

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF)

13 January 2005

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 181 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No.05AA084; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: July to December 2005;

Appeal target: CHF 4,000,000; Appeal coverage: 79.9%

(click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List (also available on the website).

Programme summary: as of 29 December 2005, the provisional balance of DREF stands at CHF 5m. A total of CHF 10,495,218 in allocations has been made to various emergencies. 47.5% of these allocations are for minor emergencies for which no emergency appeal has been launched, and 52% for response operations for which an emergency appeal has been launched. The allocations target a variety of natural disasters or civil disturbances, and they range from CHF 11,000 to CHF 1,000,000. CHF 2,859,400 of the allocations for emergency appeals has been reimbursed to the fund. Direct contributions to the DREF Appeal stand at CHF 4,345,394. The Federation will continue to use the fund as extensively as needs require, and will ensure regular refunds when emergency appeals are launched, and as the level of un-earmarked funds allows.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact: in Geneva: Operations Support Department, Peter Rees: phone: +41 22 730 4455 email: <peter.rees@ifrc.org>

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

In line with the goal of DREF to provide immediate funding in response to major and minor disasters, enabling the International Federation and national societies to react rapidly and effectively, the DREF was used for nearly one in four of disasters in 2005. The number of allocations and the amount allocated has doubled compared with 2004. Specific support received from the Netherlands Government and Netherlands Red Cross for silent emergencies (EUR 1.064m, CHF 1.649m) has allowed the International Federation to increase the amount allocated to minor emergencies from CHF 1.72 million in 2004 to CHF 4.78 million in 2005. As no emergency appeal is launched for these minor emergencies, the DREF allocations are not automatically reimbursed. Specific donor support is therefore vital to allow the fund to continue supporting forgotten or silent emergencies. Allocations to operations for which an emergency appeal have been launched have also increased by over 200% (CHF 2.81 million to CHF 5.73 million) and at 31 December the reimbursements to the DREF stand at CHF 2,859,400.

It was for the Africa region that support from the DREF was the greatest in 2005. Although the Asia Pacific region registered the largest number of disasters, followed by the Americas, where the 2005 hurricane season was the worst on record, it was in Africa that the DREF funding made the biggest difference. This is a reflection of the national societies in Africa which have generally a strong volunteer base but little funding compared with Asian national societies. Minor emergency allocations allow African national societies to make a huge impact in the fight against epidemics or in responding to floods, for example, where timely action at community level is vital to bring help to affected communities. It also reflects the slow onset disasters affecting African countries like drought and food insecurity for which DREF was also used to allow timely response and awareness-raising when donor interest was not yet focusing on these emergencies. National Societies in Central America and in Central Europe were also able to call upon DREF funds when their countries were affected by multiple flooding episodes in 2005. Having replaced their preparedness stocks thanks to DREF allocations, they were able to meet the needs to beneficiaries when flooding hit their countries for the second or third time in 12 months.

The Secretariat is seeking funding to allow it to continue to provide support to minor emergencies through the DREF and in order to keep the level of the fund at a constant CHF 8 m. It's level at 31 December 2005 stood at CHF 5 million.

Goal: The goal of the DREF is to provide immediate funding in response to major and minor disasters and preparedness activities thereby enabling the Federation and national societies to react rapidly, effectively and efficiently.

Objective: To make the DREF a secured line of funding for new emergencies of all sizes as well as a source of funding for disaster preparedness.

Progress/Achievements:

Africa

In 2005, 34 DREF allocations were made for emergencies in the Africa region, for a total amount of CHF 4.99 million. 24 allocations were for minor emergencies (CHF 2.16m). The total amount allocated for Africa represents a half of the total DREF allocations in 2005.

