


www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

DREF final report

Moldova: Extreme winter condition

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRMD004 GLIDE n° CW-2012-000006-MDA 29 August 2012

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 emergency response. 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.

Summary: CHF 123,061 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 23 February 2012 to support the National Society in delivering assistance to some 1,000 families and individuals (4,000 beneficiaries) affected by extreme winter conditions. Particularly hard hit were rural communities whose households, already affected by poverty, had been suffering from the cold weather, due to the lack of basic necessities.



The Moldova Red Cross Society was asked by the Government of Moldova to mobilise support for the on-going relief operation. The National Society made efforts to assist the most vulnerable.

For the consolidation of inputs of various agencies, the Government of Moldova organized regular meetings with Moldova Red Cross, the UN Disaster Management Team, Caritas, UNHCR, and established a task force to discuss the situation in terms of outstanding needs and coordination matters.

By the end of April, Moldova Red Cross finalized the procurement of humanitarian aid and the delivery of relief items to the branches for distributions. Selection of beneficiaries and the distribution were unfolded in close cooperation with local public authorities and district departments of social assistance with widespread involvement of Red Cross volunteers.

Based on the results of the joint assessment it was agreed and recommended to brief the beneficiaries about the content of the relief items (food and non-food parcels) during the distributions.

At the end of the Project a press conference was organized with the participation of national mass-media and local public authorities, where the activities and impact of the Red Cross disaster response operation on beneficiaries was discussed. The Red Cross branches implementing the operation held coordination meetings with partners to share lessons learned and discuss future plans in preparedness and response to

natural disasters.

This operation was planned to be implemented over two months, but the operation timeframe was extended with one month based on the request of the National Society due to some delay in the procurement process and consequently a delay in the distribution. Therefore the operation was completed at the 31st May 2012 and a financial and narrative report is submitted according to the standard procedures.

After finalizing operations based on the final financial report, there is a balance of CHF 1,049, which needs to be reimbursed to the DREF funds.

The major donors and partners of the DREF operation in Moldova include the Australian, American and Belgian Governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and the Canadian Government, the Danish Red Cross and the Danish Government, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the Irish and the Italian Governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg Government, the Monaco Red Cross and the Monaco Government, the Netherlands Red Cross and the Netherlands Government, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Norwegian Government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and the Swedish Government, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. On behalf of the Moldova Red Cross, the IFRC would like to extend their thanks to all of them for their generous contributions.

Details of all donors can be found at http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2012.pdf

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details >](#)

The situation

Like other countries in the region, Moldova was facing plunging temperatures in the beginning of February, claiming victims and disruption of public services. According to the data of the Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service, the cold wave caused eight casualties, and at least 20 people are daily registered with frostbites. By 21st February, the Ministry of Health reported 280 cases of hypothermia and 10 fatalities.

The week from 30th January to 5th February was exceptionally cold (minus 16 to minus 12 degrees Celsius, lower than the usual average of minus 12 to minus 9.5 degrees Celsius) – for the first time over the past 20 years. The lowest temperature was recorded on 2nd February with minus 21.5 to minus 19 degrees (lower than the usual average of minus 17 to minus 15 degrees) for the first time over the last 50 years. During the nights following 14th February, the temperature in Northern Moldova dropped down to 31 degrees below zero, and the soil froze to a depth of 60-100 cm. On 14 February 2012 the Prime Minister called for an emergency online meeting with all Heads of Districts in order to identify problems caused at the local level due to the cold and heavy snowfall.

One hundred and fifty educational institutions, including 79 kindergartens were closed for a period of 10 days due to the extreme cold weather conditions; in some schools lessons were reduced to 30-35 minutes. Also, about 80 localities had remained without water due to frozen pipes, situation which continued till the beginning of April.

The situation improved in the second half of March when the roads had been cleared. Still, the problem of access to water and sanitation persisted during the month because of the frozen soil. The Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service, local administration as well as emergency departments from districts have been taking immediate measures to clear the paths, repair technical damages, and requesting/mobilizing additional support from international agencies and NGOs (UNDP, IOM, UNHCR, Red Cross, Caritas, etc.).

