

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

West Africa: Floods

Focus on Togo

Emergency Appeal No. MDR61002

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

13 November 2007

Operations Update no. 3

Period covered: 5 to 30 October 2007.

Appeal target: CHF 3,922,365 (USD 3.2m or EUR 2.3m) for the entire appeal; the Togo budget component is 971,643 (USD 767,032 or EUR 543,022).

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

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

Targeted beneficiaries: 5,000 households in Togo.

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 Togolese Red Cross Society (TRCS), with the support of the International Federation, is managing the Togo flood relief operation. The joint Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) and Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members deployed by the Federation in mid-September 2007 completed their mission and left the country.

With the emergency phase complete, assessments undertaken, and the operational plan revised, focus is now on relief. Red Cross relief activities are being carried out with partner agencies, including WFP and UNICEF. Training of Red Cross volunteers who will participate in the response has been conducted in the Savanes Region.

The Federation's West Coast Sub-Zone Office in Lagos continues to provide support to the National Societies of the flood-affected countries, including Togo, in implementing immediate relief operations and mid-term recovery and shelter activities.



The Togolese Red Cross Society is working closely with WFP in providing food to the most vulnerable flood-affected people in Togo.

Background

During the last week of August and early September 2007, the West Africa region was affected by heavy rains which resulted in serious flooding. In Togo, the floods mostly affected the Savanes Region in the north, and Maritime and Plateaux regions in the south.

Official figures indicate that some 130,000 most vulnerable persons have been affected in the Savanes Region (comprised four districts and one sub-district and has a total population of approximately 542,000 persons), and 10,000 in Maritime Region (especially in the districts of Lacks and Afagnan). Inhabitants of the many affected villages of these regions are essentially farmers, fishermen or cattle breeders.



Many houses have been fully or partially destroyed with official figures indicating that some 130,000 vulnerable persons have been affected.

The floods destroyed many houses (mostly straw huts), and washed away thousands of hectares of crops and many livestock. Many of the affected families have also lost part of their farm buildings and this season's harvest. Additionally, road access into many of the affected communities was impossible as roads were rendered impassible.

In the Maritime Region, more than 2,000 persons were displaced from their villages (including Adamé, Sakpové, Agbanankin, Togbavi, and Togbagan). They sought accommodation in the temporary Camp managed by the Togolese Armed Forces in Aklakou, 75 km from the capital, Lomé.

The combination of crop/harvest and livestock losses, in addition to the destruction caused to houses, has increased the vulnerability of the populations. Though access of previously cut off areas has improved slightly following a drier spell over the past weeks, concerns remain, particularly in terms of food security, health, water and sanitation.

According to various sources, malnutrition rates are high and an estimated 32.7 per cent of people in the Savanes Region and 12.9 per cent in Maritime Region, lack access to adequate food. Ninety per cent of the rural population reportedly subsists on surface water; with the recent floods, the normal water sources are affected or contaminated, increasing the likelihood of diarrhoeal and other water related illness outbreaks. Linked to this is a lack of appropriate sanitation facilities, including pit latrines.

Operational developments

From the onset of the flooding disaster, TRCS volunteers responded to immediate needs by providing first aid and health education to the affected people. Red Cross volunteers continue to play a vital role in the disaster response operation. They have been engaged in assessments, distribution of food and emergency relief items, health and hygiene education.

The joint Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) and Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members deployed by the International Federation in mid-September 2007 completed their mission and left the country in mid-October. Besides assessing the needs and developing a realistic and relevant action plan, the FACT/RDRT supported the National Society in distributing relief items and training staff and volunteers. Members of the joint team, together with their TRCS counterparts, conducted needs assessments in the affected areas, working in close cooperation with WFP and UNICEF to exchange views and ideas, and to develop collaborative strategies.

Federation and TRCS teams have had to adjust the implementation plan based on the available resources and the response to the appeal to date. Though implementation has delayed a bit, it was prudent to adjust the plan vis-à-vis available resources so that proper prioritization is done. Already training of volunteers has been conducted in the Savanes Region.

A core Federation team is now in place to support National Societies of the flood-affected countries, including the TRCS, in implementing immediate relief operations and mid-term recovery and shelter activities. The main coordination team will be based at the Federation's West Coast Sub-Zone Office in Lagos to coordinate for the three countries (overall operations manager, a finance delegate and a reporting officer), the second team will be based in Ghana (operations manager, a logistics delegate, a logistics RDRT member, a relief RDRT member, and a shelter RDRT member), and the third team will be based in Togo. The Togo team is comprised of an operations manager, an RDRT WatSan specialist and a WatSan delegate from the Danish Red Cross. With the Togo team in place, relief operations – distribution of essential non-foods items and WatSan activities – will begin in earnest in November with the aim of reaching 5,000 most vulnerable households.

