

Mid-Year report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)

Appeal No. MAA00010

31 August 2011

This report covers the period 01 January 2011 to
30 June 2011.



Namibia Floods, March 2011: Volunteers from the Namibia Red Cross construct pit latrines and a bathing shelter in Ekuku where families who were evacuated from their homes were provided with shelter. *Source: IFRC.*

In brief

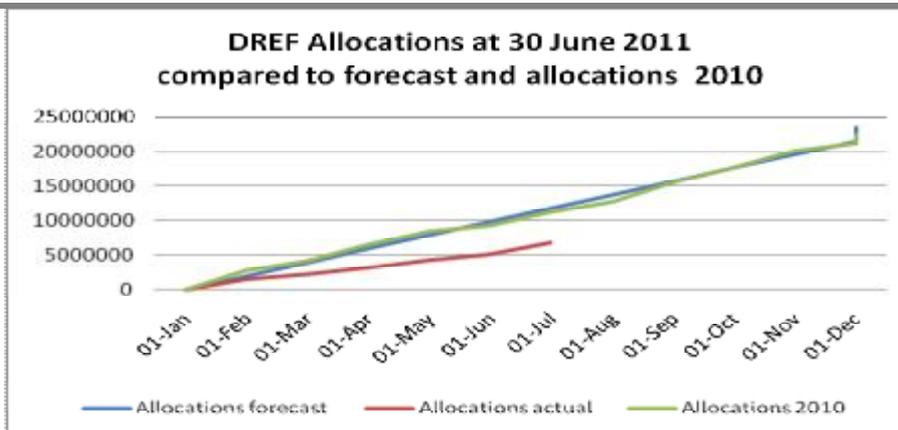
Programme outcome: To increase the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC) to reduce the number of deaths, injuries and the impact of disasters through the timely and adequate financial support for disaster response from the DREF.

Programme(s) summary:

Use of DREF, January to June 2011	Number	Amount CHF (% of total)
Total allocations made	46	6,559,443
Start-up funding for emergency appeals	6	931,699 (14%)
Grants for DREF-supported operations	40	5,627,744 (86%)
Total operations*	45	
Recipient National Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies	37	
Total beneficiaries assisted	9,213,124	

*One operation received two allocations

The amount allocated by the DREF for the six months from 01 January to end of June 2011 was significantly less than for the same period in 2010 and 79 per cent under the forecast of CHF 11,750,000. The total number of requests dropped from 73 at the same date in 2010 to 46 in 2011 and the total amount allocated, CHF 6,559,443 represents a 70 per cent decrease. This is mainly due to a lower number of floods and storms in many regions during this period.



The majority of allocations (86 per cent of the total) were made as grants to cover the costs of DREF operations, smaller disaster response operations for which no emergency appeal was launched. CHF 931,699 was allocated as loans of start-up funding to six emergency appeals.

Financial situation: The total 2011 budget is CHF 18,869,555, of which CHF 10,039,624 (53 per cent) covered during the reporting period. Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 5,440,202. CHF 6,559,443 was disbursed in allocations while CHF 1,119,241 was returned to the fund as reimbursement of loans and unspent balances of DREF grants. The opening balance of funding in the DREF at 01 January 2011 was CHF 5,023,597. The balance stood at CHF 9,476,436 at 30 June 2011.

The Secretariat administration and coordination costs amounted to CHF 146,583 at 30 June 2011, 40% of the annual budget.

Given the lower use of DREF during the first six months of 2011, the forecast for the year has been revised and the budget is being reduced in proportion to the new estimated needs from CHF 18,500,000 to CHF 16,500,000.

	Actual			
Revised DREF Forecast 2011	2009	2010	2011 forecast	2011 (revised)
Small-scale emergencies (DREF Operations)	12,457,345	17,453,765	18,000,000	14,500,000
Large-scale emergencies covered by Emergency Appeals	5,011,703	5,106,634	5,500,000	5,000,000
Total	17,469,048	22,560,399	23,500,000	19,500,000
Reimbursements (Target 90% of EA)	3,719,120	3,316,473	4,950,000	4,500,000
Contributions	13,376,354	16,863,442	18,500,000	16,500,000
Operating Cash Balance or reserve	5,163,369	5,023,597	4,973,597	6,523,597

The overall amount of administration and coordination costs budgeted, CHF 369,555, have been slightly reduced to CHF 357,403.

