

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

NIGERIA: FLOODS **INTERIM FINAL REPORT**

ME no. 05ME51
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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 29 August 2005 for 3 months to assist 2,700 beneficiaries Minor Emergency no. 05ME051 dated 29 August 2005 refer to: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05ME051.pdf
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 100,000.

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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

Over 100 people died and over 50,000 people were initially displaced in Jalingo, the state capital of Taraba (North-East of Nigeria bordering Cameroon Republic) as a result of an eight-hour heavy rains on 7 August, 2005 causing flooding with unusual heavy water current. The river Jalingo Bridge collapsed when the river overflowed its banks as a result of the heavy downpour. Forty (40) bodies were recovered out of about 80 persons standing on the major bridge of the state. The high pressured precipitation run-off from the hills surrounding the town over-flooded the

river bank. The flood was said to be unprecedented in the last 40 years. It cleared away the major bridge and road network linking the city with other parts of the state and the country.

Coordination

Many stakeholders in emergency response activities identified the Red Cross as a reliable partner as they shared experience, data and advice. For instance, WHO visited the camps and collected IDPs registration forms to vaccinate all the IDPs affected by the Jalingo floods in the three camps. They also donated Oral Rehydrated Salt (ORS). On the other hand, UNICEF from nearby Bauchi Zonal office assisted with drugs by using Red Cross data on all the IDPs.



Collaboration and coordination between UNICEF, WHO, Taraba State Emergency and Relief Committee, NEMA and other stakeholders like the Police, etc., enhanced the Disaster Management capacities of the National Society.

European First Aid Certificate (EFAT) capacity has tremendously increased the value of the national society in reducing vulnerability as demonstrated during the response activities of Jalingo floods operation in Taraba State.

Analysis of the operation - objectives, achievements, impact

General Objective : To provide immediate non-food and dry food relief assistance to 500 the most affected and vulnerable families concerned by the Jalingo flood disaster in Taraba State of Nigeria.

Other Objectives

- **Provide logistic support to distribute food relief items to the families affected by the flood in Jalingo, Taraba State;**
- **Provide basic health support and health education for the affected people and referral to identified health centres;**
- **Provide assistance with the provision of tracing and family links;**
- **Liaise and coordinate with relevant authorities and agencies and operates with the sphere standards in all response activities;**
- **Mobilize, train, equip and manage volunteers and staff to ensure effective disaster management operation.**

Output:

Following the approval by the Procurement Committee of the national society, the recommended and budgeted food relief items such as rice, beans, gari, vegetable oil, salt, and sugar were procured and transported to the Jalingo, Taraba State to be distributed to the 500 most affected and venerable families

The one month food items procured for those families arrived at Jalingo, Taraba State on Saturday, 3rd September, 2005 around 2:45 p.m. The distribution of the food items started the same the evening. They were shared and distributed using the IDPs registration forms already obtained during the needs assessment of the three camps: Magami, Mafindi and Lamorde.

The Nigerian Red Cross national president, Taraba State deputy governor, Taraba State Emergency and Relief Committee, DP Adviser and many others witnessed the arrival of the trucks loaded with the various food items brought as relief for the 500 most affected and vulnerable families.

The food relief items distribution was flagged off by the Nigerian Red Cross National President for Talban Bauchi, accompanied by the DP Adviser and Assistant Secretary General (Programmes) in the three IDPs' camps of Nunkai Primary School Magami, Mafindi Primary School and Lamorde Primary School, Lamorde.

Operationally, more than fifty (50) volunteers were mobilized before and during the relief food distribution including the non-food relief items supported by the British Red Cross Small Scale Disaster Relief Fund which was initially used to support some 200 of the most affected and vulnerable families affected by the Jalingo Flood Disaster in Taraba State.

The same British Red Cross emergency fund was temporarily used to support the deployed staff and volunteers for around 10 days. The assessment of the flood disaster was promptly carried out with the same funds.

The over 50 volunteer's mobilized continued working in the camps with morning and night shifts. They continued to give health talks and mobilizing the IDPs to maintain good hygiene and sanitation in the three camps. The volunteers were motivated through the payment of their per diems. They received commendations from the Secretary General, National President, Taraba Governor and his Deputy, people of Taraba State, the affected people, UNICEF, WHO and others for their efforts.

