

Final Report

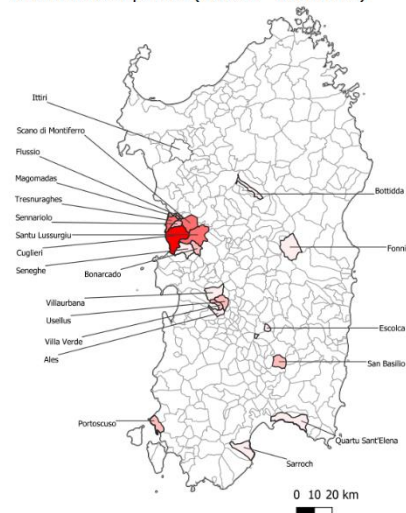
Italy, Sardinia: Wildfires

DREF operation	Operation n° MDRIT003
Final Report Date of Issue: 22 December 2022 Operation Update n.1 issued: 22 December 2021	Glide number: WF-2021-000103-ITA
Operation start date: 10 August 2021	Operation end date: 28 February 2022 (Extended by 2 months via Operation Update no.1)
Host National Society: Italian Red Cross	Operation budget: CHF 208,280
Number of people affected: 1,500 in need of 11,600 people affected	Number of people assisted: 908
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: None	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: “Unione dei Comuni del Montiferru” – Sardinia region.	

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Affected municipalities (VIIRS n° forest fires)



Burnt areas (MODIS)



On Sunday 25 July, the President of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia Island, (with its Resolution of 25 July 2021, officially declared a State of Emergency, due to several forest and wild-to-urban interface fires, spreading across 5 of the 7 Provinces of the Region.

Roughly 20,000 ha of scrub, firm and cultivated land and wood were affected by fire and there were about 1,500 displaced people, and 578 farms involved (and about 100 farms heavily involved).

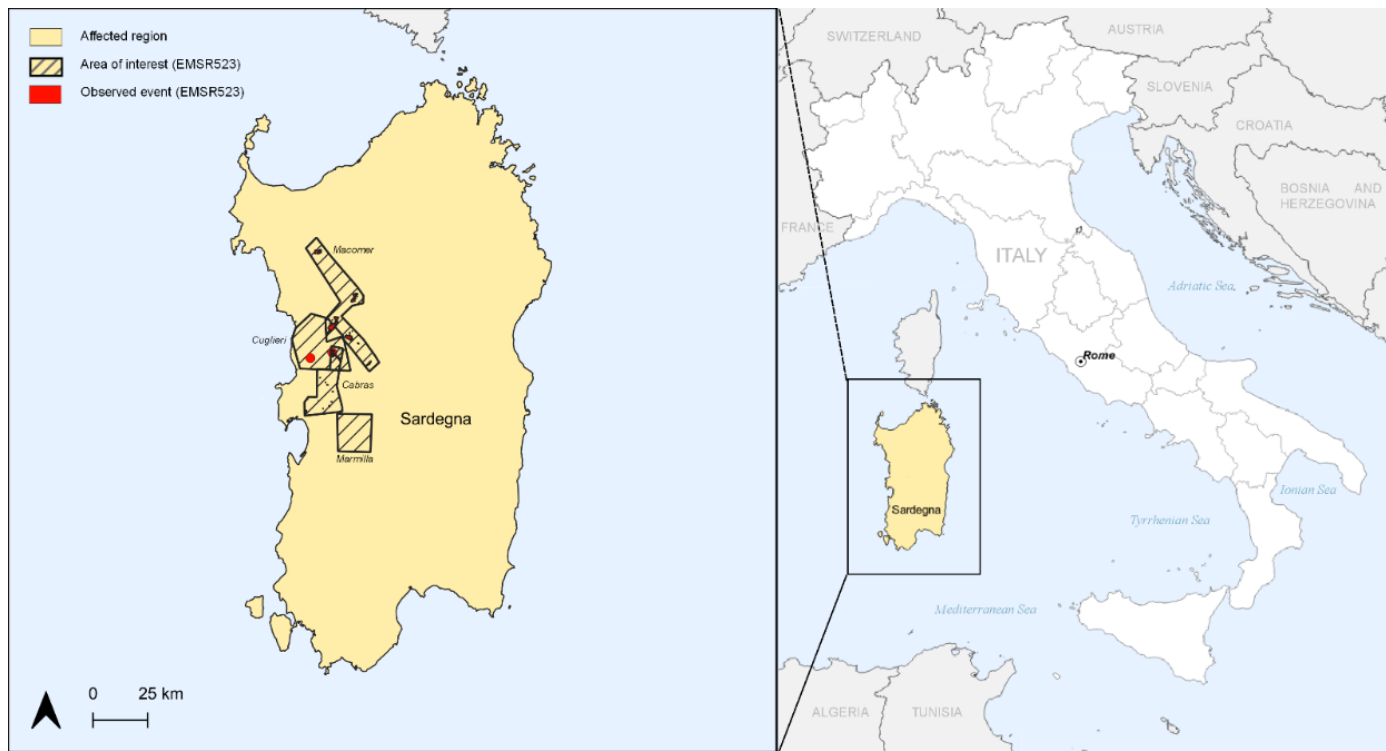
In the following 7 days a sack of hot air from Africa was causing high temperatures (between 19°C to 35°C) and sustained ventilation from the southern quadrant of the island (data from Copernicus and ECMWF), slowing the fire-fighting action. Other Regions in Italy were also suffering forest fires (e.g. Sicily and Abruzzo).