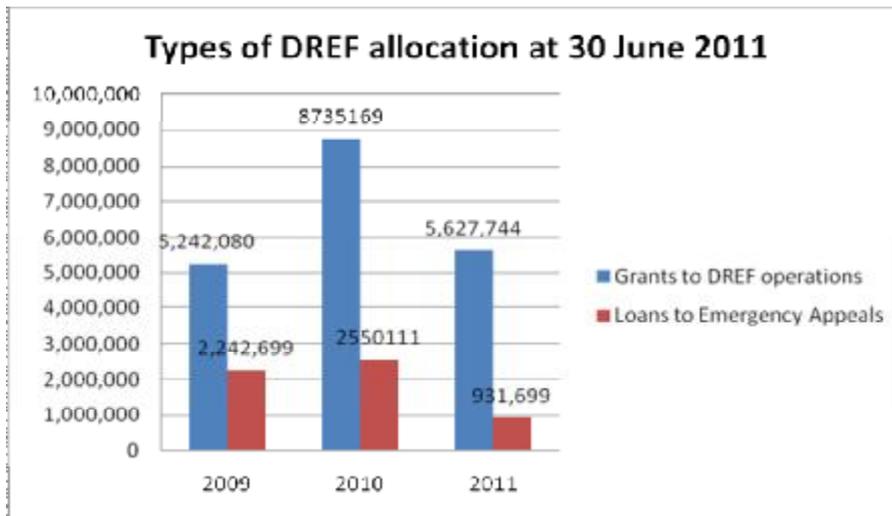
[Click here to go directly to the financial report](#)

No. of people we have reached: It is estimated that approximately 9.3 million people have been assisted through DREF-supported operations during the first six months of 2011. This number includes indirect beneficiaries of assistance such as people reached through social mobilization for vaccination and hygiene promotion campaigns.

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. The list of donor contributions appears in the attached financial report.

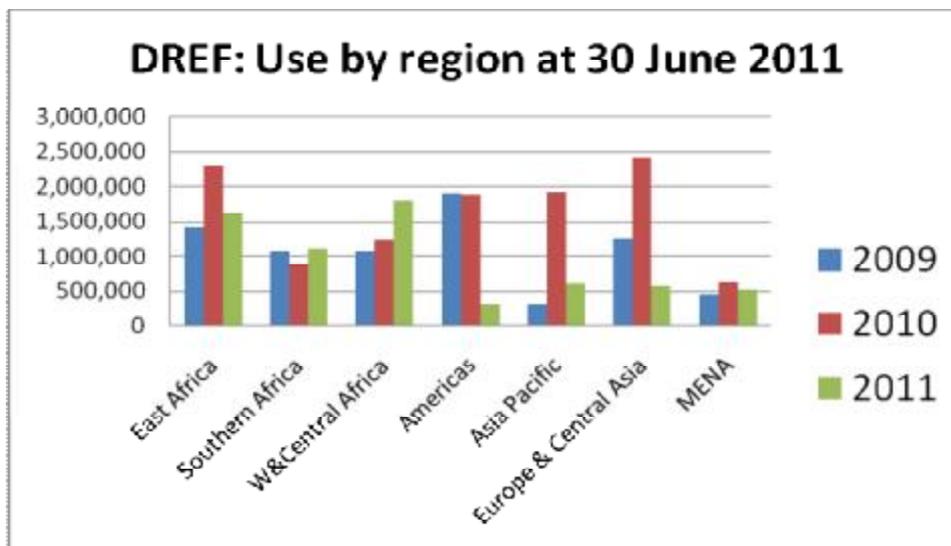
Context

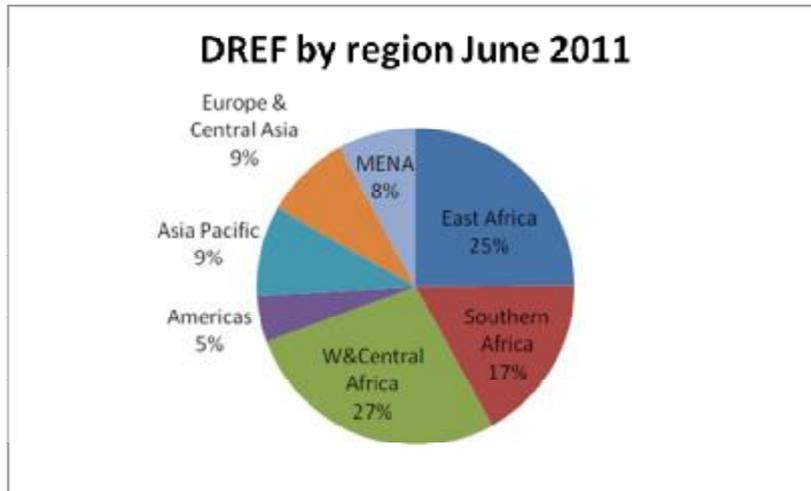
Four main events, the earthquake which hit Christchurch, New Zealand in February, the earthquake and tsunami which hit Japan on 11 March, the political unrest in North Africa and the Middle East and the Côte d'Ivoire crisis, marked the first six months of the year. The National Societies in New Zealand and Japan were in the forefront of response to the disasters but the International Federation was not called upon to launch emergency appeals to support them. DREF supported six emergency appeals with start-up funding loans: Floods in Sri Lanka, Bolivia and Namibia, for response to the civil unrest in North Africa and the Middle East and in the Côte D'Ivoire and for response to a major cholera epidemic in Cameroon. The number and amount of start-up funding loans were much lower than at the same date in 2009 and 2010.



