

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)

Appeal No. MAA00010

27 August 2009

This report covers the period 1 January to 30
June 2009



A volunteer of the Mexican Red Cross demonstrates the correct way to wear a mask as a preventive measure against the H1N1 virus and explains its importance in this regard. Photo: Jose Manuel Jiménez/International Federation.

In brief

Programme purpose: To increase the capacity of the International Federation 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 Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

Programme summary:

During the first six months of the year, the DREF allocated a total of CHF 7,484,779 in 49 different allocations to 32 Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies. CHF 5,242,080, or 70 per cent of the total, was allocated as grants for DREF operations for which no emergency appeal was launched and CHF 2,242,699, or 30 per cent of the total, as loans of start-up funds for emergency appeals. These figures are slightly below the amount of allocations made during the same period in 2008, and 23 per cent below the forecast for 2009.

Funding to the DREF was good during the first half of the year which allowed the International Federation to meet the requests for support from National Societies and raise the cash operating balance to CHF 9.1 million at 30 June 2009 from CHF 3.1 million at the end of 2008.

Financial situation: The total 2009 budget is CHF 12,197,487 (USD 11,238,091 or EUR 7,999,821), of which CHF 10,766,294 (88 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 7,484,779 (allocations) plus CHF 75,039 (administration costs) which represents 41 per cent of the forecast for 2009.

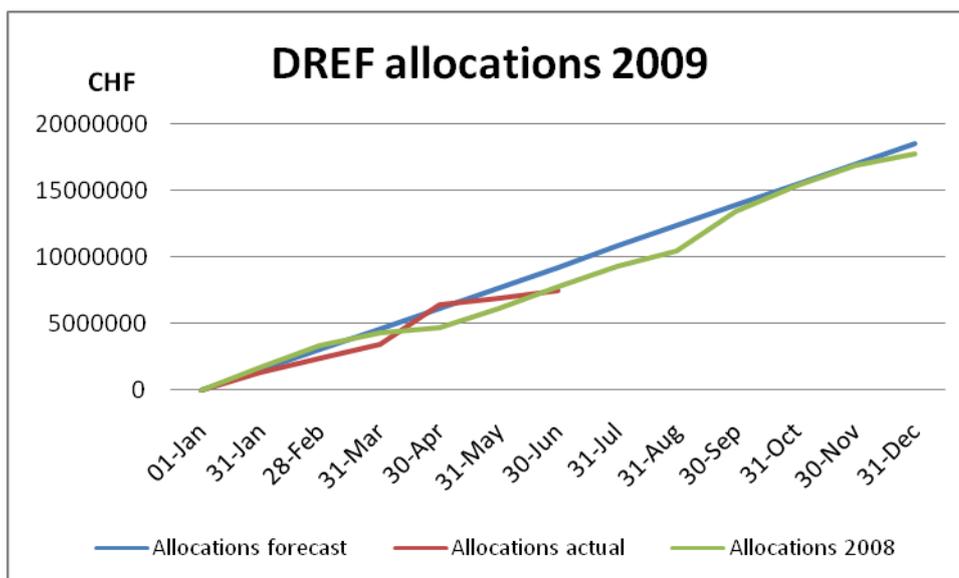
[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

No. of people we have reached: The DREF supported National Societies in meeting the needs of 2.3 million people through relief operations and reaching 14.5 million through health and hygiene awareness and education operations in response to epidemics.

Our partners: The donors to DREF indirectly support the disaster response activities carried out by National Societies. This support provides a very positive opportunity to donors for developing partnerships between themselves, the International Federation and the operating National Societies.

