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DREF final report

Tanzania: Refugee repatriation

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRTZ014

30 June 2013

Final Report

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 70,223 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to approximately 38,000 Burundian refugees who were to be repatriated to Burundi following a decision made by the Government of Tanzania, between July and December 2012.

TRCS focused on providing the returning refugees with temporary shelters at way stations and shelters for first aid at the resting sites. The returnees were also provided with bottled drinking water, which was an essential requirement for the returnees' health during the repatriation movement.

Emergency health provision was a key activity in the repatriation process and this was ensured before and during the repatriation. Another important activity was the distribution of information, education and communication materials on key health issues relevant to returning refugees. The visibility of the Red Cross Movement, its staff and volunteers was equally important during this operation and key actions relevant to this were undertaken. Volunteers worked round the clock to ensure that the operation became a success.



Volunteer distributing leaflets to returnees aboard a bus during repatriation. **Photo/TRCS**

The major impacts of the intervention to the beneficiaries include the enhanced safety and dignity of the returnees as well as the increased knowledge of refugees on key health issues in the repatriation process. Against the initial perception of the refugee community that the repatriation operation would have been forceful, the operation was conducted in a highly safe and dignified manner. Even when the government decided to introduce the orderly return arrangement at the end of October 2012, the repatriation convoys carried out in November and December 2012 were a recorded success in terms of the safety and dignity aspects of the returnees.

In addition, key prevention messages on HIV, malaria, pneumonia, and hygiene promotion tips were distributed to every returning family. At the peak of orderly return in November, due to exposure to cold weather at night at the collection centres, there were increased cases of severe pneumonia and malaria among the under-5s and pregnant women. However, the returnees were well prepared in terms of preventive

knowledge, which, together with the support of TRCS's health team, no fatalities occurred.

All activities planned under this DREF operation were implemented and this narrative is final in terms of activities carried out, with a final financial report attached. A small underspend of CHF 869 will be returned to DREF.

The Belgian Red Cross and government as well as the IFRC Tsunami Recovery Fund contributed to the replenishment of the DREF allocation made for this operation. The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions. Details of DREF contributions are found on: http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2012.pdf

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

The situation

In 2012, a series of tripartite meetings between the governments of Tanzania, Burundi and UNHCR, concluded that the Burundian refugees in Mtabila camp had no reason not to return to Burundi. It was therefore decided that they should be assisted to return in safety and dignity to their country of origin with effect from July 2012 and not later than 30 December 2012. The repatriation of the caseload of more than 38,000 Burundian refugees in Mtabila camp was planned for July - December 2012.

Although the voluntary repatriation was planned to commence in July 2012, the return response was not very large up to October. Consequently, the government devised an orderly return mechanism which started effectively in November. This approach resulted in massive returnee numbers and by 11 December, more than 34,000 refugees had returned home. The operation was closed on 11 December when the last convoy of returnees was seen off.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

TRCS closely participated in the facilitation of the repatriation of a total of 35,359 Burundian refugees throughout the year 2012. In particular 34,054 of these through a process of orderly return which commenced end of October 2012 (with transport provided by IOM). The orderly return arrangement was necessitated by the very low interest in voluntary repatriation to Burundi as recorded between January and July; even after massive voluntary repatriation campaigns and the stable security situation in Burundi (see Table 1 and Table 2).

TRCS also provided comprehensive health care services to the refugees and host communities. In this operation TRCS was the responsible agency for conducting medical screening of returnees, providing first aid and ambulance services to the returnees throughout the repatriation process, providing three months' worth of medication to chronically ill patients, escorting refugees and the sick to their country of origin and handing over medicines to the health agencies of their country of origin.

The orderly return arrangement resulted in a big increase in return numbers per convoy and the frequency of convoys (generally daily for November/December, Table 2). On 11 December the last convoy of Burundian returnees was seen off. Another group of 2,715 refugees who were found to be still in need of international protection were relocated to Nyarugusu camp. The implementation of Mtabila camp cleanup process began as soon as the camp was emptied with a definitive handover to the government planned for April 2013.

Table 1. Voluntary Repatriation Trends in Mtabila Camp, January-October 2012

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Total
Number of returnees	1	0	0	5	18	33	73	342	449	384	1,305

