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Operation Update Report # 1

Djibouti: Hunger Crisis

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRDJ005		GLIDE n° DR-2022-000238-DJI	
Operation update n° 1; date of issue : 30 September 2022		Timeframe covered by this update: 29 June 2022 to 28 September 2022	
Operation start date: 29 June 2022		Operation timeframe (revised): 9 months (New end date: 31 March 2023)	
Total funding requirements (CHF): CHF 496,931	Second allocation requested: CHF 400,602	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 96,329	
N° of people being assisted: 30,000 people (5,000 HH) ¹ in Dhikil and Obok Regions targeted with hygiene promotion. Direct targets: 9,000 people (1,500 HH) who shall benefit from cash grants.			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)			
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The government of Djibouti and UNICEF.			

Summary of major revisions made to operational strategy:

This Operation Update is to present the findings from the comprehensive integrated detailed drought and hunger crisis assessment in Djibouti. The assessment was conducted to inform the humanitarian response planning and decision-making and targeted the provinces of Ali Sabieh, Arta, Obok, and Tadjourah, taking into consideration refugee camps. Additional activities in the initial plan included i) capacity strengthening of volunteers, ii) engagement with Government and partners, and iii) launching a communication campaign. The assessment was completed by mid-September and the outcomes were used to develop the response strategy presented in this Operation Update.



Overview of landscape in Djibouti ©DJRC

The main components of this Update include:

1. Provision of integrated services to address the urgent needs of 30,000 people affected by the hunger Crisis in Djibouti. This shall include activities in the areas of food insecurity and livelihoods, shelter, water, sanitation, and hygiene. Main activities include:
 - Provision of basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food to the most affected communities through a multipurpose cash mechanism
 - Provision of portable emergency shelter and household items
 - Facilitate daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality provided to the target population.
 - Conducting hygiene promotion activities that meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to the target population.
2. Revision of the target areas to focus on Dhikil and Abok regions.
3. Extension of the operation timeframe by additional 6 months from the initial 3, for an overall 9 months implementation timeframe under the DREF 2.0 mechanism for slow onset - Drought response interventions.
4. Increased of response budget to CHF 496,931 from the initially allocated CHF 96,329 initial allocation. This means a second allocation of CHF 400,602 through this Operation Update.

¹ Six people per household

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

As part of [IFRC's pan-African Zero Hunger Initiative](#), Djibouti Red Crescent Society (DJRC), is planning to provide immediate assistance to communities in crisis and emergencies. Indeed, the hunger crisis in Djibouti is a result of compounding risk factors, which over time serve as drivers of the hunger in-country and across the Horn of Africa. The effects of Covid19, locust manifestation, the war in Ukraine, and its consequences on the basic food commodities supply chain are exacerbated by insufficient rain for four consecutive years, exhausting the coping mechanisms of affected communities, hence inducing a hunger crisis.



Displaced hunger-stricken family being consulted during the assessment ©DJRC

Indeed, [IPC projections](#) for July to December 2022 indicate an increase in the number of acutely food insecure people, likely reaching 192,168 people, representing 16% of analysed population (1.2 million people, which is about the entire country). The number of people in an emergency (IPC 4) will likely increase to 12,390 people, a 250% rise from the current numbers, while 179,778 people could be in crisis (IPC 3). The underlying capacities further places Djibouti vulnerable to the prevalence of drought hazard. The country GDP per capita is only 5,500 USD with an estimated unemployment rate of 40% and poverty rates of 79% with 42% of the population living in extreme poverty.[2] Djibouti is an arid country with only 0.3 cu km of total renewable water resources.[3] As one of the most water-scarce countries in the world. Only 4% of the land is arable[4], the country relies on imports for over 90% of its food[5], leaving much of the population vulnerable to global price shocks

This forecast led the Djibouti Red Crescent Society to launch a CHF 96,329 [DREF Operation](#) which set out to conduct in-depth multi-sectoral assessments in affected communities, to understand their needs and engage them on how best to support them. This assessment mission also allowed DJRC to engage authorities and humanitarian partners to ensure the complementarity of actions with the wider hunger response coordination, as part of their role as auxiliary to the authorities. The result of these consultations and assessments are the basis of this operation update, which presents the response strategy DJRC will use to initiate the response to the hunger crisis for the Red Cross Movement in country. In addition, this operation is a direct response to the 9th May 2022 call by the President of Djibouti, for greater solidarity in the face of the dramatic consequences of global warming and the reduction of arable land in several regions of the world, particularly in Djibouti, known for its semi-arid and arid climate.

Please, refer to [EPoA](#) for details on analysis of the drought situation and the Needs Assessment section of this Operation Update for highlights from the assessment report.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

Djibouti Red Crescent Society (DJRC) has been participating in the hunger crisis planning response coordination meeting led by the Ministry of Interior which is reasonable for drought crisis response in the country. The National Society is also implementing refugee assistance operations with support from IFRC in Hol Hol and Abok camps where it has been providing RFL services.

The assessment phase of this operation (conducted from 8 to 18th September) contributed to strengthening the capacity of the staff and volunteers in relevant skills necessary for the quality performance of this operation in the spectrums of emergency assessments, needs analysis and reporting, community engagement and accountability (CEA) and protection gender and inclusion (PGI) and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

During the assessment, IFRC supported DJRC by deploying surge technical experts from its Rapid Response system. The Surge personnel supported carrying out the detailed assessment which informed the strategy revision and operation update to respond to the emerging humanitarian.