As a result of the extreme cold weather approximately 70 per cent of winter crops were damaged by the frost and ice as reported by the Ministry of Agriculture. Basically, this year, Moldova, known as an agrarian country, is facing shortage of food, especially wheat, in summer. Vine plantations and orchards are reported to have also been affected. Drought conditions and excessive heat during spring and summer also affected spring cereal crops, mainly maize at the critical pollination stage. Shortage of fodder is adversely affecting livestock and livelihoods of small farmers.

Coordination and partnerships

The Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service asked Moldova Red Cross to take action for supporting the national relief efforts. In close collaboration with UNDP, Civil Protection and Emergency

Service, local authorities, and other stakeholders the Red Cross of Moldova was committed to contribute to the mitigation of the consequences of extreme cold temperatures and heavy snowfalls.

The Red Cross Society of Moldova was part of the coordination of response activities together with the Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as UNDP Office in Moldova, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and IOM. Coordination meetings with all involved organizations and institutions were organised, to discuss the situation and the disaster response measures and coordinate further steps.

A UN Disaster Management Team was created, lead by UNDP Moldova Office with the participation of the National Society. In May 2012, the first workshop of Inter Agency Contingency Planning team in Moldova was organised.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

Following Prime Minister's decision, 18 Rehabilitation Centres were established in a number of urban areas around the country, including Chisinau, Comrat, Briceni, Anenii Noi, Balti, Singerei, Soldanesti, Soroca and Cahul. The Centres were managed by the staff of the Civil Protection and Emergency Situation Service, and supported by volunteers of Red Cross (Chisinau, Comrat, Soroca, Briceni, Anenii Noi). These Rehabilitation Centres were heated with 'heating cannons' running on fuel delivered by UNCHR and provided temporary shelter for those needing to warm up. More than 2,100 persons of different ages and social situation received assistance on a daily basis, including tea, biscuits and medical assistance when needed. The centers were functioning on a 24/7.

Since the first days of the snowfalls, Moldova Red Cross volunteers actively supported people in the Rehabilitation Centers in Chisinau, Comrat, Soroca and Balti, and contributed to delivering aid to homes in remote areas. A total of 107 volunteers and seven RC staff were mobilized to reach more than 5,523 people affected by extreme weather conditions during the disaster response operation. In Balty and Comrat regions, the Red Cross announced a public fundraising campaign in support of the affected population. As a result, Red Cross volunteers collected funds to purchase biscuits, tea, coffee, and sugar for those visiting the rehabilitation centers. The Red Cross branch in Balty set up a table outside the office offering hot tea for elderly people. Some remaining stocks donated earlier by the Swiss Red Cross were also used for distributions.

Moldova Red Cross and Caritas as implementing partners of UNDP, distributed humanitarian aid provided by UNDP in Briceni, Soroca, Ocnita and Riscani. Through Red Cross, people affected by cold weather received 200 units of warm clothes, 80 sweaters, and 400 pairs of gloves, 200 blankets, and 80 food parcels. A total of 681 people were assisted with humanitarian items donated by UN.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: Providing emergency assistance (basic food and non-food items) for 1,000 families (approximately 4,000 people); distribution will be done for basic food, clothes and non-food items

Outputs: The nutritional and winterisation/health needs of 1,000 families/4,000 people are met over this period of extreme winter conditions

Activities planned:

- Preparation of final beneficiary lists.
- Preparation of distribution plan.
- Procurement of emergency items in Moldova.
- Distribution of emergency items by RC branches and their volunteers according to the prepared beneficiary lists.
- Coordination with local authorities and social welfare departments.
- Monitoring and reporting.

Progress: After a thorough assessment of the situation in the country, MRC requested the IFRC to launch a DREF that was ultimately elaborated with the support of the IFRC project manager from Belarus. Ten most affected branches from the northern part of the country were selected that benefited from DREF help. These branches were: Balti, Bender, Briceni, Glodeni, Riscani, Ocnita, Donduseni, Falesti, Soroca, Comrat. Each branch conducted refreshment training for staff and volunteers on the implementation of the operation and was responsible for cooperation with local authorities and social departments in selecting the most vulnerable families based on the set criteria for beneficiaries. Totally, 8 trainings and organizational meetings were conducted in all branches, during the project implementation. Due to the lack of human resources in the branches of Ocnita and Riscani, the trainings did not occur.

