



Appeal: MDRTM001	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 90,800	Hazard: Population Movement	Country: Turkmenistan
People at Risk: 2,000 people	People Targeted: 2,000 people	People Assisted: 102 people	Event Onset: Sudden
Operation Start Date: 16-03-2026	Operational End Date: 30-04-2026	Total Operating Timeframe: 45 days	Publication Date: 02-09-2026
Targeted Regions: Ahal, Balkan			

Event development

Update regarding the event’s development

The anticipated large-scale population movement from Iran into Turkmenistan did not materialise during the operational period. While cross-border movements from Iran into Turkmenistan occurred, the scale and profile of arrivals remained below the scenario levels anticipated and did not result in a sustained influx requiring a large-scale humanitarian response.

During the operational period, mostly third-country nationals were permitted to cross the border from Iran into Turkmenistan. This resulted in a more limited beneficiary profile than initially anticipated. Due to security considerations, government authorities shared only limited official information regarding population movements across the border, which constrained the National Society's ability to maintain a comprehensive overview of the evolving situation.

As the anticipated large-scale influx did not occur, the National Society's preparedness and early action measures focused primarily on maintaining readiness and strengthening its capacity to respond should the situation deteriorate. The National Society nevertheless provided assistance to people affected by the population movement, with 102 people assisted during the operation.

The pre-defined conditions for a significant escalation of humanitarian needs were therefore not reached, and no scale-up of the Imminent DREF operation was required.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. National Society of Turkmenistan	https://crescent.int@tgymj.gov.tm

Implementation

	Sector	Activities	Budget (CHF)	Expenditure
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Early Actions

Shelter

- In anticipation of a potential increase in cross-border population movement, NRCST strengthened its readiness to provide immediate shelter assistance at priority border locations. A total of 40 tents were transported and distributed to bordering areas, while 15 family tents were pre-positioned and made available for rapid deployment, providing temporary accommodation capacity for approximately 300 people at Border Crossing Points (BCPs) and Neutral Border Zones (NBZs). This helped ensure that shelter assistance could be mobilized quickly should congestion or humanitarian needs increase.

To strengthen the availability of essential first aid supplies for a potential emergency response, NRCST procured 64 first aid kits to equip NS' response teams in anticipation of potential higher demand, compared with the 32 originally planned. The higher quantity was a result of restrictions on the procurement of certain types of items and allowed the National Society to further strengthen the preparedness of its response teams and volunteers.

NRCST invested in strengthening the capacity of its response personnel and volunteers ahead of a potential influx. 36 NDRT members and 60 volunteers from Ashgabat, Ahal and Balkan branches received training covering NDRT roles, the legal framework, volunteering, Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), contributing to a stronger pool of trained personnel available for deployment if required.

Migration

- Preparedness activities strengthened the capacity of NRCST personnel and volunteers to provide Psychological First Aid and psychosocial support in an emergency. The operation highlighted the importance of maintaining volunteer readiness through appropriate training and refresher activities, ensuring that trained personnel would be available should people arriving through the border experience distress or other psychosocial needs.

NRCST conducted refresher training on PGI for staff and volunteers involved in response activities. The training strengthened their understanding of protection risks and inclusive approaches, while sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data were collected and analysed during the operation to support more accountable and inclusive decision-making. CEA considerations were incorporated into the capacity-building programme, helping staff and volunteers strengthen their ability to engage with communities and ensure that humanitarian assistance would be delivered in an accountable and appropriate manner.

To reinforce preparedness and ensure that staff and volunteers had consistent information to share with people affected by population movement, 50 WASH handbooks were printed and distributed, including to NRCST teams and volunteers in Ahal and Balkan branches. These materials supported the dissemination of key WASH messages and preparedness for a potential influx.

