

# OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## BURKINA FASO, CAMEROON, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER AND SENEGAL: HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODS

9 December 2003

Appeal No. 20/2003; Operations Update no. 1

Appeal launched on 2 October 2003 for CHF 802,000 (USD 607,934 or EUR 520,406) for 4 months for 29,000 beneficiaries. This Update extends this Appeal for 5 months until 30 June 2004.

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 125,000 (CHF 80,000 reimbursed)

Period covered: October - November 2003

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### ***In Brief***

**Appeal coverage:** 106.9%; [Click here to go to the Contributions List](#), or refer to the Federation website for details

**Outstanding needs:** None

**Related Appeals:** Information Bulletin no. 1/03; [Click here to go to this Bulletin](#).

**Operational Summary:** All six national societies have been supporting the populations affected by the floods in line with the original Appeal. Due to recurring flooding, difficulty accessing the affected areas, and delays in funding, this Appeal requires an additional five months (June 2003) to allow for full implementation. Registration of beneficiaries also caused delays at the beginning of the programme. During this first phase of the operation, materials were distributed to the beneficiaries.

### **Operational developments**

Heavy seasonal rains that swept across the Sahel region between August and October 2003 caused serious flooding and landslides in several of these countries. This led to the destruction of grain storehouses, homes, loss of lives and livestock. Bridges and roads were washed away in some countries making access to flooded zones very difficult. Bamako, Mali experienced four violent rainstorms during the last week of October and the first week of November. Surrounding towns which had been flooded for three months experienced more flooding after the heavy rains in July. This includes Saint Louis in Senegal.

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Similarly, Cameroon experienced heavy downpour on 19 to 20 July and on 27 to 29 August in Magah village, Wabane subdivision, Lebialem Division, South West Province. The torrential rains caused flooding and a landslide, claimed 20 lives, damaged property extensively, and left about 1,000 people homeless.

National societies in the affected countries began providing assistance to most affected families with own funds before five out of the six countries in the Appeal received a DREF of 25,000 CHF per country with the exception of Cameroon which benefited from a first donation from Japan. All the needs expressed in the regional emergency Appeal were responded to.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent Action – objectives, progress, impact**

#### **Burkina Faso**

**Objective: Provide basic emergency assistance in the form of food (dry rations) and non-food (paracetamol, aspirin and bleach) to meet the immediate needs of the affected population for two months.**

The first phase of the operation was completed on 27 October 2003. The operation took place in: Comoe Province: Sideradougou, Deregoue (waterfalls region); Nounbiel Province: Batie (South-west region)

Rations for one month were distributed (25.0 MT of maize and 25.5 MT of rice). A total of 6,740 people affected by the floods were assisted instead of the 4,636 initially proposed. A second phase will focus on the northern part (reaching out to 2,036 beneficiaries) and the south-west (reaching out to 3,600 beneficiaries). The two-month operation will distribute rice (57.95 MT) and millet (57.95 MT). Medicine such as paracetamol and chloroquine (30 boxes of each containing 15,000 tablets) will be distributed.

Out of the 6,740 beneficiaries, 1,294 children (aged 0 to 3 years) and 714 children (aged between 4-5 years) were targeted (31% of the total beneficiaries). Due to this large number of children, the individual numbers have been slightly revised. With partial funding, the national society decided to focus on food distribution and give second priority to non-food items proposed in the initial Emergency Appeal. These items will be distributed in the second phase of the programme.

#### **Coordination**

The **Burkinabe Red Cross Society** is working mainly through its branches in the different provinces. The figures are obtained from CONASUR (National Committee Relief Emergency and Rehabilitation) and verified by the branches in the field. About 90 volunteers implemented the programme.

#### **Constraints**

The operation had to be postponed by ten days; difficulty in accessing the affected areas delayed the receipt of the beneficiaries list. This difficulty resulted in extra costs such as repairs and rental of trucks since the trucks belonging to the national society had broken down.

#### **Mali**

Although the water level is slowly decreasing, it's still raining and the farms are flooded. Cholera cases have been reported. The reality of the situation might necessitate a revision of the original objectives during the second phase of the operation.

**Objective 1: Provide basic emergency assistance in the form of dry food rations and non-food articles (mats, soap, buckets) to meet the immediate needs of the most vulnerable affected population in Bamako district (619 beneficiaries), Segou (160 beneficiaries) and Mopti (732 beneficiaries) regions for a one month period.**

Using own funds, the **Mali Red Cross** assisted 619 beneficiaries in four different parts of Bamako during the first days of the emergency. Assistance from the national society consisted of food items such as pasta (30 5-kg packs) and non-food items such as 1,500 pieces of soap. A donation from the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic

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Republic of Iran enabled the national society to assist 1,800 beneficiaries in the regions of Tombouctou, Segou and Mopti (sweet peas, sugar, butter and blankets).

