

MINOR EMERGENCY



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

TOGO: CIVIL TRANSITION

Minor Emergency no.
05ME007
Update no. 3
29 April 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

A TOTAL OF CHF 135,000 (USD 112,600 OR EUR 87,200) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO RESPOND TO THIS OPERATION. UNEARMARKED FUNDS TO REPAY DREF ARE ENCOURAGED.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's 2005 Annual Appeal for Nigeria sub-regional programmes no. 05AA025 (which includes Benin, Ghana, Togo and Nigeria) – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA025.pdf. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The situation

Severe civil unrest has prevailed in Togo, both in the weeks leading up to and the days following the presidential elections held on 24 April. Before the elections, a total of 81 people were wounded in Lomé, Sokodé and Kara, and in the Togo-Ghana border town of Aflao. (Source: UN-OCHA IRIN). Other areas affected by this unrest include Amoutive, Be, Doulassame, Cassablanca, Atikoume, Totsi and Bdidoadin.

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Following the official announcement of election results, which declared Faure Gnassingbé the winner, supporters of the opposition candidate refused to accept the results, alleging election irregularities. The opposition leader declared himself president, and this has led to unprecedented violence and population movement into neighbouring countries (source: IRIN). As of 28 April, 4,000 people have fled Togo into neighbouring countries.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action taken so far

During the early stages of the crisis in February, the Federation's regional delegation in Dakar issued two Information Bulletins,¹ and received an allocation of CHF 75,000 from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund to support the Togolese Red Cross to respond to the crisis. This funding also allowed the Ghana Red Cross Society and the Red Cross of Benin² to prepare for possible population movements. An additional CHF 60,000 has been allocated, bringing the total to CHF 135,000 for response to these events. (This current bulletin initiates the Minor Emergency format for this event).

So far, the DREF funding has been used for the following activities:

- Assessment and support missions by the Regional DM Coordinator (Dakar) and the DM Delegate (Abidjan) to Togo, Ghana and Benin to assist the National Societies in developing their contingency plans
- Training and refresher courses for staff and volunteers as well as first aid and other emergency equipment for Togo and Ghana Red Cross.
- Coordination with ICRC and other Movement partners, the respective Governments, UN and other agencies.
- Administrative costs related to Federation regional delegation and sub-regional offices' support.

The ICRC as lead agency prepared the plan of action in close coordination with the Togolese Red Cross, the Red Cross of Benin and the Ghana Red Cross, and liaised closely with the Federation regional delegation in Dakar, and the Federation sub-regional offices in Lagos and Abidjan.

With a developed contingency plan in hand, the Togolese Red Cross deployed its volunteers in the capital Lomé and provincial towns as soon as violence was reported in February to assist with evacuating the wounded to hospitals. The national society further mobilized 500 existing and newly recruited volunteers, three ambulances and 18 medical staff including five doctors and other personnel. The ICRC is supporting the Togolese Red Cross with the pre-positioning of emergency kits, radio equipment, ambulances and the set-up of emergency response teams.

Since election day (24 April), the national society has treated and evacuated more than 50 injured in Lomé. ICRC-Abidjan is supporting the Togolese Red Cross with personnel, equipment and training.

According to recent information received from the Red Cross of Benin, which has begun implementing its contingency plan, 2,981 people have crossed the border into Benin through Hilacondji, Athiémé, Aplahoué and Dogbo. Red Cross volunteers have received and registered these refugees in its transit centre in Hilacondji and provided first aid to those injured by bullets.

Reports from the Ghana Red Cross confirm UNHCR reports that 327 people, whose houses were burnt down, have crossed the border into Ghana from the northern Volta region. About 25 people crossed the border at Dzodze as well. At the Aflao border, three primary school kids were wounded by bullets in a cross-border shooting incident.

The ICRC regional delegation in Abidjan, in consultation with the Federation, has been supporting the national society with equipment and training of volunteers of RC branches bordering Togo two weeks before the elections. More than 27 volunteers, mainly from the bordering branches, have been trained and deployed from Saturday 23 April, especially in Aflao. Mechanisms are in place as influx of refugees from Togo has begun. A back-up of emergency team of about 30 members is on standby in Accra ready to be deployed.

¹ Information Bulletin no. 1/2005, dated 8 February 2005 – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts05/tg050208.pdf;
Information Bulletin no. 2/2005, dated 14 February 2005 - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts05/tg050214.pdf

² Togolese Red Cross – <http://www.ifrc.org/chere/country/check.asp?countryid=170>;
Red Cross of Benin - <http://www.ifrc.org/chere/country/check.asp?countryid=209>;
Ghana Red Cross Society - <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=73>.

Coordination

The Federation's regional delegation for west and central Africa in Dakar is coordinating closely with the ICRC (as lead agency in Togo), with other Movement partners, and with UN organizations. It has been coordinating information exchange between the national societies on preparedness activities for population movements. UNHCR has begun receiving people in Com  camp.

The Federation has deployed a team to assist the national societies to implement their contingency plans. The team will also assess additional humanitarian needs. The team will first deploy to Benin (30 April), and then proceed to Ghana and Burkina Faso.

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