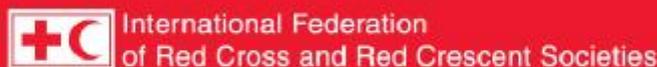


DREF operation



Ghana: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRGH002
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000118-GHA
01 July, 2010

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 134,948 (USD 124,353 or EUR 101,870) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Ghana Red Cross Society (GRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 5,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: The heavy rains of 20 June, 2010 and continuous downpour in Ghana have caused flooding which affected more than 12,000 people with 35 lives reportedly lost in Greater Accra, Central and Volta regions of Ghana. Many houses and infrastructural facilities such as bridges were washed away leaving thousands of families homeless. The Ghana Red Cross Society (GRCS) in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) of Ghana and other agencies

have been working round the clock to provide relief assistance to the affected population and assist them in relocating to temporary shelter centres provided by the local governments in the affected areas after a joint preliminary assessment of the situation. The National Society has also been assisting affected persons with first-aid service and psychological counselling. To further scale up its humanitarian assistance to the affected communities, the GRCS with technical support from the West Coast Regional Representation of the International Federation has developed a plan of action to assist the 1,000 most affected vulnerable families with non-food basic relief items like blankets, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, water purification items, shelter kits, mosquito nets, farming tools among others. The National Society also plans to increase its sanitation and hygiene promotion through sensitization in the temporary camps and the affected communities to prevent epidemics outbreak like cholera. The planned intervention will be supported by the International Federation through DREF allocation and the deployment of an RDRT member whose presence is also expected to enhance the capacity of the National Society in emergency relief activities.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 30 September, 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 31 December, 2010).



Staff and volunteers of the Ghana Red Cross Society collaborated with NADMO to carry out preliminary assessment. GRCS

[<click here for the DREF budget,](#)
[here for contact details,](#)
[or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

The month of June marks the height of the rainy season in Ghana and the attendant perennial flooding with death and destruction of property. This year's rains, although not torrential, have been steady and heavy, averaging 84.7 millimetres. On 20 June, 2010 various parts of southern Ghana experienced flooding with varying degrees of destruction leaving more than 7,500 people displaced while the figures keep rising by the day.

Among the most affected areas was Ashaiman in the Greater Accra region where 11 people were reported dead. In these areas, flood waters rose almost to roof level and residents had to struggle to swim to safety. Four bridges were washed away thereby restricting the movement of people. Many of the affected communities were those close to the river that runs through the town. Personal belongings of many of the affected persons were swept away and many families have been rendered homeless and are now sheltered in some public building such as schools and town halls. In Agona Nyakrom in the Central region, 14 deaths have been reported, and many rendered homeless. One part of the town is reportedly cut off from the main town. In the same region, the floods affected nine other communities including Okyereko, Agona Swedru, and Agona Nyakrom. In Okyereko many houses were submerged as River Ayensu overflowed its banks. About 1,300 people were displaced by the floods in Gomoa East District. Swedru Township has been divided into two following the collapse of the two main bridges in the town thereby restricting the movement of the residents. Agona Nyakrom was completely cut off the rest of the country following the collapse of a bridge linking the town to the rest of Ghana. Many travellers from Cape Coast to Accra and vice versa were stranded at Winneba Junction because of the collapse of a portion of a bridge which links the main Cape Coast Accra Highway. The heavy downpour also triggered a landslide at Peduase Water Works road affecting a stretch of the Pantang-Mamfe dual carriage road and made travelling from the Akuapem Ridge to Accra impossible.

The strong currents of the flood waters overturned vehicles killing their occupants. Vehicles parked by their owners outside their homes were swept away into big drains. According to government sources, 35 bodies have so far been retrieved from flood waters across the country by volunteers and rescue workers. In many of the affected communities, drinking water points and latrines have been submerged by the floods thereby causing a risk of outbreak of waterborne epidemics such as cholera.