The National Society has direct working relations with several specialized government agencies including the National Food Security Council [CNSA], the National Emergency Response and Rehabilitation Council [CONASUR], Rapid Response Operational Coordination Group [GCORR], and the National refugee agency (ONARS). Some UN and international NGOs including IOM, UNICEF, and SOS villages have sectoral projects partnerships with the National Society. Through this operation, the National Society has refreshed coordination with the Office of Internal Security

Department of Emergency Response and Risk Reduction which coordinates intergovernmental and humanitarian actors in the country.

The National Society has 32 core staff at the HQ level (outside of COVID-19 response) with the six branches in Ali-Sabieh, Arta, Dikhil, Djibouti-Ville, Abock, and Tadjourah, supported by volunteers. The core sectors of competency for DJRC are WASH, First Aid, Protection, and Restoration of Family Links (RFL). The National Society enjoys a large and active volunteer base and good levels of recognition, coordination, and cooperation with national and local authorities. Currently, the National Society has a human resource capacity of 32 staff and 200 volunteers with varied skills and experiences in the headquarters and 5 provincial/regional branches with the potential to scale up.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) supports the DJRC through the Ethiopia and Djibouti Country Cluster Delegation in Addis Ababa. As part of this operation, the IFRC delegation provides technical support through its teams and the deployed Surge personnel. The Delegation also expands its contribution to strategic coordination with the ICRC, and external actors, and actively engages in humanitarian diplomacy and resource mobilization efforts underpinning the response. Most recently the IFRC provided resources to recruit the National Society disaster management coordinator position which is huge complimentary capacity support for the planned emergency response operations. The IFRC Regional Office operates as a platform for operational coordination and support services including finance, PMER, risk management, human resources, logistics, communication, and resource mobilization.

There is no participating National Society (PNS) present in the country that supports the DJRC in various operational areas. Djibouti Red Crescent has a long-standing working relationship with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), present in the country as part of their Yemen Support Delegation. Please, refer to the [EPOA](#) for details on Movement presence and support in Djibouti.

Overview of other actors' actions in country

At Government level, the National Society works with the Ministry of Solidarity. The Ministry of Water is the co-lead with UNICEF in the WASH Cluster where DJRC are actively participating as partner. In the need assessment conducted by Ministry of Water, UN agencies with UNHCR having the lead, DJRC was recognized to take on their auxiliary role to the ministry for appropriate additional support that could be needed in the case of a high influx of migrants. UNHCR are financially and technically supporting the ONARS which oversees the running of the refugee camp in Hol Hol. The camp is providing newly arrived asylum seekers with their basic needs in shelter, WASH, and food. DJRC and UNHCR are in regular contact and coordinate accordingly with DJRC which is a stakeholder implementing RFL in partnership with ICRC in all refugee camps.

UNICEF is providing funding to DJRC to support WASH interventions in Tadjourah. The DJRC response is being planned in complementarity with interventions funded by UNICEF.

DJRC participates in various clusters, as well as the regional food security and livelihoods (FSL) task forces. Considering the current response strategy, the National Society will strengthen coordination with government and other country humanitarian teams. In the initial phase of this operation, the National Society organised and new revitalised engagements with the and humanitarian partners with two workshops with the partners supported before and after the assessment and supporting to consolidate sector-based assessments by different partners into one national assessment which is in progress. This strengthened relations and coordination will be foundational capacity for this operation's inception and progressive implementation.

Needs analysis, targeting and scenario planning

Needs analysis:

Secondary data available from the government, published outlets, expert institutions and partner reports indicate that there is alarming concern of aggravated drought induced hunger needs. As of June 2022, approximately 132,000 people were estimated to be food insecure in Djibouti, the projections for July to December 2022 indicate worsening situation where 192,168 people are likely to be acutely food insecure, with 12,390 people in emergency (IPC 4), while the 179,778 people could be in crisis (IPC 3).

The DJRC, through this DREF operation, has conducted an in-depth assessment in coordination with government and other humanitarian stakeholders. With technical support IFRC's a multi-sector assessment analysed detailed and multi-sectoral results of the needs assessment to allow the Djibouti Red Crescent (DJRC) to better determine the needs of the populations, and, with the contributions of the community was



DJRC assessment team conducting community consultation. ©DJRC

instrumental to determine the most effective and relevant response that will prevent a further deterioration of the situation of the affected populations.

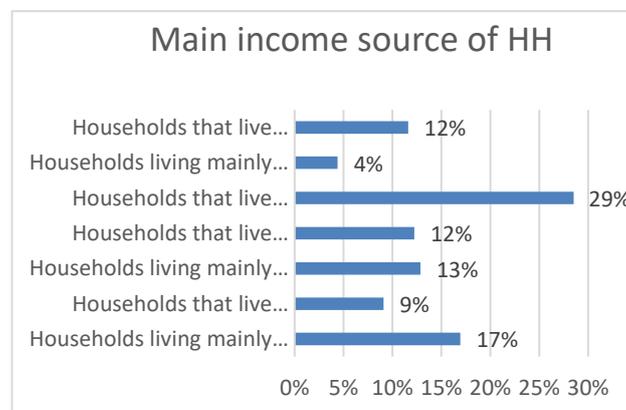
The assessment used available secondary data to determine the targeted regions of the rapid needs assessment which were prioritized mainly on the most affected by the hunger crisis and/or affected by the population movement thus Ali Sabieh, Arta, Obock and Tadjourah regions. The assessments were planned and designed using a participatory and multi-agency engagement approach. Data collection methods were both quantitative using KoBo and qualitative methods in addition to the secondary data, which were already available. Below key sectors and prioritised humanitarian needs are profiled by this assessment.

