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DREF Final Report

Georgia: Flash Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRGE007
GLIDE n° FF-2013-000084-GEO
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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.

At the end of July and at the beginning of August 2013, in two consecutive allocations, financial support was released by the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to the Georgia Red Cross Society (GRCS) after repeated flooding due to heavy rains. The first allocation, made on 25th July 2013, amounted to CHF 121,847 for delivering immediate assistance to 380 families (1,900 beneficiaries). Due to the continuation of the adverse weather conditions and newly arisen needs, the additional sum of CHF 93,347 was allocated on 2nd August 2013, and the total number of the assisted population went up to 680 families (3,400 beneficiaries). The operation's total budget adds up to CHF 215,194.



Volunteers unloading humanitarian aid at the Dusheti Branch.
Photo: Georgia RCS

Summary: On 19th July and a few days later, on 29th July 2013, extended heavy rains caused considerable damages in several parts of Georgia. A total of 4,800 families (24,000 people) were affected in the following regions: Samegrelo, Guria, Ajara, Mtskheta - Mtianeti. The western part of Georgia was the most affected one. In Samegrelo region more than 20 villages and Senaki town were severely affected by the floods. Houses, agricultural lands, gardens and yards were flooded. Cattle and poultry were killed. Cracks appeared in walls of the houses and traffic movement was severely affected. On 25th July, CHF 121,847 was released by the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support GRCS in delivering immediate assistance to 380 families (1,900 beneficiaries), but due to the continuation of the adverse weather conditions and newly arisen needs, GRCS received additional support and after revising its initial operational plan and budget, more CHF 93,347 was allocated through the DREF. Heavy rain significantly affected eastern part of Georgia, as well: seven villages of Dusheti municipality were isolated from the outside world and more than 20 villages were severely affected. GRCS special response teams with the support of the local authority representatives and relevant structures conducted rapid and then detailed needs assessments to assess inflicted damage, as well as identify number of effected families and main needs of the local population. GRCS response teams were conducting First Aid (FA) and psycho-social support (PSS) to the affected population, as well as to the supporting rescuers in evacuation of people, etc. They actively participated in the post-disaster activities, such as continued support to the affected people through providing them with psycho-social support.

Based on the needs assessed by GRCS response teams and on the official request for support for Zugdidi municipality, Senaki town in Samegrelo region and Dusheti municipality in Mtskheta-Mtianeti region, GRCS aimed to assist 13 villages (250 families) in Zugdidi Municipality, 300 families in Senaki town and 7 villages (130 families) in Dusheti Municipality. In total, the Georgia Red Cross Society assisted 680 families (3,400 beneficiaries) with food and non-food items (NFI), i.e. food parcels, mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, and hygiene kits.

The allocated total amount of CHF 215,194 was fully spent in accordance with the endorsed budget.

The European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection DG ECHO donated CHF 150,636 as a replenishment of the DREF allocation. Other major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian Governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and the Canadian Government, the Danish Red Cross and the Danish Government, the Irish and the Italian Governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg Government, the Monaco Red Cross and the Monaco Government, the Netherlands Red Cross and the Netherlands Government, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Norwegian Government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and the Swedish Government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors.

On behalf of the Red Cross Society of Georgia, the IFRC would like to extend their thanks to all donors and partners for their generous contributions

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

The situation

On 19th July and a few days later, on 29th of July 2013, extended heavy rains caused damages in many parts of Georgia, especially in the west. The disaster severely affected the population of more than 20 villages of Samegrelo region. Houses, agricultural lands, gardens and yards were flooded. Cattle and poultry were killed. Cracks appeared in walls of the houses. Heavy rain also significantly affected eastern part of Georgia, as well: seven villages of Dusheti municipality in Mtskheta-Mtianeti region were isolated from the outside world and more than 20 villages were severely affected. Senaki town was severely flooded. Around 150 people were evacuated from their flooded houses.

The total amount of inflicted damage was assessed by GRCS response team with the support of the local authorities and relevant structures. Based on the assessment, 4,800 families were affected in the above mentioned regions.

