BURKINA FASO, CAMEROON, MALI MAURITANIA, NIGER AND SENEGAL: HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODS

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; Final Report; Period covered: October 2003 to June 2004; Final appeal coverage: 106.9%.

(Click here to go directly to the attached Final Financial Report).

Appeal history:

- Launched as a multi-country Emergency Appeal\(^1\) 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. No budget revision.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 25,000 for each of the five countries (including Mauritania).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Sahel sub-region Annual Appeal\(^2\) no. 01.39/2004, Mauritania Annual Appeal\(^3\) no. 01.36/2004, Emergency Appeal\(^4\) 05/2003: Mauritania Drought and Food Security (Closed/Completed)

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\(^3\) Mauritania Annual Appeal - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/013604.pdf/
Background

Heavy seasonal rains swept across the Sahel region between August and October 2003 causing serious flooding and landslides in several of the Sahel countries. This led to the destruction of grain storehouses, homes, loss of lives and livestock. Bridges and roads were washed away in some countries making access to flooded zones very difficult.

In Burkina Faso, the heavy rainfalls flooded 10 major towns of the country and created an emergency situation for over 3,000 families. Some 900 families lost their homes and belongings, local food stocks were destroyed, and many crops were inundated, jeopardizing the next harvest. The Federation estimated the number of persons in dire need of assistance to be 12,120 in the 14 counties of Kadiogo, Sanmatenga, Boulgou, Yatenga, Nayala, Kénédougou, Bazèga, Bam, Sénou, Nounbiel, Comoé, Loroum, Nahouri and Sebba. In addition to the toll in human lives, several regions, mostly in the northern and the south-western part of the country, experienced a loss of livestock, food reserves and crops.

Bamako, Mali experienced four violent rainstorms during the last week of October and the first week of November 2003. Surrounding towns which had been flooded for three months experienced more flooding after the heavy rains in July 2003.

Similarly, in Cameroon heavy downpour experienced on 19 to 20 July 2003 and on 27 to 29 August 2003 in Magah village, Lebialem Division, South West Province caused flooding and a landslide, claimed 20 lives, damaged property extensively, and left about 1,000 people homeless.

Most areas of Mauritania also suffered from extraordinarily heavy rainfall between 7 and 20 August 2003. The most affected regions were along the Senegal River and in the central locations of Assaba, Gorgol, Brakna and Adrar where some 3,638 mud houses were destroyed, leaving 21,000 people homeless. While there was no organized evacuation, communities provided critical assistance. Most roads were in deplorable condition, and several bridges fell, making access to the affected areas very difficult.

In Niger, the heavy rains continued through September 2003. Seven persons were killed in floods and approximately 5,400 families (30,000 people) in the regions of Maradi, Dosso, Tahouna, Tillabéri and Zinder were seriously affected by the rains and floods; with at least 1,100 houses and local food stocks for several thousand people completely destroyed. Road networks and public buildings were not spared as most were destroyed. An estimated 5,000 persons were rendered homeless.

In Senegal, the areas most affected by the heavy rains and floods that occurred during the early part of August 2003 were mainly Kaolack, Matam, Tambacounda and Kolda. Eight persons were killed while some 6,492 were left without shelter - with at least 887 families (1,277 people) partly or entirely losing their household equipment. Roads were cut off by mudflows and access to many regions in the northern part of the country became slow and difficult.

An emergency appeal was launched in October 2003 to assist 29,000 flood victims. Prior to the launch of the appeal, national societies in the affected countries began providing assistance to most affected families with own funds before five out of the six countries in the Appeal received a DREF allocation of 25,000 CHF each, with the exception of Cameroon which benefited from a first donation from Japan. The nutritional status of children in the areas at risk required a review of the appeal in October to provide assistance to additional 1,250 malnourished children and an equal number of pregnant or breastfeeding women.
Coordination

The Burkinabe Red Cross Society worked mainly through its branches in the different provinces. Figures of those affected were obtained from National Committee Relief Emergency and Rehabilitation (CONASUR) and verified by the branches in the field.

