

www.ifrc.org  
Saving lives,  
changing minds.

# Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Republic of Congo: Floods in Pointe Noire

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRCG012**  
**GLIDE n° FF-2012\_000196-COG**  
**30 November, 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.

**Summary: CHF 111,738 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Congolese Red Cross National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 405 families, i.e. 2,025 beneficiaries. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

On the night of 17 to 18 November, 2012, heavy rains hit Pointe Noire, the second largest city in the Republic of Congo, causing severe flooding of unprecedented magnitude during the last ten years.

To date, no official figures are available, and considering the situation on the ground, it is difficult to accurately assess the scope and needs of the affected populations. Currently five deaths have been recorded.



A flooded street in Pointe Noire after the rain / Photo by the Pointe Noire Local Committee of the Congolese Red Cross

The Congolese Red Cross (CRC) volunteers have identified 405 displaced families (2,025 persons), whose houses have either been engulfed by floodwaters or completely destroyed. These families have been relocated to two evacuation centres set up by the Congolese Government. A rapid assessment of their needs revealed that the displaced families need emergency shelter, basic household items, access to safe water and sanitation, and reduction of increased health risks.

With this DREF, the CRC intends to provide essential emergency shelter and basic household items to the displaced families at the evacuation centres and conduct an in-depth assessment of the situation in order to identify appropriate actions to be taken. For now, the National Society has already deployed 200 volunteers to Pointe Noire to help evacuate people trapped in their houses.

This operation is expected to be implemented over one (1) months, and will inform of further actions to be taken. As it currently stands this operation will be completed by 29 December 2012; a final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 29 March, 2013).

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

## The situation

On the night of 17 to 18 November, 2012, heavy rains hit Pointe Noire, the second largest city in the Republic of Congo, causing severe flooding of unprecedented magnitude during the last ten years. Families had to flee or take refuge on rooftops, when water poured into their homes and flooded their houses. Roads have been cut off by the rushing waters and landslides. People have been injured (numbers difficult to determine now) and there have been cases of drowning and death. Currently, five deaths have been recorded: an elderly person, two men, a 10-year-old adolescent, and a Nigerian woman. Since 17 November, 2012, the rains have not abated, and the CRC believes that the situation may worsen in the days ahead. It is feared that the prolonged presence of stagnant water in these residential areas may destroy many of the houses, especially those built with non-durable material. The affected population, including vulnerable persons (children, elderly etc) are at risk of epidemics resulting from the overflow of wells and latrines.

To date, no official figures are available, and it is not yet known how other localities around Pointe Noire have been affected by these floods, as movement has become difficult in and around the city. Considering the situation on the ground, it is difficult to accurately assess the needs of the affected population.

The Congolese government, through the Parliamentarian-Mayor and Prefect of Pointe Noire, has visited the affected area to meet with the affected population and provide emergency assistance to displaced persons and evacuate victims. After officially declaring that Pointe Noire is in crisis, the Congolese government provided two boats for the evacuation of victims, provided food, water, and mattresses to the affected persons. Additionally, the Congolese government has set up two evacuation sites for the displaced persons: one in the fire brigade barracks and the other at the Pointe Noire Trade Fair Grounds.

Currently, most of the displaced have been relocated at the two evacuation sites, while some have sought refuge in host families where they are living under difficult conditions. The majority of the displaced population have lost not only their homes but all of their belongings, thus are in need of immediate assistance.

The CRC volunteers have rapidly assessed the situation at the two evacuation centers and identified 405 displaced families (2,025 persons), whose houses have either been engulfed by floodwaters or completely destroyed. The rapid assessment revealed that these displaced families need emergency shelter, basic household items, access to safe water and sanitation, and reduction of increased health risks.

With this DREF, the CRC intends to a) provide emergency shelter and essential and basic household items to the victims, and b) conduct an in-depth assessment of the situation in order to identify appropriate action to be taken. The National Society quickly deployed 70 volunteers to Pointe Noire to help evacuate people trapped in their houses, and has mobilized more to support in these actions.

