

DREF n° MDRDJ005	GLIDE n°: DR-2022-000238-DJI
Operation update n° 2; date of issue: 10 March 2023	The timeframe covered by this update: is 29 September 2022 to 14 February 2023
Operation start date: 29 June 2022	Operation timeframe (revised): 12 months and new end date: 30 June 2023
Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 0	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 96,329, second allocation CHF 400,602. Total allocation: CHF 496,931
N° of people being assisted: 30,000 people (5,000 HH) in Dhikil and Obok Regions targeted with hygiene promotion. Direct targets: 9,000 people (1,500 HH) who shall benefit from cash grants.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The government of Djibouti and UNICEF.	

Summary of major revisions made to the emergency plan of action:

This Operations Update is to request for the extension of the DREF operation by three months for an overall 12 months to finalize the implementation of the CVA component of the Programme and complete ongoing activities. The plan of action as such shall remain the same.

The implementation of this operation was for a total of 9 months with the 3-month initial phase in which the needs assessment was conducted. However, an extension of the timeframe with not necessarily requested given the context of afresh procurement of FSP taking long a time in an environment of limited providers for the multipurpose while cash assistance is the flagship activity of the project.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

The hunger crisis in Djibouti is a result of compounding risk factors, which over time serve as drivers of the hunger in-country and across the Horn of Africa. The effects of Covid-19, locust manifestation, the war in Ukraine, and its consequences on the basic food commodities supply chain are exacerbated by insufficient rain for four consecutive years, exhausting the coping mechanisms of affected communities, hence inducing a hunger crisis.

IPC projections for July to December 2022 indicate an increase in the number of acutely food insecure people, likely reaching 192,168 people, representing 16% of the analyzed population (1.2 million people, which is about the entire country). The number of people in an emergency (IPC 4) will likely increase to 12,390 people, a 250% rise from the current numbers, while 179,778 people could be in crisis (IPC 3). The underlying capacities further places Djibouti is vulnerable to the prevalence of drought hazards. The country's GDP per capita is only 5,500 USD with an estimated unemployment rate of 40% and poverty rates of 79% with 42% of the population living in extreme poverty.[2] Djibouti is an arid country with only 0.3 cu km of total renewable water resources.[3] As one of the most water-scarce countries in the world. Only 4% of the land is arable [4], and the country relies on imports for over 90% of its food [5], leaving much of the population vulnerable to global price shocks.

This forecast led the Djibouti Red Crescent Society (DJRC), as part of IFRC's pan-African Zero Hunger Initiative, to plan for immediate assistance to communities in crisis and emergencies by first launching a CHF 96,329 DREF Operation which set out to conduct in-depth multi-sectoral assessments in affected communities, to understand their needs and engage them on how best to support them. This assessment mission also allowed DJRC to engage authorities and humanitarian partners to ensure the complementarity of actions with the wider hunger response coordination, as part of their role as auxiliaries to the authorities. The result of these consultations and assessments led to the previous operation update, which presented the response strategy DJRC used to initiate the response to the hunger crisis for the Red Cross Movement in the country. In addition, this operation is a direct response to the 9 May 2022 call by the President of Djibouti, for greater solidarity in the face of the dramatic consequences of global warming and the reduction of arable land in several regions of the world, particularly in Djibouti, known for its semi-arid and arid climate.

Please, refer to [EPoA](#) for details on the analysis of the drought situation and the Needs Assessment section the Operation Update 1 for highlights from the assessment report.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

In accordance with the results of the consultations and evaluations conducted and presented in the operational strategy for assistance to the affected populations, the Djibouti Red Crescent (DJRC) initiated the response to the hunger crisis in the country following the update of the operation, whose main objective is to contribute to reducing the impact of hunger on communities in the regions of Dikhil and Obock, providing emergency assistance to 30,000 affected people through a multi-sectoral response.

Djibouti Red Crescent Society (DJRC) has been participating in the hunger crisis planning response coordination meeting led by the Ministry of Interior which for aligning drought crisis response in the country. The National Society is also implementing refugee assistance operations with support from IFRC in HolHol and Abok camps where it has been providing RFL services.