A member of the Red Cross of Benin who had attended the regional disaster response team (RDRT) training in Bamako in early October 2003 was sent to Mali to support the Mali Red Cross.

The Mauritania Red Crescent and the Federation attended the meetings of the National Crisis Unit which provided an opportunity for information gathering and a coordinated response with the government. In consultation with the different stakeholders, the government, WFP, and NGOs (Oxfam, FLM, Medicos Del Mundo) the Federation office in Nouakchott coordinated the response of the Movement (Mauritania Red Crescent, French Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and ICRC). The French Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Italian Red Cross currently have programmes running in the South-East and Northern parts of the country. They collaborate with the local committees.

In Senegal, the Red Cross regional committee president co-ordinated the distribution of medicine (for the treatment of malaria cases) to local dispensaries. The operation in the field was run entirely by the national society except in logistics (the procurement process), reporting and coordination with the German embassy (the representatives of the donor in Dakar) - where the Federation assisted. The German government, through the German Red Cross, had given EUR 167,000 for the floods programme in the northern part of Senegal to complement the DREF funds.

The Federation: 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 2003 in Njen-Kon, Olurunti and Egbeachuk while the Cameroon Red Cross supplied food and non-food items to the vulnerable.

The Federation opened an office in Mauritania in April 2000 to support the Mauritanian Red Crescent food security programme and capacity building. It not only coordinated the activities of the different stakeholders in the Movement and the national society, but also with the other partners (UN, the government, NGOs). To support the nutrition component and scale it up, the Federation signed an agreement with the WFP, the MoH and the national society. WFP made a commitment to continue the programme until 2008 and support the WatSan volunteer teams through food for work. The weekly field meetings enabled the continuation and coordination of the activities, while the monthly meetings at the national society were intended to coordinate, plan and measure the progress made.

Partner National Societies: 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 towards the operation in Cameroon.

In Mauritania, the Spanish Red Cross supported a community development project in Nouadhibou since May, 2003 in collaboration with the national society local branch. It is not involved with the flood programme. The French Red Cross participated actively in the needs assessment phase just after the floods providing logistical support - a vehicle and a driver - during the initial evaluation stage as well as raise funds for the operation. It was deeply involved in the coordination activity and played a key role in the ARCHI 2010 strategy ownership phase with the MoH. In response to the Federation’s request, the Italian Red Cross assessed the project’s relevance, its impact on beneficiaries and the Mauritanian Red Crescent’s capacity enhancement.

ICRC: The ICRC strengthened its action and support to the local committees in the project regions, in spite of its absence in Mauritania.

NGOs (OXFAM, FLM, Medicos Del Mundo): The NGOs provided expertise, logistic assets and regional human resources to facilitate accessibility and work in non accessible areas.

WFP: The WFP signed an agreement to sustain the nutrition component and also support the sanitation teams of the Mauritanian Red Crescent at the end of the programme (food for work).
Objectives, achievements and impact

Burkina Faso

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

Achievements:
The first phase of the operation was completed on 27 October 2003. The operation took place in: Comoe Province: Sideradougou, Dereouge (waterfalls region); Noumbiel Province: Batie (South-west region). Rations for one month were distributed (25.0 MT of maize and 25.5 MT of rice). A total of 6,740 people affected by the floods were assisted instead of the 4,636 initially proposed. Out of the 6,740 beneficiaries, 1,294 children (aged 0 to 3 years) and 714 children (aged between 4-5 years).

The second phase focused on the northern part (reaching out to 2,036 beneficiaries) and the south-west (reaching out to 3,600 beneficiaries). The two-month operation distributed rice (57.95 MT), millet (57.95 MT) and medicine such as paracetamol and chloroquine (30 boxes of each containing 15,000 tablets).

The national society also provided assistance in the form of food for two months to the benefit of 2,600 beneficiaries in the northern provinces of Bam, Soum and Yagha.

