

# 6-Month update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Chad Food Crisis

Emergency appeal n° MDRTD004  
GLIDE n° OT-2010-000056-TCD  
6-month summary update  
23 December, 2010

### Period covered by this Ops Update:

26 April to 26 October. This update represents a six-month summary of the operation (cumulative narrative and financial).

### Appeal target (current):

CHF 1,251,790

Appeal coverage: 83%

[<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

### Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on 26 April for CHF1, 252,369 for 8 months to assist 400,425 beneficiaries.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 251,862 was initially allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)' DREF to support the Red Cross of Chad (RCC) to respond.
- Operation update no. 2 was issued on 26 August, 2010



Volunteers from the RCC regional distributing blanket feeding to malnourished children and seven days ration of food to their families. Photo RCC

**Summary:** Following the food security crisis confirmed by government and humanitarian actors' assessment in Chad in early 2010 and which affected the north and the centre of the country, the IFRC launched an emergency appeal to attend to the needs of the food insecure population. DREF was allocated to support the provision of immediate assistance to populations in areas considered as most affected following the preliminary assessment. Early financial support from Movement partners enabled to extend rapidly the operation in the three planned regions and deliver further assistance. The Field Level Agreement negotiated between the WFP and the Federation Representation enabled to implement most of the planned activities.

Activities planned in the three targeted regions of Kanem, Lac and Barh El Gazal were implemented according to priorities based on the needs determined during the emergency appeal launch. The general distribution of food in the targeted areas was among the initial priorities in order to significantly reduce the impact of the food crisis among targeted population. Food items made available by WFP were distributed according to criteria targeting the most vulnerable population such as female heads of household, pregnant and lactating women, widows, and the disabled.

A total of 38,500 beneficiaries were reached by food distribution in the region of Kanem; 33,810 in the region of Lac; and 27,340 beneficiaries in Bahr El Gazal. The food items planned to be distributed were not complete, some regions received two items (beans and cereals) whilst others received three to four items (cereals, beans, oil and sugar).

After the first round of the general food distribution, WFP carried out assessment and findings showed that the malnutrition rate among children aged 0-23 months is still far above the accepted level. Following this assessment and gaps noticed during the general food distribution, a new strategy was formulated to distribute blanket and feeding children aged 0 to 23 months aimed at contributing to the reduction of malnutrition.

Coping mechanisms of vulnerable population will be improved through the planned repositioning of agricultural materials and identification of persons capable of carrying out food-for-work activities in sites chosen by WFP and IFRC agricultural technician. The food-for-work strategy aims to improve the food security situation of the affected population as well as providing sustainable adaptation mechanisms.

Post distribution monitoring (PDM) activities aimed at evaluating the impact of food distribution were carried out in the region. Sampling of sites and training of 24 volunteers and six supervisors were carried out to enable the launch of the second PDM activities in the region of Kanem. Trained volunteers and supervisors were deployed to collect the data. The food security surveillance activities were not implemented during the reporting period. The activities planned to support nutritional centre with the training of volunteers and staff were suspended due to full coverage of these activities by other humanitarian partners operating in the area.

The above mentioned activities enabled to have a positive impact on the humanitarian situation of population planned to be assisted. The food distribution carried out during the initial phase of the operation ensured significant humanitarian assistance to the affected people.

## The situation

Assessment carried out in the outset of 2010 by government officials and humanitarian partners operating in Chad revealed that regions in the north and centre of the country were facing great food deficit. This situation was the result of the poor and irregular precipitation during the 2009 rainy season. Assessment findings showed that people in the region of Kanem, Barh El Gazal, Lac, Batha, Hadjar Lamis and Ouaddai are desperately suffering from lack of a normal ration of food. Malnutrition rate among children is above the acceptable level. Almost 70 per cent of the people of those regions were affected by famine. The Chadian government requested international aid from the UN and other donors.

As an auxiliary to public authorities, RCC launched an emergency appeal through the IFRC in search of funding support to deliver humanitarian assistance in the three targeted regions. The distribution of food items enabled to secure food for one month for areas estimated to be the most hit by the drought.

