

# DREF Bulletin



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: FLOODS IN KINSHASA

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*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 284,893 (USD 245,809 or EUR 170,289) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be implemented over 6 months, and will be completed by April 2008; a Final Report will be made available by July 2008 (three months after the end of the operation). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

### The situation

Following the heavy rains experienced in Kinshasa on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 October and which continued until Sunday October 28, Kinshasa, the capital of the country, was seriously affected. According to the weather forecast, the volume of water reached 222 mm per square meter, a rate which has never been reached since 1961.

The force of the water caused serious landslides and erosion in the following 10 high risk communes: (Bandalungwa, Mont Ngafula, Limete, Matete, Kalamu, Lemba, Masina, Ngaliema Selembao, Kisenso). The disaster caused 31 deaths. Some 1,500 homes were reportedly destroyed or damaged and 11,000 people are directly affected.



Three children were found dead in this home after the rainfall.

Many small-scale market gardens were damaged in many districts of Kinshasa, and there are concerns over increased respiratory infections due to flooded homes and latrines, particularly as weather forecasts show further rains in the near future.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

The DR Congo Red Cross mobilized about fifty first aid volunteers to carry out immediate assistance. Volunteers evacuated the injured persons to hospitals, and carried out the registration of those affected and the sensitization of communities on disaster risks and the prevention of water borne diseases. Ten most vulnerable families received assistance in the form of food items, with the support of the Federation. The kits were composed of beans, peas, sardines, corned beef, biscuits and pasta. Two kits of non-food items consisting of shovels, sheets, and spades were given to the communities of Ngaliema and Bandalungwa to help clean the houses. The DR Congo National Society plans to carry out a project to clean gutters and fight against erosion in a risky site in Ngaliema. The Red Cross operation will take place within one month.

### **The needs**

The immediate needs of the 1,500 families affected in accommodation sites and in foster families include:

- Food items: corn, beans, oil, salt.
- non-food items: blankets, mats, sheets, kitchen set, jerry cans mosquito nets, protection and intervention materials such as gloves and boots, soaps as well as financial resources to take good care of Red Cross and community volunteers and to ensure coordination.

The communities also need to carry-out various other activities in terms of water and sanitation (disinfection, gutters cleaning) in their respective sites. The Red Cross plans to provide them with wheelbarrows, spades, lime, and creolin.

### **Coordination**

A crisis committee coordinated by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) composed of the Red Cross, Caritas, World Health Organization (WHO), UNFPA, UNICEF, MERU, FOLECO Medical Inspection of Health Ministry and the DR Congo Red Cross has been set up for the follow-up and management of the situation.

### **Proposed Action**

**General objective: Reduce the effects of floods on the vulnerable people in Kinshasa.**

**Objective 1: Those affected by the floods in 10 communes of Kinshasa are assisted in food and non food items within one month.**

### **Expected results:**

- 1,500 families affected by floods are protected against disease, acute respiratory infection, and malaria.
- Affected population has appropriate hygiene information.

### **Activities:**

- Distribution of mosquito nets and blankets to 1,500 families affected by the floods;
- Volunteers provided a one day briefing on water and sanitation-related sensitization;
- Sensitizing the population on hygiene rules in order to prevent cholera and water borne diseases;
- Disinfection of homes after the rain waters have dried;
- Cleaning of gutters to reduce impact of floods in case of heavy rains;

- Advocating before other organizations and state-owned services for longer-term mitigation actions to be taken against floods that have become recurrent in Kinshasa;
- Setting up a community-based early-based warning system on floods;
- Organize two follow up and evaluation missions.

### Strategy and implementation

The activities planned within the framework of this operation will be carried out with the participation of the communities and in consideration of the actions of other actors present in the field, for instance non-governmental organizations, neighborhood associations, state and religious, and institutions. The National Society will take advantage of this opportunity to build the capacities of communities and the Red Cross in providing tools intended to clean homes. According to the Programme Initiative Congo strategy, special attention will be given to the specific needs of women.