1. **Livelihoods and basics needs**

This assessment examined Livelihoods as means of income from five perspectives of capital namely natural capital, human capital, physical capital, financial capital, and social capital. Based on relevance for this operation, we shall focus only on the four highlighted below:

- **Natural capital:** The majority of Djiboutian in rural areas and population affected by the drought are nomadic herders with few practicing small, subsistence seasonal farming. It is this natural capital that is most affected by the drought with massive death of their livestock and paralysing season crop production.
- **Human capital:** Djibouti is a small country of approximately one million people and the need evaluation results indicate an average household size of six persons for each household with the sex ratio of 50% males and 50% females. The total-age dependency ratio in Djibouti is 62.1%, which means that Djibouti experiences a relatively high social burden on society. It also means that each person working in Djibouti must provide more than 1.5 times more goods and services than they would need for themselves.
- **Financial capital:** As a net importer of food and energy, Djibouti remains vulnerable to commodity price fluctuations, which are further exacerbated by the global humanitarian context. Headline inflation rose to 2.5% at the end of 2021 (year-on-year), due to the rebound in domestic demand, high world commodity prices and recurrent shortages of fresh food imported from Ethiopia. Indeed, GDP growth (4.3%) in 2022 was the lowest growth because of the Covid 19 pandemic, which allowed the resumption of major public works such as the transformation of the old port into a commercial centre, the preparatory work for the construction of a ship repair factory and the development of the free trade zone for development².

At the household level, the drought has had a strong impact on the financial power of households. Indeed, the financial capital of households is conditioned by the main source of income. Thus, the need assessment results indicate that the main source of income in Djibouti is livestock and the drought decimated most of the livestock. The nomadic families displaced along all these regions have lost all their livestock and have found themselves in a situation of food insecurity and rely solely on the arrival of food aid to survive. Around 25-50%, livestock loss was reported in Arta, Ali Sabieh and Dikhil and 10-25% in Obock and Tadjourah. Deaths are mainly due to lack of pasture, and lack of regularly raised water³. In addition to the livestock affected by the drought, some households live only on humanitarian aid, which is not systematically available.



- **Social capital** of the community provides a remarkable coping mechanism through coexistence interdependence and social support network is strong and many families barely live with support of their neighbours and relatives.

The needs assessment mission noted through the focus group discussions (FGD) and interviews with key informants, especially local administrators, that most households wish to develop immediate response actions, but also and above all to develop early recovery actions to build community resilience. The actions to be developed according to the available potential remain mainly the development of agricultural gardens to plant fodder for livestock but also to plant agro-fruit trees for human consumption. Even if some households indicated they have already received assistance from the Government through the Ministry in charge of solidarity, it remains largely insufficient.

²<https://www.banquemonde.org/fr/country/djibouti/publication/economic-update-april-2022#:~:text=Si%20la%20croissance%20%C3%A9conomique%20se,12%2C4%20%25%20en%202024.01/09/2022>

³ Rapport consolidé d'évaluation de la sécheresse

2. Shelter

This assessment identifies there is movement of population. In some localities, populations have moved to get close to water points, leaving behind their shelters thus are exposed. This situation exposes women who are more vulnerable to protection risks. Shelter needs were more significant in Obock, Dikhil and Ali Sabieh regions. Indeed, families of displaced people live in the open air under an oppressive sun and exposed to bad weather (winds, sandstorms). They no longer have any household items and are under the heat during the day and during the night, they are subjected to the wind. Having lost most of their livestock due to the drought, these households have nothing when they leave their places of origin are in absolute internal displacement status. In all the localities visited by the evaluation team, it was noted that the communities live in deplorable conditions. The assessment team identified 300 displaced households in Abock and 271 in Ali Sabieh and Dikil regions.

3. Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

Water is an essential commodity for human life. The main source of water supply in the rural communities are borehole and open wells. Due to the drought, almost all the wells dried up, causing water shortages for households, some of whom were forced to immigrate to other localities. To note, the country has a problem of saline water and low underground water potential. Main sources of water are riverbed shallow wells with a major concern on the quality of the water, where it is found available in the wells. In addition, more than 1/3 of households interviewed meaning 33% use surface unprotected water, which is not unsafe for drinking. The situation is more catastrophic in the regions of Ali Sabieh (53%), Dikhil (25%) and Obock (24%). The limited water supply has most affected livestock because priority has been given to human needs and livestock dies in fatigue and thirst and lack food too, which in turn affects the household food security. More so, due to insufficient water the small garden fields have dried off. Finally, as rural households live in a situation of poverty, equipment for drawing and storing water remains a real need in the community. Admittedly, some communities are contributing to organise water trucking, but this activity is expensive, unsustainable and requires high-capacity storage facilities despite poor quality of the water.

There is poor sanitation and low latrine coverage among affected communities. Most practiced faecal disposal is open defecation. Extensive behaviour change engagement and hygiene awareness is an apparent gap. The exposure to waterborne and hygiene related diseases and epidemic like acute watery diarrhoea among children is highly susceptible.

Targeting

In terms of geographical targeting, this revised operation will only target Dikhil and Abock regions. The two regions were profiled based on the severity of the effects and specifically these two regions are characterised by populations displacement as result of the drought as found by the assessment team and in conformity with government recommendation. The specific locations within the regions will be determined by the local Red Crescent Branches, in consultation with regional government and other humanitarian actors at the regional level coordination forum.

