

Emergency appeal



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

GHANA: FLOODS

Emergency Appeal no. MDR61002;
GLIDE no. FL-2007-000153-GHA
17 September 2007

This Preliminary Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 1,469,434 (USD 1.2 million or EUR 892,617) in cash, kind, or services to assist 60,000 beneficiaries (10,000 households) 6 months.

CHF 100,000 (USD 84,280 or EUR 60,734) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation. Unearmarked funds to replenish DREF are encouraged.



Damaged steel bridge in Kulungungu Municipality. This bridge links Ghana and Burkina Faso as well as other Sahelian countries.

The Federation is responding to this urgent situation by initially launching this country-specific Preliminary Emergency Appeal, but the disaster is regional in scope and the Federation intends to adjust this operation into a regional West Africa floods appeal.

[<click here to view the attached Preliminary Emergency Appeal Budget; here to link to a map of the affected area; or here to link to contact details>](#)

The situation

The Upper East Region is a disaster prone area as it is susceptible to such disasters as pest and insect infestation, disease epidemics, and rain/windstorms among others. In recent times, however, continuous and exceptional rains that set in from mid-July to date have caused considerable damage to life and property which has drawn national and international attention.

The total estimated population of the Upper East Region is 917,251¹.

Almost three weeks of torrential rains in the Upper East Region has resulted in floods that have killed twenty two people. In a tragic reversal of the harsh conditions which had threatened agriculture in the northern part of the country a few months ago, the rapid floods also displaced more than 200,000 persons. In addition, 108,654 persons are reportedly now living in 3,742 heavily damaged houses. The major occupation of the affected communities is farming. Most of the affected community lost belongings, crops, and working tools, and need immediate relief assistance.

District	no. of homes destroyed	no. displaced	deaths
Bulsa	750	90,000	6
Bolga	359	1,416	3
Bongo	212	883	2
Talensi	806	2,050	1
Garu Tempene	712	2,105	4
Kasena Nankane	350	4,000	3
Bawku east	300	5,200	3
Bawku west	253	3,000	0
Total	3,742	108, 654	22

Assessments are currently underway, and these figures on the impact of the floods are expected to change. Some affected areas are not yet accessible. While the Federation is responding to the urgency of the situation and a request from the Ghana Red Cross Society (GRCS) by launching this country-specific Preliminary Emergency Appeal, the disaster is obviously regional in scope and the Federation has developed a strategy to adjust this operation into a regional floods appeal, based on the evolving situation and updated assessments. Updated information on the situation in other countries is being continually updated, and is available on the Federation's Disaster Management Inform System (DMIS) at page: <https://www-secure.ifrc.org/dmis/prepare/prepare.asp>

Farmland: large portions of farmlands and crops have been destroyed and washed away. Four hundred and fifty eight (458) people in the Garu – Tempene District have their cultivated lands destroyed; two hundred and forty two (242) acres of land in the Bong District and two hundred (200) acres of cropped lands have been swept away. All farms along the White and Black Volta have been flooded and crops destroyed, and all low-lying areas in all the eight districts have their crops submerged by the floods. In the Kasena-Nankana District communities such as Boda, Nayagenia, and Kandiga also had their groundnuts and millet farms destroyed.

Basic infrastructure -- roads, bridges and dams: a number of roads, bridges and dams have been washed away or destroyed in all the districts. The Garu-Tampene and Builsa Districts are cut off from the rest of the regions. The Kulungugu Bridge in Bawku east, a major international bridge linking Ghana to Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali has been damaged. Dams at Zuabulga and Zokko in the Bawku East and Bongo Districts respectively have over flown their banks and adversely affected farmlands. Boreholes, the main source of drinking water in the communities have been polluted by flood water. The embankment of the main road leading to Sandema was washed off while a number of people have been marooned by the floods.

Health: about twenty (20) cases of cholera and other water related diseases have been reported in the Garu-Tampene District. About sixty four (64) people in the Builsa District

¹ Census 2000

have suffered from diarrhoea and dysentery as a result of the floods. So far, 22 deaths have been reported in the region. However, it has been difficult to access all the eight districts to verify the actual number of deaths. Reports indicate that more people may have perished from the floods.

There is considerable concern in the short-term related to the potential for an outbreak of water-based epidemics such as cholera, dysentery, malaria and other water related diseases. In view of the destruction to farmland and crops, it is anticipated that the region (and indeed the country) could be confronted with severe food shortages in the coming months.

