

# Operations update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Burkina Faso: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRBF008  
GLIDE n° FL-2009-000172-BFA  
Operations update n° 3  
21 January, 2009

Period covered by this update: 24  
December to 08 January, 2010.

Appeal target (current): CHF 3,500,000 (USD  
3.3m or Eur 2.3m)

The operation has been extended by one  
month and will be completed by the end of  
March 2010.

A final Report will be made available by  
June 2010 (three months after the end of  
operation).

The budget has been increased to include  
the recovery phase of reconstruction in line  
with the latest government strategy in  
relocating most of the flood victims of  
permanent green land sites on the outskirts  
of Ouagadougou City where most of the  
infrastructure is to be provided.



Yagma: Distribution of shelter kits

Appeal coverage: 81%; [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

### Appeal history:

- This Preliminary Emergency Appeal was initially launched on 9 September 2009 for CHF 2.765,053 million for six months to assist 8,000 families.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 200,000** was initially allocated on a regional basis to support the National Society to respond.
- Two Operations Updates were issued: the first on 21 September 2009, and the second on 28 September 2009. Both focused on the findings of Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) and Emergency Response Units (ERUs).
- A revised Appeal was issued on 23 December 2009, seeking **CHF 3,500,000 (USD 3.3m or Eur 2.3m)** in cash, kind or services.

**Summary:** Unprecedented rainfall of 1 September in Ouagadougou left more than 150,000 people affected with nearly two thirds of them made homeless. Initially, the affected sought refuge in temporary shelter in schools and public sites. The Burkina Red Cross Society (BRCS) responded immediately by mobilising its volunteers from the initial assessment phase all through to the implementation of the relief operation.

After the completion of the assessment phase and the revision of the initial plan of action, BRCS, with the support of the International Federation which include both FACT and ERU, carried out the relief phase 1 and 2 of its operation. These phases consisted in distributing Non-Food Items (NFIs), installing sanitations facilities and supporting the relocation of beneficiaries in the temporary shelter on sites provided by the government.

The operation also reinforced the water distribution network and the promotion of hygiene activities. The implementation over the reporting period faced delays due to changes in the government's strategy and the BRCS had to adjust to this in its auxiliary role. There has been steady progress in terms of results despite some confusion at the early stages among agencies due not only to the complexity of the disaster affecting an urban setting and the local authorities taking a lead and not allowing independent action.

During the emergency phase, BRCS, the International Federation and Movement partners including ICRC distributed basic NFIs consisting of kitchen sets, jerry cans, blankets, hygiene kits, sleeping mats, soap, and mosquito nets to some 3,900 families. Continuous hygiene promotion and provision of sanitation facilities in the alternative sites consisting of over 100 rapid latrines enabled to contain waterborne disease with no related outbreak or epidemics.

Following the emergency phase which ended in November, the operation is now focused on the recovery phase. The Burkina Faso government has opted for a strategy which consists of transferring the affected people from the temporary sites to more permanent sites in order to vacate schools for students and public buildings. These sites had to be closed in mid October and approximately 4,500 families moved to the alternative sites and are housed in tents or temporary shelters. Currently these sites are also to be evacuated. According to the statistics provided by the government, 24,000 affected families of which 14,000 are from flood risk zones need to move to relocation sites in Yagma and Bassinko area in the outskirts of Ouagadougou and 10,000 that will rebuild on their former property.

Priority is given to the 4,500 families to locate in these identified sites and the operation is expected to last for three weeks. After the registration, the families will receive official papers for the plot, direct distribution of materials, 1.5 tons of cement and corrugated iron sheets and 50,000 CFA in cash. This assistance will also be extended to those affected and living with host families. The transfer and installation of affected people on the new sites is expected to be completed by March 2010. There is however a challenge over access to water for construction and human consumption therefore requiring the drilling of boreholes for water supply on the relocation site.

