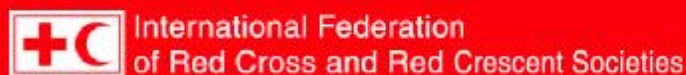


Report 2006-2007



Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)

Appeal No. MAA00010

14/04/2008

This report covers the period of 01/01/2006 to 31/12/2007 of a two-year planning and appeal process.



Elderly people are among the most vulnerable in disasters. During floods in Mexico in November 2007, Mexican Red Cross volunteers made sure that they were not forgotten. **International Federation.**

In brief

Programme summary:

In 2007, the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) provided financial support to 77 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. This funding supported approximately 100,000 National Society volunteers and staff to assist 13.5 million people affected by disasters. Sixty per cent of DREF allocations were made to small-scale disasters, referred to as DREF operations, for which no appeal was launched. The majority of DREF operations were in response to disasters that affected under 100,000 people, and nearly half of these were in response to floods.

- In 2007, the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund made 107 allocations to 77 National Societies for a total amount of CHF 12,689,170.
- Thirty-three of the allocations for a total of CHF 5,179,207 were made as start-up funds for large-scale operations for which an emergency appeal was launched. Ninety-eight per cent of these funds were reimbursed to the DREF.
- The remaining 74 allocations for a total of CHF 7,509,963 were made as grants to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to support them in response to smaller-scale disasters, or DREF operations, for which no appeal was launched.
- In 2007, donations to the annual appeal for DREF totalled CHF 6,739,545.
- Total donations for 2006 and 2007 stood at CHF 13,258,348.
- A total of CHF 23,752,165 was allocated from the DREF for the same period.
- Over the 2-year period CHF 10,757,016 was reimbursed to the DREF, either as reimbursement of loans to operations covered by Emergency Appeals or as reimbursement of the balance of funds from DREF operations.

Needs: Total 2006-2007 budget CHF 28,500,000 (USD 25,491,950 or EUR 17,272,727) (out of which 73 per cent covered).

The funding received in 2006 and 2007 has allowed the International Federation to scale-up the support from DREF to National Societies by 21 per cent, while maintaining a sufficient cash balance to meet requests. This balance stood at CHF 7,308,123 at 31 December 2007.

In 2006 and 2007, the Norwegian government contributed a total of CHF 5,238,680 Swiss francs and the Irish government CHF 1,591,000. DFID contributed a total of CHF 2,052,979.

The Netherlands Red Cross Society and government continued to provide support for the DREF through the Silent Emergency Fund which donated CHF 1,251,701 to support 23 DREF operations in 2007, and a further CHF 825,777 to emergency appeals, for which a DREF allocation was made. The total amount donated to the DREF for 2006 and 2007 stood at CHF 1,981,374.

An evaluation of the Silent Emergency Fund was carried out at the end of 2007. The evaluation was very positive about this funding partnership, which is an excellent example of good humanitarian donorship. Recommendations from the evaluation will be implemented by the Netherlands Red Cross Society and the secretariat in 2008.

To access the annual 2006 report for DREF, go to:

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAA00010Rep0607.pdf

Click here to go directly to the attached financial reports:

[Report 2006](#)

[Report 2007](#)

[Report 2006-2007](#)

Goal: National Societies benefit from sufficient and immediate funding to allow them to save lives and meet the needs of those affected by disasters in a rapid and effective manner.

Financial support from the DREF allows National Societies to mobilize volunteers and national response teams, to carry out needs assessment and identification of beneficiaries, to purchase or replace relief stocks, to transport and distribute relief to beneficiaries, and when necessary, can allow for the rapid deployment of regional and international disaster response teams. By supporting Red Cross/Red Crescent disaster response, the DREF is complementary to the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and promotes Good Humanitarian Donorship.

