

# Annual report

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)

MAA00010

14 April 2010

This report covers the period 01 January to 31  
December 2009.



In January 2009, The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina provided support to people suffering from the extreme cold wave and cuts in gas supplies with support from the DREF. **IFRC**

### In brief

**Programme purpose:** To increase the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) capacity to assist national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters through the provision of timely and adequate financial support for disaster response from the DREF.

**Programme(s) summary:**

The DREF made a total of 108 allocations in 2009 to support National Society response to 96 different disasters, disbursing a total of 17,469,048 Swiss francs. Through these operations 63 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies brought assistance to over 20 million people. Eleven million of these people benefited from emergency vaccination campaigns.

Seventy-one per cent of the allocations for a total of 12,457,345 Swiss francs, were made as grants to cover all the costs of small-scale response operations referred to as DREF operations. The balance of 5,011,703 Swiss francs was allocated as loans of start-up funding for large-scale operations for which an emergency appeal was launched. Sixty-three per cent of these loans had been reimbursed to the fund at 31 December 2009. While the total amount of allocations was 6 per cent under forecast, the amount made in grants was 29 per cent over the forecasted amount. Fewer emergency appeals than usual were launched by the IFRC in 2009, which explains the smaller amount of allocations made as loans.

**Financial situation:** The total 2009 budget is CHF 12,197,487 (USD 11,751,100 or EUR 8,198,890), of which CHF 13,376,354 (over 100 per cent) covered during the reporting period.

Total income with interest on the balance stood at CHF 13,384,963. A total of CHF 17,469,048 was allocated by the DREF during the reporting period, with CHF 7,418,884 reimbursed to the DREF, leaving a closing balance of CHF 5,163,369 at 31 December 2009. DREF coordination costs were CHF 151,289 or 33 per cent of the budget.

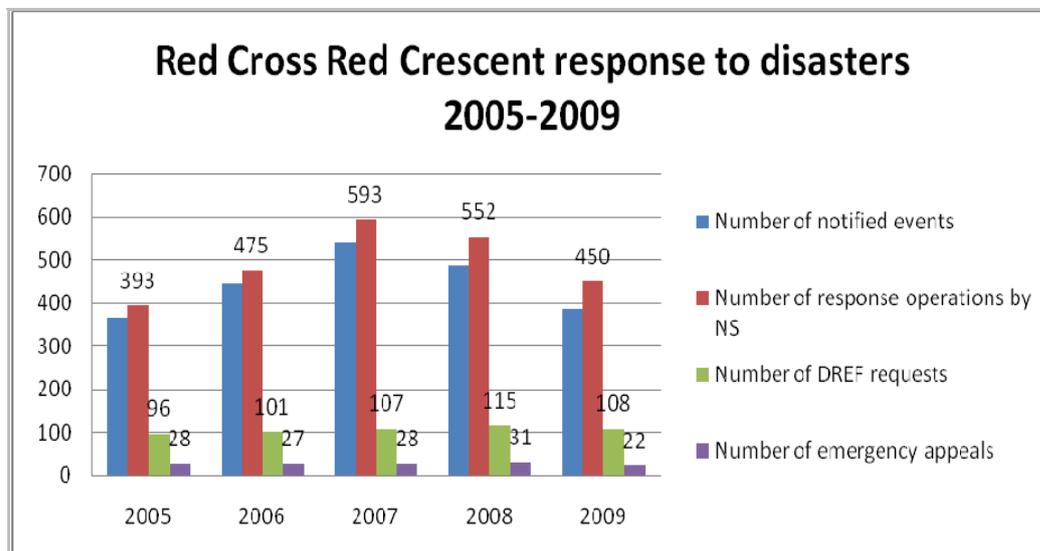
[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

**No. of people we have reached:** An estimated number of 20.85 million people were reached by National Societies through operations which received support from the DREF in 2009.

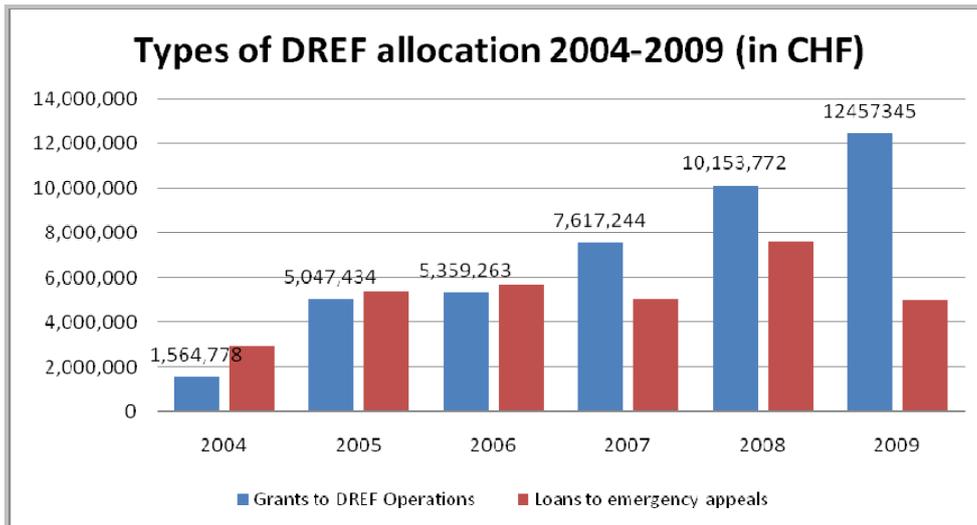
**Our partners:** The DREF provides immediate financial support to the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their response to disasters. In order to dispose of sufficient funds to meet their requests, the IFRC relies on a number of Red Cross Red Crescent, government and corporate donors. In 2009, 22 donors supported the DREF, as well as a number of private donors.

