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DREF operation update Russian Federation: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRRU010 Russia: Floods
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Update n°01
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The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. 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.

Period covered by this update:
2nd June –15th September 2011.

Summary: CHF 149,420 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Russian Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance in the Russian Federation to 1,800 families in the Krasnodarskiy Kray (region) and the Republic of Adygeya. This operation was expected to be implemented over 3 months, and to be completed by 6th September 2011;

the implementation period was extended by one month; a Final Report will be made available by 6th December 2011.



In July 2011, the Russian Red Cross distributed food and non-food items after the floods in Krasnodar and Adygeya regions. **Russian Red Cross**

Heavy rains raised the water level of the rivers causing inundation and flooding of houses and agricultural land in four districts of the Republic of Adygeya and in five districts in Krasnodarskiy region of the Russian Federation at the end of May 2011. The flooding was a result of the heavy rains in the foothills of the Western Caucasus, increasing the water level in the mountain rivers. Such a strong flood was unexpected for the local inhabitants.

The Russian Red Cross volunteers and staff have been actively involved in the disaster response actions at the community level by conducting needs assessment and participating in the evacuation of disaster victims. Based on the assessment results 1,800 families (5,400 beneficiaries) were selected as the most vulnerable to receive aid in the form of food and non-food assistance.

The Krasnodar and Adygeya Regional Branches of the Russian Red Cross were distributing the relief items in the affected areas in July-August 2011.

The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, the Italian, the Netherlands and the Norwegian Governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on:

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

The situation

Heavy rains raised the water level of the rivers causing inundation and flooding of houses and agricultural land in four districts (41 rural and urban settlements) of the Republic of Adygeya and in five districts (22 settlements) in the Krasnodarskiy region of the Russian Federation at the end of May 2011.

According to information received from the Adygeya Red Cross branch and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, 102 houses were completely destroyed, and 2,112 flooded. More than 9,000 people were affected, 1,755 of them being children. 1,000 people were relocated to hosting families or relatives. The local Russian Red Cross branch identified 1,500 families as the most vulnerable (aged and single-parent families). That makes approximately 4,500 people.

In the Krasnodarskiy region the number of the flooded houses was 340, with 889 residents (out of whom 187 children), that is roughly 300 families. Substantial infrastructure and large agricultural lands were also devastated. In the Apsheronsky district tangent towers, a gas pipeline was damaged and a bridge destroyed. The federal highway Maykop-Cherkessk was blocked. Over the time, those houses made from clay, will clearly be exposed to the threat of destruction. 400 people were evacuated in the emergency. The affected people were temporarily accommodated in the local hospitals.

The floods have washed away gardens, where people would grow fruits and vegetables. Considerable damage has been done to agricultural land, electricity lines, roads, water dams, and bridges.

Coordination and partnerships

Local authorities evacuated children in both regions and accommodated them temporarily in health resorts and holiday camps. The local municipalities of the Krasnodarskiy region provided RUB 15,000 (CHF 455) as compensation per each damaged house and RUB 10,000 (CHF 300) – per each flooded garden. The local administrations are still processing these requests, therefore the Red Cross assistance was necessary in order to bridge the gap until the compensations were received by the affected families. At the same time, no such compensatory measures were taken by the Republic of Adygeya authorities due to the socio-economic conditions in this federative republic.

The Ministry of Emergency Situations, EMERCOM, provided hot meals for the evacuated residents of the affected areas in both regions for 16 days from the end of May 2011.

In June 2011 the local Russian Red Cross branch in Krasnodar informed the local authorities about the situation in the affected districts and about the DREF operation. During meetings with the members of the Krasnodar regional administration, agreement has been made that relief aid should be provided by the Russian Red Cross to the people affected by the floods in the Kurganinsky district. As part of the agreement, storage facilities for the relief items and transportation for aid distribution were discussed, referring to possible longer term cooperation between local authorities and local Red Cross branch.

During the operation, the implemented activities and information were shared and coordinated with the ICRC. ICRC has provided 2,280 blankets, 755 kitchen sets and 755 tarpaulins to the affected 755 families (approximately 2,265 people) from their stock located in the neighbouring region of Kabardino-Balkaria. These goods were distributed among the people in the affected districts in Adygean Republic of the Russian Federation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: Providing immediate aid to the people affected by the floods and reducing the suffering.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Distribution of relief items and hot meals to the affected people in the shelters.
- Volunteers of the Russian Red Cross give assistance in distribution of relief items.
- Basic family needs are met.
- Families are provided with basic relief goods within 2 weeks from the beginning of the operation.