Five DREF minor emergency allocations have been made to support response to Cholera outbreaks in Mozambique, Senegal, Cameroon, Guinea Bissau and Ghana, and 2 allocations to Sudan and Mali to respond to yellow fever outbreaks. A significant allocation (CHF 252,000) was also made to support Red Cross Red Crescent response to the Marburg Fever outbreak in Angola. The Red Cross and Red Crescent has an important and significant role to play in preventing the spread of these highly infectious diseases. The volunteers and national Red Cross and Red Crescent society staff work directly with the communities and are the front line in advocating and implementing preventive measures and practices. The ministries of health and international organizations like the World Health Organisation in fact rely of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies to go this last mile in ensuring prevention and a speedy response is essential. DREF allocations allow this and cover not only the provision of hygiene and cholera kits, but also the training and deployment of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers, who have access to communities where other organisations do not.

Many infectious diseases like Ebola, Marburg, Lassa and Cholera is highly contagious; without a rapid response outbreaks of such diseases can spread very rapidly, some of them with high case fatality rates. The impact of having funds available to finance response when and where it is needed is significant and allows the Red Cross and Red Crescent to fulfil its valuable role of alleviating suffering.

Nine allocations were made to allow national societies to meet the needs of communities affected by floods. In each case the funds were used not only to assess the needs to those affected and provide them with relief items, but also to train new volunteers to carry out distributions and hygiene and sanitation education campaigns. Each operation highlighted the role and work of the Red Cross Red Crescent with local authorities and the local population. In Nigeria, following response to heavy rains which seriously affected the north eastern Taraba

province, the Deputy Governor praised the Red Cross for its efficiency and reliability and promised to assist the national society whenever Government assistance is needed in the future. CHF 100,000 was released from the DREF to bring assistance to beneficiaries displaced and made homeless by the floods. They benefited from a 30-day distribution of food and non-food items and over 50 trained volunteers carried out hygiene and sanitization education talks in the camps. Many new volunteers were registered in the communities affected, motivated by the work of their friends, relatives and colleagues.

In Angola, when torrential rain affected the city of Dondo and localities in the Caxicana and Bengo provinces in March, the Angola Red Cross played a leading role in coordinating relief operations in cooperation with the Government, UNICEF and the World Food Programme. The DREF minor emergency allocation of CHF 44,171 allowed the Angola Red Cross to assist beneficiaries through the provision of temporary shelter, nutritional feeding, water and sanitation facilities, non food items including mosquito nets, tracing and family reunification. They also conducted social mobilization activities in an effort to prevent the spread of diarrhoeal diseases, cholera and malaria. The sensitization campaigns on the correct use of mosquito nets, safe water and adequate latrines provided the national society the opportunity to publicize its principles at the grassroots level.

Three major operations in Africa to meet the needs created by situations of food insecurity and for which Emergency Appeals were launched in 2005 in the Sahel, southern Africa and East Africa regions benefited from allocations from the DREF. In each case, the allocations allowed the national societies to carry out in-depth assessments of the needs, to start up operations and draw donor attention to the gravity of the situation. In the most recent operation in north eastern Kenya, the Kenya Red Cross supported by the International Federation through a DREF allocation of CHF 427,808, and, in cooperation with the Government, will bring assistance to over 300,000 of the most affected population identified by the assessment carried out in December.

Americas

A total of 19 DREF allocations were made for the Americas region, for a total of CHF 2.15m. 13 of these were minor emergencies (CHF 953,000) and 4 Emergency Appeals (CHF 1.2 million).

The year 2005 will be remembered in Central America, the Caribbean and North America for the record number of 27 named tropical storms. Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma, that caused widespread damage in the southern United States and Mexico respectively, were certainly foremost in the international media, but other tropical storms that affected the Caribbean and Central American countries during the hurricane season also caused extensive damage. They stretched the means of the Red Cross societies to bring assistance to the communities affected by floods, landslides and storm damage and DREF was called upon frequently to allow them to meet emergency needs and replenish stocks. Seven of the minor emergency allocations were for South America, where the national societies in Chile and Peru responded to needs caused by earthquakes, while those in Guyana, Venezuela and Colombia carried out response operations following flooding .