A total of 30,000 people from 5,000 of the most vulnerable households will be assisted through this operation as detailed below:

- Basic needs and livelihoods: 9,000 people (1,500 HH) to be reached with multipurpose cash grants
- Shelter and household items: 2,400 people (400 HH) to be provided with minimum shelter protection material and essential household items
- Safe water access: 6,000 people (1,000 HH)
- Hygiene promotion: 30,000 people (5,000 HH) to be reached with HP and awareness

Priority will be given to support vulnerable households who are most affected by the drought with no alternative coping strategies, as guided by standard humanitarian practices and any other localised community standards and within customs of vulnerability ranking by the affected communities. Drought induced needs and vulnerabilities/lack of alternative coping capacity being the common denominator, consideration will be given to the following segments of the community

- i) Displaced households' for shelter interventions
- ii) Households with either pregnant/lactating mothers and/or under five children at risk
- iii) Household nursing aged persons, and/or persons terminally ill with HIV/AIDS or other similar diseases who are vulnerable and at risk
- iv) Households which contain orphans, elderly people, people with disabilities who are vulnerable and at risk
- v) Household with single mothers or are child headed who disadvantaged vulnerable and at risk

Scenario planning

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
Scenario 1: Food security shocks are beyond community means and stressed water access levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target areas receive below average rainfall - with low crop yield and reduced pasture regeneration. • Longer dry spells • High food prices in the local markets • Increased cases of malnutrition among the affected population • Increase in water shortage • Stressed phase classification • are in IPC 3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government and other actors are providing initial response • Monitor the rains and support WASH and livelihood initiatives. Within ongoing long-term projects • Conduct periodic market assessments. • Support communities in need of food (social cases). • Execute community engagement and surveillance through volunteers.
Scenario 2: Food Security situation is in worsening from IPC 3 and realising indicators projected IPC 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food insecurity trends worsening, with an increase in the affected population and areas classified to IPC Phase 4 • Populations selling livelihoods assets and resorting to other negative coping mechanisms • Increase in cases of acute malnutrition reported • Greater sub-surface water dries with exhaustive concentration in the few boreholes. • Migration and displacement of populations • Massive Livestock deaths and loss of livelihood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the response through this DREF operation in a prioritised targeting and intervention strategy in coordination with complementary initiatives from government and other agencies to support communities to cope. • Continue situation assessment to inform scale up.
Scenario 3: Food Security situation deteriorates, to IPC 4 and 5 level triggering acute emergency scenario.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food insecurity situation worsens with an exponential increase in the affected population and areas classified as IPC Phase 4 and Phase 5. • High prevalence of acute malnutrition (critical). • Increase water bone diseases and malnutritional related ailments with needs for therapeutic and care. • Limited access to water to huge populations leading to needs to water trucking to save lives • Displacement and population movement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More humanitarian assistance required – beyond the scope of DREF and/or other operations/programs • Launch Emergency Appeal to scale up operation to address increased immediate lifesaving needs and linked with medium-longer term interventions. • The humanitarian scope and scale will be wide and multi-sectoral and multi- agency response will be required in collaboration and involvement of international community

Operation Risk Assessment

The operation risk assessment is informed by the present and potential scenarios related to conflict, political instability, epidemics, country's infrastructure, risk of natural disasters, people's safety and security as well as institutional risks, how they can impact the operation and the mitigation measures defined to reduce the risk.

Below table enumerates the most relevant risks to be considered as well as the mitigation measures that must be in place to decrease the likelihood and impact in case these are verified.

Risks	Probability of occurrence	Severity of the impact of the risk	Mitigation Measures
R1. Conflict safety and security impacts reducing access.	Low	High	The National Society will play neutral and independent with absolute humanitarian objectives. The DJRC is a grassroots community owned and accepted organisation and will have minimal issues of access. Due diligence and safety SOPs will be applied in any adverse situation.
R2. Occurrence of floods with considerable high impact over populations.	Medium	Medium	DJRC will revise the operational strategy to address the effects of the floods, in one operation. However, if the impact of the floods is at a scale wider than can be accommodated in the same operation, discussions will be held with IFRC to determine if there is need to launch a second DREF operation to respond to the floods or launch an Emergency Appeal. The National Society will increase coordination and multiagency approach for complementarity of response with stakeholders.
R3. A resurgence of the COVID-19 epidemic could lead to disruption of supply chain, lockdown, socio-economic deterioration, and staff /volunteer health could be directly affected.	Medium	Medium	The National Society will integrate Covid19 interventions at all levels of the response. The National Society as a change agent will scale up Covid19 prevention campaigns and vaccine uptake scale up initiatives if the situation changes.
R4. DJRC lack of capacity in food security programming and cash and voucher assistance.	High	High	In this response a good proportion of 46% of Households interviewed preferred CVA delivery mechanism therefore operation anticipates high community acceptance of the CVA approach. This operation considered the deployment of CVA surge profile to set up necessary cash and voucher systems to allow DJRC implement the operation effective and efficiently. It has worked first time experience in Ukraine which was more complex environment it should work in Djibouti with IFRC expert support.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Overall objective:

The main objective of this operation is to contribute to reducing the impact of hunger on the communities of Dhikil and Abok Regions, by providing urgent relief to 30,000 people affected through a multisectoral intervention for a period of 6 months. Combined with the assessment period, the overall timeframe for this operation is 9 months, with end date on 31 March 2023.

