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MALI: FLOODS

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 28,156 (USD 22,891 or EUR 16,992) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs of this operation.

This operation is expected to be implemented over one month, and will be completed by end of August 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

[<Click here to go to the attached map>](#)

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual appeal.

Background and current situation

In the night of 4 July 2007, a heavy downpour brought about floods in the Malian town of Bandiagara. The affected town is situated 75 km from Mopti, the regional headquarters, and 640 km far north of Bamako (the country's capital). The strong precipitations caused extensive damage in the town of 12,000 inhabitants; up to 93 compounds collapsed, 150 households were severely affected and some 1,200 people were left without shelter, with all their belongings either carried away by floodwaters or buried under mud. Electricity, water and telecommunication infrastructures were not spared while two access bridges were also undermined. Although latest meteorological reports show that parts of Mali will experience late rains, the affected zone has never experienced flooding of that magnitude. In fact, the populations did not expect that rainfall in the area would lead to flooding.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Following the flooding, the Mali Red Cross dispatched a team to conduct a rapid assessment of the damage caused in the area of Mopti. The team was composed of a National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) member and 50 Red Cross volunteers. Prior to conducting the assessment (to determine immediate needs), they met with local authorities. Besides conducting the assessment, the team advised stranded affected people to leave the flooded area. It also accompanied those who left and assisted them in carrying their belongings to safer grounds.

The needs

Among the 12,000 affected people, there are 600 children, 90 pregnant women and 170 elderly persons. These vulnerable groups are susceptible to diseases. Immediate needs include food items (cereals, oils, sugar and salt), plastic sheeting, insecticide treated mosquito nets (ITNs), mats and blankets, soap, chlorine (for water treatment), jerry cans and agricultural inputs (seeds and manure). Considering that wintering is just beginning, this is a crucial period for seasonal crops. There is thus a need to assist the affected populations with relevant agricultural inputs so as to enable them attain sufficient production of food in the coming months. Such support will contribute towards their food security.

Coordination

The government of Mali, through its regional representative, has put in place a crisis committee in charge of evaluating the detailed needs of affected populations. This committee will also coordinate all planned flood interventions, including the implementation of the Mali Red Cross plan of action.

Plan of Action

Goal: The Mali Red Cross contributes to the wellbeing of flood affected people in Bandiagara locality for one month.

Food and non-food items

Specific objective 1: Mali Red Cross ensures provision of one-month food assistance to 500 flood affected people in the Bandiagara locality, with the support of World Food Programme (WFP).

Specific objective 2: Mali Red Cross contributes to the reduction of risks related to a bad beginning of the agricultural season by supporting 500 flood affected farmers with quality seeds, with the support of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO).

Specific objective 3: Mali Red Cross supports 500 flood affected women and children in Bandiagara locality with kits of survival material (blankets and mats).

Expected results:

- Food availability for 500 flood affected people is ensured for one month;
- Agricultural inputs are provided to 500 farmers;
- Mats and blankets are provided to 500 flood affected women and children.

Planned activities:

- Collection of food and seeds from partners (WFP and FAO);
- Purchase, transport and distribution of non-food items (mats and blankets);
- Distribution of food;
- Follow-up activities.

Health

Specific objective 4: The Mali Red Cross contributes to the prevention of poor hygiene and water related diseases in Bandiagara.

Expected result:

- Morbidity related to diarrhoeal diseases and malaria in flooded areas is prevented.

Planned Activities

- Conducting a sensitization campaign on the prevention of malaria, hygiene related and waterborne diseases, using the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) methodology;
- Distribution of impregnated mosquito nets and hygiene kits;
- Follow-up activities.

Building the capacity of the community

Specific objective 5: Mali Red Cross produces information, education and communication (IEC) materials to sensitize the community on the risk of floods.

Specific objective 6: Mali Red Cross assists the affected community to set up a simplified floods early warning system with the aim of minimizing losses in case of future potential floods.

Specific objective 7: Mali Red Cross advocates before humanitarian partners and administrative authorities for a possible support of awareness activities aimed at preparedness and the search for sustainable solutions within the flood affected community.

Expected results:

- IEC materials are available and ready to be disseminated in potential flood prone communities;
- A simplified community floods early warning system is set up and disseminated in areas at risk of being affected by future potential floods;
- Humanitarian actors and administrative authorities are informed of the roles they can play in mitigation activities and in the search for sustainable solutions to the risk of floods.

Planned activities:

- Elaboration of sensitization materials;
- Elaboration of a community floods early warning system in potential flood prone zones;
- Meeting with humanitarian actors and administrative authorities;
- Follow-up activities.

