

Plan 2009-2010



Disaster Relief Emergency Fund

Executive summary

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) provides emergency funding to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for immediate response to disasters and health emergencies. In 2007, it supported 77 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and 100,000 volunteers and staff to bring assistance to 13.5 million vulnerable people affected by disasters.

The increase in both the number of natural disasters and the number of response operations carried out by the National Societies has led to a proportionally higher number of requests for DREF allocations. The amount allocated has grown from CHF 4.7 million in 2005 to CHF 12.7 million in 2007. It is likely that climate change will exacerbate the situation of vulnerable people living in areas at risk from hydro-meteorological disasters where national infrastructure and services are often insufficient. The first nine months of 2008 confirmed this upward trend in weather-related disasters, especially small and medium scale events.

The International Federation has encouraged National Societies to make a greater use the DREF to ensure fast and efficient response to humanitarian needs caused by natural disasters. The availability of immediate funding for relief operations has increased confidence among the National Societies to respond to disasters with the knowledge that, even if the scale of the disaster does not justify an international appeal, the costs of small-scale operations and replacement of relief stocks can be covered by a DREF allocation.

In 2009 and 2010, the International Federation will encourage a wider use DREF for preparedness for response to imminent crises. In partnership with scientific organisations and based on scientific data and predictions, the Federation will provide early warning of unexpected events or abnormal trends to National Societies. Many lives can be saved when early warning is used to inform the people at risk of imminent disasters and when measures are taken in advance by National Societies to respond rapidly. In 2008, the International Federation has already used timely forecasts of exceptional rainfall to assist National Societies put preparedness measures in place in West and Central Africa, supported by the DREF, with the result that communities were better prepared and response was faster when flooding occurred.

The DREF thus supports the Red Cross Red Crescent in meeting the International Federation's global agenda goals of reducing the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters and public health emergencies. It also promotes a stronger capacity in National Societies to prepare and respond to disasters. This capacity building is one of the priorities of the International Federation.

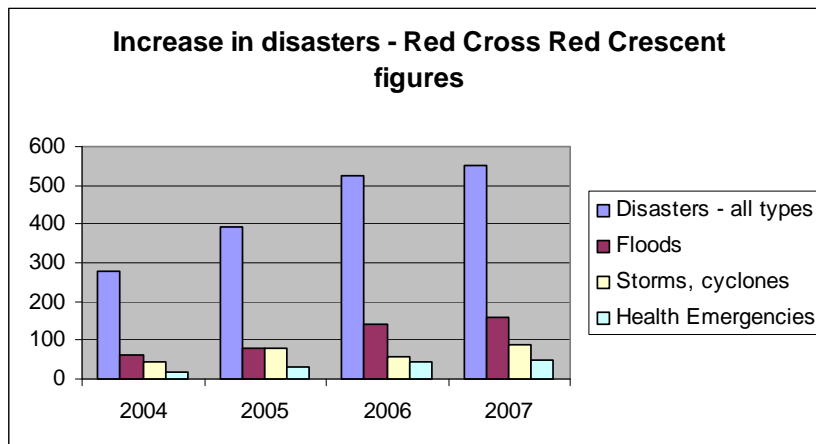
We are seeking an increase in support from donors in 2009 and 2010 to be able to meet the continued increase in requests for DREF funding, to ensure that the scale-up in disaster response by the National Societies is sustainable.

The total 2009-2010 budget is CHF 27,394,973 (USD 25,041,109 or EUR 17,449,027). [Click here to go directly to the summary budget of the plan.](#)

Context

In its annual Disaster Statistical Review for 2007, the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) states that the number of reported disasters in 2007 confirmed the global upward trend in natural disaster occurrence. This upward trend is mainly driven by the increase in the number of reported hydro-meteorological disasters and especially small-scale events.