The assessment phase of this operation (conducted from 8 to 18th September) contributed to strengthening the capacity of the staff and volunteers in relevant skills necessary for the quality performance of this operation in the spectrums of emergency assessments, needs analysis and reporting, community engagement and accountability (CEA) and protection gender and inclusion (PGI) and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

During the assessment, IFRC supported DJRC by deploying surge technical experts from its Rapid Response system. The Surge personnel supported carrying out the detailed assessment which informed the strategy revision and operation update to respond to the emerging humanitarian drought hunger crisis.

The National Society has direct working relations with several specialized government agencies including the National Food Security Council [CNSA], the National Emergency Response and Rehabilitation Council [CONASUR], Rapid Response Operational Coordination Group [GCORR], and the National refugee agency (ONARS). Some UN and international NGOs including IOM, UNICEF, and SOS villages have sectoral projects partnerships with the National Society. Through this operation, the National Society has refreshed coordination with the Office of Internal Security, Public Department of Emergency Response and Risk Reduction which coordinates intergovernmental and humanitarian actors in the country.

The National Society has 32 core staff at the HQ level with six branches in Ali Sabieh, Arta, Dikhil, Djibouti-Ville, Abok, and Tadjourah, supported by 200 active volunteers. The core sectors of competency for DJRC are WASH, First Aid, Protection, and Restoration of Family Links (RFL). The National Society enjoys a large and active volunteer base and good levels of recognition, coordination, and cooperation with national and local authorities.

The results of the assessment of the impacts of the hunger crisis were discussed and shared with partners in the government as well as UN partners.

With this phase of the response, the Djibouti Red Crescent conducted several meetings at all levels (the government, local authorities in the regions, communities in the regions, and localities targeted) and presented the operational strategy of the operation to respond to the hunger crisis to facilitate understanding and have adherence to this assistance. Also, to accompany the implementation to be able to provide the necessary assistance intended for the population displaced and affected by the drought in the regions of Dikhil and Obock.

The volunteers of the National Society devoted to their humanitarian role, have received thorough training and necessary tools during this operation, from the phase of the evaluation to the new phase of this response on the Cash Voucher and Assistance, as well as on the promotion of hygiene. The volunteers are now able to take over the activities and participate in the collection of data (using Kobo collect tools), collecting contact information, registration of beneficiaries, etc.



Photo: Training of volunteers on the cash transfer program in Obock region

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) supports the DJRC through the Ethiopia and Djibouti Country Cluster Delegation in Addis Ababa. As part of this operation, the IFRC delegation provides technical support through its teams reinforced with rapid response support Surge personnel (CVA Coordinator and Deputy Operations Manager). The Delegation also expands its contribution to strategic coordination with the ICRC, and external actors, and actively engages in humanitarian diplomacy and resource mobilization efforts underpinning the response.

Most recently the IFRC contributed resources to recruit the National Society disaster management coordinator position which is a huge complimentary capacity support for the planned emergency response operations. The IFRC Regional Office operates as a platform for operational coordination and support services including finance, PMER, risk management, human resources, logistics, communication, and resource mobilization through the cluster.

There is no participating National Society (PNS) present in the country that supports the DJRC in various operational areas. However, the Netherlands Red Cross has pledged to support in kind through IFRC with cash and voucher expert to strengthen the National society's Cash and voucher assistance readiness. Djibouti Red Crescent has a long-standing working relationship with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), present in the country as part of their Yemen Support Delegation. Please, refer to the EPoA for details on Movement presence and support in Djibouti.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

At the Government level, the National Society works with the Ministry of Solidarity. The Ministry of Water is the co-lead with UNICEF in the WASH Cluster where DJRC is actively participating as a partner. In the need assessment conducted by the Ministry of Water, UN agencies with UNHCR having the lead, DJRC was recognized to take on their auxiliary role to the ministry for appropriate additional support that could be needed in the case of a high influx of migrants. UNHCR is financially and technically supporting the ONARS which oversees the running of the refugee camp in HolHol. The camp is providing newly arrived asylum seekers with their basic needs in shelter, WASH, and food. DJRC and UNHCR are in regular contact and coordinate accordingly with DJRC which is a stakeholder implementing RFL in partnership with ICRC in all refugee camps.

UNICEF is providing funding to DJRC to support WASH interventions in Tadjourah. The DJRC response is being planned in complementarity with interventions funded by UNICEF.

