

DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND

CHF 10,000,000

PROGRAMME No. 01.01.99

Introduction

The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a key emergency response tool for the Federation. It allows funds to be released immediately after a disaster and facilitates the rapid start up of an emergency operation.

DREF funds are made available in response to the launch of an appeal, in the run-up 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 the launch of 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. Again, DREF fills a critical gap.

Because allocations are mostly refunded, DREF is a revolving fund. Contributions to it are used over and over again – so that one donation provides aid well in excess of the actual amount contributed.

In 1998 the DREF was used on 63 occasions, releasing a total of CHF 6,276,000. Allocations ranged from CHF 6,000 to CHF 500,000 (all figures as at 1 December). Of the total released, CHF 3,576,000 was for emergencies subsequently financed by a Federation appeal. CHF 2,287,750 was later reimbursed from these appeals. CHF 2,700,000 was released for minor emergencies.

Objectives

- To provide immediate funds for Red Cross or Red Crescent action in response to an emergency situation.
- To support minor emergencies where an international appeal is not required.

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.
- The Federation Secretariat issues monthly DREF reports, providing summaries of operations supported, as well as income and expenditure summaries. No individual donor reports are provided for DREF, as earmarking is not accepted.