



MALI: DROUGHT

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 156,400 (USD 126,845 or EUR 99,427) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs of this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over 1 month, and will be completed by 31 August, 2006; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 31 November 2006). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's 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".

Global Agenda Goals:

- 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.

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All International 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.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The situation

The local authorities of the Kidal region, 1,500 km from Mali's capital city– Bamako – situated in the far Northern part of the country, is once again suffering from the effects of drought that has led the regional governor to launch an appeal to assist members of the 11 communities of this region. Kidal is the poorest and most remote region of

Mali: Drought; DREF no. MDRML002

Mali; it is also the biggest region, covering 21% of the country. Although an arid desert land with an average of less than 200 mm of rain per year, nomadic rebels launched an insurgency in the Saharan trading town of Kidal in May this year, campaigning for more autonomy in their economically-marginalized region and raising fears of a full-scale desert rebellion. This led to social unrest, leaving thousands of people internally displaced and creating much speculation about an increase in the prices of food stuffs except for rice which was subsidized by the government.

A peace agreement between the belligerents and the government, has led the launch of some development programmes for the remote and abandoned region where there are no tarmac roads and water is too difficult to access. Currently, about three people die daily of starvation as they search for water with their herds. Medical facilities have been deserted by health personnel due to the insecurity and famine, leading to an increase in mortality among children aged under – especially during delivery. Only one out of 10 children born survives.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action taken so far

In July 2005, the Federation launched a food security Emergency Appeal for four Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger), which is scheduled to be phased out by the end of September 2006 – for the Appeal Extension, please refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/05/05EA01504.pdf>. However, due to climatic changes and emergencies in this part of Mali, the Federation regional delegation in Dakar has planned to provide 375 metric tonnes (MT) of food for a one-off distribution to the affected population. The challenge is to procure 18 MT additional to the 357 MT unearmarked food available in Niger and to transport it urgently to the affected remote area of Mali for distribution.

Hence, a joint Federation/Mali Red Cross team has been deployed to assess the appropriate logistical and relief possibilities to take the food to the victims of this far-off region. The local branches have been mobilized and are working closely with the assessment team, especially in the identification of distribution points since the nomad populations are scattered.

Coordination

Despite the difficulties to reach the affected communities and to come up with a final report, a plan of action has been prepared to provide 375 MT of complete food ration. This will target some populations that are not part of the nutritional recuperation programme of Action Against Hunger – supported by the World Food Programme (WFP) – as well as those who have benefited from food donation from Japan. The Red Cross will provide one-time relief to the most vulnerable people so as to fill the humanitarian assistance gap in this region.

Plan of action

Objective: The Federation has assisted the Mali Red Cross in providing emergency 30-day food rations to 25,000 most affected people in Kidal region.

Expected results:

- 375 MT of food is transported and taken to the identified distribution points;
- At least 5,000 most vulnerable families receive 30-day food rations;
- 60 volunteers have been mobilized to help in the distribution activities;
- The displacement of the local population and mortality among children in Kidal is reduced by increasing their capacity to survive.

Activities

- Transport food from Niamey to Gao and Kidal.
- Organize distribution of food rations.
- Distribute food rations to affected populations.
- Sensitize the populations to gather at distribution points for food rations.
- Carry out sensitization and promotion of hygiene practices due to water scarcity.

Strategies

- The main activities of the Mali Red Cross will focus on providing food rations to 25,000 nomadic people through gatherings at villages identified as distribution points.
- The relief distribution will mainly target the most-affected communities, especially families with children aged under five years, pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities.
- Sensitization of the local population on the importance of the food rations, instead of providing only one element of a normal daily meal, using key messages during distribution activities.

Budget outline

Type	Value (CHF)
Beneficiary needs	
Food	18,532
Teaching materials	240
Sub-total 1 (beneficiary needs)	18,772
Operational needs	
Transport and vehicles	93,044
National staff	11,194
Sub-total 2 (Operational needs)	104,238
General expenses	6,456
Other administrative costs	6472
RD budget, plus FMC	10,298
PSR (6.5% of total)	10,166
Total	156,402

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