## Coordination and partnerships

After officially declaring that Pointe Noire is in crisis, the Congolese government provided boats for the evacuation of victims, and food support, water, and mattresses to affected persons. Two evacuation sites have been set up by the government for the displaced persons: one in the fire brigade barracks and the other at Pointe Noire Trade Fair Grounds.

An ad hoc crisis committee has been put in place to coordinate the emergency intervention and avoid duplication of activities, and the Minister of Humanitarian Action chaired its first meeting on 19 November 2012. The committee holds daily coordination meetings and current partners active in the committee includes:

- The Prefect /Governor of the Department of Pointe-Noire (Chairperson of the Committee)
- The Mayor of Pointe-Noire and the board of the municipal Council (Deputy Chairperson)
- The Department Directors in charge of Health, Hygiene, Intelligence services, and Civil Security
- Director General of Loandjili General Hospital
- Director General of Adolph Sicé General Hospital
- Congo-Assistance (national NGO)
- The Congolese Red Cross (CRC)
- Representatives from the civil society

The CRC receives regular support from the IFRC Central Africa Regional Representation based in Yaoundé, which will be involved in planning, monitoring and evaluation of the DREF operation, as well as facilitating regional procurement. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have offices in the Republic of Congo, and will be contacted for Restoring Family Links (RFL) issues, and for other cooperation and support to the CRC during the operation. Additionally, the French Red Cross is having programmes in Republic of Congo and is in contact with CRC for cooperation and support.

Other partners, following the initiative of the CRC, have contributed as follows:

- TOTAL E&P Congo provided 53 life jackets and two rescuers with a vehicle to backup rescue operations at the Songolo Bridge.
- RENCO Spa Congo has provided 148 liters of diesel for the CRC vehicle in Pointe Noire. They also gave a contribution of 300,000 FCFA (600 USD) to emergency operations of the Red Cross.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

From the onset of the disaster, the local branch of the CRC mobilized 70 volunteers for a rapid assessment of the situation, and for evacuating and rescuing people trapped in floodwaters and on roof tops. The volunteers contacted the local administration (neighbourhood heads), municipal, and prefectural authorities, to identify affected areas and get information about the affected population, including census data.

In order to consolidate the search operation, 50 volunteers have been mobilized in each subdivision (200 in Pointe-Noire) to continue the rescue interventions and conclude the initial identification process of the situation.

This DREF will help the CRC to perform an in-depth assessment while at the same time being able to provide emergency shelter and basic household items to the displaced persons in the two evacuation centers.

Earlier this year, the CRC gained valuable experience from the emergency operation in March 2012, when the national society assisted victims from the military camp explosions in Mpila in Brazzaville. The experience as well as lessons learned from that operation is now being used in the rescue and evacuation activities in Pointe Noire. Furthermore, the National society has previous experience from providing relief assistance to refugees from Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), including setting up temporary shelters, distribution of non-food items (NFIs), health, water and sanitation interventions, that will prove useful during the emergency relief distribution of this operation.

The CRC receives regular support from the IFRC Central Africa Regional Representation based in Yaoundé, which will be involved in planning, monitoring and evaluation of the DREF operation, as well as facilitating regional procurement. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have offices in the Republic of Congo, and will be contacted for Restoring Family Links (RFL) issues, and for other cooperation and support to the CRC during the operation. Additionally, the French Red Cross is having programmes in Republic of Congo and in contact with CRC for cooperation and support.

## The needs

There is currently no complete overview of the scope of the situation and needs among the affected population. Many people have been displaced from their homes and have lost their belongings, with little or no means to provide for themselves under the current situation.

A rapid and initial assessment shows that currently there is an urgency to cover the needs among the displaced persons that are being relocated in the two government evacuation sites (405 families/ 2,025 people). The evacuation sites function as points for assembling the displaced families for emergency assistance and currently provide limited potential for shelter. The needs so far not being catered for include emergency shelter and basic household items as well as safe water and sanitation.

The belief is that the scope and needs are greater than what has currently been identified considering the magnitude of the situation. Therefore an in-depth assessment of the situation is necessary in order to determine the appropriate actions to be taken.

