

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Moldova: Food Insecurity

DREF operation n° MDRMD001  
Glide No. DR-2007-000175-MDA  
4 February 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 and 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.

**CHF 248,198 (USD 230,791 or EUR 154,803) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to some 6,700 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

### Summary:

Over 200,000 people have been affected by drastically diminished harvests in Moldova. This operation will support the Moldova Red Cross Society in providing supplementary food assistance to 6,700 vulnerable people in isolated rural farmsteads and villages. Priority will be given to large families, single-headed households and families with disabled members.

These groups are at increased risk of malnutrition due to the acute food shortage, depleted winter reserves and the slaughter of their livestock for cash. High inflation and low pensions/allowances (less than USD 1 per day in some cases) are fuelling the deteriorating situation.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months and will be completed by 30 April 2008. A final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 31 July 2008).



**The drought is the worst to hit Moldova in 60 years (Photo: Food and Agriculture Organization).**

[<click here for the DREF budget>](#)  
[<here for contact details>](#)  
[<here for a map>](#)

## The situation

High temperatures and low rainfall over the past three years have led to severely diminished harvests in Moldova, which relies on agriculture and agribusiness for 70 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP). In recent months the socio-economic situation has deteriorated as winter

reserves are used up, livestock are slaughtered and prices rocket – doubling or even tripling since the drought started in 2006.

**Table 1. Comparative analysis of food prices** (in Moldavian Lei; 10 lei = 1 CHF)

| Food             | Prices in 2006 | Prices in Jan. 2007 | Prices in Jan. 2008 |
|------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Rice             | 8.9            | 9.8                 | 13                  |
| Buckwheat        | 8.8            | 12.9                | 15.4                |
| Wheat flour      | 3.7            | 7.15                | 10.8                |
| Sunflower oil    | 14.4           | 23                  | 25.5                |
| Corn flour       | 8.5            | 17.85               | 21.5                |
| Canned pork meat | 18.05          | 25.3                | 25.3                |

Cereal production fell by 63 per cent last year and by 70 per cent on average over the past five years (Source FAO). Food production in home gardens, which supplies 70 per cent of food for rural families, has been severely affected. A quarter of the nation's cattle have been sold according to government statistics, leading to further risks of malnutrition. Overall, the losses to the economy are estimated at USD one billion. (Source: World Bank)

The most acute risk of serious hunger lies in the fact that food reserves of the worst-affected families are beginning to run out, and may be completely depleted by the end of February. (Source: local authorities, Federation RDRT report).

According to the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Children the total number of people affected by the drought is 210,394 (excluding the Transnistria region). Pensions and allowances for the elderly, invalids, the unemployed and large/one-parent families range from 28-42 USD per month plus subsidies, which is not enough to sustain the most vulnerable through the winter. Remittances from abroad (up to a quarter of Moldova's population is thought to work outside the country) are a major source of income for many. Moldova is officially the poorest country in Europe. (Source: UNDP 2007 Human Development Report)

**Vulnerable groups:**

- Children without parents/ living with relatives – 1 per cent;
- Pensioners and disabled people – 26 per cent;
- Multi-child families – 57 per cent;
- Single mothers – 5 per cent;
- Families who have lost their food production and reserves for the winter period due to the drought – 11 per cent (Source: Moldova Red Cross).

## Coordination and partnerships

Representatives from the Moldova Red Cross regularly take part in meetings with national ministries, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and have established close contacts with the main agencies.

The government has requested assistance from the international community. Much of the response that has come has been technical and material. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) have provided expertise, governance and coordination. They have also supported in planning and rendering mid-term and long-term financial assistance, while the material contribution has been in the form of seeds, fertilizers and fuel for agriculture.

