

CHAD: FLOODS

8 September, 1999

Information Bulletin N° 1

The Disaster

Torrential rains since late July have caused flooding in 11 out of 14 provinces of Chad, with the following areas or districts the most severely affected: Batha in the centre of the country, Chari-Baguirmi around the capital N'djamena, Guera, Kanem, the lake region, the provinces of Moyen Chari, Western Logone, Salamat and Mayo Kebi. Approximately 45,000 people have lost their houses and property, and the government estimates that more than 165,000 hectares of agricultural land are flooded. The community of Ati seems the worst hit at the moment with more than one third of the population made homeless and most of the cereal stocks swept away by the floods. The floods have turned the city into an island, and the provisions of supplies are delivered by plane at the moment. In the worst hit areas of N'djamena people were obliged to move around in boats, and with weather forecasts indicating more heavy rains to come, the situation is expected to worsen.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The Comité national d'assistance aux sinistrés des inondations (CONASI) is the unit organised by the government to manage the flood disasters, and to co-ordinate operations. The Red Cross of Chad (RCC) is a key participant of CONASI. The Federation's Regional Health delegate (based in Yaoundé) assisted the RCC in assessing the situation, the needs and to plan the operation. In N'djamena, Kanem and Ati, 500 blankets and bags of sand had already been distributed. The RCC is evaluating possibilities of transporting 1,000 blankets, 1,000 mosquito nets, and 2,663 tools to Ati procured from a US-Embassy donation of CHF 34,200 to the RCC to immediately respond to the needs of the victims in Ati. The RCC also plans to assist another 9,000 of the most vulnerable victims in the regions of Lake Chad, Chari-Baguirmi, N'djamena, Bokoro and Kanem for a period of 2-3 months with blankets, mosquito nets and tools to dig drains and build dams. The RCC has assigned volunteers to all affected communities to implement and monitor the operation. At the end of the rainy seasons, these volunteers will continue assisting the population in consolidating the drains and dams in preparation for the next rainy season.

While the provision of shelter, the digging of drains and the construction of dams are the immediate priority, the RCC plans to combine the distribution of relief items with health education for the prevention of malaria and of water borne diseases such as diarrhoea and cholera. They will also chlorinate wells in the affected regions. Once the immediate needs are met, RCC volunteers will continue with health education, the consolidation of dams and drains, and will assist the governmental health system in the treatment of malaria and cholera patients.

The operation will be co-ordinated by the RCC Secretary General, assisted by two field supervisors and three logistics volunteers. MSF and two Catholic NGOs are also operational in Chad, but their means for

assistance in this operation are limited. To assist in the implementation phase of the operation, the Federation is assigning a relief delegate for 2 months.

The Federation has released CHF 75,000 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the immediate needs, and to initiate operations.

Needs

The RCC has identified the need for an in-kind contribution of 3,000 blankets, 2,000 mosquito nets, a cholera kit, and a WHO emergency health kit. For the local purchase of digging tools, chlorine powder, bags of sand, generic drugs against malaria, diarrhoeal and respiratory diseases and for the related distribution costs, the RCC requires a total of CHF 81,862.50.

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