Forest and interface fire was probably originated in the late afternoon of 23 July 2021 from a car, temporarily abandoned along the SP15 in the municipality of Bonarcado (Oristano province). Initially tamed (after having destroyed 20 ha of scrubland) by the intervention of the aerial firefighting aircrafts of Sardinia Region, the fire spread further for over than 50 km in the area of Montiferru (Oristano province), due to the strong hot wind of Scirocco and high temperatures.

The following day the situation rapidly degenerated: two new outbreaks in the area of Escovedu-Mogorella, and Usellus, which reached Villaurbana, were immediately tamed. These two new outbreaks were malicious in nature (Regional Investigative Unit of the Forestry Corps). In particular, Usellus outbreak damaged numerous farms and forestry sites, at the same time causing very serious damage to the forest ecosystem.

To support and properly respond to the event, containment operations had required an enormous effort that included the international assistance and the deployment of Firefighting Aerial Assets (Canadair) from France and Greece (in the framework of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism).

During the late response phase, as forecasted, in November, heavy rains (up to 80 mm of rain) affected the operation in different ways, particularly, due to the destruction caused by the wildfire, the capacity of the soil to drain water had been very limited increasing the motility of the terrain. The Municipality of Santu Lussurgiu had to close the aqueduct for about 10 days (mud and ashes contaminated the pipeline), to filter the water and clean the pipeline (about 2.5 thousand people affected). A landslide affected local transfer. Several houses had been damaged during their reconstruction phase, causing additional issues to those that were repairing the damages of the wildfires.



**Italy, Wildfires
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund**

MDRIT003
WF-2021-000103-ITA
2021/08/03
Map data source: ICRC, Copernicus (EMSR523)
DCC | IM | BUD



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

The Italian Red Cross responded to the wildfires in Sardinia since the beginning of the emergency, mobilising their local, regional and national resources, and providing the following services, with about 250 Volunteers and Staff, 16 long trucks, 3 minivans, 10 vans, 1 tanker (water), 6 ambulances:

- support up to 1,500 evacuees (evacuating people – particularly older people, dependents, using vehicles and teams -, distributing relief aids, establishing and managing staging areas),
- establishing emergency warehouses in Cuglieri,
- providing support to the fire brigades (through emergency medical services and logistics support, and water-tank truck),
- transferring and distributing fodder for the cattle (the RC National response capacity is active, logistically supporting delivery from mainland to Sardinia, through its Emergency Response Centre network), more than 170.000 tons of fodder delivered.

The Director of Emergency and Rescue Operations of ItRC was part of the inter-agency coordinating body established at National and Regional branch level, with the Regional Branch being in close coordination with the regional and Local Authorities. ItRC National Emergency Operation Centre had overseen both national and regional operations in close contact with the Civil Protection Department.

The Italian Red Cross established a coordinated structure, with Operations management at Regional Level (Sardinia) and overall management, planning and procurement, centralized. The Oristano Local branch, coordinated by the

Regional Emergency Operation Centre, supported assessment and distribution.

The Regional Branch kept active the coordination with the Mayors of the towns involved and non-RCRC actors as well.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Italian and Regional Civil Protection Department

More than 7,500 volunteers and staff, 5 aerial forest firefighting planes (Canadair), 14 firefighting helicopters had been deployed in the area to counter the spreading of the wildfire. The National Fire and Rescue Corps deployed 66 men and 27 vehicles, to support wildfire fighting and try to avoid or minimise urban interface fire.