No. of people we help: National Red Cross and Red Crescent Society operations which were fully funded by allocations from the DREF met the needs of approximately five million beneficiaries in 2007. In 2006, this figure was 1.1 million. Emergency appeals to which DREF funding was loaned as start-up funds were supporting National Societies to meet the needs of 8.5 million beneficiaries in 2007. This figure was 3.5 million in 2006.

Our partners: The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund supports national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in responding to all disasters in their countries.

Current context

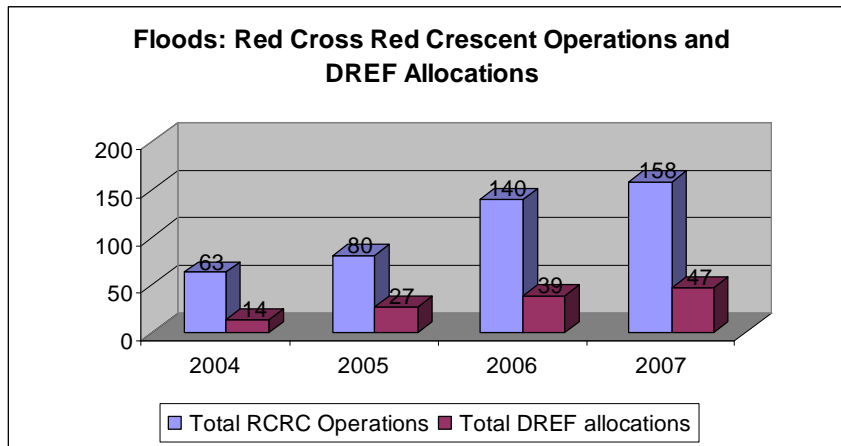
Over the last four years, Red Cross/Red Crescent reports on disaster response show several trends:

- A significant increase in the overall number of emergencies in recent years, with the biggest

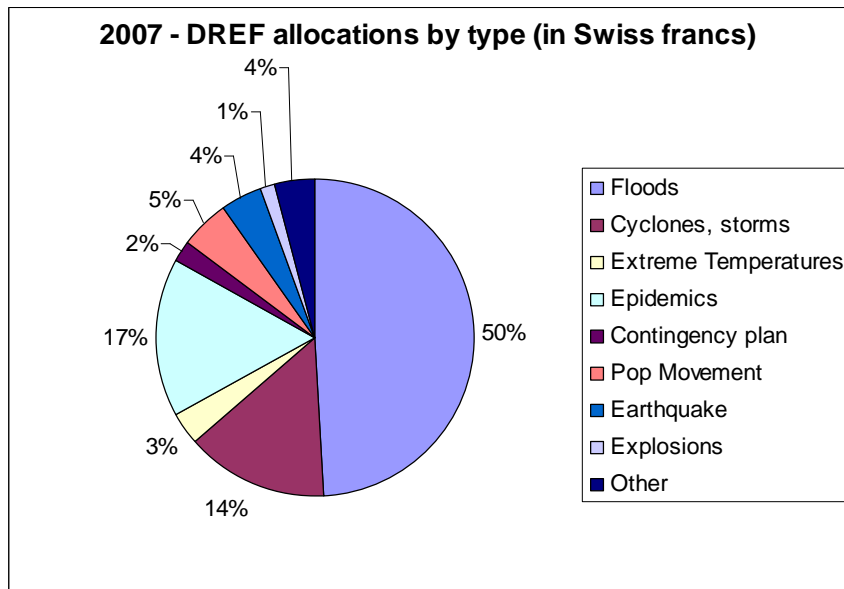
increase in the past two years in Africa.

- An increase in the number of floods and storm-related disasters in all regions.
- An increase in health emergencies and epidemics related to flooding, especially in Africa.
- An increase in the number of small-scale disasters that do not trigger international disaster response or international emergency appeals, and which are responded to at the local or national level.