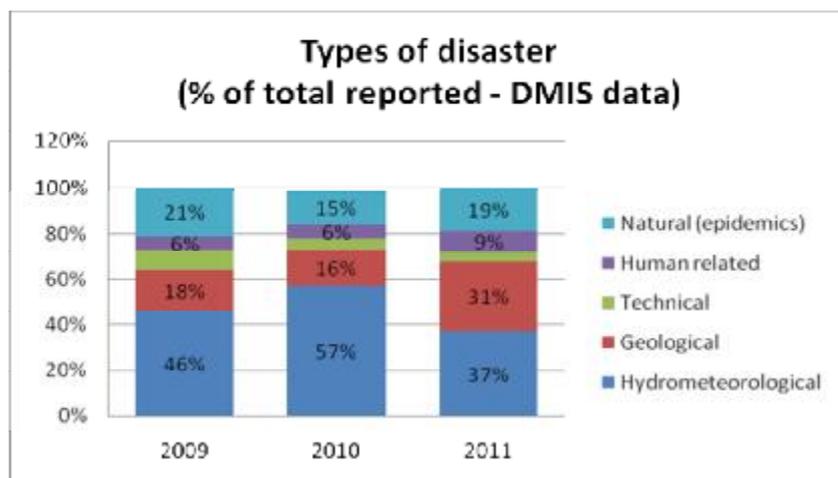
The number and amount of grants for DREF operations, while slightly higher than in 2009, were considerably lower than in 2010. The overrule drop in use of DREF during the first six months of 2011 is significant in comparison with 2010 when the number of disaster response operations National Societies implemented with support of the DREF and the amount requested were much higher than originally forecasted. The 30 per cent increase in the amount of funds allocated in 2010 compared with 2009 should be considered as exceptional.

However, the low number of requests received to date in 2011 is also unexpected. The total amount allocated is CHF 1 million less than at the same date in 2008 and 2009. The drop in the number of requests is in particular due to fewer requests from National Societies in the Americas, Asia Pacific and Europe Zones, whereas the total amount of allocations made to National Societies in Africa is slightly higher than in 2010.

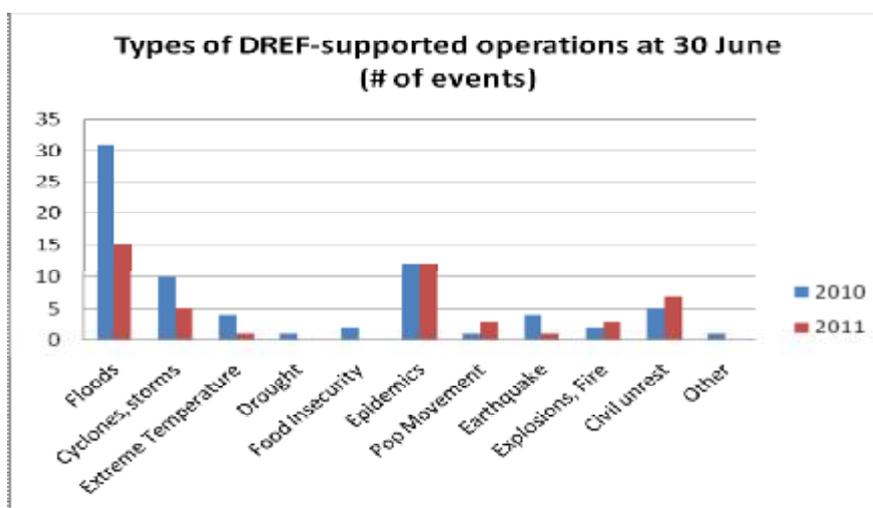




The number of grants allocated to National Societies in response to small-scale disasters in the first six months of 2011 is significantly less than at the same date in 2010. There have been fewer hydro-meteorological events recorded during this period than in 2010, especially in the Americas and Europe. Hydro-meteorological events (floods, flash floods, cyclones and storms) represented 69% of the operations that DREF supported in 2010 and 48% of the total in 2009. Hydro-meteorological events reported by National Societies on Disaster Management Information Systems (DMIS) from 1 January to 30 June 2011 represent only 37% of the total.



