

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## CENTRAL AFRICA: FLOODS AND LANDSLIDE

DREF operation n° MDR62002  
27 February 2008

The International Federation's 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 Red Crescent response to emergencies. 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 169,213 was allocated from the Federation's DREF on 21 December 2006 to respond to the needs of the populations affected by the floods and landslides in Central Africa.

In November 2006, forecasts anticipated heavy rains that would cause flooding in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe and the Central African Republic (CAR). The Federation's Central Africa Sub Regional Office (CASRO) thus saw the need to take measures to prevent and/or alleviate the effects of floods at regional level, particularly in Gabon, CAR and Sao Tome & Principe which have experienced recurrent floods in the past.

CASRO and the concerned Red Cross Societies distributed food and non-food items, sensitized populations on hygiene and sanitation practices to prevent cholera, conducted advocacy campaigns with other organizations and they also rehabilitated and maintained water sources, wells as well as private and public toilets. Red Cross volunteers were also trained in the promotion of basic hygiene and sanitation practices.

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## The situation

### Gabon

After the 2006 torrential rains, the country experienced a short dry season with no major consequences to be pointed out. Nevertheless, mindful of the serious damages across the country during the 2006 rains, and considering the limited capacity of the Gabonese Red Cross Society which had been facing some institutional challenges, the Federation's Central Africa Sub Regional Office (CASRO) thought it wise to start preparing this National Society to respond to potential floods.

### Central African Republic (CAR)

Since 2004, the CAR has been experiencing recurrent floods that have affected thousands of people and caused significant material damages. Over the past two years, approximately 3,000 families have been affected and 2,000 houses have been destroyed in Bangui and the surrounding localities.

### Sao Tome & Principe

Although Sao Tome & Principe has not experienced a major disaster in recent years the country is highly exposed to risks of disaster. The 2006 rains did not cause serious damages, but meteorologists warned that it might happen at any time. There was therefore an urgent need to build the operational capacities of the Sao Tome & Principe Red Cross (STPRC) National Society in order to enable it to respond efficiently to

potential disaster situations. Furthermore, STPRC is the only existing organization that can respond to disasters in the country.

### **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

Still in November 2006, a two-week torrential rain occurred in the two North-eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), namely Orientale and Equateur, causing a serious rise in the water level of the Congo River and its tributary streams. Many people drowned as a result. Farms were destroyed in areas that rely predominantly on agriculture as well as infrastructure, which made some localities inaccessible. The rise in the water level also caused the submersion and destruction of houses, latrines and cemeteries, thereby increasing the risk of epidemics, notably water borne diseases, and the degradation of hygiene and sanitation conditions, the displacement of populations and the explosion in the prices of food items following the reduction of traffic and the destruction of crops. Approximately 8,131 houses were destroyed in the Orientale province and 911 in Bumba (Equateur province). Considering such level of vulnerability, CASRO decided to prevent floods and alleviate the sufferings of populations in the concerned countries.

### **Coordination**

The Kisangani provincial committee of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (RCDRC)– through its local committees – distributed 39,805 metric tonnes (MT) of food items provided by World Food Programme (WFP). Beneficiaries included 5,372 persons from 1,004 households in the nine villages that make up the Isangi territory. Currently, 10,200 MT of food has been positioned at the Red Cross warehouse to support sanitation activities in Zinia, which is one of the most affected localities of Kisangani.

An in-depth evaluation of the situation was carried out in collaboration with local authorities and the communities concerned in the five sites identified by the Red Cross Society of DRC, namely the Bumba City in Equateur, Zinia in Kisangani, Yalitombo, Yekela and Yafunga in the Isangi territory. The evaluation revealed the number of houses which had collapsed, family and public latrines, as well as 49 water wells and 10 streams were damaged. In addition, access to the river by the Zinia neighbourhood was completely blocked.

Concerning floods preparedness at regional level, members of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) advocated before other humanitarian partners to ensure coordination of action with the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo to fight against floods.

Meetings were held with ministries in charge of disaster management in the various countries targeted by the operation and plans of action were developed with the various NS within the framework of the implementation of disaster management activities in general, and floods prevention activities in particular.

### **Progress towards objectives**

Activities to respond to floods were carried out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo while flood preparedness activities were carried out in the other NS at risk.

**Objective 1: To reduce the effects of floods on vulnerable populations in the Orientale and Équateur provinces of the DRC and prevent the risk of epidemics within the next three months.**

#### **Achievements**

##### **DRC**

**Distributing non-food items (NFIs) to 757 families affected by floods:** Based on the criteria predefined by local authorities, representatives of affected communities and other agencies present in the field, NFIs were distributed in two of the four neighbourhoods of Bumba (Équateur province) as follows: 68 insecticide treated nets (ITNs) for pregnant women, 47 mats for children aged under five, 26 plastic sheeting for affected families living with foster families, and 84 blankets for the elderly. This activity continued in Bumba and in the other four sites targeted by the operation.