Although it is difficult to confirm that these trends are caused by climate change alone, climate change is likely to increase the severity and frequencies of weather-related events, both hydro-meteorological and climatological, and put more people at risk. The national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are increasingly responding to disasters, especially to localized or unexpected events where the vulnerability or lack of preparedness of the communities creates immediate relief and longer-term recovery needs. Their operations include health and hygiene education campaigns carried out by trained volunteers to prevent disease and control epidemics linked to weather-related events.



As the forecasting of extreme and abnormal hydro-meteorological events improves through the use of scientific data, the International Federation is using the DREF to support National Societies to take advance action to reduce the risks and effects of the forecasted events and to speed up response if the events lead to disasters. Through partnerships with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society of Colombia University (IRI), and based on their forecasts and warnings, the International Federation has already made DREF allocations for preparedness for imminent disasters in 2008. In this way the International Federation uses the DREF not only as a reactive funding mechanism, but also supports the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to ensure organisational preparedness to respond and to reduce the risk and effects of extreme weather and other anticipated events. This approach will be further developed and encouraged in 2009 and 2010.

The recent review of international humanitarian funding for the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) initiative put forward a recommendation for action to humanitarian actors and donors to improve funding for organisational preparedness. The DREF meets this and also other of the GHD objectives through its global use, its flexibility, rapidity and simplicity and its low structural overhead costs. It supports the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to carry out their mandate of responding to all disasters including small-scale, localized events. The flexibility of the DREF not only allows National Societies to reply rapidly to needs based on emergency assessments, but also to modify their response based on further assessment. The amount of funding can be adjusted upwards if necessary to support a change in the plan of action. The DREF supports the Red Cross Red Crescent role in relief as a major player in international humanitarian disaster response and, as such, is recognized by donors as a complementary funding mechanism to the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

Priorities and current work with partners

The priorities of the Secretariat for the use of DREF are to ensure the development of the fund and the scale-up of its capacity match the needs of the National Societies. In 2008, the Secretariat has promoted more timely and quality reporting on DREF-funded operations. The compliance rate for respect of final report deadlines improved from 68% to 88% between January and June. The reports provide a clear and comprehensive picture of the scope and quality of the relief operations carried out by National Societies and illustrate to partners and donors how the action of National Societies has made an impact on the situation of vulnerable people affected by disasters.

The DREF is an important capacity building tool for National Societies. By carrying out relief operations they are able to retain and increase the number of trained volunteers, to position themselves with their national authorities and raise public support for their action in disaster response. The increase in their preparedness and capacity to respond has a direct impact on the quality of the assistance they provide to people affected by disasters.

A number of partner National Societies and governments provide regular and substantial support to DREF and are accompanying the International Federation in scaling-up its financial capacity to support disaster response. These include the Norwegian government and Red Cross, the Irish Government and UK Department for International Development (DFID). The Netherlands Government and Red Cross Society continue to support DREF through the Silent Emergency Fund and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also supporting DREF through their bilateral emergency fund. Other donors include the governments and/or National Societies of Denmark, Iceland, Japan, Luxembourg, Sweden, United Arab Emirates and the United States of America and an increasing number of private and corporate donors. DFID and the Netherlands and Irish governments have committed multi-year funding to the DREF.

A priority over the next two years will be to widen the DREF donor base and to improve the predictability of funding.

Secretariat programme in 2009-2010

Based on the current annual increase in allocation requests, the Secretariat has forecasted the needs for the DREF in 2009 and 2010 (as in the table below). The DREF is partly a revolving fund: allocations to large-scale emergencies for which an emergency appeal is launched are treated as loans and reimbursed to the DREF when sufficient un-earmarked cash contributions have been made to the appeal. The International Federation also makes grants to National Societies to cover the costs of smaller-scale operations for which no appeal is launched, which are not reimbursed to the DREF. Donor contributions therefore provide the replenishment of these grants. The amount of contributions needed is calculated in order to maintain a stable cash balance within the DREF.

