

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

West Africa: Floods Focus on Burkina Faso

Emergency Appeal No. MDR61002

*GLIDE nos. FL-2007-000153-GHA,
FL-2007-000158-TGO
and FL-2007-000132-BFA*

10 January 2008

Operations Update no. 6

Period covered: 30 October – 30 November 2007.

Appeal target: CHF 3,922,365 (USD 3.2m or EUR 2.3m) for the entire appeal; the Burkina Faso budget component is CHF 2,505,722 (USD 2.1m or EUR 1.4m).

Appeal coverage: fully covered.

Remaining needs for Burkina Faso: none.
<[Click here for the donor response report](#)>

Targeted beneficiaries: 1,253 households in Burkina Faso.

Appeal history:

- [Preliminary Emergency Appeal](#) for Ghana was launched on 17 September 2007 for CHF 1.47 million for 6 months to assist 60,000 people.
- [Revised Preliminary Emergency Appeal](#) was issued on 18 September 2007 for CHF 2.5 million to assist some 82,000 people in Ghana and Togo for 6 months.
- [Revised Appeal \(focus on Burkina Faso\)](#) was issued on 2 October for CHF 2.9 million (USD 2.5 million or EUR 1.7 million) to assist 94,825 beneficiaries in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo for 6 months.

Summary: The Burkina Faso Red Cross Society (BFRCS), with the support of the International Federation, completed the emergency phase and the planned Red Cross relief activities have been carried out with partners, including the French Embassy, Plan International, UNICEF, the Government (through various structures such as CONASUR, COPROSUR) and other local organizations (ODE, ACCEDES). Training of Red Cross volunteers has been conducted related to health and hygiene education sensitization.

A core Federation team provided support to the national societies of flood-affected countries, including Burkina Faso, in implementing immediate relief operations and mid-term recovery and shelter activities. In addition to the Togo-based team (comprised of an operations manager, an RDRT watsan specialist and an RDRT logistics), the operation was also supported by a main coordination team which is based at the Federation's West Coast Sub-Zone Office in Lagos.



NFI distribution combined with sensitizing session in Bama (Houet)

Background

During the months of August and September 2007, the West Africa region was hit by severe flooding following heavy rains. There was considerable loss in terms of houses, with crops and farmland washed away and food stocks destroyed. This situation has increased the vulnerability of the affected populations. Burkina Faso, like several other countries in the region, was severely affected with approximately 7,680 persons affected, among which 2,560 were displaced. To respond to the emergency needs of flooding victims, the Burkina Red Cross reacted promptly since the beginning in coordination with its local committees and through its National Disaster Response Team (NDRT). Among the most affected provinces are: Kourittenga, Banwa, Soum, and Sanguié. After preliminary assessments the BFRCS realized its limited capacities and called for assistance. The International Federation provided financial, technical and logistic support as well as other partners in order to assist 1,253 affected households, a total of 7,680 persons.

Once floodwaters receded, the affected populations started recovery, with efforts focused on food security, shelter (rehabilitation), health and water and sanitation.

Operational developments

With the emergency relief phase completed, efforts during the reporting period focused on recovery including distribution of food rations since field crops were completely wiped out by the floods. The Burkina Red Cross Society and its local committees, with the Federation's support, ensured continued assistance to flooding victims in the affected provinces of Kourittenga, Banwa, Soum, and Sanguié through volunteers mobilized and trained for the operation. Trained volunteers in provincial committees have been engaged in the distribution of emergency relief items in the concerned communities of the four provinces representing 1,253 households among a total population of 7,680 persons. The BFRCS received financial support from the Federation and from the French Embassy in Burkina Faso, allowing the purchase of NFI and hygiene and kitchen kits distributed by Red Cross volunteers to flood-affected populations. Sensitizing and visibility activities were also carried out.

The financial support from the French Embassy was vital, and used to purchase 8,243 impregnated mosquito nets to assist some 4,121 households (2 nets per household). Some 2,411 households were reached in the four provinces (two nets per household), with the remaining nets transferred to the Red Cross warehouse as emergency stock which will be used for the next phase of distribution planned during the recovery period.