During March and April all tendering and procurement activities were performed, and relief items were distributed to beneficiaries. Below the detailed table¹ with all villages that received relief items, and the number of beneficiaries:

Red Branch/ district	Cross district	Location	Nr of families	Nr of Beneficiaries	Items				
					Food parcels	Hygiene kits	Blankets	Winter coat	Sleeping bags
Glodeni		Balatina	134	368	84	44	44	44	50
		Cuhnesti	116	336					
Balti		Balti town	272	898	200	100	100	100	50
Briceni		Tabani	28	69	20	20	20	20	50
		Halahora de Sus	5	25	5				
		Trebisauti	28	46	20	20	20	20	
		Napadovca de Jos	24	65	20	20	20	20	
		Briceni city	147	370	89	20	20	20	50
		Bilcauti	22	64	22				
		Bogdanesti	27	69	20	20	20	20	
		Bezeda	4	24	4				
Soroca		Vasilcau	86	232	80			40	
		Tatarauca	50	58					50
		Rublenita	69	241	49	47	47	49	
		Rudi	114	304	71	53	53	61	
Ocnita		Ocnita	14	35	14	5	5	5	
		Hadarauti	14	60	14	14	3	3	
		Lipnic	28	32	12	6	6	6	
		Mereseuca	21	37	9	4	4	4	
		Clocusna	14	74	14	14	8	7	
		Corestauti	10	39	10	2	2		
		Savca	14	29	13		5	4	
		Naslavcea	17	38	17		2	2	
		Verejeni	27	27	27	27	2	5	
		Lencauti	20	22	20	20	5	4	
		Valcinet	90	97	50		54	54	
	Falesti		Horesti	8	8	7	4	2	2
		Obreja	9	14	10	8	9	8	2
		Ilenuta	13	34	15	9	7	7	1
		Falestii Noi	21	39	21	5	14	8	1
		Calinesti	16	28	16	2	4	6	3
		Glingeni	5	5	5		5		5
		Chetris	8	37	8	8		8	
		Iscau	3	10	3	3		3	
		Catranic	6	6	6		6		6
		Caluga	8	32	8	8		8	
		Logoftheni	13	50	14	10	13	13	
		Pinzareni	14	14	14	3	11	6	4
		Rautel	14	14	14		14		12
		Nataleuca	14	64	16	10		4	10
		Pruteni	9	29	9	8	1	8	1
		Bocani	5	5	5		5		2
		Izvoare	14	77	14	7		14	
		Iscau	15	41	15	15	9	5	2
	Comrat		Congaz	12	65	12			
		Comrat city	147	403	147	90	94	92	39
		Avdorma	4	17	4				
		Budjac	8	29	8				
		Besalma	15	52	15				
		Chirsovo	14	41	14	10	6	8	11

¹ Final distribution table including the number of families reached and the number of items distributed through the DREF and UNDP contribution.

Donduseni	Climauti	40	40	40				
	Taul	40	65	40	20	20	20	
	Arionesti	70	152	20	20	20	20	50
	Corbu	25	94	20	20	20	20	
	Cernileuca	65	87	60	20	20	20	
	Briceni vilage	20	28	20	20	20	20	
Riscani	Zaicani	50	133	41	19	20	20	50
	Costesti	15	43	10	5	5	5	
	Galaseni	9	32	7	3	3	3	
	Hiliuti	4	4	4	4	4	4	
	Alexandresti	10	33	7	3	3	3	
	Alunis	7	15	7	3	3	3	
	Horodiste	27	77	20	14	12	12	
	Pociumbeni	6	25	6	4	4	4	
	Petruseni	26	68	22	12	12	12	
	Corlateni	18	85	14	6	6	6	
	Riscani city	119	434	65	27	28	28	
Bender	Bender	187	566	187	98	96	146	50
	Varnita	17	30	13	2	4	7	
Basarabasca	Irdanovca	14	36		14			
	Sadarclia	28	138		28			
	Abaclia	14	57		14			
	Basarabasca city	82	359		82			
	Irdanovca	14	36		14			
Total		2683	7374	2000	1138	1000	1103	450

Beneficiary selection criteria: Several factors were considered in selecting districts, including (1) regions where temperature was very low (2) poverty index of population from regions (3) percentage of rural population living in regions (4) response activities of extreme winter condition by other organizations. As a result the above mentioned regions were selected.

