

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAURITANIA: FLOODS

**DREF operation no. MDRMR002
FL-2007-000127-MRT
30 April, 2008**

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Summary: CHF 103,258 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 21 August 2007 to support the national society in delivering assistance to some 500 households affected in Tintane District, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks.

The Mauritanian Red Crescent have assisted 300 households installed in the camps with food and non food items. The operation was well implemented in line with the Federation Global Agenda goals. A good partnership has been established with the private stakeholders and government. The health issue was taken into account in the implemented activities. The local Red Crescent Committee had its capacity reinforced through its 50 volunteers involved in the operation.

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Floods victims under tents provided by the Mauritanian Red Crescent.

The situation

Devastating floods after heavy rains were experienced on the night of 8 August, 2007 in the town of Tintane, 800 km south-west of the capital Nouakchott, in the South Eastern Province of Hodh El-Gharbi. The scale and intensity of this disaster is the worst in over 50 years in the region. Two people are reported to have been killed by the floods and many sustained injuries from falling walls and crossing waters. Damages registered are estimated at billions of Mauritania Ouguiya, including schools, health centres, and other public infrastructure as the water level went up to two metres.

According to local authorities and the Mauritanian Red Crescent, more than 3,000 families have been left homeless and were totally deprived in the aftermath of the floods. Tintane town is a trade centre for the border region with Mali and many traders have lost their goods in the aftermath of

the disaster. Three camps have been set up for the affected populations in higher grounds. A school has been used as shelter and as a health care centre, and storage for relief items. Water supply to the town has been destroyed. Water supply to the town has been destroyed and local authorities are raising concerns with regards to the hygiene and sanitation situation of the affected population.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A collaborative needs assessment was conducted by the national society and local authorities. The assessment report indicated needs related to WASH and relief for the most vulnerable people who lost their homes. Therefore the Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) had mainly mobilized its volunteers for sensitization activities of the affected populations in appropriate hygiene practices, and food and non-foods items distribution.

An RDRT team was deployed to support the national society to develop and implement a plan of action. The RDRT team members together with the technical team from the Federation Zone office in Dakar launch the operation. Emergency items from the Zone office disaster preparedness stock were deployed to the affected area including a WASH kit for 10,000 people as part of the Red Cross and Red Crescent contribution to responding to the disaster.

Progress towards objectives

Objective: The Mauritanian Red Crescent will assist 500 households affected by the floods in Tintane for two months.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Specific objective: Provision and distribution of non food items.

Achievements:

The Mauritanian Red Cross supported directly by the Federation distributed the following non-food items

- 800 blankets;
- 500 plastic sheeting;
- 300 tents;
- 300 soap bars;
- 300 gas burner with gas;
- 300 impregnated mosquito nets;
- 300 kitchen sets.

This distribution allowed beneficiaries to be sheltered, to recover their daily life activities while in the camp. It has also contributed to reducing the risk of waterborne diseases and morbidity pertaining to these diseases. The operation was carried out in partnership with UNICEF, OXFAM and Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. With the support of the Red Crescent of Kuwait, the Emirates and Qatar, the Mauritanian Red Crescent distributed 80 tons of food while UNICEF targeted children under five with high energy biscuits in the aftermath of the floods. This was an opportunity for the new trained volunteers to be familiar with relief distribution method and tents installation.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Specific objective: The Mauritanian Red Crescent produces teaching material (leaflets, posters) and organizes water, sanitation and hygiene promotion.

Achievements:

In collaboration with the MoH, the Mauritanian Red Crescent produced teaching material to complete the one received from UNICEF. Volunteers used these materials to organize every week sensitization sessions of the communities (15,000 persons) in the camps on water, sanitation and hygiene. They also helped the personnel of the medical post installed in the camps and monitored the water tanks installed by UNICEF.

The Mauritanian Red Crescent was member of the national commission of hygiene and cleaning of the Tintane city. The commission was tasked to pulverize the latrine installed in the camps by UNICEF and coordinate the neighbourhood cleaning. It received support from the national civil protection services. They also teach people in the three camps how to well use the latrine and proper hand washing. The big challenge for the Mauritanian Red Crescent is the limited capacity of the volunteers in the water and sanitation hygiene sector.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Mauritanian Red Crescent involved 50 volunteers in this operation. The operation was monitored through the national multi-partners commission coordinated by the Minister of Health. The Mauritanian Red Crescent at the national level organized regular visits in the camps and advocated before humanitarian partners and administrative authorities for a sustainable solution to support vulnerable populations. This has increased the Red Crescent visibility both at local and national levels.

Conclusion

This operation was an opportunity for the Mauritanian Red Crescent to reinforce the capacity of its branch in disaster response. The planned activities were timely implemented and served to the Mauritanian Red Cross to develop and consolidate its partnership with UNICEF, OXFAM, the Mauritanian government, and other participant national societies such as Kuwait and Qatar Red Crescents.

Lessons learned:

- Working in partnership ensures a better impact on beneficiaries;
- Disaster response can be the best way of recruiting and training volunteers. It could also help develop partnership with the community.

At the end of the operation the Mauritanian Red Crescent planned to restructure the Tintane branch and continued with community-based activities to insure communities presenting high risk find sustainable solutions to the recurring floods problem. Floods contingency plan is being developed.

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:

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRMR002 - Mauritania - Tintane Floods

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/8-2008/3
Budget Timeframe	2007/8-2007/10
Appeal	MDRMR002
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		123,911				123,911
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		89,595				89,595
C5. Other Income		89,595				89,595
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)		89,595				89,595
D. Total Funding = B + C		89,595				89,595
Appeal Coverage		72%				72%

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		89,595				89,595
E. Expenditure		-89,595				-89,595
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)		123,911					123,911	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	15,600						15,600	
Construction Materials			158			158	-158	
Clothing & textiles	9,600		16,380			16,380	-6,780	
Water & Sanitation	54,510		24,684			24,684	29,826	
Utensils & Tools			8,775			8,775	-8,775	
Other Supplies & Services			11,025			11,025	-11,025	
Total Supplies	79,710		61,022			61,022	18,688	
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	6,000		3,038			3,038	2,963	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,440		1,549			1,549	-109	
Total Transport & Storage	7,440		4,586			4,586	2,854	
Personnel								
National Staff	3,828		7			7	3,821	
National Society Staff	8,640		6,390			6,390	2,250	
Total Personnel	12,468		6,397			6,397	6,071	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	2,376		4,867			4,867	-2,491	
Total Workshops & Training	2,376		4,867			4,867	-2,491	
General Expenditure								
Travel	4,260		3,374			3,374	886	
Information & Public Relation	480		574			574	-94	
Office Costs	8,882		779			779	8,103	
Communications	240		297			297	-57	
Other General Expenses			-50			-50	50	
Total General Expenditure	13,862		4,974			4,974	8,888	
Programme Support								
Program Support	8,054		5,690			5,690	2,364	
Total Programme Support	8,054		5,690			5,690	2,364	
Services								
Services & Recoveries			2,059			2,059	-2,059	
Total Services			2,059			2,059	-2,059	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	123,911		89,595			89,595	34,316	
VARIANCE (C - D)			34,316			34,316		