


www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Republic of Congo: Floods in Brazzaville

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRCG013
GLIDE n° FF-2012-000203-COG
19 December, 2012**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

Summary: CHF 187,950 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to 2,500 beneficiaries. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

After the flooding in the city of Pointe-Noire in November 2012, torrential rains hit Brazzaville, the capital of the Republic of Congo between 8 and 9 December 2012, causing material damages and casualties.

A rapid assessment conducted by Congolese Red Cross (CRC) volunteers indicated that there are 14 fatalities, dozens of people injured and several persons missing. In addition, more than 1,000 houses have been completely or partially destroyed leaving about 1,500 families (around 7,500 persons) homeless.



Persons affected by the floods salvage their belongings.
Photo: Congolese Red Cross

The flood affected families initially sought refuge in makeshift sites like schools, sports centres and cultural centres. However, the schools had to be evacuated so as not to disrupt schooling and as the floodwaters recede, those displaced have been asked to return to their respective neighbourhoods. On return the displaced families are either staying in badly damaged homes or being hosted by neighbours within the disaster zone whose houses were not destroyed and still intact. Those living in their partially destroyed houses are living in very precarious conditions with high exposure to epidemics and have lost all of their belongings and means of livelihood.

CRC volunteers deployed to the field have supported those affected through evacuation to safer areas, and conducted sensitizations on the risks of a cholera epidemic targeting the affected families. Further assessments are being undertaken by the volunteers in the affected areas in order to determine the needs of those affected. Initial consultations with local leaders and heads of affected households indicate that those affected by the floods are in dire need of temporary shelters (tarpaulins) and basic household items. Furthermore, there is a need for water and sanitation activities as the risk of epidemic outbreaks are high due to water contamination, flooded latrines and disrupted water supplies.

The CRC would like to immediately carry out an awareness raising campaign on water-borne diseases focussing mainly on cholera, conduct hygiene and sanitation promotion campaigns including disinfection of contaminated areas and purification of drinking water in order to decrease the risk of epidemic outbreaks as well as provide emergency shelter and basic household items to the most vulnerable families.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 18 March, 2013; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 18 June 2013).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

After the flood disaster in Pointe-Noire end of November 2012, torrential rains hit Brazzaville, the capital of the Republic of Congo between 8 and 9 December 2012 resulting in floods which caused casualties and extensive material damage in southern Brazzaville when houses collapsed under the pressure of flood waters. The river Mfilou which crosses parts of Makélékélé broke its banks and the flood waters washed away dozens of houses, caused 14 deaths and several injuries with many persons including children still missing.

Approximately 1,0000 houses that were built with mud bricks mixed with cement were totally or partially destroyed, several bridges and dykes have collapsed cutting off different areas and farms and gardens been destroyed by the flood waters. Other material damages on infrastructure include the water distribution network, roads where several avenues such as the 7th Subdivision Mfilou have been silted and access to the houses blocked. The floods have also damaged or flooded the drinking water wells and latrines. Household items have been lost and school supplies and administrative documentation destroyed. According to government reports the most-affected areas include Bifouiti, Kinsoundi, Latanaf, Makazou and Massina. Other areas affected are districts or sub divisions in Brazzaville which include 1st Makélékélé, 4th Mougali, 7th Mfilou, and part of the 6th Sub division in the Mikalou neighbourhood.

Municipal authorities of Makélékélé and Mougali, parliamentarians and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action have visited the affected areas to assess the flood situation and the forces of law and order deployed to secure affected areas. In addition, the Civil Protection Department has transferred the dead bodies to the mortuaries and a request to the army to provide tents to those affected made by the Ministry of humanitarian action. The government has evacuated those injured to hospitals and provided temporary shelter to those displaced persons in places such as Poudriere primary school, Makélékélé sports centre and the Bacongo Sony Labou Tansi cultural centre. The police provided temporary shelter to nearly 600 residents affected by the floods that however had to evacuate the police station soon in order to allow the police to perform their work. Likewise, the government has evacuated the displaced persons from the school premises in order for the schools to continue with educational activities.

