

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Italy: Earthquake

**DREF operation n° MDRIT001
GLIDE EQ-2009-000072-ITA
Update n° 3
18 May 2009**

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update:
9 April to 13 May 2009.

CHF 700,000 (USD 613,944 or EUR 460,808) has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Italian Red Cross in delivering immediate assistance to 15,000 beneficiaries and to replenish emergency stocks.

This DREF operation is an opportunity for Partner National Societies and donors to support the Italian Red Cross in its ongoing operations, and un-earmarked contributions to replenish the DREF are therefore highly encouraged.

Summary: A strong earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale hit central Italy on 6 April 2009. Some 290 people have been killed, around 1,000 injured and 48,000 made homeless. Several strong aftershocks hit the region in the following week. The Italian Red Cross is supporting the affected population with food and non-food items as well as psychological support in order to overcome the most urgent needs.

This operation is expected to be implemented over a period of three months, and will therefore be completed by 7 July, 2009. A Final Report will be made available by 7 October 2009.

The Irish Red Cross contributed 7,000 Euros to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>



**One of the many buildings devastated by the earthquake.
Photo: Italian Red cross.**

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The situation

More than a month after the earthquake in Abruzzo that killed some 290 people and rendered 48,000 homeless, vital assistance to the people affected by the quake is still continuing. More than 800 Italian Red Cross staff and operators, including volunteers, are providing hot meals and warm blankets in the tent camps, as well as psychosocial support to children and medical care. Rain and persistent cold have made life difficult in the camps set up around Abruzzo. Many people have moved towards the Adriatic coast, finding temporary accommodation in hotels.

The Italian government has not requested international assistance, drawing upon national resources to address the most urgent needs. The Italian Red Cross launched a National Appeal of solidarity enable it to carry out operations also in the medium and long-term, providing adequate shelter, warm clothes, food provisions and psychosocial support for the affected people.

Coordination and partnerships



More than 800 Italian Red Cross staff and operators, including volunteers, are providing hot meals and warm blankets in the tent camps, as well as psychosocial support to children and medical care. Photo: Italian Red Cross.

The Italian Red Cross is working in close cooperation with the Italian Civil Protection which is leading the overall response. This cooperation is present not only in decision-making but also at field level between the local authorities and volunteer structures. The effective coordination, both at national level and in the field, has reinforced the strong position of the Italian Red Cross and contributed to avoiding confusion and delay.

The Italian Red Cross agrees that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies should actively support the fund-raising for the people affected by the earthquake in Abruzzo with the network of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The Irish Red Cross has contributed 7,000 Euros, raised through a public appeal, to the replenishment of the DREF. Other National Societies and donor governments are invited to offer support and replenish the DREF from the funds raised through local fund-raising campaigns.

With the support of the International Federation, the Italian Red Cross will keep other Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies informed on the situation and its activities.

Many Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies have contacted the Italian Red Cross offering direct partnerships to provide financial support in the emergency and rehabilitation phase. The Irish, the British, the Austrian, the American, the Swiss, the Belgian and the Canadian Red Cross Societies have started local fund-raising campaigns to help the people affected by the Italian earthquake.

The British Red Cross has contributed with EUR 94,000 to the Italian Red Cross's national appeal while the American Red Cross offered USD 50,000 bilaterally and USAID also contributed with USD 50,000. The Albanian Red Cross contributed with USD 5,000, the Austrian Red Cross with EUR 56,000, and the Chinese Red Cross with USD 30,000, plus EUR 21,980 through its Jet Li One Foundation. The French Red Cross contributed with EUR 3,480; the Luxemburg Red Cross offered EUR 60,000 in in-kind donations (4 field kitchens); the Monaco Red Cross contributed with EUR 60,000 and the Spanish Red Cross with EUR 50,000. The Montenegro Red Cross contributed with EUR 3,000. The Swiss Red Cross assistance of 231 tents with 1,155 bed capacity and 2,310 blankets has already arrived. A German Red Cross donation of 10 heaters has also arrived. The Italian Red Cross also received donations from the corporate sector: USD 15,000 from Alcatel/King Badouin Foundation US; USD 20,000 from ALCOA; 2,000 Great Britain pounds from Bloomberg and EUR 35,000 from Q8 Italian petrol company.

The Italian Red Cross is going to invite partner National Societies to pay a one-day visit to L'Aquila in the coming weeks to see how the operations are progressing.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

More than 800 staff and operators of the Italian Red Cross from all over Italy are at present working in the areas hit by the earthquake taking care of 22,000 people affected. Another 150 staff members are working in the National Emergency Centre and 2,500 volunteers are on a waiting list ready to go.

With support from a delegate deployed by the International Federation for a short mission to Italy, the Italian Red Cross developed a detailed plan of action setting the different phases of the Italian Red Cross response. The main focus is on the rehabilitation phase starting one to three months after the disaster.

In alignment with these priorities the Italian Red Cross will support 22,000 people during the first 6 months and 7,000 people during 24 months based on their expressed needs in transitional shelter, food and non-food items, community organisation, psychosocial support, and social and professional training activities.

