

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

NIGERIA: MUNITIONS DEPOT EXPLOSION IN LAGOS

6 March, 2002

This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.

Appeal No. 3/2002

Launched on 31 January 2002 for CHF 748,133 for three weeks. Revised on 8 February, 2002 (see Update no. 1) for CHF 1,020,000. Programme extended for a total period of three months and budget revised to CHF 1,523,000 (USD 900,377 or EUR 1,031,674). This operation will now end on 30 April 2002, and a Final Report will be issued by 31 July, 2002.

DREF Allocated: CHF 150,000 (now repaid).

Beneficiaries (revised): 32,000

Operations Update No. 2; Period covered: 4 February 2002 - 24 February 2002; last Ops Update (no. 1) issued: 4 February, 2002; next Ops Update (no. 3) expected 18 March 2002

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 109.9%

Related Appeals: Nigeria 2002 Annual Appeal no. 01.03/2002

Outstanding needs: None

Summary/Update: Thanks in large measure to a timely and effective donor support, the appeal budget (including this revision) is fully covered and the operation is being implemented as planned. A second one-week food ration distribution has been organized to meet the needs of 5,620 families from 11 distribution centres. These families will also receive donated non-food relief items (mattresses, blankets, pots etc.) from existing donated stocks or from new local donations which continue to be received on a daily basis. The UXO dissemination (posters and radio jingle) efforts are also continuing.

Operational Developments:

On 27 January, a fire at a munitions depot in Lagos' biggest military cantonment resulted in a series of explosions which sent artillery and mortar shells flying over various parts of the city. According to government officials, over 1,000 individuals have been confirmed dead and many more injured. An estimated 12,000 people have been displaced while 535 people are reported missing. An army commission of enquiry has begun investigating circumstances surrounding the fire.

The evacuation of army personnel and their close dependents from the Ikeja Cantonment started on 3 February and was completed by 6 February. Some 2,000 people were moved in this process to Abalti Barracks and the

Army Resettlement Camp at Oshodi. The Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) was not involved in this operation. The evacuation of the non-official population from the Army Cantonment Ikeja remained uncertain until recently when 450 families were evacuated to a camp at Ipaja. Evacuation is yet to be completed as many have taken shelter in surrounding areas despite the danger of unexploded ordinance. Some 1,170 families, who had to leave the Cantonment, registered at the Police College Ikeja (PCI).

Unexploded ordinance (UXOs) still exist outside the Cantonment area and it is feared that as people return to rebuild their homes and lives, they may forget about the danger, resulting in possible further injury and loss of life. On 4 February those displaced by ethnic fighting in Mushin on mainland Lagos were moved by the government to PCI and Lagos University Teaching Hospital. As a result, the number of people affected outside the Cantonment became higher than originally estimates. Currently, those displaced by the Mushin conflict have now returned to rebuild their homes or have found alternative solutions. Some have left Lagos and returned to their home villages. There are 5,620 registered families from the munitions explosion who still need assistance, and these are to receive further support as described later. When those displaced by the Mushin conflict were added the total number of beneficiaries more than doubled from the initial appeal and now stands at 7,395 families. As a result, the operation has been extended and the budget increased.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action w

The Federation launched Emergency Appeal no. 03/2002 on behalf of the NRCS in order to provide immediate support for the operation. CHF 150,000 was also allocated for this purpose from the Federation’s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

The Delegation provided technical assistance through reporting and financial management as well as briefings to visiting fact finding missions. Three members of the Nigeria delegation reallocated at least 50% of their time to the operation. The NRCS operational plan for the munitions depot explosion disaster changed when it became clear that the PCI was not to be the major or only centre of temporary shelter and distributions. Furthermore, the Mushin ethnic conflict was absorbed into this relief operation for some time as it became necessary to assist those victims as well. A commercial warehouse was rented in lieu of the one destroyed by fire.

Demands on volunteers working on both the explosion and the Mushin ethnic conflict stretched resources to the limit leading to the recruitment of some 150 new volunteers to ensure a daily required number of 250 volunteers. More mature volunteers were recruited because those from the School Red Cross Units were quite young and found it difficult to deal with the demands of the operation both in terms of time needed and in the complexities of responding to ever changing circumstances. Nigerian Red Cross volunteers continue to provide first aid on an ad hoc basis, and are monitoring the public health situation of the displaced.