Currently a total of 1,500 affected families (about 7,500 persons), are staying at their partially destroyed houses or have sought refuge with host families. An estimated 60 percent of affected families are hosted by other families within the disaster site. Those staying in the partially destroyed houses are exposed to increased vulnerabilities and health risks as a result of lack of sanitation facilities, safe water and are exposed to undignified situations. Those being hosted by other families in the disaster area are also exposed to increased vulnerabilities due to overcrowding. Out of the 1,500 affected families, CRC has identified 500 most vulnerable families (2,500 persons) whose houses have been completely or partially destroyed.

A rapid assessment conducted by the CRC volunteers indicated that the affected families need assistance in the form of basic household items, emergency shelter and access to potable water and sanitation facilities, in order to improve their living conditions and regain dignity.

Table 1: Summary of the situation in the Sub divisions of Brazzaville (Source: Congolese RC)

Affected subdivisions	number of families affected	Houses completely destroyed	Houses partially destroyed	Most vulnerable persons (completely and partially destroyed houses)							Total	Deaths
				men	women	children	Pregnant women	Disabled	The Elderly	Injured		
Subdiv.1 (Makélékélé)	682	96	171	267	305	377	61	9	23	35	1077	14
Subdiv.4 (Moungali)	351	12	53	65	107	197	43	5	16	23	456	0
Subdiv.6 (Mikalou)	32	10	3	13	49	98	12	7	3	0	182	0
Subdiv - 7 (Mfilou)	435	57	98	155	233	277	54	11	24	31	785	0
Total	1500	175	325	500	694	949	170	32	66	89	2500	14

Coordination and partnerships

The government has taken the lead in the emergency response activities in Brazzaville area and has organized evacuation of those injured to hospitals, and coordinated with different actors in order to start meeting the needs of the affected persons. Crisis units have been set up in affected neighbourhoods with the CRC as a member and coordination meetings held regularly at the General Directorate of Humanitarian Action offices.

Municipal authorities of Makélékélé and Moungali, parliamentarians and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action have visited the affected areas to assess the flood situation and the forces of law and order deployed to secure affected areas. In addition, the Civil Protection Department has transferred the dead bodies to the mortuaries and a request made to the army to provide tents to those affected.

The CRC has mobilized and deployed 150 volunteers to the affected areas, who have been involved in rescue and evacuation services of flood victims. Furthermore, the CRC is conducting a rapid assessment of the situation and needs among affected families, including identification of affected families.

IFRC is providing technical support to CRC in order to assess the situation and plan for the emergency intervention.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The CRC has mobilized and deployed 150 volunteers to the affected areas, who have been involved in rescue and evacuation services of flood victims, mainly in the Fougère and Poudrière neighbourhoods. Furthermore, the CRC is conducting a rapid assessment of the situation and needs among affected families, including identification of affected families. Based on the information already collected CRC has developed a plan of action for emergency response, including distribution of basic household needs, emergency shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene activities.

Currently 30 CRC volunteers are conducting awareness raising campaigns among the affected families focussing on waterborne diseases, increased risks of disease and epidemics outbreaks among families living in overcrowded places in the disaster area under unsanitary conditions and a lack of access to clean water. An additional 120 volunteers will be mobilized and trained to conduct awareness raising campaigns, disinfect contaminated areas in order to reduce the risks of disease and epidemics outbreaks, distribute non-food items and support shelter construction for displaced families whose houses were completely destroyed.

IFRC is currently providing technical support to CRC in order to assess the situation and plan for the emergency intervention. A regional disaster response team (RDRT) will be deployed to assist in assessments, training of volunteers and activity implementation.

CRC will maintain contact with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) during the operation, and in particular should restoring family links services be required. Additionally, coordination with the French Red Cross is taking place.

In March 2012, CRC assisted persons affected by the military camp explosions in Mpila in Brazzaville gaining valuable experience. The experience and lessons learned from that operation are useful for the current operation in the rescue and evacuation activities in Brazzaville. Furthermore, the National society has previous experience having provided relief assistance to refugees from Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), including setting up temporary shelters, distribution of non-food items (NFIs), health, and water and sanitation interventions.

The needs

Currently a total of 1,500 affected families (about 7,500 persons), are staying at their partially destroyed houses or have sought refuge with host families. An estimated 60 percent of affected families are hosted by other families within the disaster site. Those staying in the partially destroyed houses are exposed to increased vulnerabilities and health risks as a result of lack of sanitation facilities, safe water and are exposed to undignified situations. Initial assessments indicate an immediate need for temporary shelter and basic household items, need for access to clean water and improved sanitary conditions.