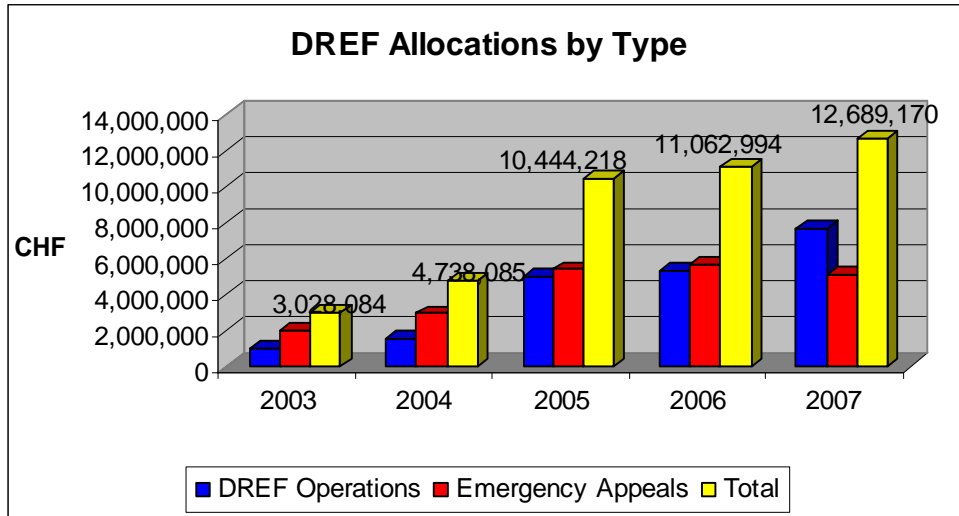
These trends are clearly reflected by the allocations made by the DREF to National Societies. In order to support the response operations of its member National Societies, the amount of allocations made has increased, especially in support of response to weather-related disasters and epidemics. In 2007, nearly one in three flood operations conducted by National Societies was supported by the DREF.



In terms of value of the DREF allocations made in 2007, 50 per cent went to support flood operations. This percentage increases to 67 per cent when considering all weather-related disasters.



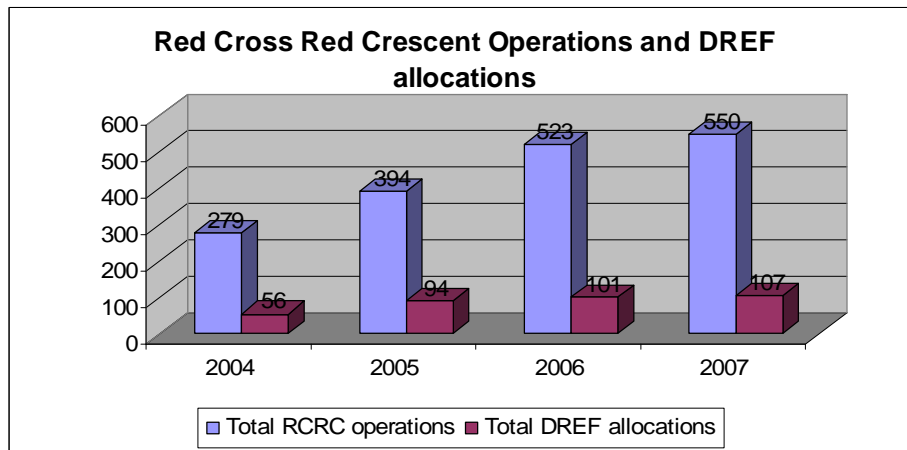
The increase in the number of small-scale disasters affecting under 100,000 people to which the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies responded, resulted in an increase in the number of non-reimbursable grants made from the DREF to support small-scale or localized disaster response operations. For the first time in 2007, the amount of allocations made to DREF operations was higher than the amount provided as start-up funds for major operations for which an emergency appeal is launched.



Progress towards objectives

Objective: All National Societies are aware of DREF, request funds when necessary to carry out their mandate of bringing rapid disaster response and the DREF is able to respond to all their requests.