DJRC participates in various clusters, as well as the regional food security and livelihoods (FSL) task forces. Considering the current response strategy, the National Society will strengthen coordination with the government and other country humanitarian teams. In the initial phase of this operation, the National Society organized newly revitalized engagements with the humanitarian partners with two workshops with the partners supported before and after the assessment and supporting to consolidate sector-based assessments by different partners into one national assessment which is in progress. These strengthened relations and coordination will be foundational capacity for this operation's inception and progressive implementation.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis.

The needs analysis has not changed. There is still an alarming concern about aggravated drought-induced hunger needs. As of June 2022, approximately 132,000 people were estimated to be food insecure in Djibouti, the projections for July to December 2022 indicate a worsening situation where 192,168 people are likely to be acutely food insecure, with 12,390 people in an emergency (IPC 4), while the 179,778 people could be in crisis (IPC 3).

The DJRC, through this DREF operation, has conducted an in-depth assessment in coordination with the government and other humanitarian stakeholders. With technical support IFRC's multi-sector assessment analyzed detailed and multi-sectoral results of the needs assessment to allow the Djibouti Red Crescent (DJRC) to better determine the needs of the populations, and, with the contributions of the community was instrumental to determine the most effective and relevant response that will prevent further deterioration of the situation of the affected populations.

The identification of needs in the assessment phase led to the establishment of a variety of assistance for the vulnerable (30,000 people) in the two regions (Dikhil and Obock) targeted by the hunger crisis response operation. The assistance on multisectoral cash, provision through emergency shelter kits, and water storage kits was planned.

The need is growing among rural communities as the effects of the crisis is still consequent and the displacement is gradually increasing.

For detailed needs assessment please visit [Operation Update 1](#).

Operation Risk Assessment

There are no new foreseen risks than what has been anticipated in the [previous update](#).

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

The operational strategy has not changed. For detailed information please see the previous DREF documents and Operations Update 1.

With this Operations Update, DJRC is seeking 3 months no-cost extension to implement the cash component of the response. Since this is the first time DJRC is doing cash programming of this scale, it has taken more time than initially expected. The national was used to cash in envelopes where they executed directly but there was a need to procure FSP to minimize the risks and strengthen the NS delivery capacity and this process has taken a long time. IFRC is supporting the cash component with its cluster delegation for Ethiopia and Djibouti, surge staff (CVA Coordinator, Deputy Operations Manager) as well as technical expertise from the regional office in Nairobi. In addition to this support, a cash IM specialist from Netherlands Red Cross will support DJRC in the digitalization of the cash component.

The strategy for setting up the cash component has been very thorough, building a good foundation and increasing Djibouti Red Crescents' capacity to implement similar activities in the future without external support. In addition to the fact that Djibouti is still developing the modalities to be used for effective cash programming, the National Society is committed to ensuring that all relevant protocols and guidelines are followed accordingly.

CVA sector

Consultations were conducted with state representatives, community representatives in the targeted areas, and NGOs prior to any intervention, to identify the mapping of the response and to allocate assistance in a way that would reach.

At the community level, involvement in the operation has been crucial in all phases of our activities. The community is and remains best placed to indicate its most vulnerable members in need of assistance. The particularities of each community are best recognized by its members and the CRD had to respect and treat local customs and societal divisions (clan, ethnic, etc.) with consideration.

Committees were formed in the various target localities for accompaniment, targeting, feedback, complaint management, distribution, planning, and organization.



Photos: Community engagement at Sankal, Dikhil region (left) and Warrabad, Obock region (right)

The cash assistance in Djibouti will be delivered in two approaches depending on the available mobile network infrastructure; by envelopes where the network is not sufficient and by mobile where it suffices. The delivery in both cases will be through the FSP contracted by the National Society.