The poor sanitation habits, poor drainage system and the building of infrastructures on the drainage have been discovered as some of the causes of the flooding in the affected areas. The Ghana Meteorological Department and the IFRC-ACMAD in its climate risk bulletin latest edition have predicted continuous rains with high risk of flooding in the next few days.

Coordination and partnerships

The National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) has mobilized volunteers and rescue workers to assist people trapped by the floods and retrieve dead bodies. In this effort 35 dead bodies have been retrieved. NADMO is also coordinating all operations with its stakeholders including the Ghana Police Force, the Military, different Ministries and other humanitarian agencies including the Ghana Red Cross Society.



The government has taken the lead in assessing the situation and the extent of damage with the assessment visit of the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development together with the Ashaiman Municipal Chief Executive to the affected areas. The President of the Republic also visited the flooded areas to meet the displaced people sheltered in Tema, Ashaiman and Swedru. At Swedru, the President directed the construction of metal bridges on the Akora River as a temporary measure to restore link between the area and the rest of the country.

Some 1,500 people displaced in Agona Swedru in the Central region were sheltered at Swedru Town Hall. The government has secured the Assembly Hall of Ashaiman Government School in Ashaiman to temporarily accommodate close to 1,000 people while in Tema 108 victims have been relocated by NADMO to the Tema Naval Base.

The Central Regional Minister met with members of Agona West Municipal Security Council on what steps to take to reduce the suffering of populations.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

An Emergency Response Team from the Ghana Red Cross Society Headquarters and the Greater Accra Regional Branch visited the affected communities in Ashaiman to carry out visual inspection and assess the extent of damage. About 50 volunteers were mobilized to assist in the evacuation of victims who were trapped and also helping to evacuate their personal belongings to safer areas. The volunteers involved in the assessment also seized the opportunity to advise the affected population on how to treat drinking water by boiling it since water supply to the communities has been disrupted. The Red Cross volunteers have also been carrying out first-aid treatment and psychological counseling in the affected areas.

Region	Area affected	Number of households affected	Number of persons affected	Number of deaths	Total number of persons affected per region
Greater Accra	Tema Metro (New Town.C.5)	90	227	10	4,342
	Ashaiman	910	4,115	11	
Central	Agona Swedru	904	3,000	14	4,520
	Agona Nyakrom		1,520		
Volta	Ketu South	420	3,360		3,360
Total		2,324	12,222*		12,222

*Some of the households are made of one person while some others have more than five persons.

The needs

The immediate needs of the affected persons after a preliminary assessment are expressed in terms of relief (blankets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, buckets, water treatment tablets and jerry cans, soap or detergents) as well as children clothing for protection against bad weather. It was also discovered that emergency shelter is needed for some of the affected households.

Beneficiary selection:

After a rapid preliminary assessment and visual inspection conducted by the National Society and NADMO in the three affected regions, more than 2,324 families (12,222 people) need urgent relief assistance. The Red Cross has carried out a vulnerability analysis and has identified 1,000 most affected vulnerable families. The analysis was based on the following criteria: those who lost all their belongings, those who lost part of their house and are still living in it, those living in temporary shelter and pregnant women/lactating mothers.

The other affected persons are being assisted by the government through the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) and other agencies.

The proposed operation

The Ghana Red Cross Society through the International Federation DREF and the deployment of an RDRT member from the West Coast Regional Representation will deliver immediate assistance in relief (basic non-food items) and emergency health including psychological support to the affected population for a period of three months. This is vital because most of the personal belongings of the victims were either destroyed or washed away by the flood waters, some lost their relatives and children while the houses of others have collapsed.

GRCS will be responsible for needs assessment, registration of victims and beneficiaries, distribution of the non-food items and sanitation equipment. As most families had their houses washed away, some will be accompanied in the reconstruction of temporary shelters in a safer and resilient manner.