In 2006 and 2007, the number of operations responded to by national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies continued to grow. The number of allocations made from the DREF to support them increased by the same proportion, with approximately one in five operations supported financially by DREF.



The increase in the use of DREF by National Societies is the result of an increased number of response operations, but also a wider knowledge of DREF. The increase in the number of grants for DREF operations is also due to the removal of the obligation to reimburse the grants in 2003, which has encouraged National Society disaster response and has given them the confidence to respond rapidly. The speed with which a request is generated and approved, and funds transferred, has also improved over the last two years.

DREF support to National Societies by region

A list of DREF allocations by region for 2006 and 2007 is attached as to this report.

Africa

Total allocations 2006 – 2007: CHF 11,456,197 of which CHF 4,691,667 was reimbursed to the DREF. Forty-four per cent of DREF funding in 2007 (CHF 5,584,590) was allocated to National Societies in Africa, a decrease from 2006 when 53 per cent of the total DREF allocations were made for Africa. Seventy-seven per cent of the total in 2007, was funding for DREF operations. In 2007, half the operations supported were in response to floods, with 11 allocations made to emergencies for which an emergency appeal was launched and 14 for DREF operations. Thirty-four per cent of the allocations were in support of responses to epidemics and health emergencies.

The African National Societies are often the only organizations bringing relief to those affected by small-scale disasters in areas where basic infrastructure and health services are fragile or non-existent. In September, when prolonged rains affected Uganda, a request for DREF was made to meet the immediate needs of the most affected people. Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) volunteers identified and registered beneficiaries, and distributed emergency non-food items to the most vulnerable households. It was clear to them that the families, many of them displaced by the flooding and having lost harvests that they relied on to survive, needed longer-term support. Consequently, an emergency appeal was launched to support a ten-month operation, including water and sanitation, health, shelter and food security elements which promoted recovery of the communities, and reduction of risks in the case of future flooding.

In smaller-scale flood relief operations, the focus was generally on meeting the immediate needs of the affected people, but also on promoting hygiene awareness and the importance of clean water and sanitation measures. Water-borne diseases are preventable through the provision of clean water and sanitation, and the quick provision of temporary shelter reduces exposure and the outbreak of respiratory diseases. In Burkina Faso, 300 volunteers were mobilized to register flood-affected people, deliver relief items and inform 11,000 people on how to avoid malaria and other water-borne diseases. The distribution of impregnated bed nets backed up this campaign.

Hygiene awareness and health sensitization campaigns were the basis of most of the response operations by National Societies to health epidemics. The URCS volunteers carried out four different awareness campaigns in 2007, in order to raise public knowledge of the symptoms and the reasons for the spread of meningitis, cholera, Marburg disease and Ebola. Marburg and Ebola are highly contagious and deadly diseases, and the DREF allocations allowed URCS to protect and train hundreds of volunteers who carried out door-to-door and public awareness campaigns. They reached hundreds of thousands of people not only through house calls, but also by addressing church congregations, market places and school and university students. Meningitis is now becoming a recurrent problem in Burkina Faso and the African “meningitis belt”, and four DREF allocations were made to support meningitis vaccination and awareness campaigns in 2007. The Burkina Faso Red Cross Society called on volunteers to carry out their meningitis campaign, and used community radio stations to reach out to nearly 2.5 million people.

Americas

Total allocations 2006 – 2007: CHF 4,356,199 of which CHF 1,706,458 was reimbursed to the DREF. The biggest increase in DREF allocations in 2007 was for the Americas region, caused by an active hurricane season and heavy flooding in several countries in South America. Twenty four per cent of the allocations (CHF 3,047,468) were made to National Societies in the region. Seventeen of the 25 allocations were for DREF operations. Allocations to support response to flooding represented 44 per cent of the total, and 31 per cent supported response to damage from hurricanes or tropical storms.

