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DREF operation update Rwanda: Population Movement

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation MDRRW010 GLIDE n° OT-2013-000094-RWA Operation update n° 1 15 January 2014

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.

Period covered by this update: 22 August to 15 December 2013.

Summary: CHF 184,200 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) ON 22 August, 2013 to support Rwanda Red Cross Society (RRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to an estimated 10,000 people (up to 2,000 households) in emergency health and care, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. Of the 2,000 households, up to approximately 1,000 households who had to leave without their belongings will also be provided with selected non-food items.

Through the DREF support received from IFRC, RRCS is present at 2 camps (Kiyanzi and Rukara) and 1 transit centre (Kiyanzi) and through its trained volunteers is providing complementary support to the government by distributing non-food items to selected families in need as well as emergency health and care and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities. Currently, a total of 5,000 vulnerable families were provided with NFIs, 13 latrines blocks with 56 rooms, nine washrooms blocks with 52 rooms and ten compost pits were constructed by Rwanda Red Cross in the 2 sites to improve hygiene and sanitation. The local government authorities and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs are supporting coordination and camp management and other relevant activities in the transit camp supported by Rwanda Red Cross Society (RRCS).



While the DREF operation was originally planned to be completed by end of November, there remained outstanding needs identified during a recent DREF operation review supported by IFRC. As a result of the ongoing challenges

The identified needs include:

1. Volunteer support costs (per diems and meal allowances), linked to continued hygiene promotion activities in the camps
2. Additional hygiene and sanitation support in the camps including procurement of additional chlorine, and repair existing latrines in the camps due to wear and tear as a result of very strong winds around the camps.
3. National Society communication and fuel costs for continued monitoring support (costs were underestimated in original draft).

The additional needs and the fact that returnees continue to arrive in the camps(albeit in small numbers) awaiting the government position on the camps, there is need for RRC to continue providing complementary support to the existing returnees as well as to the new arrivals. More so RRC seeks to continue dialogue with the Government and other partners on how to best support these vulnerable persons beyond the DREF timeframe.

In view of this, the DREF operation update extends the implementation timeframe for an additional two months to allow RRC best support the returnees as well as develop an exit strategy for this response operation . The operation is now expected to be completed by 31 January 2014. The Final Report will therefore be made available by 30 April 2014.

The Netherlands Red Cross/Government and Belgium Red Cross/Government contributed to the partial replenishment of the DREF allocation made for this operation. The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, DG ECHO, the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors.

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The situation

A decision by the Tanzanian government to repatriate Rwandans to their country of origin with an initial deadline of two weeks ending 10 August 2013 resulted in increased influx of Rwandan returnees who have resided in Tanzania for a varying number of years. These returning Rwandan families are being received mainly at Rusumo border posts in Kirehe district, others at Kagitumba in Nyagatare district and Nemba border post in Bugesera district in the Eastern Province of the country. The returnees are subsequently transported by hired trucks to Kiyanzi transit camp accompanied by Rwanda Red Cross Society volunteers especially in Kirehe district. Many of the returning families are observed to be arriving with very limited belongings due to security concerns as well as long distances travelled, some of more than 100 kilometres from their former homes in Tanzania to the Rwandan borders. The Rwandan Immigration and Emigration services with support of staff from the Ministry of Local Government together with Rwanda Red Cross volunteers are supporting the registration of the Rwandan returnees in Kiyanzi transit camp.

Currently, the local government authorities and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs are supporting coordination and camp management and other relevant activities in the transit camp supported by Rwanda Red Cross Society (RRCS). Through the DREF support received from IFRC, RRCS is providing complementary support through the distribution of non-food items to selected families in need as well as emergency health and care and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.

The returning communities are currently hosted in Kiyanzi transit camp located in Kirehe district in the Eastern Province which is around 8 kilometres from Tanzanian border (Rusumo boarder point) for an average of 3 days for registration and basic support and those who can recall their former home locations in Rwanda are transported to their districts. Those who cannot recall their home locations (especially those born in Tanzania) are then moved to either of the semi-permanent camps set up in Kiyanzi or Rukara in Kirehe and Kayonza districts respectively. The transit camp has facilities including 30 bathrooms, 100 toilets, two 4'x3' open cooking shelters for families, water (without stocking capacities), electricity for general use (not in bathrooms or toilet) as well as a health post run by the Ministry of Health. The camp is coordinated by the Ministry of Disaster Management & Refugee Affairs and the Rwanda National Police has been deployed for the protection of the returnees in the transit camp. on the other hand the semi-permanent camps in

Kiyanzi in Kirehe district and Rukara in Kayonza district has facilities including water access and other existing old buildings to support the accommodation of pregnant mothers

The transit centre and camps remain open indefinitely as a small trickle of people continues to cross the border from Tanzania to Rwanda. While those who have families and/or recall their original villages with families still there are transported back with IOM support, a number of refugees remain at the camp as they were born in Tanzania and have no family links in Rwanda. Government officials indicate a decision is being taken this week or next over how long the camps will remain open; for now, partners such as WFP and ADRA have indicated they will remain and provide support until the camps close (mostly for food distribution, with very limited NFI). Health care needs are met through Ministry of Health-supported clinics, with transport facilitated by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs as needed. Clean water is provided either through bladders donated by Spanish Red Cross or the Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs.

