

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Myanmar: Earthquake

DREF operation n° MDRMM004
GLIDE n° EQ-2011-000031-MMR
Update n° 1
5 May 2011

The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is a source of un-earmarked money created 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 IFRC disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update: 24 March to 28 April 2011.

Summary: On 30 March 2011, CHF 157,540 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to 1,500 households (7,500 beneficiaries) in the Shan (East) State in Myanmar. These families were affected by an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.8 on the Richter scale on 24 March 2011. Replenishment of DREF funds have been received from Canadian Red Cross/Canadian government, Netherlands Red Cross/Netherlands government, and the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (DG ECHO).

The DREF operation is expected to be implemented over three months and completed by 30 June 2011. A final report will be made available within three months after the end of the operation by 30 September 2011.

The impact of the earthquake on the population in the area was smaller than estimated during the first week, therefore with this DREF update, a slight revision of the initial budget is being made. The immediate coverage of needs for basic relief items, including shelter material from available stocks by all humanitarian organizations on the ground, was high. As such, MRCS will reduce the target group for the distribution of family kits from 1,500 to 700 households and is additionally distributing family tents which were requested due to the cold climate conditions in the area to 300 families. The final number of households covered will be therefore less than 1,000 (given that part of the families received the tents as well as the family kits), instead of the initial 1,500 households (with 7,500 beneficiaries). The emergency response activities after the earthquake have been seen as rapid with good coverage due to the disaster preparedness stocks of different organizations in-country under the various contingency plans.

With the DREF support, immediate response and assessments by local Red Cross volunteers were initiated, while additional skilled staff from the MRCS headquarters were deployed for the overall management and support to further assessments which were carried out jointly with other humanitarian organizations on the ground in a multi-agency assessment. This included local non-governmental, international non-governmental and UN organizations. Disaster preparedness stock from the nearby MRCS warehouse with family kits was immediately dispatched to the most affected areas.

On behalf of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, IFRC would like to thank all donors for their generous support of the DREF.

[<click to see financial report, or contact details>](#)

The situation

On 24 March 2011, an earthquake of magnitude 6.8 on the Richter scale with a depth of 10 km struck the southern part of Shan (East) State (population 3,870,921) in Myanmar near the border with Thailand in the south and Lao PDR in the east. Tremors were felt as far as Yangon and Bangkok, Thailand. Since the earthquake, several aftershocks have been reported in the affected areas.

The most affected areas are within the Tachileik township, namely the village tracts of Mong Koe, Nar Yawng, Mong Li (West), Mong Li (East), Nam Khin with altogether 80 villages as well as parts of Tarlay sub-township. Most casualties were reported in the lower-lying areas where many buildings are made out of brick whereas on the hillside, villagers used mainly wood and bamboo for construction. The area is inhabited by three main ethnic groups: the Shan, the Aka and the Lahu.

According to the data released by the authorities of Shan (East) State and the assessment reports of various agencies, the casualties and damages caused by the earthquake are as follows:

Dead/Injured	No. of people left without homes	No. of houses destroyed/damaged	No. of households affected	No. of people affected
74/125	3,152	318/702	4,500	18,000

The earthquake damaged a number of public buildings, especially health centres and schools including the 16-bed rural hospital in Tarlay which was severely damaged. Damages were also reported for 31 religious buildings, road infrastructure and water facilities. People whose homes were completely or partially destroyed, are still living in temporary shelters for fear of the continuous aftershocks in the area. Many are staying with relatives or have received tents or other type of temporary shelter.

Immediately after the earthquake, MRCS locally mobilized 32 Red Cross Volunteers (RCVs) to assist in rescue efforts, first aid and initial assessments. Within two days, relief items among the disaster preparedness stock from the nearby warehouse in Kyone Ton (Shan State) were mobilized and immediately distributed to the affected population. Additional items, including 300 family tents, were mobilized from the MRCS Yangon warehouse and dispatched by air provided by the government, following specific requests based on the cold weather conditions in the area. MRCS also mobilized 300 delivery kits and 600 women's hygiene kits (also known as a dignity kit) designed for particular women's needs under special agreement and cooperation with UNFPA. RCVs from MRCS were also seconded to UNICEF for a quick assessment on the nutritional situation of the affected population.

The relief efforts of the Myanmar government and the various humanitarian organizations in the area were fast and efficient. An assessment, one week after the disaster, showed that nearly 70 per cent of the affected households had already received assistance for emergency shelter, and nearly 50 per cent had received a standard family kit by one of the organizations on the ground. While the clean water supply was still critical in some of the affected villages, no major implications on the health situation were reported, apart from the need for psychosocial support (PSP).