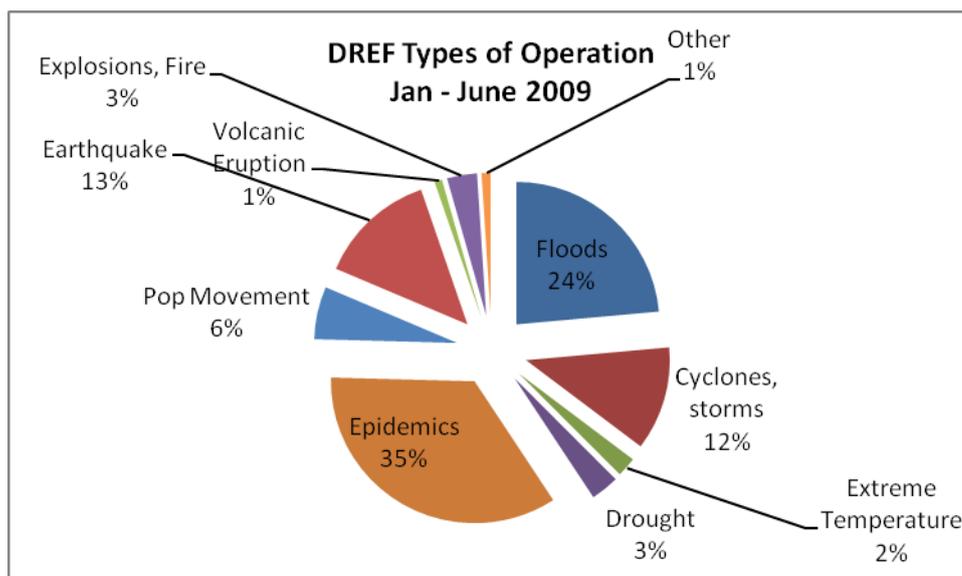
Context

The number of response operations reported by National Societies during the first half of the year was lower than during the same period in 2007 and 2008. However, the overall number of operations that DREF supported remained much the same as last year. The amount of grants made to cover the costs of DREF operations for which no emergency appeal was launched (70 per cent of the total) was higher, and the amount made in loans of start-up funds for emergency appeals (30 per cent) lower than in 2008. Eight emergency appeals received start-up loans from the DREF, of which two loans have been reimbursed to the fund, representing 22 per cent of the total loans. Funding to the other six appeals is not yet sufficient to be able to reimburse the outstanding loans.



The largest numbers of reported disasters since January 2009 were in Asia Pacific, followed by Africa and the Americas. As in previous years, however, it was for National Societies in Africa (46 per cent of the total) and the Americas (26 per cent of the total) that the DREF provided most support.

Over a third of the total allocations made by DREF during the first six months of 2009 were to support response to epidemics. This was due to the large loans made to the emergency appeals in support of the exceptional polio vaccination campaigns in Africa and the response to the outbreak of the H1N1 virus, where funding was provided to the Mexican Red Cross. Three grants were made to National Societies in South America in response to widespread outbreaks of dengue fever, which also affected the Cook Islands in the Pacific. In Africa, National Societies responded to outbreaks of cholera, meningitis, yellow fever, measles and ebola fever. The amount of allocations made to support response to floods and other weather-related disasters (storms, drought and extreme temperatures) was lower than last year, but still represented 39 per cent of the total allocations. The main events were floods in the southern African region and Tajikistan.



Progress towards outcomes

Outcomes

1. The capacity of the DREF to meet the requests of support from National Societies is maintained and increased.
2. The awareness, use and management of the fund is improved.

Achievements

At 30 June 2009, the DREF had received CHF 10,766,294 or 88 per cent of the total budget for 2009. A total amount of CHF 7,484,779 was allocated in grants and loans. The cash operating balance stood at CHF 9,097,832 on 30 June. The excellent support from donors has allowed the International Federation to meet the requests already made in 2009, while holding sufficient funding to meet the future needs of the National Societies in 2009.

The Norwegian government was the largest donor during the six month period and contributed a total of CHF 3.9 million to the DREF in 2009. The funding to the DREF included CHF 2.4 million from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), under a contribution agreement which was signed at the end of March 2009. Under the agreement, ECHO will replenish the DREF for grants made in support of small-scale disasters (DREF operations) over a 16-month period, from 1 January 2009, in countries eligible for community humanitarian aid. Under the Memorandum of Understanding that the Netherlands Red Cross has signed with the International Federation for the four years 2008-2011, CHF 800,000 has been contributed to the DREF during the first six months of the year in replenishment of 20 grants made to DREF operations. The Irish Government also contributed CHF 1.66 million to the DREF in 2009. Major corporate donors included the Medtronic Foundation and the Zurich Foundation.

The International Federation has continued to encourage the use of the DREF to promote quality and innovative approaches to responding to disasters, and the use of the fund to ensure preparedness for imminent crises. While supporting rapid and effective relief operations by National Societies, following both natural and man-made disasters, it has sought to strengthen their capacity through experience, training and deployment of volunteers and learning lessons from each operation. The following analysis of operations funded by the DREF during the first six months of the year seeks to give some examples of the above.

