

# 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)

20 July 2006

*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.*

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### In Brief

Appeal No.AA00010; Programme Update no. 1; Period covered: 1 January to 30 June 2006;  
Appeal target for 2006-2007: CHF 15,000,000 (USD 12,195,121 or EUR 9,554,140);  
Appeal coverage: 4.8%; Outstanding needs: CHF 14,274,834 (USD 11,605,556 or EUR 9,092,250).  
Please note that this appeal is based on a two-year programme and budget amounting to CHF 15,000,000; the attached List of Contributions however reflects the first year (2006) budget of CHF 8.5 million, and therefore a coverage rate of 38.8%.

[<click here to view the attached List of Contributions>](#)

#### Programme summary:

As of 26 May 2006, the balance of the DREF stood at CHF 2,470,964, which is its lowest level since 2001 when the target for reserves was set at CHF 10 million. The opening balance on 1 January 2006 was CHF 7,044,922. A total of CHF 5,889,772 of allocations was made, CHF 2,493,056 for minor emergencies for which no automatic reimbursement mechanism exists, and CHF 2,516,716 for emergency appeals. These allocations will be reimbursed to the fund when and if sufficient un-earmarked funding to the appeal is received. Contributions to the appeal are currently at CHF 386,438 and reimbursements of 2006 allocations at CHF 200,000. Total income, including reimbursement of 2005 allocations stands at CHF 725,166. In spite of encouraging indications from donors of their forthcoming support to the appeal, this is insufficient to maintain a satisfactory operating balance in the fund. This update therefore encourages donors to contribute to the DREF appeal as a priority to allow it to carry out its function of providing emergency funding for disaster response operations.

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

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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 other Federation programmes or operations in specific countries, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

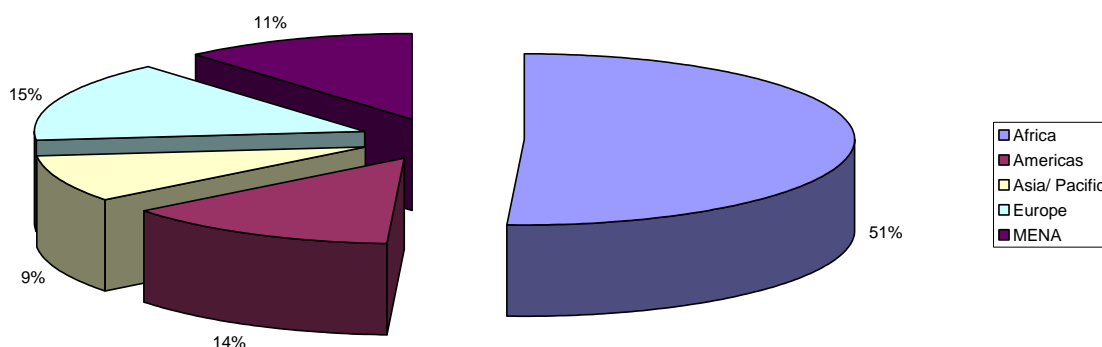
## Operational developments

Knowledge of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) among national societies has increased over the last year and the number of requests for funding, both for minor emergencies and emergency appeals, has increased once again in the first six months of 2006 by 8.5 per cent. All regions are using the fund and the trend that was seen in 2005 of an increase of funding from the DREF for minor emergencies, particularly for the Africa region, has continued. Of the 51 allocations made during the reporting period, 52 per cent were for Africa and they accounted for nearly half the total amount allocated (CHF 2,596,955 for a total of CHF 5,899,772). The drought in East Africa generated the need for start up funds for four emergency appeals and one minor emergency for which a DREF allocation was made. Outbreaks of cholera and meningitis accounted for three emergency appeals and eight minor emergencies for which allocations were made. In the case of the serious cholera outbreak in Angola, and the drought in Eastern Africa, DREF funds supported the assessments carried out by joint regional disaster response teams (RDRT) and field assessment and coordination teams (FACT).