## Context

The figures published by the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) for 2009, show that the total number of people affected by disasters was lower than in 2008, and the number of fatalities was also lower as no major disaster occurred. These figures are reflected by the IFRC's statistics of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies response to disasters: the total number of recorded events and response operations is down compared to previous years. The number of emergency appeals was below average, and the number of requests for DREF was slightly lower than in 2008, largely because of fewer requests for loans as start-up funding for emergency appeals.



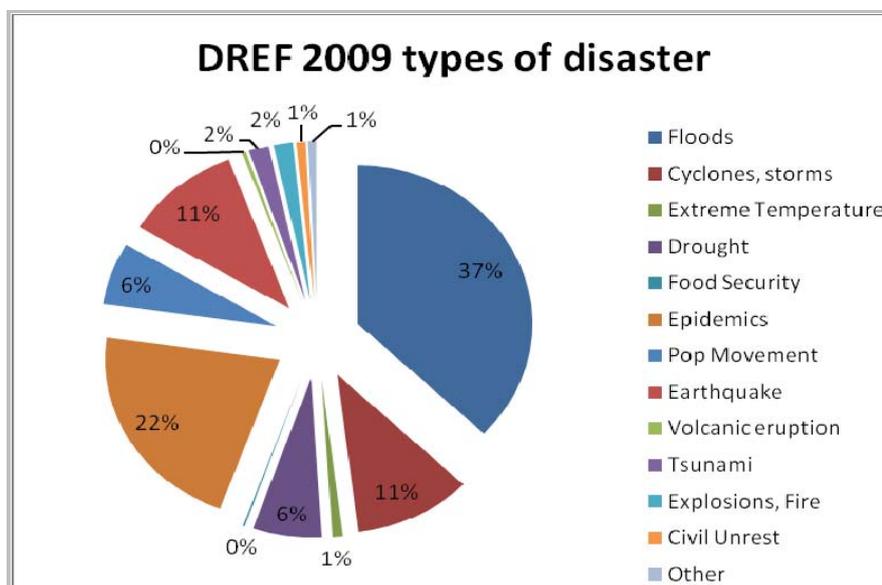
However, the amount made in allocations by the DREF was higher than in 2008, because of the increase in the number and amount of grants made for smaller disaster response operations, known as DREF operations.



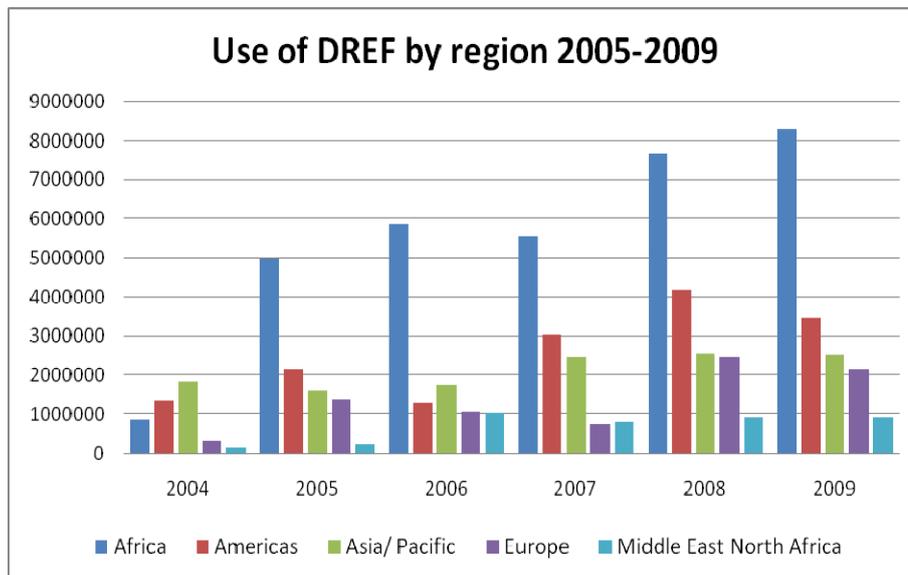
The major natural disaster events in 2009 occurred within a short time period in Asia Pacific. Cyclone Aila hit Bangladesh in June, a series of typhoons badly affected the Philippines and Vietnam in September, an earthquake and tsunami hit the Samoa islands, and a destructive earthquake affected West Sumatra in October. All these operations led to emergency appeals supported by loans from the DREF.

The CRED figures show that, of all natural disasters in the last ten years, it is earthquakes which have caused the most deaths, as the recent earthquake in Haiti has unfortunately underlined. However, it is weather-related disasters including floods, droughts and storms which affect the most number of people. In 2009, the Red Cross Red Crescent response and type of operations supported by DREF were primarily to weather-related events, especially in the case of DREF operations.

The IFRC's response to epidemics led to emergency appeals being launched to support supplementary polio vaccination campaigns in Africa, following a large number of case of wild polio virus; and to support National Societies prepare for, and respond to, the H1N1 pandemic. DREF loans were allocated to both appeals. However, 75 per cent of DREF support to operations caused by epidemics was through grants to DREF operations. Outbreaks of dengue fever led to DREF operations in Africa, the Americas and Asia Pacific; while response to acute watery diarrhoea (AWD), meningitis, yellow fever and ebola epidemics accounted for 26 per cent of the operations supported by DREF in Africa.



