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RWANDA: FLOODS

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 188,899 (USD 161,314 or EUR 113,795) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 5,100 beneficiaries (1,020 households). This operation is expected to be implemented over 6 months, and will therefore be completed by 17 April, 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

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

Background and current situation

Heavy rains in Nyabihu and Rubavu districts – Western Province of Rwanda – on 12 September 2007 led to floods and landslides which resulted in 15 deaths and caused extensive damage to houses and property, displacing 1,020 households. According to reports from the Rwandan Red Cross, 342 houses were completely destroyed and 678 were partially damaged. In addition, the water supply system has been interrupted, a situation which is likely to force people to look for alternative sources of water thus increasing the risk of use of contaminated water leading to the spread of waterborne diseases. The rains are continuing and other sectors around the area bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo, along the Virunga mountains stretch, are likely to be affected as well.

On 18 September 2007, local authorities in Nyabihu District reported that 34 houses had been swept away in Jenda sector and another eight in Mukamira following heavy downpours. Residents were forced to flee their homes at night when floods resulting from over-flowing rivers swept across inhabited areas. The failure of the rains to subside also significantly hampered efforts to relocate the affected people to safer areas. Additionally, a food insecurity crisis looms as field crops have been inundated, including 80 per cent of potatoes and vegetable produced from the area's rich volcanic soils. The overall situation has been aggravated by extensive desertification which has occurred in the area due to deforestation, starting from 1994, as internally displaced populations search for arable land to rebuild homes and to practice farming.

Affected localities include Bigogwe, Jenda and Mukamira in Nyabihu District and Kanzenze in Rubavu District – all in the Western Province of Rwanda. The Rwandan Government has set up two new displaced persons transit camps in Nyabihu and Rubavu districts where the affected people have been assisted with food provided by the district's local authorities.

Coordination

A team of the Rwandan Government officials visited the affected people on 13 September and set up a coordination team involving government ministries; Local Administration, Good Governance and Social Affairs, Infrastructure, Land, Environment and Water, Defence and Information. The governor of Western Province, district mayors of Rubavu and Nyabihu, and the Rwandan Red Cross are also part of the team.

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The coordination teams have recommended that the affected populations be moved to the new site and a recount be conducted to establish their precise number. The Rwandan Red Cross was requested to coordinate transit camp activities as plans to resettle the communities are established.

A Disaster Management Task Force (DMTF) led by the Ministry of Local Administration, Good Governance and Social Affairs in collaboration with the Disaster Management Unit based at the Prime Minister's office are expected to coordinate meetings and assistance at the national level. Field activities are being coordinated by a crisis committee set up by administrative authorities. The Rwandan Government has also assisted the affected people with medicines, through the Ministry of Health, and has provided water supply through the Ministry of Defence. Monitoring and follow-ups are expected to be communicated to all stakeholders through the Office of Disaster Management Programme facilitated by the provincial coordinator.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Seeking to rapidly address the situation, the Rwandan Red Cross has deployed an experienced team of 26 to conduct field assessments. This team is made up of disaster response team members trained in different fields, including health interventions, field assessments and coordination. They have met with local authorities and affected populations in Nyabihu and Rubavu districts and sent a preliminary situation report to the National Society's headquarters.

In addition, the team advised the affected people to vacate the flooded areas and seek safe shelter in other places. They assisted the affected people with non-food items (NFI), disinfection and conducted psycho-social support. They also assisted the communities to recover bodies of relatives and friends buried in mud as a result of landslides.



Rwandan Red Cross volunteers have distributed essential relief supplies.

Needs

A total population of 5,100 people (1,020 households) have been targeted for distribution of non-food items, shelter and health/hygiene promotion. In addition, food items supplied by the Rwandan Government are expected to be provided. At least 3,217 people, 63 per cent of the Rwandan Red Cross target, have been settled in the transit camps and are receiving assistance. Beneficiary selection is guided by factors such as loss of shelter/crops and level of vulnerability.

Table 1: Affected populations settled in Bigogwe and Kanzenze (Source: Rwandan Red Cross)

District	Settlement Site	No. of households	No. of people assisted
Nyabihu	Bigogwe	327	1,634
Rubavu	Kanzenze	317	1,583
Total		644	3,217

Immediate needs

The urgent needs identified are shelter, basic NFI, mosquito nets and clean water. Basic hygiene items are also needed to support water and sanitation interventions and to prevent outbreaks of waterborne diseases whose likelihood often increase during flooding situations. NFI, shelter, health and hygiene items have been rapidly mobilized and distributed from the Rwandan Red Cross disaster preparedness stocks. Targeting 400 most vulnerable households, on 14 September 2007 the Rwandan Red Cross deployed a truck loaded with NFI. Details of the intervention, together with support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are outlined in table 2 below. ICRC has also provided logistics/transport support.

The Rwandan Red Cross has been mandated by the Rwandan Government to manage camp activities and has been putting up temporary shelters at the transit camps. Partner National Societies, including the German, Belgian and Spanish Red Cross societies, are actively supporting the Rwandan Red Cross and have provided NFI such as plastic sheeting to assist in the construction of emergency shelter.