- The Russian Red Cross will establish distribution points in the flood affected areas for distribution of bed linen sets and blankets, personal hygiene items, food parcels, etc.

Progress:

Based on the assessment the Red Cross branches decided to support the following number of the affected families:

Affected Region	Selected families based on the beneficiary selection criteria
Krasnodar Region – Kurganinsky district	300 households (917 beneficiaries)
Republic of Adygeya in the Russian Federation	1,500 households (4,527 beneficiaries)
Total	1,800 households (5,444 beneficiaries)

The plan of relief aid distribution among affected districts was agreed on with the authorities and the distribution was made accordingly with the support of the local volunteers.

The table below shows the detailed plan of distribution in both of the affected regions:

Needs of the affected	Non-food items	Water and sanitation	Food
Krasnodarskiy region	For 300 households (917 people) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bed linen family sets ▪ Blankets and pillows (one set per household) 	For 300 households (917 people) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hygienic kits 	For 300 households (917 people) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supplementary food parcels
Adygeya (14 rural settlements)	For 1,500 households (4,527 people): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bed linen family sets ▪ Blankets and pillows (one set per household) 	For 1,500 households (4,527 people): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hygienic kits 	For 1,500 households: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supplementary food parcels

Before the distribution of relief items, a number of preparatory activities took place at both regional branches of the Russian Red Cross:

- carrying out procurement through tendering procedures (the procurement for both regions was done in Krasnodar),
- informing the local administration of the affected districts about a relief aid provision,
- drafting a timetable of the distribution,
- making lists of the beneficiaries,
- making posters with information about the relief aid parcels' content and steps to receive them,
- preparing a list of volunteers, that would help the Russian Red Cross personnel in relief distribution,
- T-shirts and caps with Russian Red Cross logo were provided to the volunteers to ensure better visibility during the implementation of the operation,
- carrying out a brief induction workshop on relief distribution for the volunteers involved in the operation,
- assembling relief parcels (with the support of the volunteers),
- sharing information with the media.

At the end of July and in early August of 2011, the delivery of relief items to the Adygean Republic and the Kurganinsky district in the Krasnodar Region was organised.

On 20th July 2011, an induction briefing on relief aid distribution was organized by the management of both branches. 15 volunteers from each of the regions attended. The following topics were discussed: basic aspects of emergency aid in crises, needs assessment for food supply, needs assessment for water supply and sanitation measures, needs assessment for health protection in crises situations, needs assessment for shelter and psychosocial support

In July and August 2011, the achievements of the most active volunteers were highlighted and they received gifts for their commitment and support from the chairpersons of the involved Red Cross branches. The

volunteers are appreciated as an important asset of Adygeya and Krasnodar branches, since the regions are prone to recurrent floods and other disasters.

Based on the experiences of the operation and the capacities/needs of the local Red Cross branches, a more in-depth training for the volunteers has been decided to be organized on 21-23 September 2011. The training aims to target those who were involved in the implementation activities and the main subject of focus will be implementation of disaster response operations including needs assessment, plan of action, setting up selection criteria, organizing the distribution. Basic introduction on the Sphere standards and IFRC Disaster management system will be covered as well. The training will be facilitated by two Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members (from the Bulgarian and the Serbian Red Cross Societies) supported by Russian Red Cross Disaster Management Coordinator and Disaster Management officer from IFRC Moscow office. Therefore the project timeframe has been extended by one month until 6th October 2011.

Challenges:

During the operation the Red Cross branches could not procure the relief items in the first two weeks of the implementation and faced transportation problems due to the weather and road conditions in the affected regions.

The procurement process was delayed because the lack of available bed linen stock at the local suppliers. Purchasing additional 500 sets of bed linen took time, as they had to be ordered to be manufactured.

The chairperson of the Krasnodar branch noted that this operation again highlighted the importance of implementing framework agreements practice in the region, since it is prone to recurrent floods and the population vulnerability can be reduced but not completely overcome.

Since Adygeya was heavily affected by the floods and had more affected families, reaching remote villages caused problems for the Russian Red Cross local branch.

During the operation the 15th Congress of the Russian Red Cross has been organized, which caused some explainable delay in the decision making process at the level of the local branches.

Both branches admitted that better planning of distribution and procurement should be done at the first stage of such projects to ensure timely relief delivery. They also pointed out the importance of adopting techniques of needs assessment that should be carried out by the Red Cross along with state authorities. These mentioned challenges are planned to be addressed and discussed during the training in September 2011.

Contact information

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DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 2nd June 2011 for **CHF 149,420** for 3 months to assist 5,400 beneficiaries. The operation timeframe has been extended by one month until 6th October 2011.



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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.
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