

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

SENEGAL: FLOODS

26 March 2002

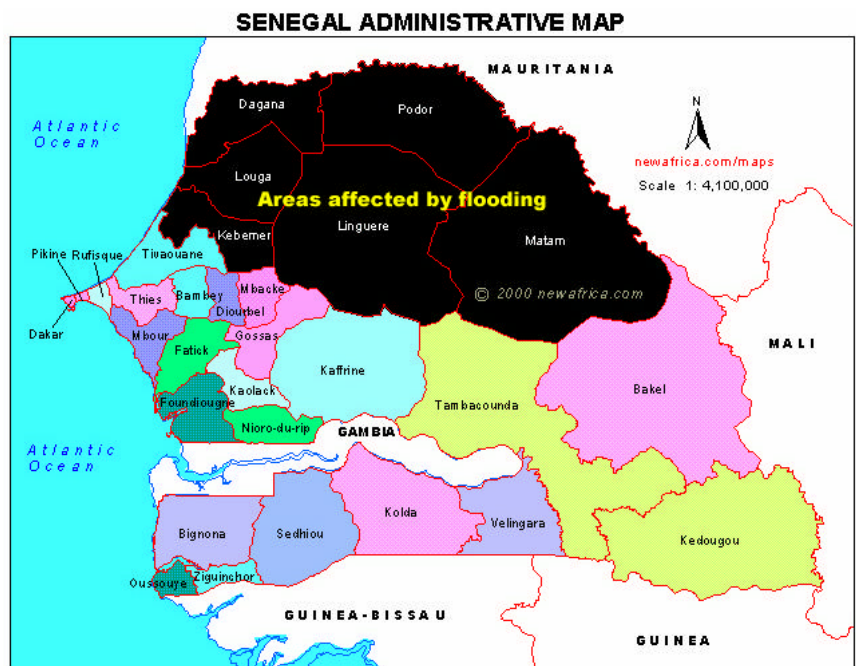
Information Bulletin N° 2

DREF Allocated: None

This Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. There is no intention of launching an emergency appeal at this time.

The Situation

The floods that swept through Senegal between 9-11 January led to the loss of 28 lives, with over 100,000 others affected. A damage assessment revealed that an estimated 105,471 head of livestock had perished and 13,993 homes were demolished. As much as 581 hectares of crops were washed away. Approximately 1,537 tons of rice was also destroyed. The worst affected areas are the regions of Louga (districts of Kebemer, Linguere, Louga) where animal husbandry is the major means of livelihood and Saint-Loius (the districts of Podor, Dagana and Matam) where rice farming is practiced. Both regions face the possibility of severe food shortages. Large numbers of decomposing animal carcasses also pose a risk of epidemics in the Louga region.



Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

The Senegalese Red Crescent immediately carried out an evaluation of the damage caused by the disaster. Members of the local Red Cross branches provided first aid services. The national society sent 25 tons of rice to the most vulnerable (mostly women and children), consisting of 61 percent of the victims. The national society

developed a plan of action based upon the funds received from the Qatar Red Crescent. The plan of action was drawn up to assist 10,000 victims in the Linguere region of Northern Senegal. This region is a pastoral area which was seriously affected by the floods and the cold snap in January. A team of 20 volunteers from the Linguere local committee were involved in incinerating the carcasses of animals scattered over a wide area. They were also involved in distributing food and non food items such as 25 tons of rice, 600 litres of oil, 200 kg of sugar, and 300 mosquito nets to victims. The completion of this operation is pending the transfer of CHF 7,600. The number of the most vulnerable being assisted include:

VICTIMS	NUMBER ASSISTED
Breast feeding mothers	400
Pregnant women	300
Children under five	300

The Tunisian Red Crescent has contributed CHF 3,406, and the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates CHF 8,514 for this operation. The funds will be included in the next cash request by the office.

The Senegalese government is mobilizing donors, and the national society is working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, administrative authorities, and institutions such as UNICEF and the World Food Programme.

The needs

Out of the 10,000 victims targeted only 4,444 persons have received assistance. Seven first aiders per district committee of the Senegalese Red Crescent are still evaluating and determining the number of victims that need assistance. There is a lack of food items and non-food items, including tents, medicines and disinfecting products. The first aiders also need protection materials (masks and gloves) to carry out the removal and disposal of dead animals.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

For further details please contact :

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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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