

DREF operation



Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): 100 allocations in 2007

29 November 2007

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.

On 28 November 2007 the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies made the 100th allocation from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund in 2007.

This allocation was to support the response to floods in Kosovo in the amount of CHF 123,598. A total of CHF 11,894,190 (approximately EUR 7.2m or US \$10.6m) in allocations has been made so far this year.

The overall trend of disasters in 2007 and the corresponding DREF allocations is clearly reflected in the last ten allocations. Eight out of the 10 response operations were to support National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies to respond to the effects of floods or cyclones.



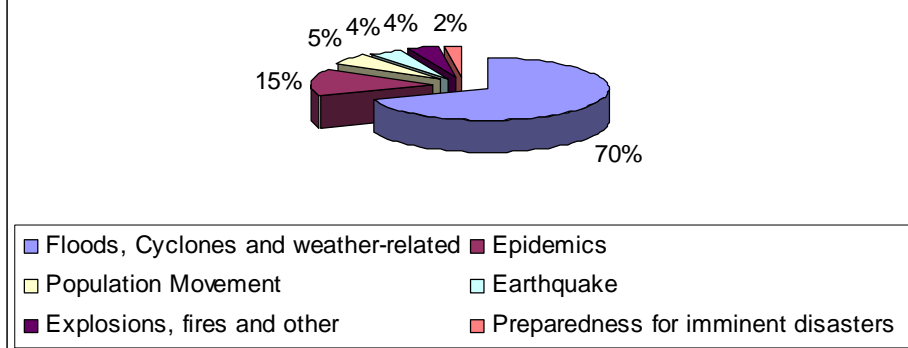
Papua New Guinea, Cyclone Guba.

Photo: International Federation

The cyclone caused heavy flooding that damaged houses and infrastructure in Oro province.

Since the beginning of the year, 69 of the 100 DREF allocations have been to support response to weather-related disasters, and account for 70 per cent of the total funding. This trend is very much in line with predictions of an increase in the frequency and intensity of weather-related disasters as a result of climate change.

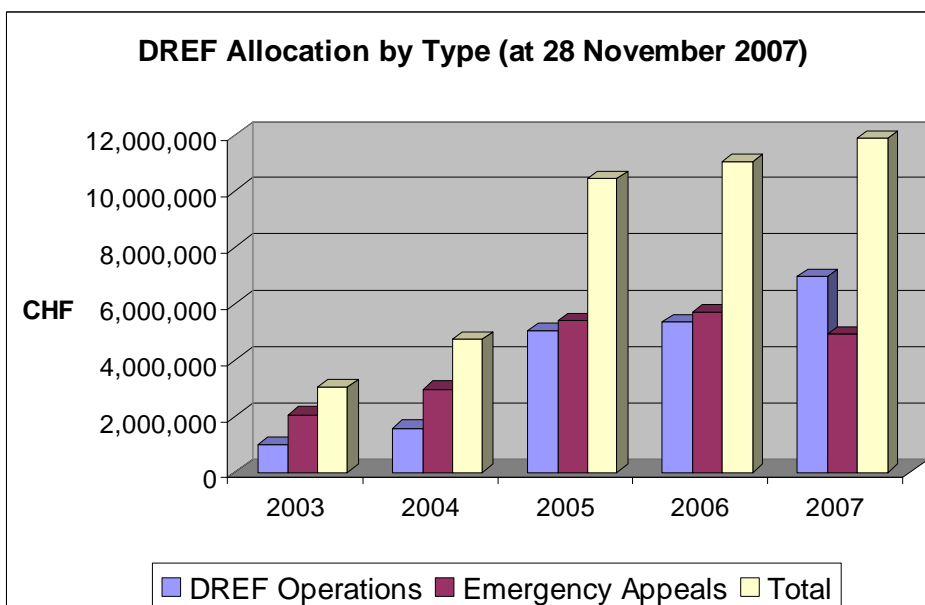
**Types of Operation funded by DREF in 2007
Amount (%) of allocations (at 28 November 2007)**



Of the last ten allocations made in 2007, four were to support major flood and cyclone response operations: for the devastating floods in Tabasco and Chiapas states in Mexico, the effects of Hurricane Noel in Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba and the Bahamas and more recently for the effects of the Cyclone Sidr that ravaged Bangladesh and Cyclone Guba which caused severe flooding in Papua New Guinea. All four disasters made the international headlines and Emergency Appeals were launched to raise funds to deliver assistance to the thousands of people affected. With generous donor support these DREF allocations will be reimbursed to the fund.

The other six allocations were made for smaller-scale disasters, or DREF operations, for which no Emergency Appeal was launched. The floods in Costa Rica and in the Congo may have affected a smaller number of people, but they were still devastating. In each case, the National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society responded to the disaster and, in each case, the DREF allocation was vital in supporting them.

In 2007, 31 allocations were for operations covered by Emergency Appeals and 69 for small-scale DREF operations. Of the total CHF 11.89 million, CHF 6.97 million, or 59 per cent, was allocated to cover the costs of DREF operations. Allocations to DREF operations have risen considerably since 2004.



For operations where no Emergency Appeal is launched, the DREF allocation will cover all of the costs. The International Federation relies on its donors to replenish the DREF. In 2007, two of the major donors to the DREF, the governments and Red Cross Societies of the Netherlands and Norway, have contributed CHF 4.5 million towards replenishing the total of CHF 6.97 million allocated to small-scale DREF operations.

More information on the DREF, the operations funded by DREF allocations and donors to the fund can be found at <http://www.ifrc.org/dref/>