CHF 65,750

CHF 64,309



 Early Response	Migration	The anticipated large-scale population movement did not materialise during the operational period and the predefined conditions for a significant humanitarian response were therefore not reached. As a result, the Early Response component was not activated and no Rapid Needs Assessment was conducted	CHF 9,250	CHF 0
	Sub-total		CHF 75,000	CHF 64,309
	Surge Deployment (if applicable)		CHF 10,000	CHF 9,472
	Indirect Cost		CHF 5,800	CHF 4,796
	Total		CHF 90,800	CHF 78,577

Total Assisted Population

Assisted Women	24	Rural	90%
Assisted Girls (under 18)	44	Urban	10%
Assisted Men	19	People with disabilities (estimated)	0%
Assisted Boys (under 18)	15		
Total Population Assisted	102		
Total Targeted Population	2,000		

MDRTM001 - Turkmenistan - Population Movement Imminent

Operating timeframe: *Start date: 16-мар-2026 End date: 31-май-2026*
Appeal launch date: *17-мар-2026*

I. Summary

	Actual (CHF)
Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	90 800
DREF Response Pillar	90 800
Expenditure	-78 577
Closing Balance	12 223

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			
PO02 - Livelihoods			
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			
PO04 - Health			
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene			
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			
PO07 - Education			
PO08 - Migration	84 999	78 577	6 422
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	5 525		5 525
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			
Planned Operations Total	90 524	78 577	11 947
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			
EA02 - Secretariat Services			
EA03 - National Society Strengthening			
Total	90 524	78 577	11 947

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Prepared on 20-июл-2026

Page 1 of 2

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

Explain any variances or modifications to the implemented activities

The implementation of the operation remained broadly aligned with the activities and preparedness measures planned in the approved Imminent DREF. As the anticipated large-scale population movement did not materialise during the operational period, the Early Response component was not activated and no Rapid Needs Assessment or large-scale early-response intervention was undertaken.

Mitigation efforts and achievements.

The Imminent DREF operation enabled the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan (NRCST) to strengthen its preparedness and operational readiness in anticipation of a potential large-scale population movement from Iran into Turkmenistan. Although some cross-

border movement took place during the operational period, the anticipated large-scale influx did not materialise and the thresholds for activating a broader humanitarian response were not reached. As a result, the operation focused primarily on preparedness, readiness, capacity strengthening and coordination, while the planned Early Response component was not activated.

Preparedness and pre-positioning of emergency supplies:

NRCST strengthened its readiness to provide immediate shelter and basic humanitarian assistance at priority border locations. A total of 40 tents were transported and distributed to bordering areas, while 15 family tents were pre-positioned and made available for rapid deployment, providing temporary accommodation capacity for approximately 300 people at border crossing points and neutral border zones. This pre-positioning ensured that shelter assistance could be mobilized rapidly if population movements increased or people experienced prolonged waiting times at the border.

NRCST also strengthened the availability of first aid supplies. While 32 first aid kits had initially been planned for staff and volunteers, 64 kits were ultimately procured due to restrictions on the procurement of certain types of items. The additional supplies contributed to strengthening the National Society's preparedness and the availability of essential first aid equipment for potential deployment.

Capacity strengthening and volunteer preparedness:

A key achievement of the operation was the strengthening of the capacity of NRCST staff and volunteers to respond to population movement and other emergencies. 36 NDRT members and 60 volunteers from Ashgabat, Ahal and Balkan branches received training covering NDRT roles, the legal framework, volunteering, Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI). The training strengthened the pool of personnel available to support a potential emergency response and reinforced understanding of protection, accountability and inclusive programming principles.

NRCST also conducted refresher training on PGI for staff and volunteers involved in response activities. Participants strengthened their ability to identify protection risks and apply inclusive approaches during distributions and community engagement. Sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data were collected and analysed during the operation to support accountability and inclusive decision-making. CEA measures were also incorporated into the capacity-building programme.

WASH and community information:

To strengthen preparedness and support consistent communication with people who might be affected by population movement, 50 WASH handbooks were printed and distributed to NRCST staff and volunteers, including those in the Ahal and Balkan branches. The materials were intended to reinforce key WASH messages and support facilitators in providing appropriate information during a potential emergency.

Coordination and technical support:

The operation also strengthened coordination between NRCST, IFRC and government counterparts. Three IFRC staff members were directly involved in implementation and provided support to NRCST staff, supporting technical capacity and adherence to relevant standards. A meeting was also organised with the heads and key staff of the Main Directorate of Civil Defense and Rescue Operations of the Ministry of Defense of Turkmenistan to discuss humanitarian roles, principles and coordination arrangements.