At the beginning of the year before the start of the Hurricane season, an emergency DREF allocation of CHF 300,000 was made to allow the prompt mobilization of relief goods from the International Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) to assist the Guyana Red Cross Society meet the emergency needs of 6,000 families amongst those affected by widespread flooding. An emergency appeal was subsequently launched to support the national society in its operation to bring assistance to 30,000 beneficiaries for 8 months.

Similarly, a DREF allocation of CHF 250,000 allowed PADRU to airlift relief materials to Grenada, Jamaica and Haiti when they were hit in quick succession by Hurricanes Dennis and Emily in July. These were countries badly damaged by Hurricane Ivan in 2004, and still recovering when the new hurricanes hit early in the hurricane season. However, lessons learned from Ivan had been integrated into preparedness and response measures resulting in efficient assistance to those in need.

Two DREF minor emergency allocations were made to the Colombian Red Cross (CRC) when the country was responding to a series of major disasters in October and November: damage caused by Hurricane Beta and volcanic activity. The CRC has extensive disaster response experience and resources, and has well prepared contingency plans for responding to damage caused by the floods, hurricane and volcanic eruption. However, the repetition of emergencies over a short time period put strain on their resources and the total allocation of CHF 50,000 allowed the CRC to meet the needs of beneficiaries rapidly and implement the necessary contingency plans.

During the internal unrest that took place in Bolivia in early June one of the areas most affected by the demonstrations, El Alto located on the outskirts of La Paz, is also home to some of the most vulnerable people in the country. The road network has blocked for 3 weeks, water supplies were limited in several areas and food became more and more expensive. The Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) responded immediately to the emergency needs of 1,000 vulnerable families, identified with the cooperation of the president of the neighborhood association of El Alto and a representative of Oxfam-GB which is working with BRC in the region. The immediate release of CHF 60,000 from the DREF allowed them to deliver food packages to ease the food shortage for at least a month.

This operation also had other impacts for the BRC. The serious longer term needs of the inhabitants of El Alto in food, hygiene and water and sanitation infrastructure were recognized and under the existing memorandum of understanding between the Federation and Oxfam-GB longer term initiatives are being implemented to meet these needs. The role played by the BRC during the troubles, supporting the Ministry of Health with ambulances and volunteers, allowed it to enhance the recognition of the Red Cross emblem as a symbol of impartiality and humanity.

Asia Pacific

Twelve allocations for a total of CHF 1.61 million were made for emergencies in the Asia Pacific region in 2005. Six were for minor emergencies (CHF 625,000) and 6 for Emergency Appeals (CHF 990,000)

The tsunami that hit Asian countries at the end of 2004, and the severe earthquake that affected Pakistan in October 2005 overshadowed other disasters in Asia this year by the extent of the damage they caused. The region remained the area most affected by disasters in 2005 with Red Cross Red Crescent national societies responding to a recorded 129 emergencies. An allocation of CHF 200,000 was made to Pakistan to finance the immediate response to the earthquake. However, the largest allocation from DREF for the Asia region was as minor emergency allocation (CHF 345,000) to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to allow replenishment of preparedness stocks following severe flooding in South Pyongan Province.

Two allocations to emergency appeals were made for Afghanistan. CHF 100,000 was released from DREF to support the operation which was initiated to assist the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) in responding to the severe winter conditions in Kabul by providing basic support to more than 17,000 persons whose vulnerability has been worsened by heavy snow and rainfall and freezing temperatures. Subsequently, the exceptional snowfall and continuing heavy rainfalls caused serious floods, avalanches and landslides with the onset of the spring melt. A second DREF allocation of CHF 200,000 was made and a new emergency appeal was launched on 31 March to assist 70,000 affected people across the country with focus also on further strengthening the coordination, disaster management and logistics capacity of the national society. Timely and effective response to these emergencies has raised the profile of the ARCS and the national society is receiving positive response from local partners and corporate and private donors.