To note, at the start of this operation, the objective was to conduct a comprehensive and integrated drought and hunger crisis assessment in the targeted provinces of Ali Sabieh, Arta, Abok, and Tadjourah in Djibouti, taking into consideration the refugee camps in the provinces.

To note, the assessment was conducted from 8 to 18th of September, when the report was presented to humanitarian partners in country, coordinated by the Ministry of Interior's department for Disaster risk reduction, for inputs. The final report was issued on 20th September, with agreement from all partners on the findings and recommendations. However, the main guidance received was to ensure consolidation of all sector-focused assessments into one country assessment which will include the DJRC assessment results to support development of a country assessment report. A Task team was appointed (UNICEF, UNHCR, DJRC and the departmental experts from Djibouti Government) to conduct this consolidation through a session funded by DJRC as part of this DREF operation and documented (to be issued) by the Government. The way forward for DJRC was agreed to develop and implement the crisis response operation plan. As such, this operation update, revises the strategy to include the response operational plan based on the assessment's findings.

Proposed strategy

The overall strategy of DJRC in contributing to reducing the impact of hunger will be two-pronged, with an emergency phase during which the National Society shall provide multipurpose cash grants to meet the urgent and basic food needs of 1,500 targeted families for 03 months. This will be supported by integrated nutrition approach to support screening of malnourished children, facilitate access to potable water for household use and improve hygiene and sanitation conditions. In the second phase, which shall be implemented alongside the first, DJRC will support livelihood protection by teaming up with partners, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Livelihoods, to ensure veterinary support for the livestock as well as awareness on best practices.

The number of people to be assisted with the response operation is 30,000 people with multi sectoral interventions in the areas of livelihoods and basic needs, shelter, and WASH activities. Community engagement and accountability (CEA) and protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) will be mainstreamed in the intervention areas of focus.

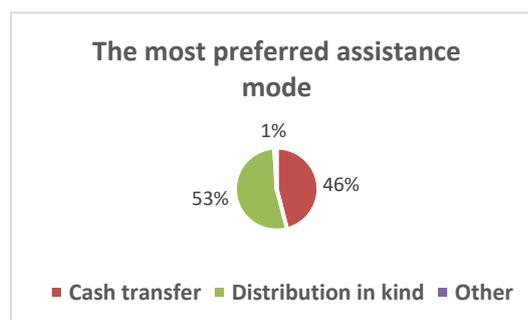
DJRC will target the most vulnerable people in the two regions. Priority will be given to vulnerable households with no alternative coping strategies and no duplication of assistance. Interventions will be guided by standard humanitarian practices and will cover the following basic humanitarian needs informed by the assessment findings.

1. Basic Needs and Livelihoods (Target: 9,000 people or 1,500 households)

This sector intervention will ensure that the affected population's access to food is not further compromised. This will also further minimize negative impacts to the nutritional status of the most vulnerable populations, including children under the age of five, pregnant and lactating mothers, the elderly and those living with disabilities. Moreover, multipurpose cash contributes to protect livelihoods by preventing families of consuming or selling their livelihoods inputs so that they can buy food, water, and other essential households' items. Cash transfer will be conducted simultaneously with awareness-raising, information, and dissemination, complementing other activities planned to address the WASH needs.

The needs assessment that triggered this response plan indicates that 46% of the household interviewed prefer cash assistance while 53% prefer food in kind. However, based on observation during the assessment, most affected people do not have adequate shelter and proper food conservation equipment, which could be a risk to the quality of the food delivered to them. This is in addition to the long food procurement process and challenges with transportation to each of the targeted localities. As such, DJRC shall align its strategies with that of [IFRC's pan-African Zero Hunger Initiative](#), providing a response through cash. In addition, the multipurpose cash intervention will contribute to strengthening the National Society's capacity in this field, while allowing much needed flexibility to the targeted families to prioritise the expenses based on their specific needs.

Multipurpose cash transfers will be used as a short-term lifesaving mechanism to deliver this strategy through criteria-based targeting. Cash will be delivered using a recommended Financial Service Provider (FSP).



The operation plans to provide one instalment of multipurpose cash assistance per household per month for 3 months. For planning purposes, DJRC will use the rate of 10,000 Djibouti Francs (CHF 55) per month, based on past distributions conducted by [WFP in Djibouti](#) in February 2021. This amount will be adjusted based on assessment results and absorption capacity by the communities to avoid any negative effects. However, a cash feasibility and market assessment to be carried out by the operation prior to this distribution and the results will be harmonised with the transfer value used by other humanitarian actors, which covers for basic food and other immediate wellbeing needs.

Unfortunately, due to unavailability of CVA Surge at the time of launching this operation, the National Society could not conduct the planned cash and voucher training for volunteers. Likewise, and for the same reason, the market assessment was not conducted. Thus, as part of its continued capacity building efforts, the IFRC will deploy a surge operations manager with Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) expertise to support the National Society (NS). This role will support the engagement of a suitable financial service provider (FSP) to implement CVA disbursements and provide sustainability for future responses. DJRC has recruited a disaster management coordinator, a capacity that will have direct effect on the efficient management of this operation. This operation will provide for the recruitment of a CVA National Society staff position which will be the focal point for this operation and technically the ideal capacity for the delivery of the planned CVA mechanism-based food insecurity interventions. The recruited CVA staff will be fully dedicated to this operation. The deployed Surge will provide technical support to all processes, liaising with the National Society as necessary.