These figures for hydro-meteorological events are reflected in the type of operation that the DREF supported during the first six months of the year (41% of total) and the number of requests for support from DREF to respond to hydrometeorological events has dropped from 41 during the first six months of 2010 to 20 in 2011.



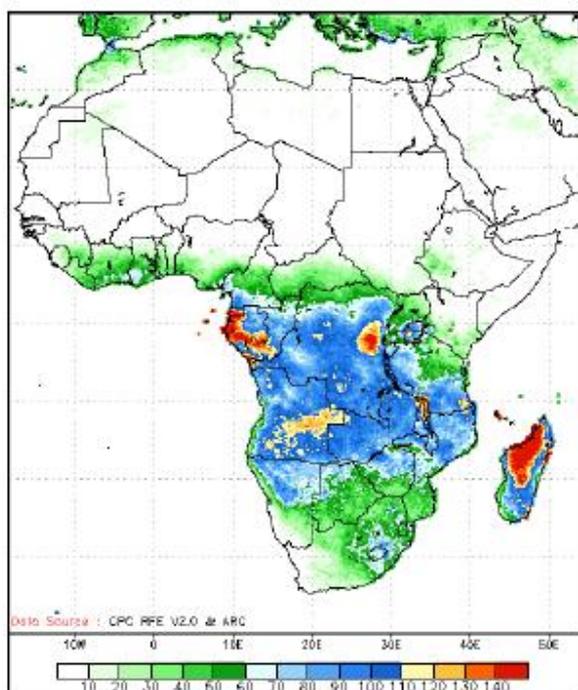
A further explanation for the drop in use of DREF may also be that in Asia Pacific region National Societies responding to disasters during the reporting period were often those who have sufficient capacity to raise funding nationally, and therefore did not request support from DREF.

Regional Analysis

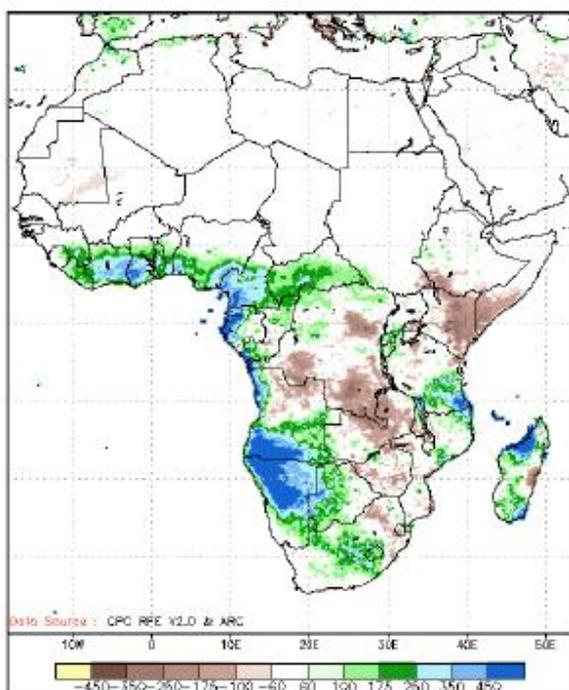
Africa: The moderate-to-strong La Niña event which developed from mid-June 2010 returned to neutral conditions in May 2011. Unusually heavy rainfall in the southern African region normally accompanies La Niña events and much of the region indeed experienced above average rainfall in late 2010 and early 2011, leading to flooding in Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa northern Namibia and Angola. Above average rainfall continued in Namibia and Angola resulting in severe flooding by the end of March 2011. Fewer than expected cyclones affected the region although one, Cyclone Bingiza hit Madagascar in late February 2011.

Southern Africa: rainfall between 25 October 2010 and 22 April 2011

Total rainfall



Rainfall anomaly



Source: NOAA

The DREF made grants to support the National Societies in Lesotho, Mozambique and South Africa to respond to the effects of the floods. An emergency appeal was launched for response to floods in Namibia in early March 2011 following an initial DREF allocation in February to provide assistance to people evacuated by the floods. Two allocations were made to the Malagasy Red Cross Society to support its response to the effects of Cyclone Bingiza, the first which allowed the National Society to carry out emergency response and an in-depth assessment of needs and a supplementary allocation to allow it to cover unmet emergency needs.

