

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## West and Central Africa: Floods

**DREF operation n° MDR61006**

**GLIDE n° FL-2009-000170-MRT;**

**FL-2009-000172-BFA;**

**FL-2009-000174-NER;**

**FL-2009-000164-SEN;**

**FL-2009-000176-MLI;**

**FL-2009-000177-GMB**

**6 September 2009**

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 and 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.

**CHF 200,000 (USD 187,758 or EUR 131,961) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 6 September 2009 to support the National Societies in delivering assistance to support 3,450 displaced families (some 17,000 beneficiaries).**

**Summary:** Since the start of the rainy season, the following sixteen countries have experienced significant flooding (Liberia, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Niger, Gambia, Gabon, Chad, Togo, Mali, Central African Republic, Ghana, Benin, Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Senegal). Initial estimates indicate that more than 200,000 people have been affected; thousands of families have been uprooted from their homes and material losses are considerable. The number of people affected is expected to climb. More recent floods have caused further damage in Guinea, Chad and Sierra Leone.



The current flooding comes soon after the Federation launched a preliminary Emergency Appeal (10 August 2009) for CHF 918,000 (EUR 604,000 / USD 852,000) to assist the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in disaster preparedness, including the readiness of trained staff and volunteers and delivering vital relief items from pre-positioned emergency stocks in the region. It is worth noting the link between the Emergency Appeal and the current operation, which was part of the Federation's planned approach to put early warning and early action into practice and which has enabled this timely response. This also reflects the effectiveness of collaborative efforts and partnerships with, among other organizations, the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) that provided credible early warning from weather data that forecast a risk of serious flooding in West and Central Africa. The information received from ACMAD allowed the National Societies to prepare accordingly. The assessments already completed or currently underway will lead to the development of further strategies to support National Societies to assist those affected in their countries. While the situation is evolving, possible actions under consideration among several includes the launch of country-based appeals in those countries most affected by worsening conditions, the resulting needs, and any required support.

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; or here to view a map of the affected area>](#)

## The situation

The following sixteen countries in the West and Central Africa region have experienced significant flooding since the start of the rainy season in July 2009: Liberia, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Niger, Gambia, Gabon, Chad, Togo, Mali, Central African Republic, Ghana, Benin, Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Senegal. Initial estimates indicate that more than 200,000 people have been affected; thousands of families have been uprooted from their homes and material losses are considerable. The numbers of affected are expected to climb. More recently floods have caused further damage in Guinea, Chad and Sierra Leone.

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In addition to the immediate human toll, the current flooding has caused severe damage to public infrastructure such as schools, health care facilities, roads, bridges, water supply systems, power and telephone lines and housing. Crop damage has been extensive, with many families deprived of their means of agricultural production due to inundated fields or damaged water pumps. Weather forecasts indicate that the rains will persist, and the number of people affected by flooding is therefore expected to increase. The flooding poses health risks, such as waterborne disease outbreaks and other related infections. Interventions aimed at minimizing such risks are therefore being prioritized.

## Coordination and partnerships

Coordination and the exchange of information are ongoing at the country and regional levels between Government agencies, partner National Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and other humanitarian actors. National Society plans of action are integrated in national response plans. National Societies and the Zone office will continue efforts to exchange timely and accurate operational information, and to coordinate action with UN agencies, particularly UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP), and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

## The needs

Based on initial assessments, the following information is available: in Mauritania, 3,500 households have been affected; in Senegal, successive waves of heavy rains have reportedly affected over 100,000 people affected; in Burkina Faso, the first figures provided by the National Society indicate that 109,000 people are without shelter and accommodated at over 93 sites; in Gambia, the National Society reports that 48 families are without shelter; in Mali, over 80 families have been affected; in Niger, the ICRC is supporting 700 families with non-food items. Given that the quick action was made possible from the availability of relief items stocked in contingency supplies in local (regional) warehouses, stock replenishment will be required.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

CHF 200,000 was allocated from the Federation's DREF in order to support assessments and the immediate delivery of assistance. Red Cross staff and volunteers have been mobilized to assist in evacuating people from flooded areas and conducting rapid needs assessments. The following country-specific information is available at this time:

- Mauritania: the National Society assessment report and plan of action (coordinated with the Government) has been received. The Federation's Dakar Zone will provide support to implement the response plan.
- Senegal: an early assistance action has been carried out. Contact has been established with the Senegalese Civil Protection and the National Society plan of action is integrated into the national one. The Dakar Zone food security delegate and the disaster management office have been involved in the process in order to provide support to review the assessment and to start non-food item distribution quickly.
- Burkina Faso: the National Society has carried out an assessment and has distributed non-food items to 100 families and helped in the relocation of the pediatric reference hospital. The Dakar Zone disaster management and preparedness delegate has been deployed to provide support in assessing the situation, and better defining the National Society role, and to support the implementation of the response plan.
- Gambia: the National Society has carried out an assessment and is responding to a request for support to provide tents and non-food items.
- Mali and Niger, the Zone is in contact with ICRC to explore coordination issues and determine if a joint effort to respond to affected communities is needed.

The relief items made available from regional stocks located in Dakar, Ghana and Benin are being deployed to the affected countries to cover the needs of 1,250 families in Senegal, 1,250 families in Burkina Faso, 400 families in Mauritania, 50 families in Gambia, and 500 families in Guinea (see table below of details).

#### Planned distribution of relief items

Countries	Total affected	Red Cross targeted families	Tarpaulin	Blankets	MII	Sleeping mats	Jerrycans	Buckets	Tents	Kitchen sets	Soap bars
Senegal	11,211	1,250	1,250	2,500	2,500	2,500	1,250	1,250	0	0	5,000
Burkina Faso	21,800	1,250	1,250	2,500	2,500	2,500	1,250	1,250	0	1,250	5,000
Mauritania	3,500	400	400	800	800	800	400	400	400	400	1,600
Gambia	50	50	50	100	100	100	50	50	50	50	200
Guinea	1,000	500	500	1,000	0	1,000	500	500	0	500	2,000
<b>Total needs</b>			<b>3,450</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>3,450</b>	<b>3,450</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>13,800</b>

The Zone is planning to recruit an operations manager to coordinate and reinforce National Society plans and action.

## The proposed operation

- **Objective 1: Cover the operational costs related to the transport and distribution of non-food items released from regional stocks.**
- **Objective 2: Recruit an operations manager, supported by a regional disaster response team (RDRT).**
- **Objective 3: Continue to mobilize Red Cross volunteers to conduct information dissemination and sensitization campaigns.**

#### Activities planned:

- Conducting detailed needs assessments (ongoing);
- Distributing appropriate relief items;
- Transporting and storage of relief items;
- Providing instructions on how to practice proper hygiene behavior;
- Providing training and refresher training for volunteers who will be involved in distribution and sensitization activities;
- Mobilizing national and regional staff for ongoing assessment and information dissemination activities;
- Conducting sensitization campaigns on prevention of malaria, waterborne and hygiene related diseases;
- Sensitizing affected communities and local authorities on the importance of setting up early warning systems at the community level.

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



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