Detailed information on the different phases of the Italian Red Cross disaster response was provided in the previous update which can be accessed at <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDRIT001du2.pdf>

The Italian Red Cross promotes an **early recovery approach** that recognises the importance of early planning from the very first days taking the necessary measures in order to promote the reduction of dependency of people from external support.

Resources

The majority of the activities are implemented through Italian Red Cross volunteers, paying particular attention to the interaction and synergy between the Italian Red Cross volunteers of Abruzzo and other branches involved in the operations.

In order to implement the plan of action, the target of different fund-raising campaigns in Italy and abroad is set at 5.5 million Euros.

Sustainability

The intervention has been analysed and discussed with the leadership of the regional Red Cross branch of Abruzzo, the provincial branch of L'Aquila, the local authorities, the Civil Protection and other stakeholders in the field. The presence of regional and provincial branches, the opening of new local ones and the recruitment of new volunteers will ensure the continuity of the relations with the identified communities beyond the implementation of this plan of action.

Update on the emergency phase

The 700,000 Swiss francs allocated from the International Federation's DREF has been used to support the Italian Red Cross in the emergency phase of the response operation. Most of the activities have been carried out, and the operation is now in the recovery and rehabilitation phase.

Based on the request of the Italian Red Cross, the majority of the DREF allocation is being used to procure tents. The tents, in addition to providing much needed temporary shelter for those made homeless, have been used as service tents, storage, social activities areas. Psychosocial services for children have also been run here and as a place where people can meet together formally or informally.

To this end the International Federation is providing logistics support to the Italian Red Cross.

This modification implied some changes in the budget lines presented in the initial DREF bulletin, and therefore a revised budget is available at the end of this update.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To provide initial emergency assistance including food and non-food items.

Activities:

1. Distribute non-food items including blankets
2. Contribute to temporary shelter solutions
3. Provide hot meals through mobile kitchens

Progress and impact:



Tents have provided temporary shelter for those made homeless, been used as storage, for social activities and psychosocial services for children. Photo: Italian Red cross.

In addition to the Emergency Response Unit (ERU) base camp, the Italian Red Cross is now running a total of nine camps in the areas hit by the earthquake with a capacity of 6,000 beds providing temporary shelter solutions to the people affected (Acciano, Assergi, Cagnano Amiterno, Centi Colella, Collemaggio, Pescomaggiore, San Gregorio, San Benedetto di Bagno, Mascioni).

Besides a kitchen logistics base, nine mobile kitchens are operational, providing a total of 22,000 meals a day partly for the Red Cross camps but mainly for other camps that are not run by the Italian Red Cross. Altogether 1 ton of pasta, 800 kg of meat, 1 ton of vegetables and 1 ton of fruits are provided each day.

and a central warehouse in Rome. There is also a pharmaceutical warehouse being used.

A warehouse of 14,000 m² with 3 hangers is functional in Avezzano,

Some 140 Italian Red Cross vehicles are available for staff and volunteers in their efforts to assist the affected population.

Some 14,000 blankets have been already distributed to the affected population. 231 tents with a 1,155 bed capacity, received by the Swiss Red Cross, have been also set up.

Health

Objective: To provide emergency first aid and medical care, including psychosocial support.

Activities:

1. Provide first aid and medical care through advanced medical teams and first aiders
2. Provide psychosocial support to those affected

Progress and impact:

Seven advanced medical posts of the Red Cross, located in Poggio Picense, San Gregorio, Assergi, Paganica, Centicolella, Collemaggio, Piazza d'Armi Campo are operational with volunteer doctors, nurses and logistic staff, and two triage tents for primary first aid screening. More than 30 ambulances are operational in the affected area.

Four teams for psychological support are active and close to the families hit by the tragedy.

On the Adriatic coast some 50 Italian Red Cross nurses are providing nursing assistance and socio-psychological support to the people accommodated in hotels.

The veterinary unit in the Centicolella camp (L'Aquila) continues to provide veterinary assistance. This Red Cross service is the only one available in the camps and is also able to carry out surgery.

Four playrooms for children as well as seven support centers for elderly people are also mitigating the effects of the earthquake on the individuals.

Revised budget

RELIEF NEEDS	650,000
Shelter	650,000
PERSONNEL	900
Consultants	900
GENERAL EXPENSES	3,600
Information & Public Relations	3,000
Communication Costs	600
SUB TOTAL	654,500
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	45,500
Programme Support - PSR	45,500
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	700,000
Available Ressources	
Net Request	700,000

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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:

- 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 operation please contact:

- **At the Italian Red Cross:** Marcello Guerra, Coordinator International Department, phone: +39 064 759 399, fax: +39 064 759 223, email: marcello.guerra@cri.it
- **In the Europe Zone Office:** Slobodanka Curic, Disaster Management Coordinator, Budapest, phone: +36 1 8884 510, fax: +36 1 336 1516, email: slobodanka.curic@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator, phone: +41 22 730 4381, fax: +41 22 733 0395, email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org

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