Financial support has also been provided by the Dutch, Norwegian and Italian governments, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). In addition food parcels are being provided for pregnant women and nursing mothers through the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as part of a six-month, USD six million programme.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Moldova Red Cross operation will complement the actions of other actors by targeting multi-child families, single-headed households and families with disabled members. Thus far, the Red Cross has been able to supply very limited humanitarian support to people affected by the drought by including them in the soup-kitchen programme sponsored by the Norwegian Red Cross. Since September 2007 some 540 people have received hot meals in three kitchens in Chisinau, Balti and Tiraspol. The Chinese Red Cross Society has donated USD 50,000 to the government.

## The needs

Based on a request from the Moldova Red Cross, the Federation sent a regional disaster response team (RDRT) to assess the situation in December. The team, which included representatives from the Bulgarian and Romanian Red Cross Societies recommended that an immediate intervention - distribution of foodstuffs - is needed during the winter/spring period (February-March) until the next harvest.

The team also recommended that a deeper assessment for an appropriate Red Cross Red Crescent role in helping people recover from the current situation and mitigate against future recurrences is needed.

## The proposed operation

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Objective: To provide supplementary food rations for two months for 6,700 vulnerable people in order to reduce the threat of malnutrition.**

The beneficiaries of the relief distributions will include rural farming families dependant on home gardens and dairy cattle as their main sources of nutrition. This category is not covered by any government financial support programme, although some do benefit from an United Nations and ECHO programme to provide animal fodder.

#### Expected results:

- The operation helps meet the minimum energy/dietary requirements of 6,700 people for two months and increase the chances of survival until the new harvest

#### Activities planned:

- Complete a list of beneficiaries (Moldova Red Cross and Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Children);
- Procure, transport and distribute food supplies to the target population;
- Monitor the provision of food parcels;
- Gather information which highlights the operation and assists in longer-term planning.

The food will be distributed in parcels which include the items listed in the following table:

| Food                    | Quantity               | Gross Cost CHF per kg, litre, can | Total        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Sugar</b>            | <b>2 kg</b>            | 1.04                              | <b>2.08</b>  |
| <b>Rice</b>             | <b>2 kg</b>            | 1.12                              | <b>2.24</b>  |
| <b>Buckwheat</b>        | <b>2 kg</b>            | 1.08                              | <b>2.16</b>  |
| <b>Wheat flour</b>      | <b>4 kg</b>            | 0.7                               | <b>2.80</b>  |
| <b>Sunflower oil</b>    | <b>2 bottles(0.9l)</b> | 2.38                              | <b>4.76</b>  |
| <b>Corn flour</b>       | <b>4 kg</b>            | 1.50                              | <b>6.0</b>   |
| <b>Canned pork meat</b> | <b>4 cans x350 gr.</b> | 2.02                              | <b>8.08</b>  |
| <b>Packets and box</b>  |                        |                                   | <b>1.88</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>            |                        |                                   | <b>30.00</b> |

The food contained in each parcel will contribute to meeting nutritional needs over the leanest months of the year as shown below.

| Food          | kCal per 100gr | Protein per 100gr | Fat per 100gr | Quantity/day | kCal/day       | Protein/day  | Fat/day      | Parcel for 2 months |
|---------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Rice          | 344.6          | 7                 | 0.3           | 33.33        | 114.86         | 2.33         | 0.10         | 2,000               |
| Buckwheat     | 335            | 12.6              | 3.3           | 33.33        | 111.66         | 4.20         | 1.10         | 2,000               |
| Wheat flour   | 370            | 10.9              | 1             | 66.66        | 246.64         | 7.27         | 0.67         | 4,000               |
| Sunflower oil | 898            | 0                 | 99.8          | 30           | 269.40         | 0.00         | 29.94        | 1,800               |
| Corn flour    | 362            | 9.2               | 4             | 66.66        | 241.31         | 6.13         | 2.67         | 4,000               |
| Canned pork   | 220            | 16.8              | 17            | 133.35       | 293.37         | 22.40        | 22.67        | 8,001               |
| Sugar         | 398            | -                 | -             | 33.33        | 132.65         | 0.00         | 0.00         | 2,000               |
| <b>Total</b>  |                |                   |               |              | <b>1409.89</b> | <b>42.33</b> | <b>57.14</b> | <b>23,800</b>       |

The parcels will be given to beneficiaries in a one-off distribution by Moldova Red Cross staff and volunteers in ten regions of the country (See map: Anenii Noi, Basarabasca, Calarasi, Causeni, Criuleni, Comrat, Hincesti, Leova, Tighina and Chisinau.)

