



ICRC

JOINT STATEMENT
by
The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST)
and
The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
and
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
on

**THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT
RESPONSE TO THE INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICT IN TAJIKISTAN**

BACKGROUND

On 14 September 2022, fighting broke out between military forces of TJ and KG in the border area between Batken, Kyrgyzstan and Isfara, Tajikistan. The situation further deteriorated on 16 September and escalated into violent hostilities between both neighbors. The current situation is governed by the four Geneva Conventions and the customary International Humanitarian Law applicable to international armed conflicts.

The fighting spread to large parts of the border and resulted into sizeable destruction of civilian and public infrastructure, dozens of civilian casualties, both injured and dead, and the authorities evacuated of thousands of civilians from the border areas.

On 17 September, the Heads of the State Committees for National Security of both countries agreed to a ceasefire and later signed a protocol, on 25 September, which provides for a complete cessation of hostilities, the withdrawal of troops and military equipment, joint border patrols and an investigation of the conflict.

Following the ceasefire, most evacuated people gradually returned to their homes, while some continued to stay with relatives or host families in safer locations.

MOVEMENT COORDINATION

On 19 September 2022 the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST), the ICRC and the IFRC conducted a mini summit to exchange on the humanitarian situation in the affected areas and coordinate the humanitarian Movement response. After the humanitarian impact of the fighting was assessed and the most urgent humanitarian needs were identified, the Movement partners launched a joint emergency response plan.

In line with the MCCIA (Seville Agreement 2.0), the RCST as Convener and the ICRC as Co-convener organized and coordinated the Movement emergency response to the international armed conflict (IAC). The ICRC proposed the general objectives and directions of the Movement's collective response. The IFRC continued to support the National Society's development in emergency response and provided technical expertise, as required while supporting the RCST in the access and application for a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), as well as in the preparation and provision of cash and vouchers assistance to the affected households and the preparation of the operational strategy.

Regular Movement coordination meetings between the RCST, the ICRC and the IFRC at strategic, operational as well as technical levels have been organized following the Mini



Summit. The German, Swiss and Italian RC, Turkish RC, who also supported the ongoing emergency response, have been part of the Movement coordination.

The Movement maintained regular coordination with external international and national actors that allowed to provide wider assistance to the affected population.

MOVEMENT RESPONSE

The RCST, as an auxiliary organization to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, has been responding to the most urgent humanitarian needs by providing, in cooperation and coordination with the State Emergency Response Commission, humanitarian assistance to the population in the affected areas.

Since the first day of the conflict, RCST teams, with support of the ICRC, and in coordination with the State Emergency Response Commission, assisted in the evacuation of civilians from the affected villages to the district centers. On 17 September, the ICRC launched a media release publicly reminding the parties to the conflict of their obligations under the International Humanitarian Law. RCST volunteers provided FA and PFA in IDP centers while joint ICRC and RCST teams assisted the IDPs with bread and hygiene articles.

RCST staff and volunteers also conducted safe behavior and mine/UXO risk awareness sessions for 7'045 residents of the affected areas and launched, with support of the ICRC, a rapid needs assessment in the affected areas.

Based on the needs-assessment, the RCST, supported by its Movement partners, conducted a multidisciplinary humanitarian response: between 15 September and 25 November 414 NFI and a two-month ration of food assistance as well as three distributions of a multipurpose cash grant were provided to the 146 most affected families. Moreover, joint ICRC and RCST teams have been conducting MHPSS sessions to 637 affected civilians in need, particularly children, health care providers as well as families whose houses were destroyed, or whose loved ones died.

The ICRC also conducted a needs assessment of medical facilities located inside the affected districts and provided medical consumables and equipment for the treatment of the injured.

Movement teams have also been jointly addressing some of the residual needs of the affected population, including in the field of MHPSS. A distribution of stationary items to the schools in the conflict affected areas is ongoing.

The Movement partners continue monitoring the situation and remain open to address the most urgent residual needs of the affected families.

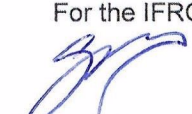
THE MOVEMENT COMMITMENT

Representing the Movement, we express our concern and solidarity with the affected population and commit to do our level best to respond to the humanitarian needs. We would like also to thank all Movement partners for their support and solidarity.

Dushanbe, Tajikistan __ February 2023


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