



MALI: FIRE

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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

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 53,044 (USD 43,475 or EUR 33,021) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months (to the benefit of 5,000 beneficiaries), and will be completed by 28 March 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is 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 current situation

During the night of 19 December 2006, a serious fire occurred in Dialakoto, a village of over 8,050 inhabitants located in the southwest of the Mali. The affected village is some 750 km from Bamako, close to Kéniéba, commune of Guénugoré. The fire was caused by a mosquito net that caught fire from an oil lamp. According to reliable reports, the strong harmattan winds caused the flames to spread uncontrollably.

There were no deaths, and the 30 injured people have received the necessary care, thanks to the collaboration of the health services in place. Nevertheless, many basic housing materials have been damaged, and 5,000 people are without shelters (46% of them children). Initial assessments concluded the following:

- 311 residences destroyed;
- 52 cereal storage structures destroyed;
- 48 kitchens destroyed;
- 3 shops destroyed;
- 1 school library destroyed;
- 5,000 people identified without shelters.

At this time of year, Mali faces a fall of temperatures due to the harmattan phenomenon and its associated winds. There is a heightened risk of colds and/or respiratory diseases because of the exposure to the bad weather and vectors.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Mali Red Cross organized an assessment team composed of 2 Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members and 4 volunteers of the local Red Cross committee of Kéniéba. The assessment team assisted the local and communal authorities in identifying those affected and the needs. In collaboration with the Sanitary Services, the team also advised on steps to be taken to diminish the risk of disease and respiratory illnesses.

Further immediate assistance is required in this village in order to avoid deterioration in the general health situation, including sanitary and nutritional aspects. Children are particularly prone to exposure and require health assistance. In terms of needs, food items (cereal, sugar and oil), non-food items (blankets, plaited mats, children's wears, kitchen sets, cans, soap) and provisional shelters are required.

Assistance from other sources (including the government and local authorities)

The assistance organized by local authorities is limited (150,000 CFA and 20 sleeping mats). Following a meeting organized by the authorities in Bamako on 27 December, the Malian Red Cross – working as auxiliary to the government – was urgently requested to provide additional assistance.

Activities foreseen by the Malian Red Cross (plan of action)

- Procurement and distribution of food (cereal, sugar and oil), and basic non-food items (blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, used clothes, kitchen sets and soap).
- Assisting the most vulnerable in cleaning their houses and domestic areas.
- Providing equipment for volunteers.
- Advocating with local authorities.
- Supervising and producing reports.

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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.

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