Response to the emergency appeals for cholera has been very poor, and yet the action of the national societies in responding to the outbreaks has been rapid and effective but limited by lack of resources. Where response to emergency appeals is poor, reimbursement of the DREF allocations is delayed or cannot take place. Three minor emergency allocations were also made to African national societies to allow them to carry out essential awareness-raising and preparedness campaigns during the outbreak of Avian Influenza.

As in 2005, it was the Europe and Americas regions that were the second and third largest beneficiaries of DREF allocations due to continual and exceptional rainfall in South America, which has led to serious and long-term flooding in six countries, and serious flooding in Romania and the Balkans. There was an increase of allocations for national societies in the Middle East and North Africa region, due probably to a wider knowledge of the DREF and also an increase in the number of emergencies.

DREF Allocations by region 2006



These continuing trends were not matched in the funding received towards the appeal. For the same period last year income stood at CHF 2,610,705 and the amount allocated was lower at CHF 3,918,183. With slow response to emergency appeals and particularly low direct contributions to the fund in the first half of 2006, the balance of the DREF was CHF 2,470,964 at the end of May which is a historically low level. Without significant and timely support to the fund, the International Federation will not be able to continue using the fund as it was designed – to support national societies in their disaster response work.

An in-depth review of the DREF will be carried out over the summer months looking at the impact of the funding, lessons learned and external trends. Recommendations will be made to management and governance on the future of the fund and on whether to increase the amount or to extend its use.

**Goal:** National societies benefit from sufficient and immediate funding to allow them to save lives and meet the immediate needs of those affected by disasters in a rapid and effective manner.

**Overall programme objective 2006-2007:** All national societies are aware of DREF, request funds when necessary to carry out their mandate of bringing rapid disaster response and the DREF is able to respond to all their requests.

**Expected results:** People affected by large and small-scale disasters receive timely assistance from national societies, funded where required by the DREF.

## Africa

*During the reporting period, 27 allocations were made for Africa for a total of CHF 2,596,955; eight allocations were made for emergency appeals (CHF 1,448,499) and 19 for minor emergencies (CHF 1,148,456)*

The work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies in Africa has an important and significant role to play in preventing the spread of highly infectious diseases such as cholera, meningitis and Ebola fever. 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. However, funding is difficult to find to allow the training and mobilization of volunteers and time is of the essence. This is where DREF allocations can make a significant difference. In the first six months of 2006, nine allocations were made to support operations to control cholera epidemics, two allocations assisted national societies in preparedness activities to limit the spread of avian influenza, another allocation was made for an outbreak of polio in Namibia, and two allocations were made to support meningitis vaccination campaigns in Burkina Faso and Mali.

### **Meningitis in Mali – MDRML001, April 2006. CHF 27,000**

Over a nine-month period, Mali witnessed three major epidemics: yellow fever and cholera in the Kayes region in October 2005 and August 2005, respectively, and meningitis in Sikasso in April 2006. As many other national societies from within the West and Central Africa regions, Mali Red Cross has for years been accompanying the action of the ministry of health through evaluations, identification of beneficiaries within the target groups, social mobilization, and co-organization of vaccine campaigns. Therefore, as soon as the ministry of health declared the meningitis outbreak in the region of Sikasso, Mali Red Cross appealed for support. In response the Federation allocated 27,000 CHF



*Training of social mobilization volunteers by Mali Red Cross in May 2006*

from DREF. As with the yellow fever outbreak in October 2005, when a DREF allocation of CHF 45,000 was also made to assist the national society, the Mali Red Cross mobilized and trained 1,000 volunteers in the affected communities to carry out sensitization campaigns in nine districts. The aim was to encourage full participation in the immunization campaign and vaccinate 800 children aged from 5 to 15 years in collaboration with the ministry of health.

