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Annual report Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA00010

April 2012

**This report covers the period
January to December 2011**

Photo: Burundi Red Cross, Floods in Bujumbura 2011. A Burundi Red Cross volunteer preparing to spray houses in the cholera-affected areas of Bujumbura following floods in the capital in March 2011. Photo: IFRC



In brief

Programme outcome

To increase the capacity of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC) to reduce the number of deaths, injuries and the impact of disasters through the timely and adequate financial support for disaster response from the DREF.

Programme summary

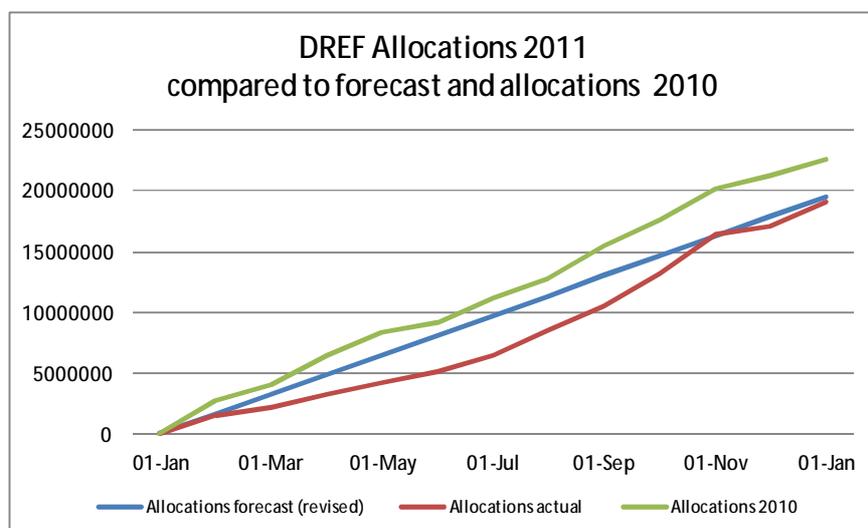
| | Number | Amount in CHF | |
|--|------------|---------------|-----|
| Total of allocations made | 113 | 19,067,666 | |
| Start up funding for emergency appeals | 26 | 5,793,096 | 30% |
| Grants for DREF operations | 87 | 13,274,570 | 70% |
| Number of different operations* | 109 | | |
| Number of recipient Red Cross Red Crescent Societies | 70 | | |
| Number of beneficiaries | 17,823,702 | | |

** Some operations receive two allocations for the same response*

A total of CHF 19,067,666 was allocated by the DREF in 2011. This amount was 98 per cent of the revised forecast and 18 per cent less than that allocated in 2010, but 9 per cent higher than 2009 allocations. The number of allocations requested dropped from 138 in 2010 to 113 in 2011.

The total amount allocated as start-up funds to emergency appeals was CHF 5,793,096 which is 13 per cent higher than in 2010. Twenty-one appeals received start-up funding of the 25 launched by the International Federation in 2011. Four DREF operations for Sahel countries which started in

2011 became emergency appeals in the first quarter of 2012. Grants to DREF-funded operations amounted to CHF 13,274,570 which is 31 per cent lower than in 2010.



Financial situation

The total of the revised 2011 budget is CHF 16,857,403 of which CHF 15,990,905 (95 per cent) was covered during the reporting period. The opening balance on 1 January 2011 was CHF 5,023,597 and the closing balance on 31 December 2011, CHF 7,398,529. Interest paid on the balance of the fund amounted to CHF 16,361. Total income (contributions plus interest) was CHF 16,007,266.

Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 13,289,052. CHF 19,067,666 was disbursed as allocations (98 per cent of the revised forecast) while a total of CHF 5,778,614 was reimbursed to the fund as DREF loans and unspent balances of DREF grants made in 2011 and previous years.

The Secretariat administration and coordination costs for 2011 were CHF 343,282. The budget was revised in June from CHF 369,555 to CHF 357,403.

The original overall DREF budget for 2011 of CHF 18,869,555 was revised downwards in June 2011 in line with the lower use of the fund to CHF 16,857,403.

Click here to go directly to the financial report.

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual11/MAA0001011arf.pdf>

See also DREF mid-term report August 2011:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual11/MAA00010myr.pdf>

No. of people we have reached:

The estimated number of people who have been assisted directly through DREF-funded operations or indirectly through health promotion or awareness raising campaigns is 17,832,702. Response to epidemics reached 16.5 million people, while relief operations assisted 1.3 million, 500,000 of whom were affected by floods.

Our partners

The DREF provides immediate financial support to the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their response to disasters. In order to have sufficient funds to meet their requests, IFRC relies on a number of Red Cross Red Crescent, government and corporate donors. The list of donor contributions to the DREF is given in the attached financial report.

Context

The 2011 annual statistics on disasters from the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) showed that the large-scale events during the year mainly hit wealthy and middle-income countries, inflicting record economic damage of \$366 billion. They included floods in Brazil and Australia, an earthquake in New Zealand, the massive Japan quake and tsunami in March, severe storms and tornadoes in the United States, floods in Thailand, an earthquake in Turkey and tropical storms in the Philippines.

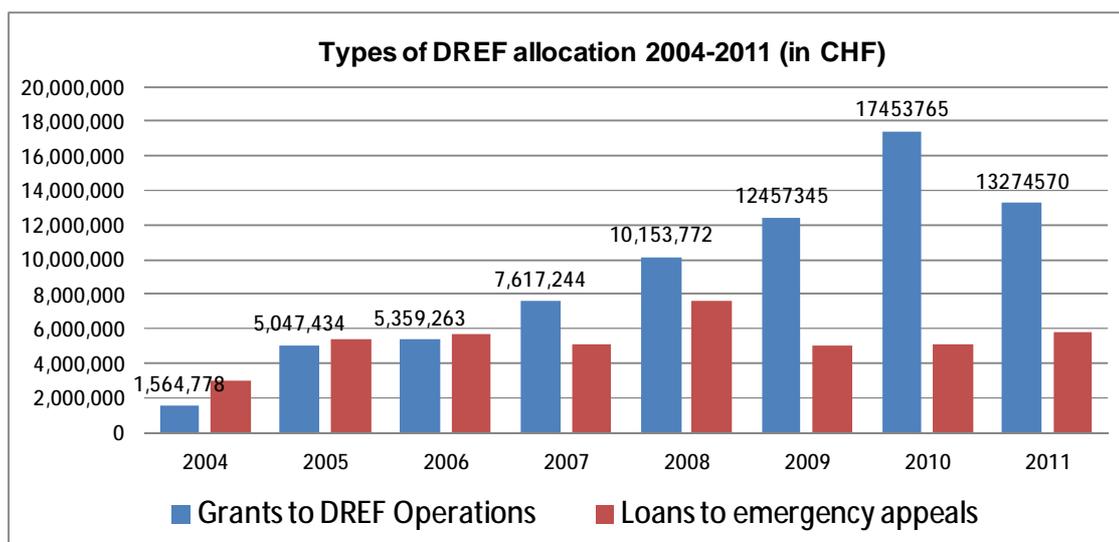
The number of disasters was lower than the 2001-2010 annual average of 384, and death tolls from storms and extreme temperatures were far fewer in 2011 than the previous decade's average. Overall, 206 million people were affected by disaster events last year, with some 106 million people hit by floods and 34 million by storms. Drought impacted on 60 million people, mainly in China and the Horn of Africa, where failed rains have caused a widespread hunger crisis. In 2011, more than 45 percent of disasters occurred in Asia. The continent was also home to more than 85 percent of those killed and those affected globally, and 75 percent of economic damages. Europe, by contrast, experienced very few disasters and impacts in 2011, with the lowest numbers killed, numbers affected and economic damages since 1990.