In Zugdidi municipality (of the Samegrelo region) bordering the breakaway region Abkhazia, more than 20 villages were flooded, according to local reporters. Didinedzi was the hardest hit, and had a water cover of more than 120 cm. The local government evacuated around 30 families in Senaki. Emergency teams were working to help the affected people. GRCS volunteers reported that ground floors of hotels and houses were completely flooded. Livestock was killed, while the cars in streets were under water.



Distribution point in Zugdidi.
Photo: GRCS Zugdidi branch volunteer

GRCS response teams were actively involved not only in rapid needs assessment, but, together with local authorities, conducted detailed needs assessment and sent all the information to the GRCS headquarter through the GRCS local branch. GRCS trained volunteers supported relevant structures and were conducting FA and PSS support in Senaki and Dusheti. They provided support to relevant structures in evacuation of the people from the damaged and flooded houses, cleaned the flooded basements and the first floors of the houses, as well as assisted the population in taking out the household items and food supplies to the safer places. After approval of the DREF, RC volunteers distributed food and non-food items delivered by GRCS to the identified affected families. RC volunteers were actively involved in rehabilitation process as well. They conducted further PSS to the affected population, as there was clear evidence that some of the affected family members needed it several days, even weeks, after the disaster.

Led by Emergency Management Department under the Ministry of Interior in Georgia, a special task force was established for planning the evacuation activities and damage assessment. Several ministries were involved in the recovery process just after the natural disaster.

Coordination and partnerships

The Georgia Red Cross Society was coordinating its assistance with the national and local authorities. The National Society seeks to fulfil its auxiliary role to the Government of Georgia and its role (according to the Presidential Decree No. 415/2008, the Georgia Red Cross Society has an exclusive role in the response to natural disasters and other emergencies, as well as the role of coordinator of all in-country non-governmental organizations and agencies' activities in case of a national emergency) as the sole Georgian humanitarian organization being included in the National Disaster Response Plan of Georgia. Close coordination and information sharing was maintained with the State Emergency Department of Georgia under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia in Tbilisi, and the Red Cross Branches in the affected areas.

Red Cross branches of the effected regions were actively involved in all the activities during and after disaster. They mobilised volunteers to support the affected population and to collect proper information regarding the main needs and the number of effected population. RC volunteers were mobilised during the humanitarian aid distribution process as well.

GRCS strengthened cooperation with the local authorities. They supported GRCS in needs assessment, in allocation of proper warehouse for the humanitarian aid to be distributed to the affected population. Local authorities were supporting GRCS during humanitarian aid distribution process. They were registering beneficiaries and sending all the necessary information to the GRCS headquarters. In Senaki municipality local authority representatives provided transportation and nutrition of the GRCS response team members during response activities in the field. For people who could not come to receive humanitarian aid, local authorities transported the items for them at their homes.

Local authorities in Senaki, Dusheti and Zugdidi took into consideration GRCS timely and proper response to disaster, they put funds into the local budgets for GRCS local branch expenditures.

The Senaki local governor, Mr. Gocha Dgebuadze in his interview given to the local TV channel noted: "I want to thank GRCS for support of the affected population of Senaki, as it was proper and timely assistance of significant number of beneficiaries with food and non-food items. Special thanks to the RC volunteers, as they were assisting local authorities, relevant structures and population from the beginning of disaster which happened in Senaki, providing FA and PSS to the people in need, as well as conducting rescue activities where it was needed."

In the affected area, the Georgia Red Cross Society was taking the lead in response to the strong rains, coordinating its work with the International Federation of the RC/RC Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross and NGOs working in the Disaster Management field. The GRCS provided regular updates on the situation and activities planned to avoid any duplication of activities.

The National Society was in contact with the European Commission (EC) Tbilisi Office, and information was shared in order to avoid duplication and ensure that the most vulnerable are reached. Response of the Non-State Actors (NSA) was coordinated. For this reason GRCS organized Non State Actors meeting where all the organizations working in the Disaster Management field were invited. In this meeting, representatives of the Emergency Management Department under the Ministry of Internal Affairs were present.

