

DREF operation update Moldova: Drought

DREF operation n° MDRMD005 GLIDE n° DR-2012-000199-MDA Update n°1 20th March 2013

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.

Period covered by this update:
29th November 2012 to 12th March
2013.

Summary: CHF 171,996 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Cross Society of Moldova in delivering immediate assistance to some 5,800 beneficiaries (2,240 families). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

In 2012, Moldova suffered the combined impacts of poor rainfall and extremely high temperatures that resulted in major losses in the national crop production.

Based on the situation, Moldova Red Cross requested a DREF allocation at the end of November 2012 to start implementing the operation addressing the needs and providing assistance to the most affected population in 11 regions.

The National Society has closely cooperated with the local public authorities, district departments of social assistance, target educational institutions during the selection of beneficiaries and the implementation of the distributions.

At the end of February, Moldova Red Cross has finalized the procurement of 2,240 food parcels for the first round of distribution that was completed by mid-March 2013. The procurement process caused some delays in the implementation of the operation that was related to the availability of some items for the food parcels on the local market. The second round of distribution will be organized in April that will be simultaneously implemented with the monitoring of the Project implementation.

Coordination meetings with all involved partners and volunteers will be conducted aiming at making conclusions, discussing the difficulties faced during the project implementation and future plans in preparedness and response to natural disasters. Therefore the National Society would like to extend the operation timeframe until 30th April 2013.

The Netherlands Government through the Netherlands Red Cross contributed CHF 51,437 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation.



Moldova Red Cross is distributing food parcels to beneficiaries.
Photo: Moldova Red Cross

The major donors and partners of DREF 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 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 Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the Moldova Red Cross Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions. Details of all donors can be found on: http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2012.pdf

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The situation

On average, Moldova experiences drought once every five years in the North and once every three years in the Southern and Central districts.

The drought in Moldova during 2012 was part of a regional phenomenon and beyond, which affected large parts of the Black Sea region from Romania to Moldova, Ukraine, and southwest of Russia, the Balkans, and Central Europe with all these countries reporting major reduction in crop production, particularly related to summer crops.

According to the results of the final assessment conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture, the last summer's drought caused a damage of 2.5 billion Moldovan lei (approximately 191.6 million CHF) to the agricultural sector in Moldova.

Based on the findings of a study¹, more than 53% of the population is malnourished, many people simply cannot follow a healthy diet and is not eating anything else except milk and the social bread; 80% of elderly in urban areas has not consumed meat, fish and other products for years due to the lack of financial resources, increased prices of basic food stuff, and spending their pensions on utilities (that are only 52% covered). In the given context, the contribution of Moldova Red Cross Society is very much needed.

Coordination and partnerships

The Red Cross Society of Moldova is coordinating its activities together with the Regional Departments of Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Educational Departments, Regional Departments of Social Protections, as well with local authorities.

Coordination meetings were held in order to avoid duplications, select beneficiaries, discuss the situation and the disaster response measures, and coordinate further steps. As the situation is still serious, and Moldova Red Cross is planning the second round of distribution for food parcels for beneficiaries in April 2013, continuous cooperation among partners is necessary.

The European Commission supported farmers having directly suffered from the drought last summer with a total of 50 million Moldovan Lei (Euro 3.15 million). In addition to that, Moldova will also receive 28 million Euros for social support for Moldovan citizens.

Ukraine has donated 100 tonnes of certified wheat seeds; Romanian Government has donated 110 tonnes of certified wheat seeds to support Moldova in ensuring ongoing wheat production in the future to mitigate effects of the drought. In the same time Romania contributed 50,000 Euros to support the mitigation of the effects of the drought in Moldova.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

Food security and livelihoods

Outcome: Affected families (approximately 5,800 people) in 11 regions receive complementary food ration to meet their immediate needs.

Outputs:

To provide complementary emergency food aid to 2,240 families who are most vulnerable to food insecurity as the result of the drought

¹ The study was prepared by Gheorghe Costandachi (Ph. Doctor, Economic expert) for VoxPublika (platform of comments, blogs and opinions of www.publika.md)

Activities planned:

- Develop beneficiary identification and targeting strategy and registration system to deliver the intended assistance.
- Local procurement according IFRC procedure storage, transportation, and distribution of food items.
- Monitor distribution of food relief supplies to 2,240 households and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Progress:

During February-March the procurement and first distribution round of food parcels was finalized in all 11 regions.

Region	Number of Families receiving food parcels
Basarabeasca	180
Criuleni	135
Chişinău (villages in the municipality)	320
Ceadăr-Lunga	150
Făleşti	320
Orhei	250
Rezina	135
Teleneşti	140
Tighina	220
Ungheni	240
Vulcăneşti	150
Total number of families	2,240

In April, Moldova Red Cross is planning to conduct the second distribution round of food parcels for beneficiaries. During distributions in March and April, the Moldova Red Cross team project monitoring is also conducted.

Several coordination meetings will be conducted with the volunteers involved in the implementation of the operation aiming at making conclusions, discuss the difficulties arisen during project implementation and future plans in relation to preparedness and response to natural disasters.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF history:

This DREF was initially allocated on 30th November 2012 to the amount of CHF 171,996 for four months to assist 2,240 families and individuals (5,480 beneficiaries).



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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.

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Saving lives, changing minds.



encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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.
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