As in previous years, nearly half of DREF funding was allocated to National Societies in Africa, with just under 20 per cent for those in the Americas region. A more detailed breakdown of the use of DREF by region is given in the next section of this report.



## Progress towards outcomes

### Outcome 1

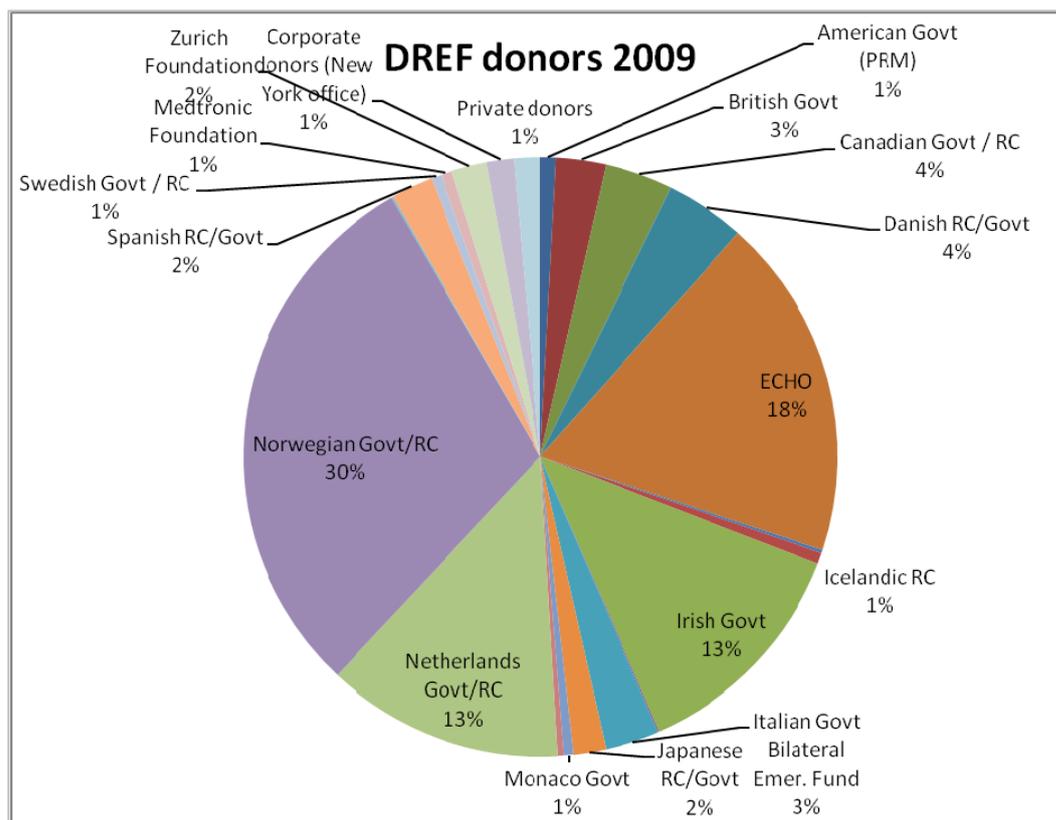
The capacity of the DREF to meet the requests of support from National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is maintained and increased.

### Achievements

As the amount of grants allocated in 2009 was 23 per cent higher than in 2008, the IFRC relied on increased donor support to maintain a satisfactory balance in the fund. Income rose by 54 per cent from 8.7 to 13.4 million Swiss francs. The major donors were the Norwegian Government via the Norwegian Red Cross, who contributed 3.9 million Swiss francs; the European Commission's Office for Humanitarian Aid (DG ECHO) - 2.4 million; the Netherlands Government and Red Cross - 1.7 million; and the Irish Government - 1.66 million. See chart below.

Donors may either make a single contribution to the annual appeal, as in the case of the Norwegian Government/Red Cross and the Irish Government, or contributions triggered by specific grants allocated by the DREF, for which they can replenish the fund. Of the total contributions, 3.8 million Swiss francs or 29 per cent of the total were made in replenishment of specific allocations in 2009.

The Netherlands Government and Red Cross replenished 42 different allocations through their Silent Emergencies fund for a total of 1.4 million Swiss francs. DG ECHO committed just over half the total amount of its contribution in replenishment of 15 different grants. The balance of their contribution will be committed in replenishment of DREF grants between January and April 2010. The Canadian Government via The Canadian Red Cross Society and the Italian Government Bilateral Emergency Fund also made contributions in replenishment of DREF grants.



## Outcome 2

The awareness, use and management of the fund is improved.

### Achievements

In 2009, the secretariat maintained data on the speed of requests, and the speed of approval of requests for funding from the DREF. The requests are prepared by the National Societies with support from the zone offices, and sent to the Geneva secretariat for approval.

In the case of sudden onset disasters, requests for start-up funds are generally received and approved within 24 hours. When disaster situations evolve more slowly, as in the case of the development of epidemics and or drought situations, the plan of action is generally prepared in more depth and a request takes longer to be formulated and sent to the Geneva secretariat. For small-scale disasters, where DREF grants are requested to cover all the costs of the operation, on average requests for funding are received and approved within one week of the event.

