

# Operations update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## West Africa: Floods

### Focus on Burkina Faso

Emergency Appeal No. MDR61002

*GLIDE nos. FL-2007-000153-GHA,  
FL-2007-000158-TGO  
and FL-2007-000132-BFA*

1 November 2007

Operations Update no. 3

Period covered: 5 to 20 October 2007.

Appeal target: CHF 3,922,365 (USD 3.2m or EUR 2.3m) for the entire appeal; the Burkina Faso budget component is CHF 2,505,722 (USD 2.1m or EUR 1.4m).

Appeal coverage: 54% (for the entire appeal).

Remaining needs: CHF 1,181,827.

[<Click here for the donor response report>](#)

Targeted beneficiaries: 2,565 families in Burkina Faso.

#### Appeal history:

- [Preliminary Emergency Appeal](#) for Ghana was launched on 17 September 2007 for CHF 1.47 million for 6 months to assist 60,000 people.
- [Revised Preliminary Emergency Appeal](#) was issued on 18 September 2007 for CHF 2.5 million to assist some 82,000 people in Ghana and Togo for 6 months.
- [Revised Appeal \(focus on Burkina Faso\)](#) was issued on 2 October for CHF 2.9 million (USD 2.5 million or EUR 1.7 million) to assist 94,825 beneficiaries in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo for 6 months.

**Summary:** The Burkinabe Red Cross Society, through its local committees, began its response in some of the affected areas in late August 2007. The National Society, with support from the International Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), has provided much needed emergency assistance to local authorities in carrying out preliminary assessments and providing prompt assistance to affected people.

With the emergency phase complete, the focus is now on relief. Red Cross relief activities will be implemented between November 2007 and January 2008 and will include distribution of food since crop fields were completely wiped out by the floods.

A core Federation team is now in the final process of being put into place to support the National Societies of Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo in implementing immediate relief operations and mid-term recovery and shelter activities. The Burkina operation will be



Approximately 40,000 people have been affected by the floods in Burkina Faso, with 8,412 houses destroyed.

**supported by the team which will be based in the Lagos sub-office to coordinate for the three countries (comprised of an overall operations manager, a finance delegate and a reporting officer).**

## Background

Like several other West African countries, Burkina Faso was hard hit by flooding following heavy rains since the beginning of August 2007. According to government figures, approximately 40,000 people have been severely affected. There has been a considerable loss in terms of houses and household items, with crops washed away and food stocks destroyed. Some reports estimate that over 30 people may have been killed and 8,412 houses destroyed.

Findings of a joint assessment conducted by the World Food Programme (WFP) and Burkina Faso's National Agricultural Statistics and Forecasting Service (DGPSA) from 28 August to 2 September 2007, indicate that more than 22,000 hectares of farmland were washed away in the regions of Haut Bassin, Mouhoun, Cascades, North and Central-East. In Nahouri Province, 11,263 hectares of farmland are reported to have been affected. Huge crop losses have also been recorded in Mouhoun and Cascades.

The loss of livelihoods extends to poultry and livestock; it is estimated that at the minimum, 537 heads of cattle and sheep perished in the fast flowing floodwaters. Considering that the affected regions are the main food production areas in the country, a food insecurity crisis is foreseen; poor or low yields in these main food production areas of Burkina Faso are likely to have a great impact on other localities.

The combination of crop/harvest and livestock losses, in addition to the destruction caused to houses, has increased the vulnerability of the populations particularly because about 90 per cent of the affected populations are farmers who rely on their harvests to meet most needs. It will take time for the saturated land in affected areas to dry and food production activities to resume.

## Operational developments

The Burkinabe Red Cross Society began its response in the affected areas in late August 2007. To date, the National Society – through its local committees – has provided support to local authorities in carrying out preliminary assessments and providing prompt assistance to affected people.

The Federation allocated CHF 126,065 (USD 104,705 or EUR 76,403) from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to enable the National Society to respond to initial needs in this operation. The financial support from the Federation's DREF has enabled the National Society to provide assistance to 1,004 flood-affected households in Houet, Comoe and Leraba provinces.

Additional non-food item support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has benefited 2,025 flood-affected people in Po Province.

With the emergency phase complete, the focus is now on relief. Red Cross relief activities will be implemented between November 2007 and January 2008 and will include distribution of food since crop fields were completely wiped out by the floods.

A core Federation team is now in the final process of being put into place to support the National Societies of Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo in implementing immediate relief operations and mid-term recovery and shelter activities. The Burkina operation will be supported by the team which will be based in the Lagos sub-office to coordinate for the three countries (comprised of an overall operations manager, a finance delegate and a reporting officer).

Recovery activities are envisioned to be implemented between February and April 2008, once the relief phase is complete. During this phase, agricultural tools and items as well as material for shelter construction will be distributed alongside food distributions.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Emergency relief

**Objective 1: To provide essential non-food relief items to 2,565 vulnerable flood-affected households in Burkina Faso.**

**Progress:** The Federation allocated CHF 126,065 (USD 104,705 or EUR 76,403) from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to enable the National Society to respond to initial needs in this operation.