The political and civil unrest in Côte d'Ivoire caused a large displacement of people to Liberia and other surrounding countries and created widespread humanitarian needs within the country. The emergency appeal launched in December to meet the needs of the displaced population was revised in January and again in June to include the humanitarian needs of people in the west of the country, when an additional DREF allocation was made. In addition, the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire responded with support from DREF to an outbreak of yellow fever in the north of the country during the political crisis. Response to epidemics accounted for 47 per cent of the amount of DREF allocated to National Societies in the West and Central Africa region. Chad called for

support to respond to simultaneous outbreaks of cholera and meningitis. The National Society in the Republic of Congo responded to outbreaks of measles and chikungunya. In East Africa, the Uganda Red Cross Society requested DREF support to mobilize volunteers to sensitize and care for the affected communities following outbreaks of Yellow Fever, Ebola and Hepatitis E.

Use of DREF by regions compared with same period 2009 and 2011

	2009	2010	2011
East Africa	1,416,346	2,294,064	1,630,546
Southern Africa	1,082,909	882,460	1,122,495
W & Central Africa	1,077,818	1,248,655	1,793,933

Americas: Five allocations were made to National Societies in the Americas region for a total of CHF 312,751. Four were for National Societies in southern America, for response to floods in Bolivia and Brazil and in response to the high incidence of cases of dengue fever in Peru and Bolivia and Paraguay. Apart from one allocation in response to flood damage in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the National Societies in Central America and the Caribbean responded to no disasters during the reporting period. Last year during the same six month period the CHF 800,000 was allocated as start-up funding for the earthquake response operations in Haiti and Chile and CHF 1,071,133 in grants in response to floods and storms and cyclones in 8 different operations in southern and central America.

Asia Pacific: The La Niña event which emerged in June 2010, brought, as anticipated, higher than normal rainfall in Sri Lanka in November and December, followed by very heavy rains in January 2011 which led to widespread floods. These affected 24 of the 25 districts in Sri Lanka. By 20 January 2011, over a million people were affected and some 300,000 people displaced. The International Federation responded to a request for support from the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society by releasing DREF funds and then launching an emergency appeal. A DREF grant was also requested in January to respond to the affects of an extreme cold wave in Bangladesh. In February, Cyclone Vania hit Vanuatu, leading to a DREF operation and in late March an allocation was made to support the Myanmar Red Cross Society to respond to an earthquake which hit the Shan state, near the border with Thailand and Lao PDR.

During the same period in 2010, eleven allocations were made for a total of CHF 1,917,296 as compared to a total of CHF 601,555.

Europe and Central Asia: Floods in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Russia and Georgia led to DREF operations during the first six months of the year. A second allocation was made to the Russian Red Cross in June to allow the National Society to prepare its branches in the most at-risk areas following a heightened danger of forest or wild fires of the sort that caused extensive damage and loss of life in 2010. The political crises in North Africa led to a wave of refugees from Libya arriving in Malta. With the support from the DREF, the Malta Red Cross prepared contingency stocks and mobilized volunteers to bring assistance to the refugees.

A total of CHF 578,883 was allocated to National Societies in these regions during the reporting period, whereas in 2010 a large number of floods affected Central Asia and Europe leading to 9 of the 15 requests received by DREF. The total allocated was CHF 2,422,148.

Middle East and North Africa: In January and early February 2011, two DREF grants were allocated to the National Societies in Tunisia and Egypt to allow them to bring emergency assistance to people affected by the political unrest in the two countries. Later in February, when an emergency appeal was launched to support action by all National Societies of the countries affected by political unrest, DREF made a supplementary DREF loan as start-up funding to the appeal. People who crossed the border from Syria to Lebanon in May received emergency medical assistance from the Lebanese Red Cross, supported by a separate grant from the DREF. A grant was also made to the Iraq Red Crescent in May to support its response to flash floods.

A total of CHF 519,280 was allocated to National Societies in these regions in the first 6 months of the year, which was slightly lower than the figure for 2010, when the amount of funding allocated was CHF 625,528, mainly in response to floods.

Progress towards outcomes

Outcome 1: Improved capacity of the DREF to meet the requests of support from National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Achievements

Contributions from donors to the DREF during the reporting period totalled CHF 9,992,551, which represents 65 per cent of the revised appeal target. Among those donors who make annual contributions to the DREF, the following made their donations during the first half of the year: the Norwegian Government, which contributed CHF 3,264,960 via the Norwegian Red Cross, the Danish Government, CHF 500,562 via the Danish Red Cross, the Swedish Government, CHF 260,468 via the Swedish Red Cross, the Japanese Red Cross, CHF 215,363 and the Monaco Government, CHF 66,798.

