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DREF operation update Somalia: Tropical Cyclone

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRSO002 GLIDE n° TC-2013-000140-SOM Update n°1 – 11 December, 2013

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.

Period covered by this update: 18
November to 4 December, 2013.

Summary: CHF 67,841 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 18 November, 2013 to support the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) in conducting an initial needs assessment, provide emergency health care and water to communities worst affected by the Tropical Cyclone Disaster targeting an initial 300 beneficiaries.

To appropriately determine the scope of intervention, the Somali Red Crescent Society supported by the Somalia Delegation and the IFRC Regional Representation conducted a comprehensive assessment exercise in accessible affected areas between 16 and 24 November 2013 covering the 9 affected districts within Nugaal and Bari regions.



A SRCS volunteer distributes NFIs to nomadic settlements affected by the cyclone in Wanka barda baruur village, Dangorayo District. Photo/SRCS

An IFRC operational support team was immediately deployed to Puntland to provide technical and financial support services to the SRCS branches in Garowe and Bosaso. The team arrived in Garowe aboard the cargo flight chartered by the IFRC Somalia Delegation transporting the NFIs.

SRCS was part of the Inter-Agency Group assessment team comprised of international organizations formed to determine the extent or impact of damage caused by the cyclone. Both the DREF action plan and budget were reviewed and validated by IFRC Somalia Delegation, the Regional Office and the Africa Zone Office and the DREF request subsequently approved. Two DMIS reports were developed and released.

The outcome of the rapid assessment has been used to develop a 9-month Emergency Appeal which is currently being reviewed and will be published shortly.

The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, DG ECHO, the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. Details of DREF contributions are found on: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MDR00001.pdf>

IFRC, on behalf of Somalia Red Crescent Society, would like to extend its thanks to all for their generous contributions.

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The situation

The State of Puntland in the North Eastern part of Somalia was hit by a tropical cyclone on 10 November, 2013. This was followed by heavy rainfall and flash floods. The cyclone caused massive destruction resulting in the deaths of 162 people, displacement of tens of hundreds of nomads, decimation of approximately 1 million livestock and destruction of over 1,000 houses according to Government statistics.

The most affected areas included, Dangorayo, Bandar Beyla, Garowe and Eyl Districts. Other areas affected include the coastal villages in Bari region including Hafun and Callula Districts.

Livelihoods for the pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and fishermen suffered severe losses with the pastoralists losing between 70 to 90 percent of their entire livestock. The farmers who depended on irrigation lost their entire crops and equipment used for pumping water. The fishermen had their boats damaged and their fishing gear destroyed by the flood waters.

The Government of Puntland declared a natural disaster on 11 November, 2013 and requested for international assistance to assist the people of Puntland. Critical assistance required by the affected people started arriving on 14 November 2013, with contributions received from major humanitarian organizations led by the Government of Puntland.

Currently, communities have gone over the initial floods emergency crisis and are focused on recovery efforts. Most of the roads which were previously cut off are now accessible and donations of food and Non Food Items (NFIs) are streaming into the affected communities. As of 24 November 2013, over 5,000 households had received food and NFIs from various agencies including the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Organization for Migration, Puntland Government, the local and Somalia Diaspora community.

Coordination and partnerships

The IFRC and the ICRC maintain a good working relationship in their effort to support the operation in the affected areas. Coordination meetings and the sharing of relevant information are convened to discuss issues directly related to the operations coordination in the field. Discussions of intervention strategies and plans as well as logistical issues are being harmonized. Both organizations plan to monitor activities in the operational areas and consolidate intervention in the field to avoid over lapping or duplication.

