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## Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Moldova: Extreme winter conditions

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF n° MDRMD006</b>	<b>Glide n° CW-2019-000013-MDA</b>
<b>Date of issue: 6 February 2019</b>	<b>Expected timeframe: 4 months, Expected end date: 2 June 2019</b>
<b>Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow</b>	
<b>DREF allocated: CHF 161,502</b>	
<b>Total number of people affected: 5,460</b>	<b>Number of people to be assisted: 2,912</b>
<b>Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches):</b> Moldova Red Cross (MRC), HQ and regional branches in seven regions with eight staff and 110 volunteers	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> IFRC	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs	

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

Precarious meteorological conditions, abundant snow, low temperatures were registered between 11 and 12 January 2019 on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. The level of snow throughout the country reached 30 – 190 mm, which is extreme, with most of snow falling in the central and northern part of the Republic. The Government announced code of danger “yellow” in the country. On 11-12 January the roads were closed for any movement, but after 24 hours cleaned and opened again. 14 communities in 5 districts were left without electricity for one day. Low temperatures were registered (-5 to -11 C°).

Low temperatures in Moldova have been registered until the end of January. On the 20th of January several regions of the country were affected by the icy rain, which covered all the roads in snow. It is reported that in total 5,460 people were affected by the disaster. Many people with limited physical mobility and living alone were blocked in their houses limiting their ability to purchase required items, including food. Due to the lower than normal temperatures the housing condition proved to not be adequate to keep households warm. The most vulnerable are unable to afford the costs of heating and are concerned that additional costs associated with heating will indebt them further. Out of 5,460 affected people, 2,912 need Red Cross assistance. These are mainly older people, people with disabilities or people with very low income in their families. Because of their poverty<sup>1</sup>, they can't afford to heat the houses as the heating costs are very high. With the limited income, people prefer to spend money on food or for medicines rather than on heating or electricity put them at risk of developing illnesses and further exacerbating their difficult situation.

<sup>1</sup> Moldova is one of the poorest countries in the Europe Region, with the national poverty rate standing at 11.4 per cent. Due to grinding poverty and high levels of unemployment, some 1.5 million people - out of the population of 3.55 million - work abroad. 11.4 per cent of the population live in poverty, 6 per cent of the population experience absolute poverty and go hungry daily – they spend less than USD 2.5 per day.

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of Host National Society.

Moldova RC has about 100,000 members, 16 branches, about 800 active volunteers. All the activities are coordinated from the HQ. Frozen conflict in Transnistria contributes to a sustained and persistent vulnerability of large sections of the population. However, with the divided country, Red Cross still stays united – Moldova RC has access to the vulnerable population on both sides of Dniester river.

Staff and volunteers of the Moldova Red Cross have started collection of clothes and footwear. Donations from the local population made it possible to distribute used clothes to 210 people. Moldova Red Cross has also addressed *DeFacto* clothes company with the request to provide warm clothes and footwear as in-kind donations. Already 56 volunteers are involved in the provision of support to those affected. Moldova Red Cross is planning to recruit more volunteers for the operation, thus the total number of the volunteers involved will reach 110 people.

### Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) for Russia, Belarus and Moldova is cooperating closely with the National Society's leadership and disaster management staff at the HQ level in assessing the needs and the response to the cold wave situation. The IFRC CCST is also in contact with the partners within the Movement and external partners to attract possible support, including expertise. ICRC supports MRC from their regional office in Moscow. Since the beginning of 2018 the ICRC support to the MRC focuses on dissemination of humanitarian values in two branches of Beltsi and Benderi.

The Norwegian RC is supporting a twinning cooperation with three branches of MRC. The Austrian RC does not have an established programmatic cooperation with the Moldova RC but are partnering with a local NGO through the Provoice project. Swiss RC is present in country but so far without a programmatic support to the NS. The Turkish Red Crescent provides in-kind support to the vulnerable people living in Moldova – mainly distribution of food parcels is organized in cooperation with the Turkish Embassy in Moldova and Moldova Red Cross.

### Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The overall coordination of the response to unfavourable winter conditions rests with the Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. 445 staff of emergency service and 141 rescue vehicles were used to help those stranded on roads. The state institutions and the service of the emergency situations carried out road cleaning works and cleared up access ways to shops, medical institutions. State Services have helped homeless people, who were hosted in Placement Centres, and offered hot food.

## Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

### Needs analysis

According to Moldova Red Cross, in seven regions (Edinet, Telenesti, Calaras, Ungheni, Basarabeasca, Criuleni, Anenii Noi.) of the country, 41 communities in total, at least 1,040 families (2,912 people) need support during the cold weather period. These are older people living in unfavorable social conditions, people with disabilities, with critical health status, who are left without food supplies and heating resources. The breakdown of families in need by region is presented in *Table 1* below.

With the low pensions and extremely high electricity and utility costs these people cannot afford to warm up their lodgings and they are suffering in the cold. Snowfall made it difficult to access the local shops to purchase food. These people have an urgent need of food supplies, blankets and heaters. With the high prices for electricity in Moldova and very low income of the vulnerable people, support to cover bills for electricity is also needed. With such support those affected by the cold wave will have a possibility to make one warm room in their house which will protect their health status and living in dignity and safety until the weather is warmer in spring.

**Table 1.** Beneficiary needs per region

Region	Number of communities affected	Number of families affected	Needs
Edinet	5	150	Food parcels, blankets, heaters, cash to cover electricity bills
Telenesti	6	136	Food parcels, blankets, heaters, cash to cover electricity bills
Calaras	4	130	Food parcels, blankets, heaters, cash to cover electricity bills
Ungheni	11	220	Food parcels, blankets, heaters, cash to cover electricity bills
Basarabasca	3	134	Food parcels, blankets, heaters, cash to cover electricity bills
Criuleni	5	120	Food parcels, blankets, heaters, cash to cover electricity bills
Anenii Noi	7	150	Food parcels, blankets, heaters, cash to cover electricity bills
Total	41	1,040	

The cash to cover electricity bills will be provided directly to the provider of the electricity services. The funds will be transferred by Moldova Red Cross. However, with the lack of experience of the National Society in cash programmes, the IFRC will guide the NS through the process and will contribute greatly to organizing negotiations with the electricity providers.

The amount of cash, overall (CHF 83,200, CHF 80 per person) is based on the following calculation:

The heater consumes 1.5 kWh. It is expected that the beneficiaries will run the heater for 8 hours a day (1 hour of work of the heater, two hours of rest), for 60 days. The average cost of kWh in Moldova is 1.8 MDL (=CHF 0.10).  $1.5 \times 8 \times 60 \times 0.10 = \text{CHF } 72$ . An additional 10% has been added to cover additional electricity consumption relating to cooking, heating water and other essential activities, thus the cost for electricity for one person will be CHF 80 for the DREF operation period (60 days of consumption are covered). With 1,040 families to be assisted, the overall cash transfer amount will be CHF 83,200 for the DREF operation period (60 days of consumption are covered).

## B. Operational strategy

### Overall Operational objective:

The current operation aims to provide immediate relief assistance to cover needs of 1,040 families most at risk and affected by low temperatures over four months of 2019.

The operation will be coordinated by Moldova Red Cross HQ disaster response specialist and branch chairpersons in their areas of responsibility. The President of Moldova Red Cross will be involved in overall control and monitoring of the operation. Red Cross volunteers will implement the delivery of the emergency assistance. During the relief operation, state services will assist Red Cross affiliates in evaluating and collecting beneficiaries' lists.

Deployment of one Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) member with strong cash and voucher background and who speaks Russian or Romanian from the start of the operation will add value to support the National Society in managing the operation, negotiations with suppliers and relief distribution. Key staff of Moldova RC will be providing relief assistance to the affected population.

The IFRC and/or an RDRT member will provide technical support to Moldova RC to develop terms of reference for procurement within the operation, and technical support during the tendering procedure if required. The IFRC/RDRT will provide technical support to Moldova RC in designing and managing the cash allocations for the electricity bills. The staff and volunteers of Moldova RC will be also providing psychosocial support to the affected people, talking to them, explaining how they can protect themselves during cold winter and will ensure supportive communication.

IFRC will provide logistics and relief expertise in the form of RDRT support in the operation for Moldova Red Cross from the commencement of the operation until it is needed and justified. The objective of the mission will be to help the procurement process and to build the disaster management capacities of the NS in the relief distribution phases as well.

No health activities are envisaged for the present DREF operation. The health activities will be supported by the state health care system (hospitals, polyclinics and ambulances). In case MRC volunteers and staff during distribution of relief items will see that people require medical assistance, referral will be provided to the state medical institutions.