DREF was used to support major and smaller-scale operations in the Americas along with other tools and resources of the International Federation, such as regional intervention teams and Emergency Response Units. Regional intervention team (RIT) members and staff from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) were regularly sent to provide technical and financial to National Societies in

DREF operations. This is particularly important when National Societies are facing situations that are new to them. When there was a dengue fever outbreak in Paraguay, the Paraguay Red Cross Society was called upon to carry out a wide-scale information and education campaign, as dengue was little known to the population, and to distribute mosquito nets. The campaign allowed the National Society to increase its number of volunteers, and to raise its profile with the public and the Ministry of Health.

In Brazil, the National Society was in an internal institutional development process when branches that had not carried out humanitarian action for some time were called on to assist some of the 200,000 people affected by floods in January 2007. One RIT member and a disaster management delegate from PADRU assisted the National Society and its branches in assessing, coordinating and developing a plan of action. The operation not only brought relief to 7,500 of the most affected vulnerable people, but also contributed to building the capacity of the Brazilian Red Cross Society volunteers who received training in assessment and emergency response. The National Society also established links with local and national authorities.

Asia Pacific

Total allocations 2006 – 2007: CHF 4,239,112 of which CHF 3,263,706 was reimbursed to the DREF. The highest number of reported disasters in 2007 was in the Asia Pacific region, although allocations to National Societies in the region only represented 19 per cent of total DREF funding. The response operations were often large scale, and ten emergency appeals were launched. The largest were for Pakistan and Bangladesh, when they were hit by Cyclone Yemin and Cyclone Sidr in July and November respectively. Sixty-six per cent of the allocations went to support flood operations and 19 per cent to support response to cyclones. The amount of DREF allocated in 2007 (CHF 2,466,112) was higher than in 2006. National Societies in the Asia Pacific region are often able to finance the small-scale operations they carry out themselves. The majority of requests are for start-up funding for large-scale operations.

In July 2007, an allocation of CHF 140,900 was made to support the Cambodian Red Cross Society (CRCS) when dengue fever hit all provinces of the country leading to the highest number of reported cases since 1993. In coordination with the National and Provincial Ministry of Health, the CRCS carried out a nationwide prevention and awareness-raising campaign. The DREF allocation allowed the National Society to procure 35 tonnes of Abate, a larvicide, and 1,136 volunteers were trained to distribute and show households how to use the Abate. A total of 404,276 households were reached through the campaign, which included the promotion of health education. A further 1,000 volunteers participated in a public awareness and clean-up campaign, while the CRCS also made use of the national media to reach a wide audience with their dengue prevention messages. Through a national fund-raising campaign funds were also raised to provide support to hospitals and to 1,615 families with children affected by dengue.

The profile of the CRCS was raised considerably during this campaign and following its success, the National Society was asked by the Ministry of Health to be part of a national task force to develop a long-term strategy for the prevention of dengue fever.

Europe and Central Asia

Total allocations 2006 – 2007: CHF 1,839,160 of which CHF 98,843 was reimbursed to the DREF. In Europe and Central Asia, ten allocations for a total of CHF 763,403, were made for DREF operations in 2007. Fifty per cent of them supported response to floods.

During the reporting period, the contingency plans for disaster response in Central Asia were implemented twice in Tajikistan, in response to an earthquake and floods, and also in Kyrgyzstan, in response to an earthquake. DREF allocations were made for each operation. Following the two DREF-funded operations in Tajikistan, the National Society commissioned an in-depth evaluation of beneficiary satisfaction, which also included feedback from volunteers involved in the response. The

evaluation showed that the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan had played an important and meaningful role during the disaster operation and that the response was considered relevant, timely, efficient and effective by the beneficiaries. The National Society has included these lessons learned from the operations in its planning.