The financial support from the Federation's DREF has enabled the National Society to provide assistance to 1,004 flood-affected households in Houet, Comoe and Leraba provinces. The assistance consists of essential non-food items (2,820 sleeping mats, 2,820 blankets and 45 bales of second-hand clothes), 3,000 hygiene kits (comprising of towels, dust clothes, soap, detergent and sponge towels), 1,860 15-litre buckets, and hygiene/health sensitization material.

Additional support has also been provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The assistance, which consisted of 900 loin clothes, 400 metal buckets, 17,600 pieces of soap, 220 tarpaulins, 440 sleeping mats, 4,250 blankets and 400 kitchen sets, has benefited 2,025 flood-affected people in Po Province.

With the emergency phase complete, the focus is now on relief. Red Cross relief activities will be implemented between November 2007 and January 2008 – targeting 2,565 households – and will include distribution of food<sup>1</sup> to avert food insecurity since crop fields were completely wiped out by the floods. The relief items prioritized by the National Society are 5,130 sleeping mats, 5,130 blankets, 2,565 kitchen kits and 2,565 buckets. Others are 2,565 tonnes of seeds, 2,565 agricultural kits, agricultural insecticides and inputs.

Once the relief phase is complete, recovery activities are envisioned to be implemented between February and April 2008. Items to be distributed then will include two tonnes of cement, 20 sheet metal per household, and ten iron girders per household.

### Health

**Objective 2: To prevent water and vector borne diseases.**

**Progress:** A training of trainers was conducted from 18 to 20 October, focusing on the flood disaster and its impact. Facilitators were drawn from Mali and Togolese Red Cross societies, supported by the Federation's West and Central Africa Zone office in Dakar.

Though focus has been on the emergency phase, BRCS volunteers who were mobilized to assist in the evacuation of casualties have been creating awareness on water and sanitation (WatSan) issues alongside the emergency intervention activities.

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<sup>1</sup> Provided by WFP – The Burkinabe Red Cross Society is working closely with WFP, OXFAM and UNICEF to implement a joint project which encompasses food distribution, distribution of impregnated bed nets and implementation of WatSan-related activities.

Health and WatSan priorities of the National Society in the next three months include procurement and distribution of 8,003 hygiene kits, rehabilitation of 77 wells, installation of 8 water pumps, and construction of 40 family latrines. Additionally, the Red Cross will conduct eight sensitization sessions.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Government of Burkina Faso has provided food items and non-food relief items. The government has benefited from a donation of family tents from the Moroccan Government – through bilateral cooperation – and non-food items from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), including impregnated bed nets.

Movement partners continue to work in close cooperation to ensure that activities undertaken as part of the emergency response are complementary and well coordinated. The Spanish Red Cross has indicated interest to support the BRCS recovery activities on a bilateral basis.

The BRCS is working closely with WFP, OXFAM and UNICEF to implement a joint project which encompasses food distribution, distribution of impregnated bed nets and implementation of WatSan-related activities. The coordination aims at ensuring efficiency in the provision of humanitarian assistance, minimizing/eliminating waste of resources and avoiding overlapping.

## Communications- Advocacy and public information

BRCS will be supported by the operations team based at the Lagos sub-office and the communications team at the Federation's West and Central Africa Zone office in Dakar to ensure regular profiling of the Red Cross and sharing of information on progress. Visibility is being ensured in the field through tabards, caps, polo shirts and t-shirts bearing the National Society's emblem.

## 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.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the National Society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

The International Federation's activities are carried out under 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:**

- **In Burkina Faso:** Wéléti Maiga, National Director, Burkinabe Red Cross Society, Ouagadougou; email: [croixrouge.bf@fasonet.bf](mailto:croixrouge.bf@fasonet.bf); [croixrouge@cenatrin.bf](mailto:croixrouge@cenatrin.bf); telephone +226.76.66.5677

- **In Nigeria:** Andreas Koumo Gopina, Coordinator - West Africa Flood Operation, Lagos; email: debreng@yahoo.fr;
- **In Nigeria:** Stephen Omollo, Head of Federation West Coast Sub-Zone Office, Lagos; email: [stephen.omollo@ifrc.org](mailto:stephen.omollo@ifrc.org); telephone: +234.12.695.228; Fax: +234.12.695.229
- **In Senegal:** Alasan Senghore, Federation Head of Zone for West and Central Africa, Dakar; email: [alasan.senghore@ifrc.org](mailto:alasan.senghore@ifrc.org); telephone: +221.869.3641; Fax: +221.860.2002
- **In Senegal:** Youcef Ait-Chellouche, Disaster Management Coordinator, West and Central Africa Zone, Dakar; email: [youcef.aitchellouche@ifrc.org](mailto:youcef.aitchellouche@ifrc.org); telephone: +221.638.9861
- **In Dubai (for mobilization of relief items):** Sera Coelho, Mobilization Officer; email: sera.coelho@ifrc.org, telephone: +971.50.818.4254
- **In Geneva:** Niels Scott, Federation Operations Coordinator (Africa); email: [niels.scott@ifrc.org](mailto:niels.scott@ifrc.org); telephone +41.22.730.4527; fax + 41.22.733.0395

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