The timeliness and quality of DREF reports has also improved over the year. High quality reports with detailed information have provided an excellent picture of the variety and innovative approaches taken by National Societies in responding to disasters. The IFRC is also promoting the use of the fund to ensure preparedness for imminent crises, providing funding before an event materialises in order to allow faster response and reduction in damage and injuries.

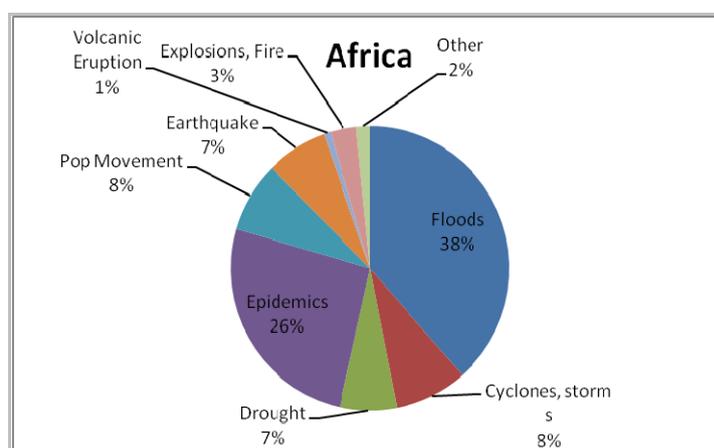
While supporting rapid and effective relief operations by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies following both natural and man-made disasters, the DREF also seeks to strengthen their capacity through experience, training and deployment of volunteers, as well as learning lessons from each operation. The following analysis of operations funded by the DREF particularly during the second half of the year, seeks to give some examples of the above.

## Regional analysis of use of the DREF

### Africa, type and amount of allocations

Region	Loans to emergency appeals	Amount in CHF	Grants to DREF operations	Amount in CHF	Total amount in CHF
East Africa	5	1,242,573	10	1,784,287	3,026,860
Southern Africa	2	275,695	10	1,817,351	2,093,046
West and Central Africa	9	593,142	20	2,580,798	3,173,940
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2,111,410</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>6,182,436</b>	<b>8,293,846</b>

### Africa, type of operations



Response to floods accounted for 38 per cent of operations supported by DREF. At the beginning of the year, widespread flooding affected countries in Southern Africa as reported in the Update 1 of this DREF appeal. In early August, based on the forecasts given by the African Centre of Meteorological application for Development (ACMAD) for higher than normal rainfall expected over most of West and Central Africa during the months of August to October, the IFRC launched an appeal to allow early action for better preparedness of National Societies. This allowed the purchase and pre-positioning of relief stocks at the regional level; and for National Society contingency planning with national authorities and other organizations, training of responders and preparedness activities with at-risk communities. Through the regional early warning framework, the National Societies were regularly provided with updated information and warning of heavy rainfall.

Flooding did occur and the severity of the floods in several countries was exacerbated by the fact that the heavy rains arrived at the end of a normal rainy season, and particularly affected densely populated areas as in the Central African Republic, in Burkina Faso and Senegal. While emergency appeals were launched to support response in these countries, a separate DREF allocation was made to allow the transport and distribution of pre-positioned stocks to other affected countries, and additional grants were made to the National Societies in Benin, Ghana and Chad to support their response operations. More detail of the achievements of the National Societies in the region supported by the IFRC can be found in the Operations update. Go to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDR6100501du1.pdf>.

In October, a similar emergency appeal for early action supported by a DREF allocation was launched for Eastern Africa based on the El Niño conditions which led to the prediction of heavy rainfall across the region at the end of the year. Once again the predictions were correct, and severe flooding occurred in Kenya and Tanzania at the beginning of 2010. However, low funding for this appeal has not allowed the reimbursement of the DREF loan, and further DREF allocations have been made in January to support the National Societies in their response to the floods.

An allocation from DREF for early warning was made to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (RCDRC), as reported in the Update 1. At the end of 2009, the activity of the Nyiragongo volcano was still worrying and under close observation by the volcano observatory in Goma. The contingency planning and preparations made by the RCDRC supported by the DREF allocation have allowed close cooperation between the National Society and the sister society in Rwanda. A monitoring mission carried out at the end of 2009 to the region showed the maintenance of a high level of preparedness and cooperation of both National Societies, alongside their national authorities. Simulation exercises have been carried out and will be repeated every six months to ensure volunteers remain prepared to carry out evacuation and assistance to the population if – and, as some observers insist, when – the next eruption occurs.

The National Societies in Africa are very active in the control of, and response to, epidemics and, as in previous years, a significant proportion of DREF funding is allocated to support them. The investment of DREF funds in social mobilization and hygiene promotion campaigns undertaken by volunteers living in the communities-at-risk of, or suffering from, epidemics is an extremely efficient one given the number of people directly sensitized or vaccinated. The final DREF operation reports highlight this efficiency, and can be consulted on the public web site. The DREF supported the emergency polio vaccination campaigns in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kenya as reported in Update 1. An investment of 357,842 Swiss francs allowed the West and Central African National Societies to enable the vaccination of over 10 million children. In Kenya, an allocation of 235,888 Swiss francs allowed the mobilization of over 1,500 volunteers to carry out a mass vaccination campaign which attained a vaccination rate of 95 per cent of the target population of children. Go to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDR61004-64005-63002-03.pdf>