**Sensitizing the populations on hygiene and sanitation practices to prevent cholera:** Seven sensitization campaigns on water, basic sanitation, personal and collective hygiene were organized in the five sites targeted by the operation. The following table summarises the outcome of those campaigns.

**Table 1: Sensitization campaigns and beneficiaries reached**

Provinces	Neighbourhoods/localities	Number of campaigns	Number of volunteers involved	Number of persons sensitized			
				Women	Men	Children	Total
Equateur	Bumba	3	71	780	343	179	1,302
Orientale	Zinia/Kisangani	1	40	1,654	1,003	143	2,800
	Yeikela/Isangi	1	10	134	58	24	216
	Yalitombo/Isangi	1	10	287	135	98	520
	Yafunga/Isangi	1	10	199	81	106	386
	Total	7	141	3,054	1,620	550	5,224

**Conducting advocacy campaigns with other organizations and State services for longer term actions and the need to construct facilities for drainage of surface water in high risk zones:** Red Cross authorities met six times with the authorities of four territories and two agencies in Kisangani to identify longer term actions to be taken to combat floods. Local authorities in Bumba for example are already contemplating the displacement of the populations living in the zones that are exposed to potential floods to more secured zones.

**Rehabilitating and maintaining water sources, wells as well as private and public toilets:** Three of the 15 water wells that were damaged in Bumba were rehabilitated (the beneficiaries cleaned the wells while the Red Cross built protection copings and cover slabs with openings to facilitate the extraction of water). The National Society also maintained the catchments of a water source. Thirty-four wells and eight damaged sources were identified in Kisangani and in the Isangi territory. Building materials were purchased and used for the rehabilitation work on five wells in Zinia (Kisangani), and in Yekela, Yafunga and Yalitombo (Isangi territory). These activities were carried out by community members under the coaching of newly trained Red Cross volunteers.

**Training 100 Red Cross volunteers in the promotion of basic hygiene and sanitation practice in the 10 neighbourhoods/localities affected by floods:** A total of 141 volunteers, including 59 Red Cross volunteers and 82 community-based volunteers were trained on the promotion of personal and collective hygiene, as well as on basic sanitation techniques. The following table summarises the number of volunteers that were trained per locality.

**Table 2: Number of volunteers trained per locality**

Provinces	Localities	Number of trained volunteers		
		Red Cross	Community	Total
Equateur	Bumba	40	31	71
Orientale	Zinia/Kisangani	10	30	40
	Yeikela/Isangi	3	7	10
	Yalitombo/Isangi	3	7	10
	Yafunga/Isangi	3	7	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>141</b>

Given the limited budget, only five sites were selected for the operation. These sites include Bumba (with its four neighbourhoods) in the Equateur province, the Zinia neighbourhood in Kisangani, Yalitombo, Yekela and Yafunga in the Isangi territory (Orientale province). Red Cross and community-based volunteers were trained in the five sites. Damaged water and sanitation facilities were identified and rehabilitated. Hygiene sanitation campaigns and rehabilitation activities were carried out in all five localities.

## Regional level

**Objective: The vulnerability of the CAR, Gabon and Sao Tome & Principe populations to floods is reduced through effective flood preparedness of the NS.**

## Achievements

The following floods preparedness activities were carried out in the various countries with the support of regional resource persons, who are Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members.

**Volunteer training:** Ninety volunteers, mostly from localities of the various National Societies targeted by the operation, were trained on water and sanitation (WatSan) and participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) process (hygiene and sanitation rules). The training included theory and practice on the disaster process, floods preparedness and response activities, with emphasis on environmental hygiene, the PHAST process and on community-based first aid.

**Field visit: identifying zones exposed to floods:** Red Cross volunteers went to the localities exposed to floods in Bangui, Sibut, Ouaka, Basse Kotto, Kemo and Bimbo (CAR), Port-Gentil and Libreville (Gabon), and Lemba and Porte Allegro (Sao Tome & Principe) and developed thematic maps on flood-prone zones and possible re-housing sites. Other field visits enabled the Red Cross to identify the vulnerabilities and capacities of these various zones at risk. An early alert system was put in place.

**Development of messages:** Taking into consideration the specificities of their respective communities, Red Cross volunteers developed messages used to design comic strips, which were printed as folders and posters for image boxes on hygiene and sanitation promotion. Volunteers developed folders and image boxes for their respective national societies in local languages. For example, image boxes were developed in "Sango", a common language spoken nationwide in the Central African Republic (CAR); and in Portuguese for the Sao Tome & Principe Red Cross National Societies.