The selection of regions was done by MRCS branches in cooperation with social assistance departments. This operation was focusing on the most vulnerable households and the following groups were taken into consideration:

- a. Multi-children families
- b. Families with members from socially vulnerable groups (elderly, members with disabilities, single mothers, orphans etc.)

The content of the relief packages was prepared based on the international standards and the considering the immediate needs of the affected families. The critical needs of the households were food parcels (buckwheat, rice, sugar, refined oil, wheat flour, canned meat, canned fish, tea, pastes), hygienic kits (detergent, laundry soap, body soap, shampoo, dishwashing gel) and warm textiles (blanket, winter coat, sleeping bag). The relief package for each beneficiary household included the following:

List of food items	Quantity per family	List of non food and hygiene items	Quantity per family
buckwheat	2,0 kg	detergent	3 kg
rice	2,0 kg	laundry soap	8 units
sugar	2,0 kg	body soap	4 units
refined oil	2,00 l	shampoo	1 unit
wheat flour	2.00 kg	dishwashing gel	2 units
canned meat	2 units	blanket	1 unit
canned fish	2 units	winter coat	1 unit
tea	1 pack (100g)	sleeping bag	1 unit ²
pastes	1 kg		

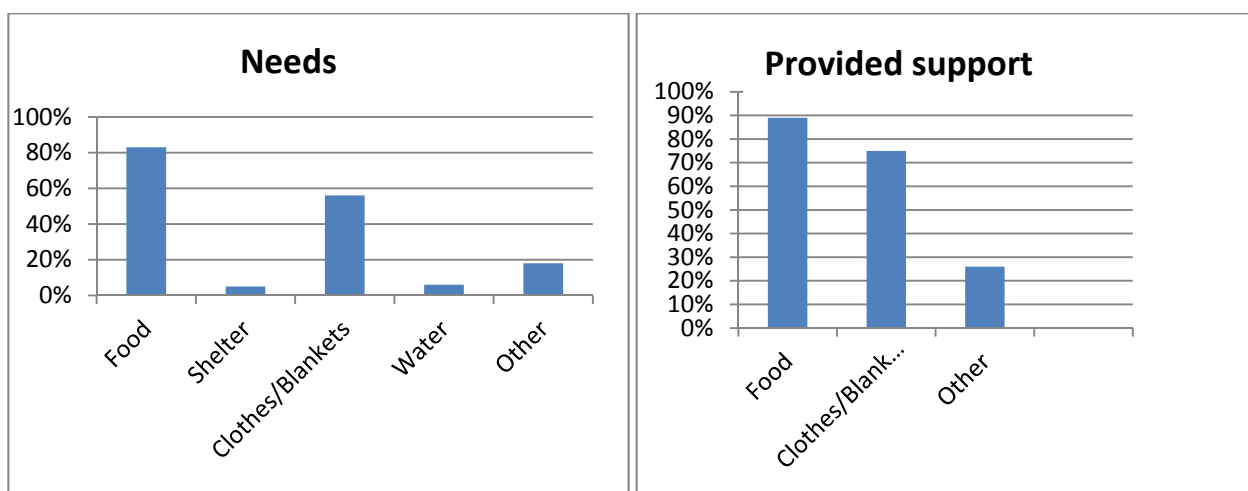
Outcome of beneficiaries: some beneficiaries sent letters of gratitude to the National Society thanking for the assistance provided to them. The City Hall Bulboaca, in Briceni, expressed their satisfaction with the help and support of the Red Cross through an official letter to the organization.

² 50 sleeping bags were distributed to each branch (450totally) and give to lonely persons.

Monitoring: During the implementation of the project MRCS continuously monitored the evolving situation and generated regular reports on extreme winter situation in the affected regions. The following methods were used for monitoring the implementation of the operation: reporting system was established to gather the information from the targeted branch offices that enabled the National Society to provide a final report at the end of the project, pictures were taken to document volunteers working and distributing humanitarian aid, articles from local media were published, info news on local radio and TV Report was broadcasted and meetings were organized with relevant stakeholders. All these methods not only ensured that the necessary information for reporting system is collected but strengthened the public image of the Red Cross branches related to the actions they implemented. In the same time the National Society shared the progress achieved during the implementation period with the IFRC Europe Zone Office by sharing their weekly updates with the Disaster Management Coordinator.