Beside door-to-door visits, the other attractive medium for social mobilization is radio. Mali Red Cross volunteers, together with doctors and nurses, were often guests on local radio through which they spread health and hygiene messages and gave as much practical health advice as possible. In June 2006, three weeks after the campaign started, the Mali Red Cross evaluated its impact by carrying out random visits to beneficiaries accompanied by the social mobilization volunteers who worked with the selected families and by working with forty of the volunteers to exchange experience and the lessons learned. Those families interviewed showed awareness of the symptoms of meningitis and in most cases had had all their children vaccinated.

In the case of slow onset disasters like drought, emergency funding from DREF allowed national societies to take timely action to reduce the effects before donor interest was turned to the emerging disaster. In East Africa, DREF allocations were made to the national societies in Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Rwanda at the beginning of 2006 and another allocation allowed a joint RDRT and FACT assessment mission throughout the affected area in East Africa.

### **Ethiopia Drought Emergency Appeal – DREF allocation CHF 200,000**

Food insecurity in Ethiopia has placed some 2.6 million people in need of emergency assistance and support in the first half of 2006. Many of those in need, as in the other countries affected, are pastoralists or agro-pastoralists in the country's southern and southeastern Oromia and Somali regions. Livelihoods in those areas depend on the fertility of the soil and the health of the livestock, both of which have been seriously compromised by the widespread drought affecting eastern Africa.

According to the Ethiopian government's appeal, there had been a significant number of livestock deaths due to causes associated with drought or drought-related diseases. The surviving livestock are in poor condition and not producing milk, which reduces the livestock's value at market, taxes household resources, and threatens people's livelihoods. The appeal notes "simple health interventions at the start of prolonged drought can significantly increase animals' chances of survival and has the significance of preventing the spread of disease, and therefore reducing further livestock deaths."

The Ethiopian Red Cross developed a food security response operation to meet immediate as well as longer term needs of 36,341 vulnerable people, in coordination with relevant Ethiopian government agencies and International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners. A DREF allocation of CHF 200,000 allowed them to provide immediate response including the provision of water and water storage materials, essential for the affected population and their livestock, and the provision of health care services for sick beneficiaries, and malaria prevention and immunization, which is critical for malnourished populations. The funding was also used to support the provision of veterinary assistance and appropriate animal health-related interventions to reduce further death of livestock.

An emergency appeal was launched to ensure longer term assistance to the affected population including rehabilitation of wells and construction of surface water harvesting cisterns, and livelihood support through the provision of seeds and tools for targeted beneficiaries in cropping areas. However, the DREF allocation allowed the Ethiopian Red Cross to intervene rapidly and helped prevent the situation from becoming even more devastating for those communities suffering from the drought.

### **Cameroon Population Movement and Cholera (DREF allocations CHF 35,000 and CHF 38,000)**

Within two weeks at the end of April and beginning of May 2006, the Cameroon Red Cross Society was facing emergencies in three different parts of the country and called for support from DREF to allow itself to mobilize and train volunteers to respond to the different disasters.

In March, along with 10 other national societies in West and Central Africa, the Cameroon Red Cross Society prepared contingency plans for providing assistance to refugees fleeing violence in neighbouring Chad and Central African Republic. Training of volunteers in targeted border communities was part of the preparedness plan and executives of the national society branches in the northern part of Cameroon had already been briefed on responding to population movements. Events in Central African Republic which caused more than 10,000 people to cross over into Eastern Cameroon during April, meant that the national society already mobilized volunteers to assist the arrival of the refugees and carried out an assessment mission of the basic needs and capacities of the volunteers and branches along the border. A DREF allocation of CHF 35,000 was requested to allow training of

volunteers in the eastern as well as northern divisions to start. An RDRT member was sent to assist the national society in training volunteers and coordinating with other agencies.

