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## DREF final report Moldova: Drought

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRMD005**  
**GLIDE n° DR-2012-000199-MDA**  
**25 June 2013**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of unearmarked 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.

**CHF 171,996 was allocated on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2012 from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Cross Society of Moldova in delivering immediate assistance to some 13,235 beneficiaries (4,880 families).**

**Summary:** In 2012, Moldova was suffering from the combined impacts of poor rainfall and extremely high temperatures.

The State Hydrometeorological Service of Moldova reported temperatures in June-July 2012 that were by 3.7 – 5.1 degrees Celsius higher than the annual average. In the same year, the number days with temperatures higher than 30 degrees varied between 39-62 days, the usual range being 8-27 days. The quantity of precipitations in that period reached only 15-60 % of the multiannual average, with soil temperatures reaching record values, and soil moisture staying at only one third of the multiannual average.

These combined effects resulted in major losses for domestic agricultural crops.

In the framework of the operation, the Moldova Red Cross Society distributed humanitarian aid for 4,880 families which is about 13,235 people in 16 drought-stricken regions.

The operation lasted for five months and ended on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013. The provided assistance included two rounds of distribution of humanitarian aid. The second distribution round took place at the request of the local public authorities and targeted other beneficiaries (other than the ones included in the first distribution round) affected by drought, taking into account the large number of the affected vulnerable people. Thus, the operation's impact was much higher due to the fact that a double number of affected families were covered and, as a result, were able to improve their living and nutritional status.

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 for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the



Moldova Red Cross delivering food parcels.  
**Photo: Moldova Red Cross**

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 its gratitude to all of them for their generous contributions.

There is a final balance of CHF 4,961 which will be returned to the DREF account.

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

## The situation

The drought in Moldova during 2012 was part of a regional phenomenon and even beyond the region, affecting large parts of the Black Sea region from Romania to Moldova, Ukraine, and the south-west of Russia, the Balkans and Central Europe, with all those countries reporting major losses in the agricultural production, particularly in relation to summer crops.

On average, Moldova experiences severe droughts every five years in the northern parts and once in every three years in the southern and central districts of the country. In 2012, the Republic of Moldova was suffering from the combined impacts caused by the low level of precipitations and the extremely high temperatures.



The State Hydrometeorological Service of Moldova reported temperatures in June-July 2012 that were by 3.7 – 5.1 degrees Celsius higher than the annual average. In the same year, the number days with temperatures higher than 30 degrees varied between 39-62 days, the usual range being 8-27 days. The quantity of precipitations in that period reached only 15-60 per cent of the multiannual average, with soil temperatures reaching record values, and soil moisture staying at only one third of the multiannual average. These combined effects resulted in major losses for domestic agricultural crops. Surface water flow was reduced by 30-50 per cent compared to the annual average in the major river basins (rivers

Dniester and Prut) and 20-40 per cent in regions of smaller basins and rivers. These combined effects resulted in major losses for domestic agricultural crops.

The 2012 drought was one of the most severe of its kind during the past years, caused significant yield decreases and poor harvests. Corn harvest was reduced by up to 59 per cent, sunflower crops by up to 53 per cent compared to the multiannual average.

Based on calculations made by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Moldova, the 2012 drought resulted in grain losses to the value of 2.5 billion MDL (Moldovan leu, the local currency) and 0.5 billion MDL in the sector of horticulture and livestock – a total of approximately 231,481 million CHF.

In the given disastrous situation, the Government of the Republic of Moldova requested the international community and the humanitarian actors to help. The nutrition of a generally low income population has been a problem in Moldova even under normal circumstances. According to an independent study<sup>1</sup>, more than 53 per cent of the total population is fed below the required nutritional level; many people cannot follow a healthy diet and do not eat anything else except the socially subsidized bread and milk; 80 per cent of the elderly people living in urban area cannot afford to eat meat, fish and other quality food for years due to the lack of financial means. The prices of the basic food items increased further due to the drought in 2012. So the feeding standards of those vulnerable groups got worse from bad, and the cold

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<sup>1</sup> The study was prepared by Gheorghe Costandachi (Ph. D. in Economics) for VoxPublika, a platform of comments, blogs and opinions at [www.publika.md](http://www.publika.md).

winter was approaching when proper nourishment would become even more important.

In the light of those circumstances, the contribution of the Moldova Red Cross Society to tackle nutritional problems was very badly needed.