Funding from the DREF was not needed as start-up funding for the response to operations by National Societies in Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the United States, Thailand or Turkey. However, the Philippines Red Cross requested start-up funding loans for response to Cyclone Nesat in September and Cyclone Washi in December. Both loans have been reimbursed to the DREF from funding to the emergency appeals. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society requested start-up funding of CHF 500,000 to kick start its response to the extensive floods that affected the country in September. DREF loans were requested for appeals in response to floods in Sri Lanka, Bolivia, Namibia, Bangladesh, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Vietnam and for response to cyclones and storms in El Salvador and Guatemala. These loans have been reimbursed to the DREF.

DREF loans were requested for a number of appeals in response to civil unrest and complex emergencies. This was the case for North Africa in February, Côte d'Ivoire and Sudan in June. Assistance to people displaced by violence from Somalia to Kenya and from Sudan to Ethiopia led to emergency appeals which received start-up funding from the DREF.

Drought and food insecurity in the Horn of Africa led to emergency appeals in September and October for Tanzania and Ethiopia which received start-up funding loans from the DREF. An earlier appeal launched by the Kenya Red Cross did not request start-up funding. At the end of the year a number of National Societies in the Sahel region started emergency response and food security needs assessments with support from the DREF. An emergency appeal was launched for Mauritania in 2011, and emergency appeals have followed in during the first quarter of 2012 for Chad, Niger, Burkina Faso and Senegal. Two other appeals were launched with support from the DREF to support response to major cholera outbreaks in Chad and Cameroon.

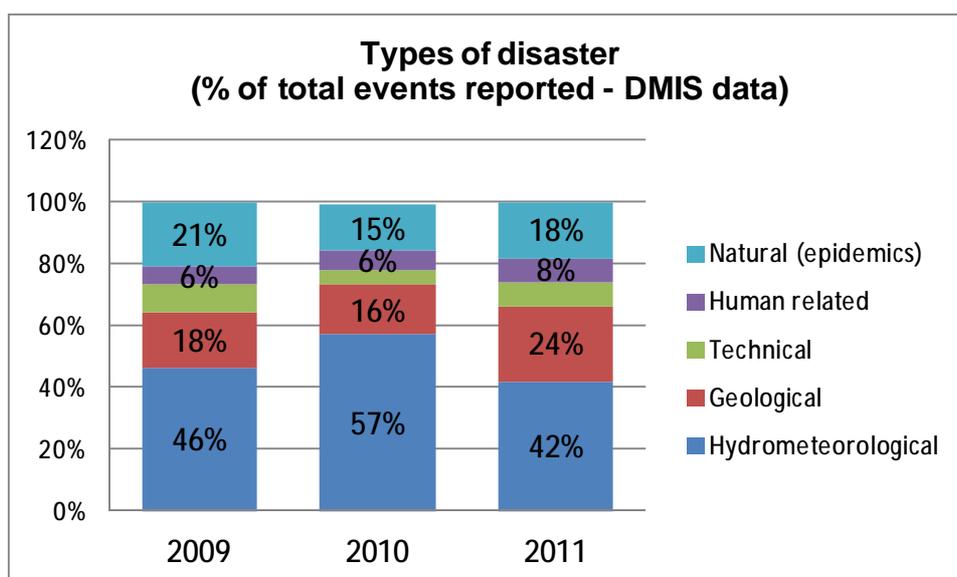
While the amount of loans made to emergency appeals was slightly higher than the amount allocated in 2010, the amount of DREF allocated in grants to small-scale disasters was 31 per cent lower than in 2010. Seventy-five per cent of loans to emergency appeals made in 2011 had been reimbursed by 31 December 2011.



The average amount of DREF allocated by grant (CHF 152,581) remained at the same level as in 2010, while the average amount made as loans (CHF 222,811) increased.

| Average amount of DREF allocations in CHF | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| Loans to emergency appeals | 200,468 | 204,265 | 222,811 |
| Grants for DREF operations | 168,343 | 154,280 | 152,581 |

The first six months of 2011 in particular saw fewer DREF requests than average over the last 3 years. This was mainly due to a lower number of floods and storms in many regions during the year in comparison to 2010, and in particular during the first six months in Americas and Europe and Central Asia regions. The data taken from the events reported on the Federation’s Disaster Management Information Systems (DMIS) shows a lower number of hydro-meteorological events than in previous years.



Key to disaster types:

Natural: Epidemics, cold wave, heat wave, drought, wild fire, urban fires, insect infestation

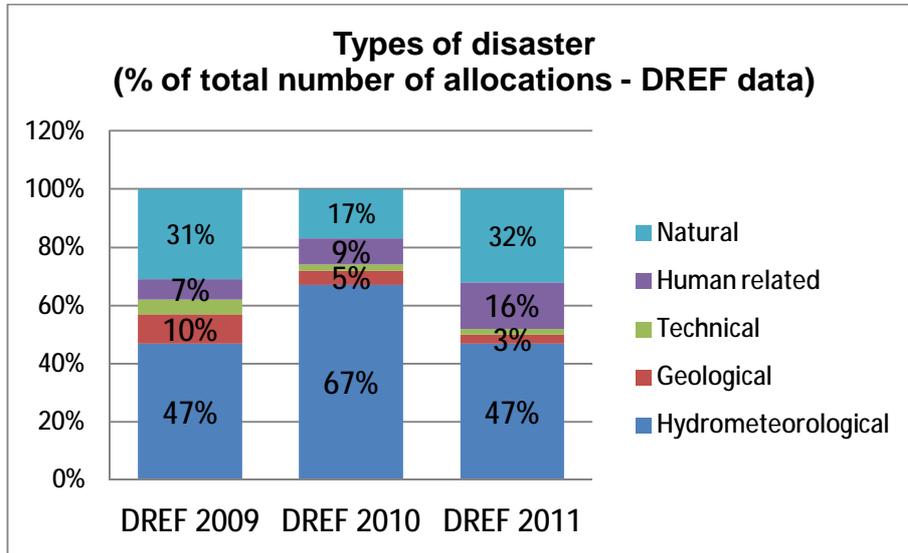
Human related: Population Movement, civil unrest, food insecurity, complex emergency

Technical and other: explosions, chemical spills and pollution, etc.