The International Federation's financial support allowed the BFRCS to provide the following to the flood-affected population: 2,400 sleeping mats, 2,400 blankets, kitchen kits (comprised of buckets, ladles, skimmers, cooking pots, and plastic bowls), and hygiene kits (comprised of soap, bath sponges, bath towels, and sachets of OMO detergent).

The Government of Burkina Faso through its Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity and with the support of local partners provided assistance to flooding victims in the four provinces by distributing food and non-food items including:

- In Kourittenga: 15 mt of Rice, 6 mt of corn, 5 mt of dates, 400 blankets, 400 sleeping mats, 250 plastic buckets, 6 boxes of soap and 4 bales of used clothes, as well as medicine in Kourittenga provided by COPROSUR;
- In Banwa: 4q mt of corn 41, 150 sleeping mats, 3 bales of used clothes and 190 tarpaulins provided by CONASUR and ACCEDES;
- In Sanguie and Soum, 97 mt of various cereals, 27.2 mt of corn, 4.1 mt of sorghum, 1 mt of millet, 4.9 mt of rice, 249 kg of dates, 70kg of biscuits, 553 mosquito nets, 85 buckets, 130 dishes, 19 boxes of soap, 20 torches, 24 oil lamps, 66 cups, 110 jerricans, 9 bales of used clothes, 446 blankets, 474 sleeping mats, 100 lts vegetable oil, and 1,976 kg of fish provided by ODEE.

Most of the food and NFIs provided by the government through the Ministry have been distributed in the province of Kourittenga which was the first affected and where access was easier while the other provinces suffered destroyed roads and bridges. Banwa was the last province where humanitarian assistance was delivered because the roads were still difficult to access and trucks were unavailable. Banwa is known as the main experimental rice-growing area. The goods provided by the government supported by local partners have been distributed by Red Cross volunteers in the four provinces.

UNICEF intervened in Kourittenga Province, providing NFIs in the form of 100 blankets, 156 torch lights, 148 torch batteries R20, and 50 sleeping mats. PLAN International in Burkina Faso provided food and NFIs in the

form of 60mt of corn, 21mt of rice, 600 blankets, 600 sleeping mats, 900 torches, 839 buckets, and 2,884 pieces of soap, 27 bales of used clothes, medicines and mosquito nets.

Concerning watsan activities, the BFRCS, with the support of the Federation, is also working closely with OXFAM to elaborate a joint project related to the implementation of WatSan-related activities which will include cleaning-out and rehabilitation of water points, construction of new water points and latrines in the seven provinces of Lorum, Houet, Leraba, Kourittenga, Sanguie, Soum and Banwa

Recovery activities are foreseen to be implemented between January and April 2008. Assessment of future needs revealed that priorities concern food support, agricultural inputs in order to encourage off season farming, rebuilding shelter and rehabilitation of water points. Preliminary activities to be developed will be focused on sensitizing of communities (IEC to be conducted in the 7 provinces), rebuilding shelters in Lorum, Houet, Leraba, and supporting women groups in implementing income generating activities in the provinces of Kourittenga, Sanguie, Soum and Banwa.

The National Society is working on a joint plan of action with the Spanish Red Cross including training of volunteers and community leaders on risk reduction, early warning system, evacuation plan in Bama (Houet), Bahn (Lorun), and Duna (Leraba) which were the first and most flood-affected departments. Community based trainings are planned for Lorum, Leraba and Houet. These activities are funded by ECHO through the Spanish Red Cross.

During this recovery phase agricultural tools (hoes, hacks and watering cans) and items (seeds, fertilizers) will be distributed in the provinces of Kourittenga, Sanguie, Soum and Banwa as well as material for shelter construction which will be distributed in Lorum, Leraba and Houet for an approximate value of Euros 210,000 funded by ECHO through the Spanish Red Cross.

Some 360 households have been targeted for the recovery phase and will receive 10 to 12 cement bags, tool kits (shovels, pikes, brick moulds), steel sheets, timber frames, metallic windows and metallic doors.