Coordination and partnerships

Rwanda's Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs is coordinating all transit camp activities supported by local actors as well as RRCS to avoid any duplication of efforts. The Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs is the overall coordinating body while the Ministry of Health is responsible for health issues and sector support¹. The Ministry of Local Government will support the registration of returnees, the military and police force are responsible for safety and security, the district government for food aid, procurement and distribution of limited non-food items² for 2500 households, social issues, transport of returnees from border posts and shelter construction support, while the Ministry of Infrastructure is in charge of water and electricity. All the different government ministries are funded and supported by the international and non-governmental organizations in-country including UNHCR and WFP

ADRA is coordinating and conducting food distributions at the camps. The food is provided by both WFP and tear fund is providing is providing milk to the lactating mothers and their children for nutrition support.

Rwanda Red Cross is providing support the registration of returnees on arrival at the transit camps as well as conducting distributions of NFIS inside the transit camp as well as covering special needs at the entry point, including First Aid services, and hygiene and sanitation promotion activities at the camps through the support of the RRC volunteers who on a daily basis mobilize the returnees to undertake hygiene promotion activities as well as sharing health messages including encouraging the returnees to go for voluntary HIV testing and health checks provided by partner organizations. All three camp areas are kept very clean, with latrine and washing areas built by Rwanda Red Cross, and the communities mobilized to help maintain the cleanliness.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Rwanda Red Cross has played a very crucial role in sanitation and hygiene promotion support, and in the provision of essential NFIs to the most vulnerable families, especially those who arrived at the border with no personal items whatsoever. Implementation is currently on track, but with the camps remaining open, there are concerns that with the DREF operation ending there are no other means of supporting sanitation activities ongoing. As a result of this, RRCS have requested that the various small balances of underspend (totalling approximately CHF 7,000) from other budgeted lines in this operation, be reallocated to support the cost of volunteer mobilization for an additional two months to assist continued hygiene promotion activities in the camps (including disinfection of latrines and repair). This extension will also allow RRCS time to continue dialogue with the Government and other partners on how to best support these vulnerable persons beyond the DREF timeframe, and prepare its exit strategy accordingly.

Progress towards outcomes

Emergency Shelter and household items	
Outcome: The immediate shelter and household items needs of the target population are met	
Outputs (expected result)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate NFIs and shelter assistance are provided to 1,000 households corresponding to approximately 5,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilize BDRT volunteers to identify beneficiaries and their needs, assessment of the returnee situation and conduct relief distributions. Local procurement of 1,000 kitchen sets, 2,000 blankets, 2,000 sleeping mats, 2,000 pieces of plastic sheeting and 20 bundles of second-hand clothes, including replenishment of items already

¹ Through the installation of a health post at the camp staffed with health workers and medicines

² Two cooking pots and a plastic mat per household

beneficiaries.	<p>distributed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute to targeted 1,000 households with 1 kitchen set, 2 blankets, 2 sleeping mats, 2 plastic sheeting and appropriate second-hand clothes as needed • Procure and put up 2 dispensary/family tents to reinforce local RRCS branch capacity to provide facilities for administration, First Aid services, tracing services, education sensitization and psychosocial support activities in the camps • Procure and establish two additional open cooking shelters to complement existing structures at the transit camp • Conduct refresher training of 50 BDRT volunteers on camp management in Kirehe and Kayonza districts where the camps are based <p>Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions and beneficiary satisfaction.</p>
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Progress: During the operation, branch volunteers were mobilised for supporting the operation in assessment of the needs. procurement of 1,200 kitchen sets, 2,000 blankets, 2,000 sleeping mats, 2,000 pieces of plastic sheeting and 22 bundles of second-hand clothes, including replenishment of items already distributed distributed to targeted 1,000 households with 1 kitchen set, 2 blankets, 2 sleeping mats, 2 plastic sheeting but later were corrected to be used to build communal shelters according to the camp plan outlined by UNHCR. The procurement of two dispensary tents to replace those deployed at the onset of the disaster is underway, with two complementary cooking shelters constructed in Kiyanzi transit camp and 50 BDRT volunteers received refresher training in both to camps of Kiyanzi and Rukara. RRCS branch coordinators and staff from headquarters are monitoring the operation's progress and providing advice on ways to improve, with feedback shared with volunteers involved.

