

Regional Humanitarian Funding Update Caucasus and Central Asia



Issue 03 | First Quarter 2012 (November 2011 – March 2012)



Muminobod, Tajikistan

HIGHLIGHTS

- Since November 2011, the region has received \$8 million in humanitarian funding
- In turn, the region has provided \$1.3 million in humanitarian funding
- National Red Crescent Societies respond to emergencies in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan

The Regional Humanitarian Funding Update is an overview of funding levels and trends in the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia, mainly based on data reported to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), collected and analyzed by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – Regional Office for Caucasus and Central Asia (ROCCA).

FTS is a global, real-time database that records all reported international humanitarian aid. All FTS data are provided by donors or recipient organizations. For more information, please visit <http://fts.unocha.org>

Figures in this report represent best available estimates at the time of publication.

For more information, please contact:

Zarina Nurmukhambetova
nurmukhambetova@un.org

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OCHA expands regional presence



Map Sources: IFRC, UNCS, Europa Technologies, ESRI
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Map created in March 2012.

As of 1 January 2012, the OCHA regional office in Almaty covered eight countries in the Central Asia and Caucasus region with a combined population of 77.5 million people: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Under the overall guidance of the regional office, OCHA National Disaster Response Advisers (NDRA) in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan also work with humanitarian partners and national authorities to ensure disaster preparedness and response in these countries.

According to the 2012 Global Focus Model, six of the countries covered by the regional office are at high risk of hazards and/or have limited capacity to respond to emergencies.

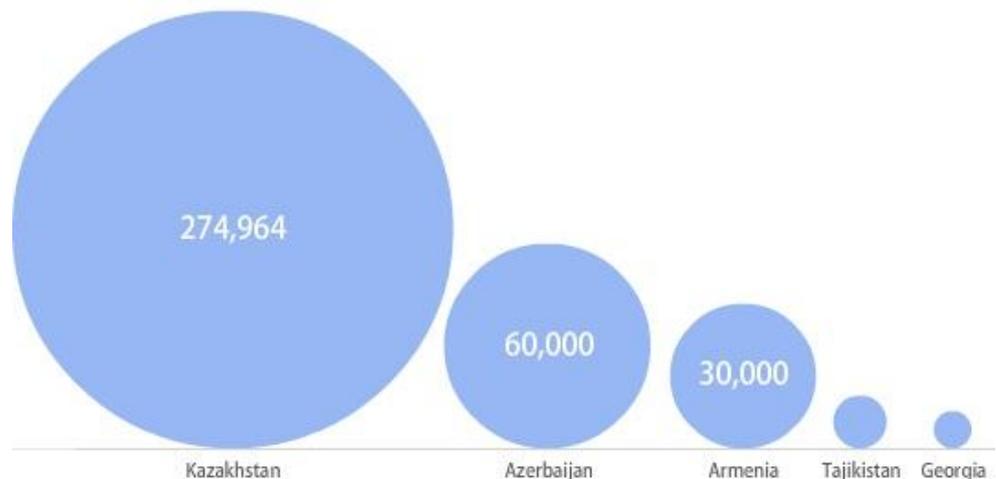
The Global Focus Model identifies how likely a country is to request international assistance based on an analysis of risks, vulnerabilities and capacity to respond. Based on this model and further regional analysis, OCHA's role in emergency preparedness and response is expected to be most significant in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in 2012.

Central Emergency Response Fund

Kazakhstan and Tajikistan donate \$52,000 to CERF since November 2011

During the reporting period, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) received \$50,000 and \$2,000 from Kazakhstan and Tajikistan respectively. Kazakhstan remains the region's top contributor to the CERF, ranking 44th on the list of CERF's global donors. Since the Fund's establishment in 2006, Kazakhstan has given a total of \$274,964, with Azerbaijan the next biggest donor at \$60,000 since 2006.

CERF contributions by country since 2006 (in US\$)



Source: UN Financial Tracking Service (fts.unocha.org)

How the Central Emergency Response Fund works

CERF is a humanitarian pooled fund established by the General Assembly in 2006. The purpose of the CERF is to enable more timely and reliable assistance to those affected by natural disasters and armed conflicts. The Fund is replenished annually through contributions from governments and the private sector and constitutes a pool of reserve funding to support humanitarian action.

