



NIGERIA: OIL PIPELINE DISASTER IN ABULE EGBA

DREF Bulletin no.
MDRNG002
29 December 2006

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 75,000 (USD 62,138 or EUR 47,140) 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 1 month, and will be completed by 27 January 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

On the morning of Tuesday, 26 December 2006, a pipeline blast resulted in a fire as vandals scooped petroleum products from a pipeline in Abule-Egba, in Ifako Ijaiye Local Government Area of Lagos State, Nigeria. The fire lasted for more than six hours before it was put out through the combined effort of Federal and State Fire Services.

Approximately 269 people have been confirmed dead. Scores of others have been severely burned, of whom 65 are receiving treatment at Ikeja General Hospital, Ogun State Hospital, Sango Otta as well as in several private clinics in Lagos and Ogun states. Property worth millions of Naira – including residential and business premises as well as over 50 vehicles belonging to vandals and others in a near by auto mechanic garage – was burnt down.

The latest explosion is the second such disaster – resulting from pipeline vandalism – this year in Lagos, with an earlier blast in Ilado District killing at least 200 people in May 2006. The single worst incident occurred at Jesse, Edo State (in the Niger Delta) in 1998, claiming more than 1,000 lives and destroying property worth millions of Naira.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Nigeria Red Cross Society (NRCS) was the first to deliver first aid to survivors at the site. With thousands killed in pipeline fires in the past decade, the national society has considerable experience in dealing with such disasters. Red Cross volunteers from Lagos and Ogun states were mobilized to the scene and worked in coordination with other responders. The volunteers evacuated survivors to hospitals and set up a register to help people identify bodies of family members and to locate missing persons. They also provided psychological support to the affected people and responders.

The Red Cross intervention was kick-started with support from the British Red Cross. The Federation sub-regional office in Lagos provided vehicles for the operation while the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supported the intervention with dressing kits. The Lagos State branch of the NRCS has set up an information centre to collect details of missing persons. Red Cross volunteers also participated in the burial of victims.

Government action

Government emergency services, including the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Lagos State Ambulance Service (LASAMBUS), Fire Service, the Police, Federal Road Safety Corps as well as Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps – have been assisting on the scene since the disaster struck. Others include Local Government officials and officers from the Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs Department of the Lagos State Government. The state governor visited the scene and ordered for mass burial of the victims two kilometres away from the scene.

State-run hospitals are providing free treatment to survivors. A blood bank has been set up by NEMA while the government has set aside hospital beds and put plastic surgeons and nurses on stand-by.

Action by others

Members of the community and a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were at the scene to help in the operation. Among them are Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and Nigerian Aid Group.

The needs

The most urgent need is to ensure prompt provision of comprehensive medical supplies and support to public hospitals treating the injured people. There is also a need to prevent dangers of infections at the disaster site as well as to provide psychological support, counselling, tracing services and family reunification. Non-food items are also required: blankets, mats, plastic buckets, aluminium cooking pots, plastic plates, plastic cups, spoons, plastic bowls and soap.

Plan of Action

The NRCS has, in collaboration with the Federation Nigeria sub-regional office, prepared a plan of action. This will ensure that activities are implemented in a well organized, timely, appropriate, efficient, effective and coordinated manner. The Red Cross intervention targets 150 most vulnerable households.

The response of the Red Cross aims at supporting prompt provision of comprehensive medical supplies and support to public hospitals treating 70 injured people, prevention of the dangers of infections at the disaster site, provision of food and non-food relief items. It will also include psychological support, counselling, tracing and family reunification services.

Objective 1: To provide first aid, psychological support and health services to 2,000 affected people.

Activities planned:

- Equipping emergency first aid teams (EFATs) with basic first kits.
- Mobilizing 30 NRCS volunteers to provide first aid services.
- Evacuation of cases to hospitals.
- Provision of dressing materials for the treatment of the injured.
- Provision of ambulances for the evacuation of the injured.
- Provision of health education as well as carrying out hygiene and sanitation activities.

Objective 2: To provide medical supplies and support to public health authorities to prevent deaths and deterioration of the condition of 70 injured people being treated at treatment centres.

Activities planned:

- Identification of treatment centres.
- Identification of medical needs.
- Procurement and provision of medical supplies and support for the hospitals.
- Coordination and monitoring of the situation at the treatment centres.

Objective 3: To prevent possible outbreaks of epidemics within the disaster area.

Activities planned:

- Identification of suitable disinfectants.
- Procurement of disinfecting agents.
- Fumigation of the disaster site and its environs.
- Provision of solvents for fumigation.

Objective 4: To provide basic food items to 150 affected households for one month.

Activities planned:

- Assessment of needs and registration of targeted households.
- Procurement of food items.
- Packaging of food according to family units.
- Distribution of the food items.
- Establishment of audit trail.

Objective 5: To provide basic non-food items to 150 affected households for one month.

Activities planned:

- Assessment of needs and registration of targeted households.
- Registration and accreditation of beneficiaries.
- Local procurement of relief items.
- Provision of non-food items at the various camps.
- Establishment of audit trail.

Objective 6: To create awareness in the community on the dangers of open petroleum pipelines to mitigate future injuries and/or deaths.

Activities planned:

- Conducting a stake holders' forum.
- Production of information, education and communication (IEC) materials.
- Distribution of IEC materials.
- Production of radio and television pieces.

Objective 7: To ensure the recovery and reunification of separated and missing family members.

Activities planned:

- Carrying out tracing and family reunification services.
- Orientation of volunteers who will carry out tracing and family reunification activities.
- Registration of missing persons.
- Dispatch and delivery of messages.
- Registration of found missing persons.

Objective 8: To provide psychological support and counselling to families of the affected people.

Activities planned:

- Conducting hospital and home visits, for the injured and their families.
- Persuading family members of defaulting injured people to take them for treatment.
- Assuring relatives of the injured of non-prosecution of the injured.

Objective 9: To ensure an efficient and effective organization as well as sharing of operational information and humanitarian activities.

Activities planned:

- Briefing EFATs and partners.
- Sharing information about the operation.
- Assignment of responsibilities to partners and EFATs.
- Monitoring the implementation and delivery of services.

Objective 10: To ensure prompt and effective communication of information and reports on situations during the intervention.

Activities planned:

- Provision of mobile phones to Red Cross volunteers involved in the response.
- Reimbursement of cell phone top-ups.
- Provision of top-ups.

Objective 11: To ensure that responders share information about lessons learned during the intervention.

Activities planned:

- Meeting and discussing with the teams.
- Appreciating participation.
- Documenting best practices.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- ***In Nigeria:*** Abiodun Orebiyi, Secretary-General, Nigerian Red Cross Society, Ikoyi, Lagos; Email: nigerianredcross2003@yahoo.com; Phone: +234.12.69.15.99; Fax: 234.12.69.15.99.
- ***In Nigeria:*** Stephen Omollo, Federation Head of Nigeria Sub-regional Office, Lagos; Email: stephen.omollo@ifrc.org; Phone +234.1.269.52.28; Fax +234.1.269.52.29
- ***In Senegal:*** Alasan Senghore, Federation Head of West and Central Africa Regional Delegation, Dakar; Email: alasan.senghore@ifrc.org; Phone +221.869.36.41; Fax +221.860.20.02
- ***In Geneva:*** Madeleine Lundberg, Federation Regional Officer for West Africa, Africa Dept; Email: madeleine.lundberg@ifrc.org; Phone +41.22.730.43.35; Fax +41.22.733.03.95.

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>

[<Click here to return to the title page>](#)