In October, 58,600 Swiss francs were allocated to the RCDRC to support the Ministry of Health in its efforts to contain the spread of cholera in the Kalémie province through community sensitization on cholera prevention methods, good hygiene and sanitation practices. The Tanganyika branch of the RCDRC mobilized 100 volunteers, of whom 75 were women and members of the National Society-organized mothers' clubs. Women are more often involved in water collection than men, so the sensitization and chlorination campaign was carried out at 95 water collection points on Lake Tanganyika and the Lubuye river by women from the communities, and was successful in breaking the chain of contamination. During a two-month period, over 37,500 households were also sensitized directly, including the children who account for 50 per cent of the population reached and who are particularly at risk because they enjoy swimming and playing in the lake and river. A clean-up campaign included disinfecting school latrines, and cleaning up market places and drainage systems, directly benefited an estimated population of 21,500 people. As well as successfully containing the cholera outbreak, this operation empowered the women in the communities, and ensured sustainability by implicating them and children directly in their own safety practices. Go to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRCD008du1.pdf>

A widespread campaign to stop the spread of dengue fever was started by the Cape Verde Red Cross in November 2009, when a serious outbreak affected over 20,000 people on the Cape Verde islands, the first they had ever experienced. A DREF grant of 153,900 Swiss francs was made to the National Society to allow it to recruit and mobilize hundreds of volunteers to inform

the inhabitants how to prevent the spread of dengue, support health workers at hospitals and health facilities, and carry out widespread clean-up campaigns. The volunteers played an important role in providing information and psycho-social support to families who were frightened, and unused to the fever that was affecting them. Go to:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/09/09111701/index.asp>

In October 2009, more than 39,000 people, including irregular migrants, old refugees and asylum seekers, were expelled from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and arrived in Cabinda (2,000), Uige (7,800) and Zaire (28,000) provinces of Angola. Many were destitute and had been separated from their families. While the Angolan authorities have been working to find longer term solutions for the resettlement of the expelled people, the Angola Red Cross (CVA) has, with other humanitarian agencies, been providing assistance to people in the reception camps supported by a substantial grant of 418,447 Swiss francs from the DREF. Over 60 volunteers were recruited and trained in relief distributions, health education and safe water and sanitation practices. Shelter items, kitchen sets, jerry cans and water purification tablets were provided to 12,000 people, while health education and first aid were given to the beneficiaries, most of whom were women and children. Go to:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDRAO00401.pdf>

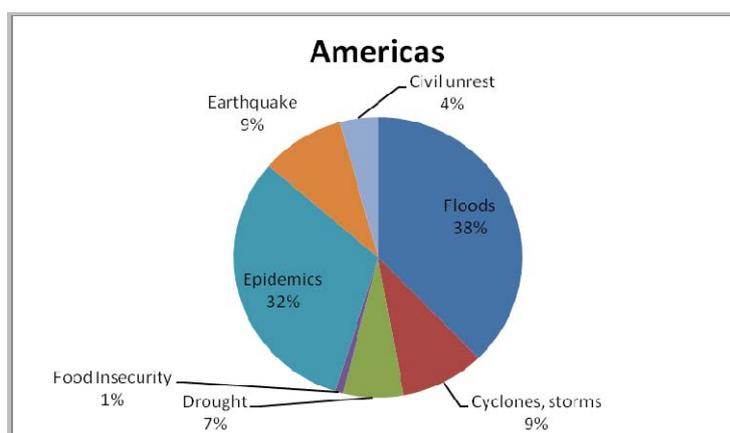
In December 2009, a series of earthquakes in Malawi caused four deaths, injured over 300 people, and caused substantial damage to buildings in the Karonga district. A total of 5,126 families were affected and forced to seek alternative shelter. With the support of a DREF grant of 591,689 Swiss francs and a shelter expert from the British Red Cross, the families were provided with temporary shelter, emergency relief items and shelter tools and materials for rebuilding more permanent shelters. Go to:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRMW00501.pdf>

#### Americas, type and amount of allocations

Region	Loans to emergency appeals	Amount in CHF	Grants to DREF operations	Amount in CHF	Total amount in CHF
Americas	3	909,500	19	2,612,937	3,522,437

#### Americas, type of operations



A neutral Atlantic hurricane season in 2009 meant that there were fewer operations in response to tropical storms in the Americas region than usual. However the passage of Tropical Storm Ida through Central America during the first week of November, coincided with a low pressure system over the Pacific coast, and caused severe flooding in El Salvador and Nicaragua. Approximately 15,000 families were affected by the flooding in El Salvador, and a state of

national emergency was declared. An emergency appeal was launched to bring assistance to 10,000 beneficiaries, supported by a DREF loan of 182,500 Swiss francs. A DREF grant of 107,399 was made to the Nicaraguan Red Cross to replenish the emergency relief items it distributed to the most vulnerable people affected by the storm. Go to:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDRSV00201.pdf>

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/rpts09/MDRNI001.pdf>

Two small-scale flood operations were carried out by the Haitian National Red Cross Society (HNRCS) in September and November 2009, with grants allocated by the DREF. Both operations brought assistance to communities affected by flash floods and provided hands-on learning and experience for volunteers of the HNRCS. Go to:

The scale and effects of these operations were small compared to the earthquake which hit Haiti in January 2010, but the training of HNRCS volunteers and their experience in relief operations allowed them to provide life-saving assistance after the earthquake. <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/rpts09/MDRHT00601.pdf>

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/rpts09/MDRHT00701.pdf>

The DREF-funded operation carried out by the Costa Rican Red Cross in January 2009 in response to an earthquake in the Vara Blanca-Cariblanco region (reported in Update 1) also strengthened the capacity of the National Society. With support from the American Red Cross and the IFRC a cash voucher programme for the provision of construction materials for 128 families was prepared and carried out at the end of the emergency relief operation. This programme provided the National Society with valuable experience for future operations. Go to:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/rpts09/MDRCR005fr.pdf>

