

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Gabon: Violent winds

DREF operation n° MDRGA002

GLIDE n° VW-2009-000079-GAB
20 April, 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 58'070 (USD 50,509 or EUR 38,186) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to some 800 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: During the last three months, Gabon has been exposed to violent winds followed by floods. On the night of 05 to 06 April, 2009 again strong winds have been recorded in Mouila, headquarters of the Ngounie council and in Libreville. This new event worsened the situation of the victims who had not yet found solutions to the first damages they have faced. About 100 houses were initially destroyed (52 totally and 48 partially) within five localities across the country, including the capital Libreville. The number has increased to 150 houses, 58 completely destroyed and 92 partially. As a result, many families become homeless, and roofs of schools destroyed. The number of victims has considerably increased this month as compared to March. About 481 vulnerable people (pregnant women, children under five years and elderly) were initially recorded.



Houses destroyed by violent winds in Libreville.
(Edou Constant, DM Gabon RC)

However, after a field action by the president of the Gabonese Red Cross Society and a representative of the Ministry of disasters, statistics show that the number of victims has increased and children under 5 years and the elderly are most exposed to the severe cold in the temporary shelters. The number of the most vulnerable has almost doubled making it to be approximately 800 people (160 families). Moreover, the rains continue to fall in the country and if nothing is done urgently this might increase the risks of malaria among a population that is already afflicted. For the time being, despite local solidarity, the victims live in precarious conditions and need assistance. The most urgent needs of these 160 families relocated in schools and churches are: soap, kitchen sets, tarpaulins, treated mosquito nets, blankets and mats.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by July 2009; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by October 2009).

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

The situation

Since the end of February, Gabon was exposed to torrential rains accompanied by floods and violent winds particularly in Libreville and the localities of Mouila council. On the night of 05 to 06 April strong winds have been once again recorded in Libreville and in the region of Mouila, worsening the already precarious situation of the affected populations. Homeless are temporarily housed in schools and churches in poor conditions because of the lack of beddings and food. In Libreville most of the victims are surviving thanks to the generosity of neighbouring populations.

Enormous damages were recorded in the capital city and localities affected by the violent winds and rains. Most roads are blocked by large trees uprooted and carried by winds. Electric cables are also destroyed causing power cut off. Presently 160 families (800 people) are left without shelter and deprived of their belongings: 95 in Libreville and 65 in Mouila. Among the vulnerable are 260 children under five years, 115 pregnant women, and 106 elderly.

The rains have caused flooding and strong winds that swept away roofs and damaged houses: 150 houses among which 58 completely destroyed, 92 partially damaged but out of use, because roofs have been torn off and walls collapsed. Kitchen and hygiene equipment, harvest and reserves of food, and school materials (books and notebooks) have also been destroyed. Affected people are still living in poor conditions and need bedding, food and sheeting to rebuild their damaged roofs. Despite the mutual support, victims are exposed to malaria and other respiratory diseases because of the precarious conditions of their relocation, particularly the lack of bedding.

The new rains during the night of 05 to 06 April followed by strong winds have worsened the situation of children, pregnant women and elderly. These affected populations were exposed to cold days and nights which obviously affected their health. They are seeking assistance from Government and NGOs. They need blankets to protect themselves against cold, mosquito nets, soap, and kitchen sets and bleach to purify water. To improve their capacity to respond to the disaster, the Gabonese Red Cross Society has requested the purchase of a saw to cut trees that fell on homes and roads to reduce the impact of damages and relieve families that are already living in vulnerable conditions. Machetes alone can not be of great help.

Coordination and partnerships

During a meeting of ministers chaired by the head of state, the Government expressed his sympathy towards the victims, he asked the Prime Minister in charge of environment and natural disasters to set up an interdepartmental crisis committee to assess the damage and determine needs for assistance to victims. The committee is composed as follows: social affairs, disasters, civil protection, civil engineering and finance. The Governor undertook a field visit.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In Libreville (national headquarters), a group from the Gabonese Red Cross Society led by the president went on the field to assess the situation. A team of 20 volunteers led by the national disaster manager of was involved in sanitation activities and organize people to clean up the streets. Another team of 10 volunteers have been conducting outreach activities on how to mitigate the effects of winds. In Mouila, recently trained members of the national disaster response team carried out a field assessment with a group of 10 volunteers to collect data on the situation. These volunteers have already been involved in sensitizing the population and assist them in removing the trees from the way.

The needs

Beneficiary selection:

After evaluating the situation, the Gabonese Red Cross Society has identified 800 most vulnerable people (160 families) among which children under five years, elderly and pregnant women. They need non-food items such as soap, kitchen sets, tarpaulins, treated mosquito nets, blankets and mats.

The proposed operation

As part of the continued support that the regional representation of Yaoundé provides the national society in the process of obtaining a DREF, the Federation plans to deploy for one month a member of the regional disaster response team ERDAC/RDRT on the field to provide technical support and ensure good reporting. Training will be conducted in Mouila and Libreville on distribution techniques and environmental hygiene to avoid epidemic outbreaks.

Activities

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)

Objective: To contribute to improving the lives of 800 most vulnerable people affected by the winds in Libreville and Mouila.

Activities planned:

- Organize a training session for volunteers on distribution techniques;
- Purchase 320 treated mosquito nets, 160 tarpaulins, 160 kitchen sets, 320 blankets, 320 mats, and 1,600 balls of soap of 200g;
- Distribute the NFI to the identified vulnerable;
- Produce reports on distribution activities.

Watsan

Objective: To contribute to promote environmental hygiene to avoid epidemic outbreaks.

