

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 & SENEGAL: HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODS

6 April 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 20/2003; Operations Update no. 2; Period covered: December 2003 to March 2004; Appeal coverage: 106.9%; ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 2 October 2003 for CHF 802,000 (USD 607,934 or EUR 520,406) for four (4) months to assist 29,000 beneficiaries.
- Operation extended by five (5) months to 30 June 2004; Final Report is therefore due on 30 September 2004.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 25,000 for each of the five countries.

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Sahel Sub-Region; Annual Appeal no. 01.39/2004](#).

Operational Summary: Heavy seasonal rains hit the Sahel region between August and October 2003 causing serious flooding and landslides. Grain storehouses, homes, human lives and livestock were destroyed. All six National Societies have been supporting the populations affected by the floods. However, the time frame had to be extended due to continued flooding and late arrival of funding. Other problems include difficulty in accessing some of the affected areas. Registration of beneficiaries also caused some delays at the beginning of the programme.

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description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

Countries in the Sahel region experienced heavy seasonal rains that swept across the Sahel region between July and October 2003, causing serious flooding and landslides which led to the destruction of grain storehouses, homes, human lives and livestock. Access to flood zones was difficult due to bridges and roads that were washed away. Bamako experienced four violent rainstorms during the last week of October and the first week of November. St Louis in Senegal and other neighbouring towns experienced more flooding after the heavy July floods.

Similarly, Magha village in the Wabane Sub-Division, Lebialem Division, South-West Province (Cameroon) was hit by a heavy rain storm from 19 to 20 July 2003. Floods and landslides came as a result of that rain, leaving 20 people dead and causing serious damage to property. About 567 families were rendered homeless, without food security as their harvest and livestock were carried away by water. In late August 2003, another rainstorm that lasted three days hit Magha and the surrounding localities in the North-West Province, causing loss of lives, livestock and crops. The torrential rains caused flooding and a landslide claiming 20 lives, damaging a lot of property and leaving about 1,000 people homeless.

The Red Cross national societies in the affected countries began providing assistance to the most affected families with their own funds before five out of the six countries in the appeal received a DREF of 25,000 CHF per country. Cameroon benefited from a donation from Japan.

Disaster Response

Burkina Faso

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

The second phase which was completing the programme initiated by DREF funds focused on the Northern part and South-west; the operation covered 2,036 and 3,600 beneficiaries from both regions respectively. The two-month operation included distribution of relief food, 57.98 MT of rice and 57.95 MT of millet.

Progress

The Burkinabe Red Cross prepared a proposal budget for assistance in food for two months for 2,600 beneficiaries in the northern provinces of Bam, Soum and Yagha and the release of funding is imminent.

Mali

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

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

Objective 3 Replenish the emergency non-food items contingency stock to enable an immediate intervention in the event of future disasters.

Progress

Information from Mali is being awaited as the operation is being coordinated by the Spanish Red Cross.

Senegal

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Objective 1: Shelter - to provide shelter assistance to flood affected victims.

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

Progress

Following the first assistance phase funded by DREF, a second phase was funded by the German Government/German Red Cross through the Federation covering administration and logistics.

The first and second phases focused mostly on Matam region where 11,416 people were most affected region. The Saint-Louis region was also assisted and 3,000 people were reached. The assistance took into account the level of vulnerability. Emphasis was put on the pregnant women, breast feeding women, infants of up to six months and the elderly.

Activity 1

The funds allocated by the German Government/German Red Cross carried out the following activities:

Site	Date	Item	Qty	Persons/Families
St Louis*	26 – Dec - 2003	Rice	36,000 kg	3,000 / 500
		Sleeping mats	3,000 pieces	3,000 / 500
Matam	1 to 15 – Jan - 2004	Rice	137,000 kg	11,416 / 1,903
		Sleeping mats	5,800 pieces	5,800 / 967
		Iron sheets	7,200 pieces	-- / 400
		Nails	500 kg	- / 400

* Saint-Louis lost only crops to the calamity.