Field teams – in collaboration with the TRCS, the Federation Zone Office and external partners – are discussing the necessity of assessing and providing humanitarian assistance in the other flooded areas. Other most affected villages are Podavé (200 families), Adamé (400 families) and Avévé (65 families). Many others small villages have been affected, with up to 1,800 families in need of assistance (source WFP). The TRCS, supported by the Federation, will conduct a field assessment to determine the exact numbers.

The Togolese Government has requested the Red Cross to assist in a joint field assessment and appealed for humanitarian assistance for these forgotten areas. This activity will be undertaken after distribution of NFI is completed (possibly by 18 November 2007).

The strategy which is been discussed with the government and partners (mainly WFP) is to support the IDP to go back to their villages and to restart some economic and social activities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Emergency relief

Objective: To provide relief items for 5,000 flood-affected families in 90 villages in Savane Region, and 1,800 flood-affected families in 20 villages of Maritime Region.

Progress: With the emergency phase complete, assessments undertaken, and the operational plan revised, focus is now on relief. Red Cross relief activities will be carried out with partner agencies, including WFP and UNICEF.

The relief items prioritized by the Red Cross are shelter items, sleeping mats, tarpaulins, buckets, blankets and used clothes.

Health

Objective: To prevent the outbreak of epidemics and water borne diseases in 90 villages.

Progress: The implementation of a health and hygiene promotion programme, based on the existing TRCS WatSan project, is set to begin. WatSan activities will also begin in early November now that the Togo operation coordination team is in place. Members of the team include an RDRT WatSan specialist and a WatSan delegate from the Danish Red Cross.

Outreach materials have been printed and procurement of tools for rehabilitation projects is at an advanced stage. Volunteer training in hygiene and health promotion will be intensified in readiness for hygiene and health promotion activities in the 90 affected villages.

Food

Objective: To distribute 2,000 tonnes of food-for-work (WFP-supplied food).

Progress: The food-for-work programme is intended to assist affected families to survive until the next harvest in 2008. WFP is providing food that is partly being distributed by the Togolese Red Cross Society, with the Federation primarily providing logistics support.

All measures have been taken to start the NFI distribution from 12 to 22 November 2007: beneficiaries' identification, distribution plan, training of volunteers and information to the communities on NFI distribution points.

Food will be provided to beneficiaries in return for their participation in activities aimed at rehabilitating damaged infrastructure such as small bridges and gullies. Community members will be sensitized to clean up their villages and maintain bridges.

Challenges/constraints: the implementation of relief activities has been slightly delayed and is behind schedule. However, it was prudent to adjust the plan vis-à-vis available resources so that proper prioritization is done. The Red Cross intends to recover the lost time once implementation is on course.

Coordination and partnerships

There are very few international humanitarian organizations present in Togo; the main humanitarian actors are the Red Cross, WFP, UNICEF and Caritas. The Red Cross continues to work in close cooperation with these agencies to ensure that activities undertaken as part of the emergency response are complementary and well coordinated.

With the departure of FACT and RDRT members, the Federation field operations team for Togo and TRCS operations staff members will assume the responsibility of ensuring the continuity of Red Cross collaboration with the various agencies. The Togo team is comprised of an operations manager, an RDRT WatSan specialist and a WatSan delegate from the Danish Red Cross.

UNICEF is providing relief and health items including soap, jerry cans, chlorine tablets, cholera kits, basic medical kits, water testing kits, anti-malaria drugs, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, tarpaulins, clothes, school kits and school fees vouchers. The 10,000 mosquito nets provided by this UN agency will be distributed by the TRCS.

WFP is providing food to support the affected communities in Togo. The Togolese Red Cross Society will distribute 50 per cent while Caritas will distribute the other 50 per cent.

Communications- Advocacy and public information

The Federation's West and Central Africa Zone information delegate, together with the regional information officer, will assist their TRCS counterpart in formulating strategies to address the public and media. The TRCS information officer will continue to profile and increase the visibility of the TRCS by traveling to the affected area, documenting the distribution process, witnessing the interaction between Red Cross staff/volunteers and beneficiaries, and producing relevant articles and photographs.

The in-country team will work closely with the Federation's West Coast Sub-Zone Office in Lagos 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.

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

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