The Argentine Red Cross (ARC) requested support from DREF for three operations in 2009. Emergency assistance was provided to people affected by floods and a landslide in Tartagal in February; and in December, by flooding of the Parana and Uruguay rivers. A large-scale operation was also carried out to prevent the spread of dengue fever in April, which was closely monitored in order to revise the plan of action as necessary as the context and situation changed. The operation exceeded its objectives with the number of people reached. A participatory evaluation was carried out at the end of the operation involving the governance and management of the ARC, volunteers and representatives of other NGOs and government authorities. Each branch presented the achievements and lessons learned at the community level. The ARC has been able to build its capacity to respond to disasters through regular DREF-supported operations over the last few years and has become a well-recognized and trusted provider of humanitarian assistance appreciated by both the government authorities and the communities with which it works. Go to:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/rpts08/MDRAR005fr.pdf>

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/rpts09/MDRAR00601.pdf>

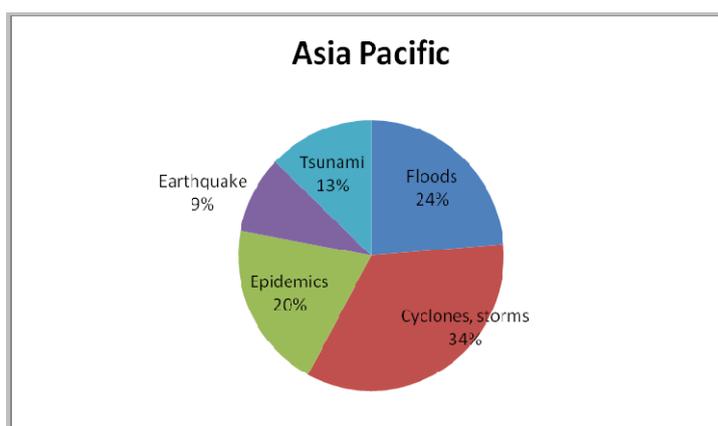
The Bolivian Red Cross and Paraguayan Red Cross also carried out DREF operations to prevent the spread of dengue fever in 2009, while the Mexican Red Cross requested support from DREF to assist it carry out a large-scale operation at country level in response to the outbreak of H1N1 which paralyzed the country in April.

The Honduran Red Cross requested a grant from the DREF in September 2009 to prepare its branches and volunteers for possible violence leading up to the presidential elections at the end of November. The country had been experiencing civil unrest since the previous president had been ousted in June. The grant allowed the National Society to prepare contingency plans with 50 of its branches, train and equip volunteers in first aid, and to carry out safer access workshops in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The Honduran Red Cross was also able to strengthen its emergency operations centre's human resources and equipment. The presidential elections actually took place without further violence, but this operation strengthened the capacity of the National Society, and increased the skills of the volunteers and their understanding of the relevance of the fundamental principles. Go to:

### Asia Pacific, type and amount of allocations

Region	Loans to emergency appeals	Amount in CHF	Grants to DREF operations	Amount in CHF	Total amount in CHF
Asia Pacific	5	1,377,595	8	1,158,651	2,536,246

### Asia Pacific, type of operations



As mentioned in the summary of this report, five large-scale emergencies in the region between June and October led the National Societies to launch emergency appeals supported by loans from the DREF. These were for Bangladesh, the Philippines and Vietnam when they were affected by Cyclones Aila and Ketsana; for Samoa, following the earthquake and tsunami that hit the islands at the end of September; and for Indonesia, to support the National Society bring relief to people affected by the earthquake in West Sumatra.

DREF grants were also made for eight operations. A serious outbreak of dengue fever affected the Cook Islands in May and June 2009 and the Cook Islands Red Cross Society requested a grant of 50,000 Swiss francs to carry out awareness raising in the most at-risk communities and to procure and distribute vector control kits. Three islands were targeted for the operation which presented challenges of access, however, the National Society integrated the dissemination of preventative information prepared by the Ministry of Health, and the distribution of vector control packs into its existing community-based health and first aid programmes. It also used the opportunity of the door-to-door visits by its volunteers to raise awareness of H1N1, thus achieving a wide outreach through existing means. Go to:

[http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDRCK001\\_IntFR.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDRCK001_IntFR.pdf)

A sizeable challenge also faced the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society (PNGRCS) in September and October when outbreaks of acute watery diarrhoea were confirmed in several different provinces of the country. Cholera may spread in Papua New Guinea, and it is a major challenge to contain it, as there are many remote areas affected. The outbreaks highlight the poor hygiene conditions of PNG, where a majority of the population do not have access to safe drinking water. A large-scale public health and hygiene awareness campaign, with the recruitment and training of volunteers was launched by the National Society in the most affected areas, including some where there were not existing branches. The volunteers carried out sensitization in public places, through door-to-door visits and radio and television spots. The campaigns were hindered in some places by floods, to which the volunteers also needed to respond. Consequently, the completion of the operation was delayed and will be extended until the spring of 2010 in order to reach all the target areas. Go to:

[http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDRPG004\\_drefOU3.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDRPG004_drefOU3.pdf)

