

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Italy: Earthquake

**DREF operation n° MDRIT001  
GLIDE EQ-2009-000072-ITA  
9 April, 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 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.

**CHF 700,000 (USD 613,944 or EUR 460,808) has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Italian Red Cross in delivering immediate assistance to 15,000 beneficiaries.**

**Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** A strong earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale hit central Italy on Monday, 6 April 2009. At least 260 people have been killed and 30 are still missing, with around 1,000 injured and 28,000 homeless. The Italian Red Cross will support affected population with food, non-food items and psychological support in order to overcome the most urgent needs.

This operation is expected to be implemented over a period of three months, and will therefore be completed by 7 July, 2009. A Final Report will be made available by 7 October 2009.

[<click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details>](#)



**Italian Red Cross volunteers packing relief items.  
Photo: ANSA**

## The situation

A strong earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale hit central Italy shortly after 3:30 a.m. on Monday 6 April 2009. According to the latest figures from the public authorities and the Italian Red Cross teams working on the ground at least 260 people have been killed and 30 are still missing, with around 1,000 injured and some 28,000 made homeless. The quake was centered in the mountainous Abruzzo region east of Rome. Houses, churches and other buildings in the old city of L'Aquila, about 95 km east of Rome, and its surrounding villages have collapsed, leaving thousands of people homeless. According to officials the quake is the strongest to have hit Italy in recent years, and the government of Italy has declared an emergency.

The area has been hit by many after-shocks. The strongest measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale occurred on 7 April at 7:42 p.m. Several already evacuated houses collapsed but no casualties have been reported.

By 8 April, the number of people in need of shelter is 28,000.

The Italian government has not requested international assistance so far, coping with the needs from internal national resources. The Italian Red Cross has launched a National Appeal of solidarity that will ensure longer-term operations after the earthquake.

To support the Italian Red Cross with their solidarity appeal, the International Federation is releasing 700,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

## Coordination and partnerships

The Italian Red Cross is working in very close cooperation with the Italian Civil Protection which is leading the overall response. The Extraordinary Commissioner heading the Italian Red Cross immediately visited L'Aquila, close to the quake's epicentre, together with the head of civil protection. The Italian Red Cross has also been in constant dialogue with the International Federation's Europe Zone office in Budapest, providing regular updates and information on its response operation.

Many National Societies in Central Europe are on standby ready to offer help in kind, funds or technical advice. The disaster response tools of the International Federation are available upon request depending on the evolving nature of the situation.

The British Red Cross has contributed GBP 15,000 to the Italian Red Cross's national appeal while the American Red Cross offered USD 50,000 as initial support. The Swiss Red Cross assistance of 200 tents with 1,000 bed capacity and 2,000 blankets arrived on 7 April.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Italian Red Cross immediately activated its national operations centre in Legnano, which is coordinating all the regional branches for the emergency response. The operations centres in Verona, Rome, Potenza and Palermo were also activated and all branches put on alert.

In the hours immediately after the earthquake the Italian Red Cross mounted a large relief operation, deploying among other things:

- one mobile kitchen providing 10,000 meals per day
- two mobile kitchens providing 200-400 meals per day for L'Aquila Hospital
- 36 ambulances to evacuate injured people from L'Aquila to hospitals in Tagliacozzo, Pescina and Avezzano
- two primary emergency advanced units supported by a team of 15 Red Cross humanitarian workers
- 10,000 blankets
- 16 dog search and rescue units

Further trucks with health and first-aid and logistics/relief provisions followed the initial response. Additional means and resources are ready to be sent, depending on a needs assessment. These include:

- 30 dog rescue units
- five psychological support teams
- three veterinary teams

On Monday 6 April the Italian Red Cross launched a national appeal calling for solidarity with the people affected by the earthquake. The appeal has been published on its official website and can be read [here](#). The Italian Red Cross is ensuring the provision of emergency health care, supporting the life-saving search and rescue operations with dog rescue units (from Naples and Trento) and addressing the urgent needs of those still homeless. Two more camps have been set up by the Italian Red Cross in the neighbouring villages of San Gregorio and Paganica. There are still some remote villages that are not accessible due to landslides and blocked roads.

