

## Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Republic of Congo: Explosion in Brazzaville

### DREF operation n° MDRCG011 GLIDE n° AC-2012-000035-COG 7 March, 2012

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

**CHF 95,607 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Congolese Red Cross National Society (NS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 1,500 beneficiaries (300 families). Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** On Sunday, 4 March 2012, a fire of unknown origin broke out in the arms depot of the Congolese National Army in Brazzaville, causing a series of blasts that resulted in the devastation of surrounding neighbourhoods, the deaths of 246 people and the injury of more than 1,500 as well as the unplanned displacement of thousands. Reports say hospitals in Brazzaville are overcrowded with wounded people and do not have sufficient capacity to manage them all. The most affected localities include Talangaï, Ouenzé, Mougali and Mfilou subdivisions of Brazzaville where several houses have been destroyed beyond repair, leaving about 10,000 families (i.e. about 50,000 people) homeless. The Congolese Government has appealed to the international community to help them respond to the disaster.



An example of a house that was destroyed in Brazzaville on 04 March 2012 / Photo by Congolese Red Cross

So far, Congolese Red Cross volunteers have been assisting with the transportation of wounded to hospitals and in the collection of dead bodies. This DREF will enable the Congolese Red Cross to carry out an assessment of the situation and to identify a proper response. This emergency phase of the operation is also intended to distribute urgently needed relief items such as blankets, mosquito nets, soap, tarpaulins, clothes and cooking kits to the most vulnerable 300 families (1,500 people) targeted by this operation. Other relief interventions are planned in the areas of assistance with emergency shelter, emergency health, water and sanitation. Among the people affected, there are 1,500 DRC nationals who are among those who have lost their homes and property and are left with no other option other than to return to DRC. This operation is also intended to assist them with family kits, return kits, transport fees, cold meals, blankets, mats and jerry cans.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 04 months, and will therefore be completed by 7 July 2012. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by October 2012). This DREF operation is an initial response, and may be followed by additional action in the form of a DREF extension or emergency appeal.

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view a map of the affected area>](#)

## The situation

On Sunday four March 2012, fire from unknown origin broke out in the arms depot of the Congolese National Army which is located at the armoured regiment, next to the French St Louis Catholic Church, in between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> subdivisions of Brazzaville. The resulting exploding munitions resulted in the devastation of surrounding neighbourhoods, large scale deaths and injuries and the unplanned displacement of thousands. Reports say hospitals in Brazzaville are overcrowded with wounded people and do not have sufficient capacity to manage them all. Most affected people have been transported to the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire (CHU) of Brazzaville, the Hôpital Militaire of Brazzaville, the Makélékélé Hospital, the Marien Ngouabi Integrated Health Centre of Mikalou, and in other health centres yet to be identified. The most affected localities include Talangaï, Ouenzé, Mougali and Mfilou subdivisions of Brazzaville where several houses have been destroyed beyond repair, leaving about 10,000 families (i.e. about 50,000 people ) homeless. Several other material damages have been reported, and the situation in the field remains unclear, and it is difficult to give details with confidence. While the Congolese Government has appealed to the international community to help them respond to the disaster, they have declared some affected areas as inaccessible due to ongoing fires. Displaced families have been oriented temporarily to several sites where they are being registered. The following table summarizes the number of people that had already been registered in 4 sites as of 5 March 2012. Registration continues.

Sites	Number of people registered
<b>Nkombo Market</b> (behind the National TV)	1,230
<b>Sacred Heart Cathedral</b> (city centre)	1,470
<b>Bacongo Notre Dame du Rosaire Catholic Parish</b>	289
<b>Collège Agostino Netto of Talangaï</b> (unofficial site)	More than 500
<b>Total</b>	<b>About 3,489</b>

## Coordination and partnerships

Government has put in place a national crisis unit to manage the situation. Apart from Government and the Red Cross, no other partner has been active in the field since the beginning of the disaster.

Neighbouring DR Congo has deployed 20 medical specialists to Brazzaville, as well as equipment and medication.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Congolese Red Cross has mobilized 200 members (executives, first aid workers and volunteers) who are active in the field, providing assistance to affected people (transport of wounded people to health centres, provision of psychological support, distribution of cold meals, blankets, mats and safe drinking water in the 3 official sites).

