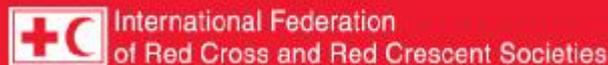


DREF operation update



The Gambia: Floods

**DREF operation n°MDRGM006
GLIDE n°FL-2010-000181-GMB
Update n° 01**

03 November, 2010

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 emergency response. 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.

Period covered by this update: 13 September to 15, October 2010.

Summary: CHF 287,661 was allocated from the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 20 September 2010 to support the Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) in delivering assistance to some 1,000 families.

The GRCS has procured both operation and relief materials, and carried out distribution activities of non-food items (NFI) to 200 families. The National Society (NS) has also conducted an assessment of the flood affected families, and achieved the transportation of relief materials to the nearest distribution sites. Volunteers have been trained. Besides, NS representatives regularly attended coordination meetings organized at the Vice President Office. Local and international partners, including UN Agencies and other stakeholders also participated in these meetings. While conducting the assessments, the regional team leaders have met with regional partner institutions regarding the needs of flood victims in the areas of hygiene promotion, sensitization of mothers and care takers, hang up exercise, training of the volunteers on the data collection and relief distribution.



Volunteers conducting assessment of the affected families/GRCS

The Canadian government (CIDA) contributed CHF 37,716 (CAD \$40,000) to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

[<click here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Heavy rain falls since mid July 2010 have resulted in flooding, with damages to infrastructure and livelihoods in The Gambia. The floods hit the Western Region, Upper River Region, Lower River Region, North Bank Region, Central River Region, and the Kanifing Municipal Council. With the support and overall coordination by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), local authorities under the lead of the local Red Cross Branch volunteers were able to quickly assess the

situation on the ground and initiated immediate response by distributing food and NFI in selective districts. The Government of the Gambia declared a state of national disaster in the country on 7 September, 2010 and launched an appeal both at in-country level and abroad for additional relief and rehabilitation efforts. The River Gambia in the Upper River Region part over-floated for about 150 meters of the river banks causing flooding in residential areas, markets and the offices of the Medical Research Council located in Basse. Access to both banks of the river has been very difficult with ferry crossing at a standstill. Movement of people, goods and services from both sides have been handicapped. This has affected the data collection process from the field and has created limitation in the assessment process within the Upper River Region.

Coordination and partnerships

Soon after declaring a state of national disaster the government of the Gambia following pledges made to support the floods victims has payed out ten million Gambian Dalasi. Half of the funds were geared towards procurement and distribution of food stuff. Rice and Oil have been distributed to the affected victims through regional Governors by the central government. The government has launched an appeal soliciting support from local and international partners. On Friday 17 September, the Vice-President and Minister of Women Affairs of the Gambia and her delegation seized the opportunity of their stay in Senegal to hold a meeting in Dakar for support to flood disaster victims and damaged infrastructure in the Gambia. The meeting was an opportunity to galvanize support both in cash or kind to provide assistance to the flood victims. Many personalities, donors and representatives of international organizations took part to that event. Furthermore, the UN system together with the government and partners conducted a joint assessment to identify the effects of the floods and its implication on food security, livelihood, and general health concerns. Other partners such as Concern Universal and other stakeholders are ready to intervene in areas that are not covered yet. Regular coordination meetings were organized under the National Disaster Management Agency. Members of the general public and institutions have been handing over their donations to the Agency through the Vice President who chairing the National Disaster Council.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Soon after the approval of the DREF allocation and the delivery of non-food items from Sahel Regional Representation, 200 most affected families in the Kanifing Municipality received NFI during the government distribution activities. The National Society has procured the remaining stock and has transported them to the nearest distribution points. Coordination with stakeholders to actively participate in training volunteers on health, water and sanitation disseminating messages have been carried out and serve as guide during implementation.

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: To contribute to the reduction of the vulnerability of 1,000 families victims of flood with the provision of relief materials.

Outputs and activities planned: Relief items are procured and distributed to 1,000 families affected by the floods.

Progress: A total of 200 out of the 1,000 families have already been provided with non-food items. While beneficiary identification activities were ongoing in other regions, distribution of remaining NFI took place on 18 and 19 October, 2010 in other regions. Three RDRT members from the National Society have been deployed in the regions to support National Disaster Response Team (NDRTs) and Community-based Disaster Response Teams (CRDTs) members in the implementation of the planned activities. Simultaneously, meetings have been held with the regional governors and Regional Disaster Management Committees on the coordination of the operation.

Emergency health

Outcome: To contribute to the prevention of communicable disease outbreaks among 1,000 of the most affected communities.

Outputs and activities planned:

- The risks of communicable diseases outbreaks are reduced for 1,000 families and the health status of the community is maintained;
- Target beneficiaries are reached by volunteers disseminating messages regarding malaria

and Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (LLIN) use and assisting their correct hanging.

Progress: Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) held meetings with five regional health teams to complement the efforts in training volunteers on communicable diseases messages. The agreement for their active participation in the sensitization of the affected families has also been reached. Regarding Malaria prevention, all mosquito nets have been procured by the Sahel Regional Representation and delivered to the National Society. A total of 400 out of 2,000 nets have already been distributed to the 200 most vulnerable families within the Kanifing Municipality.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: To contribute to the improvement of access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation facilities for 1,000 families affected by the floods.

Outputs and activities planned: All 1,000 families affected by the floods in the six regions have access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation facilities.

Progress: All the regional health team have met and have agreed to complement the activities of the GRCS. Therefore, eight volunteers and two representatives of the Regional Health Teams have started sensitizing affected communities within Central River Region on hygiene promotion, hang up exercises, sensitization of mothers and care takers as an integrated approach. Volunteers were trained prior to commencing field sensitization campaigns. The capacity of the National Society on social mobilization has been improved through the collaboration with the Regional Health Teams

Challenges: The only challenge to this activity has been the burden of bearing logistics cost by the National Society, although the cooperation is seen vital.

Communications/IT/Reporting and monitoring

Outcome: To contribute to the improvement of the capacity of the National Society to engage in social mobilization to reach flood affected families to ensure timely reporting and monitoring of the activities.

Output and activities planned:

- Communications materials are developed to reach flooded victims, and vulnerable populations at risk;
- Populations at risk are sensitized on flood detection, evacuation and risks reduction associated with floods,
- Timely and accurate reports are prepared and shared.

Progress: All activities implemented by Gambia Red Cross Society have been covered by the Media. The leasing of a vehicle also complemented in the speedy implementation of planned activities.

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

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