DREF Forecast	2006 (Actual)	2007 (Actual)	2008 (Forecast)	2009 (Forecast)	2010 (Forecast)
Small-scale emergencies (DREF Operations)	5,359,263	7,509,963	9,000,000	11,000,000	13,500,000
Large-scale emergencies covered by Emergency Appeals (EA)	5,703,731	5,179,207	6,500,000	7,500,000	8,500,000
Total (Budget)	11,062,994	12,689,170	15,500,000	18,500,000	22,000,000
Reimbursements of EA	5,409,358	5,075,623	5,850,000	6,750,000	7,650,000
Contributions (actual) or needs	6,142,596	6,620,431	8,500,000	12,000,000	15,000,000
Operating Cash Balance or reserve	7,910,090	7,308,123	6,158,123	6,408,123	7,058,123

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose
To increase the capacity of the International Federation to assist National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters through the provision of timely and adequate financial support for disaster response from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).
Programme component
Outcome 1: The capacity of the DREF to meet the requests of support from National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is maintained and increased
Outcome 2: The awareness, use and management of the fund is improved

The DREF is an integral part of the Disaster Management Strategy and supports the standard components of disaster management programmes.

As part of improved disaster response assistance to meet the needs of those people affected by disaster the DREF will:

- provide the emergency financial support necessary for National Societies to respond rapidly to disasters, to deploy national, regional and international assets and resources as necessary and to promote quality and innovative approaches to disaster response based on needs.

As part of disaster management planning the DREF will support National Societies:

- to take preparedness measures to reduce the effects of imminent disasters and to be ready to respond to them.
- to gain learning from the evaluation of DREF-funded operations and adapt their disaster response plans accordingly

As part of organisational preparedness the DREF will:

- strengthen the capacity and increase the number of National Society staff and volunteers able to respond to disasters
- promote the diversity of responders by supporting their deployment

b) Target audience and final beneficiaries

The DREF is a fund which supports emergency relief and response preparedness programmes of National Societies. In 2007, the DREF supported them to bring relief to, or reduce the effect of disasters and public health emergencies on an estimated 13.5 million people.

c) Potential risks and challenges

To meet the increasing demand for funding by the national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Federation relies on support from existing donors and needs to find new funding sources to maintain the capacity of the DREF.

Role of the Secretariat

a) Technical programme support

A DREF officer was appointed at the beginning of 2008 to support the administration and use of the fund, including fund raising, reporting and strategic development. The Secretariat is responsible for the sound financial management of the DREF and will carry out an internal audit of the allocation processes and the use of DREF in selected operations.

b) Partnership development and coordination

To improve preparedness and early action the Secretariat is working cooperation with the Climate Centre and organisations active in monitoring, early warning and information management, such as

NASA and IRI, sharing sources and information to promote better assistance from all humanitarian actors.

The Secretariat will work in closely with its partners to develop an advisory group with representatives of users of DREF, the management and donors with the aim to support the strategic development of DREF and to ensure the relevance of the fund.

c) Representation and advocacy

The International Federation participates in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and in Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative meetings. Humanitarian donors have recognized the specific role of the DREF in financing Red Cross Red Crescent disaster response, especially response to small scale disasters that other funding mechanisms are not able to support. It will continue to highlight the role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in disaster response and support the National Societies to be able to carry out their mandate.

Advocacy initiatives are targeted primarily at governmental and non-governmental partners at the global and national levels. The aim is to raise awareness of the scale of the challenge the International Federation faces, resulting from climate change, urbanisation and increasing epidemic and pandemic threats.

Quality, accountability and learning

The Secretariat is promoting the use of DREF funds to cover the costs of monitoring and evaluating the success and challenges of the relief operations it supports. National Societies are highlighting the lessons learned from their interventions in reports and incorporating learning into their planning and training.

How we work	
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	
For further information specifically related to this plan, please contact: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the Federation Secretariat: Peter Rees, Head, Operations Support Department; email: peter.rees@ifrc.org; tel: +41 22 730 4455; fax: +41 22 733 0395.	