Table 2. Orderly Return Trends in Mtabila Camp, November-December 2012

Day	Date	Number of returnees	Weekly Totals	Monthly Totals	
Thursday	1/11/2012	375	1,020	November 2012 23,307	
Friday	2/11/2012	43			
Saturday	3/11/2012	602			
Monday	5/11/2012	765	4,249		
Tuesday	6/11/2012	578			
Wednesday	7/11/2012	974			
Thursday	8/11/2012	970			
Friday	9/11/2012	962			
Monday	12/11/2012	1133	6,716		
Tuesday	13/11/2012	1145			
Wednesday	14/11/2012	1469			
Thursday	15/11/2012	1475			
Friday	16/11/2012	1494			
Monday	19/11/2012	879	5,160		
Tuesday	20/11/2012	1263			
Wednesday	21/11/2012	1499			
Thursday	22/11/2012	0			
Friday	23/11/2012	1519			
Monday	26/11/2012	651	6,162		
Tuesday	27/11/2012	1110			
Wednesday	28/11/2012	1522			
Thursday	29/11/2012	1402			
Friday	30/11/2012	1477			
Monday	3/12/2012	1567	8,107	December 2012 10,747	
Tuesday	4/12/2012	1617			
Wednesday	5/12/2012	1546			
Thursday	6/12/2012	0			
Friday	7/12/2012	1655			
Saturday	8/12/2012	1722	2,640		
Monday	10/12/2012	1726			
Tuesday	11/12/2012	914			
Grand Total (orderly return, November-December 2012)					34,054
Grand Total (voluntary and orderly return, Jan-Dec. 2012); Table 1&2					35,359

Achievements against outcomes

Emergency shelter

Outcome: The immediate shelter needs of the 38,000 returning refugees at way stations are met.

Activities planned:

- Construct emergency shelters (300 temporary shelters) where refugees may stay overnight on the way to the borders.
- Construct temporary first aid shelters at three way stations

Impact:

A final total of 32 larger emergency shelters were constructed at the collection points in eight zones (four shelters in each zone) within the camp, where refugees gathered waiting to load their luggage and belongings. The original plan by the government to have way stations, where the 300 smaller temporary shelters originally planned would have been constructed along the way, was changed. Under the orderly return arrangement, the returnees went through Kigoma, where the National Milling Corporation (NMC) transit centre was used as the resting point. This transit centre served the purpose of a resting shelter for the returnees where they were also provided with food and emergency health services. This was contrary to an earlier anticipation that the returnees would walk en masse across the border, back to Burundi. Therefore, no

emergency shelters were constructed at way stations as per originally planned repatriation route. An error in bookings resulted in the shelter/ relief budget line being underspent, and booked under the construction materials as well as other supplies' lines.

Emergency health

Outcome: Immediate first aid is provided to the returning refugees during repatriation.

Activities planned:

- Procure 100 First Aid kits, to-go-with medical stocks for three months to chronically ill persons, and personal protective equipment for staff and volunteers to use during response
- Provide First Aid to the returning refugees both on transit and at the way stations

Impact:

Basic pre-departure health screening was conducted throughout by TRCS staff/volunteers as per repatriation guidelines. Three months medication to all chronically ill patients was provided with exception of insulin-dependent patients.

As per repatriation guidelines, TRCS health staff/volunteers escorted each convoy to the border. First aid services were provided in transit and at the departure centre whenever required. There was an over-expenditure on this line as a result of the increased number of pre-departure centres, hence an increased number of staff and volunteers involved in the emergency health operation. This also resulted in an increase in the number of first aid kits procured, with 150 first aid kits procured (as opposed to the original 100 kits planned) for the purpose of providing emergency health care to all returnees in transit and at the departure centre, and impacted the budget line accordingly.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The most vulnerable returning refugees are provided with bottled and safe water for drinking on transit during repatriation.

Activities planned:

- Procure and distribute 68,400 bottled water (0.5 litres) for 11,400 (30%) most vulnerable returnees

Impact:

Bottled and safe drinking water was distributed to all affected people in transit. A total of 57,000 litres (35,000 bottles (@ 0.5 litres) and 39,500 bottles (@ 1 litre) of bottled drinking water were distributed to over 34,000 returning refugees in October-December 2012. The drinking water distribution targeting was changed to include all returnees, instead of the most vulnerable only, due the needs identified over the course of the operation. As a result of this decision, there was a slight overspend of CHF 673 in total for this activity.

The distribution of bottled water to every returnee contributed to the health of the returnees in transit.

Logistics

Outcome: Efficient and effective logistical support to run the refugee repatriation operation

Activities planned:

- Mobilization of staff/volunteers for returnees screening and escorts
- Maintain an optimal number of vehicles to support movement of staff/volunteers and emergency items the operation
- Vehicles fuelled and serviced
- Procurement, storing and dispatching of medical and other items required for the operation
- Ensure logistics procedures are followed/adhered to during movement of items/materials and people.

Impact:

Volunteers and staff were mobilized and motivated to work round the clock to ensure that the repatriation operation was both effective and efficient. Logistics procedures in procurement, storage and vehicle management were followed as per Red Cross movement requirements.