*Selection of people to be reached:* This operation targets 405 affected families who have lost their houses and are currently located in the two evacuation sites. Women, children, and the elderly make up the majority among the beneficiaries and are at risk of epidemics resulting from overflow of wells and latrines.

Among the families at the relocation sites, some are more vulnerable and without emergency shelter, therefore 203 families will be provided with emergency shelter. All families will be provided with basic household items. Depending on the in-depth assessment that will form part of this DREF operation, potentially extended emergency shelter support might be considered as follow up activities.

The table below presents an overview of the affected persons currently displaced and relocated to the evacuation site:

Place of resettlement of the displaced	Fire Brigade Barracks	Pointe Noire International Trade Fair Grounds	Total
Number of families affected	308	97	405
Number of children	501	223	724
Number of pregnant women	132	05	137
Number of elderly persons	137	49	186
Number of adults	770	193	963
Number of breastfeeding women	N/A	15	15
<b>Total people affected</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>2,025</b>

## The proposed operation

The proposed DREF operation implemented by the CRC includes following components:

- 1) An in-depth assessment of the scope of the situation and needs of affected population in order to appropriately inform further action that needs to be taken;
- 2) Emergency shelter and basic household items provided to the affected population located at the two evacuation sites in order to respond to the immediate needs of the displaced persons;
- 3) Immediate intervention to reduce the risk for waterborne and water related diseases in the two targeted evacuation sites, through water, sanitation and hygiene interventions.

Emergency shelter	
<b>Outcome 1: The 405 families displaced by floods in Pointe Noire have benefitted from emergency shelter and basic household items.</b>	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<p>Emergency shelter provided to 203 families and basic household items provided to 405 families</p> <p>Local procurement to be conducted in fair and transparent manner, and in line with national legislation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement of 405 tarpaulins, 203 shelter kits (basic tools such as saw, hammer, nails etc) and shelter construction materials (fixing materials, rope, nails, etc.).</li> <li>• Purchase 1,015 mats, 1,015 mosquito nets, 810 blankets, 405 hygiene kits, 405 kitchen sets, and 405 jerry cans.</li> <li>• Deploy one (1) NDRT coordinator, one (1) supervisor, seven (7) team leaders.</li> <li>• Training of 75 volunteers in distribution of relief items and site management.</li> <li>• Support beneficiaries with IEC material and technical advice during the construction of temporary shelter.</li> <li>• Build 203 temporary shelters in relocation sites hosting displaced families.</li> <li>• Distribution of basic household items to the 405 families targeted.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate relief activities and report on relief distribution.</li> </ul>

<b>Outcome 2: Detailed information on the situation and emergency needs in affected areas is available and used for planning of continued intervention.</b>	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
The CRC has conducted an in-depth assessment of the situation and emergency needs in affected areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a detailed assessment of the situation and emergency needs in Pointe Noire and surrounding localities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set up the assessment team, consisting of the NS's DM, IFRC's DM Coordinator and PMER Officer</li> <li>- Conduct training for volunteers and staff in assessment methodology</li> <li>- Print material for the assessment</li> <li>- Data entry and analysis of assessment</li> <li>- Distribution of results to relevant partners and stakeholders</li> <li>- Revision of plan of action based on findings from the assessment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

<b>Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in the targeted two sites in Pointe Noire reaching 405 families during three months</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out.</li> <li>- Daily access to safe water is provided to target population</li> <li>- Adequate sanitation is provided to target population.</li> <li>- Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular assessment of the need for safe water and wastewater systems in relocation sites.</li> <li>• Training of 25 volunteers on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion.</li> <li>• Distribution of jerry cans required for transportation and water conservation (the safe water source derives from the urban water supply company)</li> <li>• Establishing water committees at the water points.</li> <li>• Construction of four ( 4) blocks of six ( 6) latrines each (24 emergency latrines)</li> <li>• Construction of 8 emergency showers</li> <li>• Organize hygiene awareness campaigns</li> </ul>

## Implementation Strategy

### Situation and Needs Assessment:

The National Society has already mobilized 200 volunteers for the search and rescue activities and for the initial assessment that has been done.

