

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

KYRGYZSTAN: EARTHQUAKE

Appeal No. MDRKG001
4 June 2007

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update no. 3; Period covered: 11 March to 24 May, 2007; Appeal target: CHF 657,055 (USD 540,725 or EUR 406,670)

Appeal coverage: cash 56%, in-kind 24% ([please click here to go directly to the attached interim financial report¹](#)).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 11 January 2007 for CHF 487,745 (USD 391,474 or EUR 301,872) for five months to assist 6,660 beneficiaries.
- Appeal target revised to CHF 657,055 (USD 540,725 or EUR 406,670) with Operations Update no.2.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 100,000 (USD 80,855 or EUR 62,143) in December 2006.

Operational Summary:

The response operation of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society in the earthquake affected area continued during the reporting period. Thanks to funds received from multilateral donors the National Society, with support from the International Federation, managed to cover 1,200 target households with food and hygiene items. In addition, 862 households received second-hand clothing. As the government took the responsibility for school reconstruction, the Appeal objective in rehabilitation has been revised. Responding to local needs, the Red Crescent is instead supporting 250 of those families who have to build new houses with cement to allow proper seismic reinforcement. However, activities against the new objective have been delayed due to massive demonstrations in the country in April.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

¹ In-kind contribution in the amount of CHF 158,982 was received from the Finnish Red Cross but is not yet reflected in the attached financial report. The information will be updated in the following reports.

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All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background



More beneficiaries received food assistance from the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society

An earthquake of 26 December 2006 affected over 34,000 people in Kochkor district of Kyrgyzstan. The earthquake measured 5-6 on the Richter scale and caused damages to more than 6,800 residential buildings, of them 1,332 households have lost their houses completely.

The Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society (KRCS), with the support of the International Federation, began providing assistance to affected communities immediately after the disaster. People from damaged houses were accommodated with their neighbouring relatives; many of them are still residing with host families. Both hosting families and people who lost their houses had limited food stocks for the winter and therefore addressing their food insecurity became the key priority of the Red Crescent response operation.

Operational developments

In accordance with the government resolution, issued in February, local authorities started distributing construction materials to the affected population. Those families whose houses have moderate or average damage receive cement, roofing slates and reinforcing materials for repair, according to the needs of each household. For those families who lost their houses during the earthquake the authorities have been providing cement at producer's price. To date, 100 houses out of 1,332 severely damaged and destroyed have been levelled so that new houses can be built instead. However, cash allocations provided by the government for construction of new houses have not been distributed yet. The housing department plans to start cash allocation process in the end of May.

The reconstruction of two basic health centres was completed in the villages of Isakeevo and Kochkor. The construction of two schools in Kochkor and Semiz-Bel villages that will replace destroyed schools started in May

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and is funded by the government. In June, the construction of the third school in Tuz village (Cholpon village committee) will also begin and will be funded by a religious organization and the government.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Over the reporting period, the Red Crescent maintained close contact with affected communities. Staff and volunteers of the National Society, including national and branch level disaster response teams, worked in Kochkor area. Visits to affected households showed that housing conditions have not been improving and warm weather brought more destruction to the already damaged houses.

The visits to beneficiary families also confirmed the validity of Red Crescent selection criteria for ongoing relief operation, which are as follows:

- Families whose houses fell under 1-4 category of damage according to the emergency ministry's assessment
- Families with disabled children
- Families with disabled parents
- Families with no provider and with children under 16 years old
- Families with five and more children under 16 years old

Since the last operations update in March, the Red Crescent Society carried out another three distributions in the area. The table below gives some details and sums up for the whole operation period.

Type of relief	Number of families covered during the reporting period	Cumulative number of families covered to date
Food parcels	600	1,200*
Hygiene kits	600	1,200*
Mattresses, blankets, bed linen	-	400
Second-hand clothing	862	862
Initial relief items from RC DP stock	-	61
Total	2,062	2,523

* According to the plan same 1,200 families received both food and hygiene items.

In the end of March the National Society received 16,217 kg of second hand clothing from Finnish Red Cross as an unsolicited contribution to the Appeal. The National Society distributed the clothing among people from the worst affected village council in the area: Kochkor, Cholpon, Ak-Kyia, Talaa-Bulak, Kokzhar and Semizbel. Local administration, the disaster ministry and a number of local organizations – high schools, hospitals, migration service, interior departments and non-governmental organizations – supported the National Society with beneficiary lists and the distribution itself. Distributions took place from 1 to 10 April. In total, 862 households (3,246 people) received second hand clothing. Distribution was supervised by skilled staff and volunteers of the National Society, trained by the disaster management programme. When distributing, Red Crescent staff considered the family composition and gender needs.

Emergency relief

Objective: Provide an emergency food ration for 4 months consisting of rice, flour, sugar and vegetable oil for approximately 1,332 families (6,660 people).

