

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

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NIGERIA:

Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons

Information Bulletin N° 1

- *This bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time.*

The Situation

Udawa cattle herders attacked and burned 34 farming villages in Adamawa and Gombe States in February and March 2003 resulting in 63 dead, 563 injured and 23,700 displaced. The displaced persons, mostly women and children, fled their villages to urban centers in search of safety, shelter and means of sustenance.

1- Adamawa State

Following an attack on 20 farming communities by armed Udawas cattle herders in Dumne, in Song Local Government Area of Adamawa State from 26-28 February, Adamawa Red Cross branch reported that that over 500 people were injured, 63 people died and over 20,000 persons displaced. Several people sought refuge in a temporary shelter at the Central School of Dumne town. Calmness has returned to Dumne town and the attacked villages. The assessment team visited Dumne town, which hosts a large number of the internally displaced persons (IDP), who are still looking for assistance. The victims who look frail are housed in a temporary shelter without potable water and toilet facilities.

The Commissioner for Special Duties of the State informed the assessment team that the number of IDPs requiring urgent assistance was 3,820 (532 families). The team assessed three destroyed villages and observed that returnees were making efforts to rebuild their houses. It was clear that the farming communities lost most of their property and their houses were burnt down. They have been without any outside assistance except for some food provided by the local Red Cross branch. The team also observed cases of diarrhoea, malaria and infected wounds on those injured during the crisis.

2-Gombe State

In Gombe state, 14 villages were attacked by Udawa armed cattle herders from 15-17 February injuring over 63 people. The Gombe Red Cross branch reported that over 3,700 people were displaced. Calm has returned to the area and the IDPs are sheltered at both Bambam Secondary School and Primary School. Food is in short supply

as containers were destroyed together with several corn milling machines and people have to trek into the neighboring states to Taraba and Adamawa looking for milling facilities.

Red Cross/ Red Crescent Action

Upon receiving reports from Red Cross branches in the area, the Nigerian Red Cross, the ICRC and the Federation sent an assessment team from 19-23 March 2003, to assess the situation in both Adamawa and Gombe States. The mission to Adamawa State was carried out by a NRCS/Federation team while the assessment to Gombe State was jointly done by the three members of the Movement. The team trekked for three hours visiting several burnt villages in Maitunkun district including Bambam village and met with some of the returnees, most of whom were women and children. No serious nutritional problems and health epidemics were observed but many of the IDPs were seen making efforts to rebuild their houses.

The Gombe State Branch and Adamawa Red Cross Branch provided 50 Red Cross volunteers and made available some relief supplies from its own sources and from various individuals. The Red Cross volunteers and officials have been providing humanitarian assistance including cooked food and non food items to over 3,820 IDPs since the start of the displacement.

Government Action

The State Government has provides adequate security to the crisis affected areas and the temporary shelters. It also provides health services to the IDPs. According to the Commissioner for Special Duties, who also heads the State Relief Operation, the Federal and State Governments provided 21 million Naira (approximately CHF 16.8 million) to provide cooked food and meet other needs of the IDPs. These and the ones donated by individuals would last them for about three weeks, the commissioner said.

Reports from the Red Cross Branch office on 24 March confirm that the Government distributed some food and non food items to the IDPs. However, most displaced persons, especially women and children, are still around Dumne looking for assistance to rebuild their destroyed houses.

The State Government had distributed non-food items such as mats, bags of rice, maize and Guinea corn and bundles of wrappers. Some local NGOs also organized assistance to the IDPs. However, the assessment team was not informed of any Government plan to rehabilitate and resettle the IDPs. Although the Deputy Governor visited and consoled the IDPs and provided security to the IDPs shelter, one of the major concerns of the returnees is how long this security would last.

Outstanding needs

- 1) The Red Cross is seeking CHF 53,661 to procure and distribute nonfood items to 1,300 most vulnerable IDP families to resettle them in their villages. These nonfood items include mats, kitchen wares, farming tools and seeds for planting. The community is ready to start preparing their farm lands and expects the rainy season in one or two months.

The IDPs also requested for seven milling machines which were destroyed during the attack by the armed cattle herders. A milling machine costs about USD 500/unit.

- 2) Red Cross branches in the affected areas need financial support to cover fuel and volunteer expenses during relief distribution and monitoring. A detailed description of needs is shown in the tables below:

A - Summary of Non-food needs

1- Nonfood items (cooking and feeding supplies for 1300 families)	Cost of Items (IN CHF)
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Description	
	21,075
2- Farming tools and milling facilities (7 units)	21,500
3- Local materials to rebuild burnt houses (50% of 1300 households)	5,000
4- Transportation cost of supplies (25 tons)	2,576
5- Distribution cost	3,510
TOTAL BUDGET	CHF 53,661

B- Detailed Non-food needs

1- NONFOOD ITEMS REQUIRED FOR 1300 MOST VULNERABLE IDP FAMILIES

ITEMS	QUANTITY	UNITS/ COST	TOTAL (Nigerian Naira)
MATS	1300 units	N=350	N=455,000
COOKING POTS (1300 families)	1300 units	N=500	N=650,000
PLASTIC BUCKET	1300 units	N=230	N=299,000
SOAP	1,300 X 2 units	N=50	N=128,200
PLASTIC PLATES, CUPS, SPOONS	1,300 X 5 units	N=120	N=153,840
		TOTAL	N=1,686,040

2- OTHER NONFOOD REQUIREMENT

ITEMS	NO OF ITEMS	COST	TOTAL
HOES	1,300	N650	N=845,000
SEEDS	5 KG/FAMILY	N=500	N=325,000
MILLING MACHINE	10	N=55,000	N=550,000
		TOTAL	N= 1,720,000

3- TRANSPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION COST

CO-ORDINATION AND DISTRIBUTION COS (7%)		N= 280,800
TRANSPORT OF SUPPLIES TO DISTRIBUTION POINTS	25 tons of supplies	N=206,080
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET		N= 3,892,920

Conclusion

The Red Cross branch offices and volunteers in Adamawa and Gombe States provided immediate assistance to the IDPs during the emergency phase by mobilizing local resources to assist the local authorities. The displaced persons have been waiting for rehabilitation assistance to help them return to their normal life.

The Red Cross branches will be responsible for the implementation of the distributions supported by Disaster Management officers of the NRCS. The Federation's Regional office in Lagos will assist the NRCS in monitoring and reporting.

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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.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.

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

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