An outbreak of cholera in Bafoussam in western Cameroon was reported as an epidemic by the authorities on 2 April 2006, and the disease spread very quickly with 79 new cases reported by 24 April. The national society responded through an information, education and communication campaign and volunteers were involved in the home-based follow-up activities and epidemiological surveillance teams. In order to improve the health situation and help contain the spread of the disease, a request was made for DREF funds (CHF 38,000) to support a house-to-house sensitization campaign carried out by 75 volunteers, covering awareness of the symptoms of cholera, individual and environmental hygiene and initiation to water disinfection and use of adequate latrines.

### **Americas:**

*During the reporting period, seven allocations were made for the Americas region for a total of CHF 701,300; one allocation was made for emergency appeals (CHF 100,000), five for minor emergencies (CHF 501,300) and one for preparedness activities (CHF 100,000)*

In the first few months of 2006 significantly heavier than usual rainfall affected countries in South America including Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and northern areas of Argentina, followed by severe flooding in Suriname. DREF allocations were made to support national societies in all these countries.

### **Floods in Bolivia (DREF allocation CHF 108,000)**

The Bolivian Red Cross made a request for DREF in early February following the declaration of a national emergency on 27 January. The national society was actively involved in the national response plan and was assigned the task of coordinating the assessment in the department of Beni, while participating through its branches with assessments in other areas. On 18 and 19 February with a DREF allocation of CHF 108,000 the Bolivian Red Cross carried out relief distributions to 2,000 families in the Beni area including to communities who had had no previous contact with the Red Cross through other relief operations. The Bolivian Red Cross plans to continue working in these communities during the rehabilitation phase to help reduce their vulnerability to future disasters.

In other communities like Catahuma, La Paz, where the Bolivian Red Cross is working with the Department for International Development (DFID) on a project entitled "Towards a safe and healthy community", the impact of flooding on the community was greatly reduced and the national society is increasing its capacity to respond to disasters through training, capacity building and awareness campaigns. Supported by other donors like the German, Spanish and Swiss Red Cross societies, and in close coordination with the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Lima delegation, the Bolivian Red Cross is increasing the scope of its action in disaster preparedness and response, and is recognized by the government and communities as an important humanitarian actor.

Colombia, Peru and Ecuador experienced weeks of heavy rain and floods during the winter season, particularly in coastal areas. A DREF allocation of CHF 80,000 supported the Ecuadorian Red Cross plan of action to bring food relief to 1,600 of the 5,000 families affected by severe flooding in the coastal region of the country. The national society was a member of the coordination group with included WFP, UNICEF, the Pan American Health Organization, UNETE and OXFAM working with the national authorities to assist those affected. Supported by a regional intervention team (RIT) member and Federation technical staff, volunteers from the branches in the affected regions provided needs assessments, distributed food relief to the 1,600 families and water containers to some of the communities. Both were financed by the DREF



*Ecuador Red Cross volunteers organizing a relief distribution*

allocation. The funds were also used to provide basic resources to the five branches, boosting their capacity to respond in the event of disasters.

Following torrential rains in Peru, the national society identified urgent needs in water and sanitation among the 180,000 people affected by flooding and landslides. There were also risks of contamination of water and the spread of malaria and other communicable diseases. The Peruvian Red Cross drew up a plan of action for providing water and sanitation assistance for 1,000 of the most vulnerable people in the Tumbes department. A DREF allocation of CHF 50,000 also allowed the Peruvian Red Cross to purchase and distribute mosquito nets, jerry cans and water purification tablets to 1,000 families.



*Peruvian Red Cross volunteers prepare awareness posters of malaria to accompany their distribution of mosquito nets*

### **Colombia Floods (DREF allocation CHF 160,000)**

Colombia was already experiencing flooding in many areas at the end of 2005 and the Colombian Red Cross estimated that some 34,663 families had been affected by flooding and heavy rains between January and mid-May. Volunteers assisted people affected by the flooding for several months and provided non-food relief and logistical support to around 1,550 families. In May, the Colombian Red Cross put together a plan to bring assistance to a further 5,000 families and a DREF allocation of CHF 160,000 allowed the national society to provide 1,000 families with food packages, family hygiene and kitchen kits as well as mosquito nets.

