

## ***DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND***

27 September,  
2000

*appeal no. 01.69/2000*

*situation report no. 02*

*period covered: April - August, 2000*

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*The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a key emergency response tool for the Federation, allowing funds to be released immediately after a disaster and facilitating the rapid start up of an emergency operation. DREF resources are made available in response to an appeal, in the process leading to an appeal, or in response to a small scale emergency where an appeal is not feasible. Because allocations are provided on a refundable basis, the DREF is a revolving fund, and contributions are used as leverage so that one donation provides aid well in excess of the actual amount contributed.*

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### ***DREF allocations during this period:***

#### ***PARAGUAY - DROUGHT*** w

A drought has been affecting the north of Paraguay, and in particular the departments of Concepcion, San Pedro and Chaco Central, since June 1999. The area suffered further setbacks from frosts in May and June last year and from fires triggered by pasture clearing methods. There is an acute shortage of water, not only for farming and livestock but also for human consumption. The current climatic conditions are unstable, with temperatures reaching over 35°C. The Government of Paraguay declared a state of emergency in September 1999. Because the drought shows no immediate signs of breaking, the Paraguayan Red Cross is seeking to provide food to 26,800 persons in the most severely affected communities, which have a total population of 34,800. This DREF allocation allowed the operation to start promptly on 17 April, 2000.

**Allocated:** CHF 100,000

**Date:** 4 April, 2000

**Status:** Complete  
**Report:** Appeal no. 07/2000 issued on 7 April, 2000.  
 Situation Report No. 1 issued 8 May, 2000.

***ETHIOPIA - DROUGHT w***

Four consecutive years of poor rainfall in Ethiopia have led to drought conditions and minimal harvests. This has had a cumulative impact on households in both pastoral and agricultural communities, undermining coping strategies and leading to greater vulnerability to drought. Many households have been forced to sell their livestock and other assets and some have migrated from their land in search of income and food. The International Federation issued a preliminary appeal on behalf of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society on 8 April and a revised appeal on 4 May. The revised appeal was for 10.3 million CHF for two operations, one in *South Wollo* to support 77,000 people and one in *North Borena* to support 50,000 people, with a combination of bulk and supplementary food and a range of agricultural, health and water inputs. Before the launch of the appeals, the Federation made this DREF allocation to immediately initiate relief activities.

**Allocated:** CHF 328,400  
**Date:** 6 June, 2000  
**Status:** Ongoing  
**Report:** Appeal no. 08/2000 (Preliminary) issued on 8 April, 2000; Full  
 (revised) appeal issued on 4 May, 2000.  
 Situation Report Nos. 1 and 2 issued 19 June and 23 August 2000.

***CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHAD, NIGER - MENINGITIS EPIDEMIC w***

Since December 1999, there have been outbreaks of meningococcal meningitis in several countries in the region, resulting in an epidemic in the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad and Niger. By mid April, as the epidemic peaked, there were significant numbers of cases in all three countries. In Chad, the number of people affected by the epidemic had reached 4,500 with 602 deaths, the worst-affected regions of East Logone, West Logone, Moyen Chari and Mayo Kebi bearing the heaviest toll. In the Central African Republic, 1,200 cases and 206 deaths have been recorded and although the arrival of the rainy season has halted the epidemic in Bangui in the south of the country, the Central Eastern and Central Western areas remain exposed. Furthermore, a severe dry spell continues in the north of the country, prompting the spread of the epidemic. In Niger, the epidemic has resulted in 250 deaths and 2,815 officially-recorded cases according to a report issued on 4th April by the government. The epidemic is particularly severe in the capital, Niamey, where 1,072 cases and 75 deaths have been recorded, a mortality rate of 8.8%. The epidemic has also hit the regions of Kirni N'Konni, close to the border with Nigeria, and Tera which is on the border with Burkina Faso. This DREF allocation allowed the planned activities to be started immediately.

**Allocated:** CHF 170,000  
**Date:** 14 April, 2000  
**Status:** Complete  
**Report:** Appeal no. 09/2000 issued on 14 April, 2000.  
 Situation Report No. 1 issued 9 May, 2000.