## Red Cross action

The activities of the Moldova Red Cross as an auxiliary to the Government complemented the Government and other actors' actions with a view to support the most vulnerable groups affected by drought. Those beneficiary groups included (1) multi-children families, (2) solitary elderly with minimal income, (3) single parent families with low income and (4) families with members with disabilities and low income.

In order to reduce the consequences of the drought, the Moldova Red Cross contacted the IFRC for help in October 2012. Based on that request, an IFRC team assessed the situation, had several meetings with central and local public authorities, farmers, affected people, UNDP, USAID, etc. As a result, funds were allocated on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2012 from the DREF for providing assistance to the most vulnerable categories of the population in 12 rural regions plus villages in the vicinity of Chisinau, the capital city of Moldova.

The food aid parcels contained the supplementary food requirements of a family for one month. During the operation, two distribution rounds were organised. See table below detailing the content of the food aid parcel.

***Contents of a food parcel***

<b>Food</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Buckwheat	2 kg
Rice	2 kg
Sugar	2 kg
Pasta	2 kg
Corn flour	4 kg
Wheat flour	4 kg
Sunflower oil	2 bottles (0.9L)
Canned pork meat	3 cans X 0.35kg
Canned fish	3 cans X 0.290 kg

The geographical locations of drought affected areas where the drought relief operations took place covered the following districts: Anenii-Noi, Basarabeasca, Călărași, Criuleni, Chișinău, Ciadâr-Lunga, Dondușeni, Fălești, Glodeni, Orhei, Rezina, Ștefan Vodă, Telenești, Tighina, Ungheni and Vulcănești.

The selection process to identify the most vulnerable groups, which process involved the local public authorities and other partners, was conducted in January 2013. The beneficiary selection was supposed to be done in December 2012. However, due to the bad weather which refrained those involved in the operations to move from place to place, the process was delayed by force majeure.

Prior to the beneficiary selections, the Moldova Red Cross Headquarters organised a seminar for branch directors and volunteers from all the target branches on the selection procedure and techniques. An advertisement was aired on regional TV channels, and the local written media published information with regard to Moldova Red Cross actions to support the people affected by the 2012 drought. Jackets and T-shirts with the Red Cross logo have been produced and distributed to the Red Cross staff and the volunteers who were involved in the operation.

At the request of local authorities, the second distribution targeted affected beneficiaries from other localities, which resulted in a total of 4480 families instead of originally planned 2240. Also, due to the difference in budgeted and actual prices, it was possible to procure 400 additional food parcels that have been distributed to affected families from Ștefan Voda, Rezina, Anenii Noi and Dondușeni.

## Distribution of food parcels

**Result: Distribution of food parcels for 4,880 families in 16 districts during 5 months in two rounds, with the contents mentioned in the above mentioned list.**

### **Outputs (results) and performed activities:**

**The nutritional needs of 4,880 families/13,235 people were met.**

#### **Performed activities:**

- Comprehensive assessment of emergency and capacity needs.
- Coordination with local and social authorities.
- Prepare the final lists of most affected beneficiaries.
- Develop the distribution plan.
- Procurement of food parcels in the Republic of Moldova.
- Distribution of emergency goods by Red Cross branches following the lists of beneficiaries.
- Monitoring and reporting.

The procurement process of the food parcels was done as per IFRC and Moldovan Red Cross tendering process; completing of the food parcels was made according to the tender procedures and the Moldovan health and sanitary regulations. The process was coordinated by a Moldova Red Cross specialist in close cooperation with the local authorities and community leaders. Dietary advice was also provided to the beneficiaries by the local health authorities.

The Moldova Red Cross Society organised the distribution of food parcels in two distribution rounds. The first distribution was organized during February-March 2013, and the second round took place during April 2013. After the first distribution, the local authorities suggested to increase the number of beneficiaries because of the large number of the affected people. Due to the opportunity that the price of the food parcels was ultimately lower than initially estimated in the budget, it was possible to procure 400 additional food parcels.

As a result, Red Cross branches together with the district commissions for humanitarian aid selected, for the second round of the distribution, different affected people from the previously visited areas; people who had initially not been included in the original beneficiaries' lists.

### **Impacts**

This emergency food distribution operation has contributed to the improvement of the nutritional situation of 4,880 families (13,235 people). As a result, the beneficiaries were able to diversify their menu with canned fish and canned meat. This indicates that the expected result was met.

