

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Burundi: Heavy Rains and Floods

DREF operation n° MDRBI002  
GLIDE n° FL-2006-000190-BDI  
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The International Federation's 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 Red Crescent response to emergencies. 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 122,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) (CHF 62,000 on 20 December, 2006 and CHF 60,000 on 19 January, 2007) to support the National Society in delivering assistance to some 2,100 beneficiary households.

A total of 1,244 households were assisted with non-food and basic shelter items, maize, beans and early maturing vegetable seeds, long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets (LLITNs) and water purification supplies. The Burundi Red Cross (BRC) provided assistance to the affected communities in Cibitoke, Ruyigi and Bujumbura as well as Kayanza and Ngozi which are neighboring regions that were also experiencing flooding. Working closely with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the BRC was able to reach out to these new regions to provide rapid assistance to the six affected communes.

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)



Burundi Red Cross distributing non-food items in Cibitoke Province (photo: BRC)

## The situation

Widespread floods resulting from heavy rains displaced 600 households mostly in Cibitoke and Ruyigi, starting in December, 2006 up to early 2007 as the floods destroyed or submerged infrastructure and field crops. Other affected provinces where houses were damaged or swept off included Bujumbura, Bubanza, Muramvya, Karuzi, Kayanza and Ngozi provinces. Areas situated in the low lands such as Bujumbura Rural and Bujumbura Mairie provinces were adversely affected as these areas, lacking proper drainage, filled with water and submerged homes and crops. As a result, 1,500 houses were damaged, affecting over 10,000 people. Other damages were reported by the Burundi Red Cross in Rukaramu, Rubirizi and Muntimbuzi communes of Maramvya Province, with 1,300 houses submerged.

Affected communities went in search of shelter in churches, schools, public utilities and makeshift shelters. Further aggravating the situation, roads that were already in a poor state were considerably damaged. The route linking the Bujumbura and Cibitoke up to Mutambu communes via Kabezi remained inaccessible for a long time. Lack of clean water in Bujumbura also increased the risks of a cholera outbreak and water-borne diseases in the surrounding areas. There were other real fears of looming food insecurity as fields expected

to produce soft potatoes and maize became water-filled resulting in rotting field crops. According to UNICEF most households lost up to 50 or 60 percent of their income as their farms were swept away and homes destroyed. Acting out of desperation, some communities living along the Burundi-Tanzania border were reported to have crossed the border on to Tanzania in search of food.

The Burundi Government declared the situation in the country a national disaster in early 2007 and called for assistance to address the crisis. In addition, the Burundian Government, the Burundi Red Cross and other relief agencies provided food and non-food items to assist the floods-affected people. The Government also set up a national solidarity fund to support displaced people in the affected provinces.

## Coordination

The Burundi Red Cross received support from the Federation Eastern Africa Zone Logistics office during the purchase and transportation of bean seeds and early maturing vegetable seeds to the areas identified for the distribution in Cibitoke and Ruyigi provinces.

The World Food Programme (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) conducted joint assessments in January 2007 and found that the heavy rains and floods had destroyed 50 to 80 percent of the November harvest and much of the January harvest of beans, sweet potatoes, maize, sorghum and rice across large parts of the country. The assessment also established that the vulnerable people had resorted to survival tactics such as having one meal per day and opting for drought resistant food such as cassava or bitter bananas. The WFP provided seeds to floods-affected communities in Cibitoke, Bubanza, Kayanza and Ngozi provinces located in the north and north-east of Burundi. The programme, conducted between 15 February and 15 March under the agency's seed protection ration framework, was meant to prepare the communities for the coming season. UNICEF also provided 12,000 10-litre capacity jerry cans, 500 cartons of soap, 2,600 blankets, 1,675 wrappers and 350 plastic sheets for emergency tents in addition to water-purifier tablets for 1,300 households in Bujumbura.

Food for Peace assisted in rebuilding infrastructure by constructing and maintaining roads and bridges, constructing grain storage facilities and rehabilitating schools and sanitation infrastructures. In addition, Food for Peace supported community-based projects including swamp rehabilitation, erosion control, nursery tree planting, fish pond building, establishing bee-keeping facilities, constructing shelters and developing improved methods of growing cassava.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

To effectively conduct relief items distribution, the BRC volunteers from Kayanza and Ngozi provinces attended training sessions in target criteria, distribution protocols, organization of an effective distribution exercise, the use of distribution sheets and reporting. The BRC procured and distributed non-food items and seeds in six communes of Kayanza and Ngozi provinces where a total of 600 floods-affected households were assisted. In addition, the National Society conducted awareness sessions and information-sharing meetings targeting the administrative authorities to share the aim and objective of the intervention and the beneficiary identification criteria.