### 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.

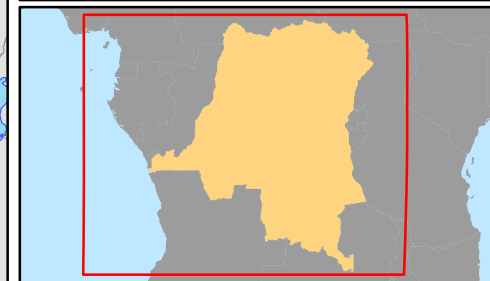
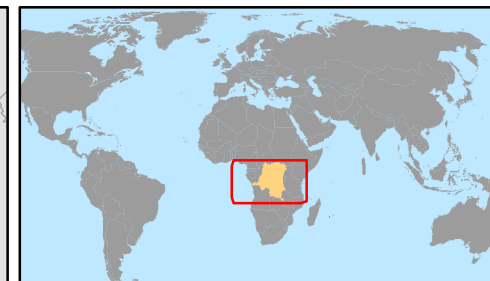
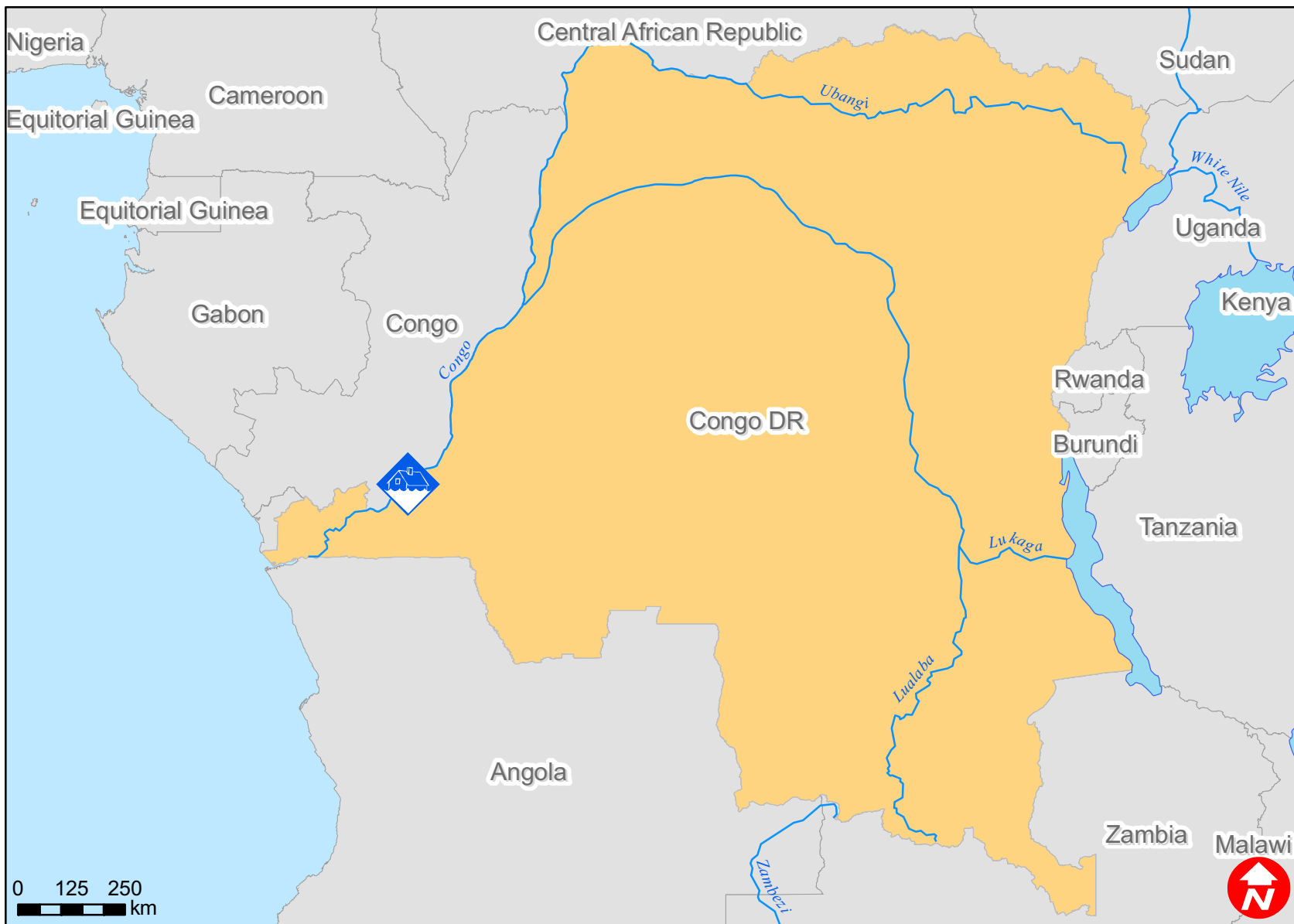
### Contact information

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

- In the DRC: Dominique Lutula Kitoko, President CRRDC, [dlutula@hotmail.com](mailto:dlutula@hotmail.com), Phone: +243 09 999 26 823
- In DRC: Abdoulazize Diallo, Head of DRC Delegation, [abdoulazize.diallo@ifrc.org](mailto:abdoulazize.diallo@ifrc.org)
- In Geneva: John Roche, Federation Operations Coordinator; email: [john.roche@ifrc.org](mailto:john.roche@ifrc.org); Phone: +41.22.730.44.40, Fax: +41.22.733.03.95.



## Democratic Republic of Congo: Floods



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Floods in Kinshasa