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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Burkina Faso: Food insecurity

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRBF011 16 December, 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 emergency response. 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 113'532 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support Burkinabe Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to 5,500 beneficiaries for three months. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Burkina Faso is facing severe drought, especially in the northern regions of the Sahel, North Central, East, Central West and Central East. This has resulted in low food production, 21% lower than in 2010, which leads to increases in food prices and reduced access of food for the already vulnerable. This is predicted to result in around 60% of the households in the affected areas not being able to meet their basic nutritional needs, including around 30% of farm households facing food insecurity. Official sources state that 2 million people are directly affected.

The action plan for the Burkinabe Red Cross Society (BRCS) initially targets 1,100 vulnerable families in the province of Oudalan in Sahel region with food vouchers. This food assistance will cover a period of two months, while the situation is further assessed.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by March 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by June, 2012).



Red Cross staff and volunteers at work. BRCS/IFR

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

The situation

After being hit hard by a social crisis, Burkina Faso is facing food insecurity. The government of Burkina Faso has called for international support to cope with the upcoming food crisis. In 2010, some of the same regions suffered from moderate food insecurity, leaving many families even more vulnerable this year.

The current agricultural year of 2011/2012 has witnessed a cumulative rainfall deficit compared to 2010, but with pockets of drought especially in the northern regions of the Sahel, North Central, East, Central West and Central East. The late start of the rainy season created unfavourable conditions for crop production, resulting in an estimated gross national cereal production for 2011/2012 at 3,822,882 tonnes. This has resulted in a relative fall of crop production compared to 2010/2011 of 21% for food crops and 13 % for cash crops. The largest decreases were observed in millet (-21%) and white sorghum (-18%).

Of the 45 provinces in Burkina Faso, 17 have an estimated low food coverage (below 90% of the needs), 14 are in equilibrium (between 90% and 120% coverage) and 14 have excess coverage (reaching or exceeding 120%). Several major dams have extensive deficits in their water levels, most notably Bagré (deficit of 685.5 million m³), Kompienga (deficit of 431.9 million m³) and Moussodougou (deficit 12.6 million m³), not allowing sufficient flexibility in the concession of water.

According to OCHA, increases in food prices are recorded in the region, reducing the purchasing power and deteriorating the food access of the most vulnerable households, particularly for households that rely on markets for food. If not addressed, this may lead to a significant drop in nutritional status of millions of people.

Nationally, 58.4% of households are estimated to be unable to cover their food needs, leaving around 30% of the farm households food insecure. A number of 146 communes, including 41% of all municipalities in 28 provinces and 10 regions, have been declared areas at risk of food insecurity, as their cereal production will cover only partially the needs of their population. Urgent activities are necessary to alleviate the situation.

Coordination and partnerships

The National Director is responsible for the coordination of activities and ensures that they are implemented on time. Coordination meetings will be held once a week to present the actions taken and make decisions concerning the operation. The National Coordinator for Disaster Preparedness and Response is responsible for all activities to implement the operation. He will be supported by an RDRT from IFRC (funded by the British Red Cross) and experienced volunteers supporting activities to alleviate food security, further assessing the situation and facilitating effective monitoring and reporting.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Burkinabe Red Cross Society is implementing the following food security and malnutrition projects:

- A food security project in the province of Yagha in partnership with the Spanish Red Cross. This project supports women's groups in crop production and market gardening. It ends in March 2012.
- A food security project in the province of Soum in partnership with the Andorran Red Cross. This project supports women's groups in the farrowing, cereal banks and grain mill. This project ends in December 2011.
- A community-based nutrition project in partnership with the Belgian Red Cross. It is involved in community care of malnutrition. It ends in July 2012.

In addition, the National Society is involved in all missions to monitor food security and malnutrition in the country. It has staff and volunteers trained in food security and household economy. Already the local Red Cross committees in risk areas are on alert and are monitoring the situation to report to the headquarters of the BRCS. The Burkinabe Red Cross Society has participated in three joint monitoring missions, as well as in a series of workshops reviewing tools of the campaign, evaluating the food security, validating results, etc.

The needs

Salient needs identified include:

- Need for food assistance to the most vulnerable households of the Sahel and Northern regions.
- Need to help ensure the production season benefits the most vulnerable households of the Sahel and Mouhoun regions.
- Need for efficient use of available resources among most vulnerable households
- Need for assessment information on the situation to ascertain if a larger scale operation is necessary

The proposed operation

Initially, BRCS and its partners, in collaboration with the government will identify the most vulnerable households in the Northern regions and the Sahel, as well as to examine the local market for essential food items (availability, quality, price and elasticity of supply) and verify the appropriateness of a voucher system before implementing and managing free distribution of food vouchers to the most vulnerable households.

The targeted families will also be sensitized in basic nutrition considerations and on food hygiene, as diarrhoeal diseases also are major contributors to malnutrition.

These main objectives will entail the following sorts of activities:

- Mobilization and deployment of volunteers and qualified NDRT, detailed assessments, food security and households economy;
- Briefing of volunteers and NDRT;
- Distribution of vouchers;
- Implementation of the distribution of vouchers;
- Organization and implementation of sensitization sessions;
- Monitoring, coordination and reporting of activities.

During the implementation of these initial activities, the BRCS will assess the situation in Burkina Faso further, with the assistance of an RDRT from IFRC (funded by the British Red Cross), in order to inform the planning of larger-scale operations if needed.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
Outcome: Improved access to food from local markets for 1,100 vulnerable families through the distribution of food vouchers¹.
Outputs (expected results) and activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rapid assessment to determine beneficiaries and parameters of local market for essential food items (availability, quality, price and elasticity of supply)• Assessment of other cash transfer programming in the local area to confirm whether vouchers are the best means of delivery and to inform the voucher value and type;• Identification and assessment of main suppliers and medium and small traders;• Negotiation and signing of agreements with main suppliers and medium and small traders• Coordination with other humanitarian agencies engaged in food security and cash transfer programming in the local area and also with local authorities to avoid duplication and harmony in terms of beneficiaries targeted, voucher value and monitoring/accounting methods.• Production and distribution of vouchers;• Follow-up monitoring of supplies (quality, price and quantity) from traders / shops;• Recovery of vouchers and beneficiary lists from stores to monitor and ensure proper use of entitlement;• payment to the traders / shopkeepers.

Health
Outcome: Targeted households are better informed to ensure household nutrition needs are met and to avoid risk of food-borne and water-borne diseases.
Outputs (expected results) and activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nutrition and food hygiene sensitization activities in the targeted communities

¹Every family will benefit monthly with a food basket composed of rice, millet, beans, oil, sugar and salt. This food composition provides 20,106.75 Kcal as nutrition value at a financial cost of 14,625 FCFA per family (27 CHF/family = 5.5 CHF/beneficiary)

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

DREF OPERATION

16-12-11

Burkina Faso Food Insecurity (MDRBF011)

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	0
Food	67,031
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Medical & First Aid	1,875
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	68,906
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	208
Distribution & Monitoring	2,750
Transport & Vehicle Costs	5,393
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	8,351
International Staff	0
Regionally Deployed Staff	7,000
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	5,521
Volunteers	5,262
Total PERSONNEL	17,783
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	0
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	6,667
Information & Public Relations	0
Office Costs	1,063
Communications	1,625
Financial Charges	1,167
Other General Expenses	1,042
Shared Support Services	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	11,563
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	6,929
Total INDIRECT COSTS	6,929
TOTAL BUDGET	113,532