The Regional Civil Protection Agency declared the state of emergency, granting additional authority and capacities to both the regional coordination and the local coordination.

The townhalls of Montiferru organised themselves within the regional coordination, to support the emergency coordination and recovery phases, supporting beneficiary identification and distribution, mobilising local capacities, to support logistics, as well as updating damage assessment according to the compounding events happened.

Union Civil Protection Mechanism

In response to Italy's request for assistance through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, the EU mobilised support from France and Greece. The two countries deployed two aerial forest firefighting planes (Canadair) each. The planes offered by France come from the European Civil Protection Pool, whereas the ones offered by Greece are part of the rescEU assets.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

The Initial Assessment provided key figures in term of total numbers of people in need (1,500, of 11,600 people affected), properties lost (220 houses), economic losses (100 farms destroyed or several damaged of about 578 farms involved, 20,000 ha of terrain burnt).

Through rapid assessment and sectoral in-depth assessment, in a joint and coordinated way with the local emergency management authorities, and the townhalls, the strategy initially identified has been re-shaped, to better cope with the real situation, in order to provide equally support to the target population, avoiding any overlapping with the local Authority.

The main issues are related to the lost or severely damaged livelihoods. The economics in the area mainly depends on agriculture and farming. The fires have damaged many agricultural businesses and private properties. many survivors lost their means of earning with the field of crops and fodder burnt, farms and cattle burnt or smoked. Most of the farms are house farms.

Considering the meetings with the Local Authorities, other than the direct observation on the field, the target of the action had been to support and restoring private owners of farms (particularly referring to the owners of olive groves, vineyards, cattle, conducted at a family level).

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the burden on the communities under the impact of the economic crisis (reduced touristic capacities, difficulties in commerce...). All of the above has dramatically affected society's capacity to cope with the crisis, knowing that these communities are living in an emergency since March 2020.

A wide number of in-kind donations had been received by the Sardinia Region, mainly fodder and animal food. Considering the coordinated and integrated assessment strategy adopted, the Italian Red Cross intervention targeted those that have not been reached by a different kind of aid, or have been re-affected (considering the compounding hydro-meteorological event, as forecasted in the mid-term risk assessment, that damaged initial recovery actions).