A new contribution agreement was signed with the European Commission (Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection – ECHO) for EUR 3 million (CHF 3,761,914) and this funding is being used to reimburse the DREF for grants made for specific operations. The Canadian Government and Canadian Red Cross and the Netherlands Government and Netherlands Red Cross both continue to replenish the DREF for specific grants it has made. They contributed CHF 334,347 and CHF 596,918 respectively during the first six months of the year. The Belgian Government continues to replenish DREF allocations from the EUR 500,000 funding made available for this purpose in 2010, and is considering a further contribution to the DREF in the second half of 2011. Single contributions in replenishment of DREF allocations have been received from the Icelandic Government via the Icelandic Red Cross, the Australian, South African and Spanish Governments and the Singapore Red Cross.

The Coca Cola Foundation is a new donor to the DREF, contributing USD 400,000 (CHF 333,500) to be used in replenishment of DREF grants in 2011. Under existing multi-year agreements, the annual contributions of the Z Zurich Foundation (CHF 250,000) and the Medtronic Foundation (USD 100,000) also appear in the contributions list at 30 June 2011.

Given the excellent donor support and the low number of allocations requested by the DREF during the first six months of 2011, the balance of the DREF stood at CHF 9,476,436 at 30 June.

Of the six loans made as start-up funding to emergency appeals, four of the allocations have so far been fully reimbursed to the DREF.

Country	Disaster	Operation	DREF allocated	Date allocated	Amount reimbursed
Sri Lanka	Floods	MDRKL003	100,166	12-Jan-11	100,166
North Africa	Civil unrest	MDR82001	59,374	24-Feb-11	59,374
Bolivia	Floods	MDRBO006	78,074	03-Mar-11	78,074
Namibia	Floods	MDRNA006	296,472	09-Mar-11	296,472
Cameroon	Epidemics (Cholera)	MDRCM011	150,000	04-Apr-11	
Côte d'Ivoire	Civil unrest	MDRCI003	247,613	16-Jun-11	
	Total		931,699		534,086

Outcome 2: DREF funds are used in a timely manner by National Societies to prepare for imminent crises and mitigate their impact on vulnerable communities, and respond to and effectively cope with their consequences.

Achievements

In Namibia, constant surveillance of the Zambezi and Kavango River levels indicated in early March that the water level of the two rivers was higher than during the same period in 2010 and the observed trend suggested that the record levels reached by the two rivers the previous year might be exceeded. The Namibia Red Cross Society has engaged the communities affected by the seasonal flooding under the Zambezi River Basin Initiative in the identification of locations on higher ground and preparations of these areas as reception centres during flooding. By early March over 30 villages had been temporarily relocated and the National Society requested support from the DREF on 9 March to provide assistance to them and to prepare for the continuing evacuations that they anticipated. When the government of Namibia declared a national emergency at the end of March, the Namibia Red Cross was already fully operational and increased its DREF operation in scope to an emergency appeal, which was launched on 8 April.

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRNA006.pdf>

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRNA00602.pdf>

The extensive and very serious forest and wild fires that affected Russia during an extreme heat wave in 2010 raised fears in May 2011, when the situation was considered to be worse than at the same period last year, that similar widespread fires might affect several regions. The Russian Red Cross Society made a request for support from DREF to allow it to prepare its branches in the most at risk areas where some outbreaks of wild fires had already been reported.

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRRU011do.pdf>

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Society response to epidemics is regularly given as an example of early action to reduce the effects of disasters. In the case of highly dangerous diseases, such as Ebola, immediate action is vital to prevent further loss of life once the disease has been identified. In May 2011, the Uganda Red Cross Society requested support from DREF within a week of the confirmation of the outbreak to allow it to carry out its role in prevention as part of the national task force. <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRUG02101.pdf>

Outcome 3: National Societies receive timely financial support from DREF to assess needs, respond rapidly to disasters and benefit from the deployment of national, regional and international assets as necessary to meet the needs of those affected.

Achievements

Timeliness of DREF response: The new procedures and criteria for DREF, which were introduced in the beginning of July, include criteria for consideration in the approval of DREF requests which put targets for the timeliness of requests in different situations. For example, requests for response to sudden-onset disasters are expected within 48 hours for large-scale events and with 7 – 10 days for smaller events.

The overall timeliness of DREF requests remains much the same as in 2010, with sudden onset disasters, such as the Cyclones that affected Madagascar or Vanuatu or the earthquake in Myanmar generating requests within 3 to 5 days of the event. For other sudden-onset events, such as the wind storms in Gabon or the explosion in Tanzania, the lapse of time between the event and the DREF request was 10 days.