Congolese Red Cross officials have been participating in the meetings of the National Crisis Unit put in place by Government. Two Movement meetings have been held at the headquarters of the Congolese Red Cross, with the participation of IFRC Country Representative from Kinshasa, ICRC and the Congolese Red Cross.

The Congolese Red Cross and ICRC have already started restoring family links with a particular focus on reunification of children who have lost contact with their families. A weapons contamination team of ICRC arrived to Brazzaville on 7 March to survey, mark and dispose of unexploded munitions and also conduct safety training for Movement partners and awareness for the population. This is done in coordination with the authorities, the UN and other actors. The ICRC has mobilized 2 vehicles to facilitate the activities of the operation and will support authorities and the CRC in managing mortal remains and providing material support to 6 primary health structures located in proximity to the sites that are hosting IDPs.

## The needs

The beneficiaries of this operation are 300 families (about 1,500 people) identified as the most vulnerable at this time. Among the people affected, these are households that have lost everything. There is an urgent need to conduct a detailed assessment of the situation to have a good understanding of the real needs of all affected. Food and non-food items will be distributed to vulnerable people during this emergency phase. In addition, there is the need to strengthen the operational capacities of the staff of the Congolese Red Cross and provide logistics support to facilitate the implementation of the operation.

## The proposed operation

Emergency shelter and Non-Food Items
<b>Outcome: The immediate sheltering needs of the victims of the blast in Brazzaville are met .</b>
<b>Outputs and activities planned:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.</li><li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.</li><li>• Distribute shelter and household items.</li><li>• Assess the local market, purchase and transport shelter and household items</li><li>• Assist target population in the construction process of emergency shelter</li><li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li><li>• Develop an exit strategy.</li></ul>

Health
<b>Outcome: The adverse effects of the disaster on health of affected population are reduced</b>
<b>Outputs and activities planned:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mobilize 03 vehicles of the Congolese Red Cross, ICRC and IFRC for the transport of victims.</li><li>• Mobilize 07 teams of volunteers and place them in the various sites where affected people are installed.</li><li>• Red Cross volunteers continue to provide First Aid to victims and referral of victims to appropriate Health Facilities.</li></ul>

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## Contact information

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

- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Denis Duffaut, IFRC Central Africa Regional Representative; Office phone: +237 22 21 74 37; Mobile phone: +237 77 11 77 97; email: [denis.duffaut@ifrc.org](mailto:denis.duffaut@ifrc.org)
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- **Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Support; phone: +41.22.730.45 29; email: [christine.south@ifrc.org](mailto:christine.south@ifrc.org)
- **Regional Logistics Unit (RLU):** Ari Mantyvaara Logistics Coordinator, Dubai; phone +971 50 4584872, Fax +971.4.883.22.12, email: [ari.mantyvaara@ifrc.org](mailto:ari.mantyvaara@ifrc.org)

### For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **West and Central Africa hub:** Elisabeth Seck, Resource Mobilization Officer, Dakar; phone: +221 33 869 36 60; mobile: +221 77 450 59 49; email: [elisabeth.seck@ifrc.org](mailto:elisabeth.seck@ifrc.org)

### For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting):

- **IFRC Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER/QA Delegate, Africa phone: +254 731 067277; email: [robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org](mailto:robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org)

## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

[www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

**Saving lives, changing minds.**



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
  2. Enable healthy and safe living.
  3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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# DREF OPERATION