**Sensitization of the community:** During field visits, Red Cross volunteers discussed the causes of flooding with the populations in affected areas and sensitized them to the need of adopting environmental hygiene rules by avoiding filling gutters and streams with garbage.

The community-based alert system was updated to match the one that is used whenever a local authority (neighbourhood chief or president) needs the attention of the population to disseminate an important message.

**Advocacy before partners and other stakeholders within the framework of disaster management:** Advocacy activities before partners and other stakeholders were carried out in each country concerned by the operation. In CAR, the Red Cross met with the Ministry of Social Affairs (responsible ministry), the Fire Brigade Services and OCHA. In addition, the Red Cross pleaded with the new Ministry for Calamities in Gabon, and with the Ministry of Health and main business leaders in Sao Tome & Principe. Through these meetings, disaster management issues were discussed, the images of NS were enhanced and the cooperation for the development of plans to organize relief was reinforced. The meetings also contributed specifically to reinforcing the need to develop floods-related contingency plans.

In addition, agricultural and sanitation materials were purchased and put at the disposal of NS to facilitate the cleaning of gutters and conduct other sanitation activities in the zones exposed to floods. In the same vein, blankets, mats and tarpaulins were pre-positioned in each National Society to prepare subsequent floods.

## **Impact**

### **DRC**

The community and local authorities adhered to the action of the Red Cross and participated actively in the activities carried out within the framework of the operation in the five sites targeted by the operation. The community took ownership of the sensitization and promotion of hygiene, thereby showing the efficiency of the various activities carried out within the framework of the operation.

### **Constraints**

- The water table was too close to the ground level (barely one meter depth), making it very difficult to build water wells following international standards.
- The budget was drastically reduced, and this made it very difficult to intervene (the Red Cross had no other choice than to reduce the number of sites to be covered, the quantity of non-food items to be distributed, the number of beneficiaries to be assisted, and the number of facilities to rehabilitate).

## **Regional level**

### **Impact**

The programme was successfully implemented thanks to the availability of Red Cross volunteers and their willingness to strengthen their own capacities, as well as to the mobilization of executives of the various

National Societies. This operation contributed substantially to reinforcing the visibility of each National Society concerned by the operation, and that of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as a whole. Materials that were put at the disposal of the various National Societies will enable Red Cross volunteers to be deployed easily as the case may be.

## How we work

*All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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# International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDR62002 - Central Africa Sub Reg Floods

FINAL Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/12-2007/08
Budget Timeframe	2006/12-2007/08
Appeal	MDR62002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>		169,209				169,209
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Cash contributions (received)</u>						
<i>DREF</i>		-3,467				-3,467
<b>C1. Cash contributions</b>		-3,467				-3,467
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
<i>DREF</i>		169,213				169,213
<b>C3. Reallocations (within appeal or</b>		169,213				169,213
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)</b>		165,746				165,746
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>		165,746				165,746

## II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>C. Income</b>		165,746				165,746
<b>E. Expenditure</b>		-165,746				-165,746
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>		0				0

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## III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>169,209</b>					<b>169,209</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief	20,169		7,493				7,493	12,677
Clothing & textiles			14,053				14,053	-14,053
Water & Sanitation	47,992		25,576				25,576	22,416
Medical & First Aid	14,731		15,785				15,785	-1,054
Teaching Materials	9,016		8,368				8,368	648
Other Supplies & Services			2,920				2,920	-2,920
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>91,908</b>		<b>74,195</b>				<b>74,195</b>	<b>17,713</b>
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage			10,977				10,977	-10,977
Distribution & Monitoring			19,312				19,312	-19,312
Transport & Vehicle Costs	29,200		2,386				2,386	26,814
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>29,200</b>		<b>32,675</b>				<b>32,675</b>	<b>-3,475</b>
<b>Personnel</b>								
Regionally Deployed Staff	4,964		7,672				7,672	-2,708
National Staff			182				182	-182
National Society Staff	10,452		10,302				10,302	150
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>15,416</b>		<b>18,156</b>				<b>18,156</b>	<b>-2,740</b>
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training			14,625				14,625	-14,625
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>			<b>14,625</b>				<b>14,625</b>	<b>-14,625</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	6,500		4,886				4,886	1,614
Information & Public Relation			8				8	-8
Office Costs	7,841		1,483				1,483	6,358
Communications	7,345		7,241				7,241	104
Financial Charges			1,705				1,705	-1,705
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>21,686</b>		<b>15,322</b>				<b>15,322</b>	<b>6,364</b>
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	10,999		10,774				10,774	225
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>10,999</b>		<b>10,774</b>				<b>10,774</b>	<b>225</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>169,209</b>		<b>165,746</b>				<b>165,746</b>	<b>3,462</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>3,462</b>				<b>3,462</b>	