

# 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

3 June, 2003

Appeal No. 01.95/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 3,400,000 (USD 2,446,214 or EUR 2,336,657)

Programme Update No. 01; Period covered: January – April, 2003

*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 180 countries.  
For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

### In Brief

Appeal coverage: 16.7%; See attached Contributions List for details.

Outstanding needs: CHF 2,832,634 (USD 2,080,524 / EUR 1,919,779)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: this is a non-earmarked credit facility

Summary: All 12 operations requesting DREF were granted with the full requested amount. For the reporting period: CHF 977'056 total allocation; CHF 481'287 total reimbursed; CHF 75,000 pending from 2002 (total reimbursements Jan-April); CHF 1,900,599 outstanding; Current DREF balance: CHF 6,365,737

### Operational developments

The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is the Federation's main tool in providing seed capital to start operations in times of disaster. The Fund started the fiscal year with an opening balance of CHF 7,656,516. During the reporting period the Fund has made twelve allocations in total: 5 to Africa, 4 to Asia/Pacific, 1 to MENA and 2 to the Americas (details of which can be found below). The total amount allocated was CHF 977,056 of which CHF 481,287 has been reimbursed. Out of these allocations three have managed to fully reimburse the Fund and one has reimbursed over 70% of the allocation. Operations funded in 2002 have also been able to reimburse either fully or partially (details in Annex 1). At the time of writing this report the Fund stood at CHF 6,365,737. The total amount of contributions for the period January-April 2003 is CHF 567,366 (see annex 2).

### Operations

**Goal:** the goal of the DREF is to provide immediate funding in response to major and minor disasters thereby enabling the Federation to react rapidly, effectively and efficiently.

**Objective:** to make DREF a secured line of credit for new emergencies.

**Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

As mentioned above the Fund has provided 12 operations with allocations totalling CHF 977,056. Out these twelve allocations, 7 operations launched an appeal (italics in the below table). The regional breakdown of this amount is as follows:

Date	Location <sup>1</sup>	Disaster Type	Amount Requested	Amount Approved	Reimbursed	Remaining
<b>AFRICA</b>						
08/01/03	Mozambique <sup>2</sup>	<i>Floods</i>	70,000	70,000	70,000	0
20/02/03	<i>Mauritania</i>	Drought	100,000	100,000	0	100,000
20/02/03	<i>Uganda</i>	Support to National Society	50,000	50,000	0	50,000
19/03/03	Chad	CAR refugees and returnees	20,000	20,000	0	20,000
22/04/03	Zambia & Zimbabwe	Malaria Emergency	162,000	162,000	0	162,000
<b>Africa Total</b>						<b>332,000</b>
<b>AMERICAS</b>						
24/01/03	Bolivia	Floods	30,000	30,000	0	30,000
30/04/03	<i>Argentina</i>	Floods	50,000	50,000	0	50,000
<b>Americas total</b>						<b>80,000</b>
<b>ASIA</b>						
03/01/03	Bangladesh	Winter Relief	50,056	50,056	31,287	18,769
08/01/03	<i>Mongolia</i>	Snowfall	300,000	300,000	300,000	0
23/01/03	<i>Fiji</i>	Cyclone Ami	80,000	80,000	80,000	0
<b>Asia Total</b>						<b>18,769</b>
<b>EUROPE</b>						
11/04/03	Russian Federation	School fires	15,000	15,000	0	15,000
<b>Europe Total</b>						<b>15,000</b>
<b>MENA</b>						
30/01/03	<i>Tunisia</i>	Cold wave and heavy rains	50,000	50,000	0	50,000
<b>MENA Total</b>						<b>50,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>977,056</b>	<b>977,056</b>	<b>481,287</b>	<b>495,769</b>

Chronological details of allocations are as follows:

#### **Bangladesh – Winter Relief**

Amount Allocated: CHF 50,056

Status: CHF 18,769 outstanding

Latest information bulletin: <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=27>

The extreme fall in temperature in the northern region of Bangladesh, accompanied by dense fog, paralysed normal life and resulted in the deaths of over 200 people. It was estimated that the death toll was higher than what is currently recorded, as there were some areas that were not accessible. The government provided limited assistance to some districts and in addition issued an appeal to all humanitarian organisations to supply warm clothing and blankets to the poor and homeless - those most affected by the cold spell.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) distributed approximately 4,000 blankets from its emergency stock to those areas which are most affected. Hence, the DREF allocation was used to procure and distribute additional blankets (approximately 5,500) in the eight, hardest hit, districts. The DREF allocation is over 60% covered.

#### **Mozambique - Floods**

Amount Allocated: CHF 70,000

<sup>1</sup> Those for which an appeal was launched are in italics and coverage of appeal is marked in comments (electronic version)

<sup>2</sup> National appeal launched by the national society

Status: fully reimbursed

Latest information bulletin: [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?rpts03/mozfl03a2.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts03/mozfl03a2.pdf)

Mozambique is particularly prone to natural disasters. The current flood situation started on 31 December 2002 when tropical depression "Delfina" delivered heavy rains affecting the northern province of Nampula. Preliminary assessments conducted by the provincial government indicated that 800 houses, which were constructed with precarious materials, were destroyed, affecting approximately 4,000 people.

The Mozambique Red Cross Society (MRCS) created multi-sectoral teams to assess the needs and the damage caused within the affected areas in order to respond effectively to the disaster. The assessment process has been delayed as the government had limited capacity to access affected sites.

The allocation was used to support the MRCS operational costs and to deliver immediate assistance to those most affected. No international appeal was launched, however the MRCS launched a local appeal. The Italian Bilateral Fund covered the DREF allocation.

### **Mongolia – Snowfalls**

Amount Allocated: CHF 300,000

Status: fully reimbursed

Latest information bulletin: <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=27>

Mongolia has faced a devastating winter in 2003, which exacerbated the effects of the three previous drought cycles causing extreme poverty among a significant portion of the population. It is estimated that over 655,000 people have been severely affected. The summer drought prevented a large number of herders from collecting enough hay for the winter period forcing many to use their already scarce stocks. In the first two weeks of January 2003 over 24,000 animals were reported dead. Between 2.3 and 2.5 million animal could die within the next 3 - 4 months.

The International Federation undertook an assessment of the situation based on which the needs were identified. Wheat flour, boots, jackets and trousers for children and radios were seen to be the most pressing needs. The target number of beneficiaries was 115,000 individuals.

DREF was allocated to procure and distribute 500 MT of wheat flour (6 month ration) for 16,500 people in three of the worst affected regions: Khubsgul, Bulgan and Selenge. This allocation still remains outstanding.

### **Fiji – Cyclone Ami**

Amount Allocated: CHF 80,000

Status: fully reimbursed

Latest information bulletin:

<http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?iYear=0&xFlag=2&countryid=66&view=1>

On 14 January 2003 Tropical Cyclone Ami hit Fiji destroying homes and flooding parts of the South Pacific Archipelago. A state of disaster was declared for the areas of Lau, Lmaiviti and the whole of Vanua Levu. Villages and paths were badly affected, with major damage to houses, crops and infrastructure including schools, telecommunication and electricity supply. Heavy rainfall led to landslides and intensive flooding, combined with storm surges giving rise to dangerous flash floods. Lack of access to clean water was a major concern with increased risks of serious outbreaks of water borne diseases such as cholera and leptospirosis, which are endemic in the area.

The Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS) was the first to respond by providing the affected population with relief items through its branch network, supported by Red Cross volunteers. The DREF allocation was used to assist the FRCS to meet the most elementary household requirements for approximately 30,000 individuals affected by the cyclone. The allocation has been fully reimbursed.

### **Bolivia – Floods**

Amount Allocated: CHF 30,000

Status: whole amount outstanding

Latest information bulletin: <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=33>

On 21 January heavy rains together with hail, hit the Bolivian capital, La Paz. There were several mudslides and many homes were flooded. In Río Abajo on the outskirts of the city, flood waters drained from the capital and water accumulated in the areas of Palomar, Huayhuasi and Huaricana where 400 families lost their crops which were swept away by the swollen river. In Achocalla, near the capital, 18 families were evacuated and are now living in tents provided by the civil defence, which is also supplying food rations. In the area of La Asunta and Guanay, torrential rainfall over several weeks caused the river Bopi to overflow, as a result of which the crops of 400 families were ruined. An assessment was carried out by the civil defence, which requested the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) to provide food. In Bermejo in the department of Tarija, in the south of Bolivia, heavy, persistent rain has resulted in the Grande and Bermejo Rivers bursting their banks, particularly affecting the small towns of Naranjitos and Campo Grande and causing damage to 40 houses and the loss of crops for 300 families.

DREF was used to assist 700 families in La Asunta and Bermejo with food supplies.

### **Tunisia – Cold Wave and Heavy Rains**

Amount Allocated: CHF 50,000

Status: whole amount outstanding

Latest operations update: <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=173>

Since early January a cold wave and heavy rainfall adversely affected Tunisia. The resulting floods were the worst in ten years following three years of drought. Over 3,600 families lost or were forced to leave their homes, losing most of their belongings including annual food reserves of oil and couscous. Nine governorates were affected. The army and the civil defence were mobilized for evacuations.

The allocation was used for the procurement of warm clothing, blankets, hygiene kits/diapers and basic foodstuffs for two of the worst affected regions. DREF has not yet been reimbursed.

### **Mauritania - Drought**

Amount Allocated: CHF 100,000

Status: whole amount outstanding

Latest operations update: <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=114>

The food security situation is characterised by poor agro-climatic conditions provoked by the late onset of the rainy season and insufficient rains which have undermined Mauritania's cereal harvest for the second consecutive year. There has been a decrease in cereal production for 2002/2003, down 18% from 2001/2002 resulting in rising market prices and overall short supply of millet, sorghum and maize. There has been an accompanying drop in the price of livestock, with agro-pastoralists obliged to partly use their stocks because of insufficient pasture and to purchase cereal. Pastureland will not cover more than 3 months of livestock consumption, which will result in the reduction of milk and meat production.

The allocation was used for the procurement of the required food supplies in order to formulate a daily meal for children and the initial team leader delegate costs. At the time of this report the appeal was 5.6% covered.

### **Uganda – Support to the National Society**

Amount Allocated: 50,000

Status: whole amount outstanding

Latest information bulletin: <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=176>

Thousands of refugees escaping from ethnic fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have been camping along the border inside Uganda's Nebbi District. The influx resumed after many Congolese returned to their homes in December due to relative calm in heavy fighting between rebel groups in the DRC. The renewed fighting resulted in lost lives, burning of cattle, theft and looting of household items. As a result victims fled across the border.

Refugees have resisted attempts by the Ugandan government and the UNHCR to settle them in refugee camps. The total number of refugees in Nebbi and surrounding areas is currently estimated at 15,000 individuals but the numbers are rapidly increasing due to the escalation of the conflict in DRC. This influx coincided with the dry season in Nebbi, resulting in a water and sanitation crisis. Seasonal rivers and wells dried up, and boreholes broke down. Existing health care systems were stretched to their limits with an acute shortage of medical facilities, personnel and drugs.

The allocation was used to support the Ugandan Red Cross Society in providing immediate relief assistance to the affected population. The appeal is approximately 58% covered.

#### **Chad – Refugees and Returnees**

Amount Allocated: CHF 20,000

Status: whole amount outstanding

Latest information bulletin: [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?rpts03/chadref03a1.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts03/chadref03a1.pdf)

Following the coup on Saturday 14 March in the Central Africa Republic (CAR) which toppled the Government and the looting which followed, the Chad Red Cross requested the release of CHF 20,000 from DREF to complement the assistance which it carried out with local NGOs and UN partners in order to be able to assist those affected.

#### **Russian Federation – School Fires**

Amount Allocated: CHF 15,000

Status: whole amount outstanding

Latest information bulletin: <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=142>

Severe fires broke out in two Russian schools in the Republics of Yakutia and Dagestan on 7 and 10 April killing a total of 50 children. The first fire broke out in Yakutia, just as the children were starting classes. There were over 100 students in the building at the time and nine personnel. 22 children died and 9 were hospitalised. The second fire broke out in Dagestan where 166 handicapped children (deaf and dumb) were sleeping in a boarding school. 28 children between the ages of 7-14 died and 113 were hospitalised with severe burns, trauma and asphyxia. The two-floor building of the boarding school was burnt down.

The Russian Red Cross intervened immediately through its local branches in the respective areas. In Yakutia, volunteers and staff collected donations in moneyboxes, opened a special account for public donations and allocated food aid for the families of the affected children. In Dagestan, the local Red Cross branch organised blood donations from students and volunteers from the Red Cross youth movement.

The allocation was used for the purchase of basic medicaments.

#### **Zambia/Zimbabwe – Malaria Emergency**

Amount Allocated: CHF 162,000

Status: whole amount outstanding

Latest information bulletin: [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?rpts03/zimmal1.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts03/zimmal1.pdf)

Serious, large-scale malaria epidemics in Zimbabwe are ongoing and there is a risk for spill over to neighbouring Zambia after floods caused by the cyclones Japheth and Kuledé. The situation is particularly dangerous as it follows a period of drought, famine and malnutrition. Combined with a high prevalence of HIV infections, the overall immunity against malaria is considerably reduced. In addition, preventive measures such as insecticide residual house spraying (IRHS) could not be carried out this year and many health centres are depleted of anti-malarial drugs. This is exacerbated by poor/no access to even basic malaria treatment.

Since March 2003, there has been increased transmission. Malaria epidemics have broken out in nine districts in Zimbabwe with 97,885 cases and 164 deaths. Continued heavy rains and floods after two cyclones compounded by the interruption of preventive activities due to the shortage of fuel and foreign currency, worsened the outbreaks. As a result, 1,912,100 people were considered at high risk of malaria in Zimbabwe. Mortality is expected to be high because of the low immunity and often no access to basic anti malarial drugs and treatment.

The DREF allocation was used for training, treatment of simple and severe malaria in addition to the transport costs.

### **Argentina – Floods**

Amount Allocated: CHF 50,000

Status: whole amount outstanding

Latest information bulletin: <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=20>

As a result of heavy rains the city of Santa Fe underwent a critical floods situation. Over a third of the province was inundated. All the sectors involved with services activities, municipal and provincial, the army and non-profit organizations, worked to assist more than 50,000 people from Santa Fe capital and the surroundings. The Argentina Red Cross (ARC) sent 10 tons of relief goods from Buenos Aires to Santa Fe province in a truck; these goods were part of the provisions storage for the Argentina Crisis appeal. Currently the Argentina Red Cross rescued about 1,000 people from houses and roofs of the flooded zones. A needs assessment & response-planning mission to the disaster area, the Buenos Aires Lima Sub-regional Office and Argentina RC's headquarters was carried out.

DREF was used to purchase relief supplies (particularly food and hygiene articles), the above-mentioned mission and other urgent initial activities for the rescue & relief operation.

### **Impact**

DREF has been able to provide all operations with the full amount requested to kick start assistance thereby providing immediate relief to the beneficiaries. The Delegations and National Societies using DREF have found it to be an invaluable tool for the provision of immediate assistance to victims of disasters. All DREF allocations executed during this period were mainly to sudden onset disasters.

With regards to reimbursements of allocations made in 2002 operations over CHF 1,900,599 remains outstanding with minimal reimbursements being made during the reporting period.

