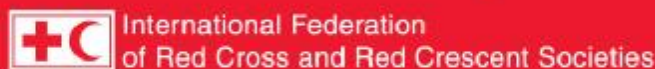


DREF operation final report



MAURITANIA: FLOODS

DREF operation no. MDRMR001

11 April 2008

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Summary: CHF 60,000 (USD 49,000 or EUR 38,000) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 28 July 2006 to support the national society in delivering assistance to some 400 flood affected households in Aleg, Brakna region.

The Mauritanian Red Crescent has been key humanitarian actor in providing essential cleanliness of Aleg and its surrounding villages as the health issue was a major concern. The smooth implementation of the operation was in the line with the Federation Global Agenda goals and assisting the affected families with their basic needs. The Aleg branch was capacitated with the refresher training in social mobilization of 30 volunteers involved in the operation.

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)



A group of volunteers at Aleg ready for town cleaning and sanitation activity.

The situation

The region of Brakna, 800 Km south-East of Nouakchott, Mauritania Capital City, heavy rains were pouring down since the beginning of July, flooding the region and leaving several families homeless. The worst came with a storm in the night of 22 July, killing seven people among them five members of the same family including two children, in the village of Ednesh; 19 people were injured.

This rain came along with a strong wind and flooding have left about 320 families homeless in several villages and towns. Boutilimit situated 150 km away from Nouakchott being the most affected.

The state radio has reported that the severe storms and flooding in this part of the arid and dry country, which experiences these kinds of hazards during the rainy season, will last until October. The city of Aleg alone recorded 102 mm of rains that caused flooding, with about 160 displaced families accommodated in provisional shelters in schools. Most of these populations have also lost their crops and most of their belongings.

Local authorities and communities organized themselves for a collective response to the disaster but fears of epidemics spread in the region loomed due to lack of proper sanitation and high concentration of population in the temporary resettlement centres.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Right from the announcement of the disaster, the Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC), as a member of the State Crisis Committee, has deployed an assessment team to work with the local branches that were already assisting the victims. Red Crescent volunteers were mobilized to work round the clock trying to save the rest of belongings that can be recovered and placing the flood victims in the temporary shelters provided by the government.

A collaborative needs assessment was conducted by the national society and local authorities including partners. The assessment identified the gaps where the Mauritanian Red Crescent could be an asset. With the technical support from the Dakar Regional delegation, the assessment report indicated watsan related needs where the Mauritanian Red Crescent could capitalize in mobilizing its volunteers for actions on sensitizing the affected populations in appropriate hygiene practices, food and non food items distribution.

Progress towards objectives

Objective: The Mauritania Red Crescent will contribute to the relief of the affected populations for the next four months.

Objective 2: The reduction of the risk of the spread of water-related diseases in the Southern region.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Specific objective: Provision and distribution of non food items.

Achievements:

The Mauritanian Red Crescent supported by the Federation was able to reach out more than 400 people with a survival kit made up of blankets, sleeping matt and impregnated mosquito net. In collaboration with the government, the Mauritanian Red Crescent served hot meals to the displaced families and food rations to accompany the non-food items distributed to the affected communities.

The affected population learned about the use of mosquito net as the community is made up mostly of pastoralists that rarely use such tools. Volunteers have been capacitated in more than just knowing how to distribute blankets but now could be useful for follow-up of mosquito net utilization and malaria surveillance due to the training received.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Specific objective: Reduce the risk of water-related diseases to spread in the Southern region.

Achievements:

In collaboration with the MoH, the Mauritanian Red Crescent produced teaching materials adapted to the culture using the local language to complement the efforts of other interventions from the government and other humanitarian actors.

The Mauritanian Red Crescent was able to treat three boreholes that constitute major water points. These water points have been flooded after the rains. The communities learned about protecting such water points after they were rehabilitated and treated. The zone office of national water service will continue the management of the water points together with the local communities.

The Red Crescent volunteers invested a lot in hygiene promotion by cleaning the town and surrounding villages through garbage collection, sensitizing communities in good practices especially in regards to usage of latrines rather than using the water dam as people are used to help themselves in the open air. Hygiene

kits were provided and proper hands washing campaign helped to contain diseases such as cholera at a low rate.



MRC volunteers involved in the City cleaning activity

Challenges:

Although the Mauritanian Red Crescent has well motivated volunteers, the Aleg branch has limited resources and do not have on going activities and programmes for volunteers to implement. Good investment in training of new volunteers has been made but keeping them remains a challenge as some are recruited by NGOs that can pay them and fully utilize their potential. Besides, the cultural barrier with reluctance of women vis-à-vis team work is being overcome.

The lack of logistical means especially for the monitoring of activities from the programme coordinator remains to be addressed for the success of future programmes or activities.

Conclusion

This operation was an opportunity for the Mauritanian Red Crescent to reinforce its branch capacity in disaster response but more so offering a good example of gender balance within this community. The complementary by focusing on the gaps within the entire humanitarian response in this region allowed to better profile the Mauritanian Red Crescent and the Federation within the community and local authority. This also provided a synergy in the collaboration between the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and the government.

There is however a need to reinforce the local branches of the national society prior to the disaster by preparing them for the next rainy season and provide programmes that will maintain their presence felt within the community.

How we work

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.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[<final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRMR001 - Mauritania - Floods

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/7-2007/6
Budget Timeframe	2006/7-2006/11
Appeal	MDRMR001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		0				0
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
DREF		58,727				58,727
C1. Cash contributions		58,727				58,727
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)		58,727				58,727
D. Total Funding = B +C		58,727				58,727
Appeal Coverage		#DIV/0				#DIV/0

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		58,727				58,727
E. Expenditure		-58,727				-58,727
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

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Reporting Timeframe	2006/7-2007/6
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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		0					0	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles			16,376				16,376	-16,376
Water & Sanitation			24,370				24,370	-24,370
Teaching Materials			2,334				2,334	-2,334
Total Supplies			43,080				43,080	-43,080
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Others Machinery & Equipment			100				100	-100
Total Land, vehicles & equipment			100				100	-100
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs			2,925				2,925	-2,925
Total Transport & Storage			2,925				2,925	-2,925
Personnel								
International Staff Payroll Benefits			111				111	-111
National Staff			270				270	-270
National Society Staff			3,048				3,048	-3,048
Total Personnel			3,429				3,429	-3,429
General Expenditure								
Travel			1,674				1,674	-1,674
Information & Public Relation			1,087				1,087	-1,087
Communications			834				834	-834
Financial Charges			679				679	-679
Other General Expenses			1,103				1,103	-1,103
Total General Expenditure			5,376				5,376	-5,376
Programme Support								
Program Support			3,817				3,817	-3,817
Total Programme Support			3,817				3,817	-3,817
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)			58,727				58,727	-58,727
VARIANCE (C - D)			-58,727				-58,727	