Action by the Government

- Government authorities have visited the affected areas to assess the extent of the damage.
- The Deputy Upper East Regional Minister together with the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) have presented lanterns, mattresses, polymats, blankets, plastic cups, plastic bowls, used clothing and Wellington boots. The quantities are highly inadequate.
- The NADMO, together with Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), Fire Service, Information Service, Military, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Police are engaged in public education, rescue and relief and issuing warning signals.
- An appeal has been launched by Government to solicit support either in cash or in kind to expedite rescue operations and also to provide relief items to the victims.
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Action taken by others: the UN deployed an UNDAC team in the field and as other partners all are embarked in assessment mission in order to get the scope of the disaster. Coordination mechanisms are not yet in place and information on “who does what” is not yet available.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Red Cross volunteers at the district and community levels are:

- assisting those affected to evacuate buildings and to salvage whatever is left of belongings.
- Carrying out health education.
- Continuing to provide first aid to affected persons.

At the regional level, the Federation Secretariat is also collaborating with the NADMO Regional Coordinating Director, the Regional Epidemics Committee to deliver relief items and support to the displaced persons. Red Cross volunteers are also embarking on house to house education on flood prevention measures and prevention of other hazards that occur in their communities. They are emphasizing personal responsibility for flood prevention/mitigation in day-to-day living practices such as maintenance of drainage systems and the need to identify escape routes. Post disaster health education on personal and community hygiene against cholera and typhoid has begun in the shelters. Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members and Federation delegates have been deployed in the field since 14 September 2007 to provide support to the GRCS in relation to flood disaster management.

The needs

Immediate needs: immediate needs are for food, shelter and the provision of basic relief items, including clean water. Medium and longer-term needs will include rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged buildings, infrastructure, and agriculture, as well as water and sanitation and health activities. A specific attention will be given to food security issues mainly on seed distribution and farming tools to help vulnerable farmer to catch up with the next harvest season. Guidance: based on the beneficiary selection above, briefly provide details of the immediate needs, and specify the longer-term needs (if available).

Coordination and partnerships

Through its Geneva Secretariat and West and Central Africa Zone offices, the Federation continues to co-ordinate very closely with Ghana Red Cross in all initiatives taken to support the affected population. According to its mandate, the Ghana Red Cross will be mainly involved in the emergency response. The national society will address the immediate shelter and health needs of the most vulnerable populations.

The GRCS will work closely with the World Food Programme (WFP), as well as UNICEF and NGO's. Further co-ordination mechanisms are currently being explored with local actors and partners.

The Government Disaster Management body in charge of the coordination of emergency response in Ghana, Ministries, UN agencies, NGOs and the Red Cross attend daily emergency meetings.

UNOCHA has provided technical support to the UN Country team in this particular disaster in order to set up a database meant to strengthen the coordination mechanism, especially with a view to providing a rapid overview through coordinated assessments. NGOs and UN Agencies' profile in Ghana is development oriented.

The proposed operation

Specific Needs: The GRCS operation in the affected areas will continue to focus on humanitarian assistance to help elderly and vulnerable persons to recover from the disaster shocks. They will also continue promoting hygiene and provide useful information to prevent epidemic and water born diseases.

The GRCS is targeting 60,000 vulnerable persons corresponding to 10,000 households. GRCS will provide support with Shelter kits to support communities to rebuild their homes, distribution of NFI as well as strengthening current preventative health and wat/san activities.

Early recovery assessment activities will be included in relief assessments and progressively strengthened over the coming weeks. A key early response will be to seek feedback from affected communities on the appropriateness of relief items being provided to enable the Red Cross and other humanitarian actors to improve the quality of relief provision. Further assessment will enable extension and revision of the plan of action to regions which are not yet accessible.

The specific needs concern distribution of shelter kits, blankets, kitchen set, jerry cans, basic relief items (soap, candles), and water purification products accompanied by health education activities. The Federation will resource and deliver 30,000 blankets (3 pieces per family), 20,000 jerry cans, 10,000 kitchen sets, 10,000 shelter kits, 15 million bars of soap (250 gr. p/p month) and airlift these supplies to Accra Ghana if other transport options will take.

Through the planned relief operation the national society will also endeavour to strengthen the capacity of its branches to address the coordination of relief operations in future emergencies. Ongoing assessments will inform what (if any) role the GRCS can play in meeting the longer term recovery needs of flood affected families – and how these can help link GRCS relief activities with longer term health and care and disaster risk reduction programming.

Plan of action: The Federation will assist the GRCS in their relief operation for 10,000 displaced households through the provision of non-food items, tarpaulin, jerry cans, blankets, water purification tablets and other basic relief items. Health education activities will be part of the projected distributions.

Objectives, activities planned and expected results

Objective 1: To provide shelter kits for 10,000 flood-affected families.

Activity planned: To procure, airlift, transport and distribute 10,000 shelter kits, 10,000 kitchen sets, 30,000 blankets and other relief items.

