed from logistical issues in allocating funds and cultural barriers that resulted in the involvement of fewer female volunteers.

Lessons Learnt

- Adequate preparation and allocation of funds for printing and disseminating information materials are crucial to ensure comprehensive communication during disaster response efforts.
- Recognizing and addressing cultural barriers is essential. These barriers may affect the engagement of female volunteers in conveying hygiene-related information to female members of households, and culturally appropriate strategies should be devised. Promoting gender inclusivity in volunteer recruitment and participation can lead to more effective communication, especially on sensitive topics like hygiene. Encouraging and facilitating the involvement of female volunteers is essential.

Challenges

- The challenge primarily stems from the absence of printed materials for WASH and hygiene promotion, as well as the limited engagement of female volunteers. This limitation is due to cultural considerations, as it is culturally sensitive for hygiene-related matters to be conveyed by female volunteers to female members of households in the country.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 1,908

Assisted Persons: 1,908

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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Narrative description of achievements

In its response efforts, RCST implemented targeted measures to ensure an inclusive and gender-sensitive distribution process. The registration lists were prepared in collaboration with local administration centers (Jamoat) to ensure that all affected individuals, including those with disabilities, were accounted for and that their unique needs were adequately addressed. As a concrete example, cash assistance was personally delivered to a woman with disabilities and an older man in their homes within Paldorak village, highlighting the organization's commitment to inclusivity.

A strong emphasis was placed on gender sensitivity throughout the process. This encompassed considerations such as the timing, location, and accessibility of distribution points, all tailored to accommodate the diverse needs of different demographic groups. To



enhance gender sensitivity further, special provisions were made during cash distribution. Notably, older individuals, persons with disabilities, and women with infants were afforded priority service without the need to wait in queues, thereby streamlining the process and ensuring their comfort and convenience.

Lessons Learnt

- Actively involve women in the decision-making processes related to shelter assistance. Ensure that information is disseminated effectively and inclusively, addressing cultural sensitivities to promote women's participation.
- The involvement of fewer female volunteers in training due to cultural barriers underscores a gender-related challenge. Addressing these barriers and promoting the participation of women in training activities is essential to enhance Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) principles and inclusivity within the response efforts.

Challenges

- Women's participation in the distribution and assistance processes was notably low. This indicates a potential gender disparity in access to and involvement in critical decision-making and support, which should be addressed to ensure gender equity and inclusivity.
- The absence of records on people with disabilities is a significant gap in terms of inclusion. Identifying and addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities is essential for ensuring their access to assistance and safeguarding their rights and dignity.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 1,908

Assisted Persons: 1,908

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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Narrative description of achievements

RCST effectively coordinated all response operations in collaboration with CoES, local authorities, and community leaders. This coordination encompassed various stages of the response, including assessment, list preparation, and the distribution of both cash and essential household items, specifically construction tools. The assessment process was carried out in partnership with the National Emergency Response Commission, comprising CoES, local authorities, and other relevant entities. Utilizing the assessment results and considering the specific needs of the affected population, a comprehensive list of people to be assisted was compiled. The final list for the distribution of cash and essential household items, particularly construction tools, received unanimous agreement from all stakeholders involved.

In alignment with its core principles, Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) principles were fully integrated into all activities involving the community, partners, and other stakeholders. For instance, during the needs assessment, active consultation with the affected communities took place, allowing them to identify their priorities. During the distribution of cash and essential household items, including construction tools, the affected communities were actively engaged. Additional accommodations were provided for vulnerable groups and individuals with disabilities. For example, cash assistance was personally delivered to the homes of disabled women and older men.

People assisted were kept well-informed about the timing, date, and location of distribution through the head of the village council. Furthermore, a comprehensive feedback and response mechanism was established, utilizing tools such as banners, flyers, a help desk, a help box, and a dedicated phone number. This mechanism ensured that individuals and communities affected by the emergency could effectively provide feedback and raise any concerns regarding RCST activities. Importantly, the feedback received was acted upon promptly, and the resulting actions were communicated back to the individuals and communities involved.



Lessons Learnt

- Implement CEA practices to involve the affected population in decision-making and feedback mechanisms. This enhances transparency and trust, especially related to composing the list of people to be supported with response activities. The selection of people for shelter assistance must be transparent to alleviate dissatisfaction and confusion.
- Employ a variety of communication methods for information dissemination. While face-to-face meetings are valuable, also invest in printed and audio materials to ensure broader coverage.
- The active role played by CoES and local government staff in controlling house construction could indicate a degree of community involvement in the decision-making and oversight processes. This aligns with CEA principles, as local stakeholders are engaged in disaster response and recovery efforts.