A DREF minor emergency allocation of CHF 50,000 made in March to the newly formed National Society in Timor Leste also helped raise the profile of the organization with national authorities and communities. Delayed rainfall and recurrent crop failure in some parts of Timor-Leste exacerbated the annual food shortages in rural areas. The DREF allowed the National Society, the Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL), to carry out an assessment and needs analysis and develop a response plan to meet the immediate needs of the affected communities and sustain them until the next harvest. As well as assisting the community and improving their livelihoods, the standing of the CVTL within the community was strengthened and the opportunity given to spread awareness of the Red Cross Movement and its principles. The volunteers who were recruited and trained to carry out the distributions and the lessons learned will form the basis of the CVTL's future disaster management planning.

Europe

Sixteen DREF allocations of a total of CHF 1.39 million were made to central and eastern European countries and the Russian Federation in 2005, 12 of them for minor emergencies (CHF 1.05m) and 4 for Emergency Appeals (CHF 342,000)

DREF; Appeal no. 05AA084; Programme Update no. 2

DREF funds were a vital lifeline in Europe throughout 2005, enabling national Red Cross societies to deliver immediate relief to communities suffering from severe snow storms in the Balkan region during the winter months, and from flooding in central and eastern Europe during the summer.

At the beginning of the year three countries that were affected by heavier than usual snowfall, Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina and Serbia Montenegro, received minor emergencies funding allowing them to replenish disaster preparedness stocks used to meet the emergency needs of the most affected communities. Local funding sources for stock replenishment are scarce and although national societies have excellent disaster response systems backed up with experienced and skilled staff and volunteers, without the goods to deliver, their response capacity would be severely curtailed. Building on lessons learned from last winter, this autumn a DREF allocation of CHF 123,879 was made to allow the National Society in Kosovo to bring assistance to vulnerable people, in particular the elderly living without family support, to prepare for the winter weather. Repairs were carried out of their homes, wood stoves, wood and food reserves provided to them. Their longer term needs including basic medical assistance and psychosocial support will be incorporated into a longer-term home care programme.

In the spring, severe flooding affected Romania, Serbia Montenegro and Georgia leading to DREF requests and to Emergency Appeals. The DREF funds allowed Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRT) to be deployed immediately to assist the national societies in assessing the emergency needs and coordinating response. In the case of Georgia, (CHF 50,000) the funds were used to allow rapid deployment of a Field Assessment and Coordination team, which assisted the national society with an in-depth assessment of the needs, to start up the relief operation and helped highlight awareness of the National Society's position and role with its Government.

Recovery from effects of flooding in Romania in the spring had barely taken place when further flooding affected the country in July, as well as in Bulgaria and Moldova. Regional Disaster Response Team training was taking place in Bulgaria at the time the first wave of flooding hit and experienced RDRT members together with course participants were deployed to conduct immediate assessments. The combination of DREF and RDRT were a winning combination in terms of efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring a prompt, professional and quality response.

The DREF funding not only allowed the national societies to bring rapid and appropriate response to all these disasters, but has also been making up for a funding shortfall that has recently affected the National Societies of the new EU accession countries. In the past, traditional donor national societies in Europe received funds from their governments to help central European national societies. This year however the governments assisted EU accession country governments directly, and the Red Cross has not benefited from the funds. In this case, DREF has been vital in allowing the national societies to carry out their mandate of meeting the needs of vulnerable people.

Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Four DREF allocations were made to the MENA region in 2005 for a total of CHF 247,000. Three were for minor emergencies (CHF 147,000) and one Emergency Appeal allocation (CHF 100,000)

The 3 minor emergency allocations allowed national societies to meet immediate relief needs from flash flooding in Yemen and to tornado damage in Tunisia, while the Egyptian Red Crescent responded to a series of bomb attacks which hit the Egyptian resort city of Sharm El Sheikh, located on the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula, by immediately providing support those in need. Priority was given to injured, handicapped or to those who lost their business places.

Throughout the civil war in Lebanon, the Lebanese Red Cross ensured the provision of ambulance services in the country, training and providing highly skilled volunteers to carry out this important mandate. Since October 2004, Lebanon has witnessed considerable political turmoil including bomb attacks and political assassinations. The political rift prevented the Lebanese Parliament from passing a budget law in preparation for the state budget of 2005. As 80% of the total income of the Lebanese Red Cross comes from the Government through the state budget, critical services have been suffering a severe shortage of funds since the beginning of 2005, most notably the life saving first aid/ambulance services.