Out of the 1,500 affected families, CRC has identified 500 most vulnerable families (2,500 persons) whose houses have been completely or partially destroyed. These families have also lost all of their belongings and means of livelihood. The majority of affected persons are children. Other vulnerable groups include persons with disabilities, elderly persons, pregnant women and those injured. The persons affected come mainly from four Sub divisions in Brazzaville: 1st Makélékélé, 4th Moungali, 7th Mfilou, and the 6th Mikalou.

Selection of people to be reached: CRC will focus its assistance on 500 most vulnerable families (2,500 beneficiaries), whose houses have been completely or partially destroyed. Special attention will be given to vulnerable individuals and families with persons with disabilities, elderly persons, pregnant women and children.

The proposed operation

The proposed DREF operation implemented by CRC will consist of the following components:

- 1) An in-depth assessment of the scope and needs of the affected population in order to inform on any revisions needed on the assistance provided as well as inform plans for a sustainable response to reduce risk relating to floods.
- 2) Emergency shelter and basic household items provided to the most vulnerable families affected by the disaster, in order to respond to their urgent needs.
- 3) Immediate intervention to reduce the risk for waterborne and water related diseases in the two targeted evacuation sites, through water, sanitation and hygiene interventions.
- 4) Review of the intervention in the end of the DREF operation, in order to assess achievements, review lessons learned, and provide recommendations for future similar operations.

To successfully carry out these components, CRC volunteers will be provided with training on emergency shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, relief distribution, mosquito net use, project planning, monitoring and evaluation. A RDRT with focus on relief and Watsan will be deployed for one month to provide support CRC to carry out the operation.

SPHERE standards will be maintained to ensure that quality assistance is being provided to the beneficiaries. Consultation and participation of beneficiaries will be important for the implementation of the DREF operation. Consideration to gender, age and vulnerability will be taken, in particular in terms of prioritizing support to families.

In-depth Assessment

Outcome: Detailed information on the situation and emergency needs in affected areas is available and used for planning of continued intervention.

Expected Results	Planned Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An in-depth assessment of the situation and emergency needs has been conducted in the affected and high-risk areas in Brazzaville and its subdivisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up the assessment teams, consisting of the CRC, IFRC Regional DM and PMER officer. Conduct training for volunteers and staff in assessment methodology Print material for the assessment Carry out an in-depth assessment of the situation of floods in high-risk areas concerned. Assessment of the needs of the affected population in order to ensure appropriate assistance is provided. Data entry and analysis of assessment. Distribution of results to relevant partners and stakeholders. Prepare an action plan for an appropriate sustainable response to the situation in the Republic of Congo in order to reduce risk related to floods.

Emergency shelter

Outcome: The living conditions of 500 most vulnerable families (2500 persons) affected by floods in Brazzaville area have been improved through the support by emergency shelter and provision of basic household items.

Expected results	Activities Planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency shelter and basic household items provided to 500 of the most vulnerable families affected by the disaster. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deploy 1 relief and watsan RDRT member, 1 Disaster Management coordinator, 4 local supervisors. (1 supervisor in each subdivision) Shelter kit training for 20 volunteers who will act as team leaders on emergency shelter construction. Procurement of 1000 tarpaulins, 500 shelter tool kits and equipment for construction. Provide 500 most vulnerable families with construction material (wood, nails) and shelter kits. Provide support to the vulnerable families in the construction of emergency shelter. Purchase 1250 mats, 1250 blankets, 1250 insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs), 500 cooking kits, 5000 pieces of soap of 200 g, 500 buckets, 500 jerry cans. Transport shelter and NFI items to the affected localities. Refresher training for 60 volunteers on relief distribution, awareness raising techniques, water and sanitation activities. The training will be combined with sessions on emergency planning, evaluation and reporting. Distribution of NFIs to targeted families. Ensure the monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on Emergency shelter and relief distribution activities

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Outcome: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in the targeted areas in Brazzaville and its sub divisions, reaching 500 vulnerable disaster affected families during three months