With donor contributions already in place, the CERF allows the United Nations to react immediately when disaster strikes. Funds of up to \$500 million are available for life-saving activities in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. This funding frequently bridges the crucial gap between immediate needs and the time required to organize and fund disaster-specific appeals. In 2011, the CERF allocated \$421 million to over 40 countries.

24%

of all aid provided by the region in 2006-2010 was in cash

53 %

of all aid provided by the region in 2011-2012 was in cash

Humanitarian funding flows out of the region

Kazakhstan gives over \$1 million to UN agencies in voluntary contributions

During the reporting period, the region contributed \$1.28 million in humanitarian funding – all in cash. Kazakhstan gave 95 per cent of total contributions, allocating unearmarked voluntary contributions to the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the UN Population Fund and the UN Register of Damage. Meanwhile, Georgia contributed \$50,000 towards the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) relief operations in famine-stricken Somalia.

Over half of humanitarian funding from the region in cash

The region's upward trend in cash versus in-kind donations continues to grow (for more on in-kind vs. cash aid trends in the region see Regional Humanitarian Funding Update, July – October 2011). Since 2011, the majority of donations from the region have been in cash, up sharply from the 2006-2010 average of 24 per cent.

Humanitarian relief providers welcome all assistance, but donors are particularly encouraged to make cash contributions. A cash donation to an organization or project that is part of a strategic framework ensures that real needs of affected people are met and duplications avoided. Cash donations also assure the greatest flexibility to adapt to conditions that may be rapidly changing on the ground. In-kind donations require effort, as donated goods must be necessary and appropriate for people in need. This requires planning with national authorities and the humanitarian community to ensure that in-kind donations will actually meet people's needs without duplicating efforts on the ground.

For more information on humanitarian giving, please contact OCHA regional office in Almaty.

Donors sent over \$8 million in humanitarian aid to the region from November 2011 to March 2012, most of which supported disaster preparedness.

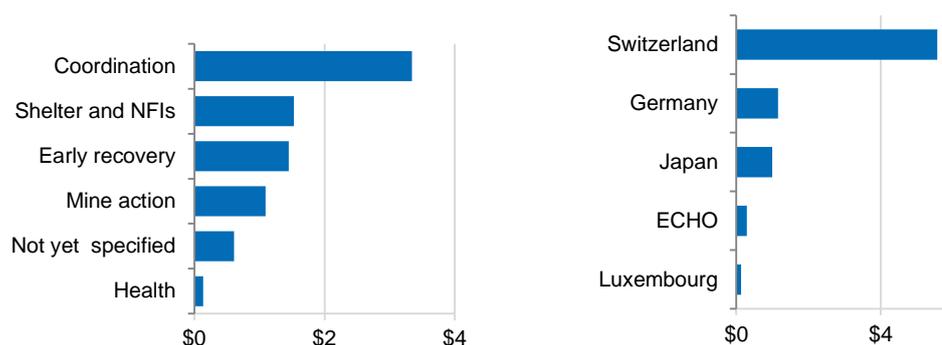
Humanitarian funding flows into the region

Strong support for disaster preparedness initiatives in the region

Between November 2011 and March 2012, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan received a total of \$8 million in humanitarian aid. The bulk of this funding went towards building the resilience of vulnerable communities to withstand natural disasters. Switzerland provided significant support to disaster risk reduction and early recovery initiatives in Georgia, giving \$3 million to implementing agencies working in the country. In Tajikistan, disaster risk reduction projects also received \$2 million in humanitarian funding from Switzerland.

Funding for better disaster preparedness and risk reduction is shown under the **Coordination** sector in the table below.

Humanitarian funding to the region Nov 2011 to Mar 2012 (in \$ millions)



Source: UN Financial Tracking Service (fts.unocha.org)

Funding from the IFRC supported the Kazakh and Tajik Red Crescent societies in responding to humanitarian needs in their countries.

IFRC fund supports response in Central Asia

DREF supports Kazakh Red Crescent in responding to floods

The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) allocated \$192,000 (CHF 175,704) to the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society's relief efforts in southern Kazakhstan.¹ These efforts addressed the needs of 4,000 people who lost their houses, livestock and other property in devastating floods that raced through the area on 18-20 February. Air temperature rises up to 15°C quickly melted snow, which together with heavy rains caused intensive floods in seven districts in southern Kazakhstan. The flooding occurred in the country's most densely populated area along the Uzbek border. Ministry of Emergency Situations, local authorities and the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society (KRCS) conducted assessments revealing priority needs for clothes, footwear, bedding and hygiene items. Rescue and evacuation activities by the Government are underway. KRCS has launched relief activities to meet the needs of the affected people. The operation will continue through the end of May 2012.



