

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)

CHF 7,000,000

Programme No. 01.69/2000

The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a key emergency response tool for the Federation, allowing funds to be released immediately after a disaster and facilitating the rapid start up of an emergency operation. DREF resources are made available in response to an appeal, in the process leading to an appeal, or in response to a small scale emergency where an appeal is not feasible. In the case of a large-scale disaster, a DREF allocation allows a National Society or Federation delegation to start tendering and procurement immediately – without waiting for pledges or cash in response to an appeal. DREF is also used for the many minor catastrophes that receive little, if any, media coverage. Their victims may rely entirely on a Red Cross or Red Crescent response, and as an auxiliary to the Government, the National Society concerned may be required to respond. In this way, the DREF fills a critical gap. Because allocations are provided on a refundable basis, the DREF is a revolving fund, and contributions are used to provide assistance well in excess of the actual amount contributed.

In 1999, the DREF was used on 48 occasions, releasing a total of CHF 5,123,994. Allocations ranged from CHF 6,000 to CHF 500,000. CHF 1, 145,948 was later reimbursed from these appeals. The total income received from donors in 1999 was CHF 2,158,511 (All figures as at 15 November).

How It Works

An application for DREF is made through the Federation Secretariat's regional departments; funds can be on their way in a matter of hours. The maximum for a DREF allocation is CHF 500,000 if an appeal is planned, and CHF 300,000 in all other cases. When an appeal is launched for an operation benefiting from DREF, the DREF allocation is reimbursed if the appeal is well supported. The Federation Secretariat issues monthly DREF reports, providing summaries of operations supported, as well as income and expenditure summaries. Individual reports are not provided for DREF as earmarking is not accepted.

Donors can now be included on a unique internet address which has been created to immediately inform the donor community of DREF allocations. This information is usually provided within hours of the allocation.