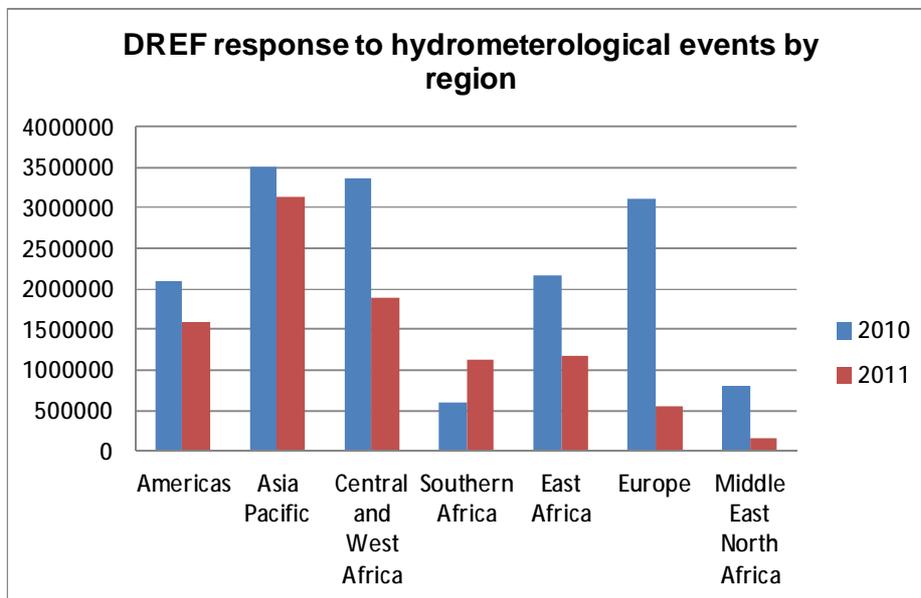
Geological: Earthquake, volcanic eruption, tsunamis, landslide

Hydro-meteorological: Floods, flash floods, tropical cyclones, extra-tropical cyclones, local storm, storm surge

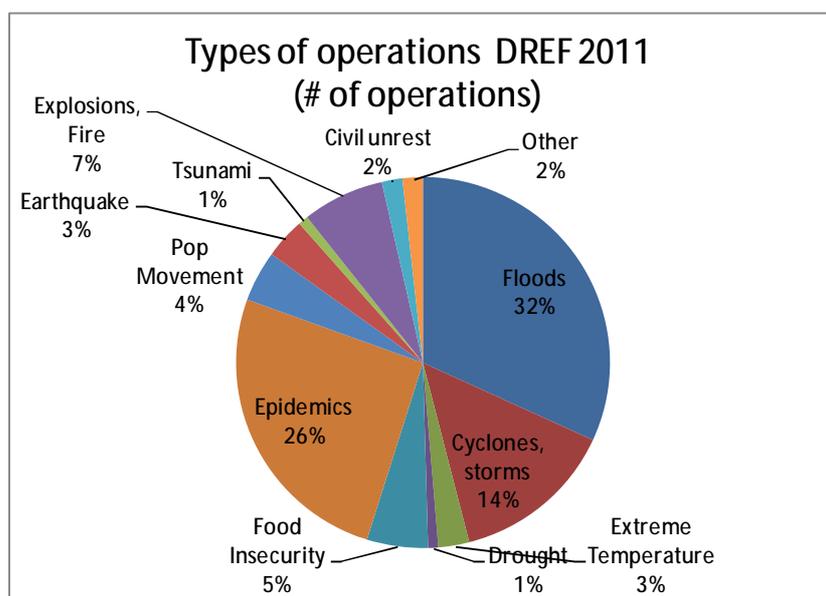
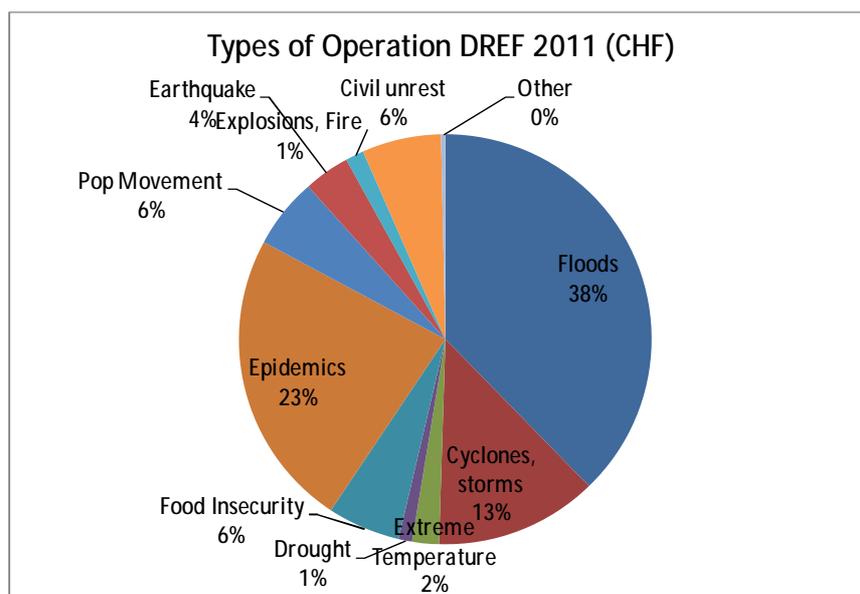
When looking at statistics on the number of DREF allocations requested by disaster type over the last three years, there was a noticeable increase in 2010 in the response to floods, cyclones and storms, which reflects the DMIS statistics. In 2011, hydro meteorological events still accounted for the majority of DREF-funded responses (47 per cent), but this is 20 per cent less than in 2010. Response to natural disasters, especially epidemics, and to human related events, in particular population movement, civil unrest and food insecurity, accounted together for 48 per cent of requests in 2011.