Volunteers will be trained in CVA and will be subsequently engaged to facilitate the delivery processes of the cash assistance. Alongside cash activities, DJRC will engage affected populations on complementary activities that support the utilisation of the cash received. This includes nutritional awareness, discussions on management of cash, for example, through sensitisation sessions with both women and men on the need for cash to benefit an entire household, provision of safe and confidential referral mechanisms to other humanitarian organizations as and public services (e.g. referrals to SGBV case management, health, child protection, malnutrition, and therapeutic care centres etc.).

As part of ongoing operations, the National Society will conduct Post distribution monitoring (PDM) and market monitoring to assess the relevance, acceptance, and effects of the response. This will also inform feedback and as lessons for future programming.

As such, through this response phase, DJRC plans to implement below activities:

- Training of 30 volunteers in CVA
- Market and feasibility assessment to determine the cost of minimum expenditure basket.
- Financial Service Provider (FSP) procurement
- Deployment of CVA Surge for 4 months
- Community mobilization and cash targeting
- Nutrition awareness and proper use of cash and referral pathway linkages
- Multipurpose cash disbursement for 3 months
- Post distribution monitoring

2. Emergency Shelter and household items: 400 households targeted

The assessment reported significant movement and displacement of populations in both target regions of Dikhil and Abok due to nomadic migration in search of pasture and water. The geographic landscape of most of Djibouti consists mainly of low desert plains, rugged hills, and scattered rock. Its vegetation is like that of many arid regions in Africa, consisting of shrubs scattered over rocky landscapes. IDP's access to local materials to construct makeshift shelters is extremely limited, resulting in IDP's being exposed to inclement weather in the hill sides.

This operation will provide emergency shelter material and essential household kits which will comprise of tarpaulin, kitchen set and ground and blankets and nets. Procurement and distribution is necessary because otherwise targeted people will not be able to purchase good quality tarps which they can carry with them in future and continue to use. Indeed, targeted communities are nomadic pastoralists, and it was found during the assessment that they use rocky areas and clothing as a cover to set up temporary shelters. The tarpaulins which can be folded and easily carried will replace the cloths placed as roofing/wall for their temporary camping areas. This way, they are shielded from the cold wind at night and from the rain when it eventually falls. The operation will target absolute drought displaced IDPs and other host communities in similar undignified and unprotected circumstances due to increased vulnerability.

The following household types will be prioritized through targeting: single mother headed households, households with the elderly, and households with children under five years of age.

The proposed activities of the shelter intervention include:

1. Procurement (tarpaulin, straw mats, rope in plan fibbers; kitchen sets; blankets)
2. Warehousing, handling and transport cost
3. Volunteer support for distribution
4. Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM)

3. Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH): 1,000 HH or 6,000 people targeted

WASH needs were cited by all assessments as a priority need prevalently high by the assessment report. Much of the surface water sources have dried up. What is available are concentrated in a limited number of unprotected open wells, in riverbeds and a few solar and generator powered boreholes. The operation strategy will focus on access and quality of household water for affected populations.

The proposed WASH sector intervention strategies include:

- Provision of 2 PVC tanks of 5,000 litres to be positioned in the two regions to serve as water points for affected communities. This will be positioned close to available and sustainable water supply but limited storage.
- Provision of household water storage containers (jerrican 20 L); 2 per household
- Water treatment chemicals (chlorine is preferred and used in Djibouti). To note only Chlorine is used in Djibouti as Aquatabs and other variants are not available on the local market. To avoid delays with international procurement, the National Society shall procure locally.
- Training volunteers on hygiene promotion
- Safe disposal of livestock carcasses at water points and homesteads
- Hygiene promotion and sensitisation (once a week for 3 months) on the use of wash material with IEC material printing. This will be done by 20 volunteers and shall include safe disposal of livestock carcasses at water points and homesteads. A lumpsum amount will be included for professional services for the disposal.
- Provision of dignity kits to 24% of the targeted females. Direct WASH service targets is 6,000 people of which 54% (3,240) are females. 24% of the female population equals to 778 women and girls of childbearing age, who shall receive dignity kits women to serve for 3 months. Each kit shall contain sanitary pads, panties and bathing soap for women and girls (mainstreamed protection and gender activity).

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA):

The assessment phase of the DREF operation trained 30 volunteers in CEA, ensuring that CEA will be integrated into the response interventions as an enabler to ensure the engagement and involvement of all stakeholders including the community members of the affected populations. Communities will be consulted at all stages of the response and be given opportunities to participate in and influence operational and programme decisions. In addition, two-way information sharing approaches will be used to inform community members about the operation including the selection criteria, distribution processes, participation/dialogue platforms, etc. This will be completed as part of the preparedness/set-up activity across the branches involved in the implementation of this operation; and may include platforms such as community meetings, radio shows and/or social media depending on what the preferred and trusted communication channels of the communities are as well as their appropriateness to the context in the respective area.

Community feedback and response systems will be established to listen to people's feedback, questions, and concerns about the response and the data will be analysed and discussed with communities to understand where improvements need to be made. Communities will be made aware of the established DJRC feedback system, how to use it as well as the role of the volunteers in the feedback system. Community will also be supported in establishment of community feedback committees for reliable and swift relay of information, feedback, and complaints. Sensitive feedback will be handled accordingly. Communication, and dissemination of Fundamental Principles will be a component of the CEA activities.