The increased budget takes into account the necessary work to cover the flood affected populations' potable water needs and other inputs to prepare the relocation sites to welcome the beneficiaries. The two other groups of beneficiaries consist of affected families, on the one side, that own their land and that are to reconstruct in their former plots but lack the means and the others are former tenants who must again rent homes and have temporarily lost their livelihood activities. For these, the government has initiated a distribution of cash grants representing at least two months of rent to the most vulnerable households.

In addition to the support provided by the International Federation and the ICRC, the flood operation has received support from the British, Canadian, Finnish, Japanese, Monaco, Netherlands, Spanish, Swedish, Swiss, Belgian and the BENELUX Red Cross Societies, as well as the German embassy and cooperation, French embassy, ECHO and OPEC funds.

## The situation

Following severe rains on 1 September when 263mm fell in 12 hours, widespread displacement occurred within an around Ouagadougou (Greater Ouagadougou) , affecting all five districts. The affected population were lodged in public facilities such as schools and other public buildings while host families welcomed others. With the school starting there was a need to relocate the displaced people to alternative resettlement sites.

The Burkina Faso government has set up a programme for relocating the displaced 14,000 families to new permanent sites in two phases. The first one targets 3,751 families which are now living in the alternative sites. This is being done in three steps: the first is allocating a plot to the registered families with the plot's documents; the second is to provide them with some building materials including 30 bags of cement, 20 iron corrugated sheets and timber; the third is with an additional start of 50,000 CFA given per family for the reconstruction of their new homes. Priority is given to relocated family land owners with land located in now unauthorised locations to rebuild in the new sites. For the tenants, a two months' rent support is given to families upon departure from the temporary sites.

Each site for the relocated families is managed by the Communal Authorities and the employees of the Social Welfare Services while security and protection is provided by municipal Police. A formal set-up was put in place

with an infirmary located in a UNICEF tent and MSF providing a mobile clinic. There are also warehouse tents for food and firewood/charcoal distributions; water is provided by the municipal water board (there is no water storage system); latrines and showers have been built with concrete blocks. The sanitary facilities on the sites are insufficient; the tent capacity ranges from 8 people to 30 people in a tent.

**National Society Capacity Building:** Since 2007 the Burkinabe Red Cross Society has benefited from the support of the International Federation within the framework of floods preparedness, early warning/early action, in the form of training, visibility and provision of security materials. Throughout these previous operation, the operational capacities of BRCS have been enhanced following the (learning by doing) approach. The BRCS has extensive experience in responding to flood-related disasters relief operations and social mobilization during health epidemics.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

### Progress towards objectives

The BRCS mobilized its teams of volunteers to assist the affected communities and undertook activities to prevent the outbreak of water related diseases. With a Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT) to support the assessment and coordination effort, the national Society has worked and reinforced the regional disaster response team (RDRT) members already in place Simultaneously, two Emergency Response Unit ( ERUs) were deployed for relief and logistics With the support of the French Embassy, BRCS volunteers have distributed hygiene kits, kitchen sets and water sanitation for 1.000 families on the Hippodrome sites and with an in-kind donation from German Embassy and German cooperation of a further 1,000 kitchen kits.

#### Relief distribution (Food and basic non-food items)

**Objective1: (emergency -0 to 3 months): To ensure that up to 4,000 flood affected families that are in temporary emergency centres (public buildings) or alternative sites receive the basic non-food items and supplies.**

##### Activities planned

- Mobilize volunteers, train and conduct assessment
- Make a list of the most vulnerable
- Acquire and transport 4.000 non-food items (NFI) set to Ouagadougou, transport to warehouse
- Prepare distribution plans
- Set up teams for distribution and train the teams
- Establish requisition in accordance with distribution plans
- Transport to distribution sites
- Distribute NFI
- Monitor , document and report on distribution activities
- Evaluate activities and ensure adequate reporting

The distribution activities are still going on in some arrondissements such as Boulimougou and Nongrema-ssom where 737 households (3,653 people) have been recorded. Each beneficiary has received: two plastic sleeping mat, two blankets, one kitchen set, one bucket, one mosquito net, one jerry can and one piece of soap (see table below).