## Progress towards objectives

The BRC provided assistance to the affected communities in Cibitoke, Ruyigi and Bujumbura as well as neighbouring regions that were experiencing flooding including Kayanza and Ngozi. The targeted households received non-food and shelters items, livelihoods/food security packages including seedlings, insecticide-treated mosquito nets as well as hygiene promotion through distribution of aqua tabs. The National Society's volunteers conducted sensitization sessions for community residents and local authority representatives on the role of proper hygiene in prevention of water-borne disease outbreaks.

### **Goal: To contribute towards the mitigation of the effects of floods in Burundi**

#### **Emergency relief**

**Objective: Contribute to the improvement of living conditions of floods-affected households in Burundi.**

**Specific Objective 1: to provide 2,100 floods-affected households in Ruyigi, Cibitoke and Bujumbura provinces with essential non-food items (NFI) and temporary shelter**

#### **Achievements**

A total of 1,244 households were assisted with non-food and basic shelter items, translating into 60 percent of the beneficiaries initially targeted. Out of the overall figure, 844 households in Gatumba received non-food

items including buckets, soap, women's clothes, blankets and large size jerry-cans. The relief items distributed were part of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) kits. The 100 percent target was not attained because, at the time of implementation, other populations in neighboring Kayanza and Ngozi provinces were experiencing more floods and there was need for extended emergency assistance. Since UNICEF was already active in Bujumbura, it was felt that Red Cross assistance could be spread further up north in Kayanza and Ngozi provinces to minimize the effects of the floods. As a result of the changes, an additional 600 households received non-food item assistance in the areas where new flooding had been reported.

The BRC assisted 300 vulnerable households in Buganda and Rugombo communes of Cibitoke Province. The households were identified as the most affected by the heavy rains and flooding. The non-food items distributed consisted of blankets, hoes and water cans. Similar assistance was extended to Ruyigi Province, where at least 100 households received non-food items.

At a minimum, each household received two blankets, one 800g piece of soap, one canvass sheet, two hoes with handles and two water cans. The BRC also designated five shelter sites for vulnerable communities at Mushasha I and II, Munyange and Kinyinya I and II villages during site identification process. To promote transparency, the BRC volunteers conducting NFI distributions made use of blackboards to indicate the total number of households targeted for provision of NFIs, the total number of items available for distribution and the guidelines for effective distribution. In addition, the beneficiary lists were used during the distribution to monitor the process.

Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) conducted by the National Society found distributed relief items including some blankets and hoes on shelves of shops and outlets showing that some had later been sold. It was therefore concluded that some households having received two blankets each felt the need to preserve one and sell the other to generate income.

**Challenges:** High prices of food items in the markets, in addition to the scarcity of beans in-country, resulted in delays during the procurement process thus affecting the distribution timetable as well.

## Livelihoods

**Objective: Secure the food security situation of the floods-affected population in Cibitoke and Ruyigi provinces**

**Specific Objective: Provide 600 floods-affected households with seeds for replanting**

### Achievements

Procurement and transportation of bean seeds and early maturing vegetable seeds was conducted in Cibitoke and Ruyigi provinces. The BRC distributed the beans and vegetable seeds to 300 households in the north-western province of Cibitoke. Other beneficiaries from the north-eastern province of Ruyigi were also assisted. Each household received 10kg of bean seeds, three sachets of vegetable seeds and two fruit tree seedlings.

The BRC worked closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in a partnership that was instituted in 2005. This collaboration is aimed at assuring effective distribution of beans seeds, vegetable seeds, digging hoes and other agricultural/livelihoods items.

## Health

**Objective: Safeguard the health of the population affected by floods in Burundi**

**Specific Objective: Promote the usage of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLITN) for the prevention of malaria within the target groups.**

### Achievements

The BRC volunteers conducted beneficiary identification followed by distribution of long lasting insecticide-treated nets. Targeting the most vulnerable members of the community such as expectant women and children below the age of five, the BRCS distributed 2,100 mosquito nets to approximately 300 households in Cibitoke and 1,500 households in Bujumbura that received 1 mosquito net each. In addition, the National Society embarked on community sensitization through public information dissemination and education meetings. The awareness creation also targeted local administrative authorities informing on the objectives and expected results and the implementation. As a result, the affected communities were equipped with knowledge about effective measures for protection against malaria.