Table of enumeration of regions

REGION	MONETARY TRANSFER			
	Cash in envelopes		By phone	
Dikhil	Locations	Household	Locations	Households
	Sankal	57	Chekatyti 1	45
	Sankal PDI	73	Chekatyti 2	32
	Bakere	71	Kontali	41
	Garsaledaba	49	Masguidlou	25
	Galamo	75		
	Teweo	100		
	Ulukiya	20		
TOTAL	7 Localities	445 households	4 Localities	143
Obock	Locations	Households	Locations	Households
	Medeho	39	Fanteherou	150
	Assassan	57	Orobor and dallayaf	50
	Firis	35		
	Hedle	21		
	Inday	30		
	Roure	22		
	Adodaba	60		
	Warrabad	36		
	Waddi	78		
	Illisola	27		
	Badoytaela	40		
TOTAL	11 Loc11 localities	445 Households	2 localities	200 Households

A total of 1,233 households were counted as shown in the following table and will benefit from the assistance including 890 by delivery of cash in envelopes to Dikhil and Obock. 343 households will receive cash support via the transfer by telephone.

The process in identifying and targeting beneficiaries in this hunger crisis response operation has proven to be particularly challenging, given the following:

- *Many localities are planned to be targeted,*
- *Geographical location of beneficiary localities, dispersion, nomadism, and transhumance.*
- *Lack of logistics at branch level to facilitate the movement of our volunteers for the execution of certain tasks independently of the coordination team based in Djibouti.*
- *The particularity of the terrain requires that we have an updated safety plan before any activity in certain targeted areas such as: Andoli, Sankal, Bakere, Teweo.*

Through the IFRC the Netherlands Red Cross will support this operation with CVA IM expert develop necessary data base management mechanism for now and the future.

WASH sector

A total of 2,400 people were reached with mass hygiene promotion messages while receiving their items (in Dikhil) and another 1,800 were reached indirectly last week. To mention also that 255 women were briefly assisted with the messages on the promotion and maintaining of menstrual hygiene thus the correct use of sanitary pads.

In addition, in the Obock region, hygiene promotion is underway and a total of 200 households have been reached, or about 1,200 people. Hygiene promotion reaches both the individual and community levels with specific messages on hand washing, keeping water storage elements clean, and the use of chlorine. Community participation in collective cleaning events has been also planned.



Volunteer explaining the different aspects of hygiene promotion in Dikhil





Beneficiaries with their assistance kits (Sankal, Dikhil)

The response conducted by Djibouti NS has been crucial in fighting against the hunger factors in the targeted areas, given that some factors of the crisis are linked to access, material, and knowledge around Water, sanitation and hygiene impacting health conditions, thus deteriorating the hunger situation. The distributions and awareness conducted contributed in increasing access for the communities to safe water and knowledge that will alert them on community simple practices to address nutritional and hunger challenges. The cash planned will strengthen the background actions

conducted by the NS, increasing the pertinence of the material assistance by providing the flexible possibilities to improve live conditions and allow families to identify and address the most pressing source of hunger.

C.DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

	Shelter People reached: 1,200. Male: 600 Female: 600	
Outcome 1: Target communities in the Dhikil and Obok regions have their safety and well-being restored through shelter and household solutions.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of HH to be assisted with Emergency shelter and household NFI -kits	400 HH or 2,400 people	200 HH or 1,200 people
# Shelter kits PDM conducted	1	0
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>The National society was able to assemble the shelter and NFI kits locally and procure the consignment locally. The assistance for the emergency shelter items targeted 2400 people and today so far 200HH has been reached in the Dikhil region (75 from Galamo locality, 105 from Sankal locality and 20 from Ouroukiya locality). These areas have fairly good and flexible accessibility in comparison to Obok region which is hard to reach area due to difficult terrain and landscape. The distributions in Obok are ongoing and will be updated in the next operation update. The operation anticipates concluding the distribution for optimal accomplishment of the planned out within next two weeks from this report.</p> <p>This intervention will reduce the exposure, provide protection and bestow dignity for targeted households who are displaced.</p>		
Challenges:		
The terrain is poor, and delivery is difficult. Communities are pastoral with no fixed settlements		



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 0
Male: 0
Female: 0

Outcome 1:Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities through multipurpose cash mechanism.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of HH reached Multipurpose cash assistance	1,500 HH	0
# of people reached with awareness on proper use of cash assistance for food, including nutrition	9,000	0

Progress towards outcomes

DJRC has been working on setting up cash programming system. After the market evaluation phase and publishing the call for tenders relating to the selection of the Financial Service Provider (FSP), a major first for the Red Crescent and the Djibouti context, the team organized several meetings with humanitarian actors (WFP, Unicef, Unfpa) authorities and FSPs (D-Money, Cacpay, Dahabshiil, Irman, Waafi) to further define the modality related and feasibility of the Cash Transfer in Djibouti. At the time of compiling this operation update, the process of reviewing the bids received is taking place. The regional team for procurement and CVA technical support from Nairobi has continuously been providing support and assisting with analyses of the document of FSP selection includes. Several meetings have been held, the feasibility study of the cash transfer program and market assessment done, and the feasibility of cash has been highlighted. Currently, the process of FSP contracting is ongoing.