Challenges: Road blocks caused by heavy snow hindered the process of assessment and the distribution of relief items to the beneficiaries.

Impact: By implementation of the project was possible to help people in need, who were suffering from extreme winter condition. Thus, beneficiaries not only received humanitarian aid, but were supported in difficult moments. The distribution took place both in the local City Hall as well as in branches too. The National Society accepted to implement beneficiary satisfaction survey among the selected number of families to collect feedback on the operation from the beneficiary point of view. Each family who received humanitarian aid responded to a questionnaire (over 90 % responded) where it concludes that majority of beneficiaries needed food, clothes and blankets (chart 1) and Moldova Red Cross supported beneficiaries by providing them necessary Aid (chart 2).



In conclusion can be mentioned that provided Aid was according to identify needs, improving people's situation through reducing of incidence of malnutrition due to precarious situation from regions (poverty, frost, blocked roads etc.).

This project contributed to capacity building of Red Cross in Disaster Management and strengthening the collaboration with other partners like: UNDP, "Caritas Moldova", central and local authorities.

Logistics

Objective: To reinforce logistic capacity of MRCS at national and regional levels by facilitating logistical support during relief activities and replenishing disaster preparedness stocks.

Impact: At least 100 MRCS trained volunteers and staff at regional level have improved their capacity in logistics while participating in the provision of immediate assistance to 1,000 vulnerable families. The following activities were carried out by the involved staff and volunteers:

- Mobilization and training for volunteers for distribution activities
- Organization of procurement by MRCS staff
- Transportation of relief items by MRCS staff and volunteers
- Management of distribution points
- Other general and administrative arrangements.

IFRC Europe Zone Office provided technical support to the National Society during the tendering process that resulted in the timely procurement and distribution of the items to the beneficiaries.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Moldova Red Cross:** Vasile Cernenchi, Executive Director, phone: +373 692 94 856; email: vasile.a.c@gmail.com
- **IFRC Zone:** Alberto Monguzzi, Acting Disaster Management Coordinator; office phone: +36 1 8884 500; email: alberto.monguzzi@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Support, Phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org

DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 22 February 2012 for 123,061 CHF during two months to assist 4000 beneficiaries.
- 3 May 2012 DREF operation update was issued and the operation timeframe was extended until 31st May 2012



Click here

1. Click [here](#) to return to the title page
2. Click [here](#) to see the final financial report

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.

www.ifrc.org

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 non-violence and peace.



MDRMD004 - Moldova - Extreme Winter Condition

Appeal Launch Date: 22 feb 12

Appeal Timeframe: 22 feb 12 to 31 may 12

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/02-10
Budget Timeframe	2012/2-5
Appeal	MDRMD004
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget	123,061					123,061	
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	123,061					123,061	
C4. Other Income	123,061					123,061	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	123,061					123,061	
D. Total Funding = B +C	123,061					123,061	
Coverage = D/A	100%					100%	

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
C. Income	123,061					123,061	
E. Expenditure	-122,012					-122,012	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	1,049					1,049	

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/02-10
Budget Timeframe	2012/2-5
Appeal	MDRMD004
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		123,061					123,061	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	48,050	48,290				48,290	-240	
Food	35,000	34,066				34,066	934	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	15,790	18,624				18,624	-2,834	
Total Relief items, Construction, Su	98,840	100,980				100,980	-2,140	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	1,400	1,225				1,225	175	
Distribution & Monitoring	2,520	1,930				1,930	590	
Transport & Vehicles Costs		448				448	-448	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	3,920	3,603				3,603	317	
Personnel								
International Staff	3,000						3,000	
National Staff		153				153	-153	
National Society Staff	4,150	4,391				4,391	-241	
Volunteers	990	838				838	152	
Total Personnel	8,140	5,382				5,382	2,758	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1,200						1,200	
Total Workshops & Training	1,200						1,200	
General Expenditure								
Travel	500	1,844				1,844	-1,344	
Information & Public Relations	500	603				603	-103	
Office Costs	1,100	1,108				1,108	-8	
Communications	1,050	1,012				1,012	38	
Financial Charges	300	34				34	266	
Total General Expenditure	3,450	4,601				4,601	-1,151	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	7,511	7,447				7,447	64	
Total Indirect Costs	7,511	7,447				7,447	64	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	123,061	122,012				122,012	1,048	
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,048				1,048		