The national Red Cross societies in the region are working with support from the International Federation's regional intervention teams, learning from each other on how to best prepare for and respond to cyclical disasters like the winter season in the Andean region. Building the capacities of the communities to prepare and respond to disasters is a vital part of their work. In the Caribbean, the national societies are working together to prepare for the coming hurricane season. In order to support them effectively and rapidly, PADRU has put in place sufficient logistics stocks and has used a DREF allocation of CHF 100,000 to ensure that all support necessary for the national societies is in place before the hurricanes arrive.

### **Asia/Pacific:**

*During the reporting period, three allocations were made for the Asia/Pacific region for a total of CHF 450,000; two allocations were made for emergency appeals (CHF 400,000), and one for minor emergencies (CHF 50,000)*

The high media coverage of the massive landslides in Southern Leyte in the Philippines meant that the DREF allocation of CHF 200,000 made to the Philippines Red Cross to support them in their response was soon covered by generous support to the related emergency appeal.

### **Timor-Leste Storms and Floods (DREF allocation CHF 200,000)**

The world media interest was not so great for Timor-Leste when the country was hit by a series of storms in January and early February. An allocation of CHF 200,000 was made to the national society on 16 February to allow it to start response based on its early assessments carried out among the scattered communities affected by the storms. An emergency appeal was launched a week later and has received good support from a variety of donors enabling the Timor-Leste Red Cross to assist thousands of people and reimburse the DREF allocation. This new national society has established itself as a reliable partner of the government and vulnerable communities. As well as assisting target communities with improved construction techniques and providing them with sources of safe water by cleaning 111 deep wells in the Oecusse district, it has strengthened its own disaster management

capacities. Volunteers have been trained in relief and assessment and a disaster management operation centre was established, while work has started on drafting a national contingency plan.

The civil unrest that hit the capital, Dili, in May again saw the national society coming to the assistance of many of the families displaced by the violence and living in temporary shelters.

#### **Myanmar Cyclone Mala (DREF allocation CHF 50,000)**

In Myanmar, early warning messages and preventive evacuation of communities in the path of the approaching cyclone Mala, limited the loss of life and injury when it hit the western coast of the country on 29 April. Volunteers from the Myanmar Red Cross Society assisted in disseminating the early warning and the regional warehouses prepared response equipment and relief items. Immediately after the cyclone hit, volunteer groups assessed the damage with local authorities and assisted in clearing roads and structural damage. Two disaster assessment and response teams were sent to the areas affected to assess the needs of the population. A DREF allocation of CHF 50,000 was made to allow the national society to replenish its preparedness stocks and to purchase additional non-food items to meet the identified needs.

### **Europe:**

*During the reporting period, five allocations were made for the Europe region for a total of CHF 777,617, one allocation was made for emergency appeals (CHF 168,217), and four for minor emergencies (CHF 609,400)*

#### **Romania Floods (DREF allocation CHF 168,930)**

In mid-April, torrential rain caused the Danube River in Romania to break its banks and the system of protective dykes to collapse. It was the worst seasonal flooding in 110 years. Three counties in southwestern Romania – Caras-Severin, Mehedinti and Dolj – and three counties in the southeastern part of the country – Tulcea, Constanta and Calarsi – suffered the most. The flooding affected over 20,000 people and nearly 13,000 people were evacuated and housed with family or friends, in sports halls and schools, and specially erected camps, where the sanitation situation was precarious. A DREF allocation of CHF 168,930 was made to allow the Romanian Red Cross to replace the relief items it released from its regional and central warehouses and purchase further relief items. It also allowed a joint FACT and RDRT assessment mission which was carried out at the end of April. The plan of action the team prepared with the Romanian Red Cross was the basis of an emergency appeal for CHF 2,427,400 launched to assist 13,000 displaced and homeless people for three months. While the numbers of displaced decreases gradually, some of the homeless remain in shelters or alternative housing several months after the disaster. The Romanian Red Cross, supported by RDRT members deployed from the region, continues to distribute relief items as laid out in the plan of action and build latrines in the camps. The Romanian Red Cross is also implementing a hygiene promotion campaign with the affected population.

