

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Uganda: Food Insecurity in Karamoja

DREF operation n° MDRUG011

GLIDE n° OT-2008-000164-UGA

17 July 2009

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 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.

Summary: CHF 191,839 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 20 September 2008 to support the National Society in delivering assistance to some 33,939 beneficiaries, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks. The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) implemented a three month project in Karamoja supported by the Federation through a DREF funding.

This intervention is a follow up on a URCS assessment conducted in August 2008 which confirmed that about 33,939 people in Kotido and Abim district in Uganda were then facing an acute food insecurity. Many parts of Karamoja were described as



URCS FS officer demonstrating a sample of the seed kit to be distributed in one of the sensitization meeting in Nakapelimoru Kotido district

chronically food insecure for the past 5 years due a combination of factors including recurrent drought, over population and declining resource base for agro-pastoralist.

A total of 5,000 households (25,000 beneficiaries) who were critically vulnerable from Kotido and Abim districts were identified amongst the affected population and benefited from the provision of seeds and agricultural tools to enable them to cope with food insecurity.

This operation was conducted in collaboration with the Government of Uganda, World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on:

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

[< Click here for the final financial report or here to view contact details >](#)

The situation

The 2008 rains in Karamoja were erratic and caused uncertainty amongst the farming population. For example, in first season of 2008, Abim and Kotido experienced their first rains in late May 2008 while the second rains came late August 2008. Normal rains for this area are March to June. This confused farmers to the extent that most of them who had seeds could not plant due to uncertainty of the weather conditions. The metrological department predicted a dry season from November 2008 to the end of February 2009. Worse still, the predicted rains could not come and are expected mid April 2009. The Food security and livelihood working group chaired by Food and Agriculture Organization, and the Office of the Prime Minister in charge of disasters, issued an alert that communities in the Karamoja region were likely to starve due to poor harvest and late rains.

As a consequence of this situation, many Agencies that had planned to distribute seeds had to put this activity on hold until the end of February 2009. The fact that most people in the area still depend on World Food Programme food distributions which is not enough and had delayed to reach the URCS targeted communities, URCS had fears that if the seeds were distributed at this time then it was clear that no planting will take place; the beneficiaries would eat or sell them. However, some preparatory activities were carried out ([MDRUG01101](#)).

Coordination and partnerships

The Uganda Red Cross Society implemented all project activities in liaison with the relevant Government departments (at National, District and Sub-county levels), WFP, FAO and United Nations Childrens' Fund. The East Africa Zone Office also supported the URCS, specifically in the design and implementation of a comprehensive food security assessment in the project area. The Federation supported this project through the provision of the DREF.

The URCS staffs implementing the project participated in the food security cluster meeting in the area. They attended three food security meetings with district production staffs and Food Security and Agricultural Livelihood (FSAL) partners in the region. The outcomes of the meeting included:

- Food shortage in the region which called for WFP to increase food aid to the region. FSAL agencies were expected to plan and stock seeds during dry season in preparation for the planting season which has delayed due to the prolonged dry spell until April 2009.
- The need for a rapid inter-agency food security assessment under the guidance of the District Production Officer (DPO). This was carried out by URCS staff was among other FSAL members to analyse the food security crisis in the area.

The recommendations for the meeting were: The agencies and non governmental organizations (NGOs) that had seeds were required not to distribute them to the farmers because it was felt that the seeds would not be planted and there was fear that the seeds would be washed and eaten given the existing food insecurity in the area. It was also recommended that seed distribution process should always be done concurrently with food for work programme (FWP) so that beneficiaries would have food by the time they receive seeds for planting.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions
Objective 1: To revive the livelihood options of 5,000 agricultural households, through the distribution of emergency seeds and tools for the first planting season of 2009.
Activities planned <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Procurement of planting material (sorghum, maize, beans, cassava and vegetable seed).• Carry out community mobilization and sensitization on the project implementation plan (PIP).• Registration and verification of the internally displaced persons in the resettlement camps.• Formation of seed committees at parish level.• Transportation and distribution of planting material to target beneficiaries.• Procurement and distribution of agricultural tools (hand hoes, machetes, axes, sickles and rakes).

Achievements

Procurement, delivery and distribution of the seeds and tools for 5,000 beneficiaries was completed. According to the National Society, the following items and/or inputs were procured and distributed; 3 kgs of sorghum, 3kgs of beans, 3kgs of maize and vegetable kit (20gms of egg plant, onions, sukuma wiki, Amaranths (*Dodo*) and Okra) as one household kit total 5,000 kits. The tools procured included: a panga, two hoes, a sickle and an axe for one household as one kit. During the distribution, National Society Central governing board chairman and Kotido branch board members attended a meeting organized by the District Agriculture officer who sensitized beneficiaries the need to plant on time.



Volunteers distributing seeds and tools in Wilela Alerek Abim district

Community mobilization and sensitization was done appropriately through FSAL cluster meetings and District Agriculture Officers (DAOs) meetings. The beneficiaries were verified a few days to distribution time and they were given them identification cards.