***HUNGARY - FLOODS w***

Melting snows and heavy rains have led to serious flooding in Romania, Hungary and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) over the past few days. Because of a quick snow melt in Romania and Ukraine and heavy rainfalls in northern Hungary and western Romania, the water levels of the Tisza River in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Tisza and Bodrog Rivers and their tributaries in Hungary, and the Kris, Mures, Somes and Timis Rivers in Romania, have risen significantly above normal levels. The Boka Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg districts in the north-east and the area around the town of Szolnok in eastern Hungary have been flooded. Some 200 people have been evacuated and mostly accommodated with their relatives; another 500 are threatened. The Hungarian Red Cross has released CHF 18,750 in order to provide rubber boots and

food supplies to those who have been working on the dams and to assist people who have had to leave their homes, and the Federation provided support with this allocation from the DREF.

**Allocated:** CHF 10,000  
**Date:** 25 April, 2000  
**Status:** Complete  
**Report:** Information Bulletin no. 1 issued 14 April, 2000.

#### ***SOUTH ASIA (INDIA/AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN) - DROUGHT w***

Severe drought is currently affecting vast areas of South Asia. Its effects on the population are particularly acute in western India, southern and central Pakistan and southern Afghanistan. With a Federation joint assessment team concluding that the situation in India and Pakistan could develop into a large-scale disaster, the Federation launched a 6-month appeal (to be modified as the situation evolves) to build both a preparedness system to monitor the drought and to build the capacity to respond effectively and rapidly to the drought if it worsens. The appeal also sought funds to enable the National Societies of India and Pakistan to carry out small scale food distributions to the most vulnerable who have only limited or no access to government relief programmes. To finance the Joint Assessment Mission and to begin the delivery of relief assistance, the Federation released CHF 50,000 from its DREF on 5 May and an additional 100,000 on 28 June.

**Allocated:** CHF 50,000 on 5 May, 2000; CHF 100,000 on 28 June, 2000.  
**Status:** Ongoing  
**Report:** Appeal no. 17/2000 issued on 6 July, 2000.

#### ***RUSSIA - FLOODS w***

When a rapid spring thaw and heavy rains in April filled reservoirs in the Russian oblast of Chelyabinsk, the authorities opened the floodgates to release the excess water which, sweeping south caused similar problems along the Tobol river in Kazakhstan. In the Russian Federation, the regions of Kurgan and Orenburg in Cheliabinsk were flooded: according to initial estimates, about one third of Kurgan has been inundated, affecting 10,000 people; in Orenburg, some 3,500 houses have been flooded, affecting 13,000 inhabitants. In Kazakhstan, floodgates were also opened, but in the process one dam was destroyed and four rayons (districts) -- Denisovsky, Zhitikarinsky, Taranovsky and Kostanaisky -- comprising urban settlements and 5,760 hectares of farm land already planted for this year's crops, were inundated.

At the peak of the emergency, waters rose seven metres above their normal level, flooding a total of 542 houses, leaving 2,100 people homeless and sweeping away most of their possessions, including food and seed reserves. To respond to the needs, the Federation released CHF 50,000 each to the two Societies from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

**Allocated:** CHF 100,000 (CHF 50,000 each for Russia and Kazakhstan)  
**Date:** 8 August, 2000  
**Status:** Ongoing  
**Report:** Information Bulletin no. 1 issued 9 May, 2000.

#### ***INDONESIA - EARTHQUAKE w***

An earthquake triggering a tsunami (tidal wave) hit Central Sulawesi Province on 4 May, leaving 41 dead, 228 injured and 10,500 families homeless in the districts of Luwuk and the Banggai/Peleng islands. The Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia or PMI) and the Federation assessed the situation by visiting 4 affected villages on Peleng island by boat. After the initial assessment, the Federation and PMI selected 3,500 of the worst affected families (17,500 individuals) for assistance consisting of shelter material, water containers and essential household materials. On 16 May 2000, the Federation issued an Appeal on behalf of the Indonesian Red Cross seeking CHF 459,000 for a three month operation. To immediately respond to the initial needs, the Federation released CHF 100,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

**Allocated:** CHF 100,000  
**Date:** 12 May, 2000

**Status:** Ongoing  
**Report:** Appeal no. 11/2000 issued on 16 May, 2000.  
 Situation Report nos. 1-3 issued 16 June, 6 July, and 10 August, 2000.