The flood levels of the Danube river also caused flooding in Serbia Montenegro in April. The national society requested DREF funds (CHF 128,150) to fund relief items and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population

#### **Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and Moldova Severe Winter Weather (DREF allocation CHF 200,000); Kosovo Floods (CHF 131,250)**

In February, severe winter weather in Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and Moldova and flooding in Kosovo prompted the allocation of minor emergency allocations to the affected national societies. In both cases, it was to people already made vulnerable by the economic situations in their countries that assistance was given. In Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and Moldova, it was lonely elderly people, single mothers, multi-child families and homeless and street children who received blankets, warm clothing, footwear, food and heating equipment covered by an allocation of CHF 200,000 from the DREF.

In Kosovo the flooding was worst in rural areas affecting some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the province who were not in a position to cope with the situation on their own. The ability of the Red Cross organizations in Kosovo to respond to the situation was limited due to lack of funds and limited relief stocks available. This in turn was caused by the constant demands for social assistance throughout Kosovo. However, the greatest assets of both organizations are the numerous volunteers able to provide emergency relief assistance, with good branch capacity and experience as well as management capacity to implement the emergency winterization

campaign. Consequently the DREF allocation of CHF 131,250 allowed for purchase of the necessary relief supplies and brought assistance to an estimated 200 families, including a number of Roma families who have been living in temporary accommodation since 1999 and whose huts were flooded.

A DREF allocation of CHF 149,984 was also made to the Russian Red Cross to assist 4,000 people forced into temporary shelters after a 7.8 earthquake shook the Koryak autonomous region of Kamchatka in far eastern Russia. In the severe winter weather that is normal in the region, blankets and warm clothes and food parcels were essential for those in temporary shelters to survive.

### **Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region:**

*During the reporting period, seven allocations were made for the MENA region for a total of CHF 833,900. One allocation was made for emergency appeals (CHF 400,000), five for minor emergencies (CHF 183,900) and one allocation to support the Call for Assistance by the Palestinian Red Crescent (CHF 250,000)*

#### **Iraq Floods (DREF allocation CHF 400,000)**

Flooding also affected two countries in the Middle East in early 2006. In Iraq, heavy rains and melting snow caused severe flooding as the Tigris and other rivers overflowed. There was widespread damage to houses, many of which were destroyed, to bridges and roads as well as loss of livestock and flooding of agricultural land. Over 30,000 people, mainly rural villagers, were forced to leave their homes. Following a rapid assessment carried out by Iraq Red Crescent Society (IRCS) staff and volunteers, the main needs were defined as shelter, emergency household kits and food. To avoid the spread of waterborne diseases IRCS volunteers provided sanitation and hygiene awareness as well as medical assistance with help from local doctors.