During the reporting period, RCC distributed food items composed of cereals, beans, salt, oil and sugar was in the three targeted regions thus food available to 19,930 drought affected families. The food distributions were supported by the WFP for one month. Despite this distribution, assessment by various partners showed that the rate of malnutrition is still rising among children aged 0-23 months. The IFRC in collaboration with WFP embraced a new strategy of only targeting children aged 0-23 months and their mothers and provide them with blankets and food items for one month, and a one week ration of food for their families.

## Coordination and partnerships

The RCC and IFRC joint field team and those at the national office regularly attended UN and government led meetings regarding the food security operation. Regular meetings are held with WFP in the intervention areas as well as in the national office. The overall aim of those meetings is to coordinate and monitor a full implementation of planned activities.

Activities in the field were also regularly monitored by delegates and national staff to ensure implementation of planned activities in conformity with Sphere standards. Meeting with authorities and community leaders in the field were organized thereby gaining their acceptance of and adherence to the food security project.

**National Society Capacity Building:** Around 200 volunteers were trained on distribution techniques and involved in the operation during the reporting period. Staff members from the regional committees were given managerial role to supervise activities in the field. National food security coordination was set up with the appointment of a food security focal point and national coordinator in the field.

The coordinator is supported with three regional coordinators and three supervisors. Offices in the targeted areas were equipped with relevant working materials. The regional committee of Lac and Kanem were equipped with VHF and HF radios and handsets. The last two operational regions will be targeted and equipped thereby providing full communication coverage to staff and volunteers in the field.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Overview

The National Society with the support of the IFRC was the first humanitarian organization to provide relief assistance to drought affected people in the northern region of the country. This move strengthened its role as auxiliary to public authorities and constituted an added value to its local committees.

Relief assistance provided within the timeframe of this appeal reduced the vulnerability of food insecurity victims in the disaster zone. The continuing distribution of blanket feeding to children aged 0-23 months will further reduce the level of malnutrition. Despite the delay in implementing some planned activities like the post distribution monitoring, the food-for-work and food security surveillance programme timeframe will be respected and planned objectives will be met. In early October, the IFRC negotiated and signed a second field level agreement to include the fourth northern region of Hadjar Lamis. Distribution sites were identified and volunteers were trained to start the first distribution of blanket feeding to targeted beneficiaries.

### Progress towards outcomes

Distributions of emergency food, nutrition and livelihoods	
Outcome: To reduce the effects of famine in the targeted zones through the distribution of food items made available by WFP	
Expected results)	Activities planned
Reduced immediate food deficit among 264,281 vulnerable households in the most-affected villages in the area of Lac, Kanem and Bahr El Gazal regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out mission to target villages and update the list of beneficiaries (people with special needs) in the area of Lac, Kanem and Bahr El Gazal</li> <li>• Sign partnership agreement with WFP;</li> <li>• Train distributors;</li> <li>• Rent 56 storage warehouses in the 56 sites of distribution in the region of Lac, Kanem and Bahr El Gazal;</li> <li>• Receive from WFP and store food items in the warehouses in the three targeted regions;</li> <li>• Register beneficiaries;</li> <li>• Conduct general distribution of cereals, vegetable oil and salt.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** Following the field level agreement discussed and signed with WFP, the RCC and IFRC joint team carried a mission in the three targeted regions and updated the lists of beneficiaries. Beneficiaries were selected according to criteria of vulnerabilities set by both the IFRC and WFP. A total of 200 volunteers were briefed on distribution techniques and were involved in the operation. The IFRC regional logistic department deployed seven 4X4 light vehicle in the operational area to enable a coherent and effective coordination of the distribution process. A total of 19,930 families affected by drought were reached by general food distribution. The items distributed were composed of cereals, oil, sugar salt and beans.

The general food distribution was planned to be organized in two rounds in the disaster areas. Only one round of food distribution took place so far. Delay in the pre-positioning of food items by WFP logistic department did enable to complete the planned rounds. Following the first distribution round of food items, WFP endorsed another strategy to reduce malnutrition. The new strategy is to suspend the general food distribution in all affected areas and focalize only on children aged 0-23 months and their mothers.