Items	Quantity
blanket	1,474
Plastic sleeping mat	1,474
Mosquito Nets	578
Kitchen set	737
Jerry cane	737
Bucket	737
Soap (1kg)	737

Thirty (30) volunteers of the BRCS are organizing the distribution of 4,176 hygiene kits on the basis of one hygiene kit per family of 5 people to be used for one month. Each hygiene kit is composed as described in the table below:

Items	Quantity
Powder of dish soap (1kg)	03
Cleaning cloth	02
Toilet soap (100g)	12 pieces
Tooth paste (75ml)	05
Tooth Brush (medium)	05
Plastic kettle	02
Gillette razor	05
Hygienic cotton (ladies )	08 pieces

## Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

**Overall Objective (4 months – September to December: Integrated approach with health objectives):** The needs of the affected population are adequate for safe water supply, sanitation (especially excreta disposal), solid waste disposal, drainage, vector control and hygiene promotion to SPHERE/WHO standards to contain and reduce morbidity and mortality while restoring dignity.

**Objective 1: The risk of waterborne diseases has been reduced through the provision of non-food items to the most vulnerable (8,000 households, i.e. 40,000 people. Cf. Relief Section Objectives).**

### Activities planned

Ø **Distribute jerry cans, soap, buckets, and disinfection products;**

- The 15 watsan volunteers were supporting the Relief sector in the distribution of family kits with the distribution of approximately 5,500 jerry cans; 3,262 kg of soap; and 5,500 buckets. More soap and buckets for hand washing were bought in town and distributed in the six alternative sites where the BRCS watsan volunteers were intervening;
- Hygiene Promotion and Community Participatory sessions were conducted in parallel with the distribution in those sites;
- Latrine and shower cleaning and disinfection materials are distributed twice a month.

Ø **Actively participate in the WASH cluster and CONASUR meetings, advocate for the Red Cross and report WASH cluster strategy and action to the IFRC technical and operational management;**

- Weekly and Emergency WASH Cluster meetings were actively attended by the BRCS Watsan Programme Manager together with the IFRC Watsan Delegate;

Ø **Monitor and evaluate the watsan activities and provide reporting;**

- These have been achieved in the six alternative sites where BRCS was the WASH leader; in the new relocation site of YAGMA these activities are in progress. Reporting is regularly and timely provided.

**Objective 2: The risk of waterborne diseases has been reduced through the sufficient and uninterrupted provision of potable water to the most vulnerable flood-affected households through the provision of water tanks and bladder in the Alternative sites (minimum of 5,000 people).**

### Activities planned

Ø **Strengthen the capacity of BRCS volunteers with training in emergency water supply, sanitation and water treatment;**