Another positive impact of the operation is that the Moldova Red Cross Society consolidated its partnership with the central and local authorities; disaster management capacities have been improved, Red Cross volunteers enriched their experiences in assessing vulnerabilities and got first-hand experience in the distribution of humanitarian aid.

### **Distribution of food parcels**

No.	Branch	No. of food parcels	No. of families	No of beneficiaries
1.	Basarabeasca	380	380	1192
2.	Criuleni	335	335	890
3.	Chişinău	572	572	1290
4.	Cadâr-Linga	300	300	543
5.	Donduşeni	100	100	312

6.	Făleşti	640	640	1936
7.	Orhei	250	250	772
8.	Rezina	325	325	1076
9.	Teleneşti	300	300	1173
10.	Tighina	440	440	774
11.	Ungheni	480	480	1133
12.	Vulcăneşti	300	300	514
13.	Glodeni	230	230	914
14.	Stefan-Vodă	88	88	264
15.	Călăraş	70	70	210
16.	Anenii-Noi	70	70	242
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,880</b>	<b>4,880</b>	<b>13,235</b>

### Challenges:

The Moldova Red Cross Society faced certain difficulties with the pork meat cans of 0.350 kg which had to be produced only upon order. This caused a two week delay in the distribution process. In this context, the project implementation timeframe was extended until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

Also, difficulties have been encountered during the selection of beneficiaries due to the increasing number of people affected by the drought, on the one hand, and the limited funds for procurement of food parcels, on the other.

### Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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### DREF history:

- This DREF was allocated on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2012 to the amount of CHF 171,996 for four months to assist 4, 880 families and individuals (13,235 beneficiaries).
  - An Operation Update (Update No. 1) was issued on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013, and the timeframe was extended until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013.
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[Click here](#)

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

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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.

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 non-violence and peace.

## Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRMD005 - Moldova - Drought

Timeframe: 29 Nov 12 to 30 Apr 13

Appeal Launch Date: 29 Nov 12

Final Report

### Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2012/11-2013/12	Programme	MDRMD005
Budget Timeframe	2012/11-2013/03	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
<b>A. Budget</b>		171,997				171,997	
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0	
<b>Income</b>							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		171,996				171,996	
<b>C4. Other Income</b>		171,996				171,996	
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)</b>		171,996				171,996	
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>		171,996				171,996	

\* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

## II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0	
<b>C. Income</b>		171,996				171,996	
<b>E. Expenditure</b>		-167,035				-167,035	
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>		4,961				4,961	

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### III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Expenditure						TOTAL	Variance
	Budget	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>			<b>171,997</b>			<b>171,997</b>		
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>								
Clothing & Textiles			672			672	-672	
Food	134,400		142,771			142,771	-8,371	
<b>Total Relief items, Construction, Sup</b>	<b>134,400</b>		<b>143,442</b>			<b>143,442</b>	<b>-9,042</b>	
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	2,400		473			473	1,927	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	7,500		1,064			1,064	6,436	
<b>Total Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>9,900</b>		<b>1,537</b>			<b>1,537</b>	<b>8,363</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
International Staff	3,000		50			50	2,950	
National Society Staff	5,169		4,224			4,224	945	
Volunteers	1,900		1,158			1,158	742	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>10,069</b>		<b>5,432</b>			<b>5,432</b>	<b>4,637</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	900		747			747	153	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>900</b>		<b>747</b>			<b>747</b>	<b>153</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	2,000		753			753	1,247	
Information & Public Relations	1,500		1,433			1,433	67	
Office Costs	2,100		1,429			1,429	671	
Communications	350		314			314	36	
Financial Charges	280		14			14	266	
Other General Expenses			1,739			1,739	-1,739	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>6,230</b>		<b>5,681</b>			<b>5,681</b>	<b>549</b>	
<b>Indirect Costs</b>								
Programme & Services Support Recove	10,497		10,195			10,195	303	
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b>10,497</b>		<b>10,195</b>			<b>10,195</b>	<b>303</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>171,997</b>		<b>167,035</b>			<b>167,035</b>	<b>4,962</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>4,962</b>			<b>4,962</b>		

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**IV. Breakdown by subsector**

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
<b>BL2 - Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people</b>							
Disaster response	171,997	0	171,996	171,996	167,035	4,961	
Subtotal BL2	171,997	0	171,996	171,996	167,035	4,961	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>171,997</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>171,996</b>	<b>171,996</b>	<b>167,035</b>	<b>4,961</b>	