A total of 6,740 people affected by the floods were reached, way beyond the targeted number of 4,636.

Impact:
The DREF funds enabled the Bukinabe Red Cross Society to distribute food and non-food items to the affected areas, thereby reducing their vulnerability to hunger.

Cameroon

Objective: Reduce the vulnerability of affected populations by reinforcing their economic power and by preventing waterborne diseases.

Distribution of food items to 768 beneficiaries (100 families):
Distribution of the following food items was done by ten volunteers: 32 bags of beans (25 Kgs each); 30 bags of seed potatoes- type siperer; 42 bags of rice (25 Kgs each); 12 cartons of palm oil (15 l each); and 10 bags of salt.

Distribution of non-food items:
65 insecticides treated mosquito nets were distributed to 60 families.

Sensitization and water treatment:
Several demonstrations on how to treat water for human consumption were done by four volunteers from the Cameroon Red Cross Society. The volunteers then distributed 2000 hydroclonazone tablets for water purification.

Achievements:
At the beginning of the operation, the Cameroon Red Cross Society 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 Cameroon Red Cross received CHF 11,487 for implementing the second phase of this operation. A total of 93 volunteers and 8 trainers received training.

Intervention and sanitation materials distributed included 12 wheel barrows, 12 first aid kits, 60 aprons, 40 pairs of gloves, 20 helmets, 16 stretchers and 80 cutlasses and hoes.
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 and Egbeachuk while the Cameroon Red Cross supplied food and non-food items to the vulnerable.

**Impact:**
The DREF funds enabled the Cameroon Red Cross Society to distribute food and non-food items from 2 to 11 November 2003 to the most affected villages.

**Constraints:**
There was difficulty in accessing the affected areas due to bad roads and long distances.

**Mali**

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

**Achievements:**
Using own funds, the Mali Red Cross assisted 619 beneficiaries in four different parts of Bamako during the first days of the emergency. The assistance consisted of food items such as pasta (30 5-kg packs) and non-food items such as 1,500 pieces of soap.

A donation of sweet peas, sugar, butter and blankets from the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran enabled the national society to assist 1,800 beneficiaries in the regions of Tombouctou, Segou and Mopti.

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

**Achievements**
In Bamako district, the Mali Red Cross used own funds to provide 400 bottles of bleach, 200 insecticide treated nets and medicine to beneficiaries.

**Mauritania**
The Federation’s emergency appeal included a proposal to target communities declared vulnerable by the National Crisis Unit of the Mauritanian Government and to provide assistance to the beneficiaries. The Mauritanian Red Crescent undertook a targeted relief operation in four affected areas of Gorgol, Assaba, Guidimakha and Adrar in the following areas:

- **Shelters:** Distribution of ground sheets or tents, cooking material, mosquito nets and blankets for 2,700 beneficiaries.
- **Health:** Environmental sanitation, draining stagnant waters, chlorine treatment of wells and promotion of basic hygiene among affected communities (8,700 beneficiaries).
- **Farming:** Repairing destroyed water embankments and reservoirs (8,700 beneficiaries).
- **Reconstruction:** Rebuilding 10 pilot houses per zone (40 houses)
- **Nutrition:** Providing meals for malnourished 1,250 children and 1,250 breastfeeding or pregnant women.
- **Health:** Promotion of health education among the population.

The Italian government’s response led to a review of the appeal to meet the needs of the malnourished children and pregnant or breastfeeding women as registered in the Ministry of Health (MoH) and WFP nutrition survey. The communities living in the vicinity of the new Community Nutrition Centres (CNC) were sensitized on health.

The operation’s overall objective was achieved in terms of number of vulnerable beneficiaries and other areas except for the rebuilding of pilot houses. This led to more recognition, strengthening the Mauritania Red Crescent’s profile in addition to temporarily reducing vulnerability among the poorest. The intervention also enhanced ties
between the national society and the MoH and facilitated a shared ownership of ARCHI 2010. Following an agreement that was signed by both the national society and the MoH, the MoH pledged to:

- Involve the national society volunteers in all community-based activities;
- Appoint a national society’s focal point;
- Train volunteers;
- Set up a coordination unit.