Expected result: 10,000 flood-affected displaced households have immediate access to shelter, have minimum protection from the effects of the environment and minimum basic household equipment is replenished.

Objective 2: To provide timely and appropriate water, sanitation and NFI items to 10,000 flood-affected families.

Activity planned: To procure, airlift, transport and distribute 20,000 jerry cans, water purification tablets, 15 million bars of soap (250 gr. p/p month), treated bed nets and other basic relief items. Distribution will be carried out together with health education activities.

Expected result: No epidemics occur in the area of operation and the population has immediate access to safe water and basic relief articles over the planned operation period.

Objective 3: To provide air, water and road transport of personnel and goods

Activity planned: Provision of two zodiac boats (motorized and 10 life jackets) and the rental of – or sole or joint access to - a helicopter (capacity: 400 kilos of freight).

Expected result: Personnel and relief goods will access the affected towns and areas where assistance is being delivered.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The GRCS has requested the Federation's regional delegation to assist in strengthening their ability to disseminate and communicate Red Cross activities. The GRCS flood response and recovery activity provides an excellent opportunity to increase the visibility of the GRCS. The Federation's regional information delegate will continue to assist the national society counterpart in formulating strategies to address the public and media. The main responsibility remains with the Ghana Red Cross information officer who will be encouraged to travel to the affected area, document the distribution process, witness the interaction between Red Cross staff and volunteers and beneficiaries, and produce relevant articles and photographs.

Capacity of the National Society

The GRCS has limited experience in dealing with floods and in effectively managing relief assistance operations. However, the national society has a wide network of volunteers managing developmental oriented programmes. At headquarters a programme coordinator oversees GRCS activities countrywide and a disaster management focal point is coordinating the assessment and response activities.

Preliminary budget summary

See Budget Annex for details.

Thomas Gurtner
Director, ai
Coordination and Programmes Division

Markku Niskala
Secretary General

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:

- In Lagos: Stephen Omollo, Head of Federation West Coast Sub-Regional Office, Lagos; Email stephen.omollo@ifrc.org; Phone +234 12695228; Fax +234 12695229
- In Senegal: Alasan Senghore, Federation Head of West and Central Zone, Dakar; Email: alasan.senghore@ifrc.org; Phone +221.869.36.41; Fax +221.860.20.02, Youcef Ait-Chellouche Disaster Management Coordinator, Email: youcef.aitchellouche@ifrc.org, phone +221 638 98 61
- In Geneva: Niels Scott, Operations Coordinator, Phone: +41 22 730 4527; Email: niels.scott@ifrc.org

[<Appeal budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

Ghana Floods

MDRGH001

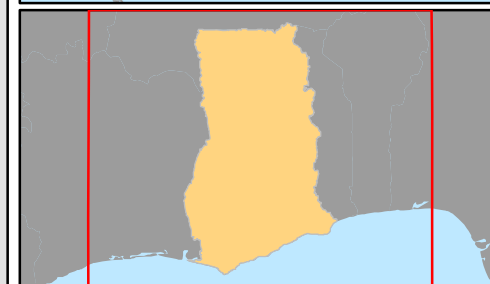
		TOTAL
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>		
500	Shelter	549,000
505	Construction Materials	
510	Clothing & Textiles	75,000
520	Food	
523	Seeds & Plants	40,000
530	Water & Sanitation	93,750
540	Medical & First Aid	50,000
550	Teaching Materials	5,000
560	Utensils & Tools	160,000
570	Other Supplies & Services	220,000
Total Relief Needs		1,192,750
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
580	Land & Buildings	0
581	Vehicles Purchase	0
582	Computers & Telecom Equipment	10,000
584	Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	0
587	Medical Equipment	0
589	Other Machinery & Equipment	0
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>		
590	Storage - Warehouse	30,000
592	Distribution & Monitoring	20,000
593	Transport & Vehicles Costs	30,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
600	International Staff	30,000
640	Regionally Deployed Staff	30,000
661	National Staff	
662	National Society Staff	10,000
670	Consultants	
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>		
680	Workshops & Training	
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>		
700	Travel	10,000
710	Information & Public Relations	10,000
730	Administration costs	5,000
740	Communication Costs	2,000
750	Professional Fees	0
760	Financial Charges	0
790	Other General Expenses	
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
599	Programme Support - PSR	89,684
Total Operational Needs		1,469,434
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)		1,469,434
Available Ressources**		0
Net Request		1,469,434



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

MDRGH001
17 September 2007
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Ghana: Floods



Almost three weeks of torrential rains in the Upper East Region has resulted in floods that have killed 22 people. The rapid floods also displaced more than 200,000 persons. In addition to that, 108,654 persons are living in 3,742 heavily damaged houses.

- ★ Capitals
- Affected region