Source: Otyrar-tv.kz, Temirlanovka, Kazakhstan (20 Feb 2012) – Pedestrians make their way through a flooded street

DREF supports Tajik Red Crescent in responding to food insecurity

The Government of Tajikistan issued an appeal for assistance for food insecure populations in February – particularly for over 2,300 families in Murgab who have been affected by the global economic slump and the country's recent fuel crisis. According to the Gov-

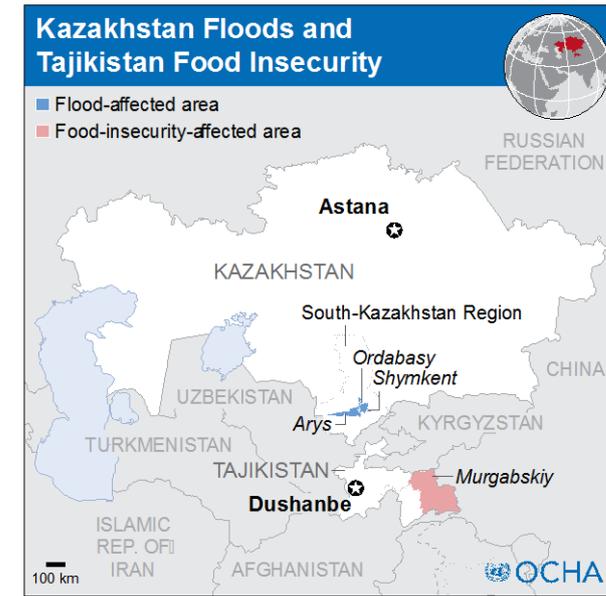
¹ Allocations from DREF are not reflected in the Financial Tracking Service

ernment, poor weather conditions have exacerbated an already dire agrarian sector. The IFRC DREF provided \$207,000 (CHF 189,270) to support the Red Crescent Society of

Tajikistan (RCST) in delivering immediate assistance to food insecure populations.

The World Food Programme indicated in January that the country's worst affected area is Murgab district – a remote, hardly accessible area in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast. Murgab is 350 km from the oblast's administrative centre, Khorog, where Murgab residents buy food, and 843 km away from Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe. Because food products come to Khorog from Dushanbe, food prices are high in Khorog. Bad weather conditions over the past two years have also reduced employment and income. All these factors have brought Murgab residents to the brink of food insecurity and malnutrition.

Based on a needs assessment, RCST set out to reach 500 affect-



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ed households – 22 per cent of the district's population. RCST will provide each household with four months' reserves of wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar and tea. The operation will be completed by end June 2012. For more information, please visit <http://ifrc.org/en/publications-and-reports/appeals/>

Uzbekistan rebuilds after July 2011 earthquake

UNICEF helps rebuild schools and kindergartens in Sokh

Early in the morning of 20 July 2011, a powerful earthquake shook the Ferghana Valley, taking the lives of 14 people, destroying dozens of buildings and damaging many more. The Ferghana Valley is a place where Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan meet in a convoluted series of enclaves and exclaves. One of them is the Uzbek exclave of Sokh, with a population of about 70,000. The earthquake damaged several schools and kindergartens in this mountainous town, putting at risk the safety of over 4,500 children.



Credit: UNICEF Uzbekistan
Sokh, Uzbekistan (Nov 2011) – One of the secondary schools reconstructed after the July 2011 earthquake.

Following a request by the Government, UNICEF in Uzbekistan mobilized resources to support local authorities in rebuilding damaged schools. UNICEF contributed \$280,000 for the reconstruction of eight kindergartens and eight schools, and the newer, safer buildings opened their doors earlier this year.

“UNICEF's contribution allowed for keeping schools and kindergartens available for children and creating an environment conducive to learning,” said UNICEF Representative Mr. Jean-Michel Delmotte. “In cooperation with Ferghana province administration, we were able to ensure that children stay in schools. We are also glad that the reconstruction works were implemented by local contractors and workers who then contributed to maintaining community and social services in this isolated area.” For more information, please visit www.unicef.org/health/uzbekistan_60378.html