For the in-depth assessment, CRC plans to set up teams of volunteers that will be trained and involved in data collection. The assessment management team that will lead the exercise will consist of the CRC DM coordinator, IFRC's Regional DM Coordinator and IFRC Regional PMER Officer, CRC's local team in Pointe Noire and the surrounding areas.

The National Society's headquarters in Brazzaville will design the assessment tools with technical support from IFRC, using relevant tools already available. During the in-depth assessment of the situation, meetings will be held with beneficiaries to discuss their needs and most appropriate solutions to their problems. Teams of volunteers will investigate the scope of the situation and needs in Pointe Noire and surrounding areas to the city.

### Emergency shelter:

For the emergency shelter and basic household items the National Society will use pre-positioned stock in the region and possibly purchase locally, in line with national procedures. Construction materials such as

wood, nails and other fixing materials will be purchased in Pointe Noire. With local procurement national procedures will be used.

Volunteers will be trained in relief operations to prepare them for planned distributions; water, sanitation and hygiene promotion; and psychosocial support in line with IFRC guidelines.

This intervention is intended to respond to the immediate and urgent needs identified through the initial assessment. Since it is not yet established how long-term the displacement will be for the targeted population, the CRC will provide a provisional and urgent response in terms of number of latrines and showers. However, the in-depth assessment will inform of the needs and an appropriate plan of action will be developed, where Sphere standards will be used.

#### Visibility and Communication:

For visibility, 150 aprons and 120 T-shirts will be made and given to the deployed volunteers. Media will be used during the intervention for information towards the public and communication of the CRC activities.

#### Monitoring and evaluation:

This disaster strikes at a time when training on planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting is ongoing for senior staff and volunteers of the CRC, thus this response operation will be an opportunity to apply the learning from the training. A detailed monitoring and evaluation plan is being developed, which will include actions to be taken and levels of intervention if the intervention would fall behind schedule. The IFRC Regional PMER department will be available to provide the necessary support and advice for how to effectively monitor and evaluate the operation.

---

## 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)
- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Daniel Bolaños, Disaster Management Coordinator for Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 (0)731 067 489; email: [daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org](mailto:daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org)
- **IFRC Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; phone: +41.22.730.45 29; email: [christine.south@ifrc.org](mailto:christine.south@ifrc.org)
- **IFRC Regional Logistics Unit (RLU):** Ari Mantyaara Logistics Coordinator, Dubai; phone +971 50 4584872, Fax +971.4.883.22.12, email: [ari.mantyaara@ifrc.org](mailto:ari.mantyaara@ifrc.org)

### For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Loïc de Bastier, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for Africa; Addis Ababa; phone: +251-93-003 4013; fax: +251-11-557 0799; email: [loic.debastier@ifrc.org](mailto:loic.debastier@ifrc.org)

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

- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER/QA Delegate for Africa; Nairobi; 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.