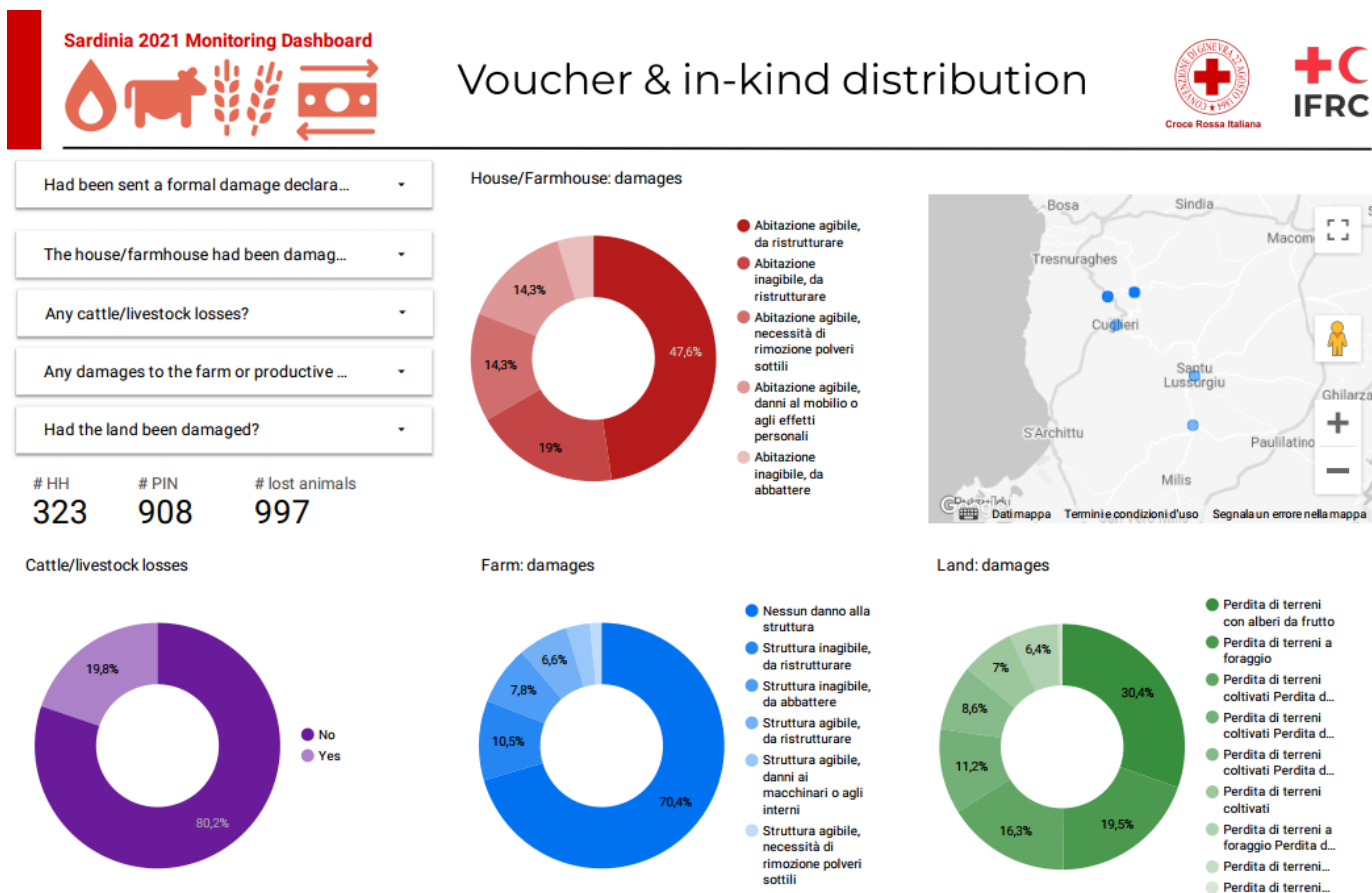
This approach, of having continuous assessments and analysis, did not affected the general number of the population assisted, on the contrary, supported the possibility to reach more people (more than 900 instead of 600), updating the methodology adopted to the real situation.

Operation Risk Assessment

Mid-term risk assessment had identified two main risks:

- bad weather conditions causing floods and landslides in the affected area, aggravated by the absence of trees nor vegetation and ashes on the ground
- negative evolution of COVID19 pandemics

Both the risk assessed had happened, but with a moderate impact, not needing major changes in the operation.



B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Implemented strategy

Overall Operational objective:

The overall objective of this operation was to contribute to the provision of humanitarian assistance to about 100 farms, total of 200 families/ 600 people (average of 3 people per family). The people in need were mainly owners and workers in the affected farms and living in the farmhouses. **The operation reached a total of 908 people in need of livelihoods and shelter support, mainly through Voucher Assistance and initial emergency in-kind distribution of fodder (to support cattle) and building materials (to support shelter).**

The operation has been structured in the following phases:


Phase	Description	Timing (months)

1. Assessment	Rapid and detailed assessment focusing on damage analysis and targeting of the beneficiaries. CEA to better shape aid provided Data disaggregated (SADD) and analysed accordingly.	August
2. In-kind distribution and procurement	Addressing immediate needs through provisioning for lost sources of income to meet basic needs (distribution of essential cattle items and fodder) Tendering and Contracting financial service provider for the voucher program	September - January
3. Second assessment	Due to heavy rains and floods, a second assessment focusing on the new damages had been done, particularly through SDR, DO, KI interviews.	November
4. Voucher distribution	Distribution of the vouchers ¹ to the targeted population, through local Red Cross capacities (Branches and Stations), under national coordination (including the use of centralized data systems like the database developed for the COVID-19 EA, national GIS and data collection platforms...)	November - February
5. Evaluation of the effects	Continuous assessment operation and M&E action to evaluate the effects of the operation The Regional Branch identified (and disseminate)	November - February
6. Exit strategy	Transfer to the local and regional authorities for the mid to long-term support and rehabilitation	February

Field activities were mainly focused on distribution other than coordination, particularly for avoiding overlapping and for integrating different responses. In terms of procurement (for both vouchers and in-kind) suppliers had been identified in Sardinia. The new vouchers' technical sheet had the same structure of those used for the COVID19 EA, but focused on the local capacities and adapted to be as much inclusive as possible, particularly for comparative analysis of proforma.