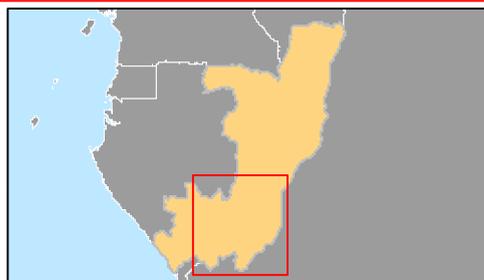
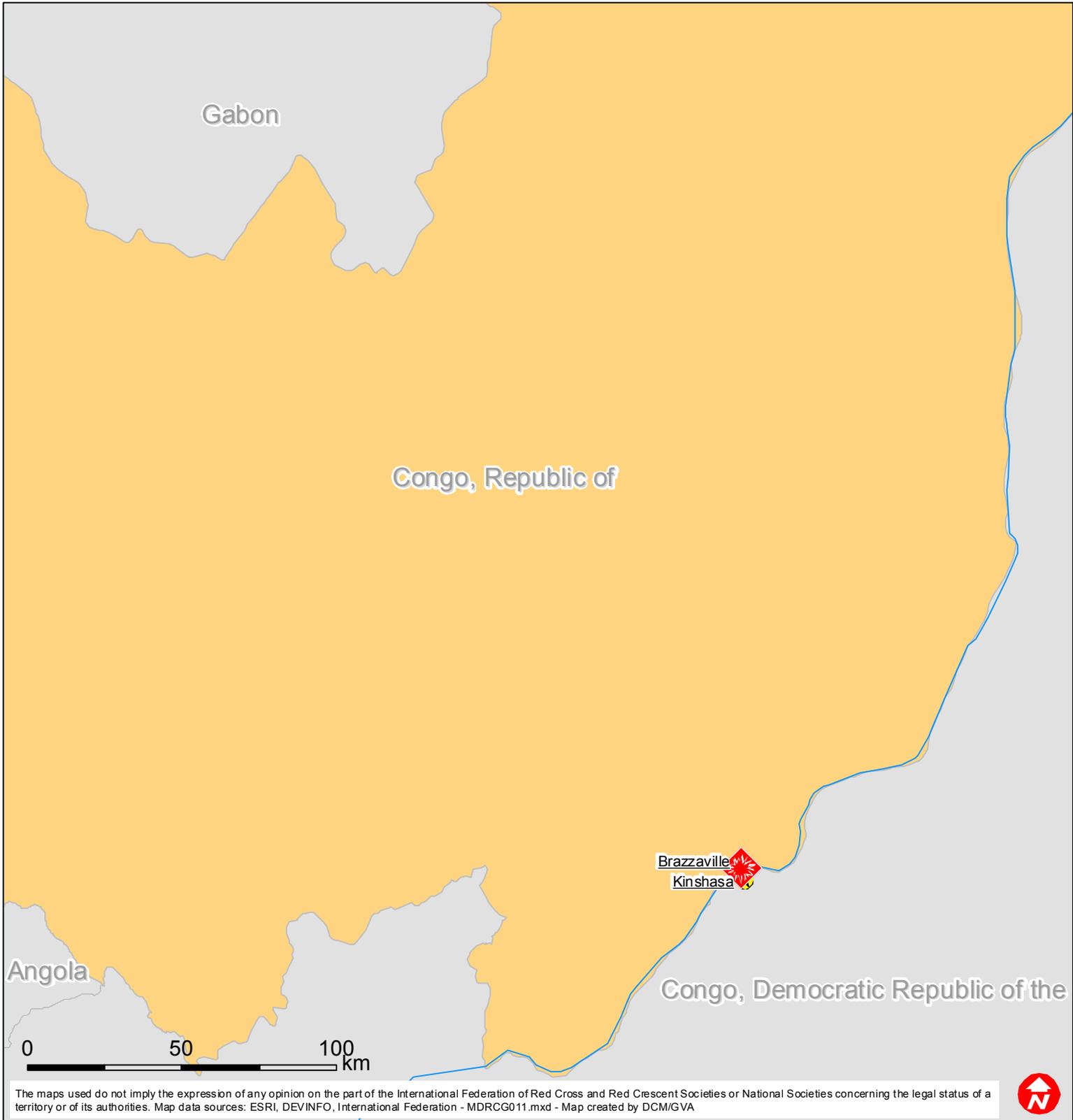
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## Republic of Congo: Explosion in Brazzaville (MDRCG011)

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>DREF Grant Budget CHF</b>
Shelter - Relief	7,522
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	7,163
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	3,673
Medical & First Aid	1,607
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	8,264
Other Supplies & Services	1,653
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>29,882</b>
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage, Warehousing	294
Distribution & Monitoring	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,949
Logistics Services	
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>4,242</b>
International Staff	6,382
National Staff	
National Society Staff	3,820
Volunteers	33,258
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>43,460</b>
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>
Workshops & Training	3,489
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>3,489</b>
Travel	4,132
Information & Public Relations	2,847
Office Costs	0
Communications	800
Financial Charges	918
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>8,697</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	5,835
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>5,835</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>95,607</b>



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Explosion