Regional analysis of DREF funded operations from January-June 2009

Zone	Number of Allocations	Amount in CHF
Africa		
East Africa	8	1,416,341
South Africa	8	1,082,909
West and Central Africa	13	1,077,818
Total Africa	29	3,577,073

For the second year running, the rainy season in Southern Africa brought widespread flooding to multiple countries in the region and led to response operations by the National Societies of Malawi, Angola, Namibia, Zambia and Botswana, supported by the DREF.

Country	Operation	Amount of DREF in CHF	Operation timeframe	People affected	Number of beneficiaries
Malawi	Floods and Cholera DREF Operation http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDRMW00401.pdf	71,022	16/01 – 30/04/2009	42,215	16,380
Angola	Floods DREF Operation http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDRAO00301.pdf	388,966	12/03 – 12/06/2009	220,000	Relief: 11,000 Health awareness: 80,000
Namibia	Floods – Emergency Appeal http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDRNA00404.pdf	275,695	6/03 – 26/09/2009	700,000	27,000
Zambia	Cholera DREF operation http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDRZM005.pdf	60,990	19/01 – 29/03/2009	450,000	150,000
	Floods DREF operation http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/mdrzm00601.pdf	132,288	25/03 - 25/05/2009	615,000	6,000
Botswana	Floods DREF operation http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDRBW001.pdf	153,978	26/06 - 26/09/2009	7,000	4,100

Angola had received double the average rainfall by end of March, affecting 220,000 people. Two DREF allocations for a total of CHF 388,966 supported the National Societies to carry out emergency shelter, water and sanitation activities and primary health education activities reaching 80,000 people. The British Red Cross deployed two staff members specialized in household economic survey to support the Angola Red Cross to carry out food security and livelihood assessments in Cunene and Moxico provinces and to prepare the implementation of early recovery programmes for those affected by the floods.

The floods in Namibia were the worst in decades in six regions of northern Namibia. Following a first DREF allocation of CHF 146,695 to the Namibia Red Cross at the beginning of March, an emergency appeal was launched on 25th March for CHF 1,494,980 with an additional DREF allocation of CHF 129,000 to allow the National Societies to bring assistance to 20,000 beneficiaries, with support from the International Federation. Over 50,000 people were displaced by the floods with around 24,000 in relocation camps. The Namibia Red Cross targeted families in the relocation camps, providing relief and carrying out water, sanitation and hygiene promotion with the support of a Mass Sanitation M20 Emergency Response Unit deployed by the British Red Cross.

Given the recurrent floods along the Zambezi river basin, the International Federation launched the Zambezi River Basin Initiative – a joint programme between the Angolan, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe Red Cross Societies – which will support more than 600,000 people living in villages and towns along the river basin over at least the next eight years. The Zambezi Initiative aims to go beyond simply addressing and preventing the impact of

disasters. It seeks to address the broader vulnerabilities of communities as well, including HIV, exposure to water and vector borne diseases, and the compounding aggravation of weakened community structures. It is an ambitious programme which seeks over CHF 8 million in donor support, but it is an investment which can reduce the costs of responding to floods and other disasters as over the past few years.

For more information: <http://www.ifrc.org/Docs/News/pr09/3509.asp>

The on-going circulation of the wild polio virus in Nigeria, the only endemic country in Africa, presents a serious threat of re-infection to surrounding countries in West and Central Africa and the Horn of Africa and ultimately threatens progress towards global polio eradication. At the beginning of June 2009, 17 African countries had reported 150 cases, including in the Horn of Africa which had no cases for the last decade. A total of 14 National Societies are coordinating with Ministries of Health, the World Health Organization and other Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners to carry out exceptional immunization campaigns using their volunteer network. A tri-zonal emergency appeal was launched to cover the costs of these synchronized supplementary immunization activities aimed at approximately 25 million children under the age of five, and a total of CHF 593,730 start-up funds was released from the DREF to allow campaigns to start in Benin, Côte D'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya. Insufficient funding to the appeal has not allowed these loans to be reimbursed at 30 June 2009.

For more information, news story: <http://www.ifrc.org/Docs/News/09/09060502/index.asp>

In addition to the polio campaigns and with support from the DREF, the Red Cross of the Democratic of Congo (DRC) responded to an outbreak of ebola and the Central African Republic Red Cross to one of yellow fever. The National Societies of Togo, Zambia and Uganda carried out health campaigns to contain cholera and three awareness campaigns to fight meningitis were initiated in Burkina Faso, Niger and Uganda. Among the factors that favour epidemics are climatic conditions, high population density and crowded living conditions. An additional problem is that most people rely on self-medication rather than seeking medical attention which further helps the spread of diseases. To stop the epidemic, the Red Cross volunteers stress that it is vital to go immediately to a health facility at the first sign of illness. In Burkina Faso, the Burkinabe Red Cross Society mobilized 900 volunteers supported by an allocation of CHF 99,400 to carry out an awareness campaign in 35 health districts.