# DREF OPERATION

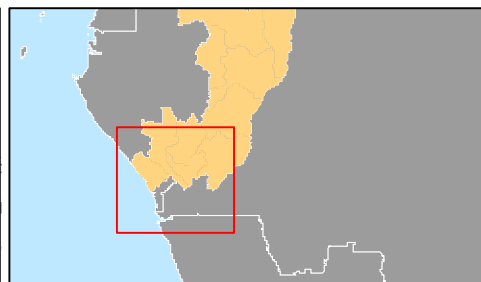
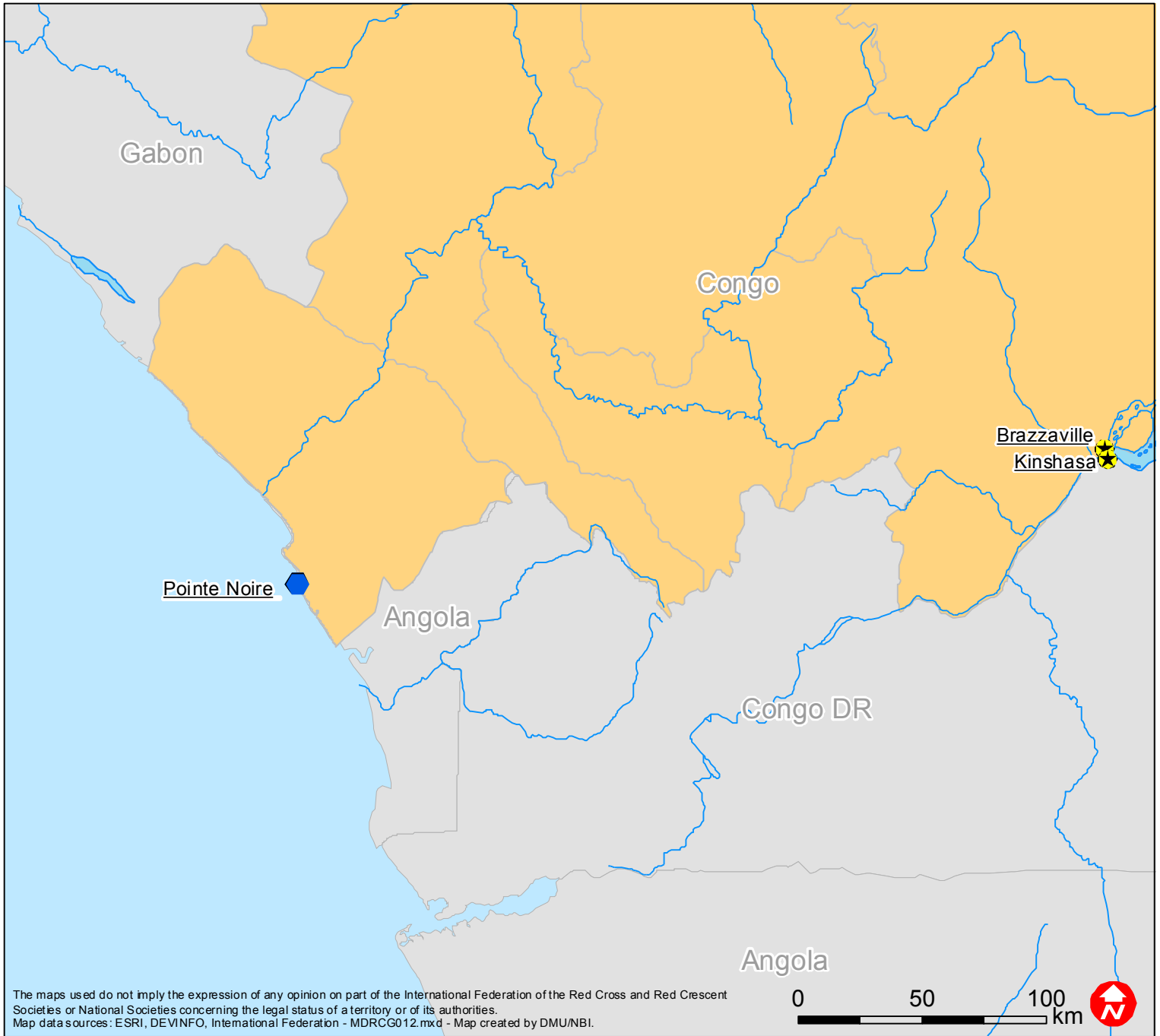
30-11-12

Congo Floods Pointe Noire

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>DREF Grant Budget CHF</b>
Shelter - Relief	22,556
Clothing & Textiles	17,856
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	23,968
Medical & First Aid	1,944
Ustensils & Tools	11,250
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>77,574</b>
Storage, Warehousing	1,259
Distribution & Monitoring	926
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,759
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>3,944</b>
National Society Staff	1,796
Volunteers	8,316
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>10,113</b>
Workshops & Training	4,167
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>4,167</b>
Travel	5,093
Information & Public Relations	2,685
Office Costs	556
Communications	648
Financial Charges	139
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>9,120</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	6,820
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>6,820</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>111,738</b>



# Republic of Congo Floods in Pointe Noire



 Affected City