**Challenges:** The delay in the pre positioning of food items by WFP logistic department, the bad registration of beneficiaries in some villages and the difficult access to some villages due to bad roads and dunes of sand were the main challenges encountered during the reporting period. Lack of items in some distribution sites did not also allow providing beneficiaries with the complete ration planned.

Expected results	Activities planned
The vulnerabilities of children aged 6 to 23 months and all pregnant and lactating women are reduced through distribution of blanket feeding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of blanket feeding by the WFP;</li> <li>• Distribution of blanket feeding to the targeted beneficiaries according to WFP standards.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** The blanket feeding distribution planned to be a second activity in reducing malnutrition and the impact of famine among targeted victims is becoming the first partnership activity between the IFRC and WFP. The new strategy is to focus on children aged 0-23 months and their mothers thereby reducing completely the level of malnutrition among targeted victims. This strategy was endorsed after evaluation findings revealed that the rate of malnutrition in the affected regions was still above the acceptable level of 15 per cent.

During the reporting period, the IFRC carried out one month blanket feeding distribution for children aged 0-23 months and seven-day ration of food for their mothers. The table below summarises the distribution process in the three regions.

Regions	Blanket feeding distribution		Seven-day ration of food for mothers	
	Children reached	Quantity distributed (Kg)	Mothers reached	Quantity distributed
Kanem	91,150	67,515	446,110	144,329
Bahr El Gazal	11,261	80,741	66,260	221,242
Lac	25,374	-	102,760	-

**Note:** The quantity of food distributed in the third region was not made available to the reporting department.

The items distributed were composed of nutritional flour (CSB), vegetable oil and sugar to children for one month. Mothers with five members of their families were provided with a seven-day ration of food composed of cereals, beans, vegetable oil, sugar and salt.

Blanket feeding activities in the fourth region of Hadjar Lamis were mainly related to the training of volunteers and identification of distribution sites. During the reporting period, 44 distribution sites were identified with 2,037 children and 87,645 mothers planned to be assisted in the coming days.

**Challenges:** The blanket feeding distribution was carried out normally as planned despite interruption occurred in the region of Lac due to a cholera outbreak.

Expected results	Activities planned
Data regarding the impact of the distribution on beneficiaries and the food security surveillance are available and enable the planning of new interventions in the regions of Lac, Kanem and Bahr El Gazal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize a post distribution poll on the activities and the impact of the distribution after each round;</li> <li>• Set up database on the impact of distribution on beneficiaries in areas reached by the programme;</li> <li>• Carry out two food security surveillance studies during the hard time of August and after the harvest in the three targeted regions.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** Two post distribution monitoring activities were implemented during the reporting period. The first took place in the region of Bahr El Gazal and the second in Kanem. Prior to those activities, training sessions from the WFP personnel to RCC and Federation staff were organized thereby familiarizing them with the use of new processing data software. Volunteers and supervisors were also trained. Results from the two post distribution monitoring actions are still being published.

Expected results	Activities planned
Vulnerability of the targeted beneficiaries is durably reduced through the implementation of the food for work programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify sites in the targeted zones to improve agricultural conditions through stone lines, micro-catchments, water harvesting and soil erosion control measures;</li> <li>Implement food for work for environmental measures that improve agricultural production;</li> <li>Equip villagers with soil working tools for these works.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** The food-for-work activities were launched during the reporting period only in the two regions of Lac and Bahr El Gazal. A technical commission composed of the IFRC and the WFP proceeded with establishment of eligibility criteria for associations targeted by the project. Following submission by villagers grouping, the technical commission carried out evaluation in the field to assess and analyse the project submitted and the capacity of the villager associations. A total of 40 villagers grouping were identified in Lac and 12 others in Bahr El Gazal. The villagers grouping identified will be equipped with agricultural working tools such pre positioned in the areas.

## 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.

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.

## Contact information

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