- Training session in emergency water supply was conducted on site in the so-called sites "Hippodrome" and "Wittoghin", with construction, connection to the city water supply lines and maintenance of three (3) emergency Rigid Water Tanks of 10,000 litres each with distribution network and emergency tap stands;
- Various training sessions have been organized with the 15 watsan volunteers: the erection and maintenance of 100 emergency Rapid Latrines, 64 temporary showers and 12 permanent showers; the disinfection of latrine cabins and pits using chlorine products; the use of pulverizing equipment for vector control activities; the drainage patterns of surface water; and solid waste management in the camps. Training was also conducted on the construction of 300 Sanplat latrine slabs for the affected populations;
- Training in water quality analysis and water treatment is planned for early 2010.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ø <b>Deploy the water and sanitation Kit 5 (5,000 people);</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As mentioned above, three (3) emergency Rigid Water Tanks of 10,000 litres each with three emergency tap stands for the distribution and construction of water collection points.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ø <b>Position bladder and tanks in the sites;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This has been done for three tanks in two sites, the bladder was not used and is still available</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ø <b>Monitor and evaluate the watsan activities and ensure reporting.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting is regularly and timely provided.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective 3: The risk of waterborne diseases has been reduced through the construction of family pit latrines and showers for about 10,000 people.</b></p>
<p><b>Activities planned</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ø <b>Strengthening the capacity of 14 volunteers of BRCS in assembling latrines and showers;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers were trained to disassemble, wash latrine components and disinfect latrine and shower pits.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ø <b>Deployment of Kit 5 (includes moulds for pit latrines);</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Except for the water testing and treatment items, most of the watsan kit 5 were used in the field;</li> <li>• Deployment of 50 double rapid latrines (100 latrines).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ø <b>Construction of 300 reinforced concrete slabs to be given to the most vulnerable people while their latrines are being built in the relocation sites</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the end of December 2009, a total of 204 reinforced concrete latrine slabs were constructed;</li> <li>• One hundred (100) of these slabs are under construction (January 2010)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ø <b>Construction of 300 temporary showers during the reinstallation time in the relocation sites;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned for January 2010;</li> <li>• Some 150 tarpaulins of 6m x 4m (to be cut in two parts) will be given to the beneficiaries with instructions for them to construct temporary showers and drainage.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ø <b>Monitor and evaluate the watsan activities and provide reporting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In progress. Reporting will be regularly and timely provided.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective 4: The risk of waterborne diseases has been reduced through vector control and waste disposal for about 8,000 families (40,000 people).</b></p>
<p><b>Activities planned</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ø <b>Strengthen the capacity of volunteers of BRCS in proper usage and installation of mosquito nets;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Done with practise in the old sites and in progress in YAGMA, by the watsan and health supervisors and the IFRC watsan delegate;</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ø <b>Distribute mosquito nets to 8,000 families</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (see Relief Objective)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ø <b>Sensitize and teach population in the proper use and installation of mosquito nets;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being done by the watsan hygiene promotion team and the health team, twice a week</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ø <b>Strengthen the capacity of volunteers of BRCS through training in disinfection techniques and use of pulverizing equipment;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Done and regularly repeated in the sites, twice a month</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ø <b>Vector control equipment deployed as part of (Kit 5);</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Done, as above</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ø <b>Disinfect latrines and shower stalls in alternative sites;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Done and regularly repeated in the sites, twice a month</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ø <b>Acquire/make waste bins for alternative sites;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of 30 waste bins were made, painted with Red Cross logo; 26 of them have been installed in the old sites;</li> <li>• A total of 20 grease traps were fabricated for the kitchen in the alternative sites</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ø <b>Monitor and evaluate the watsan activities and ensure reporting.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In progress; Reporting will be regularly and timely provided</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective 5: The risk of waterborne diseases has been reduced through sensitization on good hygiene practices to the most vulnerable flood-affected population in alternative sites (integrated approach with Health Objectives) to about 57,000 displaced people.</b></p>

### Activities planned

- Ø **Strengthen the capacity of volunteers of BRCS in good hygiene practices;**
  - Training in Community Participatory methodology (PHAST) has been conducted for 15 volunteers by Hygiene Promotion experts in November 2009; this was done in two workshops of one week each; practice was developed in eight alternative sites.
- Ø **Locally produce IEC materials (included in Kit 5) and sensitization communication materials;**
  - PHAST materials included in the Kit 5 were completed by locally produced pictures for sensitization.
- Ø **Sensitize the population on good hygiene and sanitation practices;**
  - This is being done twice a week in the old and new sites.
- Ø **Monitor and evaluate the watsan activities and ensure reporting.**
  - Done by the watsan hygiene promotion team and the health team twice a week

## Emergency shelter

**Overall Objective: To support the families affected by floods in re-establishing their traditional ways of sheltering with improved safety with the shelter-recovery programme, in the most effective and equitable manner considering the scale of needs and the limited resources.**

**Phase 1: To assure that 300 floods affected families that are still in temporary emergency centres or in “alternative sites” or with host families, receive emergency shelter (family tents) or are part of a cash programme to help preserve their live hood to encourage their physical and mental well-being, human dignity and prevent the further deterioration of their situation.**

