

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Djibouti: Food Insecurity

DREF operation n° MDRDJ001

22 July 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 212,100 (USD 207,941 or EUR 131,739) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in preparing to deliver assistance to some 10,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** A total of 118,590 people have been affected by the current drought in Djibouti. The current drought, which is felt through out the entire country, appears more severe than that of 2006 drought. Multiple factors such as high food prices, loss of livestock due to loss of pasture land, animal diseases and water shortage aggravated the current situation.

The most affected people are the pastoralist communities who have lost livestock, which is their only asset base. There is also a steady influx of migrants clustering at the vicinity of the five regional headquarters and Djibouti city to access water supply for consumption and for their few remaining animals.



Pastoralists queue for water from one of the few remaining water sources well.

In order to measure the impact of the deteriorating food insecurity situation, the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti (RCSD) and the International Federation deployed Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) to carry out food insecurity assessments. This helped to determine the magnitude and severity of the drought, its impact and the ability of affected households to meet their essential food requirements, without damaging their livelihoods, health and dignity. This recommended that the RCSD respond to the crisis with immediate water and sanitation interventions and targeted food assistance for the most vulnerable.

A DREF allocation is requested to assist the RCSD to start up emergency water and sanitation activities in the two worst affected regions of Obock and Ali Sabieh, including households who have migrated because of the drought and are living in temporary shelters in peri-urban areas. The DREF will also support the deployment of a relief delegate to assist the RCSD with detailed assessment and preparation for the planned, targeted food distribution.

This operation is expected to be implemented over two months, and will therefore be completed by 14 September 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 14 December 2008).

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

## The situation

Delayed and below-normal rains in Djibouti are increasing food security concerns. Djibouti is very heavily dependent on imports of the main staple foods. Record-high staple food prices are severely restricting food access, especially among the poorest urban and rural households. In January 2008 the price of rice has increased by 135 percent (from 3,400 FD for 50 kilograms to 8,000 FD). The same patterns follow for the other food commodities in the country. The drought has reduced the condition of livestock so the terms of trade are not in favor of pastoralists, hence making access to food more difficult. At the same time poor urban households can hardly meet three-fourths of their daily minimum food requirements.

The current drought, which is felt through out the entire country, appears more severe than that of 2006 drought. Multiple factors such as high food prices, loss of livestock due to loss of pasture land, animal diseases and water shortage aggravated the current situation. According to the Government reports, the number of people requiring emergency assistance has increased to 118,590 people.

Region	Number of Households affected	Number of people affected
Djibouti- Ville	7,150	35,750
Ali-sabieh	3,100	15,500
Arta	1,600	8,000
Obock	2,868	14,340
Tadjourah	3,800	19,000
Dikhil	5,200	26,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,718</b>	<b>118,590</b>

Source: Government of Djibouti appeal 2008.

This situation led the Djibouti Government to launch an appeal on the 3 June 2008 for CHF 14 million, to provide food assistance to 24,000 households most affected by this severe drought.

The most affected people are the pastoralist communities who have lost a total of 590,301 livestock according to the Government of Djibouti. Livestock as their only asset base are dying due to drought or sold for prices much less than their worth. Due to the drought there is a steady influx of migrants clustering at the vicinity of the five regional headquarters and Djibouti city to access water supply for both their own consumption and their few remaining animals.

As the drought conditions continue, the affected communities are unable to cope without external assistance especially in the North West and South East regions. The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates are reported to be above emergency thresholds, with the highest rates in the North West of the country. It is likely that the health status of the communities will also deteriorate due to lack of access to safe water for domestic and personal hygiene as the communities continue to drink from insecure sources and the few sources will be drying up in the coming few months.

## Coordination and partnerships

Red Crescent Society of Djibouti is a leading national humanitarian organization in the country. Red Crescent Society of Djibouti as an auxiliary to the Government works closely with regional commissioners to respond to the community needs especially in relief related activities and environmental sanitation promotion related activities.

The National Society has been coordinating with the Government and attending inter-agency meetings to agree its role as defined by the Government.

The Federation Delegate based in Eritrea has visited the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti to assist in coordinating the RC/RC intervention to the drought.

Red Crescent Society of Djibouti, the Federation and ICRC in the country are working in close coordination. For this emergency, a Task Force will be established to involve all Movement partners in a joint response. The basic framework and modalities of an Operational Alliance will serve as guidance to organize the coordination activities of the Red Cross Movement in response to this emergency.

Overall coordination of emergency relief activities with external actors takes place through the Minister of Interior (Mol). RCSD is closely coordinating with Mol

The World Food Programme (WFP) undertook general food distribution for 55,000 people in the entire five regions of Djibouti until the end of May 2008. Limited food available in the pipeline meant that full rations were only provided to those in the North Western regions with others receiving only partial ration, and in the month of June 2008 there was no food distribution. Red Crescent Society of Djibouti intervention will be designed as food distribution to fill the gaps of the current food aid programme and will be coordinated closely with WFP and MoI to avoid duplication.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Crescent Society of Djibouti formed a national task force under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary General on 20 May. Furthermore, the RCSD at HQ informed the RCSD branches to revitalize the volunteers and to maintain in close contact with the HQ updating and monitoring the drought situation.