At parish level, the seeds committees were formed and the members mobilization and sensitized the community on seed distribution. Selection of target areas in both districts was done in coordination with the District Agriculture Officers, Sub County Extension Workers and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) office Kotido districts. The areas supported in this intervention were: Nyakwae and Arelek sub counties of Abim and Kacheri and Nakapelimoru sub counties of Kotido district. Each committee was chaired by the Parish development committee chair person and assisted by the parish chief, two women representatives who were responsible for cultivation, four local council leader representatives who were responsible for enforcing by-laws, two community based volunteers who were trained on seed management and how to write progress reports and opinion leader for giving un biased information to those monitoring the project. Their other roles were to mobilize farmers to open land and development of nursery beds for vegetable growing. These committees also helped to identify the active beneficiaries and volunteer selection which helped URCS staff to finish their work smoothly.



ATOT trainer demonstrating how to plant seeds in a row during seeds mgt training in Kotido district headquarters

Twenty two community volunteers were trained for four days in seeds management and livelihoods skills, vegetable production skills, Red Cross Movement principles and roles and monitoring and evaluation. These Community based volunteers (CBVs) were selected with the help of community members and/or leaders in Nyakwae and Kacheri sub counties.

Objective 2: To conduct baseline survey and collect detailed and up-to-date information on food insecurity situation of the vulnerable people in Abim and Kotido districts for long term Food Security programming.

Activities planned

- Deployment of one food security expert to provide technical support in the baseline (for one month).
- Mobilizing staff and volunteers for baselines survey.

Achievements

An external consultant was assigned to design administer and analyse the data collected from the two sampled areas of Nyakwae sub county of Abim and Kacheri sub county of Kotido districts targeting 500 households. With the help of the Federation Eastern African Zone delegate, baseline survey tools were developed and used to collect the row data from the selected areas after orienting selected volunteers at the field level that were used to collect data. Information at household level, Key informants and secondary data was successfully collected.

The URCS staffs worked in conjunction with the selected external consultant. The consultant selected and oriented the volunteers on project activities. The volunteers were trained on data collection techniques using the local language but interpreting it in English language. The final household baseline survey report was submitted to the East Africa Zone Office. Based on this report, the National Society finalized the Long Term Food Security Programme proposal for 2009 to 2012 period.

Challenges

The project ought to have ended by December 2008, however, it was delayed due to weather conditions, and as a result URCS had to extend the operation. This impacted negatively on the already planned budget. Another challenge experienced during the course of this project was the inadequate logistical services especially hotels this led to an increase of transport costs. Shortage of food led to delays since the URCS had to wait for WFP to first distribute food due to fear of beneficiaries eating seeds as a result of hunger irrespective of sensitization of the treated seeds. There was also an overwhelming demand of seeds since the URCS had to distribute seeds to one parish and were the first to distribute before FAO. This challenged was later solved as other agencies came on board to fill the gap.

Conclusion

This operation was completed successfully. The URCS applauds the Federation for accepting the DREF extension that gave URCS an opportunity to distribute the seeds at the right time. The URCS also commends the food security and livelihood cluster who provided guidance at the time of community selection and URCS volunteers and staff for their commitment who worked hard to deliver seeds and tools in time. The objectives of this operation were achieved, hence the URCS are looking forward to community volunteers conducting crop performance evaluation.

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

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[<Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRUG011 - Uganda - Food Insecurity

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/9-2009/6
Budget Timeframe	2008/9-2008/12
Appeal	MDRUG011
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	191,839					191,839
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	191,813					191,813
C5. Other Income	191,813					191,813
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	191,813					191,813
D. Total Funding = B + C	191,813					191,813
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	191,813					191,813
E. Expenditure	-191,813					-191,813
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure						TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination			
A		B						A - B	
BUDGET (C)		191,839					191,839		
Supplies									
Seeds,Plants	86,667							86,667	
Utensils & Tools	56,667							56,667	
Total Supplies	143,334							143,334	
Transport & Storage									
Storage	9,619							9,619	
Transport & Vehicle Costs		25					25	-25	
Total Transport & Storage	9,619	25					25	9,595	
Personnel									
Regionally Deployed Staff	20,616							20,616	
Total Personnel	20,616							20,616	
General Expenditure									
Travel		1,019					1,019	-1,019	
Information & Public Relation	3,000							3,000	
Office Costs	1,900							1,900	
Communications	100	2					2	98	
Financial Charges	800							800	
Total General Expenditure	5,800	1,021					1,021	4,779	
Contributions & Transfers									
Cash Transfers National Societies		173,169					173,169	-173,169	
Total Contributions & Transfers		173,169					173,169	-173,169	
Programme Support									
Program Support	12,470	12,468					12,468	2	
Total Programme Support	12,470	12,468					12,468	2	
Services									
Shared Services		5,130					5,130	-5,130	
Total Services		5,130					5,130	-5,130	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	191,839	191,813					191,813	26	
VARIANCE (C - D)		26					26		