Challenges

There was widespread dissatisfaction among the people regarding the preparation of the house damage list by the government commission. This resulted in a lack of trust within the community regarding the accuracy and fairness of the list, leading to concerns about the equitable distribution of assistance for damaged houses. Despite an explanation of how the list of damaged houses was created, the issue persisted.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 37,243

Targeted Persons: 4

Assisted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of staff covered, NS DREF Focal point based in HQ 100%	1	1
Number of staff covered, NS Sugd provincial officer	1	1
Number of staff covered, NS Finance officer based in HQ,	1	1
Number of staff covered, NS PMER Officer, HQ,	1	1
Number of volunteers insured	32	32

Narrative description of achievements

- 1 RCST DREF Focal Point located at HQ had full coverage (100%).
- 1 RCST Sughd provincial officer contributed at a rate of 30%.
- 1 RCST Finance officer, based at HQ, was involved at a rate of 50%.
- Similarly, one Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) Officer based at HQ also played a role at a 50% capacity.
- Social tax accounted for 20% of the allocation.
- Expenses related to fuel were allocated to the identification of people assisted and verification exercises.
- Funds were allocated for travel to project sites, covering activities such as cash and essential household items (construction tools) distribution, conducting Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM), and Beneficiary Satisfaction Surveys (BSS).

Lessons Learnt

- Understanding the geographic and developmental challenges of the area is essential for tailoring disaster response strategies to the local context.



- Regular training and preparedness exercises are necessary to ensure that RCST staff and volunteers are adequately equipped to respond to disasters.
- Effective communication, both within RCST and with external partners, is pivotal for successful coordination and timely responses to disasters. Addressing weak communication links is vital.
- Ensuring that RCST branch offices are well-equipped with the necessary resources and office items is important for operational efficiency.
- Improving phone and internet coverage in remote areas is essential to facilitate communication and data exchange during disaster response efforts.

Challenges

- The poor state of infrastructure, particularly roads and transportation, posed obstacles to efficient disaster response and assistance delivery.
- The mountainous and remote nature of the area, coupled with its underdevelopment, posed challenges to infrastructure and accessibility.
- The readiness and preparedness of RCST staff and volunteers for disaster response fell short of the required level, potentially impacting the effectiveness of response efforts.
- Communication between RCST branch offices and the RCST headquarters was reported as weak, which could hinder effective coordination and response to disasters.
- Some RCST branch offices were not properly equipped with necessary office items, which impacted operational efficiency.
- Poor phone and internet coverage in the affected area added to the communication challenges.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRTJ035 - Tajikistan Earthquake 2023

Operating Timeframe: 07 Apr 2023 to 31 Aug 2023

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/4-10	Operation	MDRTJ035
Budget Timeframe	2023/4-8	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 20/Nov/2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	188,888
DREF Response Pillar	188,888
Expenditure	-183,233
Closing Balance	5,655

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	20,157	2,526	17,631
PO02 - Livelihoods	1,171	1,167	5
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	112,195	127,306	-15,111
PO04 - Health			0
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	11,831	13,699	-1,868
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery			0
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	145,354	144,697	657
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	6,290	751	5,540
EA02 - Secretariat Services			0
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	37,243	37,785	-542
Enabling Approaches Total	43,533	38,536	4,997
Grand Total	188,888	183,233	5,654

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

Please explain variances (if any)

Out of CHF 188,888 approved DREF budget, CHF 183,233 (97%) was utilised for the DREF Operation. The remaining CHF 5,654 will be returned the the DREF pot.

Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

National Society contact: Payrav Imomov, Deputy Head of DM Department, payrav.imomov@mail.ru

IFRC Appeal Manager: Seval Guzelkilinc, Head of Country Cluster Delegation for Central Asia, seval.guzelkilinc@ifrc.org

IFRC Project Manager: Seval Guzelkilinc, Head of Country Cluster Delegation for Central Asia, seval.guzelkilinc@ifrc.org

IFRC focal point for the emergency: Mahabat Murzakanova, PMER Officer/temporary replacement, Mahabat.MURZAKANOVA@ifrc.org

Media Contact: Corrie Butler, IFRC Communications Manager, Europe & Central Asia, corrie.butler@ifrc.org

[Click here for reference](#)



DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/4-10	Operation	MDRTJ035
Budget Timeframe	2023/4-8	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 20/Nov/2023

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Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/4-10	Operation	MDRTJ035
Budget Timeframe	2023/4-8	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 20/Nov/2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRTJ035 - Tajikistan Earthquake 2023

Operating Timeframe: 07 Apr 2023 to 31 Aug 2023

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	121,309	115,872	5,437
Construction Materials	18,927	19,327	-400
Teaching Materials	6,415		6,415
Cash Disbursement	95,967	96,545	-578
Logistics, Transport & Storage	5,793	4,215	1,579
Distribution & Monitoring	1,526		1,526
Transport & Vehicles Costs	4,267	4,215	52
Personnel	17,652	16,914	738
National Society Staff	15,450	16,914	-1,464
Volunteers	2,202		2,202
Workshops & Training	9,640	18,585	-8,945
Workshops & Training	9,640	18,585	-8,945
General Expenditure	22,965	16,465	6,501
Travel	5,058	3,197	1,862
Information & Public Relations	1,696	12	1,684
Office Costs	339	400	-61
Communications	2,000	1,637	363
Financial Charges	2,655	1,514	1,142
Other General Expenses	11,217	9,706	1,511
Indirect Costs	11,528	11,183	345
Programme & Services Support Recover	11,528	11,183	345
Grand Total	188,888	183,233	5,654