#### ***CHILE - FLOODS w***

With the onset of the austral winter, an estimated 72,408 people were seriously affected by reoccurring storms and heavy rainfalls since 2 June, 2000. At least 4,731 severely affected people have been accommodated in public shelters set up by the National Emergency Office. The majority of affected people, however, refuse to leave their homes in fear of looting. The assessment of the damage inflicted on the second and third floors of the Chilean Red Cross headquarters is underway. Serious telecommunication problems occurred between the headquarters and the affected Red Cross branches. Fishing activities in the province of Valdivia came to a standstill and the income of the fishermen families has decreased dramatically making it difficult for them to purchase food. The insufficient food and damage inflicted on homes has prompted the affected population to evacuate. At the moment, they are accommodated in 15 temporary shelters located in the communities of Niebla, Los Molinos, San Ignacio and Curiñanco. Given the seriousness of the situation, the Federation has released CHF 73,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for the purchase of relief supplies (mainly food), fuel and telecommunication equipment badly needed for the coordination of the relief activities, particularly between the Chilean Red Cross headquarters and the affected provinces.

**Allocated:** CHF 73,000  
**Date:** 9 June, 2000  
**Status:** Ongoing  
**Report:** Information Bulletin no. 1 issued 19 June, 2000.

#### ***UKRAINE - HURRICANE w***

On 4 July, 2000 a hurricane hit the oblasts of Ternopyl, Nikolayev, Lviv, and Ivan-Frankivsk, bringing with it heavy rain and hail. About 16 villages were damaged, 10,000 houses lost roofs, 748 transformers were damaged, and 178 villages lost electric power. The Ukraine Red Cross team surveyed the area on 5-6 July, and this allocation from the Federation's DREF facilitated the first delivery of assistance.

**Allocated:** CHF 35,000  
**Date:** 10 July, 2000  
**Status:** Ongoing  
**Report:** See Federation Desk Officer.

#### ***NICARAGUA - EARTHQUAKE w***

On July 6th, at 13.30 hours local time, a strong earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale shook the main central coastal region of Nicaragua. Its epicentre was situated in the Laguna de Apoyo region, 6 kilometres from Masaya City and 37 kilometres from the capital Managua, resulting in significant damage to populated mountainside villages and infrastructure.

On July 7th, at 18.19 hours, another earthquake situated on the north side of Masaya City was registered, measuring 5.2 in the Richter scale. These two earthquakes were followed by 331 aftershocks in the Laguna de Apoyo and Masaya regions. According to the official Civil Defence Report, 1,913 houses have been damaged, 7 people are dead, 443 people are injured, and a total of 5,267 people have been transferred to shelters. CHF 50,000 was released from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to initiate the assistance operation. Red Cross staff and volunteers immediately started salvage, rescue and first aid, and evacuation activities.

**Allocated:** CHF 50,000  
**Date:** 7 July, 2000  
**Status:** Ongoing  
**Report:** Information Bulletin nos. 1 and 2 issued 17 July and 22 August, 2000.

***INDIA - FLOODING w***

Five States across north and north eastern India experienced extensive flooding caused by the seasonal monsoon rains. The heavy rains caused widespread displacement of the population, affecting between 4 -5 million people in the States of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh. Major damage was registered on local infrastructure while communications with some areas severed leaving thousands of villages marooned with no access to relief supplies or medical assistance. Where possible, the Indian Red Cross Society (IRC) responded to the crisis and worked closely with the local authorities to provide urgently needed relief assistance to flood victims who have been rendered homeless. The Federation Regional Delegation in India immediately despatched a relief expert to the State of Assam to carry out a rapid assessment in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society while the Federation Secretariat released CHF 100,000 from its Disaster Relief and Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the first days of the operation.