Objective 1: Food Distribution

A total of 26,000 cooked meals were provided to approximately 3,250 beneficiaries per day at the Police College Ikeja between 5-12 February. The meals were interchanged each day to ensure a balanced diet. In-kind donations of bread, packaged water, yams and other food items were distributed in addition to the dry rations shown below:

FOOD ITEMS	QUANTITIES
Rice 50 kg bag	2,139
Beans 80 kg bag	243
Oil 2 Lt bottle	7,395
Sugar 50 kg bag	122
Tinned sardines	45,899
Corned Beef	2,621
Slaughtered cows	15
Salt 25 kg bags	62

Objective 2: Family Pack Distribution

In addition to the quantities of soap powder and school materials distributed, the table below shows the total quantities of the major non-food distributions up to the 21 February, covering the needs of 5,640 families:

ITEMS	QUANTITIES
Mattresses	11,280
Blankets	11,280
Material Drapes	2,726
Buckets	5,415
Cooking pots	11,790
Utensils	27,938
Stoves	1,980

Objective 3: Shelter Distribution

The US Embassy donated 22 tents and a large quantity of field kitchens, laundry equipment, water tanks and containers. This support is providing the NRCS with the capacity to set up and operate a functional camp for the displaced in the future. The tents have not yet been erected as the displaced have found their own shelter solutions with friends and neighbours. Six tents, previously used at the Cantonment operation, remain at PCI providing shelter to displaced families with nursing mothers.

The relief distribution is now operating in 11 centres with registration completed. A commercial warehouse is still being used with plans to move the stock to a warehouse donated by the State Ministry of Works within the week. A commercial warehouse was rented in lieu of the one destroyed by fire.

Objective 4: Tracing

Tracing and family reunification activities continued until it became clear that those families who reported missing relatives (mostly children) would not be found. The efforts have since been scaled down. Seven open cases currently remain, with the total number of recorded reunifications standing at 1,885.

Objective 5: Beneficiary Registration

The situation at PCI became complicated when the those displaced by the ethnic conflict in Mushin in mainland Lagos were asked by the Government to go to PCI and to the Lagos University Teaching Hospital for relief assistance. The confusion made it difficult for the NRCS to differentiate between those affected by conflict (approximately 1,775 families) and those affected by the explosion in its PCI distribution of hot food and dry food rations. Consequently, the number of people affected outside the Cantonment became higher than originally estimated. The total number of beneficiaries in need of assistance now stands at 7,395 families -- or 5,620 families affected by the munitions explosion and 1,775 families affected by the ethnic clashes in Mushin (approximately 32,000 persons).

A separate registration and data collection system for those outside the Cantonment area who have suffered damage to their property has commenced. This registration system is recognized by the Lagos State Government and will be used for rehabilitation and advocacy by the State and Local Governments for payment of compensation to those whose homes were damaged. This data will also be used by the NRCS under this appeal to solicit support for rehabilitation materials.

Objective 6: Property Rehabilitation Assessment

The State Government has mandated the NRCS to co-ordinate the property rehabilitation assessment. It will be responsible for the collection and verification of completed damage / needs assessments for submission to a Rehabilitation Committee of which the NRCS will be a member. The NRCS will then negotiate with the State Government for rehabilitation assistance on behalf of those whose property was damaged. The level of NRCS rehabilitation financial assistance has still to be determined as this will be coordinated with the Rehabilitation Committee on the understanding that the NRCS will retain control of any assistance it is able to provide.

Objective 7: UXO Awareness Campaign

The NRCS started a new initiative of 60 second radio jingles transmitted at prime time on two popular radio stations and the circulation of 50,000 information posters to remind people of the dangers of UXOs. The objective of this intervention is to spread awareness among vulnerable people who live in or around areas suspected of containing UXOs. This initiative has been earmarked funded by USAID and is consistent with warning dissemination being undertaken as part of the work of the US bomb disposal military team currently deployed in the country.

National Society Capacity Building w

The unprecedented public donations and support for the NRCS has continued to exceed expectations. Closer cooperation with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Lagos State Government and the Ministries of Defense and Health have been established with the likelihood that budgeted government support to the NRCS is now expected to materialize. In the media, the NRCS has been given daily accolades for the efficiency and quality of its response. This positive and extensive media coverage has done more to promote the profile and popularity of NRCS as an essential element of civil society than any other activity or publicity organized in the past. The disaster has resulted in increased interest in volunteering, with over 150 new volunteers being recruited in the Lagos metropolis alone. With funding for restocking of the new Red Cross warehouse, the capacity of the NRCS to respond quickly to future disasters has been enhanced. Invaluable experience in managing a complex relief operations has been gained and lessons learned during the operation will influence training and operation to better serve vulnerable people in the future.