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Activity 2

The funds allocated by the German Government/German Red Cross carried out the following activities:

Site	Date	Item	Qty	Persons/Families
St Louis	26-Dec-2003	Paracetamol	9,000 tabs	
		Fansidar	2,250 tabs	
		Mosquito nets	3,000 pieces	3,000 / 500
Matam	1 to 15-Jan-2004	Paracetamol	20,000 tabs	
		Fansidar	4,578 tabs	
		Mosquito nets	5,500 pieces	5,500 / 917

Progress

The original plan was to distribute the medicines to the local dispensaries in the field, but it was argued that it would have been difficult for the medical staff to report to the Senegalese Red Cross. Consequently, it was decided that the medicine (fansidar and/or paracetamol) will be made available to the local branches for distribution to the patients.

Constraints

The local branches were not ready to let the headquarters run the operation and this caused some problems.

Coordination

The operation in the field was run entirely by the national society except in logistics (the procurement process) and reporting where the Federation offered assistance. The national society demonstrated very good collaboration with the Federation.

Mauritania

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

Progress

The emergency period ended on October 13. The families assisted have now gone back to their homes. An early warning system has been put in place by the national society's volunteers and the communities for alert in case of flooding incidences in future.

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

Progress

With the end of the emergency period, the affected families returned to their homes. Since then dykes have been repaired by the community with coordination of the local committee of the Red Cross. The river has found its normal course again.

Objective 3: To provide impregnated mosquito nets in order to prevent the malaria risks.

Progress

The risk of malaria infection among the affected families has now been reduced. As a matter of fact, they are now carrying out mobilization activities with their neighbors on malaria prevention.

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

Progress

This objective will be reported on in Operations Update no 3.

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

Progress

The local committees of the Mauritania Red Crescent formed brigades of volunteers in the five affected villages : Aleg, Kaedi, Rosso, Tiekane and Atar to sanitize the environment and educate the population on hygiene and sanitation.

Each city council gave or loaned a building to the local committee to accommodate the brigades. Regional health departments participated in preparing the messages. A coaching system has been developed to follow up the teams. The national society is now in the process of designing memorandum of cooperation with *Medicos el Mundo* (Rosso) and Tiekane) and Lutheran world Federation (Kaedi).

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

Progress

- Given the high malnutrition rates in Mauritania, the Italian government donated CHF 387,125 to the national society to carry out a food security operation in the most affected regions of Gorgol and Guidimaka by establishing Community Feeding Centres. The malnutrition rate is estimated at 20.1% and 17.3% among boys and girls aged between 12-23 months respectively, while the general population suffers at the rate of 29.1%. 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 operation update.

Objective 6:1 - Train volunteers in the local committees as nutrition auxiliaries for future centres

Progress

The Mauritania Red Crescent appointed supervisors in Gorgol and Guidimaka to take care of and follow up the future Community Feeding Centres; both supervisors were trained thanks to WFP. The Gorgol supervisor will take care of 15 centres while the Guidimaka supervisor will supervise 10 centres. WFP has demonstrated partnership commitment by training the supervisors and this partnership will go on for years. Under the decentralization process, the supervisors will report to the national society's regional coordinator based in Gorgol.

Objective 6:2 – Create 25 Community Feeding Centres in the targeted zones for children below five years.

Progress

Using a participative approach, the local health community representatives and the two supervisors, accompanied by the regional coordinator, registered, weighed and measured all the children in the targeted villages and also identified the beneficiaries of the programme. A total of 2,000 persons were reached: 1,250 children; 625 boys and 625 girls, and 750 pregnant or lactating women.

The village donated a free place for the centre office and also for a store for the food items. The village commissions have nominated a nutrition assistant and a cook for each Community Feeding Centre. Subsequently, the Mauritanian Red Crescent in collaboration with WFP trained 25 nutrition assistants, one regional coordinator and two supervisors. The 25 feeding centres will receive food items at the end February and will when they will begin the feeding operation for the under-fives.

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Impact

The two projects have had a very big impact in the capacity development of the national society. These activities have attracted several partners who are now establishing their offices. Working with them will improve visibility and the credibility of the national society. They include: WFP and FAO (both dealing with food security), UNICEF (dealing with vaccination), the city council (dealing with hygiene and sanitation) and Medicos Mundos, MSF, FLM (all dealing with community health).

Niger

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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, Tilaberim, Maradi, Tahoua, Zinder and Agadez for one month. The assistance is consisting in the distribution of food (millet) and blankets.