There are 400 Italian Red Cross volunteers on the spot, helping with rescue, medical, food, shelter and water supply operations of the Italian Red Cross. 150 more volunteers are ready to join when needed.

Four Advanced Medical Posts are operational (II° level A.M.P., teams of volunteer doctors and nurses for medical aid and assistance). Two are located in L'Aquila, one in Paganica with two doctors, ten logistics staff and three nurses and the last one in Piazza Acquasanta. In addition, two triage tents (primary first aid

screening) and a waiting room provide services to those affected. Since Monday morning, 300 injured people have been treated and over 350 evacuated from L'Aquila hospital to other cities.

A total of 36 ambulances with 150 volunteers are currently involved in the evacuation of all injured people from L'Aquila to the hospitals in Tagliacozzo, Pescina and Avezzano. The Italian Red Cross has evacuated the orphanage in San Gregorio and will until the situation is clearer take care of the 12 children who were resident there. Teams for psychological support are active and supporting families hit by the tragedy.

The Italian Red Cross has already distributed 10,000 blankets and 5,000 more are expected to come for further distribution, as it is very cold and damp in the evening.

Four mobile kitchens are located in the affected area. The first is in L'Aquila providing 7,000 meals a day with a team of 20 Italian Red Cross humanitarian operators and another 50 volunteers; the second is in San Gregorio, able to provide 3,000 meals a day; the third in Collemaggio providing 2,000 meals a day; and the fourth one is in Centicolella.

A convoy from Verona is on its way bringing the fifth mobile kitchen (with a capacity of 7,000 meals a day), a base camp for 300 operators, bulldozers, a four-wheel drive ambulance, light columns, toilets and logistics equipment.

## The needs

Immediate rescue efforts are continuing and the search for survivors and those missing continues in collapsed buildings using specialised dog teams. Another priority is the treatment of those injured, and the provision of food and psychosocial support to those affected. The provision of adequate shelter for the short and medium term will require much of the attention for the coming period. More detailed assessment of the most urgent needs is still ongoing, and particularly the longer-term solutions for the recovery and reconstruction phase will require more time and dialogue.

## The proposed operation

This proposed DREF operation is aimed at supporting the Italian Red Cross in its ongoing operational needs over the coming three months. It will focus on the key areas of provision of emergency relief, provision of food through mobile kitchens, health and social care, as well as replenishment of emergency items already distributed. More detailed information about the objectives and activities planned will be included in the next update.

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Objective:** To provide initial emergency assistance including food and non-food items.

**Activities planned:**

1. Distribute non-food items including blankets
2. Contribute to temporary shelter solutions
3. Provide hot meals through mobile kitchens

### Health

**Objective:** To provide emergency first aid and medical care, including psychosocial support.

**Activities planned:**

1. Provide first aid and medical care through advanced medical teams and first aiders
2. Provide psychosocial support to those affected

## Budget

The budget for the initial phase of this operation is estimated at CHF 700,000. This figure may be revised as the situation develops further, and any changes will be communicated through regular updates as usual.

This DREF operation is an opportunity for the Partner National Societies and donors to support the Italian Red Cross in its ongoing operations, and un-earmarked contributions to replenish DREF are therefore highly encouraged.

### **DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY**

	<b>BUDGET CHF</b>
<b><u>RELIEF NEEDS</u></b>	
Food	280,000
Psychological support	70,000
Replenishment of emergency stock	140,000
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<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>490,000</b>
<b><u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE &amp; VEHICLES</u></b>	70,000
<b><u>PERSONNEL</u></b>	50,000
<b><u>MONITORING AND REPORTING</u></b>	20,000
<b><u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u></b>	24,500
<b><u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u></b>	
Programme Support - PSR	45,500
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<b>Total Operational Needs</b>	<b>210,000</b>
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<b>DREF ALLOCATION</b>	<b>700,000</b>

## 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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