In order to measure the impact of the deteriorating food insecurity situation, the RCSD and the International Federation deployed RDRT to carry out food insecurity assessments to determine the magnitude and severity of the drought, its impact and the ability of affected households to meet their essential food requirements, without damaging their livelihoods, health and dignity. The assessment constituted the basis for this DREF appeal to allow for a first initial response while a more comprehensive Plan of Action takes shape. This will integrate information from all assessments and secondary sources available.

## The needs and proposed targeting

The worst affected communities are poor urban households and those in peri-urban areas where families have dropped out of pastoralism due to loss of livestock and livelihood and migrated to urban centres. These groups are particularly hard hit by the high food prices and hence are highly food insecure. In addition nomadic pastoralist households, especially in the North West, are struggling to find water and grazing and have limited access to food due to poor terms of trade. Both these groups are at risk from water borne disease due to their poor nutritional state and limited access to safe water and hygiene.

Some of the needs for water and food security in the country are being met through United Nations (UN) and World Bank funded activities but the UN has launched an appeal to address strategic priorities in nutrition, health, water and livestock sectors. The funded WFP food distribution is planned to cover 80,000 rural people from July to September. The estimated needs of the 35,000 vulnerable people in urban and semi-urban areas will only be covered if WFP receives additional funding and can operate effectively in these areas.

Targeting of beneficiaries will be carried out in coordination with WFP and local authorities and involving direct participation of communities and local committees for household targeting based on vulnerability criteria (such as women-headed households, substantial loss of assets, no other source of income and disability of family member). The RCSD with its volunteers will undertake screening of beneficiaries in collaboration with the regional committees, register them and monitor the distribution process. Each head of household will be given a distribution card against which they receive their monthly ration.

## The proposed operation

The RCSD plans to launch an emergency appeal to meet some of the most urgent food and livelihood needs of affected populations. The DREF operation is intended to be for a two months period and to allow the RCSD to carry out detailed assessment and targeting and to build the capacity of the staff and volunteers to carry out a more comprehensive food aid operation.

Relief Assessment	
<b>Objective:</b> To improve the capacity of the National Society to conduct a detailed needs assessment for the people affected by the drought in Djibouti.	
Expected results	Activities planned
The NS capacity to assess the food security situation of vulnerable communities enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruit a Delegate and support the RCSD.</li> <li>Mobilize 60 volunteers to assist the relief operation.</li> <li>Conduct a detailed assessment with a possibility of launching an emergency appeal and longer-term intervention.</li> </ul>

<b>Emergency Health And care</b>	
<b>Objective:</b> To minimize the outbreak of sanitation and hygiene related diseases in the Ali-sabieh and Obock targeting 10,000 beneficiaries for two months.	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
The incidence of sanitation and hygiene related diseases are minimised in Ali-sabieh and Obock.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitate 10 water pans and establish temporary water supplies</li> <li>• Construct 10 temporary latrines</li> <li>• Conduct 1 Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) training for 40 community members.</li> <li>• Conduct 10 hygiene promotion sessions.</li> <li>• Procure and distribute 2,000 water jerry cans.</li> </ul>

### Capacity of the National Society

Red Crescent Society of Djibouti through its network of six branches and over 180 volunteers has relative experience in relief distribution and since 1990's has undertaken various relief operations with different partners.

To start this operation, the level of trained Red Crescent volunteers at the branch level and the operational capacity of the six branches is taken into consideration. This requires more preparation with regard to technical training of volunteers and branch level staff in implementation and monitoring of the activity to enhance the capacity building of the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti.

### Capacity of the Federation

The Federation is currently represented by the Country representative based in Eritrea, who will facilitate the communication between the National Society and the Zonal office in Nairobi in terms of monitoring the implementation of the drought response. It is planned to recruit a relief delegate to act as head of operations in Djibouti for the duration of the response.

The Disaster Management department and the food security coordinator at the Zonal office in Nairobi will provide technical support and assist in monitoring the implementation of immediate and longer term interventions.

### 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.*

<p>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".</p>	<p><b>Global Agenda Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.</li> <li>• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.</li> <li>• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.</li> </ul>
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### Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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[<DREF budget below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

<b>APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY</b>	MDRDJ001
DJIBOUTI DROUGHT DREF REQUEST	
<b>RELIEF NEEDS</b>	
Shelter	
Construction Materials	
Clothing and Textiles	
Food	
Seeds and Plants	
Water and Sanitation	81,790
Medical and First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils and Tools	
Other Supplies and Services	25,065
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>106,855</b>
<b>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</b>	
Land and Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computers and Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture and Equip.	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery and Equipment	
<b>TRANSPORT, STORAGE and VEHICLES</b>	
Storage - Warehouse	
Distribution and Monitoring	
Transport and Vehicles Costs	19,400
<b>PERSONNEL</b>	
International Staff	24,400
Regionally Deployed Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	12,000
Consultants	
<b>WORKSHOPS &amp; TRAINING</b>	
Workshops & Training	20,000
<b>GENERAL EXPENSES</b>	
Travel	
Information and Public Relations	
Office running costs	1,000
Communication Costs	14,659
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	
<b>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</b>	

Programme Support - PSR	13,787
<b>Total Operational Needs</b>	<b>105,245</b>
<b>Total Appeal Budget (Cash and Kind)</b>	<b>212,100</b>
<b>Available Resources</b>	
<b>Net Request</b>	<b>212,100</b>