In Kyrgyzstan, the DREF allocation of CHF 100,000 and the emergency appeal were not large scale compared to other earthquake response operations, but the outcomes of the operation showed that it had been an excellent investment for the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and the assisted communities. The food and non-food assistance provided was judged timely and appropriate by the beneficiaries, and the response operation prioritized assistance to families with young children, where the provider was a woman. This attention to gender needs fostered a women's initiative to set up a non-governmental organization to lead and monitor the proper reconstruction of their homes according to anti-seismic standards.

The operation also served as a test of the branch team's training and of the National Society's internal and external coordination. New volunteers were recruited during the relief operation and many continued to support the tuberculosis prevention programme afterwards. The KRCS set up a community-based preparedness project in seven villages of the affected district, which included risk mapping and the development of village contingency plans. In addition, members of the disaster response teams realized that they were lacking basic psychological support skills, which will now be included in future response team trainings.

Providing psychological support was the aim of two DREF-funded operations in Europe in 2007. The Russian Red Cross Society (RRCS) provided psychological support to families of miners who were killed in a mine blast in the Kermerovo region of western Siberia in March 2007, and to miners who survived the blast. Over several months, 14 RRCS workers regularly visited affected families and set up and ran community support groups, where 90 per cent of the members were women. The timeframe of the DREF operation was extended to allow special focus on the development of these community self-support groups, and funding was sought locally to make the programme sustainable.

The expertise of the RRCS in psychological support was offered to the Ukrainian Red Cross Society to increase the numbers of trained workers following a mine explosion near Donetsk in Eastern Ukraine. This operation was carried out with support from the DREF. At the beginning of 2008, the RRCS branch for Kermerovo also proposed assistance to the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society when it responded to an explosion in a mine in Karganda with first aid and psychological support funded by a DREF allocation.

Middle East and North Africa

Total allocations 2006 – 2007: CHF 1,861,497 of which CHF 996,343 was reimbursed to the DREF. The effects of the highly volatile situation in the Middle East and North Africa region generated five of the eight requests for DREF support in 2007, for a total of CHF 827,597. The Egyptian Red Crescent Society assisted people from Gaza blocked on the Egyptian border twice.

The Tunisian Red Crescent Society carried out two operations in response to floods in 2007 with help from the DREF. The first was in response to floods in the Tozeur district in southern Tunisia, when relief items were distributed to the affected families during the emergency and post-disaster rehabilitation phase. The enthusiasm and commitment of Red Crescent volunteers were invaluable and much appreciated by the beneficiaries of affected communities. The willingness of the teams to develop and improve the branch capacities and skills were also of significant importance, and this DREF operation had a positive impact on the visibility of the National Society. It strongly reinforced the profile and community perception of the work done by the Tunisian Red Crescent branch. Consequently, the regional branches registered several new applications from people who would like to join the National Society as volunteers.

Contributing to longer-term impact

In 2006, DREF supported 65 National Societies in their response to 90 different disasters. In 2007, DREF allocations were made to 78 National Societies to support them in their response to 99 different emergencies. The allocations made by DREF allowed them to bring timely assistance to people affected by disasters in their countries, from small localized disasters to major emergencies, and to build their own capacity to respond. It has thus contributed to the International Federation's Global Agenda Goal 1 to "Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters". The International Federation anticipates the increase in requests for financial support from National Societies will continue to rise, as they respond to more and more disasters each year.

Looking ahead

As the International Federation develops its capacity in early warning of hydro-meteorological events along with external and internal partners, such as the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, it will promote the use of DREF to support disaster response preparedness activities for imminent disasters. Experience shows that early action, for example evacuating people at-risk, greatly reduces the risk of loss of life and injuries from cyclones and floods. Pre-positioning responders and relief items speed up the emergency response. In addition to this more proactive use of DREF, the International Federation will continue to support the strategic use of DREF by National Societies to build their own capacity through disaster response.

How we work	
All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering quality and accountable assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at http://www.ifrc.org	
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	
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