Response to hydro-meteorological disasters was lower in 2011 compared with 2010 in all regions apart from Southern Africa.



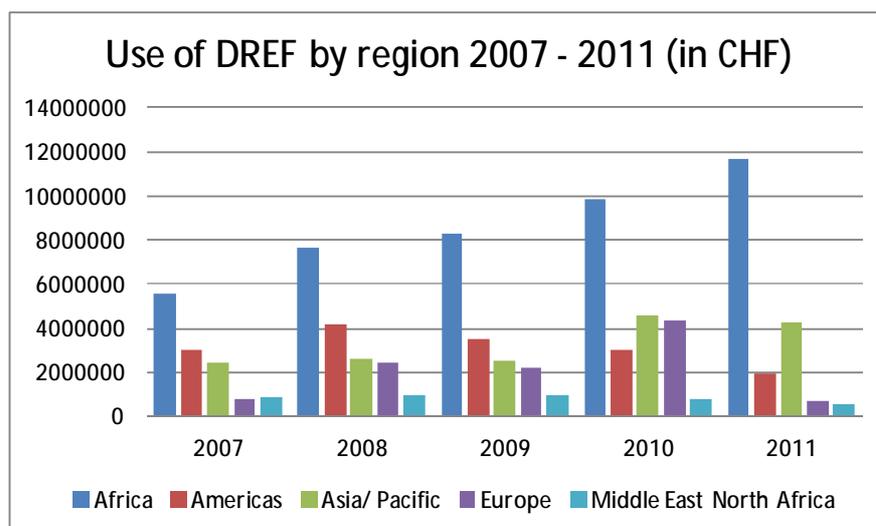
The pie-charts below give the breakdown of use of DREF by type of disaster in 2011 in CHF amounts and by number of allocations.



Analysis of use of DREF by region

Average size of DREF by region 2011

| Allocations by country and operation | Emergency Appeals (DREF loans) | | DREF operations (grants) | | Total Amount allocated in CHF |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| | # allocs | Average amount CHF | # allocs | Average amount CHF | |
| Africa | 15 | 229,805 | 49 | 176,675 | 11,697,658 |
| Americas | 3 | 169,798 | 14 | 100,223 | 1,912,517 |
| Asia Pacific | 7 | 286,723 | 12 | 187,414 | 4,256,025 |
| Europe | 0 | 0 | 8 | 85,268 | 682,146 |
| MENA | 1 | 59,374 | 4 | 114,977 | 519,320 |
| Total | 26 | 222,811 | 87 | 152,581 | 19,067,666 |



Africa

| Use of DREF Africa by region | Loans Appeals | Emergency | | Reimbursed DREF | to | Grants operations | DREF | Total DREF allocated |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------|------------------------|----|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| East Africa | 5 | 1,334,844 | 3 | 899,844 (67%) | | 17 | 2,915,188 | 4,250,032 |
| Southern Africa | 1 | 296,472 | 1 | 296,472 (100%) | | 4 | 1,052,376 | 1,348,848 |
| West and Central Africa | 9 | 1,585,954 | 2 | 597,613 (38%) | | 27 | 4,512,823 | 6,098,777 |
| Total | 15 | 3,217,270 | 6 | 1,793,929 (70%) | | 49 | 8,480,387 | 11,697,657 |

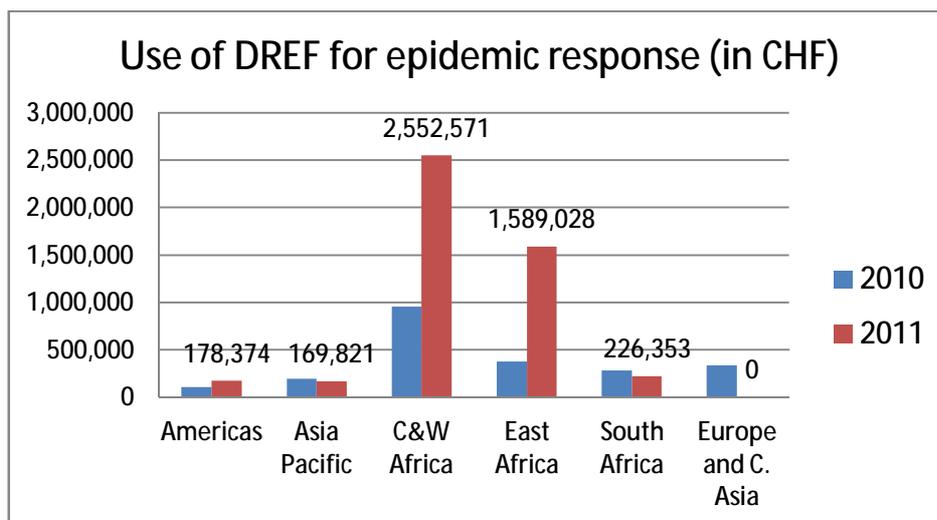
The amount of DREF allocations made to African National Societies in 2011 rose by 19 per cent over 2010, particularly in West and Central and Eastern Africa regions.

The moderate-to-strong La Niña event which developed from mid-June 2010 returned to neutral conditions in May 2011. Unusually heavy rainfall in the southern African region normally accompanies La Niña events and much of the region indeed experienced above average rainfall in late 2010 and early 2011, leading to flooding in Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa northern Namibia and Angola. Above average rainfall continued in Namibia and Angola resulting in severe flooding by the end of March 2011. Fewer than expected cyclones affected the region although one, Cyclone Bingiza hit Madagascar in late February 2011, leading to a request for support from the DREF.