The DJRC team carried out several field missions first at the central level in Djibouti city (to request secondary data from the authorities) then at the level of the regions of Dikhil and Obock and their respective localities. Thus, allowing the identification and selection of households in accordance with pre-established criteria, namely:

- Affected by drought
- Internally displaced, homeless etc.
- With malnourished children, pregnant and lactating women, widows with children, elderly, disabled without resources
- Having no source of income, feed on donations and community solidarity
- Were forced to reduce their daily consumption.
- No longer have any productive goods that can be resold for food.
- Are obliged to sell breeding animals to obtain food.

The detailed cash feasibility informed the MEB and therefore the amount per household. The number of beneficiaries will be eventually relative to the assessment value and scaled down accordingly. The details of this sector output will be elaborate in the next update.

Challenge

The main challenge is that this is the first time NS is setting up cash programming and the Djibouti regional context is new for the cash transfer specially in the countryside area where no FSPs are available. After multiple meetings that were held at the city level for looking up for a “potentiality” of coverage in the area we are targeting. However, after thorough engagement some of the bidders which have shown interest have good delivery capacity and promising the process



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 2400

Male: 1200

Female: 1200

Outcome 1: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of HH reached with safe water access assistance	1,000	400
# of people provided with HH water quality support	6,000	2,400
# of PVC tanks procured for safe water provision	2	2
# of technical assessments for the tanks installation and the supervision of NFI distribution conducted	2	1

Outcome 2: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with hygiene promotion messaging and awareness session	30,000	6,318
# of women and girls of childbearing age provided with sanitary dignity kits	789	255

Progress towards outcomes

- National Society had conducted mass awareness sessions on hygiene promotion, followed by sanitation activities of public places with the participation of community members. These activities were initiated in early 2022 and will continue until the end of March 2023, in localities of Obock and Dikhil regions according to planning.
- A total of 400 households, including 200 in Obock and 200 in Dikhil, have benefitted from NFI and Wash Kits, the correct use of which will help improve the living conditions of households affected by the drought.
- Two water storage communal tanks have also been transported and are installed respectively in the localities of Sankal (Dikhil) and Fanteherou (Obock) to serve the communities of internally displaced people in these areas.

- The WASH interventions have reduced the vulnerability and severity of effect of the drought for the targeted households by increasing access to clean water and knowledge on hygiene to prevent opportunistic infection including cholera due scarcity of water.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 1: Djibouti Red Crescent will utilize to deliver in the next three months a comprehensive integrated detailed drought and hunger crisis assessment in Djibouti to inform humanitarian response planning and decision making.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained and deployed to carry out community hygiene promotion	20	10
# of volunteers trained on CVA	30	30

Progress towards outcomes

The volunteers have been trained and the tools in assessment, in cash and hygiene promotion given and explored. They are fully involved in the operation which constitutes the strength of the NS. The challenge NS volunteers faced is that their mobility is reduced because our branches are not logistically equipped, and their actions is dependent of the team in mission.

International Disaster Response

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of international surge expert profiles deployed	3	2
# of inception and assessment results dissemination workshops conducted	2	2
# of meetings facilitated	6	6
# of media campaigns conducted	1	1
# of documentaries produced for resource mobilization purposes	1	1
# of lessons learned workshops conducted	1	1

Outcome S2.2: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of feedback system developed and adopted	1	1
# of complaint and feedback received and responded to summarily adequate	30	5

Progress towards outcomes

Committees have been put in place and the feedback collection tool have been developed.

D. Financial Report

The overall budget required for the implementation of the above plan is CHF 496,931 of which CHF 96,329 was allocated in June 2022 at the start of the operation. A second allocation of CHF 400,602 was warranted with the first Operations Update. This Operations Update seeks a no-cost extension of 3 months to finalize the implementation of the cash component of the response.

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)

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