For all intervention strategies of this operation, the DJRC will ensure coordination with Government authorities at all levels, relevant stakeholders, and thematic clusters to ensure complementarity, transparency, and coordination. As noted, DJRC will conduct PDM of the cash disbursement and shelter NFI distributions and will conduct lesson learnt workshop for reflective learning and improving on future programming.

Protection, Gender, and inclusion

PGI will be integrated at all levels of the operation. Importantly the data collection tools will have segregation of gender and age while all assessment tools will have all also specific questions to address responses of people with special needs by gender or disability. The operation further considers specific services and products for women specific sanitary hygiene and dignity kits under the WASH area of focus

Exit strategy

Acknowledging that funding from DREF is for immediate response during an emergency thus the operations it supports focus on immediate lifesaving interventions, DJRC and IFRC will work to ensure that there is transfer of competencies on the lesson learnt culminating project implementation, to ensure sustainability of the impact on the community.

In addition, DJRC will carry out advocacy and popularise the impact of the project to attract potential partners including ECHO, UN bodies and other multi-lateral agencies and within the RCRC Movement, in a bid to highlight the silent food crisis affecting communities and in alignment with the Pan African Zero Hunger Initiative 2021-2030 through sustainable medium- long-term solutions to address the risks of hunger in Djibouti.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 0

Male: 0

Female: 0

Outcome 1: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities through multipurpose cash mechanism

Output indicators:	Target	Actual
# of HH reached Multipurpose cash assistance <i>(new indicator)</i>	1,500	0
# of people reached with awareness on proper use of cash assistance for food, including nutrition <i>(new indicator)</i>	9,000	0

Progress towards outcomes

The need assessment report indicates that the main source of income of affected rural communities in Djibouti is livestock and the drought decimated most of the livestock. The nomadic families displaced along all these Regions have lost all their livestock and have found themselves in a situation of food insecurity and rely solely on the arrival of food aid to survive. In complementarity to bridge this hunger crisis need the National Society in this operation strategy plans to reach 1,500 HH / 9,000 people with food and other wellbeing needs through multipurpose cash assistance mechanism for 3 months. The multipurpose cash grants will also contribute to protect livelihoods by covering the gap in food and other basic needs preventing the consumption or sale of livelihoods inputs.

This operation strategy plans to deploy an operations manager with CVA profile for 4 months to support technically the procurement of FSP and the cash delivery process as well sustainably building the National Society staff and volunteers' capacity to be cash ready.

Cash feasibility and market assessment will be carried out to inform the cash mechanism decision including feasibility of service providers, markets functionality and household minimum expenditure basket (MEB)/transfer value.



Shelter

People reached: 0

Male: 0

Female: 0

Outcome 1: Target communities in the Dhikil and Obok regions have their safety and well-being restored through shelter and household solutions.

Output Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of HH to be assisted with Emergency shelter and household NFI -kits <i>(new indicator)</i>	400 or 2,400 people	0
# Shelter kits PDM conducted <i>(new indicator)</i>	1	0

Progress towards outcomes

The needs assessment report identified significant populations displaced by the drought in the two regions of Abok and Dhikil which need immediate protection and dignified shelter and reduce their exposure to many other opportunistic risks to their wellbeing.

The national society will assemble local markets available emergency materials to suffice adequately for the need comprising of roofing tarpaulin and kitchen sets. The national society has similar from the past and has the capacity to deliver. IFRC will guide and support where necessary on the procurement policy conformity.

Elaborate and transparent targeting mechanism will be applied with full involvement of the community and related complaints and feedback handled procedurally as guided by this operation strategy.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 0

Male: 0

Female: 0

Outcome 1: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population

Output Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of HH reached with safe water access assistance <i>(new indicator)</i>	1,000	0
# of people provided with HH water quality support <i>(new indicator)</i>	6,000	0
# of PVC tanks procured for safe water provision <i>(new indicator)</i>	2	0

Outcome 2: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population

Output Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with hygiene promotion messaging and awareness session <i>(new indicator)</i>	30,000	0
# of women and girls of childbearing age provided with sanitary dignity kits <i>(new indicator)</i>	7789	0

Progress towards outcomes

WASH needs were cited by all assessments as priority by the assessment report. Most of the surface water sources have dried up. Huge populations are concentrated in a limited number of unprotected open wells, in riverbeds and a few solar and generator powered boreholes. The operation strategy will focus on access and quality of household water for affected populations through provision of 2 PVC tanks of 5,000 litres, to be positioned in the targeted regions.

The national society has adequate experience and skilled volunteers in software emergency WASH interventions built over time with the COVID19 IFRC support and ongoing UNICEF WASH partnership. The National society has a national level WASH coordinator who can technically support the implementation of the WASH activities of the operation. Mass awareness campaigns will be carried out to reach maximum population targeted through the volunteers

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 1: Outcome S1.1: Djibouti Red Crescent will utilize to deliver in the next three months a comprehensive integrated detailed drought and hunger crisis assessment in Djibouti to inform humanitarian response planning and decision making.