GRCS will also be conducting post-disaster health education in the communities against diseases such as cholera, typhoid, malaria, pneumonia and other communicable diseases.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
Outcome: About 1,000 most affected households have received specific quantity and quality of non-food items based on the assessment and selection criteria from Red Cross.
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure and distribute non-food items at target distribution points; • Mobilize and train 50 Red Cross on registration and distribution strategies of the Red Cross; • Conduct a rapid emergency needs assessment in the target communities; • Procure and distribute backyard gardening tools (hoes, cutlasses, boots, racks) and seeds to 300 target households; • Control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user; • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide report on distribution of relief items; • Develop an exit strategy.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion
Outcome: The risks of waterborne diseases are reduced through hygiene promotion, health education and provision of drinking water in target communities in the affected three regions for three months.
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure and distribute 7,500 water purification tablets and 1,000 pieces of water jerry cans to the 1,000 most affected households in the three regions; • Procure and distribute 4,000 bars of soap, kitchen sets and 2,000 mosquito nets to the 1,000 most affected households in the three regions; • Mobilize and train 50 Red Cross volunteers on good hygiene, water purification method and health promotion; • Sensitize the target communities on water purification, good hygiene and health practices; • Provide first-aid services in the affected areas.

Emergency shelter
Outcome: To provide the 300 most vulnerable households in the affected communities with emergency shelter.
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out damage needs assessment in the affected communities; • Develop beneficiary selection criteria and register beneficiaries; • Procure and distribute 300 shelter kits to the 300 target beneficiaries in the three regions; • Support beneficiaries in emergency shelter reconstruction in the affected communities.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The proposed intervention of the GRCS with support from the West Coast Regional Representation that will be provided with technical assistance from the Sahel Region will be an opportunity for the National Society to demonstrate the added value of its activities to the public. The National Society with technical support from the Regional Representation will ensure adequate and effective national and international coverage of the Red Cross intervention. The International Federation will be assisting the GRCS in the formulation of strategies to: address the public and the media during the operation, document the distribution process, propagate Red Cross fundamental principles through the production of relevant articles and photographs that

will contribute to enhancing the visibility of the Red Cross in Ghana and outside as well as strengthening the capacity of the National Society in information sharing and dissemination during emergency operation.