**Emergency Relief**

**Objective 1: Provide shelters to affected communities**

**Activity 1: Distribution of 300 ground sheets to 1,800 vulnerable people.**

The local Mauritanian Red Crescent committees with the support of the affected communities and the local authorities identified vulnerable families in Aleg and Kaedi. The neighbourhood committees each with one national society volunteer, three community leaders and the local health officer, made lists and conducted distributions.

One hundred and fifty vulnerable families received one ground sheet each in Kaedi and an equal number of families in Aleg received same.

**Achievements**
The appeal involved the distribution of 450 ground sheets. The governor provided an initial 150 ground sheets distributed in Kaedi. The national society cancelled this distribution and decided to increase the number of mosquito nets for distribution instead.

**Impact:**
This activity covered less than 5% of the affected population, but as identification was well targeted, the most vulnerable were served. The distribution of relief items contributed to alleviating the suffering of the most vulnerable.

**Constraints:**
Lack of a disaster preparedness plan; this could have facilitated identification of the areas at risk so that relief material could be pre-positioned.

**Activity 2: Distribution of 2,000 bags to repair destroyed water embankments (originally not in the appeal)**

Two thousand bags filled with were distributed in Kaedi to repair the destroyed water embankments. These bags were arranged alongside the embankments to protect the communities from the possible worsening of the situation.

**Achievements:**
As the intervention was rapid enough, the Mauritanian Red Crescent responded to an emergency need. With support from Kaedi municipality, they managed to put in place 2,000 bags in less than 48 hours to protect the water embankments.

**Impact:**
With the intervention of the Mauritanian Red Crescent the situation in Kaedi did not worsen and about 5,000 people were not displaced as a result of this action.

**Health, Water and Sanitation**

**Objective 1: Provide mosquito nets to the affected communities**

**Activity: Distribution of 1,600 mosquito nets to 4,800 vulnerable people.**

The vulnerable people identified during the distribution of ground sheets also received two mosquito nets per family. 300 families in Kaedi and Aleg received two mosquito nets each and in Rosso 1,000 families received one mosquito net each.
Achievements:
The number of mosquito nets distributed was higher than planned in the Appeal to replace the cancelled distribution of ground sheets in Rosso. Thus, 1,600 mosquito nets were distributed instead of 900.

Impact:
This activity covered 10% of the affected population. Although not very significant, this enhanced the role of the community volunteers who were trained on how to chemically treat mosquito nets and sensitize families on the chemical treatment.

Objective 2: Train community workers on sanitation and water purification.

Activity 1: Recruitment, training and establishment of five teams of 10 sanitation workers in the cities of Attar, Rosso, Kaédi, Aleg and Tiékane.
In coordination with the health centre and the district health office, 10 volunteers in each city were trained to ensure environmental hygiene and sanitation. They were equipped with farming material and wheel borrows. They collected waste while monitoring the communities since they lived in the target vulnerable communities; they also organized education and sensitization sessions in the neighbourhoods to promote hygiene and sanitation.

Achievements:
The training schedule and establishment of the teams was well respected. However, due to the objective’s relevance visibility and role, the programme, initially planned to last for four months, took six additional months.

Impact:
The project had significant impact on the national society’s capacity building. It developed closer ties between the national society and the MoH and raised new interest for the national society with regard to the role it could and should play in community health - information, education, communication (IEC).

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Every volunteer monitored an estimated 30 families of seven members each. Thus, about 10,500 people were trained and in turn, they participated in hygiene and sanitation activities. This will ensure that communities are better prepared in possible, future floods situations.


Achievements:
Twelve (12) volunteers were trained in Nouakchott to ensure safe water supply with assistance from Médecins Sans Frontières. The trained volunteers then monitored their respective groups in Attar, Aleg and Kaédi. Every volunteer group supplied chlorine water and informed beneficiaries about the chlorination of water.

