

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Gabon: Chikungunya Virus in Libreville

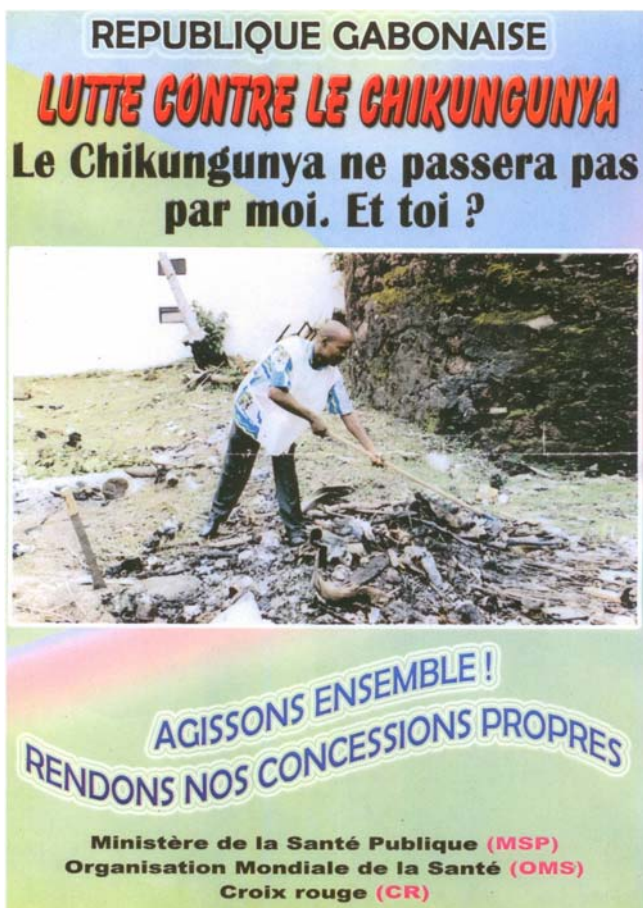
DREF operation n° MDRGA001
GLIDE n° EP-2007-000062-GAB
8 April, 2008

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 40,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 15 May, 2007 to support the national society in delivering assistance to some 600,000 beneficiaries.

In May 2007, a chikungunya epidemic outbreak occurred in Libreville Gabon and was threatening the lives of some 600,000 people. The Federation and the Gabonese Red Cross Society launched a DREF operation to help protect the endangered populations. During the operation, Red Cross volunteers sensitized the beneficiaries to the need of keeping their environment clean. The volunteers also contributed to destroying the mosquito breeding places and cleaning the environment with the participation of community members. As a result of the action taken by the Gabonese Red Cross Society and Gabon Government, the epidemic was put under control, though there are persistent fears that the epidemic may strike again, thus the need to continue the operation focussing on lasting solutions.

[<click here for the final financial report,](#)
[or here to view contact details>](#)



Several partners including the Red Cross joined efforts to combat the chikungunya epidemic

The situation

On 10 May, 2007 the Government of Gabon declared a Chikungunya epidemic in the country. By then, the disease had mostly affected Libreville (the capital) and Owendo for one month. The epidemic was confirmed following tests conducted by several European laboratories; tests on samples revealed that the 'unfamiliar' disease recorded in the areas was caused by the Chikungunya virus. There were concerns that if action was not taken urgently, the larger population of Libreville and surrounding localities would be at risk of being infected.

The government put into place a response mechanism in Libreville and Owendo by establishing a multidisciplinary unit – of which the Gabonese Red Cross Society is a member – to manage the epidemic, under the coordination of the Ministry of Health (MoH). The main objective of the unit was to contribute to the response to the epidemic, specifically by diffusing messages on prevention of chikungunya and sensitizing people to participate in the destruction of mosquito breeding places and conducting environmental clean up activities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Raising awareness

Objective: To sensitize populations to the signs and symptoms of chikungunya, and encourage them to go to the nearest health centre.

Activities planned:

- Red Cross volunteers have become community watchers (to act as an early alert system), liaison officers between health centres and the community (to promote prevention and timely treatment), and a communication channel linking the community, the Red Cross and government authorities;
- 80% of the population knows the signs and symptoms of chikungunya infection and go to the nearest health centre at the first alert.