### Information gathering/ Assessment mission

A further assessment will be conducted on how the Red Cross can work, alongside other actors and stakeholders, with a long-term perspective. Together with the Federation, initiatives such as cash or voucher donations will be looked into as potential ways to support people in vulnerable communities. Such schemes have been implemented in Ukraine and Russia recently, and the lessons learnt from those countries will be sought.

### Expected results:

- The plight of rural poor people is better understood and a strategy is prepared on how to address this vulnerability; this may lead to an appeal being issued. Additionally, international attention is brought to bear on the needs of the population affected.

# Budget

| Description  | Quantity | Unit  | Unit price | Total CHF         |
|--|----------|-------|------------|-------------------|
| <b>SUPPLIES/Subtotal</b>   |          |       |            | <b>201,000.00</b> |
| Food parcels   | 6,700    | UNIT  | 30.00      | 201,000.00        |
| <b>CAPITAL EXPENSES/Subtotal</b>   |          |       |            | <b>0.00</b>       |
|  |          |       |            | 0.00              |
| <b>TRANSPORT &amp; STORAGE/Subtotal</b>                                    |          |       |            | <b>8,400.00</b>   |
| Loading/unloading  | 3        | MONTH | 300.00     | 900.00            |
| Transportation   | 3        | MONTH | 2,500.00   | 7,500.00          |
| <b>PERSONNEL/Subtotal</b>  |          |       |            | <b>17,500.00</b>  |
| Salary NS staff, volunteer allowances                                      |          |       |            | 8,000.00          |
| Monitoring and evaluation  |          |       |            | 1,500.00          |
| RDRT/Support to NS   |          |       |            | 8,000.00          |
| <b>Workshops&amp;Seminars</b>  |          |       |            | <b>0.00</b>       |
| <b>TRAVEL</b>  |          |       |            | <b>1,500.00</b>   |
| International Travel costs (monitoring Regional Federation representative) | 3        | UNIT  | 500.00     | 1,500.00          |
|  |          |       |            | 0.00              |
| <b>INFORMATION</b>   |          |       |            | <b>2,000.00</b>   |
| PR activities  |          |       |            | 2,000.00          |
| <b>GENERAL EXPENSES/Subtotal</b>   |          |       |            | <b>1,665.00</b>   |
| General admin and NS support   | 3        | MONTH | 455.00     | 1,365.00          |
| Communication IFRC   | 3        | MONTH | 100.00     | 300.00            |
| <b>FIELD BUDGET/Subtotal</b>   |          |       |            | <b>232,065.00</b> |
| <b>PROGRAMME SUPPORT BUDGET/Subtotal</b>                                   |          |       | 6,5%       | <b>16,133.00</b>  |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL CHF:</b>  |          |       |            | <b>248,198.00</b> |