**Table 2.** Specification of the goods to be purchased.  
(One parcel will be distributed per family; one distribution planned.)

Food parcel (one parcel per family for one month)	Blanket	Heater
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wheat flour – 2 kg</li> <li>• Sugar – 3 kg</li> <li>• Buckwheat – 3 kg</li> <li>• Cooking oil – 2 l</li> <li>• Pasta – 2 kg</li> <li>• Rice – 3 kg</li> <li>• Canned fish/meat – 8 pcs</li> <li>• Cardboard boxes-packaging with printer labels – 1 piece</li> </ul>	Blanket, size 200x230 mm, with synthetical filler	Electric oil heater, heating area 17-20 m <sup>2</sup> , overheat control, 1500 Watt







## Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 28,265

P&B Output Code	<b>S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform</b>																
	<b>Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected</b>	<i>110 volunteers are properly prepared to assist the operation</i>															
	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP040	Ensure that volunteers are insured	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x								
AP040	Provide complete briefings on volunteers' roles and the risks they face			x	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
AP040	Provide psychosocial support to volunteers			x	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
AP040	Ensure volunteers are aware of their rights and responsibilities			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
AP040	Ensure volunteers' safety and wellbeing			x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
AP040	Ensure volunteers are properly trained			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	x				
P&B Output Code	<b>Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place</b>	<i>3 staff are hired and are fully operational in their positions</i>															
	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	AP042	Activities on strengthening organizational capacities of the national societies (not related to any of Areas of Focus)			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
P&B Output Code	<b>Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured</b>																
	<b>Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained</b>	<i>1 RDRT mission is launched to support the operation</i>															
	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP046	RDRT member is deployed to support with planning and implementation of the cash and procurement operation	X	X	X	X	X	X										
AP046	RDRT mission deployed to help the NS capacity to respond (distribution of relief, monitoring and LLW)			x	x	x	x									x	x
P&B Output Code	<b>Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.</b>																





## Budget

The total budget for this DREF operation is CHF 161,502. Please refer to the DREF budget appended to this EPoA for details.

### Contact information

**For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. 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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



**Save lives,**  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



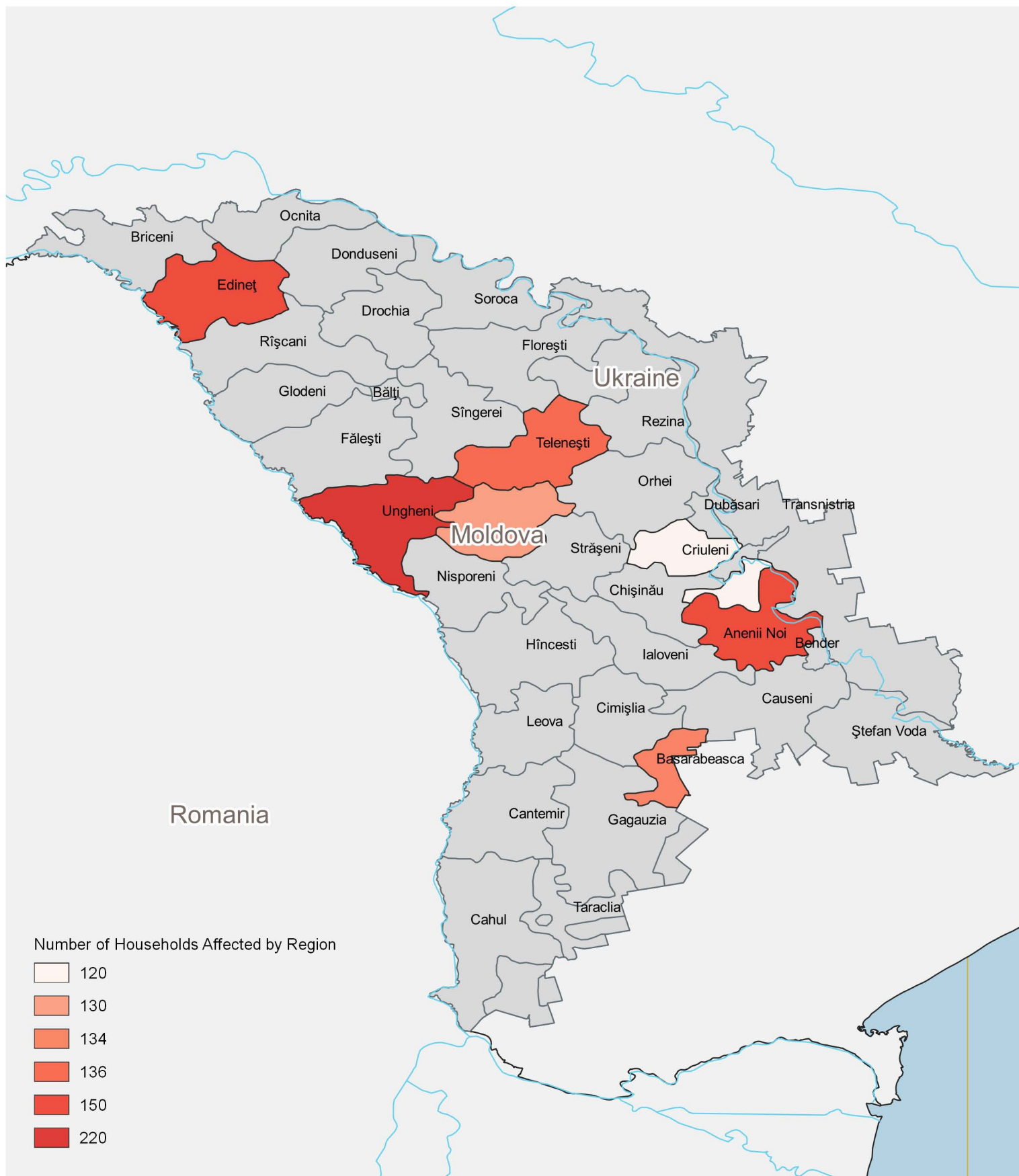
Promote **social inclusion**  
and a culture of  
**non-violence** and **peace**.