Coordination

The Federation has coordinated international relief assistance to the NRCS and has provided briefings for visiting fact finding teams from the UN, OCHA, DFID and others. Co-ordination with UNICEF and the WHO continues in the field in terms of health. Collaboration with CARITAS, Murtala Mohammed Foundation, the Salvation Army and numerous NGOs is also ongoing. The NRCS continues to co-ordinate efforts with State and Local Governments, NEMA and military authorities to assist victims of the disaster in terms of both food and non-food aid distribution. As the issue of rehabilitation is addressed, the NRCS will work closely with the State and Local Government authorities to seek to ensure that those who have lost their homes receive adequate and fair compensation.

Throughout the operation the NRCS President has taken a prominent role in attending coordination meetings with Federal, State and Army authorities and in dealing with the media / donors and operational matters. The Acting Secretary General (ASG) has allocated a national emergencies officer and six senior management staff to the operation. In response to pleas for assistance from the Lagos State authorities, the NRCS has also provided volunteer assistance in distributing State donated relief.

Outstanding needs

Thanks to timely and effective donor support, the appeal budget (including this revision) is fully covered). A second one-week food ration distribution has been organized to meet the needs of 5,620 families from 11 distribution centres. These families will also receive donated non-food relief items (mattresses, blankets, pots etc.) from existing donated stocks or from new local donations which continue to be received on a daily basis. The UXO dissemination (posters and radio jingle) will continue for a period of 10 days.

For further details please contact: Anne Kirsti Vartdal, Phone: 41 22 730 4485; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: vartdal@ifrc.org

Donors providing in-kind relief in response to large-scale emergencies are urged to contact the Federation's Logistics and Resource Mobilization Department to avoid any unnecessary delays in the clearance and delivery of emergency relief assistance.

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>.

John Horekens
Head
Relationship Management Department

Bekele Geleta
Head
Africa Department

		ANNEX 1
<u>REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY</u>		APPEAL No. 03/2002
Nigeria: Munitions depot explosions in Lagos		
TYPE	ORIGINAL	REVISED
RELIEF NEEDS		IN CHF
Shelter & constructions	120'000	120'000
Clothing & textiles	27'000	25'000
Food & seeds	311'000	349'000
Utensils & tools	158'000	49'000
Other relief supplies	83'000	520'000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	699'000	1'063'000
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
Computers	5'000	22'000
Telecom. equipment	1'000	1'000
Other equipment	47'000	85'000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme management	69'000	103'000
Technical support	21'000	31'000
Professional services	23'000	34'000
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	28'000	53'000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	15'000	23'000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>		
Administrative & general	112'000	108'000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	321'000	460'000
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	1'020'000	1'523'000

Nigeria: Munitions depot explosions in Lagos						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 03/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			06.03.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'523'000		TOTAL COVERAGE 109.9%
AMERICAN - GOVT/USAID		25000	USD	41'470	04.02.2002	RECEIVED BY THE DELEGATION
AMERICAN - RC		20000	USD	34'060	15.02.2002	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		50000	GBP	120'000	04.02.2002	RECEIVED BY THE DELEGATION
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA		49500	CAD	52'985	22.02.2002	
CITY BANK OF NIGERIA				15'000	05.02.2002	DIRECT TF TO NIGERIA RC
ITALIAN - GOVT		200'000	EUR	296'440	25.02.2002	
JAPANESE - RC				24'000	05.02.2002	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		539'374	NOK	100'357	06.02.2002	
PRIVATE DONOR		50	USD	83	21.02.2002	
SHELL OIL CO.				372'000	05.02.2002	DIRECT TF TO NIGERIA RC
SPANISH GOVT				103'000	05.02.2002	DIRECT TF TO NIGERIA RC
SPANISH RC				26'494	05.02.2002	DIRECT TF TO NIGERIA RC
SWEDISH - GOVT		500'000	SEK	80'150	07.02.2002	
SYSTEMSPECS LIMITED				1'500		DIRECT TF TO NIGERIA RC
NIGERIA LNG LIMITED				75'000		DIRECT TF TO NIGERIA RC
DIAMOND BANK LIMITED				30'000		DIRECT TF TO NIGERIA RC
SHELL NIGERIA EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION CO				75'000		DIRECT TF TO NIGERIA RC
INMB BANK LTD				7'500		DIRECT TF TO NIGERIA RC
FOUNTAIN TRUST BANK LTD				7'500		DIRECT TF TO NIGERIA RC
CHURCH OF ASSUMPTION, FALOMO				11'325		DIRECT TF TO NIGERIA RC
METROPOLITAN BANK LTD				7'500		DIRECT TF TO NIGERIA RC
AES NIGERIA BARGE LTD				3'000		DIRECT TF TO NIGERIA RC
OTHER DONORS				10'119		DIRECT TF TO NIGERIA RC
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'494'483	CHF	98.1%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
LOCAL DONORS	RELIEF ITEMS			180'000		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				180'000	CHF	11.8%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						