



DREF Bulletin no. MDRNG004

NIGERIA: FLOODS

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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 200,000 (USD 166,251 or EUR 121,655) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 10 August 2007 to respond to the needs in this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over one month, and will be completed by end of September 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

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

Background and current situation

With heavy rains falling across Nigeria, several states of the country have been affected by extensive flooding. The states most recently affected are Lagos, Bauchi, Sokoto, Kebbi, Borno, Yobe and Plateau; earlier, floods had affected Ogun and Nasarrawa states. Some lives have been lost while many people have been displaced by the flooding. The situation is compounded by poor drainage systems and the release of huge amounts of water from overflowing dams.

In Lagos State, many houses in the Ajegunle area of Ikorodu Local Government Area (LGA) have been submerged, thereby forcing residents to move to safer areas. Over 200 families have been displaced in the area, with many seeking shelter in nearby schools. The situation is similar in Misau and Giade LGAs of Bauchi State where a heavy downpour lasted more than 18 hours; over 80 families have been displaced with houses, farmlands and livestock worth thousands of dollars destroyed. The heavy rains have also cut off the interstate road linking Jigawa and Kano States.

The Argungun LGA of Kebbi State has been adversely affected. Three persons lost their lives and 15 others were seriously injured after the building they were in collapsed. The building gave up as a result of a 5-hour down pour. About 127 displaced families are presently sheltered in three primary schools in the area. In Sokoto, Yobe, Plateau and Borno states, the total number of displaced families is 1,379. Unconfirmed reports have indicated that the figures could be well over 2,500 families. According to the Nigerian Red Cross Society officials, 37 deaths have been confirmed in Yobe and Plateau.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) staff, volunteers and members of the Emergency and First Aid Team (EFAT) have been assisting flood affected people since the disaster struck. The Red Cross has been involved in rescue and evacuation efforts, provision of first-aid services to the injured and referral of serious cases to hospitals. The NRCS has also been providing psychological support and counselling to affected/displaced people.

EFAT members are also sensitizing communities at risk on safety measures. For instance, to prevent casualties in Lagos (due to electrocution), the Lagos State Branch of the Red Cross called officials of the National Electric Power

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Authority to cut off power supply in the affected area of Ikorodu where power cables had fallen on buildings and floodwater. The Red Cross teams also prevented people from passing through the affected area. The branch volunteers also called on the Police Authority in the area to provide adequate security as some of the people affected by floods were afraid of abandoning their submerged buildings for fear of having their property looted.

To respond to the flood situation, over 238 Red Cross volunteers have been mobilized in the affected states. The volunteers have distributed/are distributing food and non-food items to children and women (who are the most affected) in the temporary camps established to shelter displaced people. Meanwhile, to prevent outbreaks of epidemics due to insufficient toilet facilities and water supply, the Nigerian Red Cross Society – through its volunteers – is carrying out hygiene and sanitation activities in the camps. The Red Cross volunteers have also started sensitizing residents in flood-prone areas in other states on flood mitigation measures.

The needs

The Red Cross intervention targets to assist 3,045 displaced people (609 families) – in camps established to shelter them – with basic food and non-food items as well as hygiene and health education for one month. The intervention will target displaced people in Bauchi, Borno, Kebbi, Lagos, Nasarawa, Plateau, Sokoto and Yobe states in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Plan of Action

Goal: The lives, health and social well being of 609 flood-displaced families in the Federal Republic of Nigeria are improved through provision of effective and efficient humanitarian services.

Specific objective 1: To contribute to the improvement of lives and health of 3,045 displaced people.

Activity to achieve the objective:

- Provision of non-food items to 3,045 displaced people.

Specific objective 2: To sustain the lives and health of 3,045 displaced people through provision of basic food items for one month.

Activity to achieve the objective:

- Provision of food items to 3,045 people.

Specific objective 3: To prevent disease outbreaks in the camps established to shelter the displaced people.

Activities to achieve the objective:

- Provision of hygiene and sanitation facilities at the camps;
- Health education/promotion for disease prevention;
- Provision of insecticide-treated mosquito nets to displaced people in the camps.

Specific objective 4: To contribute towards controlling and preventing HIV infections at the camps.

Activities to achieve the objective:

- Conducting HIV and AIDS campaigns at the camps;
- Provision of information, education and communication (IEC) materials for HIV and AIDS campaigns at the camps.

Coordination

With technical support from the Federation's West Coast sub-zone office in Lagos, the national headquarters of the Nigerian Red Cross Society is monitoring and coordinating the operations of state branches in affected states.

In Bauchi State, government officials have visited flooded areas to express their sympathy. The Governor of Kebbi State has consoled bereaved families in Argungun. The Lagos State Governor visited the affected area of Lagos and promised to assist in alleviating the suffering of populations in the area.

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The National Electric Power Authority switched off electricity supply to the Ikorodu area after power cables fell on buildings and floodwater. The Divisional Police Unit in Ikorodu has beefed up security in the area to prevent looting of property from deserted flooded houses.

In Plateau State, the Wase Local Government Authority provided 100 bags of grains, buckets and mats for distribution to displaced people in the camps. The Nigerian National Assembly House Committee on Disasters appealed to the Red Cross and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to come to the aid of the disaster-affected people/communities.

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:

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