

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Italy: Earthquake

DREF operation n° MDRIT001
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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.

Period covered by this update: 9
April to 23 April 2009.

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 and to replenish emergency stocks.

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

Summary: A strong earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale hit central Italy on 6 April 2009. Some 290 people have been killed, around 1,000 injured and 48,000 made homeless. Several strong aftershocks hit the region in the following week. The Italian Red Cross is supporting the affected population with food and non-food items as well as 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.

The Irish Red Cross contributed 7,000 Euros to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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Photo: Italian Red Cross operational centre

The situation

More than two weeks after the earthquake in Abruzzo, that killed some 290 people and rendered 48,000 homeless, various national agencies are still providing vital emergency assistance to the people affected by the quake, with more than 750 Italian Red Cross volunteers and operators providing water, hot meals and warm blankets in the tent camps, as well as psychosocial support to children and medical care. Rain and persistent cold have made life difficult in the camps. Many people have moved towards the Adriatic coast, and are being accommodated in hotels.

The Italian government has not requested international assistance, drawing upon national resources to address the most urgent needs. The Italian Red Cross has launched a National Appeal of solidarity that will enable it to carry out operations also in the medium and long-term, providing adequate shelter, warm clothes, food provisions and psychosocial support for the survivors.

Coordination and partnerships

The Italian Red Cross is working in very close cooperation with the Italian Civil Protection which is leading the overall response. This cooperation is present not only in decision-making but also at field level between the local authorities and volunteer structures.

The pre-existing agreements between the Italian Red Cross and Civil Protection had been the subject of a thorough revision, during a process that ended in the first months of 2009, with emphasis on guidelines for implementation. This process has strengthened the relationship and initiated negotiations about the independence of intervention of the Italian Red Cross.

The effective coordination, both at national level and in the field, has reinforced a strong position of the Italian Red Cross and has contributed to avoiding confusion and delay.

The Secretary General of the International Federation, Bekele Geleta together with the Head of Europe zone, Anitta Underlin paid a visit to Italy to the areas hit by the earthquake on 21 April.



Secretary General of the International Federation, Bekele Geleta and Head of Europe zone, Anitta Underlin visiting the areas hit by the earthquake.
Photo: Italian Red Cross

The Italian Red Cross agrees that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies actively support the fund-raising for the people affected by the earthquake in Abruzzo with the network of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Following the teleconference organized by the Europe zone office along with the Geneva Secretariat and the Italian Red Cross with 19 partner National Societies on 8 April, the Irish Red Cross has contributed 7,000 Euros raised through public appeal to the replenishment of the DREF. Other National Societies and donor governments are invited to offer support and replenish the DREF from the funds raised through local fund-raising campaigns. The Italian Red Cross and the International Federation have agreed that if donor contribution to the DREF exceed the amount of 700,000 Swiss francs, the surplus will be transferred to the Italian Red Cross as a DREF extension.

With the support of the International Federation, the Italian Red Cross will keep other Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies informed on the situation and its activities.

Many Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies have contacted the Italian Red Cross offering direct partnerships to provide financial support in the emergency and rehabilitation phase.

The Irish, the British, the Austrian, the American, the Swiss, the Belgian and the Canadian Red Cross Societies have started local fund-raising campaigns to help the people affected by the Italian earthquake.

The British Red Cross has contributed with GBP 15,000 to the Italian Red Cross's national appeal while the American Red Cross offered USD 50,000 bilaterally and USAID also contributed with USD 50,000. The

Albanian Red Cross contributed with USD 5,000, the Austrian Red Cross with EUR 45,000, and the Chinese Red Cross with USD 30,000. The Luxemburg Red Cross offered EUR 60,000 in in-kind donations (field kitchens), the Monaco Red Cross contributed with EUR 45,000 and the Spanish Red Cross with EUR 50,000. The Swiss Red Cross assistance of 231 tents with 1,155 bed capacity and 2,310 blankets has already arrived. The Italian Red Cross also received donations from the corporate sector: USD 15,000 from Alcatel, USD 20,000 from ALCOA, 2,000 Great Britain pounds from Bloomberg and EUR 35,000 from Q8 Italian gas company.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

The International Federation has deployed a delegate for a short mission to Italy, to act as liaison with the Italian Red Cross and to assist them in creating a detailed plan of action for the intervention.

The concept paper for the Italian Red Cross's plan of action has been developed and is setting the different phases of the Italian Red Cross response. The main focus will be on the rehabilitation phase, being the most critical one, starting one to three months after the disaster.

In alignment with these priorities the Italian Red Cross will support 22,000 people during the first 6 months and 7,000 people during 24 months based on their expressed needs in transitional shelter, food and non-food items, community organisation, psychosocial support, and social and professional training activities.