It has to be noted that after the NSA meeting the salvation army, which provided supplies for 250 families, coordinated its assistance with local authorities and GRCS, so as not to duplicate activities and not to cover the same beneficiaries as GRCS already did.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Following the described events, the Georgia Red Cross Society (GRCS) Disaster Management (DM) Department activated their disaster response teams in order to assess the situation and respond accordingly. GRCS Disaster Management (DM) Department sent DM staff and volunteers from the affected areas (Dusheti and Samegrelo) to conduct a rapid assessment of the situation. Eight staff and 15 volunteers of the Georgia Red Cross Society were in the affected area, carrying out the assessment. They were conducting rescue activities, as well as First Aid and psycho-social support to the effected population.



A beneficiary with the received humanitarian aid in Dusheti.
 Photo: GRCS Dusheti branch

The teams were also coordinating with the local authorities in the affected regions. Relief items were procured and distributed among the most vulnerable families. RC volunteers were taking active part in relief item distribution process, as well as in identification of the beneficiaries. Most vulnerable beneficiary families were chosen based on the assessment conducted by RC teams with the support of the local authorities, and according to the special criteria: elderly people living alone, people with disabilities, families with small children, and female headed households. All assessments and procurement procedures were conducted according to IFRC standards.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: The needs of the most vulnerable 680 families (or 3,400 beneficiaries) were met through distribution of essential relief items.

Output 1: 680 families were able to cope with the consequences of the heavy rain through distribution of essential relief items.

Activities:

- Affected area assessment to identify the most affected households
- Coordination with local authorities to avoid duplication of effort
- Development beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance
- Procurement relief supplies from local suppliers according to Federation standards
- Distribution of relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user
- Monitoring and evaluation of the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions
- Supplies and amounts to be procured and distributed.

All the activities carried out by GRCS were based on the assessment of the response teams and data received from the local government. Main needs of the affected population were identified and they were supported from GRCS accordingly. As GRCS response teams conducted interviews (kind of satisfaction survey) with the beneficiaries (part of them), they were very happy with the items received, as the necessary things they need in everyday life were flooded.

Food and non-food items, such as mattresses, blankets, hygiene kits and kitchen sets were urgently needed as these items were damaged by the water. All the interviewed beneficiaries noted that received humanitarian aid supported them after the serious disaster happened in their communities. Now they have new blankets, mattresses and kitchen sets, which were necessary for the continuation of their normal life. Families also feed their children, elderly and other members with the received food items.

It is worth mentioning, that during the interviews beneficiaries stressed the issue that GRCS was the first organization which supported them after disaster and this support was based on the main needs of the population.

The following items were distributed to affected families in Mtskheta-Mtianeti and Samegrelo-upper Svaneti regions:

- Two food parcels were provided per family in one round in order to optimize distribution expenses. Food parcels included vegetable oil, sugar, buckwheat, rice, flour, condensed milk and salt.
- Two mattresses were provided per family.
- Two blankets were provided to the families.
- Kitchen sets containing frying pan, cooking pot, knife, spoon, plate, and cup were distributed.
- Hygiene kits included such items as shampoo, tooth paste, tooth brush, toilet paper, soap, bath towel, washing powder.

Content of 1 food parcel	Amount
Vegetable oil	4 litres
Sugar	10 kg
Buckwheat	4 kg
Rice	4 kg
Flour	6 kg
Condensed milk	4 pc.
Salt	2 kg
Content of 1 kitchen set	
Frying pan	1 pc.
Cooking pot	1 pc.
Fork	6 pc.
Spoon	6 pc.
Plate	6 pc.
Glass	6 pc.
Content of 1 hygiene kit	
Shampoo	2 pc.
Tooth paste	2 pc.
Tooth brush	2 pc.
Toilet paper	4 pc.
Soap	6 pc.
Bath towel	4 pc.
Washing powder	6 pc.
Washing gel	2 pc.

In total, 680 families received food and non-food items.