Emergency health and care

Outcome: Improved access to emergency health and care through the provision of first aid, health promotion and referral services to families in the transit camp for three months

Activities planned:

- Deploy BDRT volunteers trained in First Aid and psychosocial support with first aid kits to provide appropriate and necessary assistance and referrals to the returnees
- Provide health promotion, psychosocial support and identification, referral and follow up support for sick patients
- Purchase/replenishment of First Aid Kits to be used by volunteers in the camps.
- Monitor and evaluate the first aid and psychosocial support activities and report on progress.
- Develop an exit strategy and ensure this is well communicated to beneficiaries.

Progress: Branch volunteers have been deployed to support the operation in providing first aid and psychosocial support and a total of 420 people reached with support including (108 children, 220 women's and 92 men). Purchased and replenished of 5 first Aid Kits and there are currently used by volunteers in both transit camps

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: Improved access to safe water as well as promotion of hygiene and adequate sanitation for an initial 10,000 people (2,000 households) for a period of 3 months.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases through improved access to clean services and safe water supply. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train 30 volunteers on PHASTER methodology to support returnees for hygiene promotion and sensitization. • Procure 12,000 pieces of soap, 2,000 jerry cans, 1,000 buckets, disinfectant, liquid chlorine and 15 sprayer pumps • Distribute hygiene materials (12 pieces of soap, 2 jerry cans and 1 bucket per family) to an initial 1,000 targeted households based on Sphere minimum standards with support of PHASTER trained volunteers, train 25 community representatives of PHASTER returnees/community groups in Kiyanzi and Rukara transit camps. • Construct up to 40 additional emergency latrines to complement the existing ones in the transit camp and ensure sufficient sanitation

	<p>facilities are available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure and distribute water purification tablets and instructions on utilization sufficient for 90 days, to 10,000 people. • Train population of targeted communities on safe water storage and on safe use of water treatment products. • Monitor treatment and storage of water through household surveys and household water quality tests. • Conduct sensitisation campaigns on improving hygiene conditions using PHAST methodology targeting returnees/households in transit.
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Progress: 30 volunteer trained in PHAST and there are currently using the methodology to support returnees for hygiene promotion and sensitization. Procurement done for 14,000 pieces of soap, 2,000 jerry cans, 1700 buckets, 550L disinfectant and 16 sprayer pumps. Construction of 56 additional emergency latrines to complement the existing ones in the transit camp and ensure sufficient sanitation facilities are available in two camps of Kiyanzi and Rukara. A total of 1,564 returnee population communities in both camps trained by volunteers on safe water storage and on safe use of water treatment products and there were able to monitor treatment and storage of water through household surveys and household water quality tests.

A total of 1,832 people (1,300 women's & 532 men) reached with sensitisation campaigns on improving hygiene conditions using PHAST methodology targeting returnees/households in both transit camps with support of trained volunteers.

Communications

<p>Outcome: Awareness and publicity activities including fields visits to sensitize public and media on the on the situation on the ground are conducted.</p>
<p>Outputs (expected results):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise returnee awareness in the community on population movement and on RRCS response. Provide regular updates, stories and photographs for local and IFRC dissemination • Support publication of community radio programmes on DREF progress. • Production of documentary film at the end of the DREF operation of returnees 2013. • Facilitate staff and media groups during field visits to the sites of the operation. • Proactive engagement with different media to highlight the needs of the DREF and response of RRCS on the returnee population.

Progress: Regular news stories are prepared by RRCS's communications team, and disseminated through local media sources. The communications team, in coordination with the branch supervisors, also support the production of key messages to be shared with the returnees and host communities. Furthermore, RRCS are in the process of producing a documentary film at the end of the DREF operation of returnees, and will be shared with IFRC once completed for further dissemination.

Logistics

<p>Outcome: The National Society's logistics capacities are strengthened through effective emergency logistics support of the operation.</p>
<p>Outputs (expected results):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient procurement and dispatch of non-food items to the final distribution point. • Efficient and effective logistical support to the operation. • Staff and volunteers transported during the operation for a period of three months

Progress: The procurement and dispatch of non-food items to the final distribution point has been conducted. Logistic has been efficient and effective supported during operation and this has been successful. IFRC are supporting RRCS to procure and deliver two dispensary tents to replenish those distributed to the camp sites at the onset of the operation.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Rwanda:** Apollinaire Karamaga, Secretary General, Rwanda Red Cross; phone: +250 078 830 1377; Email: apollinaire.karamaga@rwandaredcross.org
- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Finnjarle Rode, Regional Representative for East Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 20 283 5000; email: finnjarle.rode@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: +41.22.730.45 29; email: christine.south@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Zone Logistics Unit (ZLU):** Rishi Ramrakha, Head of zone logistics unit; Tel: +254 733 888 022/ Fax +254 20 271 2777; email: rishi.ramrakha@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 (NGO's) 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.

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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.
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