



TANZANIA: HEAVY RAINS IN KIGOMA

MDRTZ004

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13 November 2006

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 185 countries.

In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 30,470 (USD 24,376 or EUR 19,164) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to enable the Tanzania Red Cross National Society¹ to respond to the needs in this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will be completed by 5 February 2007. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

[<Click here to go to the attached map>](#)

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's 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.

Background and current situation

About 500 families were left homeless after their houses were destroyed following several hours of heavy rains and strong winds in the early hours of 28 October 2006 in Kigoma Region, western Tanzania. Kigoma Region borders Lake Tanganyika. A total of 28 people were injured and admitted at the government's regional hospital while several others suffered minor bruises. A school and a church were amongst the buildings that were damaged during the downpour. Household property and food stocks were also destroyed. The two worst affected suburbs in Kigoma Urban District were Kibirizi and Burarangabo, situated some five kilometres from Kigoma town centre, with a total population of about 15,000 people (approximately 2,000 households). Kigoma is the main entry point for the Congolese refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. At the time of this bulletin, it was not clear whether any Congolese refugees had been affected by the heavy rains.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Prior to this disaster, the Tanzania Red Cross National Society (TRCNS) – with Federation support – had been responding to a flood situation in the northern Kilimanjaro Region of Tanzania, through an ongoing flood response operation. Refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRTZ002.pdf> for more details on the DREF operation.

¹ Tanzania Red Cross National Society- refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=189>

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Following this latest disaster, local volunteers from the TRCNS participated in the immediate rescue efforts and provided 300 cooking sets from the refugee programme stocks to support the affected families. A preliminary assessment by the TRCNS indicates an urgent need for food and non-food items (NFIs) such as blankets, roofing materials (iron sheets, timber and nails), plastic sheets for temporary shelter, sanitation facilities, cooking sets, long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLITNs), water containers/buckets and soap. The local government authorities deployed a team of 50 people, including 25 Red Cross volunteers, to assist in the rescue efforts. The injured were taken to hospital for treatment.

The needs

The government has appealed to various institutions for support in meeting the needs of the affected households.

Table 1: Current needs of 500 affected households in Kigoma Region as appealed by the government

Item	Organization
Food items for 3,000 people (maize and pulses)	WFP
3,000 iron sheets, cement, iron bars and paint	Government
Timber and nails for affected structures	TRCNS
600 cooking sets, 800 water containers/buckets and 750 bars of soap	TRCNS (300 sets have already been distributed)
2,000 blankets and 1,000 LLITNs	TRCNS and UNICEF
1,200 plastic sheets	UNHCR
Medical drugs/supplies	UNICEF and the government

The proposed operation

The International Federation allocated CHF 30,470 to the Tanzania Red Cross National Society on 6 November 2006 to enable the national society to provide immediate assistance to 500 affected households in Kigoma Region for three months. The TRCNS headquarters and Kigoma Region branch shall work together with the local government and collaborate with other agencies in supporting the affected households.

Goal: To alleviate the suffering of households affected by heavy rains in Kigoma Region.

Objective 1: To improve the living conditions of 500 affected households in Kigoma Region through provision of essential non-food items (NFIs) for three months.

Expected result: The 500 affected households in Kigoma Region have been provided with essential NFIs.

Activities

- Purchase and distribute 500 kitchen sets, 1,000 water containers/buckets, 1,500 bars of soap and 1,000 blankets.
- Mobilize and deploy volunteers for targeted distribution of NFIs.

Objective 2: To safeguard health and promote hygiene awareness among the population affected by heavy rains.

Expected result: The 500 affected households in Kigoma Region are protected from possible outbreaks of vector or water-borne diseases through increased utilization of LLITNs.

Activities

- Conduct community health as well as hygiene sensitization and education meetings.
- Purchase and distribute 1,000 LLITNs to the affected households.

Objective 3: To support the reconstruction of 50 houses and a school in Kigoma Urban District.

Expected result: Normal life in the affected community is restored as soon as possible.

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Activities

- Procure roofing timber and nails.
- Distribute the roofing timber and nails to the affected households and school.

Coordination

A task force consisting of the TRCNS, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and local government personnel was constituted and immediately visited the affected area. The UNHCR provided 28 tents for temporary shelter and 400 blankets for the homeless families.

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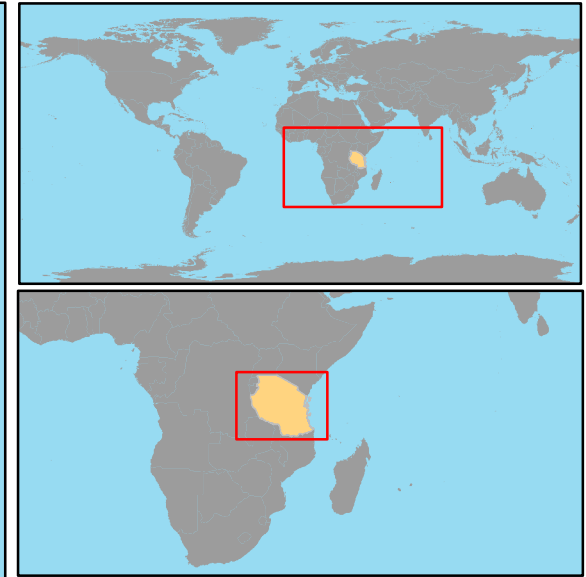
All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#)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

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. 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>

[Map below; click here to return to the title page.](#)



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