The use of the DREF to support action in advance of an imminent crisis was illustrated when the Red Cross of DRC requested an allocation of CHF 63,780 to support it to carry out preparedness measures in the case of an eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano. The cities of Goma and Gisenyi in Rwanda have been threatened by an eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano. According to the report by experts from the volcano observatory in Goma, the same signs that announced the 1977 and 2002 eruptions were identified. The National Society was requested by the provincial government, which convened a meeting with all national and international partners and local authorities following warnings of a possible eruption, to update contingency plans and the evacuation plans, carry out community sensitization and participate in the process of identification of sites for displaced people. The Red Cross of DRC set up an emergency team to monitor the situation and organised a meeting between the Goma and Gisenyi branches to prepare coordinated operations. These preparedness measures are all the more important since the population of Goma has doubled since the last eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano in 2002, which caused the displacement of about 400,000 people. It is estimated that more than one million people could be displaced in case of an eruption affecting the cities of Goma and Gisenyi. A news story was posed on the Rwanda Red Cross preparedness: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/09/09052601/>

Zone	Number of Allocations	Amount in CHF
Americas	11	1,899,055

The first allocation for the Americas region in 2009 was made following an earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale which struck central Costa Rica on 8th January. Major landslides occurred as a result of the earthquake and persistent rainfall over the following period led to additional debris flows in river basins and washed out temporary bridges, hindering access to affected communities. Nearly 3,000 people were directly affected by the earthquake, whilst another 125,000 people were indirectly affected. DREF funds were allocated to support the Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC) emergency response operation which focused on the provision of immediate emergency assistance, including the organization of search, rescue and evacuation activities, the provision of emergency first aid and psycho-social support, detailed needs assessments and the distribution of relief items. The CRRC launched a nation-wide appeal requesting donations from the general public and the private sector, setting up central collection points at warehouses located at its national headquarters in San José, as well as throughout its regional and local branches nationwide. The support from civil society was outstanding; at the close of the appeal on 22nd January the National Society had collected over 80,000 kilograms of relief items, which were distributed to affected families in approximately 50 communities. The DREF funds were also used to cover warehousing costs for storage and distribution of donations.

A second DREF allocation of CHF 65,000 was subsequently made to develop and implement a cash voucher programme for the purchase of essential tools and materials to enable 100 families to make emergency repairs to their damaged homes. Two regional intervention team (RIT) members were deployed to support the CRRC; one RIT member from the Paraguayan Red Cross specialized in reporting to assist in the collection of information on the emergency and to support the emergency response operations and one RIT member from the American Red Cross specialized in cash voucher programmes to assist the CRRC in the development and implementation of this initiative.

The CRRC has responded to multiple emergencies that have affected the country over the last nine months, supported by the DREF, and has been working at maximum capacity and mobilizing staff and volunteers from its national headquarters and its regional and local branches nationwide.

The International Federation launched an emergency appeal for CHF 1.1 million in March 2009 at the request of the Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS) to bring assistance to 25,000 beneficiaries who were affected by serious flooding of the Mira river in the department of Nariño. Start-up funds of CHF 177,000 were allocated from the DREF to allow the CRCS to bring emergency relief to 1,000 families. The allocation has been reimbursed to the fund, while the relief operation is continuing. Depending on income to the appeal, the CRCS is providing shelter kits for the repair of damaged homes and planning to support the restoration of income generation activities for those who lost their livelihoods through the floods. A complete study of the Mira river, which caused the floods, will be carried out in order to reduce the risks and damage from future floods.

In February, heavy rainfall in the northern Argentine province of Salta caused a major landslide in the city of Tartagal which caused the Tartagal river to overflow affecting 20,000 people. The Argentine Red Cross (ARC) requested an allocation of CHF 164,000 in support of its emergency relief activities including evacuation, damage and need assessments, mobilization of resources in the affected area of Tartagal as well as providing psychosocial support, hygiene and health promotion in the temporary shelters. University students volunteered to support the ARC teams in bringing assistance to those affected and have increased the number of Red Cross volunteers in Tartagal. The resource mobilization was very effective and allowed the ARC to use DREF funds to carry out dengue fever prevention activities and provide 1,000 families in Tartagal with dengue prevention kits. In April, the ARC requested a supplementary DREF allocation of CHF 184,012 to extend its dengue prevention campaign to other areas of northern Argentina affected by the dengue outbreak. As well as distributing prevention kits, the ARC developed prevention awareness brochures and posters which were distributed in schools, health centres and hospitals and prepared and carried out radio spots. Workshops on dengue awareness and

preventive methods specifically for young people are being carried out in schools in four provinces.