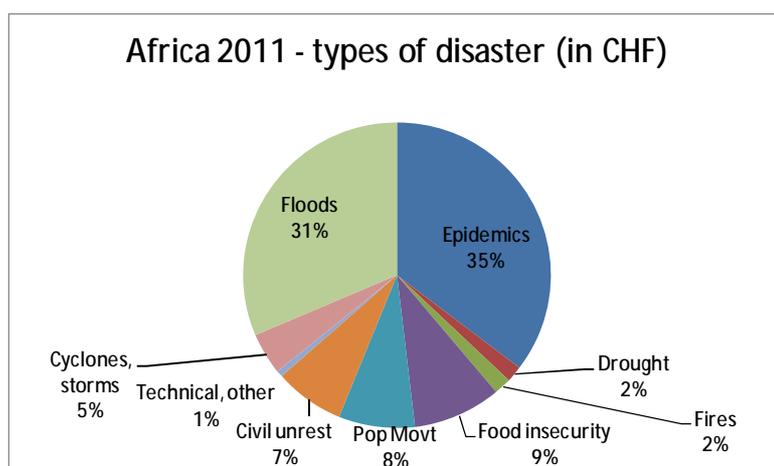
The regional seasonal forecasts from July to October 2011 from the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD) predicted higher than normal rainfall in some parts of West Africa. Floods affected a number of countries and the DREF provided grants to the National Societies in Nigeria, Benin, Senegal, Ghana, Niger, Mali and Guinea Conakry to support their response. The total amount allocated for floods response in West and Central Africa was CHF 1,683,343 compared to CHF 3,296,815 in 2010.

Outbreaks of cholera hit several countries in the Lake Chad basin particularly Chad and Cameroon where emergency appeals were launched to allow widespread and coordinated response to curb the spread of the disease. DREF operations were carried out in Nigeria, Niger, Mali, Gambia, Republic of Congo, and Democratic Republic of Congo. An Information Bulletin was posted in September 2011 on these outbreaks. <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/rpts11/IBTDepi22091101.pdf>

Responses to outbreaks of yellow fever were carried out by the National Societies in Uganda, Ghana and Senegal. The DREF supported them to raise awareness among the most exposed communities and to mobilize them to be vaccinated during the national emergency vaccination campaigns.



Food insecurity affected the Horn of Africa during much of 2011, and an increasingly serious food insecurity situation developed in the last quarter in the Sahel region. DREF allocations were made to Mauritania, Chad, Niger, Burkina Faso and Senegal to allow emergency response and further assessment of needs. An emergency appeal was launched for Mauritania in December 2011. Four emergency appeals were launched for the other four countries during the first four months of 2012.



Americas

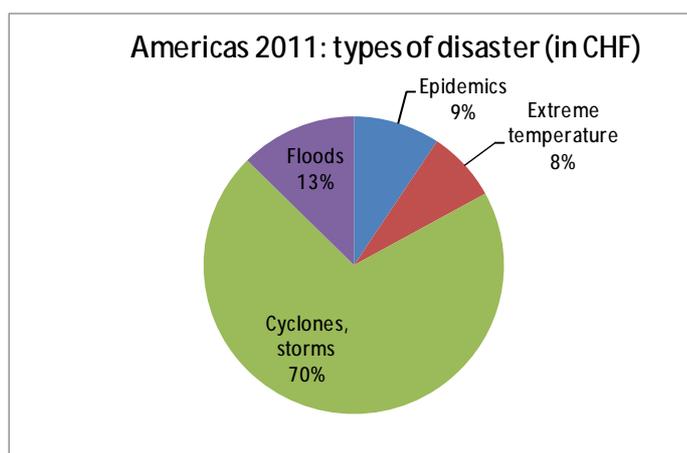
| Use of DREF Americas by region | Loans Emergency Appeals | Emergency | Reimbursed DREF to | Grants DREF operations | Total DREF allocated |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Central America | 2 | 431,319 | 1 191,129 (44%)* | 3 549,988 | 981,307 |
| Caribbean | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 216,678 | 216,678 |
| South America | 1 | 78,074 | 1 78,074 (100%) | 6 636,458 | 714,532 |
| Total | 3 | 509,393 | 2 269,203 (53%) | 13 1,403,124 | 1,912,517 |

*The loan made to Guatemala Red Cross has been reimbursed in 2012, bringing the percentage to 100% for Central America and Americas region overall.

Nine of the 17 allocations made to National Societies in the Americas region were in response to cyclones and storms. In the Caribbean region, Hurricane Irene caused damage in the Bahamas and Dominican Republic at the end of August and Tropical Storm Ophelia affected Dominica in October. These led to DREF operations. Tropical Storm 12E affected Central America in October and led to DREF allocations to five National Societies: El Salvador and Guatemala, which both launched emergency appeals to respond to the effects of the storm, and Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica which requested DREF grants to support their operations.

Operations in response to floods were launch by the Bolivian and Colombian National Societies. The operation for Bolivia became an emergency appeal. A DREF operation in response to an outbreak of dengue fever was carried out jointly between the Bolivian and Peruvian National Societies. Paraguay carried out two DREF operations in response to dengue fever in April and to hailstorms in August. A DREF operation was carried out to respond to extreme cold in Chile.

The amount of allocations made to National Societies in the Americas region was down 41 per cent compared to 2010.



Asia Pacific

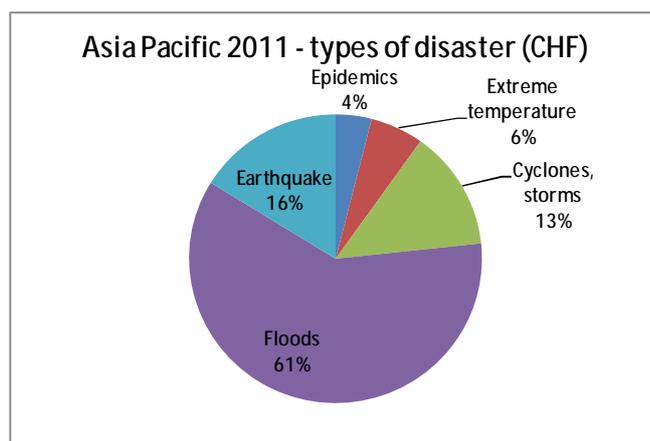
| Use of DREF Asia Pacific by region | Loans Appeals | Emergency | Reimbursed to DREF | Grants operations | DREF | Total DREF allocated |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| East Asia | 1 | 453,413 | 453,413 (100%) | 0 | 0 | 453,413 |
| South Asia | 3 | 862,936 | 862,936 (100%) | 5 | 1,069,744 | 1,932,680 |
| South-East Asia | 3 | 690,710 | 690,710 (100%) | 5 | 1,088,900 | 1,779,610 |
| Pacific | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 90,322 | 90,322 |
| Total | 7 | 2,007,059 | 2,007,059 (100%) | 11 | 2,248,966 | 4,256,025 |

Seven of the 19 operations supported by DREF became emergency appeals, two for the Philippines in response to Cyclones Nesat and Washi. A DREF operation was carried out by the Vanuatu Red Cross Society in February in response to the damage caused by Cyclone Vania. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society launched an appeal for response to floods in July, and also requested a DREF grant to meet the needs of people affected by a cold wave in January 2011. Response to floods accounted for nine of operations in the region, five of which became emergency appeals because of the extent of the flooding. DREF operations were implemented in Lao People’s Democratic Republic, India, Cambodia and Myanmar.