**Objective 2: Prevent malaria and diarrhoeal diseases in the affected areas by disinfecting wells and latrines and distributing 906 insecticide treated nets for 302 families (3 units per family)**

In Bamako district, the Mali Red Cross used own funds to provide 400 bottles of bleach, 200 insecticide treated nets and medicine to beneficiaries during the emergency. This objective will be met during the second phase of the programme.

**Objective 3: Replenish the emergency NFI contingency stock to enable an immediate intervention in the event of future disasters.**

This objective was delayed pending confirmation of funding.

**Results**

The 1,511 beneficiaries initially identified by the national society were covered during the operation.

**Coordination**

A member of the Red Cross of Benin trained as a member of regional disaster response team (RDRT) training in Bamako in early October 2003 was sent to Mali to support the national society. Procurement of food items began on 29 October. Items such as rice, beans, and vegetable oil were purchased.

A second phase of the programme will cover the Gao region.

**Senegal**

**Objective 1: Shelters: to provide shelter assistance to flood affected victims.**

Distribution of tents, construction of houses, training of masons, and sensitization of the population is being planned with ear-marked donations from the German Red Cross and the government.

**Objective 2: Health, water and sanitation assistance and training – training of community agents to sanitize the areas and carry out water purification.**

The operation focused on the region of Matam; other affected areas were difficult to access. Out of the 2,488 families identified, only 622 have been assisted; DREF funding did not allow the [Senegalese Red Cross Society](#) to cover all needs. Health has been the main priority area due to the poor sanitation conditions. Wheel-barrows, insecticide treated nets, mats, shovels, medicine and food assistance for one month have been supplied by the national society.

This involves the distribution of mosquito nets, chlorination of wells, draining the stagnant water to fix irrigation pipes, dams and community hygiene education. A total of 622 families have been assisted representing 3,732 persons. Volunteers distributed 15.7 MT of rice purchased with the national society's own funds, and purchased the following non-food items:

<b>Items</b>	<b>Quantities</b>
Insecticide treated nets	622
Mats	622
Paracetamol tablets	10,000
Chloroquine tablets	10,000
Bottles of Chloroquine syrup	300
Wheel-barrows	35
Shovels	35

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With improved funding, distribution will continue in the northern parts of Senegal. Six districts represent 22 villages according to the level of vulnerability. Priority was given to pregnant and breast-feeding women, infants aged 0 to 6 months and the elderly. These categories represent 1,308 persons (38% of the initial target); and each was given a one-month ration of 12kg of rice, one insecticide treated net and a mat. The rest of the beneficiaries representing 2,424 persons (404 families) received one insecticide treated net and one large size mat each.

All the sanitation equipment has been left to the good use of the Red Cross local committees of Matam, Kanel and Ranérou to help the local committees, local authorities and other partners assist the community. The Red Cross regional committee president co-ordinated the distribution of medicine to local dispensaries for the treatment of malaria cases.

The German Government, through the German Red Cross, gave EUR 167,000 for the floods programme for the northern part of the country to complement the DREF funds. Assistance in the second phase targeting 17,000 beneficiaries already registered in the first phase of the programme in Saint Louis and Matam regions will consist of:

- Food allocation (rice) for a one month period.
- The national society will make brick moulds available to affected families to help re-build their houses.
- A total of 18 iron sheets will be allocated per affected people corresponding to about 26 square meters corresponding to Sphere standards (3.5 - 4.5 sq metres per person). An average family in Senegal consists of six members. The sheets will be given to families whose houses are already under construction. The local branch of the national society will monitor the sites prior to the release of the sheets.
- One large insecticide treated mosquito net will be distributed to each family as per the requirements of the national policy of malaria campaign.
- Medicine such as fansidar and paracetamol tablets will be given to the dispensaries in the affected regions.

The Federation is assisting the national society in procurement procedures, reporting and coordination with the German Embassy who are the representatives of donors in Dakar.

### **Results**

The condition of vulnerable people was improved with the initial assistance provided.

### **Constraints**

Due to limited DREF funding, the national society was not in a position to complete the purchase of all required items necessary to carry out the initial assistance described in the Appeal. Difficulty in accessing the affected areas and a serious breakdown of the truck also caused delays in the execution of the programme. The national society is now waiting for the second phase of the programme to cover the rest of affected persons initially registered who are mostly located in the regions of Matam; 1,866 families are still in a very vulnerable situation and are seeking assistance. The national society is requesting for 20 tonnes of food, 1,000 insecticide treated mosquito nets, 1,000 mats and sheltering (metallic structure is recommended due to the serious lack of wood in the region). In addition, 964 families in the regions of Kaolack, Ranouré and Tambacounda are relying on the Red Cross for assistance.