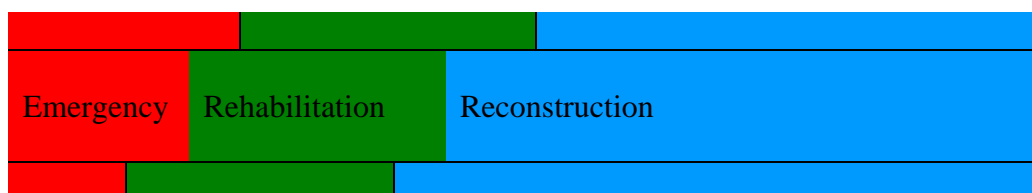
More than 750 volunteers and operators of the Italian Red Cross from all over Italy are at present working in the areas hit by the earthquake taking care of 22,000 people affected. Another 150 staff members are working in the National Emergency Centre and 2,500 volunteers are on a waiting list ready to go.

The immediate needs such as shelter, food, medical care, psychosocial support are currently all being met. The operation is now entering into the recovery and rehabilitation phase.

The Italian Red Cross believes that the persons affected by disasters have the right to needs-based qualified assistance, the right to participate in the decision-making process and operational choices, the right to plan their future and the right to respect and dignity. Therefore, the individuals, families and communities are and will be involved in the planning and implementation of the recovery and rehabilitation phases.

The phases of the Italian Red Cross disaster response

It is difficult to foresee the duration of the different phases of the disaster response in Abruzzo, which depend on factors out of the Italian Red Cross control. In general, it is possible to foresee the classical phases of a disaster response operation (that partly overlap), considering that the rehabilitation phase is the most critical and the one that receives less attention.



The Italian Red Cross promotes an **early recovery approach** that recognises the importance of early planning from the very first days taking the necessary measures in order to promote the reduction of dependency of people from external support.

1. Emergency intervention (8 – 10 days up to 3 months): This phase is being implemented right now and comprises of:

- Search and rescue
- Treatment and referral of wounded
- Emergency shelter – camp management
- Clothing – blankets and clothes
- Water & sanitation (basic hygiene)
- Food support
- Psychosocial support – injured, families of victims, children

2. Rehabilitation (3 months to 2 years)

People will be living in transitional shelters and efforts are made to return to normality and rebuild the pre-existing social relations. The aim is to help families move from dependency on humanitarian aid to managing their lives.

3. Starting of reconstruction (after the first 6 months)

The leading role in reconstruction remains with the government and local authorities. The Italian Red Cross does not consider the rebuilding of houses/ buildings among its statutory responsibilities and not in the mission of a response organisation. The Italian Red Cross can *advocate for* and support authorities in including risk reduction in the reconstruction phase.

Resources

The majority of the planned activities will be implemented through Italian Red Cross volunteers, paying particular attention to the interaction and synergy between the Italian Red Cross volunteers of Abruzzo and other branches involved in the operations.

In order to implement the plan of action, the target of different fund-raising campaigns in Italy and abroad is set at 4.5 million Euros. To date, the Italian Red Cross has received commitments of contributions of approximately 2.9 million Euros.

Sustainability

The intervention has been analysed and discussed with the leadership of the regional Red Cross branch of Abruzzo, the provincial branch of l'Aquila, the local authorities, the Civil Protection and other stakeholders in the field. The presence of regional and provincial branches, the opening of new local ones and the recruitment of new volunteers will ensure the continuity of the relations with the identified communities beyond the implementation of this plan of action.

Update on emergency phase

The 700,000 Swiss francs allocated from the International Federation's DREF has been used to support the Italian Red Cross in the emergency phase of the response operation. Most of the activities have been carried out, and the operation is now entering the recovery and rehabilitation phase.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

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

Activities:

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

Progress and impact:

The Italian Red Cross continues running a total of six camps in the areas hit by the earthquake; two in Assergi, one in San Gregorio, one in Collemaggio and the fifth in Centicolella with a capacity of 4,500 beds. The sixth camp is used to accommodate Italian Red Cross operational staff active in the disaster zone. In all five Red Cross camps the shower modules are operational.

The five mobile kitchens run by the Italian Red Cross are providing a total of 22,000 meals a day.

Some 14,000 blankets have been already distributed to the affected population. 231 tents with a 1,155 bed capacity, received by the Swiss Red Cross, have been also set up.

Part of the DREF funds will be used to replenish the Italian Red Cross's emergency stocks. To this end the International Federation will provide logistics support to the Italian Red Cross.

Health

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

Activities:

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

Progress and impact:

Nine Advanced Medical Posts of the Red Cross, located in Poggio Picense, San Gregorio, Assergi, Filetto, Paganica, Centicolella, Collemaggio, Piazza d'Armi Campo and L'Aquila, are operational with volunteer doctors, nurses and logistic staff, and two triage tents for primary first aid screening. More than 30 ambulances are operational in the affected area.

The SEP teams for psychological support are active and close to the families hit by the tragedy. To date 10 volunteer psychologists and 10 volunteers are providing psychosocial support.

On the coast of Pesaro more than 104 Italian Red Cross volunteer nurses are providing nursing assistance and socio-psychological support to all those housed in the hotels between Alba Adriatica and Vasto.

The veterinary unit in the Centicolella camp (L'Aquila) has had 39 visits to date. The children have been involved in pet-therapy activities based on animal-man interaction. This Red Cross service is the only one available in the camps and is also able to carry out surgery.

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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