A second DREF operation was carried out by the Myanmar Red Cross Society following an earthquake of magnitude 6.8 on the Richter scale which struck the eastern state of Shan on 24 March 2011, causing 74 deaths and injuries to 125 people.

An earthquake of similar intensity hit the Nepal-India border of Taplejung district of Nepal and Sikkim state of India on 18 September 2011 lead to DREF operations led by the National Societies in both countries. Severe cold weather in December aggravated the difficult situation of the people affected by the earthquake in Nepal and a further DREF operation was implemented to assist them in January 2012.

The overall amount allocated from the DREF to National Societies in the Asia Pacific region was slightly lower than in 2010.

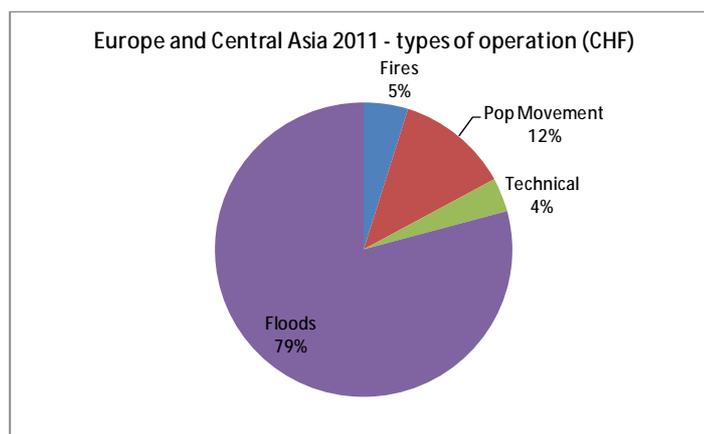


Europe and Central Asia

| Use of DREF Europe and Central Asia | Loans Emergency Appeals | Emergency | Reimbursed DREF | to | Grants operations | DREF | Total DREF allocated |
|--|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------|----|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Central Europe, Southern Caucasus | 0 | | | | 2 | 143,563 | 143,563 |
| BRUM (Belarus, Russian Fed., Ukraine, Moldova) | 0 | | | | 4 | 285,698 | 285,698 |
| Central Asia | 0 | | | | 2 | 252,885 | 252,885 |
| Total | 0 | | | | 8 | 682,146 | 682,146 |

Use of DREF was significantly lower in Europe and Central Asia region than in 2010, down from CHF 4.3 million to CHF 682,146 and no loans to start-up large-scale operations were requested.

Four of the operations were to support the Russian Red Cross which responded to floods in in the Krasnodarskiy Kraj (region) and the Republic of Adygeya in June and to floods in Chechnya at the beginning of September. Floods also affected Kazakhstan in April and Georgia and Tajikistan in June. The Russian Red Cross requested support from the DREF to prepare its branches to respond to forest fires which were again threatening the country after the disaster in 2010. The Malta Red Cross requested support from DREF to step up its support to people fleeing the civil unrest in Libya.

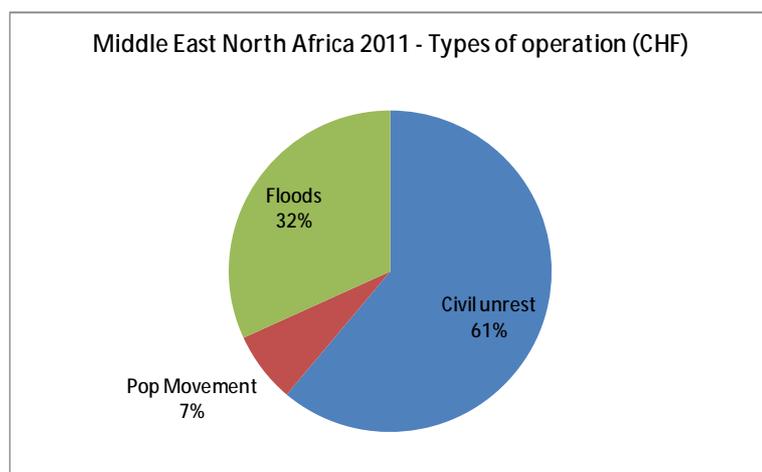


Middle East North Africa

| Use of DREF Middle East North Africa | Loans Emergency Appeals | Emergency | Reimbursed DREF | to | Grants operations | DREF | Total DREF allocated |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------------|----|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Middle East | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 2 | 202,234 | 202,234 |
| North Africa | 1 | 59,374 | 59,374 (100%) | | 2 | 257,672 | 317,046 |
| Total | 1 | 59,374 | 59,374 (100%) | | 4 | 459,906 | 519,280 |

The civil unrest in North Africa at the beginning of 2011 led to DREF grants for the Tunisian and Egyptian Red Crescent Societies, followed by an emergency appeal for North Africa, which was included

Libya, Yemen and Syria. A DREF grant was made to the Lebanese Red Cross to bring assistance to people displaced from Syria. One DREF operation was made in response to floods in Iraq.



Progress towards outcomes

Outcome 1: Improved capacity of the DREF to meet the requests of support from National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Achievements

The International Federation revised its appeal for funding for the DREF downwards from CHF 18,869,555 to CHF 16,857,403 in June, following the lower number of requests made to the fund during the first six months of 2011. A total of CHF 15,990,905 was received in contributions, or 95 per cent of the target.

The Norwegian Government contributed CHF 4.8 million via the Norwegian Red Cross, The Irish Government CHF 1.1 million, the Danish Government, CHF 500,562 via the Danish Red Cross, the Swedish Government, CHF 260,468 via the Swedish Red Cross, the Japanese Red Cross, CHF 215,363, the Luxembourg Government CHF 112,918 and the Monaco Government, CHF 66,798.

A new contribution agreement was signed with the European Commission (Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection – ECHO) for EUR 3 million (CHF 3.34 million) and this funding was used to reimburse the DREF for grants made for specific operations. The Canadian Government and Canadian Red Cross and the Netherlands Government and Netherlands Red Cross both replenished the DREF for specific grants it has made. They contributed CHF 978,320 and CHF 1,827,660 respectively in 2011. The Belgian Government contributed CHF 1.2 million to replenish DREF allocations. The Australian Government contributed CHF 367,340 while single contributions in replenishment of DREF allocations were received from the Icelandic Government via the Icelandic Red Cross, South African and Spanish Governments and the Singapore Red Cross.