SRCS and IFRC have also been participating in the regular Inter-Agency Coordination Meetings chaired by the Government of Puntland. These meetings bring together all the humanitarian actors including the United Nations agencies, INGOs, the Puntland line ministries responsible for

coordinating the response to the disaster, ICRC and SRCS. The meetings are an information sharing platform on the various ongoing interventions and plans of action. The major activity undertaken by the partners is the inter-agency assessment mission to the affected areas that took place between 21 and 30 November, 2013. The findings from the exercise are currently being analysed and a report shall be released to all partners shortly.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

To appropriately determine the scope of intervention, the Somali Red Crescent Society backed by the Somalia Delegation and the IFRC Regional Representation conducted a comprehensive assessment exercise in accessible affected areas on 16 to 24 November 2013. The assessment took a period of seven days covering the affected nine districts within Nugaal and Bari regions. The standard Federation Assessment Methodology and the new assessment format based on the IFRC Field Assessment Guidelines were applied using the detailed assessment format. About 159 field assessment forms were completed in 51 affected villages. Data was collected by holding formal and informal discussions with local government authorities/administration and as well as by conducted interviews with traditional/clan leaders, women's groups, youth groups, affected households community and humanitarian organizations operational in the areas. The results of the assessment have been released and the plan of action is currently under consideration.

The mobilization of the SRCS mobile health clinics at the onset of the disaster formed an integral part of the first intervention team set up by the Ministry of Health. The four mobile health clinics provided a diverse range of health services ranging from curative/preventive services, water and hygiene promotion services, safe motherhood services, first aid and psycho-social support.

From the onset, ICRC distributed one-month food rations and Essential Household Items (EHI) to over 1,000 affected households in the highly affected areas in the Triangular belt. A total of 25 SRCS volunteers were deployed to support the distribution of EHI provided by the ICRC. The ICRC intends to conduct two more rounds of distribution of food and EHIs in the coming days. Recently, SRCS distributed NFIs dispatched from the IFRC Nairobi warehouses to 200 nomadic households. As nomads are sparsely settled, SRCS conducted house-to-house distribution of complete NFI sets which comprised of: mosquito nets, kitchen sets, blankets, tarpaulins, sleeping mats and jerry cans in Dangorayo District.

Progress towards outcomes

Assessment:	
Outcome: Emergency needs of tropical cyclone-affected families are identified and gaps documented, leading to revision of the operation's plan of action if required.	
Outputs (expected results):	Activities planned:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed assessment is carried out across all sectors and the operation plan of action is revised appropriately to address outstanding needs if required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFRC technical support team deployed to support the National Society in planning and managing a detailed assessment including household visits and key informant interviews. Mobilize and train 50 SRCS branch staff and volunteers in the affected areas to enable them carry out needs assessment in the strategic locations. Identify outstanding needs and gaps in consultation with local authorities and other stakeholders. Maintain monitoring of the rainfall pattern and evolving situation with regular reports to IFRC. Analyse and consolidate assessment data from the field and maintain constant liaison with SRCS staff and volunteers in the field. Coordination with relevant departments of the SRCS, IFRC and ICRC. Revise plan of action and budget as needed.

Progress: On 17 November 2013, an IFRC operational support team comprising the Operations Manager and Somalia Delegation Senior Disaster Management Officer were immediately deployed to Puntland to provide technical and financial support services to the SRCS branches in Garowe and Bosaso. The team arrived in Garowe aboard the cargo flight chartered by the IFRC Somalia Delegation transporting the NFIs.

Twenty-three Somali Red Crescent Society staff and volunteers from both Garowe and Bosaso Branches received a day's training/orientation on assessment at SRCS Garowe Branch. These volunteers were divided into six teams: three teams for Nugaal Region and three teams for Bari.

Approximately 159 questionnaires/field assessment forms were filled in collaboration with relevant local government administrators in the respective districts. Interviews with traditional/clan leaders, women's groups, youth groups, affected households and humanitarian organisations operational in the areas. The assessment exercise was conducted in 51 affected villages in both regions. SRCS staff was in regular contact with relevant authorities to monitor the climatic conditions and prepare themselves according to the changing situation.

The IFRC support team maintained regular and close contact by telephone with assessment team leaders in the field. This effort helped in temporarily identifying gaps, appropriate response mechanisms and areas of complementarity with the ICRC to avoid duplication. SRCS was an integral part of the Inter-Agency Relief committee established by the Government of Puntland where it played a crucial role. SRCS/IFRC frequently attended the co-ordination meeting organised by the Puntland Government.

SRCS was part of the Inter-Agency Group assessment team comprised of international organizations formed to determine the extent or impact of damage caused by the cyclone. Both the DREF action plan and budget were reviewed and validated by IFRC Somalia Delegation, the Regional Office and the Africa Zone Office and the DREF request subsequently approved. Two DMIS reports were developed and released.