The end of the monsoon season in October caused floods and landslides in 14 districts of western Nepal in October, affecting more than 175,000 people. The Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) immediately provided relief assistance through its network of volunteers in the community, and using its pre-positioned relief items. A DREF grant of 307,240 was requested to allow the NRCS to fill some gaps in its response, and to replenish its emergency stocks. This replenishment will be carried out through local procurement in respect of the NRCS and Federation standards, with support from the IFRC, and is considered a capacity-building operation, allowing the National Society to build its experience in procurement and logistics. Go to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRNP003DU2.pdf>

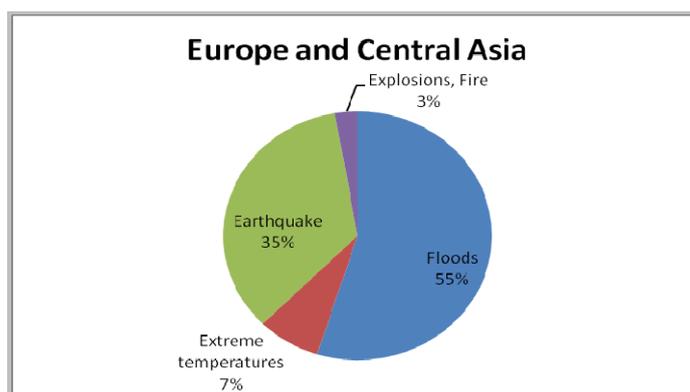
The Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) requested support from the DREF to bring assistance in the form of relief items, psychosocial support and hygiene promotion to 10,000 people affected by floods in Ulaanbaatar in July. The grant of 240,000 Swiss francs included a final review and evaluation of the operation. Group interviews were conducted with the community leaders, government representatives and “*khoro*” committee members. A small meeting carried out in each of the districts with the beneficiaries of the flood operation, while the MRCS volunteers were conducting the household surveys. In total, 84.2 per cent of the interviewed people considered that MRCS assistance met the needs identified by the affected communities, and all interviewed beneficiaries are satisfied with the service received from MRCS staff and volunteers. However, there were some delays during the relief distribution due to logistics constraints.

The lessons learnt workshop was an essential part of the review process. It was designed to serve as an opportunity for attendees to analyze the collected data, identify weaknesses and gaps, find solutions and develop recommendations. The questionnaire, conducted among 15 MRCS staff at the national headquarters and branch levels, has demonstrated that the DREF operation helped the National Society identify its weaknesses and strengthen capacity in different sectors, particularly in logistics. Go to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDRMN00204.pdf>

#### **Europe and Central Asia, type and amount of allocation**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Loans to emergency appeals</b>	<b>Amount in CHF</b>	<b>Grants to DREF operations</b>	<b>Amount in CHF</b>	<b>Total amount in CHF</b>
<b>Europe</b>	2	292,342	11	1,896,048	2,188,390

## Europe, type of operation



The IFRC's Europe zone team has also been using a pilot beneficiary satisfaction tool to systematically gather the views of people reached through small-scale emergency operations supported by the DREF in the Europe and Central Asia regions. The implementation of this pilot seeks to improve our accountability to people receiving assistance, and to improve the quality of the operations. Beneficiary satisfaction surveys were carried out following three operations which took place during the first six months of the year in Bosnia Herzegovina and Tajikistan, as mentioned in the Update 1 of this DREF appeal.

Heavy rainfall in early July caused a sudden rise in the level of the Tešanjka and Trebacka rivers, which spilled over the river banks and flooded large parts of Tešanj municipality in the northern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Around 220 houses were flooded, and food reserves destroyed. Furniture and household items were also damaged. The National Society identified the most vulnerable, elderly people aged over 60 and living alone, people with disabilities, self-supporting mothers, and socially endangered people with very young children; and targeted them for the provision of emergency relief, in the form of food and non-food items and assistance in pumping and disinfection of water.

The relief operation in July and August was the third emergency situation in 2009 to which the National Society responded in 2009 with DREF support. Once again, the operation allowed the society to present itself as a responsible humanitarian actor addressing the needs of affected people in time of an emergency. It also included a beneficiary satisfaction survey which contributed to the visibility of the National Society through the presence of the Red Cross in the affected communities. Furthermore it confirmed the society's commitment to ensuring that the voices of the people reached were heard and that their needs were met, as well as contributing to the credibility of the society in the eyes of vulnerable people as well as its partners, especially local authorities. Go to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDRBA004dfr.pdf>

On 8 September, a strong earthquake hit northern Georgia affecting 1,460 families. Many families were unable to return to their houses. A joint team of staff and volunteers from the Red Cross Society of Georgia, supported by a Federation disaster management delegate present in Georgia, carried out a rapid assessment to identify the most urgent needs.

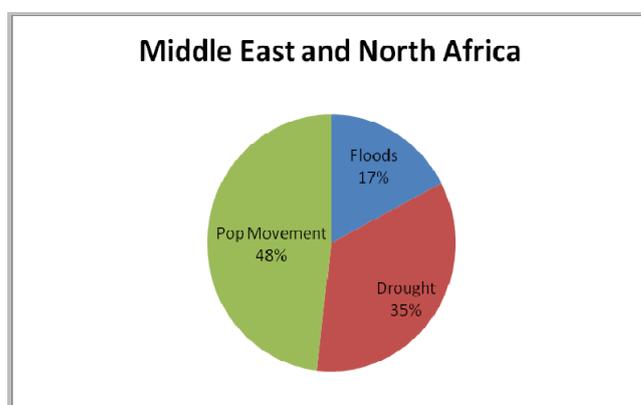
The National Society immediately distributed 150 tents from its stocks, and procured and distributed mattresses and blankets to 150 of the most-affected households. The beneficiaries were identified according to their vulnerability, those who had lost their houses and especially multi-children families, orphans and elderly people. The National Society also provided psychological comfort to the families through their care and relief operation.

In follow up to the operation, a joint beneficiary satisfaction survey was carried out by the National Society with the support of the IFRC. The assistance provided was seen as timely, of good quality and relevant to the needs to the beneficiaries; and the dissemination of information

on the distributions was particularly successful. The survey, however, also showed that most people interviewed were not involved in any phase of the operation, which has led the National Society to recognize the importance of the participation of beneficiaries in relief operations. The National Society also realized that it was essential to inform the beneficiaries of the Red Cross principles and values and activities, as it can lead to increased membership and volunteer base, participation, support and credibility. Go to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDRGE002dfr.pdf>

### Middle East and North Africa, types and amount of allocations

Region	Loans to emergency appeals	Amount in CHF	Grants to DREF operations	Amount in CHF	Total amount in CHF
MENA	1	320,856	3	607,273	928,129



An emergency appeal for 3.2 million Swiss francs was launched in August 2009, to bring assistance to 260,000 people, among the most vulnerable affected by the severe and ongoing drought in the eastern part of Syria. A DREF loan of 320,856 Swiss francs was made to start up this operation, and has been reimbursed to the fund.

At the end of September, heavy rain caused severe floods in many parts of Tunisia. The Tunisian Red Crescent volunteers supported the public authorities in search and rescue, evacuation, and in providing first aid and psycho-social support. The National Society was able to respond immediately with the distribution of relief items from its contingency stocks. Following an assessment of needs, further procurement and distributions of non-food items were carried out, and volunteers used the distributions to carry out the promotion of good hygiene practices and to carry out a floods awareness campaign. Ten thousand leaflets outlining the risks of floods and measures to reduce the risks to the community were prepared and handed out to people in the affected regions.

A DREF allocation of 160,749 Swiss francs was made to the National Society to allow it to procure relief items and replenish its stocks. The importance of having contingency stocks in place was underlined by the difficulties of procuring emergency items locally immediately after the floods. The Tunisian Red Crescent also used this operation as an opportunity to give hands-on logistics training to volunteers and staff from each region affected.

### Constraints or Challenges

The IFRC has been promoting the use of DREF for preparedness for imminent crisis, but the number of requests for support has been limited. It has also been difficult in some cases to define the limits of preparedness for imminent crisis as opposed to preparedness for recurring or seasonal disasters which should be planned for in annual appeals. As forecasts of extreme or unusual weather patterns prove to be more and more accurate, it is anticipated that a larger number of National Societies will make use of DREF for emergency response preparedness.

Although the global financial crisis has not had a negative effect on funding for the DREF, it may be the cause of lack of funding for some emergency appeals, particularly for disasters that do not make the headlines. This has led for a second consecutive year to a low reimbursement rate of DREF loans. In some cases, National Societies have hesitated to launch appeals in response to events which have not reached public attention; and requested DREF grants instead, in order to be able to meet emergency needs.

## Working in partnership

The DREF directly supports National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies working under their national mandate to bring humanitarian assistance in natural disasters. It also supports them work in cooperation with Movement partners and other humanitarian organizations. Through rapid approval of DREF requests, they are able to confirm their role in response with their national authorities, and take immediate action to alleviate the effects of the emergency.

The DREF provides a very positive opportunity for developing partnerships between donors, the IFRC and the Operating National Societies who respond daily to disasters in their countries with financial support from the DREF. Through their long-term support to the DREF, all the donors indirectly support the disaster response activities carried out by National Societies, both through the provision of start-up funds in large-scale disasters, and by covering all the costs of smaller-scale operations for which no emergency appeal is launched.

Many of the donors to DREF also support longer-term capacity building in disaster management in the Operating National Societies. The contingency planning and capacity building they support allow the National Societies to be able to meet the humanitarian needs of people affected, or likely to be affected by disasters, and the DREF provides the funding necessary to support the mobilization and deployment of resources to meet those needs.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

Examples have been given in the regional analysis for the use of beneficiary satisfaction surveys at the end of DREF-funded operations in three different regions. The evaluations strive to improve the IFRC's accountability to the people receiving assistance, to improve the quality of operations, and to lead to organizational learning and capacity building of National Societies. While preparing and implementing satisfaction surveys can be challenging and time consuming, the exercise is considered to be essential. They provide a dialogue which is highly appreciated by the people reached, and is almost considered as a service in itself through visiting people and showing care for them. The surveys can help to find out the affected populations' views of their own needs, instead of basing the IFRC's action on its views of what those needs are, as well as raise awareness and skills amongst staff and volunteers in needs assessment and beneficiary selection.

The IFRC will continue to develop the use of operation evaluation surveys and the number of DREF operations provides National Societies with many opportunities to evaluate their response and improve their service to vulnerable people.

## Looking ahead

The first two months of 2010 have shown an increase in the use of the DREF, and the IFRC expects the number of requests for financial support to grow. The IFRC will continue to promote the use of DREF to support early action to reduce the effects of disasters, and to develop innovative relief and response operations that provide appropriate assistance to people affected by disasters, as well as support their recovery.

<b>How we work</b>	
<p>The IFRC's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the IFRC's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p><b>Global Agenda Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</li> <li>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</li> <li>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</li> </ul>
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