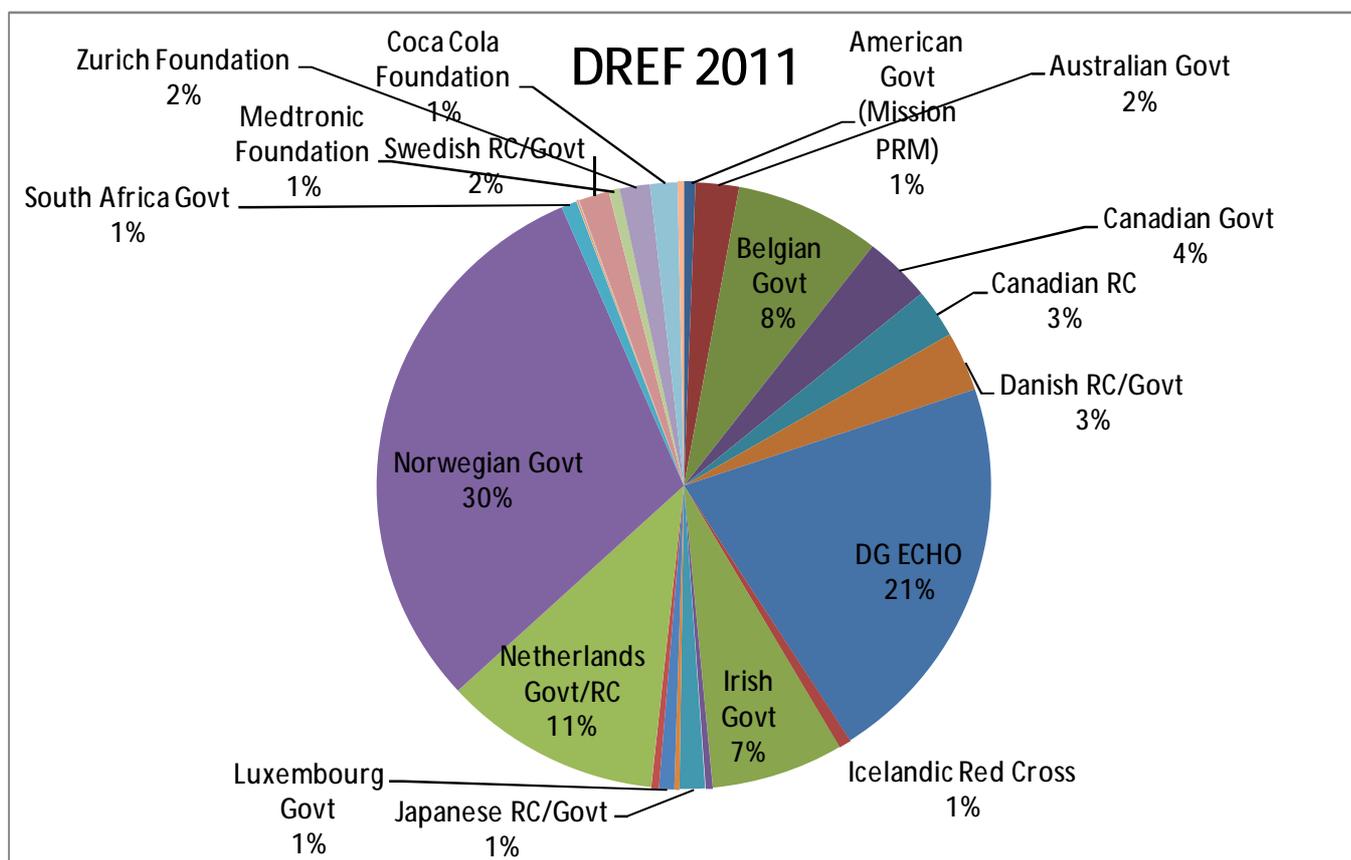
The Coca Cola Foundation contributed USD 400,000 (CHF 333,500) to be used in replenishment of DREF grants in 2011. Under existing multi-year agreements, the Z Zurich Foundation (CHF 250,000) and the Medtronic Foundation (USD 100,000) continued to support the DREF in 2011.

The balance of the DREF at 01 January 2011 was CHF 5,023,497. At 31 December 2011 this balance stood at CHF 7,398,529.

A second annual meeting of donors to the DREF was organized in Geneva in October 2011 with attendance from around 50 representatives of donors, partner National Societies and of the Geneva missions. Through four case studies on the use of DREF in response to floods, which were presented to

the participants by members of the National Societies concerned, the Secretariat sought to highlight some of the thematic issues and challenges they experience in responding to floods. The case studies illustrated the multiplicity of response (different activities) and the flexibility of the DREF to allow the most appropriate response. They led to discussions on the use of DREF, with suggestions from the participants which have been included in follow-up by the Secretariat.

Donors to the DREF in 2011



Constraints or challenges

The percentage of loans made as start-up funds to emergency appeals which were reimbursed to the DREF was 75 per cent at 31 December 2012 (79 per cent at the time of posting this report), in comparison to the target of 90 per cent reimbursement. However, the emergency appeals for Mauritania, Chad and Niger were launched at the end of 2011 or the beginning of 2012 and the level of funding for these appeals had not allowed reimbursement at the end of the first quarter 2012. Loans are reimbursed when 150 per cent of the amount of the allocation is received in unearmarked funding to the emergency appeal. The low funding for emergency appeals for the Africa region generally has led to the reimbursement of only 6 of the 12 loans made or an outstanding amount of CHF 1,143,381. As in 2010, the low levels of funding for emergency appeals launched for operations in Africa tends to lead to a higher number of requests for DREF grants for the region.

Outcome 2: Funds are used in a timely manner by National Societies to prepare for imminent crises and mitigate their impact on vulnerable communities, and respond to and effectively cope with their consequences

Achievements

The number of instances where National Societies requested support from the DREF to allow preparedness to respond to an imminent crisis or disaster were limited in 2011.

In Namibia, constant surveillance of the Zambezi and Kavango River levels indicated in early March that the water level of the two rivers was higher than during the same period in 2010 and the observed trend suggested that the record levels reached by the two rivers the previous year might be exceeded. The Namibia Red Cross Society has engaged the communities affected by the seasonal flooding under the Zambezi River Basin Initiative in the identification of locations on higher ground and preparations of these areas as reception centres during flooding. By early March over 30 villages had been temporarily relocated and the National Society requested support from the DREF on 9 March to provide assistance to them and to prepare for the continuing evacuations that they anticipated. When the government of Namibia declared a national emergency at the end of March, the Namibia Red Cross was already fully operational and increased its DREF operation in scope to an emergency appeal, which was launched on 8 April.

