# Guidance: Applications for DREF Funding for Disasters Affecting Food and Economic Security

## What is this?
A guidance to use when planning and developing a DREF application for responding to a disaster affecting food and economic security.

This guidance consists of four sections. First, it provides a checklist to assess the eligibility of the planned intervention for DREF. Second, it lists essential information that should be considered and included in the situation analysis of a DREF application. Third, it outlines key considerations for food security and livelihoods programming.

## Who should use it?
National Society Operations Managers and Food Security and Livelihoods Programme Managers should complete it together, supported by the IFRC Country Cluster or Regional Offices.

## Why should it be used?
This guidance should help National Societies assess the eligibility of their selected food security intervention to the DREF. It will also support the development of high-quality and complete DREF applications for disasters affecting food and economic security, improving the likelihood of acceptance and speeding up the process.

In addition to the standard DREF approval criteria\(^1\), disasters affecting food and economic security have a number of complexities and specific factors that must be considered (slow onset, vulnerability context, chronic and acute food insecurity etc.).

## How should it be used?
Please go through and complete all sections of the guidance and attach it to your DREF application.

Section 1 provides guidance on whether to apply for DREF funding.

Section 2 provides guidance on how to present the situation and relevant information in the Emergency Plan of Action.

Section 3 provides key considerations for achieving a high-quality high food security and livelihoods response.

---

\(^1\) Timeliness, cost per beneficiary, and proportion of operational costs etc.
### 1. Characteristics of the Food Security Crisis – DREF Decision Tree

This decision tree will show whether your response is eligible for DREF funding and will assist you in deciding on the most appropriate response option for DREF operations responding to rapid or slow onset crises affecting food and economic security.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Yes / No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1.1  | Does any of the below sources of information indicate a food security crisis in the country?  
- IPC or Cadre Harmonisé (Usually IPC Phase 3 or above)  
- Fewsnet (Usually IPC Phase 3 or above)  
- FAO EW/EA Report  
- Declaration of a state of emergency by the government  
- Declaration of Emergency Level 3 (UN)  
- Secondary data from other sources (e.g. WFP) | □ Yes → Continue to 1.3  
□ No → Continue to 1.2 |
| 1.2  | Does primary data that you/a partner collected indicate localized “pockets of food insecurity”? | □ Yes → Continue to 1.3  
□ No → There is no basis to act. Please gather more evidence about the situation. |
| 1.3  | Is Global Acute Malnutrition above 10% and/or the Crude Death Rate above 0.5/10,000 per day? | □ Yes → Engage with the health team and continue to 1.4  
□ No → Continue to 1.4  
□ Don’t know → Continue to 1.4 |
| 1.4  | Is the food crisis caused by a slow onset (e.g. drought, desert locust, conflict) or rapid onset disaster (e.g. floods, cyclone)? | □ Rapid Onset → Continue to 1.7  
□ Slow Onset → Continue to 1.5 |
| 1.5  | Is the food security situation deteriorating compared to last year?  
(We recommend to consult the most recent *Fewsnet Food Assistance Outlook Brief* to answer this question. However, you can also use evidence from other sources, particularly on subnational deterioration and pockets of food insecurity. If you use other sources, please share them for validation.) | □ Yes → Continue to 1.6  
□ No → The situation is most likely chronic and does not constitute an immediate emergency. It is thus not eligible for DREF. Consider programmes with long-term activities (24-48 months) that strengthen resilience to food insecurity. These should be funded through operational plans. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Yes / No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1.6 | Is the food security situation worse than the 5-year average (Is this a recurrent or exceptional situation?) | □ Yes → Continue to 1.7  
                      □ No → The situation is most likely chronic and does not constitute an immediate emergency. It is thus not eligible for DREF. Consider programmes with long-term activities (24-48 months) that strengthen resilience to food insecurity. These should be funded through Operational Plans. |
| 1.7 | Are there any other actors planning to or already engaging in food assistance in the country? | □ Yes → Continue to 1.8  
                      □ No → Continue to 1.10 |
| 1.8 | Are you addressing a gap in the coverage by other actors (food assistance)? | □ Yes → Continue to 1.9  
                      □ No → Other actors are already covering all food assistance needs, there is no need to act. |
| 1.9 | Is the target area specifically affected by the exceptional food security crisis (comparable to IPC 3 and above)? | □ Yes → Continue to 1.10  
                      □ No → Please reconsider whether you are actually responding to a coverage gap and whether you prioritize the right area. |
| 1.10 | Is immediate basic needs assistance required for saving lives? | □ Yes → There are two options:  
1 There are basic needs to be met including food needs. Please consider implementing Multi-Purpose Cash Grants if possible. If not consider other types of relief distribution (Please consult the Cash team)  
2 Particularly food needs need to be addressed. Please consider food assistance either through in-kind distribution, vouchers or restricted cash assistance. (Please consult the cash team if necessary)  
   → Continue to 1.11  
                      □ No → The DREF’s purpose is to enable first response to meet basic needs after a disaster. As basic needs assistance is not required, the situation at hand is not eligible for DREF. If you would still like to address food insecurity, please consider other mechanisms such as Operational Plans. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Yes / No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>Will short-term basic needs assistance and/or food assistance (max. 6 months) be enough to meet the needs of the affected population to overcome the current shock(s)?</td>
<td>Yes → Your programme is most likely eligible for DREF support (MPCG and/or food assistance as outlined under 1.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No → Your programme is most likely eligible for DREF support (MPCG and/or food assistance as outlined under 1.10). However, you should still consider other/additional mechanisms (e.g. Emergency Appeal) to ensure support beyond basic needs assistance (e.g. livelihoods protection, restoration, strengthening or diversification) and beyond the DREF’s timeframe.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Situation Analysis