A DREF allocation of CHF 100,000 ensured continuation of life-saving ambulance and first aid services to the population of Lebanon until the state budget is agreed. In spite of the ongoing highly unstable political situation and lack of funds, the Lebanese Red Cross has continued its regular missions, as well as responding to the extraordinary needs during demonstrations and car bombings. The Lebanese Red Cross has been able to carry out 450 – 500 life saving missions per day.

Disaster Preparedness

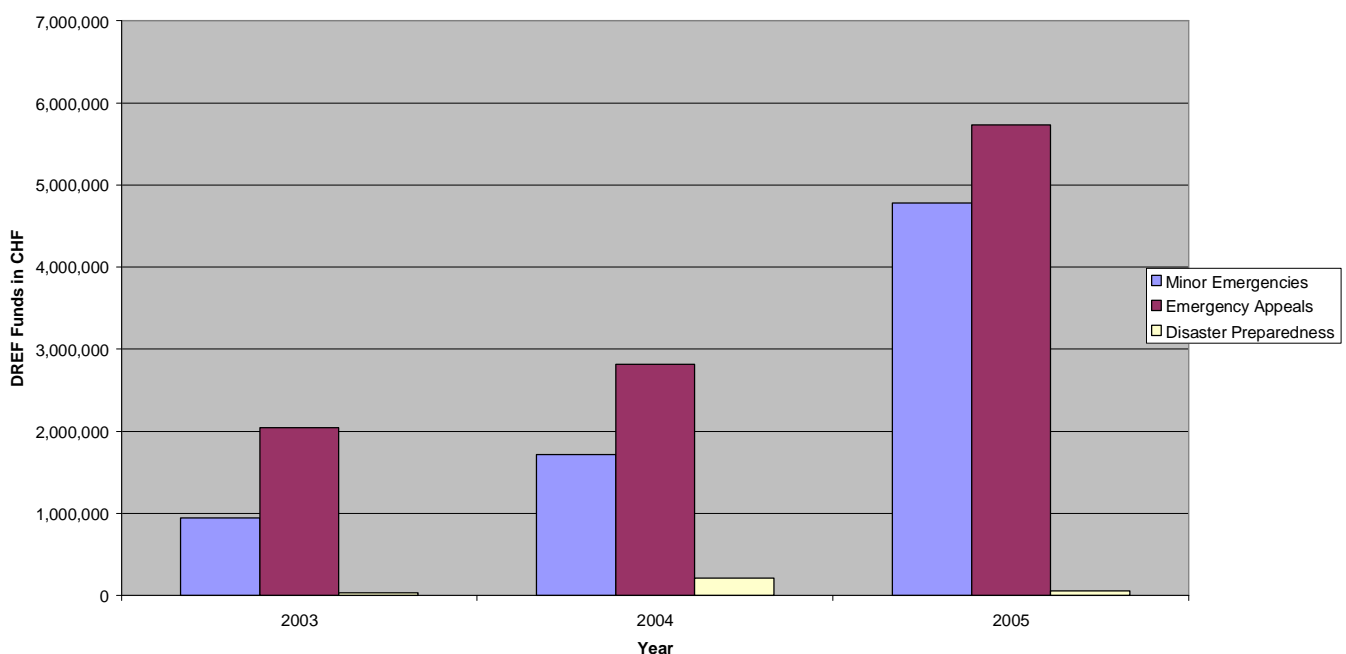
Two allocations were made to support disaster preparedness activities for a total of CHF 51,000.