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRNA006.pdf>

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRNA00603.pdf>

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Society response to epidemics is regularly given as an example of early action to reduce the effects of disasters. In the case of highly dangerous diseases, such as Ebola, immediate action is vital to prevent further loss of life once the disease has been identified. In May 2011, the Uganda Red Cross Society requested support from DREF within a week of the confirmation of the outbreak to allow it to carry out its role in prevention as part of the national task force.

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRUG02101.pdf>

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRUG021dfr.pdf>

Indicators of growing food insecurity and cases of malnutrition in the Sahel region at the end of 2011 led the International Federation to support early response and in-depth needs assessments in five countries. The peak of the food insecurity crisis will be reached later in 2012, but early and focused action is being taken to try and reduce the vulnerability of some of the most affected communities.

Outcome 3: National Societies receive timely financial support from DREF to assess needs, respond rapidly to disasters and benefit from the deployment of national, regional and international assets as necessary to meet the needs of those affected

Achievements

Timeliness of DREF response: The new procedures and criteria for DREF, which were introduced in the beginning of July, include criteria for consideration in the approval of DREF requests which put targets for the timeliness of requests in different situations. For example, requests for response to sudden-onset disasters are expected within 48 hours for large-scale events and with 7 – 10 days for smaller events.

In 2011, the number of slow-onset disasters for which DREF funds were allocated was higher than in previous years. Of the operations which led to an emergency appeal, only half, or 10 of 21 operations, could be considered as sudden-onset events and in many cases the requests were initially for grants with the appeals being launched several weeks later as the scale of the needs grew. In these cases it is difficult to measure the timeliness of response.

Two thirds of the requests for sudden onset disasters were received and approved within 10 days of the event, with the other third within two weeks.

The new criteria and procedures have generally been well understood and compliance has been good. The DREF senior officer carried out one workshop on DREF and the new procedures in La Réunion for six National Societies from the Indian Ocean region.

The Secretariat is preparing a new Plan of Action tool for planning, monitoring and reporting on all emergency operations which aims to facilitate the planning and reporting process. This will be gradually

introduced and implemented in 2012 with support from the Secretariat. The guidance given is also intended support compliance with emergency response and DREF procedures.

Needs assessment: Two examples of the flexible and innovative use of DREF to meet emergency needs can be shown through the operations carried out in response to the earthquake in Nepal and to assist migrant workers returning to Niger from Lybia.

The earthquake in Nepal hit a mountainous area which was very difficult to access. An initial DREF allocation allowed the National Society to mobilize its emergency response teams and provide emergency assistance while carrying out damage and needs assessment. Based on the findings of this assessment an extended plan of action was prepared by the National Society and a request made to increase the amount of the DREF allocated to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people identified. The Nepal Red Cross Society provided them with blankets, tarpaulins and various household items, using road and air transport to bring the relief to the district warehouse and then tractors, porters and mules to access the communities that had been further isolated by the damage caused to the roads by the earthquake. <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/Appeals/11/MDRNP005dref4.pdf>

The Red Cross Society of Niger brought assistance to migrant workers fleeing the civil unrest in Lybia when they crossed the border into the country. However, as the main income providers to their families and communities their immediate needs were to be able to support their families until they were able to develop new agricultural, food-producing and income-generating activities. The decision to provide them with cash distributions allowed them to act as necessary in each case and the operation was seen to mitigate some of the worst effects of migration helping to keep returnees out of camps and urban areas, keeping family units together and helping beneficiary families to survive until the next harvest season.

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/Appeals/11/MDRNE007DFR.pdf>

Constraints or challenges

Final reports on DREF operations are due to be posted within three months of the end of the operation. The number of final reports which were posted late has increased in 2011, after the performance improved between 2008 and 2010. The majority of DREF-supported operations are for the Africa region, but the resources available for supporting National Societies in preparing and writing final reports have decreased in 2011. No new DREF allocations can be approved until due reports on previous allocations have been provided by the National Societies and this has in some cases slowed down the approval of DREF requests.

Although during the initial introductory period of the Plan of Action National Societies may find it takes take longer to submit requests, the new format is intended to assist the process, and especially facilitate monitoring and reporting.

Working in partnership

DREF advisory group: The Secretariat works very closely with its partner National Societies on the development of disaster management in general and on DREF in particular. The DREF advisory group, which currently has representation from the British, Canadian, Danish, Netherlands and Norwegian Red Cross Societies, works with the Secretariat in promoting efficient use of the fund.

In 2011, the advisory group members have supported the Secretariat in preparing the follow-up to the recommendations made by the DREF audit and by defining their participation in monitoring of DREF operations. By joining Federation field visits and monitoring operations, an opportunity was identified to promote learning around small-scale disaster response from DREF operations, which could lead to improvement of the DREF processes and promote better compliance with procedures. A first pilot monitoring mission with the participation of a member of the advisory group in August 2011 in Uganda, looking at response to a Yellow Fever and Hepatitis E outbreaks.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Monitoring and evaluation of DREF operations are being carried out in most regions and lessons learned incorporated into National Society training and planning. The Secretariat will prioritize monitoring in 2012, by National Societies, the Secretariat and donors and capture results from the different regions. The DREF guidelines encourage National Societies to include the cost of monitoring and evaluation in the DREF operation budget and therefore systematize it more widely.

Looking ahead

The regular use of DREF by National Societies to respond to disasters leads to strengthening of their capacity to respond but also allows the International Federation to promote the quality of response and to build more standardization in the quality and scope of relief operations. It is promoting greater adherence to recognized standards in humanitarian assistance and more beneficiary participation and consultation in planning and delivering humanitarian programmes.

It is a priority for the coming years is to develop standards and quality in planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting on all emergency response operations. The smaller the operations are, the easier it is to incorporate these improvements. On experience gained in small operations, we anticipate that National Societies will grow their capacity to plan, implement and coordinate larger-scale relief operations.

The focus in 2012 will be on extending monitoring and evaluation and on the introduction of the Plan of Action. The extent to which these can be achieved will also depend on the number of disasters and requests for funding received, as priority is always given to meeting emergency needs.

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

The 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.

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Saving lives, changing minds.



The 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 nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

Contact information For further information specifically related to this report, please contact **Elizabeth Soulie**, Senior Officer, DREF; selizabeth.soulie@ifrc.org; phone +41 22 730 4479; and fax +41 22 733 0395: