

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

BENIN: FLOODS

DREF operation n° MDRBJ008
GLIDE n° FL-2011-000091-BEN
29 July, 2011

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 167,461 has been allocated from IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Benin Red Cross (BRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 5,000 beneficiaries. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Continuous and recurring heavy rains since the first week of July, 2011 has resulted in severe flooding of municipalities and communities of Lokossa, Athiémé Bopa and Cotonou Littoral. These areas are classified as high flood risk areas. According to information received from local authorities and local branches of the Red Cross, some



Assessing one of the destroyed houses/photo
BRCS

districts that have never been flooded before were affected this year. Due to lack of access to the area because roads have been cut-off, detailed assessment of the areas have not been carried out, though reports from local authorities shows that dozens of huts built of black earth collapsed, affecting about 500 households within the inaccessible areas. No loss of life has been reported, a fact credited to the Early Warning System that was put in place in 22 municipalities. However, there has been extensive damage to poultry and livestock, and many hectares of farmland and crops have been destroyed.

The Red Cross has mobilized its volunteers to collaborate with local authorities to carry out rapid assessment of the situation to determine the needs of vulnerable households. Efforts are also underway to relocate the displaced households to possible temporary shelters. In view of the potential health dangers, volunteers have commenced awareness campaigns on issues related to water, hygiene and sanitation to help affected communities limit the spread of waterborne diseases. However, there remains a dire need to reach affected persons with needed relief, as well as provide for early recovery in affected areas as well as build preparedness capacities of the National Society in areas not yet affected.

Consequently, the BRCS, with technical support from IFRC's West Coast Regional Representation (WCRR) has developed a plan of action to support 1,000 most affected households with emergency shelter, blankets, tarpaulins, water purification items, and mosquito nets, among others.

In addition, the National Society is also proposing to undertake preparedness activities and preposition materials for 1,000 households based on the ACMAD (African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development) forecast for flood risk countries which included Benin among high risk (category A) countries. The planned intervention will be supported by the International Federation through its DREF and the deployment of national disaster response team (NDRT) members whose presence is also expected to enhance the capacity of the affected branches of the National Society in emergency relief

activities, especially in assessment. This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by October 2011. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (end January 2012).

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

The situation

Heavy rains that started the week of June 20, 2011 caused severe flooding in municipalities and communities of Lokossa, Athiémé Bopa and Cotonou Littoral. All these areas are classified as "category A" with high risk of flooding. The continuous rain especially the heavy downpour of first week of July has worsened the situation.

According to information received from local authorities and local branches of the Red Cross, some districts that have never been flooded before were affected this year. Due to lack of access to the area because roads have been cut-off, detailed assessment has not been carried out. However, reports from local authorities show that dozens of huts built of black earth have collapsed, affecting about 500 households within the inaccessible areas. Those affected are living in tents provided by the Mayor and constructed by Red Cross volunteers, while some are taking shelter in schools or with friends and relatives.

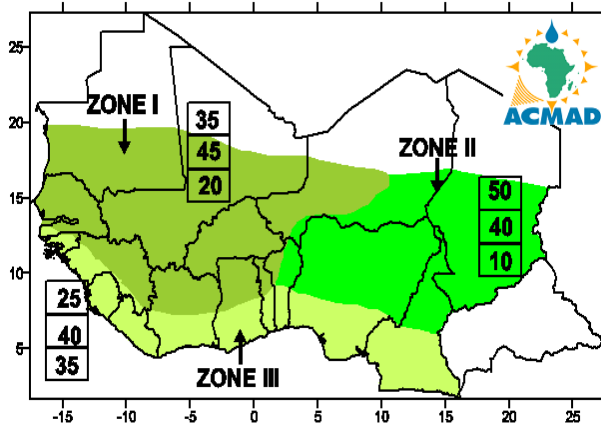
Despite early warning systems (EWS) and monitoring in 22 municipalities that are most prone to repeated flooding, the extent of the recent flooding has been overwhelming. Already such systems have been activated and strengthened in some areas, particularly riparian zones around rivers. A joint rapid assessment to be conducted by volunteers from local branches and local authorities is being planned.

The flood within the Federal Capital, Cotonou, forced residents out of their homes to the road side, as well as in schools which are now overcrowded, with the possibility of resulting epidemics if necessary actions are not taken. Due to the destruction of water sources, stream and even flood water is now used for domestic consumption in some areas, without any prior treatment. In areas with well water, wells have become inundated and contaminated. This has rendered the water unfit for consumption and has exposed the population to serious waterborne diarrhoeal diseases including cholera. The flooding, coupled with the sanitation status of the communities, where many of the garbage dumps also serve as places of defecation, also poses an increase in the risk of epidemic outbreaks like cholera. Information from health authorities has already reported 47 recent cholera cases. The flood also washed away most food supplies of the population, including their crops, farmlands and livestock.

Flood preparedness activities are a national priority, based on current rainfall forecasts, which include Benin as one of the countries at high risk of flooding in 2011. At the annual ACMAD correspondence meeting held in June in Abuja, the forecast for July- September was presented as in the figure at left.

SEASONAL PRECIPITATION FORECAST FOR JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2011
Update of June 2011

PREVISION SAISONNIERE CLIMATIQUE DES PRECIPITATIONS
DE JUILLET-AOUT-SEPTEMBRE 2011 : Mise a jour de Juin 2011



Category A

1. Nigeria
2. Benin

Based on the forecast, for the areas highlighted in light green, when there is normal rainfall, the possibility of flooding is between 80%-120%, while in the event of rainfall above normal, the probability of flooding will be between 100% and 130%. From the diagram, the threshold for flooding is 45, therefore, the possibility for flooding during normal rainfall is a bit low in this country, though not impossible. However when the rainfall is above normal, the possibility of flooding is very high at 50.

Category B

1. Togo
2. Ghana
3. Cote D'Ivoire (north)

Based on the forecast, the areas highlighted in army green are the vulnerable areas to flooding within the forecasted period. In the case of this category, the forecast shows that during normal rainfall the probability of flooding is high at 45, while the probability of flooding is lower at 35 when rainfall is above normal.

The implication of this forecast is that the countries mentioned are all at high risk of flooding within the given period. This does not mean that other countries, like Liberia, Sierra Leone or Côte d'Ivoire (south) are necessarily safe, considering the rivers and drainage systems potentially leading to downstream flooding.

Coordination and partnerships

The government of Benin provided some NFIs to the affected population. The government is also supporting the local authorities to open up trenches to facilitate the flow of water and mitigate floods. Also as part of preparedness actions, the United Nations system provided technical and financial support to the government for training local elected officials, managers of the decentralized structures at the community levels and humanitarian structures including officers and volunteers from the Red Cross, on crisis management, disaster and contingency plan development to better prepare for the emergency.

As part of the response activities, the Lokossa Athiémé municipality conducted a joint assessment with the local Red Cross to assess the damage and needs. The mayors of Athiémé and Lokossa with the collaboration of Red Cross provided (30) thirty tents to the displaced to help them relocate. These was part of the UNHCR prepositioned stock. However the tents are grossly inadequate to meet the needs of the affected persons.

The National Society is also coordinating with the Togolese Red Cross in monitoring water levels in the Mono River within the framework of the National Societies' respective early warning systems to enable better and more timely information sharing. Moreover, the BRCS actively participates in Benin's disaster risk management platform as a key actor in the national contingency plan.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Benin Red Cross has mobilized volunteers through its collaboration with local authorities to carryout a rapid assessment of the situation. Despite the difficulties of access due to water level, the Benin Red Cross began a systematic assessment of the affected households. The National Society deployed 100 of the pre-positioned tents at its headquarters in Porto-Novo to support the efforts of the City Council Lokossa where at least 300 households were displaced and are living in the courtyard of a school. Currently volunteers from the Red Cross are providing assistance in the construction of the tents.

The community disaster response teams (CDRT) are conducting sensitization and awareness on waterborne diseases, and on good hygiene and sanitation. The CDRT teams are also identifying the most vulnerable households affected to help in targeting. The National Society plans to deploy a team NDRT for further evaluation. It is also planning a non-food assistance and strengthening preparedness activities in communities at high risk that are not yet affected.

The proposed operation

The proposed operation will involve the deployment of NDRT members to support in assessment and organizing delivery of immediate relief assistance (basic non-food items), Emergency Shelter and health in emergency for the displaced population for a period of three months with technical support from the Federation's West Coast Regional Representation.

This support is being sought to assist 5,000 beneficiaries in 1,000 affected households is among the most vulnerable. The BRCS plans to carry out social mobilization campaign on WASH and health education against diseases such as malaria and cholera in the target communities. NRCS will invest its network of volunteers under the guidance of the deployed NDRTs for needs assessment, registration of beneficiaries, distribution of non-food items and sanitation equipment.

The National Society with the support of the West Coast Regional Representation intends to also provide support for capacity building, preparedness including prepositioning of items for the National Society relief operation based on the 2011 forecast. These will include the procurement of relief materials (NFIs WASH) and rapid orientation and sensitization on Contingency plan implementation, emergency response, First Aid, emergency shelter construction, good hygiene and health promotion

In the emergency phase, response will focus on the distribution of non-food items (tents, sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito nets, clothes for children, kitchen kits, and hygiene kits), psychological assistance to the most affected households vulnerable. Also, it will be increased awareness sessions and education on hygiene and sanitation, prevention of cholera. This phase aims to reach 1,000 household (5,000 beneficiaries) among the most vulnerable. The beneficiaries of the actions of National Society (NS) are selected based on vulnerability criteria: children under five, pregnant women, elderly, displaced persons, etc..

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Outcome 1: 1,000 households (5,000 beneficiaries) affected by floods in Benin will benefit from the distribution of non-food items (tents, sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito nets, clothes for children, kitchen kits, hygiene kits)	
Outputs	Activities Planned:
Relief items are procured and distributed to 1,000 most affected Households and selected through established Red Cross selection criteria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure and distribute non-food relief distribution items to 1,000 most affected households • Mobilize and brief 100 Red Cross volunteers on registration and distribution strategies of the Red Cross; • Carryout needs assessment to ensure the availability of a reliable database • Control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user; • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion	
Outcome 2: The risk of waterborne disease is reduced through the provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene promotion for 1,000 most vulnerable households affected by floods	
Outputs	Activities Planned:
Improved knowledge of 2,000 most affected households and target communities on WASH. Improved access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train 100 volunteers in Benin RC on water treatment and use of products for the domestic water treatment and hygiene promotion using the ECV Manual for volunteers. • Provide voluntary protective equipment (boots, raincoats) • Distribute 250,000 Aquatabs to 1,000 affected households including host communities and educate the community on usage • Raise awareness on hygiene and sanitation.

Preparedness Plan of Action

Prepositioning of Contingency Supplies (Emergency Shelter, WASH and Non-food items)	
Outcome 3: Procurement and Stocking of Non-Food Items, WASH and Health materials and Emergency Shelter for 1,000 most affected households in the event of Flood disasters in Benin Republic based on the assessment and selection criteria from Red Cross	
Output	Activities planned:
NFIs, Emergency Shelter and WASH items for 1,000 households are procured for prepositioning to respond in the event of flood disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop cost benefit analysis (CBA) and other procurement process based on Federations guidelines • Procure non-food items (blankets, mats, buckets, kitchen sets etc) , Emergency Shelters and WASH items

Capacity Building (Sensitization, awareness and campaigns)	
Outcome 4: NS is better prepared to respond to imminent floods	
Output	Activities planned:
The NS staff and volunteers are informed about the nature and trend of floods based on early warning (EW) and are updated on Contingency Plan implementation and DRR sensitization and awareness campaign strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid orientation on implementation of Contingency Plans • Rapid orientation and refresher on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - emergency response, - First Aid, - emergency shelter construction, - emergency health, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion • Sensitization on information dissemination and communication with local branches for EW and during emergencies.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The proposed activities will provide an opportunity for the National Society to demonstrate the added value of its activities to the affected persons, communities, as well as host government in the event of any flood disaster within the Benin Republic. The National Society with technical support from the Regional Representation will ensure adequate and effective national and international coverage of the Red Cross intervention. The WCRR will be assisting the BRCS in enhancing the capacity of its communication team in information sharing and dissemination during emergency with the aim of increased visibility for the Red Cross in Benin.

How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

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>](#)

DREF OPERATION

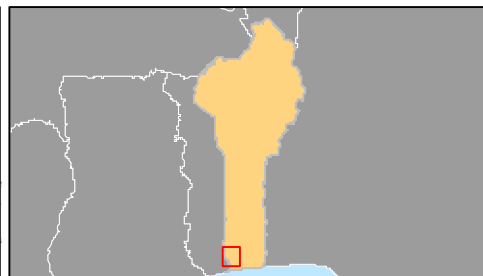
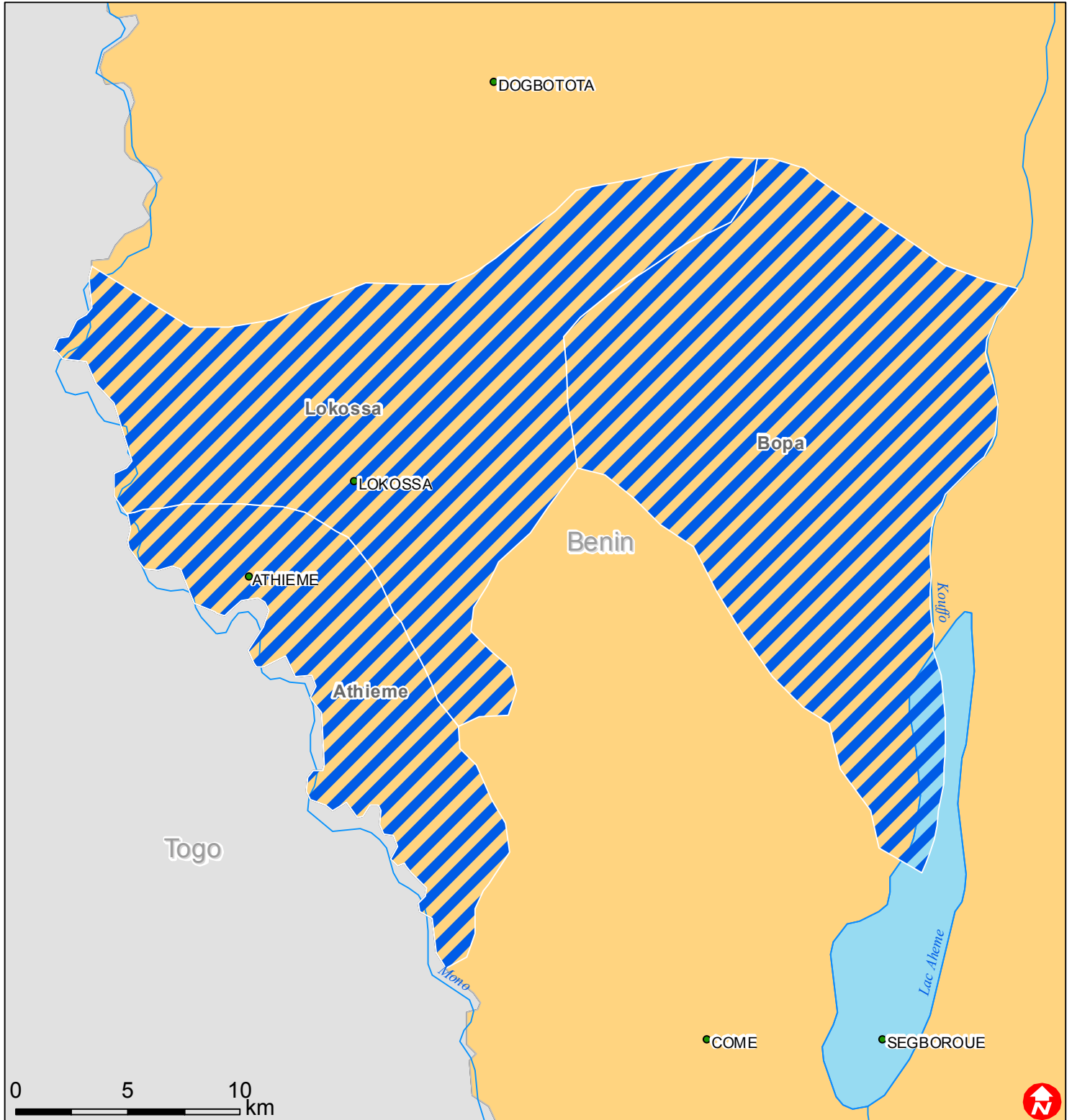
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BENIN FLOODS (MDRBJ008)

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	41,710
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	32,301
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	20,400
Medical & First Aid	1,600
Teaching Materials	1,280
Ustensils & Tools	20,932
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	118,222
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	581
Distribution & Monitoring	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	10,614
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	11,195
International Staff	0
National Staff	4,410
National Society Staff	2,288
Volunteers	12,640
Total PERSONNEL	19,338
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	800
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	800
Travel	2,600
Information & Public Relations	2,572
Office Costs	1,914
Communications	400
Financial Charges	200
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	7,686
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	10,221
Total INDIRECT COSTS	10,221
TOTAL BUDGET	167,461



Benin: Floods



 Affected districts