If you decide to apply for DREF after completing the decision tree, please include all information, on which you based your decision, in your Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA). In addition, if there are any exacerbating factors present in your target area, please ensure that the main points are included. This will strengthen your eligibility for DREF funding. The following guidance will help you.

2.1 Description of the Disaster
(Place this in the ‘Description of the Disaster’ section of the EPoA)

- Describe the scale and severity of the food security crisis (e.g. number of people affected by IPC phase)
- Describe how the current situation is different from normal years
  - State whether and why there was a deterioration
  - State how the situation is one of acute and not of chronic food insecurity
- Describe exacerbating factors such as existing vulnerability (e.g. poverty levels), conflict, displaced and moving populations or timing of the crop calendar (e.g. lean or rain season)
- Describe the geographical distribution of the food crisis and indicate whether there are local pockets of food insecurity
- If applicable, outline how other sectors are affected
- If applicable, state the main message and date of the declaration of state of emergency

2.2 Summary of the Current Response
(Place this in the ‘Summary of the Current Response’ section of the EPoA)

- Outline current and planned responses by Red Cross Red Crescent and other actors (local, national and international)
  - Consider both short (e.g. food distribution) and long-term activities (e.g. DRR, social protection)
- Describe capacities of local and national authorities and whether the situation is beyond their ability to respond
- If possible, include a map of gaps/coverage
- Describe how you coordinate with other actors
- Describe the coordination mechanisms in the country

2.3 Needs Analysis
(Place this in the ‘Needs Analysis’ section of the EPoA)

- State the different indicators that are relevant (and available) for this food crisis
  - Food consumption: Quantity, energy intake, dietary diversity
  - Nutritional status: Moderate, severe and global malnutrition
  - Mortality: Crude death rate, under-five death rate
- Outline why people cannot meet their basic or food needs themselves (availability of and access to food)
- Describe where there are gaps in the assistance coverage by other actors and how your operations will address them (e.g. coverage of a specific area or segment of the population)
- If applicable, outline your primary data collection and results

2 Remember to add references to your secondary sources of information
3. Key Considerations for High-Quality Food Security and Livelihoods Responses

While any good response needs to consider the specificities of the crisis and context, there are some general considerations that will determine the quality of the response. The below list of key considerations is not meant to determine the eligibility for DREF but serves to guide you in achieving a high-quality food security and livelihoods response. Therefore, when designing your response to the crisis at hand, please consider the following questions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Key Considerations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Are the proposed interventions relevant and evidence-based?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Are the proposed interventions in line with the SPHERE Standards (Chapter 6: Food Security and Nutrition)?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 4.3 | Are the implementation timelines and activities realistic considering the DREF specificities and NS capacities, experience and resources?  
*Please note that DREF implementation should last for 3-4 months and that activities should be delivered within 2-3 months.* |
| 4.4 | Does your modality (e.g. in-kind, voucher, cash) serve the objectives of your response? |
| 4.5 | Is the budget realistic considering the planned activities and number of targeted people? |
| 4.6 | Is the response coordinated with the local and national government, relevant ministries and other actors? |
| 4.7 | Have you considered potential risks to your response and how to mitigate them? |
| 4.8 | Do you have a monitoring and evaluation plan? |
| 4.9 | Are food security and livelihoods the only sectors affected? And if not, has the intervention strategy been properly coordinated?  
*Please consider: Health/nutrition, WASH, Shelter and settlements (HH items)* |
| 4.10 | Is assistance provided for the entire expected duration of the food crisis (or food gap)? |
| 4.11 | Is there an exit strategy to ensure that assistance is provided if situation does not improve after the DREF window? |
| 4.12 | Are you targeting the most food insecure and vulnerable segments of the population? |
| 4.13 | Have you considered cross-cutting issues such as PGI, CEA and Green Response? |

3 For further reference on different food security and livelihoods related interventions, consider the following resources:
- IFRC, 2010. Livelihoods Programming Guidelines, p.31