

MINOR EMERGENCY



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

SENEGAL: FLOODS

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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

CHF 34,000 (USD 26,163 OR EUR 21,900) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO ASSIST SOME 600 FAMILIES (3,600) BENEFICIARIES FOR A PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS.

UNEARMARKED FUNDS TO REPAY DREF ARE ENCOURAGED.

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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 please refer to the Federation's 2005 Annual Appeal for Nigeria sub-regional programmes, no. 05AA025 – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA025.pdf

The situation

A series of heavy rains caused severe flooding in parts of Senegal, in particular the capital city of Dakar, leaving thousands of the most vulnerable population homeless. Reports indicate that the most affected areas are apparently the suburbs of Rufisque, Pikine, and Guédiawaye, where the highest density of poor live. Despite joint efforts from all rescues and disaster response teams it remains difficult to establish the number of affected houses.

The government set up a crisis committee through the “plan ORSEC” in which the Senegalese Red Cross participates and caring for the victims by providing temporary accommodation in some schools and setting up camps. More than 50 000 are victims and need to be relocated in new housing that the government plans to build.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action taken so far

Immediately after the emergency was announced the Senegalese volunteers were mobilised from the affected area especially for accessibility for deployment and about 90 SRC volunteers are deployed for the Dakar Rescue operation.

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Coordinated action lead by the Ministry of Home Affaires and Civil Protection and Defence provided an opportunity for the Red Cross the opportunity to attend to the victims in first aid and distribution of food and non-food items.

Tripartite meetings within the Movement were held, with the participation of the Danish Red Cross, the Senegalese Red Cross and the Federation (facilitated by the Regional Delegation in Dakar). A plan of action has been developed to assist 600 of the most affected vulnerable families for the next 30 days. This will be comprised of basic health and health education, hygiene and basic sanitation in four camps, logistic support for the entire operation, and distribution of essential first aid material and of non-food items that will be provided by the Danish Red Cross. The package will consist of bleach (Javel), soap, bowls and buckets with lids, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, blankets and tents.

The Federation is supporting the national society in implementing this plan of action by supporting the 90 volunteers and supervisors involved in the operation, setting up the telecommunication system, and other required logistics support to provide non-food items for 600 most vulnerable families affected by the floods.

The needs

Since the areas affected are the most populated in Dakar, health and water sanitation concerns are high, including the outbreak of water-borne disease. There is a need to improve the poor drainage system and the congestion in the temporary sites.

Coordination

Through its Regional Delegation in Dakar, the Federation is assisting the national society to respond and liaising with other agencies and institutions involved in the operation. Movement partners are communicating action and monitoring the situation. Regular meetings are being held with the national society to review and reflect on the evolution of the situation and the impact of the disaster response given on a daily basis. The Senegalese Red Cross is working closely with government authorities in the field; the Federation supports the national society in its activities.

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