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Between 15 and 20 March, Red Crescent distributed food parcels to 600 families. The list of beneficiaries was compiled earlier in line with the Red Crescent selection criteria. The content of each food parcel was the same as for previous distributions:

- Flour (50 kg)
- Rice (25 kg)
- Sugar (25 kg)
- Vegetable oil (10 litres)

Following villages and people have been covered:

Locality	Number of families covered	Number of people covered
Aragol	76	474
Cholpon	98	608
Moldokylych	51	311
Epkin	73	403
Kochkor	155	777
Chekildek	24	128
Arsy	123	611
Total	600	3,312

Objective: Provide immediate non-food relief items consisting of hygiene kits for 1,332 families (6,660 people).

The distribution of hygiene kits was conducted between 15 and 20 March among the selected families, who were registered by the Red Crescent earlier. Beneficiaries received goods through distribution points set up in seven villages.

Village	Number of families covered	Number of people covered
Aragol	74	446
Cholpon	192	1,090
Moldokylych	67	369
Epkin	22	125
Kochkor	134	690
Chekildek	3	14
Arsy	108	568
Total	600	3,302

Each hygiene kit contained:

- Detergent (5 kg)
- Soap (25 pieces)
- Tooth paste (25 pieces)
- Tooth brush (5 pieces)
- Shampoo (2 bottles)

Rehabilitation

As the government will be rebuilding the damaged school in Semiz Bel village, the objective under this section of the Appeal, which was to *Reconstruct a damaged school in Semiz Bel village*, is no longer relevant. Thus, within the limits of already available funds and in order to respond to the needs of affected population, the National Society formulated a new objective:

Objective: Provide cement to support reconstruction of houses of 250 families.

Cement is one of the construction materials which is used broadly in seismic building and the government is not fully covering the needs for this material. Nevertheless, cement is also expensive and hardly affordable for most people in Kochkor. According to construction companies' calculations, a minimum of 5,000 US Dollars is needed to build an average three-room house. The amount of 50,000 Kyrgyz Soms (around 1,326 US Dollars), which will be allocated by the government to affected families for that purpose, is obviously not enough to construct a seismically reinforced house. The affected people will have to save on construction materials and, as a result, the houses will be built with little consideration for seismic building codes. Following the codes for safer house will be a real challenge, especially for those most vulnerable.

In these circumstances the National Society decided to support affected communities in building safer households to the extent possible. Jointly with Kochkor authorities the Red Crescent has been compiling a list of beneficiaries out of most vulnerable families who lost their houses. Target areas are those three most affected – Kochkor, Cholpon and Semiz Bel. The following criteria are applied:

- Families whose houses were destroyed or severely damaged and need to be rebuild among those
- Families with disabled children
- Families with disabled parents
- Families with no provider and with children under 16 years old
- Families with five and more children under 16 years old

The final list of beneficiaries will be ready by 1 June 2007. To date, a framework agreement has been signed with a supplier who will be providing 250 tons of cement within a period of 1 to 10 June. During that period cement will be delivered to the affected areas and distributed by Red Crescent staff and volunteers.

Impact

The earthquake response operation in Kochkor fostered women's initiative. Women, who have been traditionally in charge of well-being and safety of their families, demand that standards of seismic building are observed during the reconstruction to ensure proper housing conditions for future. Though men comprise 80% of decision making bodies in the area, women have become much more active in rebuilding their lives after the disaster. A woman from Cholpon village gathered women fellow-villagers and set up a non-governmental organization (NGO) named "Mothers-right activists" in order to lead and monitor proper reconstruction of their houses. The NGO monitor government decisions on funds allocations and voice concerns and needs of local communities. This NGO joined the Red Crescent and already made a plan of joint actions. For instance, women are interested in training on seismic building and measures to mitigate consequences of disasters. The National Society is also planning gender specific training on presentation skills, computer literacy, planning of project that can empower women and help them to reduce disaster risks in their community and overcome negative consequences. Besides, a local community-based disaster preparedness committee will be established within the NGO, which will identify the priorities in terms of disaster preparedness and response in this area, the target community at most risk in the village and define the strategy of work. One of the directions of work will be creation of psychological support mechanisms to assist those affected by disasters. Development of long-term projects for women-headed families who lost their providers or property after disaster and are aiming to sustain the income and meet nutrition needs is also in the list of priorities.

Constraints

In April, Kyrgyzstan faced a number of public demonstrations. People went on an open-ended hunger-strike in the capital Bishkek; there were strike pickets and meetings in provinces as well. The only road leading to Kochkor district remained blocked for some time and that delayed the Red Crescent planned response activities – assessment related to rehabilitation phase – for one month.

The population of the affected area are not satisfied with the support rendered by the government, considering it as insufficient. Therefore, preparation of beneficiary lists and registration for distribution sometimes caused tension as Red Crescent had no means and capacity to cover all affected people.