Municipality	Region	Number of families	Number of beneficiaries
Dusheti	Mtskheta-Mtianeti region	130	650
Zugdidi	Samegrelo and upper Svaneti Region	250	1,250
Senaki	Samegrelo and upper Svaneti Region	300	1,500
Total		680	3,400

A “lessons learned” workshop was conducted by GRCS HQ when the DREF operation in Senaki, Dusheti and Zugdidi was completed and all the food and non-food items were distributed. The workshop was attended by RC staff from the headquarters, GRCS local branch representatives and volunteers, who also participated in the needs assessment and distribution process. During the workshop all issues related to the DREF operation were discussed. The participants shared their thoughts about what went well and about minor challenges they faced, such as small issues related to the election period, etc. All the good practices will be used during eventual emergency operations in the future.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Georgia Red Cross Society**, Medea Margania - Avaliani, Secretary General;
Phone: +995 322 940650; email: mmargania@regcross.ge
- **IFRC Country Representation:** Ekaterine Kristesashvili, Head of IFRC Representation Office in Georgia; Phone: +995 599 145717; email: ekaterine.kristesashvili@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Europe Zone Office:** Alberto Monguzzi, Disaster Management Coordinator;
Phone: +36 1 8884 500; email: alberto.monguzzi@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Support;
Phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org

DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 25 July 2013 for CHF 121,847 for three months to assist 1,900 beneficiaries.
- A DREF Operation Update was issued on 2 August 2013.
- The total budget for this operation amounts to CHF 215,194, with a total of 3,400 beneficiaries reached.



Click here

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2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRGE007 - Georgia - Flash Floods

Timeframe: 25 Jul 13 to 01 Nov 13

Appeal Launch Date: 25 Jul 13

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2013/7-12	Programme	MDRGE007
Budget Timeframe	2013/7-11	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget		215,194				215,194	
B. Opening Balance		0				0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		215,194				215,194	
C4. Other Income		215,194				215,194	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		215,194				215,194	
D. Total Funding = B + C		215,194				215,194	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance		0				0	
C. Income		215,194				215,194	
E. Expenditure		-215,194				-215,194	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0	

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III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Expenditure						TOTAL	Variance
	Budget	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			215,194			215,194		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	88,400		85,593			85,593	2,807	
Food	29,920		28,834			28,834	1,086	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	24,480		24,282			24,282	198	
Utensils & Tools	28,560		27,943			27,943	617	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	171,360		166,652			166,652	4,708	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	1,400		917			917	483	
Distribution & Monitoring	3,200		1,754			1,754	1,446	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	6,000		5,947			5,947	53	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	10,600		8,618			8,618	1,982	
Personnel								
International Staff			250			250	-250	
National Staff			355			355	-355	
National Society Staff	6,100		10,705			10,705	-4,605	
Volunteers	4,400		3,808			3,808	592	
Total Personnel	10,500		15,118			15,118	-4,618	
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Professional Fees			312			312	-312	
Total Consultants & Professional Fees			312			312	-312	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1,500		1,458			1,458	42	
Total Workshops & Training	1,500		1,458			1,458	42	
General Expenditure								
Travel	3,000		1,181			1,181	1,819	
Information & Public Relations	1,630		1,776			1,776	-146	
Office Costs			1,757			1,757	-1,757	
Communications	1,450		1,794			1,794	-344	
Financial Charges	350		3,315			3,315	-2,965	
Other General Expenses	1,670		80			80	1,590	
Total General Expenditure	8,100		9,902			9,902	-1,802	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	13,134		13,134			13,134	0	
Total Indirect Costs	13,134		13,134			13,134	0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	215,194		215,194			215,194	0	
VARIANCE (C - D)			0			0		

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Split by funding source	Y	Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

IV. Breakdown by subsector

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
BL2 - Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people							
Disaster response	215,194	0	215,194	215,194	215,194	0	
Subtotal BL2	215,194	0	215,194	215,194	215,194	0	
GRAND TOTAL	215,194	0	215,194	215,194	215,194	0	