

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## ***NIGERIA: FLOODING IN KANO AND JIGAWA***

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*This Information Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.*

### ***The Situation***

Following exceptionally heavy rains between 27 August and 2 September 2001, floods devastated large areas of Kano and Jigawa States in the northern part of Nigeria. Continuous torrential rainfalls led to the overflow of rivers and the two main dams of Tiga and Challawa. The areas affected by the flooding in the two states lie within Hadejia-Jamaare Rivers Basins which are very prone to flooding. In the two States farmlands and crops were washed away. People also lost their livestock, houses and other properties. 125 towns and villages were affected by the flooding in the two States, with over 82,000 people displaced (48,565 in Kano and 33,500 in Jigawa), out of which 39,470 people (17,870 in Kano and 21,600 in Jigawa) took refuge in public buildings, schools and camps with little or no assistance provided. Despite warnings of the impending flood, some people did not manage to reach high ground or were cut off by flood waters resulting in 20 deaths in Kano and 180 in Jigawa.

The areas most affected by the flood disaster in southeastern Kano State are Wudil, Warawa and Kura Local Government Areas, with a population of about 1.5 million people. A total number of 70 villages were affected in the three Local Government Areas. The displaced in Kano are presently camped at the newly built Warawa market and Girls Secondary School (both in Wudil) while others are staying with relatives in the adjoining communities/villages not seriously affected by the flood.

In Jigawa State the situation continued to evolve with the water draining into the catchment areas of lower ground, resulting in new displacements. In Auyo town, for example, new flooding from increasing water levels continued to submerge residential and business areas of the town for weeks after the initial flooding. The extension of flooding into Yobe State has not yet been reported.

People have taken taking refuge mainly in public and school buildings, mosques, market places and other government buildings, where conditions have continued to deteriorate. There are few facilities available (beds, bedding, washing) and with the congestion many sleep outdoors adding to the risk of malaria and other diseases. What food is available is cooked outside on open fires and often in unhygienic conditions. It is clear that only those remain who cannot return because of the destruction of their homes or fear of future flooding. Crop damage is still to be fully assessed and there is optimism that much of the grain crops nearing harvest time will have survived, provided submersion has not extended beyond a week or so. In the case of root crops there is likely to be widespread damage. The knock-on effect to this highly rural and agriculturally dependent part of the country could mean serious food shortages for up to half a million people between now and December's harvest unless the Government is prepared to provide reliable relief supplies.

Both State and Local Government Area authorities of the affected areas are providing food assistance. The maintenance of adequate food relief is of great concern to all particularly as existing food relief supplies are already proving inadequate. Public buildings were quickly made available as emergency shelters. Provision of resettlement centres with permanent structures promised to be undertaken by both State and Local Government Area authorities may take some time and require Federal or external support. The British Department for International Development (DfID) has reportedly provided a relief grant of £100,000 (CHF 237,930) to Jigawa State which falls within their six-state assistance plan.

The Kano State Relief and Rehabilitation Agency has been active in food relief as has the Honourable Commissioner for Health in drawing up emergency health plans. The Wudil and Warawa Local Government Authorities donated limited quantities of millet, rice, maize, palm oil and sugar to the displaced victims. Though there is much goodwill and good intent, coordination of relief needs to be improved so that it is clear how much of what is to be made available to whom and when.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

Nigeria Red Cross Society (NRCS) volunteers were quickly mobilized and assisted some 500 people with health or mobility problems to evacuate to safety or to clinics for care and attention. Volunteers also provided first aid and health education in the camps where the danger of poor quality water and sanitation were proving hazardous. They also teamed up with government health teams who worked on an outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting which occurred in Miga LGA. The Kano Red Cross Branch Office became the operational centre for the State while in Jigawa, an office in the Auyo Local Government became the Red Cross coordinating centre for the State. Sanitation materials were provided and two latrines constructed to overcome the problems in the Auyo camp. The Kano State Branch of the National Society mobilized 15 volunteers who have been assisting the displaced victims to evacuate some of their property that could be retrieved from the flood.

NRCS staff joined in an aerial survey on 11 September organized by the US Embassy with USAID, State Governors and other specialists on board. Ongoing needs assessments were carried out in both States and, as reports came through, the Federation and the NRCS were able to develop a plan of action. The British Red Cross emergency fund provided \$5,000 (CHF 8,100) so that initial emergency relief consisting of 60 bags of rice, 20 bags of beans and 20 barrels of oil could be distributed on 5 September.

Subsequently the Norwegian Red Cross provided \$11,500 (CHF 18,600) to the Disaster Preparedness and Relief Programmes and USAID provided \$24,000 (CHF 38,800) through the Federation to the NRCS for flood relief operations. This funding allowed food and non-food distributions to commence on 21 September for 1,835 families of the 8,550 families who had previously been registered. Rations (consisting of rice, millet, beans, oil, soap and detergents) were distributed within five camps each in Kano and Jigawa States. Beneficiaries were fully involved in both the organization and distributions of relief and played an important part in identification of those most in need. Full consultation has taken place with State and Local Government Area officials.

## **Outlook**

An estimated 39,470 people from the 6 camps in Kano and the 10 camps in Jigawa are still in need of non-food items such as blanket, mats, cooking pots, household utensils and clothing. They also need food items such as rice, beans, millet, oil, sugar and maize above that currently supplied by Government. It is clear that any Red Cross food supplies provided will help to supplement the Government's action to prevent hunger until such time as rehabilitation can commence.

There is the danger of an outbreak of cholera and gastroenteritis due to polluted water sources and a breakdown of waste disposal systems. Many thousands of people depend on the rivers for all water needs and these together with the alternative source from hand-dug wells are contaminated from the flooding. There is also the possibility of an outbreak of malaria and pneumonia due to a lack of adequate shelter.

The level of future assistance delivered by the Government authorities and others remains uncertain. The Red Cross will continue to monitor the health and nutritional status, provide health education, and small-scale food relief to isolated communities not receiving Government food. The balance of existing funding will be exhausted within the next two weeks; it is not planned to extend the emergency relief operation beyond the existing funded operation. The NRCS will seek, however, to quickly source second-hand clothes for distribution.

The NRCS assisted by the Federation is currently carrying out preliminary field assessments and discussions with Government, religious and social leaders, and the displaced on future rehabilitation prospects and options. Following a post field visit meeting, the Office for US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) invited the Federation and NRCS to a meeting on 11 October to discuss these preliminary assessment findings. It is likely that the Federation would propose funding of a rehabilitation feasibility study to provide the basis for a programme application (perhaps involving supply of construction material or water and sanitation development). Such a proposal would necessarily be limited to material supplies only and be dependent on local or self-build construction, and would be rural in nature. If the Government indicates that it will mount a major rehabilitation programme, the Red Cross will clearly not proceed further with this possible initiative.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

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

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