### **Coordination**

The distributions have been supervised by the relief coordinator of the national society, and realized with 30 volunteers of Matam branch of the Red Cross.

## **Mauritania**

The **Mauritanian Red Crescent** has tremendous experience in operations related to drought and health in Mauritania after successfully handling 14 Appeals dealing with drought, health and population movement between 1973 and 1992, with assistance from the Federation.

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**Objective 1: Provide temporary shelters to 1,800 affected beneficiaries (300 families).**

One tarpaulin per family was given to 150 families which were identified as the most affected in Kaedi and Aleg.

**Objective 2: To repair the damaged dykes in the Kaedi region.**

Volunteers distributed 2,000 bags of clay to beneficiaries for the repair of the damaged dykes in Kaedi.

**Objective 3: To provide insecticide treated mosquito nets in order to prevent the malaria risks.**

In Aleg and Kaedi 300 insecticide treated mosquito nets have been distributed to 150 families.

**Objective 4: To identify and train community agents to sanitize the areas and purify the water in the wells.**

In Atar region, ten voluntary hygienists have been recruited and trained; they have been issued with wheelbarrows, shovels and rakes to organize sensitization sessions on basic sanitation and hygiene in different parts of the city. Chlorine tablets have been distributed to purify water from wells.

**Objective 5: To identify and train agents in water purification in Nouakchott, Atar, Kaedi and Aleg.**

In Nouakchott, 12 volunteers have been trained as trainers on WatSan<sup>1</sup> and knowledge sharing with their respective branches in Atar, Aleg and Kaedi. A nutritional survey was conducted by WFP, Ministry of Health and Food Security Ministry in Aftout region, southern Mauritania in September 2003. The survey revealed high malnutrition rates as a result of the floods, which has necessitated a sixth objective to be added to the operations of the Mauritanian Red Crescent. The survey showed:

- High malnutrition rate of 20.1% among boys and 17.3% among girls aged 12-23 months.
- General chronic malnutrition rate of 29.1% among the population.

The Italian government donated EUR 250,000 to the Mauritanian Red Crescent to carry out food security operations in the most affected regions of Gorgol and Guidimaka by establishing community feeding centres. The proposed operation will be directly linked to the 2004 plan of action which focuses on developing and strengthening the capacity of the national society. More update on this additional objective will be provided in the next Operations Update.

**Objective 6: Ensure food security in the north east regions of Gorgol, and north of Guidimaka.**

**Expected results**

- Daily meals of porridge are provided to 1,250 malnourished under-fives.
- Daily dry rations are given to 1,250 pregnant and breast-feeding women who show signs of malnutrition.
- Around each centre, 2,000 persons are sensitized on issues related to health, malnutrition, hygiene and sanitation.
- Training on management of community feeding centres is provided to 50 women.
- Each nutrition centre produces its own vegetables, cereals and rear small farm animals.
- Each nutrition centre is well equipped to finance part of its own costs in 2005.
- Mortality rate due to malnutrition is reduced in the target areas.

**Results**

The national society, in collaboration with the Federation, the French Red Cross and Italian Red Cross, gave priority to the assistance of the most affected provinces in the northern part of the country. Assistance has been focused on Atar province and in the South in Gorgol and Brakna provinces.

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<sup>1</sup> WatSan – Water and sanitation

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### **Coordination**

The Mauritanian government organized a crisis group including the national society to gather information from the field and organize the disaster response. Even though the government did not launch any appeal to support the affected regions, it called upon the Mauritanian Red Crescent to assist the most vulnerable. The Federation coordinated the operation with human and logistical support from the Italian Red Cross, the French Red Cross and various NGOs such as (Oxfam, FLM, MSF, Doulos, and Medicos del Mundo).

### **Niger**

**Objective: Provide basic emergency assistance to meet the immediate needs of the most vulnerable persons (estimated at 5,000) in the five regions of Dosso, Tilaberi, Maradi, Tahoua, Zinder and Agadez for one month. The assistance is consisting in the distribution of food (millet) and blankets.**

Report on this objective has yet to be received.

### **Cameroon**

The DREF funds enabled the [Cameroon Red Cross Society](#) to distribute food and non-food items from 2 to 11 November 2003 to the most affected villages. This operation was carried out by ten volunteers despite the bad road and long distances. Out of the four localities hit by the disaster, only two will be covered in the present report.

**Objective: Reduce the vulnerability of affected populations by reinforcing their economic power and by preventing waterborne diseases.**

#### **Activities, Magha region**

##### **Distribution of food items to 768 beneficiaries (100 families):**

Distribution of the following food items was done by ten volunteers:

- 32 bags of beans (25 Kgs each)
- 30 bags of seed potatoes, type siperer
- 42 bags of rice (25 Kgs each)
- 12 cartons of palm oil (15 l each)
- 10 bags of salt

##### **Distribution of non-food items:**

- 65 insecticides treated mosquito nets to 60 families.