### Activities planned

- Ø One hundred eighty families (180) are safely sheltered in tents. Out of the 180 tents we have distributed, 63 tents were distributed in two different alternative sites (49 in secteur 26 and 14 in Komsilga Tingandogo). Because the government hasn't allowed the beneficiaries to take their tents with them back home or to the relocation sites and as the people have moved out, the Burkinabe Red Cross has started dismantling the tents. These tents will be stored in the NS warehouse together with the remaining ones. The 180 tents will be kept as part of emergency preparedness tool in case of disaster. Till January 2010, 300 families have received construction materials composed of 28 roof timbers, two bags of cement and two iron sheets for doors. The distribution is ongoing to reach 3,000 targeted families. Training session was held in September on proper set up of the tents.
- Ø One hundred eighty (180) families have received cash to rent a room. The lists have been prepared but it is impossible to date to know who has received help from the government. More than 180 families have been identified; however, to avoid duplication with the government programme, the Red Cross is still waiting for the lists of people who have received the cash grant. Many renters are still in the alternative sites waiting to receive the same amount.
- Ø Beneficiary strategy has been established.
- Ø Most vulnerable families have been identified.
- Ø Agreement with local authorities has been done, but they are unable to provide a list of renters that have received the government grant of CFA 50,000. Discussions are ongoing.
- Ø The cash programme strategy has been elaborated, but not finalized.

**Phase 2: (early recovery) To ensure that 3,000 families that are still in emergency centres or in “alternative sites” or with host families, receive shelter kits to build an emergency shelter in relatives or friends land or to repair their damage houses, complemented with support to start the reconstruction of their houses**

### Activities planned

- Ø After discussions with the government (DGPL), it was approved that the Red Cross was allowed to distribute shelter kits and materials for the transitional phase according to the criteria set by the Red Cross. Priority has to be given to those who are moving from the alternative sites to the relocation sites outside the city (Yagma). Discussions are still ongoing to help those who have to return home (in non-flood risk zone). The idea is to help about 2,000 families on the relocation sites with direct material distributions and help 1,000 others who have to return home with the voucher system. A content and strategy of the voucher/distribution programme has been elaborated. The content of the Assessments have been done in all the alternative sites and distribution activities have started since 26 December, 2009.

- Ø There has been a change in the approach of the voucher system. As all the families that will be targeted in the programme are moving to one relocation site outside the city (where there are no hardware stores), the Red Cross will be purchasing the local materials in bulk and distributing directly to the beneficiaries. The first bulk of local materials will be distributed by week 11<sup>th</sup> of January. Approximately 200 families have received shelter kit and tarpaulins on the relocation sites.
- Ø About 1,576 shelter kits and 6,958 tarpaulins are in stock. A tender was done locally and internationally but as the local prices were too high and the local materials were of poor quality it was decided to purchase them internationally. The remaining kits and tarpaulins have been ordered and are on their way from Las Palmas (Spain).
- Ø In December, shelter trainings have been conducted for 35 volunteers who will be disseminating the knowledge on temporary construction for the targeted communities throughout the distribution period and during monitoring process.

**Constraints**

Distribution activities are going quite slowly as the Red Cross has to wait for the government to provide papers of the plot and the vouchers for materials. It is only afterwards than the Red Cross can provide the transitional shelter solution. Although the requisitions have been signed since beginning of December, we haven't received any CBA regarding purchase of local materials (vouchers).

**Phase 3: (recovery) To ensure that the knowledge on how to build back better is mastered by 400 people before starting the construction of the permanent houses.**

**Activities planned**

Locomat is a local organization with experience in construction with local materials has been identified. Their capacity will be strengthened in the initial phase by Craterre which has been working with both the Federation and Locomat. From 18 to 28 January, a first session of "training of trainers" will be done for 20 participants and the six best participants will be chosen to replicate the programme for 360 masons in February and in early March. The modules for both training sessions are being prepared by Craterre and Locomat. The content of the training is focused on the foundations (combination of practice and theory).

## 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.***

The International Federation's activities are aligned with 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

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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