### **Constraints**

Funding for DREF has been rather slow with only 16.5% coverage achieved at the end of the first quarter. Reimbursements have also been slow and the requests for funds are on the increase. There is also a need to greater understand and appreciate the role of the Fund which is to *kick start* operations – in this regard greater efforts will have to be made in order to ensure that this is adhered to. There is a danger that the fund would run low thereby limiting the amount, which could be approved for operations, as a result of a combination of both low funding and late reimbursements.

### **For further information 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 (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

## 2002 ALLOCATIONS STATUS

Location	Disaster Type	EAN	Date	Approved	Reimbursed	Remaining
PADRU	Preparedness		18.01.02	50'000		50'00
Egypt	Train disaster		20.02.2002	30'000		30'00
Bolivia	Floods		25.02.2002	30'000	1'749	28'25
India	Communal unrest		08.03.2002	56'180	20'000	36'18
Bangladesh	Tropical storms		30.04.2002	102'346	2'915	99'43
Costa Rica and Panama	Floods		10.05.2002	25'000		25'00
Palestine	Recovery programme	AP13/2002	23.05.2002	190'000		190'00
Syria	Dam collapse/flooding	AP15/2002	06.06.2002	200'000		200'00
Chile	Floods		06.06.2002	60'000		60'00
Moldova	Heavy rainfall and floods		24.06.2002	34'724	58	34'66
Russian Federation	Floods in the Northern Caucasus and South of Russia		28.06.2002	50'000	41'902	8'09
Angola	Assessment mission	AP26/02	03.07.2002	70'000		70'00
Federated States of Micronesia	Landslides		04.07.2002	30'000	15'188	14'81
Mozambique	Preparedness		19.08.2002	393'750		393'75
Angola	Humanitarian assistance	AP26/02	12.09.2002	150'000		150'00
Seychelles	Heavy rains and strong winds		13.09.2002	40'000		40'00
Cote d'Ivoire	Post Conflict and internal displacement support		23.09.2002	10'000		10'00
Mexico	Hurricane Isidore		26.09.2002	88'000		88'00
Senegal and Gambia	Ferry boat disaster		03.10.2002	10'000		10'00
Cuba	Hurricane Isidore and Lili	AP29/2002	03.10.2002	30'000		30'00
Cote d'Ivoire	Post Conflict and internal displacement support		07.10.2002	30'000		30'00
Paraguay	Drought Assessment	AP31/02	10.10.2002	70'000		70'00
DRC	Cholera		28.10.2002	10'000		10'00
Ukraine	Plane Crash		31.10.2002	7'411		7'41
Middle East	Preparedness		15.11.2002	75'000	75'000	
Panama	Floods		28.11.2002	40'000		40'00
Morocco	Flash Floods		29.11.2002	40'000		40'00
Costa Rica, Panama	Floods		10.12.2002	40'000		40'00
Central Africa Republic	Military Conflict		18.12.2002	45'000		45'00
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Winter Humanitarian Needs		23.12.2002	50'000		50'00
Total					156'812	1'900'59

# JANUARY - APRIL CONTRIBUTIONS

**DREF**

**ANNEX 2**

**APPEAL No. 01.95/2003**

**PLEDGES RECEIVED**

31.03.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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**CASH**

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	<b>3'400'000</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>	
			<b>16.7%</b>	
AMERICAN - PRIVATE DONOR	2'000	USD	2'781	29.01.2003
BANGLADESH - PRIVATE DONOR	100'000	BDT	2'331	19.02.03
BRITISH - PRIVATE DONOR	2'500	USD	3'476	17.01.2003
BRITISH - PRIV. DONOR (PACE MICRO TECHN.)	2'000	GBP	4'362	19.02.03
BRITISH - PRIVATE DONOR			5'705	09.01.03
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID (04)			500'000	24.02.03
GERMAN - RC			10'000	12.02.03
LUXEMBOURG - RC	10'000	EUR	14'555	13.01.2003
PRIVATE DONORS			2'856	09.01.2003
SWISS - RC			21'300	21.01.2003
				BANGLADESH COLD WAVE
				BANGLADESH COLD WAVE
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>		<b>CHF</b>	<b>567'366</b>	<b>16.7%</b>