According to the DREF Emergency Plan of Action, the voucher distribution was scheduled to be implemented during months 3 and 4 (week 9 to 16), considering the envisaged approach, an extension of 2 months has been requested and approved, together with a quicker additional in-kind action. The operating budget changed to increase in-kind distribution. This action follows the operational need to include a Shelter-related in-kind distribution after the damages provoked by the floods and the heavy rains, during the reconstruction of the houses. The logistics costs will be more localised, due to the identification of suppliers in Sardinia region, reducing the need for using RO-RO vessels to move goods from the mainland to the island.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

 <p>Shelter People reached: 714 people¹ in 254 families Male: N/A Female: N/A</p>		
Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of families that report that the vouchers received was sufficient to cover temporary and emergency shelter needs	80%	95%
Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families that received vouchers for shelter needs	200	204
# of families that received in-kind support for shelter needs	100	50

¹ Number of people is based on average household size of targeted population.

Narrative description of achievements

Considering that most of the people living in the area is living and working in agriculture and farm industries, particularly in farmhouses, it has been initially assessed to have compounding needs for both shelter and livelihoods. Initial assessment confirmed damages to properties, both houses and farm (including farmhouses), in the whole affected areas, for about 220 damaged buildings (in about 100 farms and involving about 200 families). Support was needed to ensure possibility for the evacuees to support (through temporary measures, envisaging proper reconstruction) quick recovery of their houses and proper business continuity in order to minimise the impact of the event.

The strategy is to address local needs providing basic means for repairing the farmhouses, as an emergency measure to be complemented with a mid to long term support from the regional government and governmental rehabilitation actions. Through this DREF, the supported population will have the possibility to meet their immediate needs, by using the *in-kind support and vouchers to support purchases of construction material and/or professional services for providing emergency fixing or repair of their farmhouses.*

The operation has been reshaped to target a specific population that risks being excluded from other national recovery funding assistance. Considering the meetings with the Local Authorities (for coordinating general response and avoid overlapping of supporting tools as much as possible), and direct observation on the field, it has been assessed that the possibility for the Local Authorities to support the restoration of private owners of farms (particularly referring to the owners of olive groves, vineyards, cattle. conducted at a family level) is less certain. Thus targeting was modified to focus more on this group of affected people.

The distribution plan has been implemented as follows:

n. 450 vouchers for shelter damages to 204 families

n. 1680 poles (170/200 cm) and n. 140 rolls (120/140 cm) of nets, have been distributed to 50 families

A post-distribution monitoring (PDM) had been carried out by the Regional Branch. The amount of the vouchers was generally limited considering the total cost of the repair to be sustained, but was appreciated by people receiving it as a "start-up support" towards recovery. **The Italian Red Cross Regional Branch secured additional funding that will be used for continuing the support during the recovery phase.**

Most people who were interviewed during the PDM had preferred the voucher, for the shelter action, compared to the voucher for livelihood support. The in-kind support had been requested and appreciated.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 579 people in 206 families

Male: N/A

Female: N/A

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisisaffected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of farms that report that the vouchers received for farming assets were sufficient to provide an emergency and temporary support	80%	95%

Output 1.1: Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity and post-harvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families provided with fodder supply	100	206
# of trainings conducted	15	6
# of people participating on trainings	200	308

Narrative description of achievements

The targeted people received emergency in-kind support and a one-time voucher assistance. The strategy adopted has been to use voucher action, with vouchers restricted to buy specific fodder according to the farm needs (dependent on the type of cattle) to ensure both possibilities for the targeted people to receive more effective aid to protect their livelihoods (according to the specific needs).

Vouchers distributed had a nominal value of around 100 EUR each (about 108 CHF, with a fluctuation of about 6,5%) and distributed according to the damage suffered and the criteria described below. The defined value was based on the average cost of life.

Italian Red Cross ensured harmonisation and coordination with the Local and Regional Authorities.

The vouchers have been distributed once off through the Local Branches and in coordination with the respective town hall Emergency Operation Centres, considering the following criteria:

- People in need (farmers and families) that are directly affected by the wildfires, losing assets and/or cattle, as owner of the farms
- People in need (farmers and families) with lost or severely damaged livelihoods, also indirectly affected by the disaster (e.g. workers of a damaged farm)
- Poor economic status of the household.
- People in need (farmers and families) that are identified for assistance by the detailed assessments.
- People in need (farmers and families) who are not included in similar programs

The operation has been reshaped to target a specific population that risks being excluded from other national recovery funding. The distribution of the vouchers has been conducted in February 2022.