The outcome of the rapid assessment has been used to develop a 9-month Emergency Appeal which is currently being reviewed and will be published shortly.

Emergency Health and Care

Outcome: Water borne and water related disease morbidity and mortality of flood affected households in the affected areas is reduced.	
Outputs:	Activities planned:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Aid and primary health services are provided to affected communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilize and dispatch mobile medical teams to the affected communities. Strengthen the provision of basic health care services with additional drugs and other medical supplies.

Progress: The National Society mobile health teams (2 in Nugaal and 2 in Bari regions) were deployed in the affected areas with each team comprising of 6 staff members and visited both the villages and nomadic settlements affected. Between 14 and 28 November, reports from the field indicate that a total of 2,021 cases had been treated by the mobile health teams. The most common diseases noted include, diarrhoea, skin diseases, malaria and acute respiratory infections. Services being provided include, First Aid services, curative, preventive and health promotion services, WASH awareness, safe motherhood services, psychosocial support services, referrals to regional hospitals and follow-up of cases referred.

Water, sanitation and Hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through proper household water treatment and safe storage mechanism, as well as hygiene promotion to at least 300 households (1,800 people).

Outputs:	Activities planned:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion services are improved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure and deploy one water and sanitation kit 2. • Mobilize and deploy RDRT member with specialization in water and sanitation to support assesment and response. • Distribute jerry cans, aqua/water purification tablets and buckets contained within the water and sanitation kit 2. • Reprint hygiene promotion messages/ fliers. • Mobilize volunteers to disseminate messages on the safe and proper use of aqua/ water purification tablets as well as hygiene promotion.

Progress: The deployment of the Sanitation kit 2 and WatSan RDRT was called off as flood water receded quickly through run-off to the Ocean. SRCS Garowe Branch distributed a total of 200 jerry cans in Dangorayo District during an NFI distribution exercise from the NFIs stock air lifted from Nairobi.

Eight SRCS static clinics and two mobile clinics in Nugaal region and four static and two mobile clinics in Bosaso region scaled up their activities in treatment of water borne diseases and hygiene promotion to raise the awareness of the affected population to the hazards of consuming contaminated water. Each clinic mobilized 9 volunteers and one supervisor to scale up the services. The exercise was extended to Burtinle Branch in Nugaal region where 30 volunteers were involved.

Emergency Shelter: Relief distributions of basic non-food items

Outcome: 300 households comprising approximately 1,800 people will benefit from the distribution of non-food items air lifted from Nairobi the most cyclone affected areas.

Outputs:	Activities planned:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of the non-food items will contribute to improvement of the shelter of the affected households in the triangular belt in Nugaal region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close coordination of distribution and intervention activities with ICRC, Puntland government line ministries and humanitarian organisation operational in the area. • Mobilisation and training of SRCS Branch staff and volunteers. • Identification and selection of affected areas in need of NFI support. • Selection of 300 households by adopting a household beneficiary selection criteria. • Registration of eligible households for the delivery of intended assistance. • Distribute relief supplies and control supply

	<p>movements from point of dispatch to end user.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relief distribution monitoring by Branch DM officers and IFRC DM officers • Distribution reporting and recommendations for future assistance.
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Progress: Through the coordination between SRCS, IFRC and ICRC, plans were made to distribute 200 completed sets of NFIs to 200 households in Dangorayo district. The IFRC support team trained the SRCS volunteers on the techniques of completing beneficiary lists and distribution forms. The villages were identified after the SRCS assessment team visited the targeted villages and discovered that they had not received any assistance from any organisation.

Beneficiaries of the NFIs were mainly nomads from the nomadic settlements. Beneficiary lists and registration of all beneficiaries was done on the first day of the exercise. SRCS Garowe Branch distributed NFIs to 200 Households. The NFIs comprised of kitchen sets, mosquito nets, bankets, tarpaulins, sleeping mats and jerry cans. The IFRC Support team monitored the process of beneficiary listing, registration and distribution.

The distribution of NFIs was supervised by the SRCS DM Officer and a report with recommendations will be availed in subsequent updates.

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 (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the

Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster 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.
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