Communications

Outcome: Refugees and host communities have access to timely and relevant information on health issues as well as on progress of refugee operation

Activities planned:

- Print 10,000 leaflets on how to stay healthy during repatriation (Prevention of HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Pneu

and hygiene promotion messages)

- Procure and print T-shirts and Bibs for Red Cross visibility during repatriation of refugees
- Support operation teams to ensure consistent and two-way engagement with beneficiaries to ensure greater accountability to affected communities.

Impact:

A total of 10,000 leaflets were produced with various key messages on the prevention of HIV, Malaria, pneumonia and hygiene promotion during repatriation. The leaflets were distributed to more than 6,300 refugee families before departure. While originally budgeted as teaching materials, these leaflets were subsequently booked under information and public relations as publications instead, resulting in the non-expenditure under the original budget line and an overspend on the latter.

For visibility, a total of 200 T-shirts and 100 reflective jackets were procured and distributed to the volunteers and staff involved in the repatriation process. A hundred (100) Red Cross flags were procured for flagging TRCS vehicles and all sites where the Red Cross provided services.

The distributed information, education and communication materials improved communications and increased the refugees' access to timely information on relevant health issues pertaining to the repatriation process.

Lessons Learned

Orderly return of Burundian refugees enabled quicker repatriation movements: The orderly return was a repatriation approach somewhat midway between voluntary and forced repatriation. It was an approach that had never been used before in the history of Tanzania's refugee repatriation operations. Although it remains debatable as to its suitability, the lesson learned is that when properly handled, orderly returns can quickly clear a refugee case load in the shortest timeframe, given the availability of requisite resources.

Collaboration of all key stakeholders including the beneficiaries, and effective coordination, helped the smooth implementation of the operation: The peak of orderly return in November saw a daily repatriation convoy in every week at an average of approximately 1,000 returnees. Operational staff and volunteers were overstretched as a result of the busy operation schedules and resource limitations. The lesson learned was that effective coordination of all players can help overcome most of the challenges and smooth the implementation.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 10 July 2012 for CHF 70,223 for four months to assist approximately 38,000 beneficiaries.
- One DREF operation update was issued to extend the operation timeframe for one month, up to December 2012.



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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.

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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.

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRTZ014 - Tanzania - Repatriation Burundi Refugees

Timeframe: 09 Jul 12 to 31 Dec 12

Appeal Launch Date: 09 Jul 12

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2012/7-2013/3	Programme	MDRTZ014
Budget Timeframe	2012/7-12	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget		70,223				70,223	
B. Opening Balance		0				0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		70,223				70,223	
C4. Other Income		70,223				70,223	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		70,223				70,223	
D. Total Funding = B + C		70,223				70,223	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance		0				0	
C. Income		70,223				70,223	
E. Expenditure		-69,354				-69,354	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		869				869	

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRTZ014 - Tanzania - Repatriation Burundi Refugees

Timeframe: 09 Jul 12 to 31 Dec 12

Appeal Launch Date: 09 Jul 12

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2012/7-2013/6	Programme	MDRTZ014
Budget Timeframe	2012/7-12	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Expenditure						TOTAL	Variance
	Budget	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			70,223			70,223		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	6,467						6,467	
Construction Materials	227		1,607			1,607	-1,380	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	27,360		28,033			28,033	-673	
Medical & First Aid	3,333		4,745			4,745	-1,412	
Teaching Materials	5,333						5,333	
Other Supplies & Services			4,556			4,556	-4,556	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	42,721		38,942			38,942	3,779	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	5,000						5,000	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	4,000		3,839			3,839	161	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	9,000		3,839			3,839	5,161	
Personnel								
International Staff			100			100	-100	
National Society Staff			456			456	-456	
Volunteers	4,333		4,113			4,113	221	
Total Personnel	4,333		4,668			4,668	-335	
General Expenditure								
Travel			759			759	-759	
Information & Public Relations	5,633		12,509			12,509	-6,876	
Office Costs	1,750		2,742			2,742	-992	
Communications	1,000		1,661			1,661	-661	
Financial Charges	500						500	
Other General Expenses	500						500	
Shared Office and Services Costs	500						500	
Total General Expenditure	9,883		17,672			17,672	-7,789	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	4,286		4,233			4,233	53	
Total Indirect Costs	4,286		4,233			4,233	53	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	70,223		69,354			69,354	870	
VARIANCE (C - D)			870			870		

Disaster Response Financial Report**MDRTZ014 - Tanzania - Repatriation Burundi Refugees**

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Appeal Launch Date: 09 Jul 12

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2012/7-2013/6	Programme	MDRTZ014
Budget Timeframe	2012/7-12	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

IV. Breakdown by subsector

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
BL2 - Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people							
Disaster response	70,223	0	70,223	70,223	69,354	869	
Subtotal BL2	70,223	0	70,223	70,223	69,354	869	
GRAND TOTAL	70,223	0	70,223	70,223	69,354	869	