The number of DREF requests for slow-onset or slowly evolving disasters was much higher in the first six months of 2011 than in 2010. These included a number of floods which developed over one or even two months of heavy rainfall such as the floods which affected Sri Lanka in January, or for flooding in South Africa and Lesotho. It is only when a critical level of needs has been reached that the National Society makes a request of financial support from the DREF, and the timeliness is in these cases more difficult to measure. The requests to support National Societies following the political and civil unrest in North Africa and the Middle East were made on average 3 weeks after

the beginning of the unrest. The National Societies, however, brought first aid and psychological assistance to people affected from the first days onwards but only requested DREF support either to repay the costs of action already taken, as in Lebanon, or to meet the humanitarian needs of people unable to carry out their usual income-generation activities after several weeks of the crises.

The response time to epidemics varied from 1 week, in the case of the outbreaks of Ebola and Yellow Fever in Uganda, to 3 weeks or 1 month in the case of cholera for example, which, in countries like Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo or Zimbabwe, is endemic and the rise in number of cases to a critical level is sometimes gradual. DREF supported two un-planned measles vaccination campaigns in Kenya and Republic of Congo and here the requests can be considered timely because they were made in advance of the campaigns, allowing the National Societies to raise awareness of the need to vaccinate children not covered by previous, planned campaigns.

Supporting needs assessments: Some examples of best practice taken from DREF operations are given below.

The first DREF allocation made in response to a request from the Malagasy Red Cross Society following Cyclone Bingiza, was made to allow the National Society to carry out emergency relief distributions and needs assessments, while the cyclone, which first hit the north of the country turned back and was affecting the south a few days later. A second allocation which was approved one month later covered the needs arising from all the affected areas, following the in-depth assessment. <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRMG007.pdf>
<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRMG00701.PDF>

After two cyclones had in short succession affected Vanuatu in January an initial DREF request was made based on an emergency estimation of needs. An in-depth assessment by the National Society made among the scattered islands affected led to a change in the plan of action. The water sources which were initially thought to be contaminated or damaged, were in fact fit for human consumption and water treatment and purification was no longer necessary. The National Society assessments also showed that some households, in majority widow or single mother-headed households, had not been taken into account by the provincial authorities and these were added to the list of the families needing assistance. It was also noted that many households were without essential hygiene supplies. The number of people was consequently increased from the original 2,500 families to 2,906 due to more accurate information available from the assessments. <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRVU001DREFFR.pdf>

Since the beginning of the civil unrest in Libya in mid-February, Nigerian migrant workers started returning to Niger, many crossing the border at the northern village of Dirkou. The Niger Red Cross branch in Dirkou mobilized 80 volunteers who provided immediate assistance to people arriving, but also collected data on the vulnerability of the migrants, and details of where their families were and what means of subsistence they had. In response to the assessment of needs the operation planned by the Niger Red Cross, funded through a DREF grant, not only covered emergency food distributions but also provided seeds and tools for migrants whose families had smallholdings, while others with no farmed plots of land received cash vouchers to allow them to start up some other means of income generation. <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRNE007.pdf>

Beneficiary consultation: A severe cold wave affected Bangladesh in January, especially affecting the poorest people who did not have enough warm clothing to protect themselves from the cold. In spite of the distribution of blankets by the government, the number available was inadequate to meet the needs. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society requested financial support from the DREF to purchase and distribute blankets and warm clothing for 20,000 families in 16 districts. Following the distributions, the National Society made visits to some of the communities who had received the packages and enquire if the items met their needs. The beneficiaries interviewed expressed their satisfaction with the quality, quantity and gender-sensitive items in the package while recommending more items specifically for children. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society organized a meeting in June where the operation was discussed and lessons learned used for the preparation of response plans, including the pre-positioning of stocks of warm clothes before the next winter season. <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRBD008%20FR.pdf>

In late February and early March 2011, the Kenya Red Cross Society responded to series of fires in informal settlements, bringing assistance to people injured and to households who had lost their homes. Rapid assessments highlighted the fact that a large number of children were affected by the fires, and therefore the National Society ensured that their response considered protection issues for children. Recommendations following their response have led to an increase in disaster risk reduction projects in informal settlements to heighten the awareness of the dangers and minimize the risk of fires caused by human error. <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRKE015dfr.pdf>

Similarly, the Tanzania Red Cross National Society paid specific attention to children's needs following an explosion which occurred on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam in February. Many children were separated from their families and the National Society succeeded in tracing 847 children, reuniting 828 of them with their families. <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRTZ011dfr.pdf>