Expected results	Activities Planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out. • Daily access to safe water is provided to target population • Adequate sanitation is provided to target population. • The targeted households know how to prevent water related illnesses and malaria. • The targeted households in Brazzaville use mosquito nets. • The targeted 500 families have access to emergency latrines and showers. • Hygiene promotion activities which meet SPHERE standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular assessment of the water and wastewater systems in affected areas. • Training for 20 volunteers in each of the 4 Sub divisions on water, sanitation and, hygiene promotion, and risk prevention through the “Community-driven total sanitation” (CDTS) approach. Volunteers will also learn how to install and use mosquito nets. • Train 500 targeted households in the 4 Sub divisions on how to install and use mosquito nets. • Produce posters with messages on how to reduce risks associated with epidemics, water borne and water related diseases, as well as diseases related to poor hygiene and sanitation. • Conduct water sanitation and hygiene awareness raising • Sensitize communities on the risks associated with floods, violent winds, and other weather conditions. • Build emergency shower and latrines in each subdivision. • Purchase and deliver 10 sanitation kits to the National Society. • Purchase and distribute household water treatment items (113 boxes with 1000 Aquatabs). • Conduct training for households how to use water treatment items. • Carry out sanitation activities (disinfection) in the houses and villages affected by floods in Brazzaville • Treat water points with the participation of the community. • Ensure the monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.

Logistics

Outcome: The Congolese Red Cross are able to efficiently deliver items needed to meet the needs of the target population.

Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency shelter, basic household and water and sanitation items, as well as other material needed for the operation are delivered to the Congolese Red Cross for final distribution, in a timely and efficient manner. • Planned NFIs are purchased in line with national procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase and deliver shelter material to the CRC. Items include, 1000 temporary shelter/tarpaulins/plastic sheeting (2 tarpaulins per family), shelter tool kits and building material (timber, nails). • Purchase and deliver NFIs to the CRC. Items include, 1250 mats (1 for 2 persons), foam mattresses, 1250 blankets (1 blanket for 2 persons), 1250 treated mosquito nets (1 net for 2 persons), 500 kitchen kits (1 per family) , 5000 pieces of 200 g soaps, 500 buckets (1 per family) ,500 jerry cans (1 per family for water collection and storage) and 1000 hygiene kits, Sanitation kits (spades,

	<p>rakes, forks, wheelbarrows, boots, sanitation gloves, raincoats:10 or 2 kits per Brazzaville divisional committee), equipment for the treatment of water points (chlorine), 113 boxes with 1000 Aquatabs per box, equipment for disinfecting homes (cresol, sprayers).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rent warehouses for the storage of the items prior to distribution• Monitor, evaluate and report on logistical aspects of the operation.
--	---

The above mentioned items will be purchased locally, in line with national procedures and will be transported within country from the national headquarters to the affected areas in Brazzaville.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Denis Duffaut, Regional Representative for Central Africa; Yaoundé; phone: (office) +237 22 21 74 37; (mobile) +237 77 11 77 97; fax: +237 22 21 74 39; email: denis.duffaut@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Daniel Bolaños, Disaster Management Coordinator for Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 (0)731 067 489; email: daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; phone: +41 227 304 529; email: christine.south@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Regional Logistics Unit (RLU):** Ari Mantyaara Logistics Coordinator, Dubai; phone +971 50 4584872, Fax +971 4 883 22 12, email: ari.mantyaara@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Loïc de Bastier, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for Africa; Addis Ababa; phone: +251 93 003 4013; fax: +251 11 557 0799; email: loic.debastier@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting):

- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER/QA Delegate for Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 731 067277; email: robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

www.ifrc.org

Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
-

DREF OPERATION

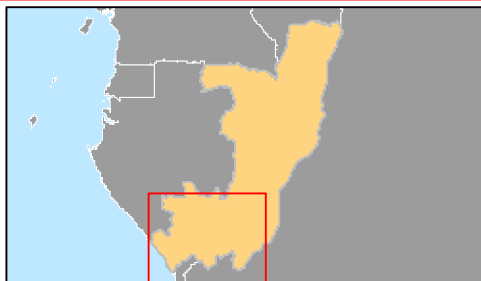
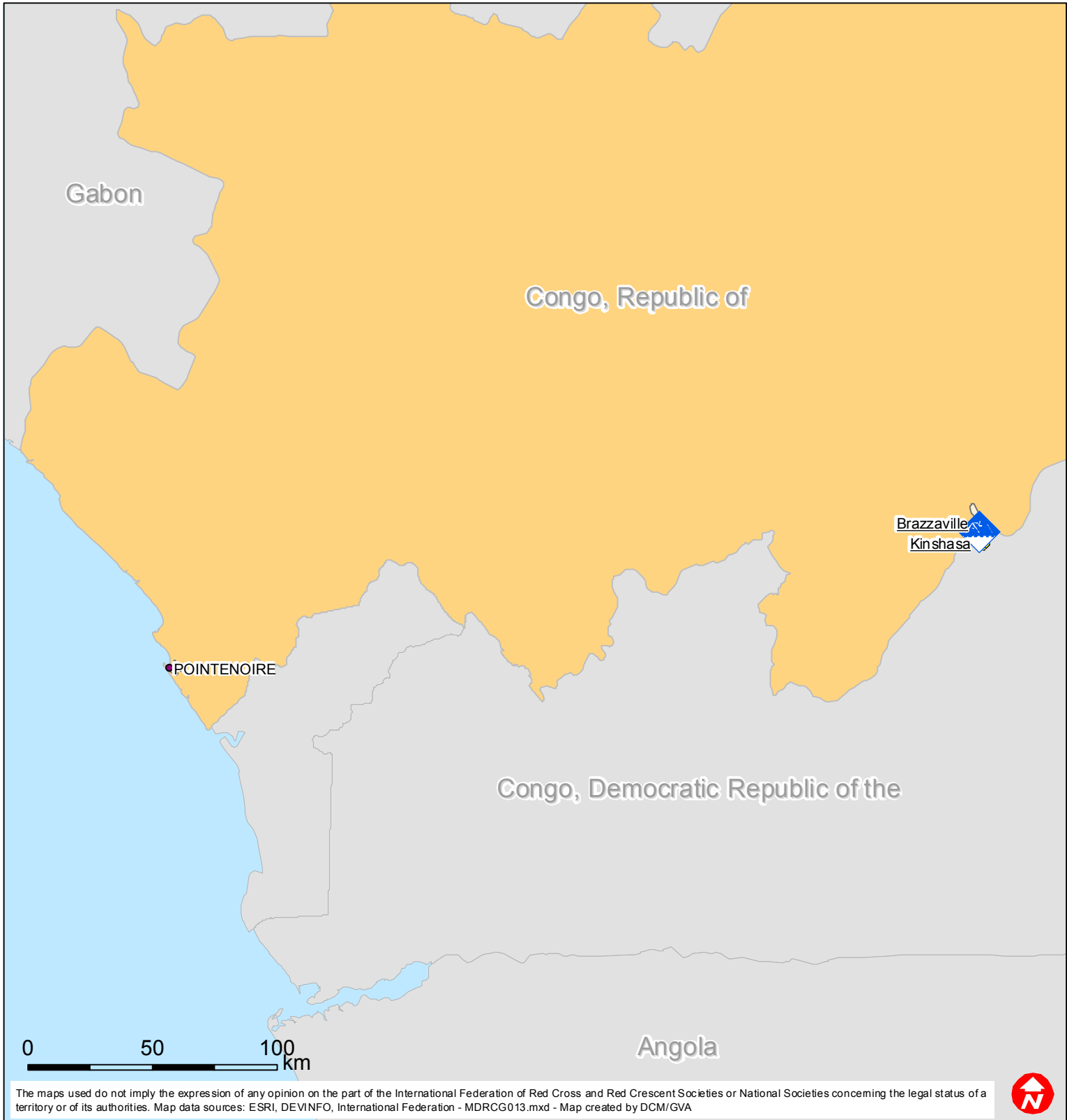
19-12-12

Floods in Brazzaville: MDRCG013

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	47,222
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	30,093
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	31,029
Medical & First Aid	648
Teaching Materials	
Ustensils & Tools	13,889
Other Supplies & Services	
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	122,881
Storage, Warehousing	926
Distribution & Monitoring	2,222
Transport & Vehicle Costs	7,705
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	10,853
International Staff	4,815
National Staff	
National Society Staff	3,944
Volunteers	15,634
Total PERSONNEL	24,393
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	6,222
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	6,222
Travel	6,296
Information & Public Relations	2,963
Office Costs	1,111
Communications	1,296
Financial Charges	463
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	12,130
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	11,471
Total INDIRECT COSTS	11,471
TOTAL BUDGET	187,950



Republic of Congo: Floods



- Settlements selection
- Floods
- Extend of Brazzaville