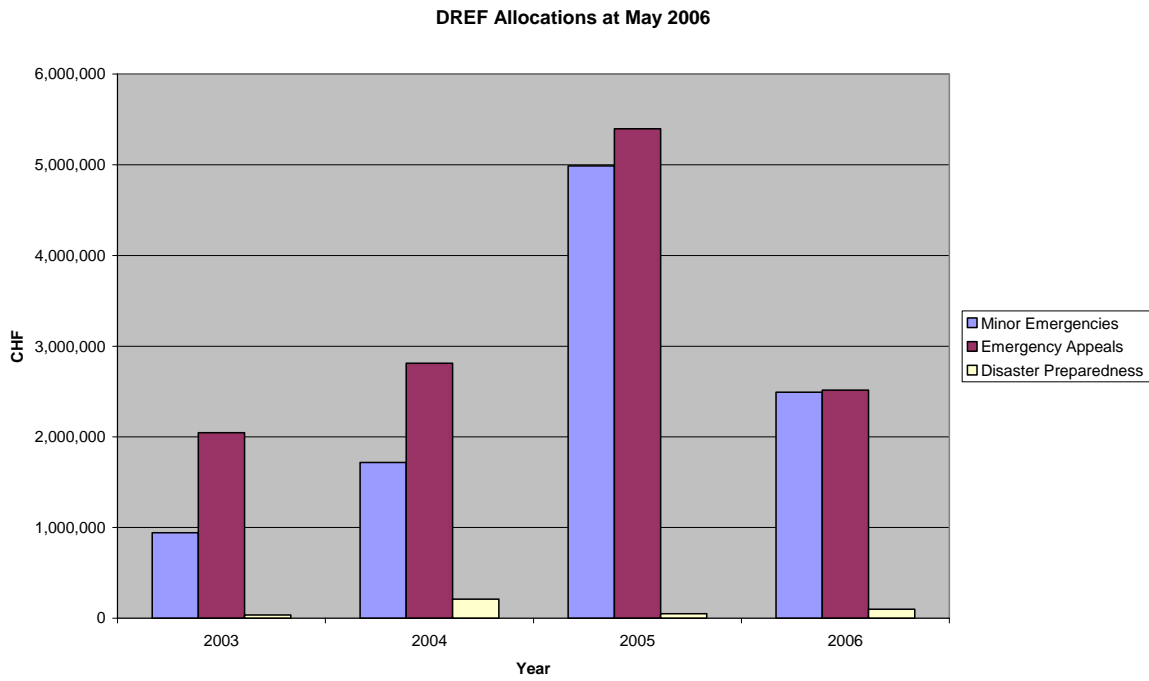
To assist in meeting the emergency needs, a DREF allocation of CHF 400,000 was made to the IRCS, and an emergency appeal for CHF 1.8 m was launched to cover the relief needs of 5,000 of the most vulnerable and affected families. CHF 200,000 has already been reimbursed to the DREF from the appeal.

Despite the ongoing constraints due to the security situation in Iraq, the IRCS was able to deliver tents and winter kits to the selected beneficiaries. The role of the national society has been enhanced and its efforts widely recognized by the local community, promoting a positive image of the IRCS. The branch level volunteers involved in the distribution of relief items worked closely with the communities affected and have strengthened the ties between local society and the IRCS. The operation received very positive reactions from beneficiaries and the local media. The operation has also allowed the IRCS to improve its logistics and operational capacity in spite of the numerous challenges to implementation.

#### **Egypt Ferry Disaster and Avian Influenza (DREF allocation CHF 50,000 and CHF 40,000)**

Two minor emergency allocations were made to the Egyptian Red Crescent during February 2006. The first, of CHF 50,000, was to assist the society in meeting the needs of family members of those who died when the Al Salaam Boccaccio ferry ship sank in the Red Sea on 3 February. Volunteers provided shelter, psychological support, tracing services, meals and other items needed to the families of those who were missing. Many people continued to congregate at the port of Safaga some time after the disaster in the hope of getting some news or of recovering the body of their missing family members and received support from volunteers during that time. Later the Egyptian Red Crescent started a survey amongst the families who had lost their breadwinner in the disaster to formulate an income-generating project to support them.

The second allocation of CHF 40,000 was made to allow the national society to initiate an Avian Influenza awareness programme after cases of the disease were reported in poultry in three governorates of Egypt. Effective community-based education, informing the wide public about modes of transmission and high-risk practices to be avoided can have a significant impact on controlling the disease. With previous experience of large awareness campaigns for vaccination against polio and measles, conducted in coordination with the Egyptian Ministry of Health and with financial support from the DREF, the national society was able to mobilize, train and equip volunteers rapidly to carry out the awareness campaign.



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# DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MAA00010

PLEDGES RECEIVED

21/07/2006

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