## 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

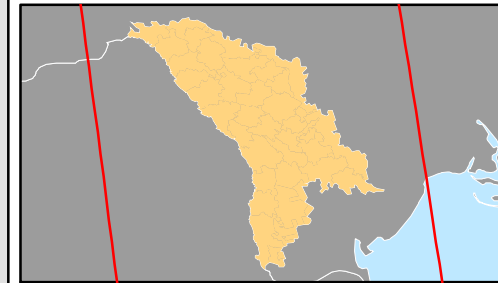
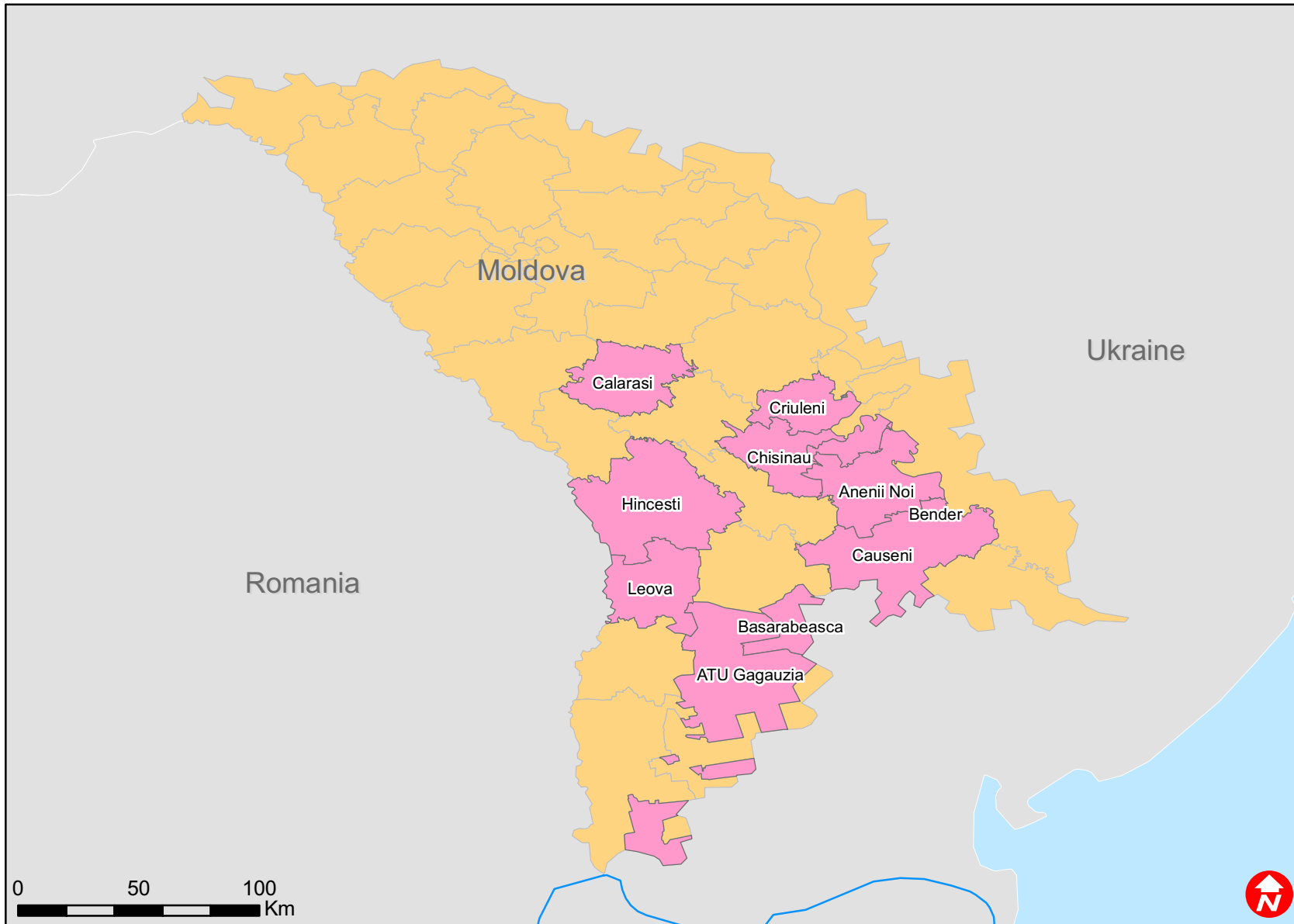
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## Moldova: Food insecurity



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 Food distribution