

FINAL REPORT



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

ANGOLA: FLOODS

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INTERIM FINAL REPORT

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

Minor Emergency history:

- Launched on 17 March 2005 to assist 10,000 beneficiaries for three months.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 44,171

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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.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background and Summary

For several days in March 2005, the city of Dondo (170 km from Luanda) experienced heavy rains that caused overflowing of Kapacala and Kwanza Norte rivers, among others. This resulted in flooding that caused damage to housing, agriculture and communication systems. By the evening of 10 March 2005, approximately 17,000 people had been affected in some villages of Dondo and 6,500 in Bengo (Caxicana municipality). 1,600 houses were completely destroyed by the flooding in Dondo while a further 1,200 were partially destroyed. Schools also suffered damage and were forced to close. The spate continued after torrential rains caused more flooding in five localities in Caxicana in the Bengo province, on the night of 12 March 2005, further affecting 260 families that lost their houses. On 15 March 2005, more rain fell in the region and the city of Massangano located 18 km from Dondo was also affected. As of 16 March 2005, the Angola government had provided helicopters to assist in the evacuation of people stranded in the flooded areas.

Initial evaluations carried out by the Angola Red Cross¹, in collaboration with the government, identified the preliminary needs. The identified needs included water and sanitation (distribution of safe water and the containers); food (for affected families); temporary shelters (including items such as blankets, mattresses, cleaning kits and latrines); kitchen kits; personal hygiene kits; clothing and rescue equipment (boats and personal safety equipment).

¹ The Angola Red Cross- refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=18>

Coordination

The relief operations in Bengo and Kwanza Norte provinces were well coordinated at the field level, with the Angola Red Cross playing a leading role. Effective cooperation and coordination mechanisms were also established between national society branches and other humanitarian aid organizations, to avoid duplication of work and to maximize the reach and positive impact of the collective efforts. Key partners in the field during this operation include United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and World Food Programme (WFP) providing mosquito nets and foods item for distribution to affected families. Coordination with local civil protection services was also strong and helped to optimize the impact of relief aid provided.

Analysis of the operation - objectives, achievements and impact



The Angola Red Cross assisted the affected families by providing temporary shelter, nutritional feeding, water and sanitation facilities, tracing and family reunification. The national society also worked in collaboration with local National Civil Protection Service on search and rescue, evacuations and providing basic health care.

The government, through the National Civil Protection Service, monitored the situation and mobilized local authorities in Bengo and Kwanza Norte provinces to scale up the rescue operation.

The Angola Red Cross, in collaboration with the government, conducted a damage assessment in the affected areas which identified the needs of the affected families.

The government also sent equipment to the affected area to help in the repair of roads alongside providing relief items such as blankets, mattresses, used clothes and food items.

The Angola Red Cross First Aid-trained staff, more than 30 volunteer in Dondo and 15 others in Caxicana conducted social mobilization activities in an effort to prevent the spread of diarrhoeal diseases, cholera and malaria.

The national society also sent two consignments of used clothing to Dondo and one to Caxicana from its central warehouse in Luanda. The national society’s disaster management staff and volunteers distributed the clothes to the vulnerable and affected population.

The Red Cross volunteers conducted sensitization actions on the correct use of mosquito-net targeting pregnant women and children under five years, safe water and adequate latrines.



Volunteers distributing relief items to some of the beneficiaries in Kwanza Norte province

Table 1: Relief items distributed

Item	Kwanza-Norte	Bengo
ORS packages	4,000	4,000
Jerry cans	2,100	250
T-shirts	30	30
Pectorals	100	-
Mosquito nets (UNICEF)	4,500	-

Impact

The sensitization campaigns (on the correct use of mosquito-nets, safe water and adequate latrines) provided the national society the opportunity to publicize its principles at the grassroots.

Volunteers of the local branches of the national society involved in the operation had the opportunity to strengthen their capacities to handle any future flooding emergencies.

By allocating DREF funds to the national society, the response of the Federation did not only compliment the government's effort but also supported national society in responding widely and effectively to the identified needs.

Lesson learnt

The emergency operation was planned to last three months but was prolonged due to delays in the disbursement of funds. Throughout the course of the relief operation, it became clear that capacity building in service delivery and administration initiatives is necessary at all levels of the Angola Red Cross structure.

There is also a need for the national society to always hold reasonable relief materials in its warehouse to facilitate immediate disaster responses.

<p>Special note: This Interim Final Report is being issued without the financial report. The Final Report, comprising of the final financial report and this narrative report, will be issued in due course.</p>

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