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Emergency Plan of Action operation update Djibouti: Yemeni Refugees

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation	Operation n° MDRDJ002
Operations update n° 2	Period covered by this update: 2 April to September 17, 2015
Operation start date: 28 April 2015	Operations timeframe: 6 months (New end date: 28 October 2015)
Overall budget allocation: Original allocation: CHF 66,180 ; Additional allocation n° 1: CHF 94,449 ; Total allocation: CHF 160,629 .	
Host National Society presence (volunteers, staff, branches): Djibouti Red Crescent Society	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, International Committee of Red Cross, and International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies, Iranian Red Crescent, Qatar Red Crescent, Kuwait Red Crescent and Arab Red Crescent Organization.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government (Ministry of Public Health), Direction de l'Hydraulique Rurale, Office National de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement de Djibouti (ONEAD), Office National d'Assistance aux Refugier et aux Sinistrés (ONARS), UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, FAO, UNFPA, ACF, DRC, NRC and Johanniter.	

Request to extend timeframe by one month (New end date: 28 October 2015) to enable the completion of activities planned within the DREF operation, which have been disrupted following the delayed transfer of the allocation from IFRC to the National Society.

<click [here](#) for the contact details >

Description of the disaster

An escalation in fighting between opposition groups in Yemen began on 26 March 2015. As of 19 August 2015, 1,789,779 persons in Yemen have been affected (UNHCR). Of those, 1,439,118 persons have been internally displaced and 100,661 have left Yemen to seek refuge in Djibouti, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Oman and Saudi Arabia (UNHCR). The situation in Yemen remains dire with 80% of the population requiring humanitarian aid (approximately 21 million people) and there is limited to no access to clean drinking water, health care, sanitation facilities, or fuel. With no open passage to bring goods into Yemen, market prices are increasing which intensifies difficulties for the Yemen population. Several negotiations for ceasefires have been issued since the start of the crisis but each has been broken within the first 24 hours. Wide ranges of nationalities have been affected by this crisis (American, Chinese, Djiboutian, Kenyan, Indian, Somalian, Tanzania and Yemen nationals). Djibouti continues to receive the most amount of persons as one of the few neighbouring countries which has opened its borders to those fleeing Yemen.

On 29 May 2015, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) released CHF 66,180 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Djibouti Red Crescent (DRCS) respond to the needs of the 2,000 refugees/returnees, for a period of three months, specifically in the areas of First Aid, water,

sanitation and hygiene promotion services. The [DREF operation](#) intended to meet the survival and immediate needs of the targeted population through the provision of essential health, water, sanitation hygiene promotion services, targeting a total of 2,000 arrivals at Djibouti port and Al-Rahma and Omnisport Stadium sites in Obock. Following the outcome of a detailed assessment which was carried out at the beginning of the DREF operation, a [revision](#) of the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA), request for an additional allocation (CHF 94,449) and extension of timeframe (to five months) was submitted and approved in June 2015, including the following changes:

- Cancellation of activities: Procurement of water testing kits, Installation of an emergency First Aid point at Djibouti port, and provision of emergency First Aid services to arrivals
- Revised activities, including the solid waste management activities, the number of volunteers to be receive refresher training in hygiene promotion, the quantity of NFIs to be procured, location of the assistance given to the refugees following a relocation of the refugees by the government from Al-Rahma and Omnisport Stadium sites to Markasi camp. The quantity and type of staff required for the implementation of the final activities was also revised
- Additional activities, mainly in terms of coordination and communication

For the new EPoA intended to support additional 1,800 refugees, the overall objective was adjusted as follows: The target population's survival and immediate needs are met through the provision of essential health, water, sanitation hygiene promotion services, targeting 3,800 arrivals at Djibouti port and at Markasi camp (in Obock).

Unfortunately, the transfer of the second allocation to the DRCS took several weeks instead of a few days as expected, due to the following administrative reasons:

- Lack of funds at the IFRC East Africa regional office in Nairobi
- Unexpected delay in the transfer of funds from IFRC Nairobi bank to Djibouti RC bank

This delayed cash transfer caused a delay in the procurement in Djibouti of a few items and in the distributions. At this point, almost all items have been procured, but DRCS will not be able to distribute all of them before the 30 September 2015. In light with the above, and to ensure that all distribution costs will be covered by this DREF, DRCS is requesting for a one month extension, bringing the ending date to the 28 October 2015 and the total implementation period of this operation to 6 months. A final report will be made available on 28 January 2015 (Three months after the end of the operation).

Primary external actors include the Djiboutian Government, UN agencies (UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, FAO, IOM, UNFPA, WHO) and several NGOs, with the majority of the responding organizations present in Djibouti prior to the crisis and continue with their on-going operations. The Office National d'Assistance aux Refugier et aux Sinistrés (ONARS) is the implementing agency for the government of Djibouti in the area of emergency management, and are working with UNHCR to ensure overall coordination in the area of protection and refugee management of the new Yemen arrivals. IOM is supporting UNHCR in the registration of refugees, housing for migrants, and protection.

Due to changes in the environment (very hot and strong wind during the summer season) and in the activities implemented by the above partners, DRCS plans to cancel the following activities:

- Garbage burning: this activity was initially kept on stand-by since the weather conditions would have made it too dangerous. Therefore, UNHCR built four temporary garbage shelters in Markasi. Those are currently used to store the garbage for a few days, until the local government picks them and drop them to the communal garbage center. This system will remain in place until Johanniter is able to install two incinerators. DRCS is will therefore not put in place the temporary garbage burning system they were planning to install. All budgeted costs related to these activities won't be spent and will be returned to Geneva. Note that DRCS is still supporting garbage cleanup campaigns, distribution of garbage bags, and organization of the garbage pick-up by the Obock town garbage truck.
- Installation of visibility signs in the Markasi camp was included as an additional activity to support the solid waste management, garbage collection and hygiene promotion activities that are being carried out. This activity was on stand-by due to extremely strong winds in the Markasi camp. Since the four temporary garbage shelter built by UNHCR are very visible and well known by the refugees, the installation of the visibility signs will not take place. The amount of funds allocated to this activity will be returned to Geneva.

Please note that the cancellation of those two activities will incur an underspending of CHF 3,598 which will be returned to the DREF.

This DREF has been replenished by the Netherlands Red Cross / Silent Emergencies Fund. The major donors and partners of the DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the USA, as well as DG ECHO, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) the Medtronic and Zurich and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the Djibouti Red Crescent would like to extend its thanks to all partners for their generous contributions.

Contact Information

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 (NGOs) 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.