Considering the meetings with the Local Authorities (for coordinating general response and avoid overlapping of supporting tools as much as possible), other than the direct observation on the field, the possibility (for the Local Authorities) of restoring private owners of farms (particularly referring to the owners of olive groves, vineyards, cattle.. conducted at a family level) is less certain. So we had modified the targeting accordingly.





The distribution plan for the in-kind support had been completed, the supplier identified was in Sardinia and the distribution action was based on reaching a different town every day with the delivery of 44 bales per day.

A total of 141 bales have been distributed to 69 families in December 2021 and January 2022, other 137 families have been reached with vouchers

A post-distribution monitoring action had been completed by the Regional Branch. The amount of the vouchers was generally limited considering the total cost of the repair to be sustained, but appreciated as a “start-up support” towards recovery. The Italian Red Cross Regional Branch secured additional funding that will be used for continuing the support during the recovery phase.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of Volunteers deployed in the operation (Target: 100)	100	30

Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected⁷

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Provide complete briefings on volunteers' roles and the risks they face	100%	100%

Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# monthly reports submitted (Target: 4)	4	5
# of local key informants consulted (Target: 20)	20	20
# of communication products disseminated (Target: 4)	4	4

Output S2.1.4: Supply chain and fleet services meet recognized quality and accountability standards

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of vehicles used in the operation (Target: 10)	10	15
# of tons of goods received (Target: 100)	100	150

Output S2.2.5: Shared services in areas such as IT, logistics and information management are provided

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of vehicles/travel (Target: 10)	10	15
# of IM / remote support teams "deployed" (Target: 1 team)	1	1
# of IM products prepared (Target: 5)	5	6

Narrative description of achievements

A specific monitoring dashboard had been set-up to support mobile data collection and targeting, and to keep track of the number of both households and people in need reached.

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of Assessment reports produced (Target: 1)	1	1
# of Market assessment reports produced (Target: 2)	2	4

Output S4.1.3: Financial resources are safeguarded; quality financial and administrative support is provided contributing to efficient operations and ensuring effective use of assets; timely quality financial reporting to stakeholders		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of financial reports submitted (Target: 4)	4	1
# of monthly reports submitted (Target: 4)	4	6
# of operational update submitted (Target: 2)	2	2
Output S4.1.4: Staff security is prioritised in all IFRC activities		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of Volunteers / Staff reporting safety issues (Target: 0)	0	0
# of Volunteers / Staff reporting COVID-19 contagion (<2%)	<2%	0
Narrative description of achievements		
Administration and Procurement action is managed through the coordination between the Regional Branch, active in identifying local suppliers and managing the in-kind, and the HQ, that through the Procurement Unit is active in managing the vouchers' procurement processes		

D. Financial Report

The budget for this DREF Operation was **CHF 208,280**. After finalizing the operation, there remains a balance of **CHF 7,178** which will be returned to the DREF account. [Please refer to the Final Financial Report for details.](#)

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, and Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

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- **David Kohlmann**, PMER Manager a.i., david.kohlmann@ifrc.org

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.

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/08-2022/10	Operation	MDRIT003
Budget Timeframe	2021/08-2022/02	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 24/Nov/2022

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRIT003 - Italy - Wildfires

Operating Timeframe: 08 Aug 2021 to 28 Feb 2022

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	208,280
DREF Allocations	208,280
Expenditure	-201,102
Closing Balance	7,178

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter	74,427	99,969	-25,542
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	104,197	101,133	3,064
AOF4 - Health			0
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene			0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	178,624	201,102	-22,478
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	573		573
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	20,610		20,610
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	8,473		8,473
Strategy for implementation Total	29,656		29,656
Grand Total	208,280	201,102	7,178

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/08-2022/10	Operation	MDRIT003
Budget Timeframe	2021/08-2022/02	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

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MDRIT003 - Italy - Wildfires

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III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
General Expenditure	7,956	1,216	6,740
Travel	1,505		1,505
Financial Charges	6,451	1,216	5,235
Contributions & Transfers	187,612	187,612	0
Cash Transfers National Societies	187,612	187,612	0
Indirect Costs	12,712	12,274	438
Programme & Services Support Recover	12,712	12,274	438
Grand Total	208,280	201,102	7,178