These results are based on an inter-agency/inter-sector assessment which was jointly undertaken by 11 local and international NGOs, UN organizations and MRCS on 30-31 March in 58 out of some 80 affected villages. The findings of the assessment have been compiled by CARE Myanmar and shared with all humanitarian actors and the donor community. The assessment results are presently being used for the joint planning of early recovery activities.

Based on the good coverage of the affected population with basic relief items and emergency shelter material within the first weeks, MRCS concluded that there will be less need to mobilize further family kits from the Yangon warehouse to be distributed. Therefore, in addition to the initially mobilized 500 sets of non-food family kits from the Kyone Ton warehouse, which were mostly distributed within the first two weeks, only another 200 kits are needed. Therefore the intended number of family kits to be replenished under this DREF operation is to be reduced from 1,500 kits (according to the budget) to 700.

Instead, procurement to replenish 229 family tents used in the earthquake operation has been proposed to utilize the available budget under this operation. The operation as a whole is intended to be finished by mid-May when the remaining 200 family kits which have just arrived in Tachileik, have been distributed to the

remaining beneficiaries. MRCS will now concentrate on activities for early recovery such as temporary shelter, water and sanitation, and psychosocial support (PSP), which are beyond this DREF operation.

Coordination and partnerships

The emergency operation after the earthquake in Shan State was well-coordinated among the limited number of actors from the very beginning of the operation. In Tachileik and Tarlay, coordination meetings both with the local authorities, including the regional commander and representative of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Department of Relief and Resettlement took place mostly on a daily basis. With its well-established links to the authorities, MRCS was seen as key in the coordination efforts which were strengthened by the deployment of the deputy head of division of the MRCS disaster management department.

Close cooperation with all humanitarian actors was also seen at the Yangon level, where several meetings of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), together with donors, were organized by the UN resident coordinator/humanitarian coordinator (RC/HC) to share information and to engage in joint planning and fundraising. MRCS and IFRC jointly participated in these meetings. Due to the comparatively small scope of the disaster, the cluster system was not activated this time but the lead agencies for food, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection and emergency shelter engaged in informal coordination and information exchange where IFRC organized the information exchange for emergency shelter issues. Meanwhile UN Habitat is continuing this role for shelter activities under the early recovery aspects.

One month after the earthquake, the main needs are in the shelter sector (where temporary shelter should be provided by the monsoon season which begins in mid-May), followed by water and sanitation, and health with less emphasis on livelihoods. Cold weather and some rain already in March and April deteriorated the situation for the affected population and will be a further threat to the health situation if the housing situation is not well addressed.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

Distribution of non-food items

Objective: 1,500 families (7,500 people) who are the most affected households (i.e. who have lost their homes and belongings completely), or those displaced in evacuation centres, are supplied non-food items to match their emergency needs.

Activities planned:

- Set clear beneficiary selection criteria and define distribution protocols
- Mobilize trained staff members as well as trained volunteers for beneficiary selection and relief distribution
- Dispatch additional 1,000 non-food packages from MRCS warehouses
- Monitor distribution of non-food items
- Review the impact of the assistance
- Replenish 1,500 non-food relief packages comprising kitchen sets, blankets, tarpaulins, materials and tools for house repair, clothing materials and mosquito nets through either local, regional or international procurement/sourcing options (with necessary support from the regional logistics unit based in Kuala Lumpur) following IFRC procurement procedures
- Improve residential conditions and individual privacy in the evacuation centres.
- Develop a plan for follow-up action.

Progress:

As the number of affected families (those with houses completely destroyed and partially damaged) was relatively small and the assistance provided by humanitarian organizations, local religious organizations, well-wishers and private donations was substantial, the target was set to reach all affected families and provide them with a basic set of relief items as well as emergency shelter material. Based on this, the local authorities asked larger organizations such as MRCS and World Vision to cover specific village tracts. MRCS was asked to provide assistance to all earthquake-affected households in Mong Lin (East) and Mong Lin (West) village tracts, which comprise 21 affected villages with a total number of 427 affected households.

Efforts were made to ensure that the respective sector standards in SPHERE (the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response) were met. MRCS mobilized and distributed its standard non-food family kits which are pre-positioned at its warehouses situated in affected areas and other parts of the country. Up to 500 sets of non-food family kits (old standard) from the Kyone Ton warehouse in Shan State were immediately dispatched and distributed within the first 10 days following the disaster.