Impact:
The 8,700 affected people drank safe water during the flooding period (one month) and noted the benefits associated with such a practice.
Activity 2.2: Water purification/three wells repaired.

Achievements:
On community request, three wells previously destroyed during the flooding were repaired.

Impact:
Each well supplied 40 families with safe water, which is a total of 720 beneficiaries.

Food Emergency Relief

Objective 1: Train volunteers of the Mauritanian Red Crescent local committees as nutrition aids for the future centres.

To assist the most vulnerable in terms of food security, 24 community nutrition centres (CNCs) were created in the two severely flood-affected provinces - Gorgol and Guidimakha. The participatory approach of the project made it possible to give responsibility to the beneficiaries, the national society’s local committee volunteers, but also the local authorities (regional health department offices, town councils, districts).

The centres have become focal points where families monitored by the volunteers received information about hygiene, sanitation and community health. Every centre developed an agro-pastoral project for food diversity and paved the way for the centre’s future independence.

To ensure sustainability, the WFP has become partner until 2007. This will help the national society continue this activity with funding from the Italian Government. In addition to their technical and financial support, WFP supported the national society to join a national programme in collaboration with the MoH.

Achievements:
Two training sessions were conducted in partnership with WFP and the MoH.

Supervisor
The first training was for the CNC supervisors. Every supervisor was to monitor the CNC in their region. This training focused on nutrition, malnutrition and improving the nutrition status among the vulnerable groups. Two supervisors participated in the training. One to run the 10 CNCs in Guidimakha, and the other one to run the 14 CNCs in Gorgol (the 15th CNC did not meet the minimum number of malnourished children required and so was not set up). Both supervisors had to conduct screening of malnourished children, monitor the nutritional development of the children and monitor the CNCs’ management, together with the regional health department for mother and child care.

Nutrition aids
Twenty four people comprising members of the local Red Crescent committee, community members, local authorities and the regional health department for mother and child care followed the nutrition training which also focussed on CNCs management. During the workshop, trainees were given equipment to ensure the daily follow up of malnourished children.

Impact
The objective of this activity was achieved. Two supervisors from the Mauritanian Red Crescent and 25 nutrition assistants chosen by the communities’ ties were trained. They became the focal points, not only for nutrition, but also for community sensitization on health matters.

Objective 2: Create 25 community nutrition centres (CNCs) in target areas for children under five and pregnant or breastfeeding women.

Achievements:
In every community, all the children were measured and weighed. Following a thinning chart (height/weight/age ratio), 50 malnourished children were registered on the CNC lists. This operation was jointly conducted by the
regional national society coordinator, the CNCs supervisors and the local DRASS doctor. Thirty women (pregnant or breastfeeding) were selected in every CNC. Only one area did not reach the required number of malnourished children, so the opening of the CNC was temporarily adjourned.

Town councils and districts made facilities freely available for CNCs and food warehousing. Lists and information were checked by the WFP nutrition services. Up to 1,200 children and 7,200 women were assisted in the CNCs. Food supplies started late March and were helpful in the operation of the CNCs between April to June 2004.

Fourteen (14) CNCs were created in Gorgol and 10 in Guidimaka, to provide daily meals to malnourished children. In every CNC, 50 children received porridge twice daily and 30 women (pregnant or breastfeeding) received dry rations.

**Impact:**
In a region registered with extreme vulnerability by the Food Security Commission, the numbers of beneficiaries were:
- 1,200 malnourished children received two porridge meals daily.
- 720 pregnant or breastfeeding women with malnourished children or presenting malnutrition signs received a dry ration daily.
- 1,920 people were assisted (1,200 children and 720 mothers).
- In both regions, the infants' malnutrition rate decreased.

**Objective 3: Sensitize communities about health education.**

**Achievements:**
Supervisors and nutrition assistants received training and tools to inform and educate communities on primary health issues.