**Impact:** A post-distribution monitoring was conducted to determine the impact and lessons learned from the intervention. Field visits to homes that received assistance reported that most households were using the LLITNs provided.

**Challenges:** The criteria and methods used in identifying the most vulnerable households were not well understood by local administrative authorities resulting in delays in deployment of relief items.

## **Water and sanitation**

**Objective: Contribute to the prevention of water-borne diseases in the affected communities**

**Specific Objective 4: To disinfect the floods-affected areas and treat drinking water using chlorine-based tablets**

### **Achievements**

A total of 4,220 chlorine items for water treatment (Aquatabs) were procured and distributed in Cibitoke and Ruyigi provinces in order to control the spread of cholera and diarrhoeal infections especially among children of below five years. A total of 844 households received compressed Aquatabs for water purification. Each household received five Aquatab sachets for domestic water treatment. However, it was observed that some households resisted using the Aquatabs due to perceptions held that the products could cause other complications. In response to the observation, The Red Cross volunteers conducted comprehensive hygiene education campaigns in the affected areas to reinforce the usage of water treatment substances and dispel fears.

The BRC also distributed chemicals for purifying water and disinfecting water sources. The Red Cross volunteers conducted disinfection of the affected areas and provided health education to empower the community members and minimize the spread of epidemics. They also continued to monitor cases of cholera so as to refer them to the closest health centre.

## **Conclusion**

### **Lessons learned:**

- By involving the communities in active participation during selection of the most vulnerable households and tallying of beneficiary lists at the end of the selection process, a transparent process was guaranteed even during the actual distribution process.
- The floods operation provided a setting for the BRC to disseminate information to affected communities and local authorities about the nature of work done by the Red Cross and created a good entry strategy despite mild resistance from some areas of intervention.
- There is a need for more training and recruitment of volunteers and BRC staff in effective response to flood disasters. It was observed that the majority of the BRC volunteers lack experience and they require training in vulnerability capacity assessment and disaster management.
- The BRC disaster management department is understaffed and the frequency and magnitude with which the flood disaster struck meant that the National Society was constantly overstretched.

## How we work

*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.*

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDRBI002 - Burundi - Heavy Rains

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2005/1-2008/1
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MDRBI002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Consolidated Response to Appeal**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>		122,000				122,000
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>DREF</i>		62,000				62,000
<b>C1. Cash contributions</b>		62,000				62,000
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		53,550				53,550
<b>C5. Other Income</b>		53,550				53,550
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)</b>		115,550				115,550
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>		115,550				115,550
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>		95%				95%

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>C. Income</b>		115,550				115,550
<b>E. Expenditure</b>		-115,550				-115,550
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>		0				0

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### III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>122,000</b>					<b>122,000</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief	16,044						16,044	
Clothing & textiles	17,233		38,719			38,719	-21,486	
Seeds,Plants	4,509		8,630			8,630	-4,121	
Water & Sanitation			7,455			7,455	-7,455	
Medical & First Aid			1,092			1,092	-1,092	
Utensils & Tools	9,324		10,553			10,553	-1,229	
Other Supplies & Services	2,300		493			493	1,807	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>49,410</b>		<b>66,943</b>			<b>66,943</b>	<b>-17,533</b>	
<b>Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>								
Computers & Telecom			3,011			3,011	-3,011	
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>			<b>3,011</b>			<b>3,011</b>	<b>-3,011</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage			9,892			9,892	-9,892	
Distribution & Monitoring			4,817			4,817	-4,817	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	26,371		14,971			14,971	11,400	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>26,371</b>		<b>29,679</b>			<b>29,679</b>	<b>-3,309</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
International Staff Payroll Benefits			375			375	-375	
National Staff	3,341		2,540			2,540	801	
National Society Staff			2,493			2,493	-2,493	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>3,341</b>		<b>5,408</b>			<b>5,408</b>	<b>-2,067</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	11,726						11,726	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>11,726</b>						<b>11,726</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel			676			676	-676	
Information & Public Relation	13,920		927			927	12,993	
Office Costs	9,303		737			737	8,566	
Communications			182			182	-182	
Financial Charges			428			428	-428	
Other General Expenses			48			48	-48	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>23,223</b>		<b>2,998</b>			<b>2,998</b>	<b>20,225</b>	
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	7,930		7,511			7,511	419	
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>7,930</b>		<b>7,511</b>			<b>7,511</b>	<b>419</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>122,000</b>		<b>115,550</b>			<b>115,550</b>	<b>6,450</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>6,450</b>			<b>6,450</b>		