**Allocated:** CHF 100,000  
**Date:** 9 August, 2000  
**Status:** Ongoing  
**Report:** Request for Assistance/Appeal no. 19/2000 (Preliminary) issued on 11 August, 2000; Revised/Full Request for Assistance/Appeal 19/2000 issued on 25 September, 2000.  
**Situation Report nos. 1-3 issued 17, 22, and 31 August, 2000.**

***RUSSIAN FEDERATION - FLOODING w***

Severe flooding in Russia's Primorsky Region (Vladivostok) occurred as a result of heavy rains at the end of July and beginning of August, 2000. Nineteen districts and nine cities were affected, with 9,211 dwellings flooded and more than 75,000 hectares of agriculture land inundated. Approximately 285 people were relocated to collective centres. The Russian Red Cross assessed the damage, and concluded that the immediate needs were clean water, hygiene items, bedding, and rubber footwear, as well as water filters to ensure clean drinking water. The Federation DREF allocation of CHF 25,000 facilitated the procurement and delivery of assistance.

**Allocated:** CHF 25,000  
**Date:** 16 August, 2000  
**Status:** Ongoing  
**Report:** Final report due within two months of allocation.

***CENTRAL ASIA (TAJIKISTAN/UZBEKISTAN) - DROUGHT w***

A severe drought has struck Tajikistan, compounding the effects of a decade of growing poverty and three consecutive years of reduced harvests, and in the process completely crippling the population's coping mechanisms. As a result, unless immediate assistance is provided, some two million people are threatened with starvation. Following the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) special alert on the drought in Tajikistan, an International Federation Field Assessment and Co-ordination Team (FACT) carried out a comprehensive assessment from 24 August to 10 September of the level of vulnerability of the population. Based on the assessment report, a detailed plan of action has been developed in co-operation with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) and in coordination with the WFP. The RCST and the International Federation, in collaboration with WFP and FAO, are seeking funds to assist 250,000 people with food and seeds in the Khatlon oblast in the south of the country and in the Leninabad oblast in the north. Water and sanitation activities are included in this operation in order to provide the targeted population with safe drinking water and prevent the spread of waterborne diseases, especially diarrhoea and typhoid. Public health awareness campaigns will further add to the containment of diseases and promotion of a healthy lifestyle in local communities. Special attention will be given to the strengthening of the RCST branches in targeted areas, in order to further contribute to the development of the National Society's disaster response and preparedness capacity for the future. To start the operation, CHF 50,000 was released from the Federation's DREF.

**Allocated:** CHF 50,000  
**Date:** 22 August, 2000

**Status:** Ongoing  
**Report:** Appeal no. 26/2000 launched 19 September, 2000.

***CAMEROON - FLOODING w***

During the first week of August 2000, the city of Douala (Cameroon's main port) suffered from torrential rainfall. With the ground already waterlogged after a week of heavy rains, floodwaters swept through many parts of the city causing considerable damage. Most affected were the suburbs and shanty towns located on the outskirts of the city. Three persons were killed and two are still missing. Thousands of homes have been damaged and more than 300 people have been made homeless. The authorities have created a crisis committee which includes the Cameroon Red Cross Society. The volunteers of the Cameroon Red Cross Society assisted local fireman in evacuation of the population trapped in the flood waters and evaluated the needs in the affected areas. The Red Cross has distributed blankets to the victims who lost their homes. These people are temporarily accommodated at the local naval base. To respond to the immediate needs, the Federation released CHF 40,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

**Allocated:** CHF 40,000  
**Date:** 22 August, 2000  
**Status:** Ongoing  
**Report:** Information Bulletin no. 1 issued 22 August, 2000.

## ***Outstanding needs and Contributions***

- *The attached table provides a detailed account of the DREF. The funds currently available in DREF have reached a critically low level. To ensure future support to new emergencies further funding is urgently required.*
- *For more information please contact the Operations Funding and Reporting Department (OFR) at the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva. Tel: ++4122 7304222.*

Peter Rees-Gildea  
 Director  
 Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Jean Ayoub  
 Acting USG - DROC ai