**Impact:**
The CNCs rapidly became community health focal points, medics and sometimes the regional doctor participated in the weighing activity and selection of malnourished children, which built further confidence among the population. An agreement was concluded with the MoH to involve the Mauritanian Red Crescent in all the community health activities at the national level. The process is still at the early stages. If properly run, nutrition centres will provide outstanding results in terms of information, education and communication about community health issues. In the next six months, the following results can be expected:
- The sensitization of 400 families or 2,000 people around every CAC on health issues as a result of malnutrition and poor sanitation (average size of families: members).
- The sensitization of 10,000 families or a total of 50,000 people on health issues as a result of malnutrition or poor sanitation.
- Reduction of health problems due to malnutrition or poor sanitation.

**Objective 4: Set up an agro-pastoral micro project in every centre.**

**Achievement:**
Late June, the supervisors of this activity were still working out the project. However, WFP agreed to support this activity through food for work. The project was scheduled to start in September. Every CNC will be responsible for one project, while either developing seeds or market gardening or cattle rearing to help make the centres independent or at least contribute to food diversification.

**Impact:**
- Every CNC will have their own production of vegetables, cereals, or small livestock business.
- Every CNC will fund part of their costs in 2005.
National Society capacity building
This operation provided a lot of visibility for the Mauritania Red Crescent, and helped restore ties with several partners and consolidate the structures at the headquarters, regional and local levels.

Four people from the national society headquarters were involved in capacity building: the national programmes coordinator, one health officer, one logistician and one accountant. These were trained either by the Federation or partners. The periodical meetings for information sharing provided the opportunity to introduce a working method to the national society headquarters. To make the work more efficient, a new organizational chart with well-defined responsibilities was adopted. Regarding logistics, assets were improved (office equipment, computers and email).

The programme was broken down into three parts: emergency response, sanitation project, and CNCs establishment.

Emergency Response
The programme was relevant; it responded to a need which was identified, measurable, quantifiable and provided relief for vulnerable groups. However, this operation was conducted in an unfavourable political context of presidential election, which undermined the broad recognition expected for the national society. The situation is likely to come under control and without any consequences.

Secondly, there was neither a disaster preparedness plan for the government nor for the national society. Without any early alert system, the Mauritanian Red Crescent cannot minimize flood effects but could probably record the extent of the disaster and respond by assisting the most affected. However, lack of the national society’s presence of the in the community limited considerably its role o in providing assistance and organization for families.

Sanitation
Volunteers were selected very quickly within the community and trained to carry out information sessions and sanitation activities which were accepted and appreciated by the population. This inexpensive activity used volunteers from the community. In spite of its little impact on the behavioural change, it created awareness for the community to maintain minimal sanitation standards. The current teams are expected to serve as reference or models for this experience to be replicated countrywide. This activity is part of ARCHI 2010 implementation. The quality of the messages and the monitoring of the teams need to be improved to maximize the results.

CNCs
This activity serves as a community development reference in Mauritania. It is an integrated project which supports malnourished children, mothers, and allows the Red Crescent’s volunteers to disseminate messages about community health, STD/AIDS and humanitarian values. Children and uneducated adults can have a literacy and numeracy programme. The CNCs are avenues through which communities can organize into cooperatives for the production and marketing of their crops (micro projects). Simply put, CNCs are ideal platforms for the national society’s local committees to get in direct contact with the vulnerable people to implement the ARCHI 2010 strategy. The protocol of agreement reached with WFP and the MoH will allow the national society to continue this activity until 2008.

The most important indirect effect of the programme on the national society is its closeness with the MoH. A meeting to officially implement the ARCHI 2010 strategy was held in May in partnership with the Ministry. This programme triggered off the new interest in the Red Crescent; the national society has become again a real support for the public authorities.