The International Federation financial support has also enabled the BFRC to hire new staff for the operation comprising 1 DM Assistant, 1 Head of the warehouse and 4 supervisors to support the DM team in place.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Emergency relief

Objective: To provide essential food and non-food relief items to 1,253 vulnerable flood-affected households in Burkina Faso.

Progress: During the month of November, Red Cross relief activities carried out focused on relief and food for the four most affected provinces of Korittenga, Sanguie, Soum and Banwa with a total of 7,680 persons. During the distribution the coordination team and BFRCS worked in close cooperation with the Government, UNICEF, PLAN Burkina and other local partners in order to cover the needs of the 1,253 flood-affected households.

The following relief items have been distributed by BFRCS volunteers in the four most affected provinces:

PROVINCES	Number of beneficiaries		NFIs distributed				
	Target Households	Number of Households reached	Kitchen Kits	Sleeping Mats	Blankets	Hygiene Kits	Partner
TOTAL	1,253	1,304	1,179	2,266	2,186	1,165	IFRC
1 Kourittenga	381	381	375	830	750	375	<i>IFRC</i>
2 Sanguié	222	243	243	404	404	228	IFRC
3 Soum	230	229	225	434	434	215	IFRC
4 Banwa	420	451	336	598	598	347	IFRC

NFI distributed by BFRCS and provided by the French Embassy in the four provinces

PROVINCES	Number of beneficiaries		NFIs distributed				Partner
	Target Households	Number of Households reached	Impregnated Mosquito Nets				
			Number of Women	Number of Children 0-15 years			
			Men	Women			
TOTAL	1,253	1,304	2,958	4,552	4,408	2,411	
1 Kourittenga	381	381	844	1,000	985	762	French Emb.
2 Sanguie	222	243	479	826	730	349	French Emb.
3 Soum	230	229	466	976	1151	460	French Emb.
4 Banwa	420	451	1,169	1,750	1,542	840	French Emb.

These tables show that in Sanguie and Banwa the number of households reached is slightly more than the number of assessed and targeted, therefore NFIs did not cover the entire households because there was more than planned by the Red Cross. However, some of the beneficiaries with the approval of local authorities decided to share the quantities of goods distributed with other non-assessed victims, which had a bearing on the number of items received by households. This displayed the solidarity between affected communities.

Food and NFIs distributed in collaboration with the BFRCS from the other partners in the 4 Provinces

QUANTITIES DISTRIBUTED PER PROVINCES BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS								
PARTNERS	KOURITTENGA			BANWA		SANGUIE	SOUM	
	GOVERNMENT + COPROSUR	UNICEF	PLAN BURKINA	ACCEDES	CONASUR	GOV. + ODEE	GOVERNMENT	ODEE
FOOD ITEMS				11,000 Kg	30,000 Kg			97,000 Kg
Corn	15,000 kg		60,000Kg			5,500 Kg	27,200 Kg	
Rice	6,000 Kg		21,000 Kg			1,000 Kg	4,900 Kg	
Dates	5,000 Kg						249 Kg	
Sorghum	1,000 Kg						4,100 Kg	
Millet							5,000 Kg	
Biscuits							70	
Oil								100 litres
Fish								1,976 Kg
NON-FOOD ITEMS								
Blankets	400	100	600			15	145	301
Jerrycan							110	
Sleeping Mats	400	50	600	50	100		174	300
Cups	300						66	
Dishes							130	
Buckets	250		839				85	
Empty Cans							27	
Bales of used clothes	04		27	03			09	
Soaps	Box 06		2884				Box 19	
Torches		156	900				20	
Oil lamps							24	
Battery R20		148						
Mosquito nets			PM				253	300
Medicines	200,000F.CFA		PM					
Tarpaulins				50	140			

Health

Objective: To prevent the outbreak of epidemics and water borne diseases in the four most flood affected provinces of Kourittenga, Sanguie, Soum and Banwa.

