

# *Gambia: Fire*

*13 March 1998*

## *Information Bulletin N° 01*

### *The Disaster*

Fire destroyed 250 houses in the Gambian village of Galleh Manda, on Wednesday 5 March. Household contents, animals, large quantities of seeds for the farming season, stored food, cash and personal effects were also lost. The 800 worst affected by the fire are predominantly subsistence farmers, small businesspersons and housewives.

Over five hundred thousand Dalasis (CHF 70,000) in damages were caused, according to the Office of the Commissioner, Central River Division. Those affected must sleep and cook outdoors and use the nearby bushes as toilets. Children are unable to attend school, and agricultural activities in the upcoming rainy season will be curtailed. Drinking water is in short supply as wells were emptied during the fire.

### *Gambia Red Cross Action*

The Gambia Red Cross Emergency Response Team in the Central River Division was mobilised to help put out the fire, organise temporary housing, distribute locally donated food and water and treat the wounded. The team is now conducting a relief mobilisation exercise in Banjul to raise funds and materials for the relief operation.

On Monday 9 March an initial consignment of food, blankets, smoked fish and salt was despatched to the most vulnerable, concentrating on lactating mothers, elderly and children.

Through the Office of the Commissioner and the Red Cross Branch office, a provisional relief committee has been established to mobilise assistance and co-ordinate distribution and preparedness aspects.

The Gambia Red Cross Society has conducted a needs assessment survey and in close collaboration with the appropriate government institutions will assist through the provision of relief materials, embark on fire prevention education and rehabilitation exercise and increase its capacity in disaster management.

In order to cope with the situation, the National Society is seeking in kind and cash support from donors.

### *Needs*

Needs include food aid (rice and vegetable oil, tents, mattresses, beds and blankets. water tanks, cooking utensils, clothing, footwear and financial contributions to assist with rehabilitation.

For additional information, please contact Richard Hunlédé, Team Leader in charge of The Gambia on ++4122 7304314, email: [hunlede@ifrc.org](mailto:hunlede@ifrc.org)

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**BUDGET SUMMARY****IN CHF**

ANNEX 1

**NEEDS IN KIND (OR CASH)****Relief supplies**

Tents (quantities + unit price)

Clothes (300 bales x unit price)

Foot ware (50 bales x unit price)

Blankets (400 units x unit price)

4,200.00

Cooking sets (quantities x unit price)

3,500.00

Construction material (rehabilitation)

7,000.00

**Food items**

Rice (quantities x unit price)

7,400.00

Oil (quantities x unit price)

1,300.00

**TOTAL NEEDS IN KIND (OR CASH)**

23,400.00

**NEEDS IN CASH**

Logistic &amp; Administrative support

Secretariat operational support

1,600.00

**TOTAL NEEDS IN CASH**

1,600.00

**TOTAL APPEAL CASH & KIND**

25,000.00

LESS CASH ON HAND

0.00

**NET REQUEST CASH & KIND (\*)**

25,000.00

**(\*) Note: Except for tents and cloth/footware, all items can be purchased locally**