Partnerships

Ministry of Health
With this programme, the MoH appreciated the new dynamics of the national society and accepted to plan a meeting to implement ARCHI 2010. After this workshop, the MoH involved the national society in all the community health activities. Commitments were made at the national and regional levels. In conclusion:
Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal: Heavy Rains and Floods; Appeal 20/2003; Final Report

- A focal point for the national society was appointed at the Ministry.
- A doctor from the Ministry was assigned to the national society in secondment.
- The national society senior staff will attend all the activities and meetings related to health issues.
- The regional health offices will train and employ national society volunteers in all national campaigns.

WFP

WFP signed a partnership agreement with the Federation and the national society as the programme’s implementing agency. This is a new opportunity for the national society to now approach UNICEF and WHO.

NGOs

During the operation, the national society worked with MSF, MDM, Oxfam and World Lutheran Foundation. This collaboration was fruitful and will probably be replicated.

Regional

The new provincial coordinators were involved in the achievement of the activities. They acted as links between the headquarters and the local committees. They worked as advisors and facilitators for the committees.

Local

Local committees involved in the operation became active and visible. The programme’s community approach brought the committees closer to the vulnerable groups in partnership with the regional authorities (town councils, districts and DRASS).

Evaluation

In partnership with the Italian Red Cross, an evaluation to measure the level of achievement and the impact of the programme was conducted in May and June. The report is available at the Dakar regional office upon request.

Niger

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, Tilaberi, Maradi, Tahoua, Zinder and Agadez for one month- assistance consists of distribution of food (millet) and blankets.

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

Achievements:
The government gave 50 tonnes of maize; Gandassamou received 30 tonnes while Takoka received 20 tonnes which were distributed to the targeted beneficiaries.

Activity 2: Distribute blankets to 320 families.

Achievements
The targeted 320 families in Takoka received 72 impregnated mosquito nets.

Senegal

Objective 1 (Shelters): To provide shelter assistance to flood affected victims.

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

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 affected. 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.

The funds allocated by the German Government/German Red Cross carried out the activities outlined on the tables below:

### Activity 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Persons/Families</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St Louis*</td>
<td>26 – Dec- 2003</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>36,000 kg</td>
<td>3,000 / 500</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Sleeping mats</td>
<td>3,000 pieces</td>
<td>3,000 / 500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matam</td>
<td>1 to 15 – Jan - 2004</td>
<td>Rice</td>
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<td>11,416 / 1,903</td>
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<td>5,800 / 967</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Iron sheets</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nails</td>
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* Saint-Louis lost only crops to the calamity.

### Activity 2

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<td></td>
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<td>Matam</td>
<td>1 to 15-Jan-2004</td>
<td>Paracetamol</td>
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<td>Mosquito nets</td>
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<td>5,500 / 917</td>
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Constraints:
Difficulty in accessing the affected areas and a serious breakdown of the truck also caused delays in the execution of the programme. The local branches were not ready to let the headquarters run the operation and this caused some logistics problems.

**National Society capacity building**

The operation provided a lot of visibility for the Red Cross/Red Crescent, and helped restore ties with several partners and consolidate the structures of the national societies involved at the headquarters, regional and local levels.

At the end of the operation, the involved national societies gained practical learning experiences which strengthened the capacities of their volunteers.

**Lessons learned**

The appeal received overwhelming donor response, which translated to increased support to those affected by the Sahel floods. In Burkina Faso a total of 6,740 people affected by the floods were reached (way beyond the targeted number of 4,636) while in Mauritania distribution of two thousand bags- to be filled with sand- to repair the destroyed water embankments was done (not a planned activity in the original appeal).

The operation also provided an opportunity for local Red Cross/Red Crescent branches, situated in areas affected by the floods, to gain practical experience that enabled them to identify their strengths and weaknesses in disaster management and to be better prepared in future disaster situations.

Unfortunately this final report was delayed for some months due to operational staff turnover and closing of financial accounts.

*Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page.*
### I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

<table>
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<th>Humanitarian Values</th>
<th>Organisational Development</th>
<th>Coordination &amp; Implementation</th>
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Prepared on 03.Oct.2005