Activities planned:

- Conduct a training session for volunteers on hygiene and sanitation promotion;
- Assist the affected populations to cut the trunks of trees to retrieve their belongings;
- Assist to clean up roads blocked by the trunks;
- Organize awareness sessions on what how to face further disasters and ensure hygiene in temporary shelters;
- Sensitize populations to hygiene and sanitation rules;
- Purchase and distribute 1,600 balls of soap of 200g and 10 cleaning tools;
- Produce activities report.

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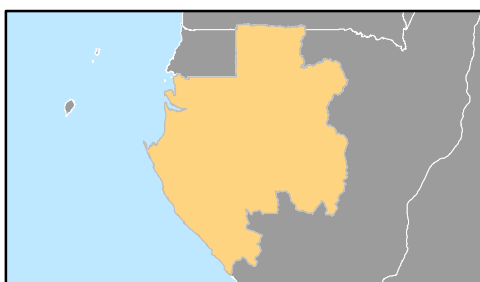
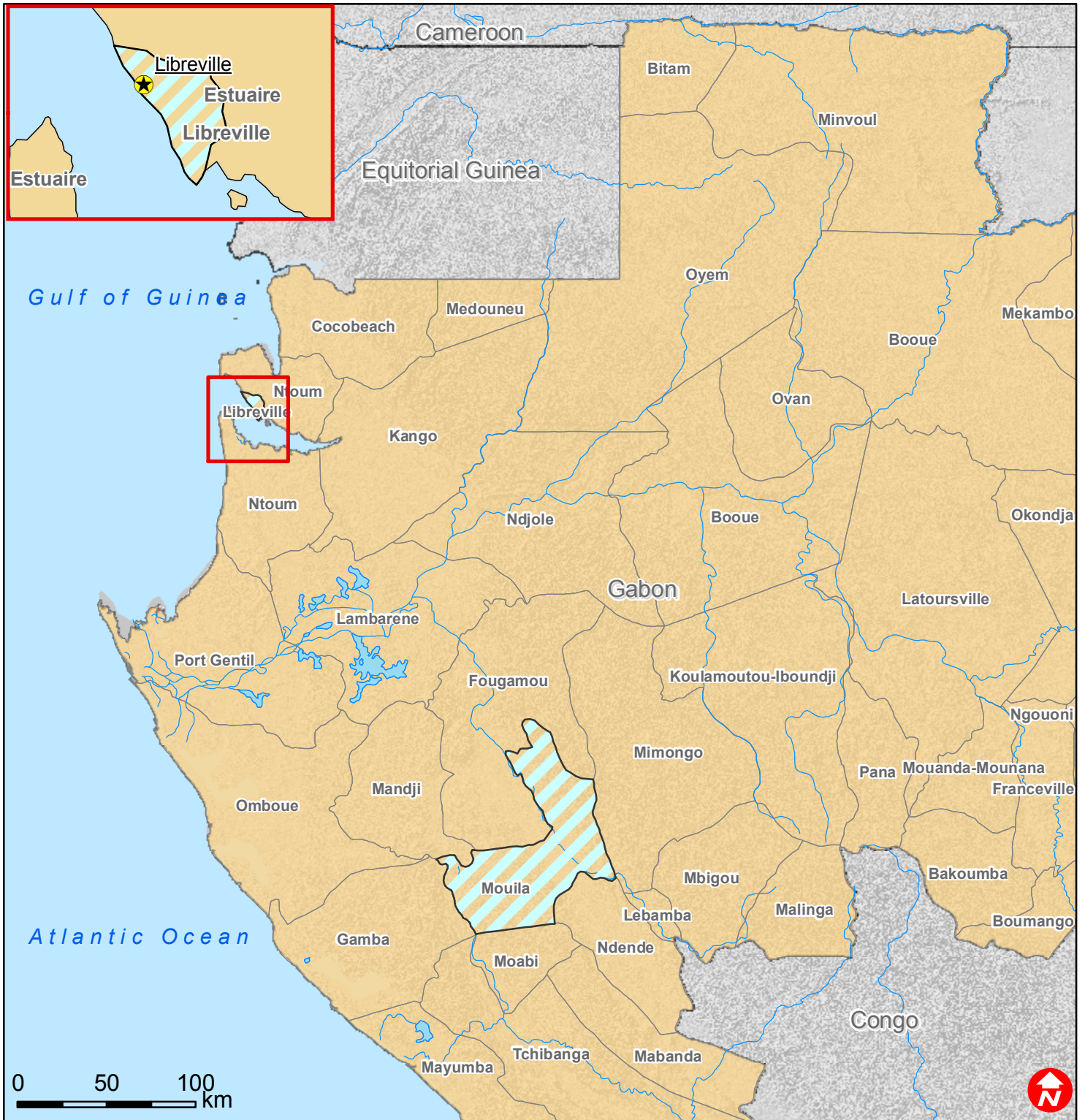
[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

TYPE	VALUE IN CFA
SUPPLIES FOR BENEFICIARIES	
shelter	4,960,000
other supplies	3,520,000
water and sanitation	1,778,000
Distribution and Monitoring	300,000
Transport & vehicles	2,700,000
TOTAL BENEFICIARIES NEEDS	13,258,000
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	
Program support (6.25% to total)	1,509,807
PERSONNEL	
NS Staff	4,800,000
WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING	610,000
GENERAL DEPENSE	2,250,000
#REF!	200,000
SUBTOTAL PROGRAMME SUPPORT	9,369,807
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	22,627,807



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- Capitals
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Districts
- Affected areas