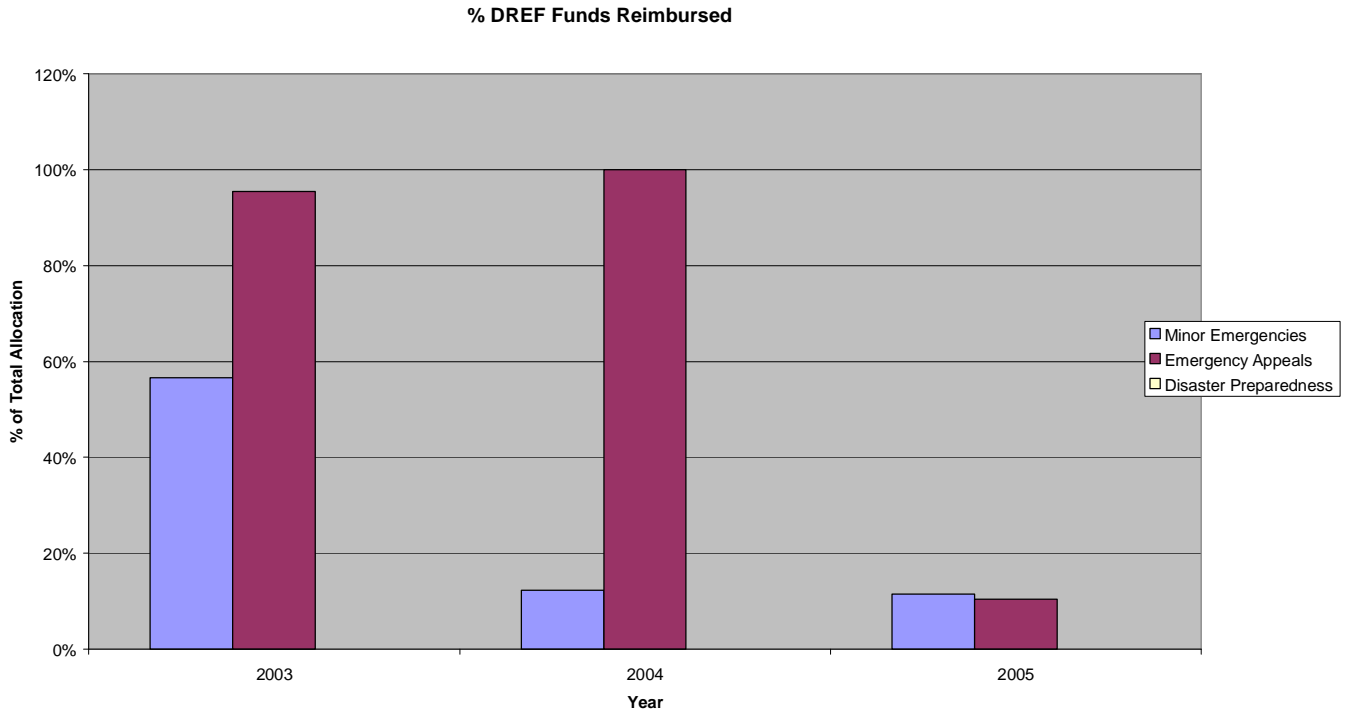
One allocation of CHF 22,000 was made to cover the costs of a regional disaster management planning meeting held in Ankara in March for the Central Europe region. The meeting brought disaster management staff from National Societies and delegations together to carry out contingency planning and prepare them for efficient and effective delivery of emergency relief in future disasters. The participants put together a “snapshot” of hazards and existing resources and plans, on which to base future planning for response and to reduce the impact of disasters in the long term.

The second allocation of CHF 29,000 was made to allow an assessment and planning mission focusing on water and sanitation in the Pacific region. The economic and social well-being of small island countries in the Pacific is dependent on quality and quantity of their water. Meanwhile, in many island countries factors such as climate variability, increasingly variable rainfall, accelerating storm water runoff and increasing demand for water are so significant that they threaten the economic development and the health of their people. Traditional and unsustainable hygiene and sanitation practices also carry a heavy impact on the health of the people and the environment in which they live.

The objective of the mission was to investigate areas of intervention for national societies who have expressed interest in developing water and sanitation capacities and develop a blue print for how a capacity can be developed, managed and incorporated as a cross-cutting and integral part of Red Cross programming. The mission’s focus covered the areas of water and sanitation in development and emergency response and was related to needs and expressed interest through strategic planning in respective National Society. General recommendations were made for the region on water and sanitation and logistics, and also country-specific programming recommendations for Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa and the Solomon Islands.