##### **Sensitization and water treatment:**

Several demonstrations on how to treat water for human consumption were done by four volunteers from the Cameroon Red Cross Society. The volunteers then distributed 2000 hydroclonazone tablets for water purification.

#### **Activities, Njen-Kon (Batibo Sub-Division)**

##### **Distribution of food items to 380 beneficiaries**

Distribution of the following food items was done by ten volunteers:

- 27 bags of corn (25 Kgs each)
- 21 bags of rice (25 Kgs each)
- 21 bags of beans (25 Kgs each)
- 6 cartons of palm oil
- 3 bags of salt (18 Kgs each)
- 1,000 yam seedlings
- 1,000 plantain seedlings

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**Distribution of non-food items**

- One treated net was given to each of 50 vulnerable families.

**Sensitization and water treatment**

Several demonstrations on how to treat water for human consumption was carried out by four volunteers from the Cameroon Red Cross Society. They then distributed 1,500 hydrochlonazone water purification.

The Cameroon Red Cross first-aid team is currently pursuing relief activities in the remaining two localities hit by the rainstorm. A comprehensive Operations Update will be made available by the end of the current phase. To launch the present operation, the national society was advanced CHF 21,000.

In Olorunti and Egbeachuc (Widikum Sub division), distribution of food items per family, to 200 beneficiaries (45 families) by eight volunteers was done as follows:

Rice	Corn	Beans	Palm oil	Salt	Plantain seedling
9.0 kg	9.0 kg	5.6 kg	1.5 litres	1.2 kg	33.0 units

**Distribution of non-food items:**

Insecticide treated mosquito nets (45) were distributed, one per family.

**Sensitization and water treatment:**

Several water treatment demonstrations were carried out by four Red Cross volunteers. The volunteers then distributed 1,250 hydrochlonazone tablets.

In Sabri, Soh, Bako and Nyebia (Njikwa Sub division)

**Distribution of food items to 143 beneficiaries (45 families)**

Items were distributed per family by eight volunteers as follows:

Rice	Corn	Beans	Palm oil	Salt	Plantain seedling
5.00 kg	5.00 kg	4.60 kg	2.00 litres	1.25 kg	33.00 units

**Distribution of non-food items:**

One treated net was given to each of 40 vulnerable families.

**Sensitization and water treatment:**

Several water treatment demonstrations were carried out by four Red Cross volunteers. The volunteers then distributed 1,250 hydrochlonazone tablets.

**Summary**

**Table 1: Food**

Locality	Numbers of families	Rice (Kg)	Corn (Kg)	Beans (Kg)	Palm oil (L)	Salt (Kg)	Potato seeds (Kg)	Plantain seedlings	Number of volunteers involved
Magha	100	1,250	1,250	780	180.0	180.0	625		10
Njen & Kon	60	630	630	570	90.0	90.0	—	1,500	10
Olorunti & Egbeachue	45	405	405	252	67.5	54.0	—	1,485	08
Sabri, Soh, Bako Nyebia	45	225	225	207	90.0	112.5	—	1,485	08
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>2,510</b>	<b>2,510</b>	<b>1,809</b>	<b>427.5</b>	<b>436.5</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>4,470</b>	<b>36</b>

Note: 250 families represent 1,600 beneficiaries

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**Table 2 Non-food and water purification tablets**

Locality	Number of families	Insecticide treated mosquito nets	Water purification tablets (Piece)
Magha	60	65	2,000
Njen & Kon	50	50	1,500
Olorunti	45	45	1,250
Sabri, Soh, bako, & nyeba	40	40	1,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>6,000</b>

**Planning**

The following activities will be carried out during the second phase:

- Distribute remaining non-food items (buckets, basins, cooking pots)
- Train 20 volunteers per village on first aid, community-based health education and prevention of epidemics.
- Encourage civil protection authorities to develop a disaster management plan for these villages with emphasis on floods and landslide.
- Return to the field by the end of December to assess the first yield of potatoes.
- Donate intervention tools (Stretchers, helmets, gloves, first aid kits, aprons, rain boots) to the four local branches.

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APPEAL No. 20/2003

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

10/12/2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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## CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				802,000		106.9%
FINNISH - RC		50,000	EUR	76,950	15.10.03	
GERMAN - GOVT		167,833	EUR	260,728	14.11.03	PURCHASE RELIEF GOODS
ITALIAN - GOVT/DREF		250,000	EUR	385,750	26.11.03	MAURITANIA
JAPANESE - RC		20,100	USD	26,572	08.10.03	
MONACO - RC		2,500	EUR	3,848	08.10.03	
SWEDISH - GOVT		600,000	SEK	103,500	10.10.03	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				857,348	CHF	106.9%

## KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

## ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	