

NIGERIA: FLOODS

06 April 1999

appeal no. 31/98

situation report no. 2 (Final)

period covered: December 1998 - February 99

The two-phase assistance and rehabilitation plan for victims of the October 1998 flooding along the banks of the Niger River has been successfully completed. The coordinated efforts by the Nigerian Red Cross Society and the Federation proved highly effective, in spite of the constraints encountered, including poor access to the affected area.

The context

During the first two weeks of October, 1998, serious flooding occurred along the banks of the Niger River in Kwara and Niger States. After a period of heavy rainfall, authorities were concerned that the dam structures might be damaged, and were thus obliged to open the dams at Kainji and Jebba to relieve the pressure. This compounded the already serious flooding, displacing over 4,000 people in Kwara State and 4,500 people in Niger State. Ninety-three villages were affected, with many completely submerged. Mud constructed houses were washed away. Livestock, rice, maize and cassava farms were destroyed in this rural area where the majority of people are either farmers or fishermen.

Latest events

During December many of those who were displaced were able to return to their villages and start re-building houses. Although the floods had subsided with the end of the rainy season and the start of the harmattan, the affected population had lost its harvest as well as farming tools and fishing nets.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Phase I:

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, the Kwara State Red Cross Branch mobilised 80 volunteers to assist in the evacuation of people and essential goods from 10-12 October. Second hand

clothes were distributed to the victims. Niger State Branch was able to move into the disaster areas and provide assistance, including health education activities. An assessment of needs was carried out by the National Headquarters Emergency Preparedness Officer from 15-17 October, 1998. Following visits to the affected areas and discussions with villagers as well as State Government and Local Government

officials, a decision was taken to assist 8,500 of the most vulnerable people on both sides of the river in Kwara and Niger States. This primarily consisted of people who had either lost their homes or who had to move away from the flooded areas and were displaced. Their immediate needs included blankets, mats, plastic sheeting, water containers and some food items.

On October 26, the Federation launched an Appeal with two main objectives: the first to provide food and non food relief items to the displaced in the emergency phase as well as to carry out health education activities; the second to assist in the rehabilitation of the affected villages through the purchase and distribution of seedlings and fishing equipment. The Federation immediately released CHF 100,000 from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) for the operation, enabling items to be purchased in Lagos and transported to the two areas.

A first distribution was made in the Pategi Local Government Area (LGA) of Kwara State between 24-27 October 24. While it was difficult reaching some of the affected people because of extensive flooding, small trucks and boats were provided by the Local Government to transport the relief items. Over 4,000 people benefited from the distribution of 3,000 mats, 3,000 blankets, 500 lanterns, 3,000 plates, cups and spoons, 1,000 jerry cans, 20 bales of second hand clothing and 200 bags of rice. The distribution was co-ordinated by the Emergency Preparedness Officer, with assistance from the Kwara State Branch Secretary and 42 volunteers.

A second intervention was made in Niger State between 31 October and 4 November, co-ordinated by the Youth Officer from the National Headquarters, with assistance from the Niger State Branch Secretary and volunteers. Supplies bought through the Federation's DREF were supplemented by those bought with a contribution of USD 50,000 from the Dutch Embassy. This donation enabled an additional 9,000 mats, 2,500 blankets, 3,000 plastic plates, 500 lanterns, 1,000 jerry cans, 20 bales of second hand clothing and 200 bags of rice to be distributed to roughly 80 families in 39 villages.

Phase II:

The second phase of the operation began at the end of December after the flood waters had receded. The Emergency Preparedness Officer, with support from the Kwara branch distributed 500 hoes, 500 cutlasses, 160 packets of fishing line, 1,000 packets of hooks, 80 fishing nets and 50 bags of seedlings of maize, rice and guinea corn to eight communities in the three LGA's which had been affected by the floods. The Kwara State Branch also carried out a health education campaign between January 6 to 19. Ten teams of five volunteers each undertook the work in the three Local Government Areas.

Outstanding needs

At this time there are no outstanding needs.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Nigeria Red Cross staff discussed the situation with State and Local Government officials at regular intervals. Information was shared with Medecins Sans Frontières (MSF) who also carried out assessments of the affected areas. The distribution of items in both Kwara and Niger States was covered in the national press and also on state television. A video of the distribution in Niger State was carried on the NTA network.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

In spite of poor access to the affected area, the Federation and Nigerian Red Cross Society were able to successfully carry out the two principal objectives of the Appeal: to provide immediate assistance to 8,500 people affected by the flooding of the Niger River, and in the rehabilitation phase to assist those who had remained in their damaged houses or who were able to return.

The remaining funds will be used to cover part of the programme outlined in the Emergency Appeal 1999 for Nigeria: Disaster preparedness and response, Relief. This programme comprises activities in DPP as well as the operation in favour of refugees from Sierra Leone and Liberia.

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FEDERATION OF RED
CROSS AND RED CRESCENT
SOCIETIES

Interim Report	
Final Report	X

Appeal No: AP 31/98

Period: 4 months

Currency: CHF

**I - CONSOLIDATED
RESPONSE TO APPEAL:**

Nigeria: Floods

FUNDING	CASH		KIND		OUTSTANDING	TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Reallocations	GOODS SERVICES	PERSONNEL		
Appeal budget less Cash on hands						
TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT	265,500					
<u>Contributions announced by Donors</u>						
Icelandic RC	3,952	(1,349)				2,603
Netherlands RC	18,251					18,251
Norwegian RC	6,457					6,457
Swedish RC	42,750					42,750
British RC/Govt.	143,070					143,070
<u>Disaster Relief Emergency Fund</u>	100,000					100,000
TOTAL	314,480	(1,349)				313,131
Coverage	118.45%					

II - Balance of funds

EXPENDITURE	101,349.85

BALANCE	211,781.33

EXPLANATORY NOTES:

This table provides a global pictures on the funding situation of a specific appeal at a specific time.

The cash column indicates all cash contributions channelled through the Federation. Financial statements to report on these contributions.

The donations in kind (Goods/Services) are registered in a stand-alone system based on the information provided by the Donor itself.

The value of these donations are based on information received by the PNS concerned and will be reported in the consolidated Appeal's report

Direct in cash: more and more, we are in the situation where a PNS wishes to respond to the Appeal but through a bilateral programme pr through