Based on lessons learned from previous DREF operations in Central Asia, IFRC also managed the procurement process directly in order to mitigate potential delays and ensure compliance with procurement procedures. This included local tendering, supplier verification and monitoring of the timely delivery and quality of procured goods. Technical specifications were developed jointly with NRCST management and technical staff, strengthening national ownership of the procurement process and ensuring that procured items reflected operational needs.

Monitoring and the non-materialisation of the anticipated influx:

During the operational period, population movements across the Iran–Turkmenistan border remained more limited than anticipated. Only third-country nationals were permitted to cross the border, while security considerations meant that government authorities shared only limited official information on population movements. This constrained the National Society's situational awareness and its ability to plan and adapt humanitarian activities based on evolving needs.

As the anticipated large-scale influx did not materialise, the Rapid Needs Assessment and Early Response component were not activated. No large-scale humanitarian intervention was therefore required under the Imminent DREF. The preparedness measures implemented through the operation nevertheless strengthened NRCST's capacity to respond rapidly should a similar population movement or other emergency occur in the future.

Lessons learnt and challenges

Challenges:



Limited access to information on population movements: Due to security considerations, government authorities shared only limited official information regarding movements across the Iran–Turkmenistan border. This constrained NRCST's situational awareness and limited its ability to anticipate changes in the scale and profile of population movements and adapt humanitarian activities accordingly. Continuous coordination with government counterparts was therefore required to understand the evolving situation.

Restricted beneficiary profile: Only third-country nationals were permitted to cross the border from Iran into Turkmenistan. This resulted in a narrower beneficiary profile than initially anticipated and required continued coordination with the authorities to clarify the eligible population and the humanitarian needs that could be addressed.

Procurement requirements and timelines: Procurement presented potential implementation challenges due to the need to comply with IFRC procurement procedures, conduct local tendering, verify suppliers and monitor the quality and timely delivery of goods. Drawing on previous DREF experience in Central Asia, IFRC therefore managed the procurement process directly to reduce the risk of delays and ensure compliance with required procedures.

Humanitarian coordination with government counterparts: The operation highlighted the importance of establishing a shared understanding of humanitarian principles, operational roles and coordination mechanisms with government counterparts at an early stage. Initial engagement with the Main Directorate of Civil Defense and Rescue Operations helped clarify these arrangements and contributed to smoother implementation.

Institutional capacity gaps: The operation identified some areas requiring further strengthening within NRCST, including the absence of an approved gender policy and the temporary absence of a national-level first aid coordinator. The operation also highlighted the need for additional WASH refresher training for NRCST facilitators.

Lessons Learned:

Preparedness enable rapid response: Pre-positioning emergency supplies at branch and border-area level can significantly strengthen the speed and efficiency of a response. The operation demonstrated the value of having shelter and other essential supplies available in advance, particularly in a context where population movements can develop rapidly and access to reliable information may be limited. This should be maintained as part of NRCST's preparedness approach.

Volunteer capacity needs to be maintained through regular refresher training: The operation reinforced the importance of maintaining a pool of trained volunteers who can be rapidly mobilised during population movements. In particular, regular refresher training on Psychological First Aid was identified as important to maintain volunteer readiness and ensure the quality and consistency of psychosocial support in emergency contexts.

Preparedness should include government counterparts: The operation demonstrated that preparedness is not limited to strengthening the National Society's own capacity. There is also value in engaging government counterparts in relevant humanitarian standards and approaches. In particular, government colleagues expressed interest in strengthening their capacity on PGI, while the operation also identified the need for training government agencies on the standards for managing IFRC-supported camps when humanitarian assistance is provided.

Dedicated technical support strengthens implementation: The direct involvement of three IFRC staff members in implementation and coaching strengthened NRCST's technical capacity, supported adherence to IFRC standards and contributed to timely decision-making. This proved particularly useful in a preparedness operation requiring coordination across several technical areas.

Early coordination and joint planning improve ownership and quality: Early engagement with government authorities helped clarify humanitarian roles and coordination arrangements, while the joint development of technical specifications with NRCST management and technical staff strengthened national ownership and ensured that procurement reflected operational needs.

Centralised procurement can mitigate delays: The experience confirmed that, in contexts where previous DREF operations have experienced procurement delays, IFRC-managed procurement can help reduce operational risks while ensuring compliance, supplier due diligence and quality control.



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