Allocations to fight dengue fever were also made to the Bolivian and Paraguayan Red Cross Societies. The Paraguayan Red Cross was active in 2007 and 2008 in prevention campaigns for dengue and yellow fever. To build on this experience and capacity a one-year programme to reduce the impact of dengue and yellow fever outbreaks is being funded by ECHO and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID). A total of 140 volunteers have been trained under this programme and have been mobilized to carry out the current operation.

Zone	Number of Allocations	Amount in CHF
Asia Pacific	2	303,397

An outbreak of dengue fever in the Cook Islands prompted a request for CHF 60,000 from the Cook Islands Red Cross Society (CIRCS) in May 2009. CIRCS is a member of the national disaster risk management council and is working closely with the government and other agencies in-country to respond to the outbreak. CIRCS has integrated the dissemination of preventive information prepared by the ministry of health into its existing community-based activities and has decided to upscale its health promotion activities. This will include door-to-door visits by CIRCS staff and volunteers to meet and disseminate information on preventive methods to 8,000 people on three islands and the distribution of 100 community and 200 family vector control kits.

Following Cyclone Aila which hit north-west India and Bangladesh on 25th May, a DREF allocation of CHF 253,000 was made to the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) to procure and distribute food parcels to 10,000 severely affected families to complement the relief items already distributed from the BDRCS preparedness stocks. The situation was worsened by the fact that the water level did not recede, causing further damage to houses and infrastructure and increasing concerns for the health of the people in the area. Consequently, the BDRCS stepped up its response programme supported by an appeal for CHF 2.35 million which was launched on 24 June 2009.

Zone	Number of Allocations	Amount in CHF
Europe and Central Asia	5	1,258,712

Extremely low temperatures hit parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina in January 2009, simultaneously with the cut of gas supplies to the country, which badly affected the most vulnerable population groups who were unable to pay for alternative fuel. The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina assisted 10,000 people among the most severely affected with the support of a DREF allocation of CHF 166,370. It procured food and non-food items locally such as blankets, briquettes and stoves and the items were delivered by Red Cross volunteers. Supported by the International Federation, a beneficiary satisfaction survey was carried out to see if the National Society had met the needs of the affected people and whether they had any recommendations for improving the quality and appropriateness of relief operations in the future. The survey showed that the relief items delivered were appropriate and of good quality and the beneficiaries felt the assistance was timely. They also appreciated that the distributions were made to their homes and that they did not have to travel to distribution points. One recommendation that the National Society took from the survey was to involve the beneficiaries more in the operation and provide them with more information. The provision of safety instructions was much appreciated and the National Society gained in visibility and credibility as a humanitarian partner.

One month later, the National Society was again called upon to provide assistance when serious flooding affected the south of the country. After assessments had been carried out, a further DREF allocation of CHF 100,000 was requested to bring assistance to 2,630 people. The

National Society's disaster management structures, including Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members, were able to provide vital assistance to the affected population. The DREF allocation was decisive in this respect as the National Society lacked material resources, such as food and hygiene parcels in stock. Staff and volunteers engaged in the mine awareness programme cooperated with those carrying out the relief operation due to concern that land mines might have been displaced by the floods.

Two DREF grants were made to the Tajikistan Red Crescent in April following a landslide in the Khuroson district and floods in Dushanbe. Continuous rain over the next few weeks aggravated an already serious situation and a second mudslide in Khuroson on 14 May resulted in the destruction of four villages and affected 3,400 people, with over 2,000 displaced. Given the growing needs, an emergency appeal was launched for CHF 892,624 to assist 4,320 people during six months. As part of the regional contingency plan developed for Central Asia in 2007, members of the RDRT from the region were deployed to help with assessments, logistics, distributions, monitoring and beneficiary satisfaction surveys.