Non-food family kit (old standard)	Non-food family kit (new standard)
Kitchen set, 2 blankets, mosquito net, tarpaulin, clothes for one boy and one girl	Kitchen set, 2 blankets, mosquito net, 2 tarpaulins, rope, hammer, clothes for boy and girl

After the distribution of this initial number of 500 family kits and cross-checking the information of distributed items by other organizations, it was concluded that there are only another 200 additional non-food family kits are needed to cover the remaining needs. The new standard 200 family kits were dispatched from the central warehouse in Yangon and are presently under distribution in the two village tracts mentioned above.

Therefore, the original plan to distribute 1,500 non-food family kits is revised and only 700 kits will be distributed. However, in accordance to special needs identified, 300 family tents from the MRCS disaster preparedness stock was requested by the local MRCS branch and the local authorities. MRCS provided these tents from its stock and dispatched it to the affected areas by free air transport from the government. The tents have been partly distributed directly to beneficiaries, some of which are used in a tented camp in Tarlay sub-township where people stay at night as their damaged houses are not entirely safe due to frequent aftershocks.

As DREF funding was sought to help replenish the 1,500 non-food family kits, the [revised budget](#) will only charge 700 to the DREF operation and replace the intended remaining 800 kits, with the procurement of 229 family tents.

Confirmed relief distributions

Township	Village tract	No. of households
Tachileik	Tarlay Sub-township	223
	Mong Koe	70
	Nar Yawng	75
	Mong Lin (East)	110
Grand total		478

The local MRCS Red Cross branch mobilized altogether 63 Red Cross volunteers from eight different village tracts in the area to assist in the different assessments and participate in the relief distribution. An additional 100 RCVs from other parts of the country were put on alert but finally not deployed as local capacity was found to be sufficient. The local Red Cross branch was supported by experienced MRCS headquarters staff, the deputy head of the disaster management division and an experienced relief officer who were sent to support coordination with the authorities and other humanitarian actors, and provide assistance in distribution planning, monitoring and follow-up activities.

The international procurement of tarpaulins, blankets and mosquito nets of the 1,500 non-food family kits was immediately initiated in order to have the full disaster preparedness stock available approaching the monsoon season in Myanmar. Some of the items are scheduled to arrive in Myanmar over the next weeks. As such, with the adjusted target number of beneficiaries for the earthquake operation, alternative funding for the replenishment of 800 non-food family kits outside the DREF operation will be secured by changes in the Nargis budget.

A member of the MRCS Executive Committee, the head of disaster management division and the IFRC head of country office are scheduled to visit the affected area at the end of April in order to assess the impact of the MRCS relief operation and to discuss further activities for early recovery with the beneficiaries, local Red

Cross branches and local authorities. Meanwhile the results of a further assessment conducted by a team of five MRCS technical staff in relief, water and sanitation, and health was finalized, the results and recommendations of which are being presently discussed.

Challenges

During the initial phase of the operation, assessments, rescue and relief operations were hampered in most of the affected areas because of the breakdown in communication systems and transportation networks. Some villages on the hillsides are difficult to access and only reachable by motorbike or on foot. This not only hampered the initial assessments but is also a constraint for quick delivery of relief items and provision of other services. As a smaller part of the area has seen conflict between ethnic groups and the military in the past, special security clearance for accessing those villages is needed. Early rains in the affected areas and cold weather conditions also had negative effects on the timeliness of response.

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 \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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.

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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

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[<financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

MDRMM004 - Myanmar - Earthquake

Appeal Launch Date: 29 mar 11

Appeal Timeframe: 29 mar 11 to 30 jun 11

Interim Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/3-2011/3
Budget Timeframe	2011/3-2011/6
Appeal	MDRMM004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	157,534					157,534
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
Other Income						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	<i>157,540</i>					<i>157,540</i>
C4. Other Income	157,540					157,540
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	157,540					157,540
D. Total Funding = B + C	157,540					157,540
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	157,540					157,540
E. Expenditure	0					0
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	157,540					157,540

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III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		157,534					157,534	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	97,080						97,080	
Clothing & textiles	21,858						21,858	
Utensils & Tools	4,786						4,786	
Total Relief items, Construction, Supplies	123,724						123,724	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	6,000						6,000	
Distribution & Monitoring	4,000						4,000	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	10,000						10,000	
Personnel								
National Society Staff	7,850						7,850	
Total Personnel	7,850						7,850	
General Expenditure								
Travel	4,750						4,750	
Communications	1,595						1,595	
Total General Expenditure	6,345						6,345	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Service Support	9,615						9,615	
Total Indirect Costs	9,615						9,615	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	157,534						157,534	
VARIANCE (C - D)		157,534					157,534	