Impact:

The Red Cross is more and more accepted and recognised by the communities. More members were registered as volunteers impressed their friends, relatives and colleagues. They were motivated to become members and volunteers.

Since the National President is a Moslem, his presence in flagging off the food items distribution in a mixed community of Moslems and Christians erased the issue of logo stigma. Taraba Branch became a member of the State Emergency and Relief Committee having been co-opted by the Deputy Governor's recommendation about the public view of Red Cross and its various humanitarian activities. This significantly enhanced the image of the Red Cross.

Satisfied with the level of competence of the Red Cross, the Deputy Governor, on behalf of the Governor, lauded the Red Cross for its efficiency and reliability and promised to assist the Red Cross whenever assistance is needed from the government.

The sufferings of beneficiaries were alleviated from the 30 day food distribution in all three IDP camps and the capacity of the volunteers was strengthened.

The image of the Red Cross was improved within and without Jalingo through print and electronic media

Constraints:

The major constraint came from the Taraba State Emergency and Relief Committee who mostly engaged in political distribution of relief items, instead of dealing directly with the Red Cross who had the data of all the IDPs. Several times they collected names of beneficiaries from political office holders. They starved Donated relief items remained in government stores instead of distributing them immediately alongside with other relief items. They also gave more to affected people outside the camps than those within the camps.

Another constraint was the delay sending in reports and update reports from the field.

Other constraints include lack of initial proper understanding of Red Cross humanitarian services. This was the first major operations for Taraba branch in disaster response activities since its creation 14 years ago.

Lack of vehicles to transport staff and volunteers greatly hampered the coordination of efforts because, Branch Secretary vehicle served as ambulance and everything.

Lessons Learned

It has now been established that the government finds it difficult to adapt to the code of conduct of humanitarian organizations. As such, the best thing to do is to let them do what they can and allow the Red Cross to face its

humanitarian services by not being a member of any Relief Committee if they do not abide by the code of conduct.

Another lesson learned includes sharing disaster information with all stakeholders and donors immediately after a needs assessment or emergency response.

- Sharing data and information with other organisations such as WHO, UNICEF and others were of great utility to the operation.
- Moreover, during response activities, registration of new volunteers should be done simultaneously and training conducted through such activities. It's an avenue to increase the numbers of volunteers with little efforts.

Recommendations

- Before entering into relief partnership with any State Government, a code of conduct should be clearly spelt out and memorandum of understanding clearly indicated and signed by both parties, so that each party will know its power, limits, expertise and resources while responding to disaster emergencies.
- First Aid Teams should be established and extended to more L.G.As to serve as a first point of response in any emergency.
- For maximum efficiency and effectiveness in coordination, appropriate trainings in all the required fields such as Disaster Management, Project Management, Leadership Training, First Aid Services, etc., should be provided and extended to more staff and volunteers.
- International Federation Disaster Management Information System should be made available to Nigerian Red Cross as an avenue to promptly share their disaster reports' and information with the Federation and at all times.
- The pre-stock relief materials of non-food items in all the strategic warehouses and six zonal offices be stocked, updated and adequately strengthened to cater for more families in any response activities. At the same time, an avenue should be found to regularly replace depleted non-food items..
- Vehicles and mobile HF radios should be provided for all the six zonal offices for reporting, coordination and monitoring of all the Branches within each zone.

Conclusion

During the last week, Taraba State Government in Jalingo, decided that all the IDPs in the three camps should be given ₦10,000:00 (CHF 95.00) to rent an apartment anywhere in Taraba State pending the allocation of land to the IDPs for rehabilitation and resettlement. The reason was because schools were about to resume normal academic session on 26th September, 2005.

The whole response operation was a success with its enormous impacts. It brought out Red Cross' principles and values. Although, at times the Red Cross was at loggerhead with the government, while the IDP appreciated and commended the efforts of Red Cross. There is hardly is any office or person who did not know what Red Cross did in Jalingo today. UNICEF, WHO, NEMA, Relief Committee, State Hospitals, Fire Service, Police and many others praised the Red Cross for its prompt interventions and humanitarian assistance.

The DREF allocation allowed the Nigerian Red Cross Society to rapidly response to the needs of the affected people and to strengthen its own disaster response capacity.

<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 shortly.</p>

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