# Moldova: Extreme winter conditions

1 February 2019

Glide Number: CW-2019-000013



## DREF OPERATION

### Moldova - Extreme Winter Conditions

Budget Group		Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Bilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF
500	Shelter - Relief	0			0
501	Shelter - Transitional	0			0
502	Construction - Housing	0			0
503	Construction - Facilities	0			0
505	Construction - Materials	0			0
510	Clothing & Textiles	31,200			31,200
520	Food	22,880			22,880
523	Seeds & Plants	0			0
530	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0			0
540	Medical & First Aid	0			0
550	Teaching Materials	0			0
560	Ustensils & Tools	0			0
570	Other Supplies & Services	52,000			52,000
571	Emergency Response Units	0			0
578	Cash Disbursements	0			0
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRU</b>		<b>106,080</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>106,080</b>
580	Land & Buildings	0			0
581	Vehicles	0			0
582	Computer & Telecom Equipment	0			0
584	Office/Household Furniture & Eq	0			0
587	Medical Equipment	0			0
589	Other Machinery & Equipment	0			0
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EC</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
590	Storage, Warehousing	0			0
592	Dsitribution & Monitoring	2,400			2,400
593	Transport & Vehicle Costs	0			0
594	Logistics Services	0			0
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT</b>		<b>2,400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,400</b>
600	International Staff	10,000			10,000
661	National Staff	0			0
662	National Society Staff	9,800			9,800
667	Volunteers	3,465			3,465
669	Other Staff Benefits	0			0
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>		<b>23,265</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,265</b>
670	Consultants	0			0
750	Professional Fees	0			0
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFE</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
680	Workshops & Training	3,400			3,400
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>		<b>3,400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,400</b>
700	Travel	10,800			10,800
710	Information & Public Relations	3,200			3,200
730	Office Costs	2,500			2,500
740	Communications	0			0
760	Financial Charges	0			0
790	Other General Expenses	0			0
799	Shared Office and Services Costs	0			0

	<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>16,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,500</b>
		0			0
830	Partner National Societies	0			0
831	Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0			0
	<b>Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
599	Programme and Services Support	9,857	0	0	9,857
	<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>9,857</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,857</b>
	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>161,502</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>161,502</b>
	<b>Available Resources</b>				
	Multilateral Contributions				0
	Bilateral Contributions				0
	<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>NET DREF OPERATION NEEDS</b>	<b>161,502</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>161,502</b>