An evaluation of the response operation in Vanuatu was carried out, firstly through beneficiary satisfaction surveys, then a workshop which brought together volunteers and National Society staff, representatives from local governments and other response actors, of the International Federation and of donors. The participants reviewed the key achievements and challenges, leading to recommendations for future disaster response operations and examples of good practice. <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRVU001DREFFR.pdf>

Deployment of regional resources: The Gabonese Red Cross Society requested support from the DREF in January following rain and wind storms which affected over 350 families in four localities. A Regional Disaster Response Team member (RDRT) was deployed to assist in training 27 volunteers during the response operation in distribution and sensitization techniques. In addition to relief distributions, the volunteers were able to organize sanitation and hygiene promotion campaigns and to accompany the distribution of shelter kits with instructions to beneficiaries on repairing their homes. <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRGA005du1.pdf>

Working in partnership

DREF advisory group: The five National Society representatives from the major donor countries to DREF, Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark the UK and Canada, who are members of the DREF advisory group attended the annual meeting of the group at the beginning of March 2010.

The group discussed the final draft of the new DREF procedures, criteria and guidelines and made recommendations which have been incorporated into the current version, which has been disseminated in July. The group also reviewed the findings and recommendations of the specified procedures audit of the DREF in line with DREF procedures and the Secretariat's financial procedures and provided advice to the DREF team on the implementation of and follow up to the recommendations. The group will also provide support to the Secretariat in preparing a position paper for the DREF as part of the Disaster Management Strategic Operating Framework which is currently being developed.

One of the outcomes from the meeting was for the advisory group members to be part of or to organize monitoring and evaluation of DREF operations, in coordination with the Secretariat. This is not only to reinforce the learning from DREF operations but also to provide more visibility for donors to the DREF and establish a closer link between DREF donors and user National Societies.

The advisory group is supporting the Secretariat in the organization of the annual DREF donor meeting which will take place in Geneva on 7 October 2011.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The revised DREF procedures, criteria and guidelines are being disseminated via the Secretariat's Zone and regional offices to National Societies and feedback on the feasibility of the new procedures and guidelines is being collected. Following an initial six month period, some modifications may be made if necessary. The new guidelines are intended to bring more clarity

around the eligibility of use of DREF and to promote timeliness in the requests and reporting on operations.

Monitoring and evaluation of DREF operations are being carried out in most regions and lessons learned incorporated into National Society training and planning. The DREF guidelines encourage National Societies to include the cost of monitoring and evaluation in the DREF operation budget and therefore systematize it more widely.

Some of the learning from recent DREF operations is being captured in case studies which are to be developed to share and discuss with donors at the annual DREF donor meeting in Geneva.

DREF procedures audit: A specified procedures audit of the use of DREF in line with DREF procedures and the Secretariat’s financial procedures was carried out between May and December 2010 by KPMG, the International Federation’s external auditors, as part of the Secretariat’s 2010 audit plan. The report provides 11 general recommendations, which have been discussed with the Secretariat management. Management comments on the recommendations and agreed follow-up have been included in a work plan for the Disaster Services Department and Finances Department.

The report has found that the systems and procedures in place are generally appropriate and the fund is adequately managed. Most of the recommendations concern compliance with existing DREF, finance and reporting procedures. The Secretariat has therefore proposed to monitor compliance more closely, and provide further support and training to National Societies and Federation project managers. Other recommendations have already being integrated into revised procedures and criteria and provide further clarity and justification in developing these criteria. The intention is to provide more transparency and consistency around approval of DREF requests and to improve the timeliness of DREF requests and reporting, while preserving the simplicity of the DREF procedures.

Looking ahead

The lower number of disasters reported and drop in the use of DREF during the first six months of the year does not mean that the trend will continue in the second half of 2011. The revision of the target amount of funding needed to meet requests in 2011 has been made on the basis of the level of requests made in 2010 to ensure a sufficient balance is maintained. Planning for the next five years will incorporate an increase in the target of funding necessary to meet National Societies’ requests for emergency financial support, but will remain flexible, based on actual needs.

How we work	
<p>All Federation 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 is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>The IFRC’s work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Contact information	
<p>For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Geneva Secretariat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simon Eccleshall, Head, Disaster Services Department; email: simon.eccleshall@ifrc.org; phone: +41 22 730 4281; fax: +41 22 733 0395. - Elizabeth Soulié, DREF senior officer; elizabeth.soulie@ifrc.org; phone: +41 22 730 4479 	