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.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a 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

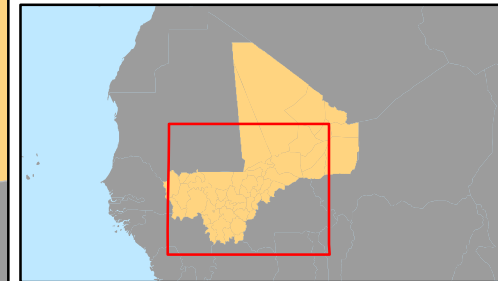
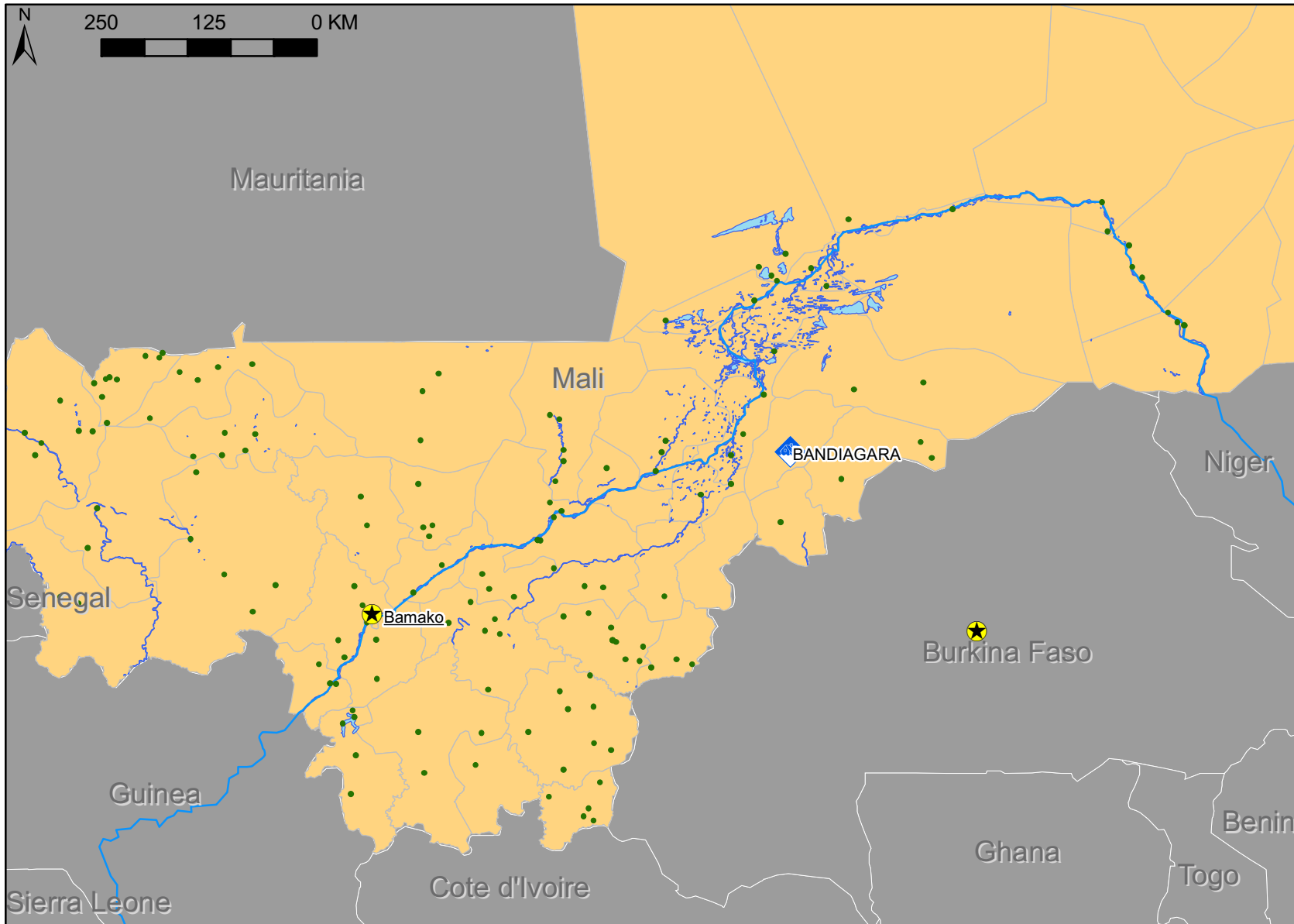
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Mali:** Dr Doundey Maiga, Executive Secretary, Mali Red Cross, Bamako; email: crmaliienne@afribone.net.ml; telephone +223.674.30.10; fax +223.224.04.14
- **In Senegal:** Alasan Senghore, Federation Head of West and Central Africa Zone, Dakar; email: alasan.senghore@ifrc.org; telephone +221.869.36.41; fax +221.860.20.02
- **In Geneva:** Terry Carney, Sr. Officer, Coordination and Administration a.i. Officer for West and Central Africa; email: terry.carney@ifrc.org; telephone +41.79.308.9817; fax +41.22.733.0395

[Map below; click here to return to the title page](#)



Mali: Floods



- Flooded town
- Capitals
- Cities
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Mali
- Other countries

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.