Output Indicators	Target	Actual
# of volunteers insured	100	0
# of volunteers and staff trained in disaster risk assessment and needs analysis	50	36
# of volunteers and staff trained in assessment data collection tools and deployed for data collection	50	24
# of volunteers and staff trained integrated CEA and PGI And PSEA	50	40
# of NS Region Coordinators who are briefing and planning on the operation focussing on the need evaluation	0	6
# of personal protective equipment distributed to volunteers	100	100
# of visibility materials produced	150	150
# of NS surge personnel deployed	1	1
# of volunteers to be deployed to support the revised strategy <i>(new indicator)</i>	50	0
# of staff recruited for the operation scale up strategy <i>(new indicator)</i>	1	0
# of volunteers and staff provided with PPE	50	0
# of volunteers trained and deployed to carry out community hygiene promotion <i>(new indicator)</i>	20	0

Progress towards outcomes

The planned activities were successfully carried out. National society staff and volunteers were capacity trained on relevant skills in integrated CEA, PGI and PSEA, data collection and use KoBo toolbox and most importantly training on Emergency needs assessment data analysis and reporting. The main content of this training facilitated by the trainers (PMER and FSL Surge) focused on generics notions on FSL, Types of evaluation and data collection methods, Evaluation/assessment tools (Kobo collect), IFRC response tools (IFRC-Go, Surge, SIMS, DREF tools, APPEAL tools), IFRC need assessment tools and guide. This training was not only appropriate for this operation but also as residual sustainable capacity for future operations management.

There are few variances in some output indicators most significant was the volunteer insurance was not utilized because the National society does not have local policy provider. In the future this budget will be retained by IFRC and implemented through the group policy managed by IFRC.

The number of staff and volunteers trained in emergency assessments with achievement of 36/50 because the training was comprehensive and required more days than planned days depending on content and was actualized to deliver the actual number as achieved.

The number of volunteers training and deployment for data collection were planned for 50 volunteers for One day but 24/50 was achieved because of engaging the volunteers for 3 days than one day as was required for actual implementation of the task.

The indicator for training the volunteers on the integrated CEA/PGI/PSEA achieved 24/50. The additional resources were modified to cover briefing and planning session with the regions where 6/0 was achieved. This was approved by the operation manager based on actual operational requirement.

International Disaster Response

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured

Output indicators:	Target	Actual
# of international surge expert profiles deployed	3	2
# of inception and assessment results dissemination workshops conducted	2	2
# of meetings facilitated	6	6
# of media campaigns conducted	1	1
# of documentaries produced for resource mobilization purposes	1	1
# of lessons learned workshops conducted	1	1

Outcome S2.2: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved

# of feedback system developed and adopted (<i>new indicator</i>)	1	0
# of complaint and feedback received and responded to summarily adequate (<i>new indicator</i>)	30	0

Progress towards outcomes

These outcomes were achieved optimally except for the surge deployment where two profiles were deployed instead of 3. This conditioned by timely availability of the required CVA profile in the first phase of the operation. The same profile the CVA expert is still required for the scale up and continuity to the second phase of the operation.

The challenge and lesson for future planning that was the delayed deployment of the requisite surge profiles. The two who were finally deployed one reported after a month of required time while the other one This was technical but small operation but in large scale operation these delays can have significant consequence on the delivery time and objectivity of the operation including late response to needs.

All the indicators with zero achievement and not explained in this update are under the new proposed scale operations strategy and will be reported progressively from the next update.

D. Financial report

The overall budget required for implementation of above plan is CHF 496,931 of which CHF 96,329 was allocated in June 2022 at the start of the operation. This Operation update allows for a second allocation of CHF 400,602 to be expensed within next 6 months, for an overall implementation timeframe of 9 months. See details in budget below.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

all amounts in Swiss
Francs (CHF)

DREF OPERATION

MDRDJ005 - DJIBOUTI - HUNGER CRISIS

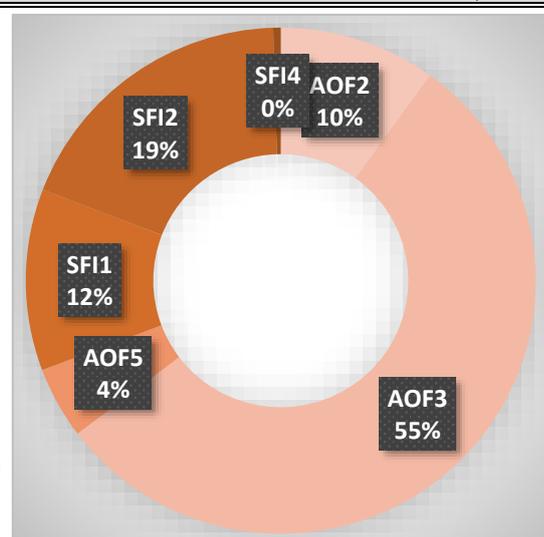
30/09/2022

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Clothing & Textiles	1,800
Food	6,684
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	17,492
Teaching Materials	3,528
Other Supplies & Services	38,990
Cash Disbursement	251,486
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	319,979
Distribution & Monitoring	836
Transport & Vehicles Costs	7,798
Logistics, Transport & Storage	8,634
International Staff	64,000
National Staff	9,000
National Society Staff	7,285
Volunteers	9,605
Personnel	89,890
Professional Fees	2,228
Consultants & Professional Fees	2,228
Workshops & Training	22,665
Workshops & Training	22,665
Travel	11,152
Information & Public Relations	10,106
Office Costs	1,950
General Expenditure	23,207
DIRECT COSTS	466,602
INDIRECT COSTS	30,329
TOTAL BUDGET	496,931

Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF2	Shelter	49,533
AOF3	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	271,869
AOF5	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	22,781
SFI1	Strengthen National Societies	57,660
SFI2	Effective International Disaster Management	92,715
SFI4	Ensure a strong IFRC	2,373
TOTAL		496,931



Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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

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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 Humanitarian 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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.