Progress

An evaluation mission had been carried out in Madoua region to investigate the extent of the flooding and also identify the victims and then establish a plan of action. After negotiations with the administrative authorities, the technical members of the Red Cross and the concerned population, the assessment team revealed the following information:

That the flooding that happened between June and July led to destroyed farms, homes and killed animals resulting in food insecurity and problems related to weather changes especially for children and the aged people (*See table below*). The Niger Red Cross intends to assist the affected population with the funds given by the Federation.

Table 1: Damages Registered

Affected villages	Families affected	Family size	Area flooded	Houses destroyed	Wells destroyed	Animals lost	Granaries destroyed
Gandassamou	64	501	-	24	-	2 cattle	14
Takorka	91	1256	22	235	-	5 cattle	15
Tsarataoua	78	638	110	87	-	-	8
Karamey	26	239	32	6	-	9 sheep + 1 cattle	-
Leyma	90	970	35	112	1	-	-
Tsamia	35	-	64	-	-	-	-
Total	384	3604	263	464	1	17	45

*263 hectares of land flooded *510 houses destroyed

Objective 1: Ensure food security for 2,108 persons for three months.

The government gave 50 tonnes of maize; Gandassamou received 30 tons.

Objective 2: Distribute blankets to 320 families.

Progress

Takoka received 20 tons of maize from the government and 72 mosquito nets. Harvest was very good.

TABLE 2: Affected villages and the needs

Villages	Affected Families	No Of Persons	Distance	Quantity	Blankets
Takoka	91	1,256	35	-	273
Tsaratoua	78	638	45	23 tonnes	234
Karamey	26	239	70	8.5 tonnes	88
Leyma	90	970	25	35 tonnes	300
Dama- Tsamia	35	261	35	9.5 tonnes	105
Total	320	3364	245	76 tonnes	1,000

Cameroon

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Two Participating National Societies (PNS), namely, the Japanese Red Cross and the Finnish Red Cross each contributed CHF 26,000 and CHF 10,000 respectively. The initial cost of the Appeal was 81, 583 CHF, but budget was revised based on these two promises to CHF 36, 831.

At the beginning of the operation, the Cameroon Red Cross took part in the burial of corpses in Magha and distributed five first aid kits to the village medical officer and ten blankets to some widows.

The Federation's regional office for Central Africa in Yaoundé donated 125 blankets to the victims in Magha on 15 August and on 2 September in Njen-Kon, Olurunti, Egbeachuk while the Cameroon Red Cross supplied food and non-food items to the vulnerable.

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Table 1: Distribution of food and non-food items

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	180	625	-	10
Njen & Kon	60	630	630	570	90	90	-	1,500	10
Olurunti & Egbeachuck	45	405	405	252	67.5	54	-	1,485	08
Sabri, Soh, Bako Nyebia	45	225	225	207	90	1,12.5	-	1,485	08
Total	250 (1600 b)	2,510	2,510	1,809	427.5	436.5	626	4,470	36

Tab. 2: Distribution of non-food and water purification tablets

Locality	Number of families	Impregnated mosquito nets	Water purification tablets (Piece)
Magha	60	65	2,000
Njen & Kon	50	50	1,500
Olurunti	45	45	1,250
Sabri, Soh, Bako & Nyeba	40	40	1,250
Total	195	200	6,000

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A second phase of operation took place from the 5 to 24 December 2003.

Objective

- Organize the population by training them on first-aid, community based health education and prevention of epidemics;
- Donate intervention and sanitation materials.

Activities carried out

The Cameroon Red Cross received CHF 11,487 for implementing the second phase of this operation.

Table 1: Trained volunteers

Locality	Number of volunteers	Number of trainers involved
Magha	22	02
Njen & Kon	23	02
Olorunti & Egbeachuk	22	02
Sabri, Soh, Bako Nyebia	24	02
Total	93	08

Tab. 2: Intervention and Sanitation materials

Locality	Well barrow	Cutlass and hoe	First-aid kit	Apron	Glove	Helmet	Stretcher
Magha	03	20	03	15	10	05	04
Njen & Kon	03	20	03	15	10	05	04
Olorunti & Egbeachuck	03	20	03	15	10	05	04
Sabri,Soh, Bako & Nyebia	03	20	03	15	10	05	04
Total	12	80	12	60	40	20	16

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

APPEAL No. 20/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

06/04/2004

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	