Breakdown of DREF Allocations





[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05AA084

PLEDGES RECEIVED

26/01/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	4,000,000	TOTAL COVERAGE 79.9%			
AUSTRALIA	58,774	28.01.05	MANAM VOLCANO		
AUSTRALIA	9,462	08.09.05	DPRK FLOODS		
BELGIUM - PRIVATE DONOR	2,166	EUR	3,330	11.05.05	
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT			496,900	01.01.05	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID	49,019	GBP	111,665	15.08.05	BULGARIA FOODS
BRITISH - RC	10,000	GBP	22,780	15.08.05	BULGARIA FOODS
BRITISH - RC	5,000	GBP	11,355	23.05.05	MARBURG FEVER
CANADIAN - GOVT	25,000	CAD	27,613	07.09.05	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC FLOODS
CANADIAN - RC	25,000	CAD	27,613	21.10.05	PARAGUAY DROUGHT
DANISH - GOVT			196,777	27.06.05	
FRENCH - PRIVATE DONOR			30	30.12.05	
ICELANDIC - RC	300,000	ISK	5,534	14.04.05	SERBIA & MONTENEGRO SNOWFALLS
ICELANDIC - RC	3,250,000	ISK	68,900	20.12.05	
IRISH - GOVT	50,000	EUR	77,500	30.08.05	BULGARIA FLOODS
JAPANESE - RC	65,697	USD	85,012	29.09.05	
LUXEMBOURG - RC	100,000	EUR	156,050	03.05.05	
MONACO - GOVT	24,997	EUR	38,633	16.11.05	
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	32,086	EUR	49,685	20.01.05	COSTA RICA FLOODS
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	24,603	EUR	37,876	17.02.05	SWAZILAND
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	42,781	EUR	66,267	22.03.05	SUDAN EXPLOSION IN JUBA
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	17,326	EUR	26,837	30.03.05	SENEGAL CHOLERA
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	34,497	EUR	53,039	13.04.05	ZAMBIA DROUGHT
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	34,497	EUR	53,039	13.04.05	ANGOLA MARBURG FEVER
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	42,781	EUR	66,224	10.06.05	KENYA FLOODS
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	42,781	EUR	66,224	10.06.05	YEMEN FLOODS
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	31,668	EUR	49,085	12.09.05	CENTRAL AFRICAN REP. FLOODS
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	13,734	EUR	21,288	12.09.05	GUINEA-BISSAU CHOLERA
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	32,086	EUR	49,733	12.09.05	NIGERIA FLOODS
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	32,086	EUR	49,733	12.09.05	KENYA MARSABIT UNREST
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	24,261	EUR	37,495	14.10.05	SENEGAL FLOODS
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	15,163	EUR	23,434	14.10.05	PERU EARTHQUAKE
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	34,225	EUR	52,895	14.10.05	MOLDOVA FLOODS
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	32,086	EUR	49,669	07.07.05	BULGARIA FLOODS
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	54,545	EUR	85,117	15.08.05	ROMANIA FLOODS
NETHERLANDS - RC	32,086	EUR	49,653	03.11.05	COLOMBIA & NICARAGUA HURRICANE BETA
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	34,565	EUR	53,800	18.11.05	COLOMBIA VOLCANIC ACTIVITY
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC	2,157,496	NOK	407,767	12.04.05	
PRIVATE DONORS ON LINE			150,085	20.01.05	
SAUDI ARABIAN - PRIVATE DONOR	85	USD	112	22.12.05	
SWEDEN	1,000,000	SEK	171,000	04.07.05	
USA - PRM	80,000	USD	102,440	26.09.05	
UNITED STATES - PRIVATE DONORS			25,680	23.03.05	

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05AA084

PLEDGES RECEIVED

26/01/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				3,196,105	CHF	79.9%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	