Federation Coordination

In the previous reporting period the Red Crescent received 500 kerosene stoves from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation outside of the Appeal. The stoves were distributed in March in the villages bordering Kochkor district – Tura Suu village, Lakhol and Zher-gochku – that were also affected by the earthquake. Red Crescent also distributed mattresses, blankets and bed linen from National Society DP stock in these border areas. In addition, some relief items from the stock were distributed in Kochkor district among people from villages that left uncovered by the Emergency Appeal. Details are presented in the table below:

District	Village	Number of families covered
Kochkor	Ormon-Khan	200
Naryn	Lakhol, Zher-gochku	210
Tonk	Tura Suu	90
Total		500

The Red Crescent cooperates with the international Central Asian Mountain Partnership (CAMP)², whose overall goal is to support efforts aimed at sustainable development of mountain areas. Two seminars are scheduled for June in Kochkor and Cholpon village councils to train trainers on risk management at community level. Members of new local disaster committees, established by Red Crescent in seven villages, will participate in the seminars. The task of these committees is basically to:

- Identify disaster risks and mitigate them at local level
- Prepare communities to rapid response, protection of lives and property

The National Society plans to work in partnership with the Habitat Foundation³ during cement distribution. Those families who will receive cement from the Red Crescent will work further with Habitat on actual reconstruction of their houses as this NGO pursue affordable and not expensive habitation for people in need.

Communications

All humanitarian operations, conducted by the Red Crescent, have been highlighted in national and local mass media. In March, two radio stations provided information on relief operations in Kochkor. Also, national newspaper “Vechernyi Bishkek” published an article covering the latest distribution of food parcels, hygiene kits and used clothing. Local newspaper “Dil Kairyk” highlighted training on rules of conduct during disasters conducted by the Red Crescent Society. In addition, a national TV channel showed the plot on distribution of food and hygiene kits.

On 8 May, on initiative from the Red Crescent Society, the most popular TV channel in Kyrgyzstan hosted a programme titled “Have you ever participated in charity actions?”. Humanitarian assistance to affected people in Kochkor was broadly discussed during the programme. The Red Crescent used that opportunity to appeal to wider public for support to affected people, making the point that currently major part of resources are coming from abroad.

[Please click here to return to the title page and contact information](#)

² Central Asian Mountain Partnership website <http://www.camp.kg/eng/index.html>

³ Habitat Foundation website www.habitat.elcat.kg

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRKG001 - KYRGYZSTAN EARTHQUAKE

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/12-2007/04
Budget Timeframe	2006/12-2007/06
Appeal	mdrkg001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		657,055				657,055
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		3,240				3,240
<i>Japanese Red Cross Society</i>		15,732				15,732
<i>Monaco Red Cross</i>		8,100				8,100
<i>Netherlands Government</i>		40,500				40,500
<i>Netherlands Red Cross</i>		64,800				64,800
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>		52,230				52,230
<i>Swiss Red Cross</i>		45,000				45,000
C1. Cash contributions		229,602				229,602
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>British Red Cross</i>		36,150				36,150
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>		-1,020				-1,020
<i>Swiss Red Cross</i>		3,500				3,500
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		38,630				38,630
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
<i>DREF</i>		100,000				100,000
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or		100,000				100,000
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		368,232				368,232
D. Total Funding = B + C		368,232				368,232

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		368,232				368,232
E. Expenditure		-295,768				-295,768
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		72,464				72,464

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Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/12-2007/04
Budget Timeframe	2006/12-2007/06
Appeal	mdrkg001
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All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		657,055					657,055	
Supplies								
Construction Materials	91,500						91,500	
Clothing & textiles	197,888		36,158			36,158	161,730	
Food	133,200		121,358			121,358	11,842	
Other Supplies & Services	127,836		50,706			50,706	77,130	
Total Supplies	550,424		208,222			208,222	342,202	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	1,000						1,000	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	1,000						1,000	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	500						500	
Distribution & Monitoring	5,000		1,719			1,719	3,281	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	25,000		1,727			1,727	23,273	
Total Transport & Storage	30,500		3,446			3,446	27,054	
Personnel Expenditures								
National Staff			438			438	-438	
National Society Staff	10,000		8,319			8,319	1,681	
Total Personnel Expenditures	10,000		8,757			8,757	1,243	
General Expenditure								
Travel	10,000		4,708			4,708	5,292	
Information & Public Relation	5,000		749			749	4,251	
Office Costs	4,100		30			30	4,070	
Communications	3,000		1,771			1,771	1,229	
Financial Charges	1,000		861			861	139	
Total General Expenditure	23,100		8,118			8,118	14,982	
Program Support								
Program Support	42,031		19,225			19,225	22,806	
Total Program Support	42,031		19,225			19,225	22,806	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			48,000			48,000	-48,000	
Total Operational Provisions			48,000			48,000	-48,000	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	657,055		295,768			295,768	361,287	
VARIANCE (C - D)			361,287			361,287		