Achievements:

Thanks to the support of the Federation's DREF, the Gabonese Red Cross Society assisted by Federation staff acting as technical advisers trained 100 volunteers and deployed them within the framework of this operation. The trained volunteers in return sensitized populations of Libreville and Owendo to the need of adopting hygiene rules that can help them avoid being contaminated by chikungunya. In addition, Red Cross volunteers contributed to the development and diffusion of messages on the epidemic as they organized a campaign on communication for the change of behaviours.

An epidemiological surveillance team was put in place and their interventions contributed to significantly reducing the number of cases. Gabonese Red Cross Society has involved the media in the operation as much as possible to ensure the visibility of the national society and that of the Federation.

Impact:

The action taken by the Red Cross contributed enormously to reducing the effects of chikungunya in Libreville and Owendo, though much is yet to be done to eradicate the disease from Gabon.

Challenges:

The main challenge at the end of the operation is the fact that signs of the epidemic are still persistent in the country, and there is the need to act fast to avoid wide spread of chikungunya in Gabon and in other neighbouring countries.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: To promote individual and environmental hygiene in order to stop the chikungunya transmission chain.

Activities planned:

- 80% of the population observes simple individual and environmental hygiene rules, and knows how to destroy larva breeding sites.

Achievements:

The water and sanitation capacities of the national society were built as new volunteers were trained on environmental hygiene promotion. The trained volunteers also carried out sensitization activities in affected localities to help stop the spread of the disease. Moreover, they identified and destroyed mosquito breeding places using insecticides, which reduced considerably the number of new cases throughout the operation. In fact, they treated a total of 2,480 houses, i.e. 6,173 rooms, and destroyed 346 mosquito breeding places.

Impact:

The action taken by the Red Cross contributed enormously to reducing the effects of chikungunya in Libreville and Owendo, as the number of new cases decreased gradually from 39% at the beginning of the operation to less than 10% by the end.

Challenges:

The main challenge at the end of the operation is the fact that signs of the epidemic are still persistent in the country, and there is the need to act fast to avoid wide spread of chikungunya in Gabon and in neighbouring countries.

This operation enabled the Gabonese Red Cross Society to strengthen its image, and more specifically, to confirm its role as auxiliary to Government. In addition, the epidemic management capacities of the national society were built through the operation as they received security patches, megaphones, sprayers and many other tools needed for the daily work of the Red Cross. Moreover, new volunteers were trained within the framework of the operation. The national society should advocate before Government for permanent sanitation work to be carried out at least monthly if not on a daily basis. This would go a long way to reducing the risk of new chikungunya outbreaks in Gabon.

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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[<Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRGA001 - Gabon - Chikungunya

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/5-2007/12
Budget Timeframe	2007/5-2007/8
Appeal	MDRGA001
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
A. Budget		38,082				38,082
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		32,713				32,713
C5. Other Income		32,713				32,713
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)		32,713				32,713
D. Total Funding = B + C		32,713				32,713
Appeal Coverage		86%				86%

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		32,713				32,713
E. Expenditure		-32,713				-32,713
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

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Reporting Timeframe	2007/5-2007/12
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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
BUDGET (C)		38,082					38,082	
Supplies								
Water & Sanitation	1,260						1,260	
Medical & First Aid	5,232		7,663			7,663	-2,431	
Teaching Materials	1,896		4,027			4,027	-2,131	
Total Supplies	8,388		11,690			11,690	-3,302	
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,776		746			746	1,030	
Total Transport & Storage	1,776		746			746	1,030	
Personnel								
Regionally Deployed Staff			3,032			3,032	-3,032	
National Staff	538		1,752			1,752	-1,214	
National Society Staff	13,973		8,525			8,525	5,448	
Consultants			2,056			2,056	-2,056	
Total Personnel	14,510		15,365			15,365	-855	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	804						804	
Total Workshops & Training	804						804	
General Expenditure								
Travel	9,120		1,768			1,768	7,353	
Office Costs	192		574			574	-382	
Communications	576		445			445	132	
Other General Expenses	240						240	
Total General Expenditure	10,128		2,786			2,786	7,342	
Programme Support								
Program Support	2,475		2,126			2,126	349	
Total Programme Support	2,475		2,126			2,126	349	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	38,082		32,713			32,713	5,368	
VARIANCE (C - D)			5,368			5,368		