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

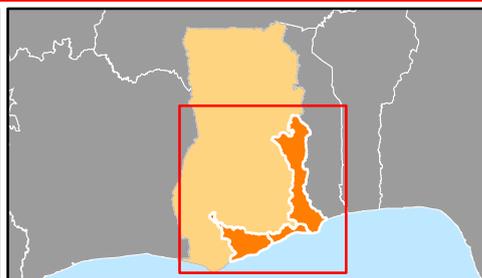
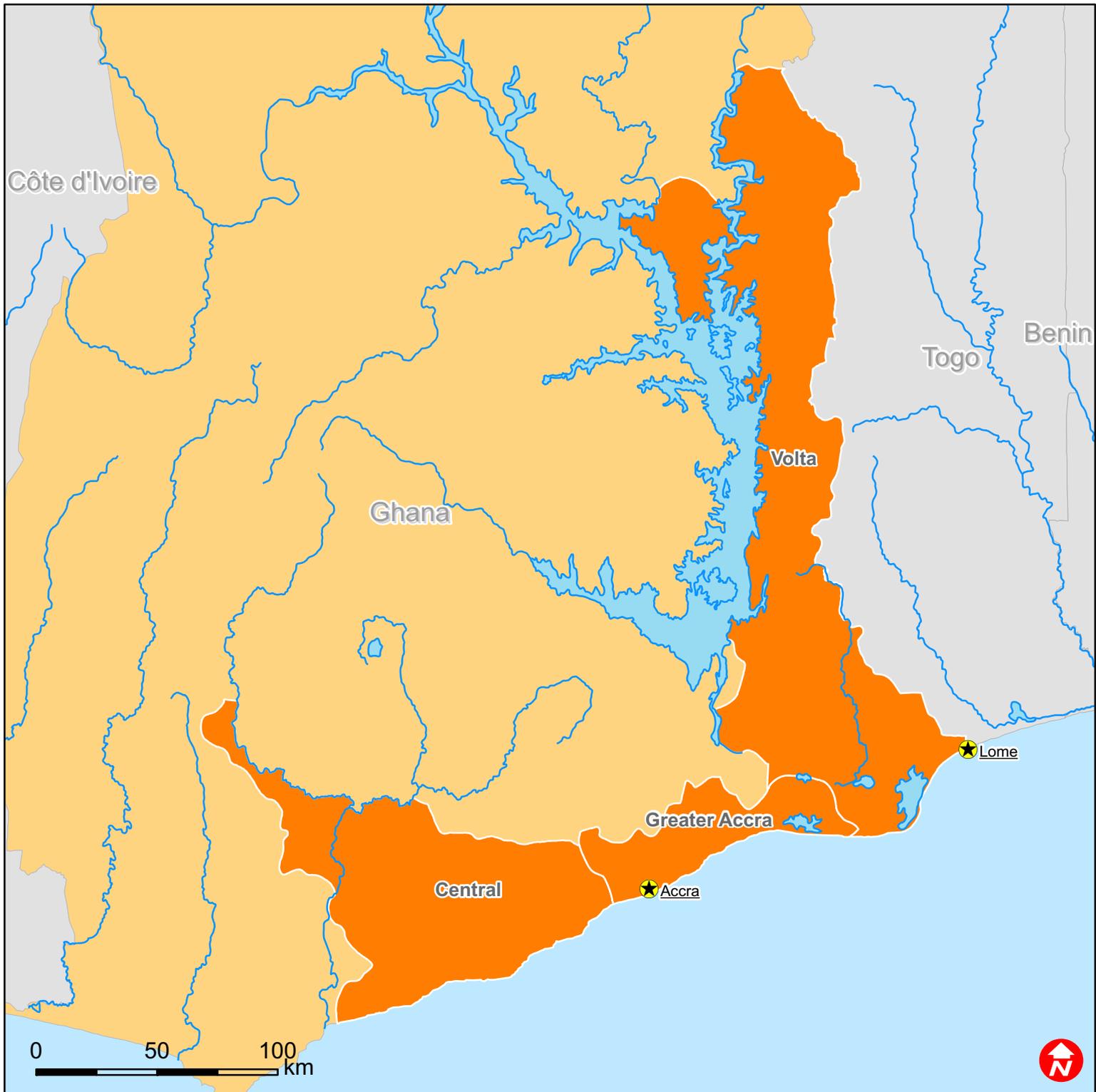
Budget Summary

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief	19,295	19,295
Shelter - Transitional		0
Construction - Housing		0
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		0
Construction - Materials		0
Clothing & Textiles	32,929	32,929
Food		0
Seeds & Plants	11,550	11,550
Water & Sanitation	38	38
Medical & First Aid	9,009	9,009
Teaching Materials		0
Utensils & Tools	12,320	12,320
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	3,080	3,080
Total Supplies	88,221	88,221
Land & Buildings		0
Vehicles		0
Computer & Telecom		0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		0
Medical Equipment		0
Other Machinery & Equipment		0
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0
Storage		0
Distribution & Monitoring	10,010	10,010
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,772	2,772
Total Transport & Storage	12,782	12,782
International Staff		0
Regionally Deployed Staff	6,486	6,486
National Staff		0
National Society Staff	8,794	8,794
Other Staff benefits		0
Consultants		0
Total Personnel	15,280	15,280
Workshops & Training	385	385
Total Workshops & Training	385	385
Travel	1,155	1,155
Information & Public Relation	1,925	1,925
Office Costs		0
Communications	2,464	2,464
Professional Fees		0
Financial Charges		0
Other General Expenses	4,500	4,500
Total General Expenditure	10,044	10,044
Cash Transfers to National Societies		0
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		0
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0
Program Support	8,236	8,236
Total Programme Support	8,236	8,236
Services & Recoveries		0

Shared Services		0
Total Services	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	134,948	134,948



Ghana: Floods



 Affected regions