A strong earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale hit the city of Aquila in the Abruzzo region of Italy on 6th April, causing the death of 290 people, injuring 1,000 and making 48,000 homeless. More than 800 staff and volunteers of the Italian Red Cross, working in close cooperation with the Italian civil protection, brought assistance to those affected, providing hot meals and warm blankets to those in the tent camp, medical care and psychosocial support to children. The Italian government did not request international assistance and the Italian Red Cross launched a national appeal for which the response was outstanding. To actively support the Italian Red Cross, the International Federation made a allocation of CHF 700,000 from the DREF. This allocation supported the Italian Red Cross during the emergency phase of the operation to procure tents to provide temporary shelter for the homeless, but also for use as storage and service tents and social activities. They were used to run psychosocial activities for children and as a place where people could meet informally. The International Federation provided logistics support for this procurement.

For more information, news story: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/09/09042801/>

Zone	Number of Allocations	Amount in CHF
Middle East and North Africa	2	446,542

During the twenty-two days of hostilities in Gaza at the end of 2008 and beginning of 2009, which resulted in the death of over 1,300 people and the injury of 5,000, the Egyptian Red Crescent Society (ERCS) as part of the Emergency Committee for the Coordination of Assistance to Gaza, raised its readiness and relief capacity to meet the needs of the people of Gaza and those crossing the border into Egypt. The ERCS requested support from the DREF and two allocations for a total of CHF 446,542 were made to allow the ERCS to draw up and implement a contingency plan to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance to Gaza. The activities included the procurement, storage and transport of relief goods, the enhancement of the ERCS logistics capacities and volunteer mobilization, the provision of medical and life-saving services, psychosocial support and the restoration of family links.

Constraints or Challenges

Political tensions in Madagascar and Honduras caused delay in the implementation of two DREF operations. In early February, following two tropical cyclones (Eric and Fanele) that hit Madagascar between 19-24 January, causing 9 deaths, severe injuries, affecting 50,000 people and leaving more than 4,000 homeless, the Malagasy Red Cross Society (MRCS) requested a DREF allocation of CHF 244,043 to support a relief operation to assist them. Soon after cyclone Fanele, Madagascar was plunged into political unrest. The violence caused many deaths and injuries, destruction to property and curbed economic and social activities. This severely restricted the capacity of MRCS and other humanitarian agencies to mobilize an effective relief operation. Many activities had to be postponed, but the MRCS mobilized its volunteers to

manage the internally displaced persons camp, relief distributions and in depth assessments. Although the political situation in Madagascar remains volatile, the National Society continues to conduct relief operations. It started new evaluations for Tropical storm Jade, which made a land fall on the north east coast of Madagascar on 6 April 2009.

Similarly, the political tension that has affected Honduras in June 2009 has obliged the Honduran Red Cross to postpone some of the distributions of food items to people affected by the earthquake that hit the country at the end of May 2009.

Working in partnership

The DREF provides a very positive opportunity for developing partnerships between donors, the International Federation and the operating national societies, which responds daily to disasters in their countries with financial support from the DREF. Through their long-term support to the DREF, all 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 society. 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. The DREF provides the funding necessary to support the mobilization and deployment of resources to meet those needs.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The DREF also gives donors an opportunity to contribute to the response to the effects of climate change. The perceived effects, such as the increase in extreme weather events, less predictable weather behaviour and the overall increase in the number of disasters, are presenting a challenge to National Societies that have the mandate to respond, and to the capacity of the International Federation. One way the International Federation can adapt to this situation is to provide increased emergency funding support to National Societies through the DREF and support them when they are taking early action to prepare for imminent crises.

As the National Societies, with support from the International Federation, are developing knowledge, skills and capacities to promote early recovery through appropriate and innovative relief operations, the DREF provides the financial support necessary to implement the activities. Each operation provides the operating national society an opportunity to build its capacity and experience, and to strengthen its position as an auxiliary to its government for humanitarian assistance. Evaluation of DREF operations also provide them with valuable recommendations for the improvement of their humanitarian assistance.

Looking ahead

Although the amount of allocations made from the DREF during the first six months of the year was lower than that made during the same period in 2008, it is not possible to predict the needs during the second half of 2009. These will depend on the number of disasters that National Societies respond to. However, the International Federation expects the number of operations and requests for support from the DREF to continue to rise over the next few years, especially driven by climate change, and therefore seeks sustained support from donors to meet those needs.

How we work	
<p>The International Federation's activities 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".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Contact information	
<p>For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Federation Secretariat: Peter Rees, Head Operations Support Department, Geneva; email: peter.rees@ifrc.org; phone: +41 22 730 4455; and fax: +41 22 733 0395. 	