**This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>**

<b>The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund</b>					
The Reserve Fund for Relief Operations of The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies					
<b>DREF STATUS</b>					<b>CHF</b>
Opening balance 2000			01/01/00		2,930,142
Income (contributions + refund)				3,071,221	
Allocations granted				-3,561,057	
Outstanding pledges / Provisions				79,805	
<b>Net reserve available as at</b>			<b>31.08.2000</b>		<b>2,520,111</b>
<b>List of grants made in 2000</b>					
Location	Disaster type	EA N°	Date	Amount	Refund
Namibia	Population Movement	AP36/99	06/01/2000	150,000	
Zambia	Population Movement		07/01/2000	50,000	45,677
Bangladesh	Cold wave		19/01/2000	50,000	
China	Earthquake	AP02/00	21/01/2000	300,000	
Southern Africa ( Regional)	Cholera		02/04/00	100,000	
Bolivia	Drought		7/02/2000	80,000	
Russian Federation	Bomb explosion		9/02/2000	8,657	
Mozambique	Floods	AP04/00	10/02/2000	100,000	50,000
Botswana	Floods	AP04/00	11/02/2000	50,000	50,000
Colombia	Floods		17/02/2000	100,000	
Mongolia	Snowfalls		22/02/2000	100,000	100,000
Zimbabwe	Floods	AP04/00	23/02/2000	100,000	100,000
Russian Federation	Relief items	AP05/99	8/03/2000	323,500	
Nigeria	Communal clashes		10/03/2000	100,000	
Madagascar	Cyclone Eline	AP06/00	10/03/2000	50,000	50,000
Central Africa	Meningitis outbreaks	AP09/00	20/03/2000	21,000	
Paraguay	Drought	AP07/00	04/04/2000	100,000	
Ethiopia	Drought	AP08/00	06/06/2000	328,400	328,400
Central Africa/Chad/Niger	Meningitis	AP09/00	14/04/2000	170,000	
Hungary	Floods		25/04/2000	10,000	
South Asia (Afghanistan/Pakistan)	Drought		05/05/2000	50,000	
Russia	Floods		08/05/2000	50,000	
Kazakhstan	Floods	AP13/00	08/05/2000	50,000	
Indonesia	Earthquake	AP11/00	12/05/2000	100,000	
Bolivia	Flooding		19/05/2000	31,500	
Sudan	Population Movement	AP12/00	22/05/2000	150,000	150,000
Federated States of Micronesia	Cholera		24/05/2000	25,000	
Indonesia	Earthquake	AP15/00	05/06/2000	340,000	
Chile	Floods		09/06/2000	73,000	
South Asia ( Pakistan /India)	Drought	AP17/00	28/06/2000	100,000	
Ukraine	Hurricane		10/07/2000	35,000	
Nicaragua	Earthquake		7/07/2000	50,000	
India	Flooding		09/08/2000	100,000	
Russian Federation	Flooding		16/08/2000	25,000	
Central Asia (Tajikistan/Uzbekistan)	Drought		22/08/2000	50,000	
Cameroon	Flooding		22/08/2000	40,000	
<b>Total as at</b>		<b>31.08.2000</b>		<b>3,561,057</b>	<b>874,077</b>
<b>List of Income - 2000</b>					
United States PD (Kaiser)			01/01/2000	13,178	Received
United Arab Emirates			08/01/2000	7,839	Received
United States - PD ( D. Houglan )			25/01/2000	157	Received
United States - PD ( D.J Diluncente)			25/01/2000	787	Received
Malaysia - PD			08/02/2000	456	Received
DFID			11/02/2000	900,000	Received/CHF 350.000
United States - PD (Kaiser)			22/02/2000	1,367	Received
United States - PD (Kaiser)			23/02/2000	1,600	Received
Luxemburg RC			12/04/2000	50,000	Received
Switzerland Private Donor			25/04/2000	10,000	Received
Norwegian RC/Govt			26/04/2000	388,000	Received
Spanish RC			28/04/2000	46,947	Received
Swiss RC			29/05/2000	140,000	Outstanding
Danish RC/Govt			14/06/2000	207,705	Received
United States - PD (Kaiser)			19/05/2000	1,369	Received
United States - PD ( Kaiser)			22/06/2000	1,600	Received
Japanese RC			26/06/2000	467,160	Received
Swedish RC			21/07/2000	608,711	Outstanding
Swedish - PD			5/08/2000	10,000	Outstanding
	<b>Sub-total</b>	67.36%		<b>2,856,876</b>	
Interest		0.48%		<b>20,330</b>	
Refund 1997 / 1998 / 1999					
	<b>Sub total</b>	32.16%		<b>1,363,816</b>	
<b>Total as at</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>31.08.2000</b>		<b>4,241,022</b>