



REPUBLIC OF CONGO: FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES FINAL REPORT

No. MDRCG001

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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 185 countries.

In Brief

Period covered by this Final Report: 27 November 2006 to 24 February 2007

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 145,912 was allocated from the Federation's DREF on 27 November 2006 to respond to the needs of this operation (refer to [DREF Bulletin no. MDRCG001](#)).
- [DREF Bulletin Update No. 1](#) was issued on 16 March 2007
- This operation was implemented over 3 months, and was completed on 24 February 2007.

[<Click here to go directly to the attached final financial report>](#)

This operation was aligned with the International Federation's 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.

Background and Summary

In October 2006, heavy rains that caused flooding were experienced in Brazzaville, the capital city of the Republic of Congo (RoC). The rains caused serious damages. The flooding affected several neighbourhoods of Brazzaville, including Mpila, Mikalou, Tsiémé, Ma Mboulé, Petit-chose, Yoro, Mfilou, Ouenze, Talangai and Kinsoundi. The water rose to 2 meters in all these areas, submerging houses and causing damages as well as claiming human lives.

During a joint Federation/Congolese Red Cross evaluation mission in the field, the team reported landslides (erosion) as well as silting of sand; which confirmed reports by other UN agencies and Government services. The landslides affected Kombo, Émeraude, Ciespac and Kinsoundi areas. Public cemeteries of Itatolo, situated in the northern part of Brazzaville, were not spared by the landslides as many graves were washed away. More than 1,000 graves had been destroyed and a huge gully had been dug exposing many of the remaining graves. The landslides polluted the water that is used by the population and exposed them to waterborne diseases.

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In Mpila, the central water collector had remained blocked for the past 25 years, resulting in water overflowing during the rainy season. A lack of latrines, due to the marshy soil, further exposed the population to waterborne diseases. This necessitated an urgent hygiene and sanitation intervention.

Coordination

In the field, there was close collaboration among Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement members to ensure the successful implementation of this operation. The International Federation deployed a Regional Disaster Response Team for West and Central Africa (ERDAC¹) member in the field to offer technical support to the National Society.

Upon request from funeral directors of the Congolese Government, the Congolese Red Cross assisted the local council to exhume and re-bury the corpses that had been unearthed by the landslides. The World Health Organization (WHO) supported the Brazzaville divisional committee of the Congolese Red Cross by providing two sprayers, 50 kg of chlorine, 100 body bags and disinfectants. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)-Holland donated some body bags and protection materials to the National Society. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also donated 100 body bags to assist the Congolese Red Cross.

The government, in collaboration with the Congolese Red Cross and community volunteers, coordinated the rehabilitation of rain water collectors. A watch dog committee, comprising of the ministries of Social Affairs, Solidarity, Humanitarian Action and Family, was put in place to coordinate activities with UN agencies, government structures and other organizations involved in the operation.

Since the beginning of the disaster and throughout the emergency response operation, there was smooth coordination among all the humanitarian actors. This prevented duplication of actions and ensured efficiency. Consequently, the Congolese Red Cross is seen as an efficient coordinator of activities in the field, where it played a pertinent and efficient role during interventions, thanks to their capacity and network of volunteers.

Analysis of the operation - objectives, achievements and impact

Given the scope of the disaster and the fact that it had been recurrent since 2004, the operation was carried out in two phases: an emergency phase to save vulnerable people and a consolidation phase to prevent/prepare/reduce future disasters.

Objective: To contribute to reducing the vulnerability of the population affected by floods in Brazzaville in the next three months.

Achievements

The emergency phase

Fifty Red Cross volunteers were deployed in the field to carry out sanitation activities in the affected localities. These volunteers were trained in water and sanitation and hygiene promotion. The activities included removing garbage from public squares, disinfection of houses, sanitary facilities, wells and water sources as well as the cleaning of gutters. The volunteers treated over 150 water wells and disinfected over 250 latrines.

Red Cross volunteers updated the list of beneficiaries for food and non-food distribution so that it was similar to that of the Ministry of Social Affairs. The distribution exercise was organized at the Congolese Red Cross headquarters. A total of 3,500 people from 550 families in the Mikalou, Petit-chose, Fleuve Congo, Mbouale, Hotel-Emeraude and Mpila Gallieni neighbourhoods received: 1,100 insecticide-treated mosquito nets; 1,000 blankets; 100 mattresses; 2,000 bars of soap; 550 cooking kits; 56 tarpaulins; 10 bundles of clothes for children, adolescents and adults.

The consolidation phase

In order to ensure that the communities in Brazzaville enhanced their floods mitigation skills, workshops were organized to build the capacities of the National Society, who would in turn train these communities.

¹ In French: Equipe régionale de réponse aux désastres pour l’Afrique de l’Ouest et du Centre; also known as RDRT

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In addition, a training of trainers on community-based first aid (CBFA) was organized to enable the trainees to be fully equipped to train more volunteers. As a result of the training, a national flood-related early alert system was established.

Fifty volunteers of the Brazzaville divisional committee attended a water and sanitation training session. Ten additional volunteers were trained on the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) process. The National Society also received hygiene and sanitation materials as well as first aid kits to strengthen their intervention capacities.

Impact

Red Cross volunteers contributed enormously to the success of the operation, thanks to their dedication. The activities carried out in the field enabled the National Society to consolidate its position as an auxiliary to the Government and reinforce its mandate as a humanitarian organization.

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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>

[<Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRCG001 - CONGO - Floods and landslides

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MDRCG001
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
A. Budget		145,912				145,912
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
DREF		-16,048				-16,048
C1. Cash contributions		-16,048				-16,048
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
DREF		145,912				145,912
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or		145,912				145,912
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		129,865				129,865
D. Total Funding = B + C		129,865				129,865

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		129,865				129,865
E. Expenditure		-129,865				-129,865
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		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
BUDGET (C)		145,912					145,912	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	8,000		3,773				3,773	4,227
Clothing & textiles	35,250		39,250				39,250	-4,000
Water & Sanitation	13,568		30,366				30,366	-16,799
Teaching Materials	3,938		3,375				3,375	563
Utensils & Tools	26,503		9,900				9,900	16,603
Other Supplies & Services			12				12	-12
Total Supplies	87,258		86,676				86,676	582
Transport & Storage								
Storage			145				145	-145
Transport & Vehicle Costs	7,450		3,157				3,157	4,293
Total Transport & Storage	7,450		3,302				3,302	4,148
Personnel Expenditures								
Regionally Deployed Staff	12,000		6,064				6,064	5,936
National Staff			988				988	-988
National Society Staff	8,910		9,852				9,852	-942
Total Personnel Expenditures	20,910		16,904				16,904	4,006
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	10,450		7,575				7,575	2,875
Total Workshops & Training	10,450		7,575				7,575	2,875
General Expenditure								
Travel	3,750		2,370				2,370	1,380
Information & Public Relation			1,673				1,673	-1,673
Office Costs	3,860		1,150				1,150	2,710
Communications	1,950		546				546	1,404
Financial Charges			1,228				1,228	-1,228
Other General Expenses	800							800
Total General Expenditure	10,360		6,966				6,966	3,393
Program Support								
Program Support	9,484		8,441				8,441	1,043
Total Program Support	9,484		8,441				8,441	1,043
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	145,912		129,864				129,864	16,047
VARIANCE (C - D)			16,047				16,047	