Progress: Watsan activities started with the BFRCS volunteers training on health and hygiene education and sensitizing sessions have been conducted in the 4 concerned provinces under the supervision of the Red Cross Health supervisors. Through door to door, focus group and media sensitizing sessions have been conducted with more than 400,000 persons reached. About 210 Red Cross volunteers were mobilized and trained by the Red Cross health supervisors in order to provide health and hygiene education sensitization sessions.

Health and watsan priorities of the National Society in the next four months will include rehabilitation of wells, installation of water pumps, and construction of family latrines. Additionally, the Burkina Faso Red Cross will conduct sensitization sessions on the knowledge of Red Cross Movement's principles and values, field assessment and methods of distribution, code of conduct and management of information supported by the International Federation. The related activities will concern knowledge of communities, of diarrhoea diseases, of water drinkable and cleaning of environment and latrines.

Food

Objective: To distribute food items to flooding victims in the provinces of Kourittenga, Sanguie, Soum and Banwa.

Progress: The food distribution has been completed by the BFRCS with food items provided to the four most affected provinces by the Government of Burkina Faso supported by local partners and PLAN International Burkina. Food items have been distributed by Red Cross volunteers.

The Government of Burkina Faso through its Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity and with the support of local partners (COPROSUR in Kourittenga, CONASUR and ACCEDES in Banwa, ODEE in Sanguie and Soum) provided assistance to flooding victims in the four provinces by distributing food and non-food

PLAN International in Burkina Faso provided food and NFIs through COPROSUR including: corn 60,000Kg and rice 21,000Kg. Food items provided by the government supported by local partners and Plan Burkina have been distributed by Red Cross volunteers in the four provinces.

Challenges/constraints: the implementation of relief activities was difficult in some provinces, especially in Kourittenga where each of the 381 households should now have received 2 sleeping mats, 2 blankets, 2 mosquito nets, 1 kitchen kit and 1 hygiene kit.

In the province of Banwa, accessibility was a real challenge during the distributions since roads and bridges had been destroyed by floodwaters. The Red Cross team was obliged to rent a warehouse in the area. With the difficult transport, distribution was delayed by a week. This lack of transportation also affected Red Cross supervisors.

Coordination and partnerships

The humanitarian sector has since been mobilised, collaborating with the Red Cross Movement and among the actors intervening in Burkina Faso including the national society, the Federation, UNICEF, PLAN International in Burkina, OXFAM and the Government through its Ministry of Social Actions and National Solidarity and a local NGO, ODEE (Evangelic Churches Organization for Development),. The Red Cross continues to assist flood affected persons in close cooperation with its partners.

Through a collaborative approach most actors coordinated activities with a complementary approach whereby most partners worked with the BFRCS in the operations.

Weekly working group meeting and joint missions are held under the coordination of OCHA together with the Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity where humanitarian actors, local and international NGOs and the Red Cross Movement seat to discuss their weekly plan and reports.

The continuity of the operation is insured by the BF Red Cross, the coordination team and the Togo Red Cross in close collaboration with the Federation's West Coast Sub-Zone Office in Lagos.

Communications- Advocacy and public information

The Federation's West and Central Africa Zone information delegate, together with his BFRCS counterpart provided updated information to the public and media through web stories and interviews of floods victims and distribution of food and NFI. The BFRCS communication officer will continue to profile and increase the visibility of the BFRCS by traveling to the affected areas, documenting the distribution process, witnessing the interaction between Red Cross staff/volunteers and beneficiaries, and producing relevant articles and photographs.

The Federation logo is prominently displaced on NFI for visibility. Local media have been invited to join the Red Cross team during distributions and key messages have been delivered during sensitizing sessions through local radios.

A post-distribution evaluation is being conducted by Red Cross volunteers in order to assess the covered needs and measure the impact of distribution of food and NFIs against the vulnerability of communities in affected provinces.

The in-country team will work in close collaboration with the Federation's West Coast Sub-Zone office in Lagos and the communications team at the Federation's West and Central Africa Zone office in Dakar to ensure regular profiling of the Red Cross and sharing of information on progress.

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the National Society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The International Federation's activities are carried out under its **Global Agenda**, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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