Table 2: NFI, shelter and WatSan items distributed

Source	Sectors	Items Provided	Quantity
Rwandan Red Cross	NFI	Kitchen sets	656
		Blankets	712
		Sleeping mats	656
		Clothing	656
	Shelter	Plastic sheeting/tarpaulins	107
	WatSan	Bars of soap	2,224
		Jerry cans	712
		Sprayers	3
		Disinfectants (litres)	4
		Bladders (10, 15 & cubic metres, with accessories)	3
		Motor pump component (24 cubic metres/hour)	1
		Water taps	2
Chlorine tablets		600	
ICRC	NFI	Blankets	560
	Shelter	Tarpaulin sheeting (4 x 60m)	8

The proposed operation

The Rwandan Red Cross will work closely with the Rwandan Government in providing the targeted beneficiaries with food and basic NFI for six months. In addition, the proposed intervention aims at addressing water and vector borne diseases that could spread as a result of water contamination. The Rwandan Red Cross will use DREF funds to purchase shelter and health/hygiene promotion items which will add to its disaster preparedness stocks pre-positioned for rapid deployment.

Overall, it is expected that by the close of this operation, the affected populations will have been registered and settled in the new transit sites and will have received food and NFI. At the camps, health/hygiene standards are expected to be upheld with emphasis on reducing the number of deaths from illnesses.

Plan of action

Overall Objective: To provide humanitarian assistance to households affected by floods in Nyabihu and Rubavu districts and implement disease prevention and health promotion interventions for 6 months.

Emergency Relief (food and non-food) and Shelter

Specific Objective 1: To provide food supplied by the Rwandan Government, basic non-food and shelter items to 1,020 flood-affected households (5,100 people).

Expected results:

- The affected households are registered and settled into the new sites;
- 1,020 flood-affected households in Nyabihu and Rubavu districts receive food and non-food items.

Planned activities:

- Register the affected people by household, age and sex;
- Purchase plastic sheeting, blankets, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, clothing following Federation procurement standards and procedures;
- Distribute the blankets, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, plastic sheeting, clothing and food based on Sphere Minimum Standards.

Health and hygiene promotion

Specific Objective 2: To contribute to the prevention and control of water and vector borne diseases among 1,020 flood-affected households (5,100 people).

Expected results:

- Disease outbreaks are minimized as 1,020 households use hygiene items and impregnated mosquito nets;
- Latrines, compost and mobile dustbins available and adequately used;
- Morbidity related to malaria and waterborne diseases prevented.

Planned activities:

- Purchase water tanks, hygiene items and 2,040 long lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets (two per household) following Federation procurement, standards and procedures;
- Distribute jerry-cans, soap and hygienic pads;
- Conduct refresher training for volunteers on malaria prevention and control as well as cholera and acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) prevention and control;
- Conduct sensitization campaigns on the prevention and control of malaria, focusing on proper use of LLITNs, early case detection and referral;
- Focus on prevention of AWD/Cholera outbreak;
- Conduct sensitization campaigns on poor hygiene and waterborne/water related diseases using the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) methodology;
- Construct latrines;
- Set up compost and mobile dustbins;
- Distribute long lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets;
- Produce information, education and communication/behavioural change communication (IEC/BCC) materials and volunteer toolkits to be utilized during health education and promotion.

Specific objective 3: Contribute to the prevention of infant and maternal mortality through provision of components of minimum initial service package to the affected population.

Expected Result: Reduced infant and maternal mortality rates.

Planned activities:

- Promote proper breast feeding practices to reduce infant mortality;
- Conduct health education and promotion to the community, targeting mothers and focusing on prevention of childhood illness such as measles.

Logistics Support

Specific objective 4: Strengthen the National Society's logistics capacity through effective warehouse management.

Expected results:

- The warehouse is fully operational and can be used to pre-position relief stocks;
- Warehouse tools are available and are adequately used.

Planned Activities:

- Receive goods provided by the Rwandan Government and other humanitarian actors;
- Transport non-food items;
- Produce daily warehouse reports;
- Set up a distribution calendar and disseminate it to beneficiaries.

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 Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a 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

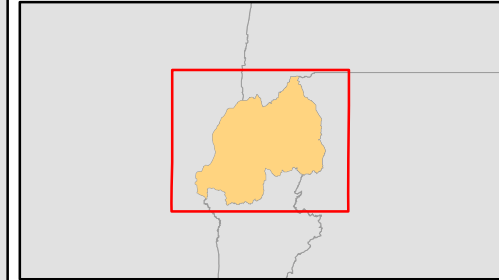
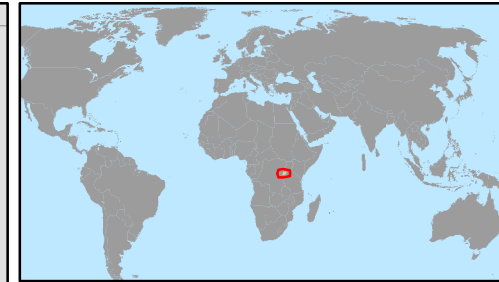
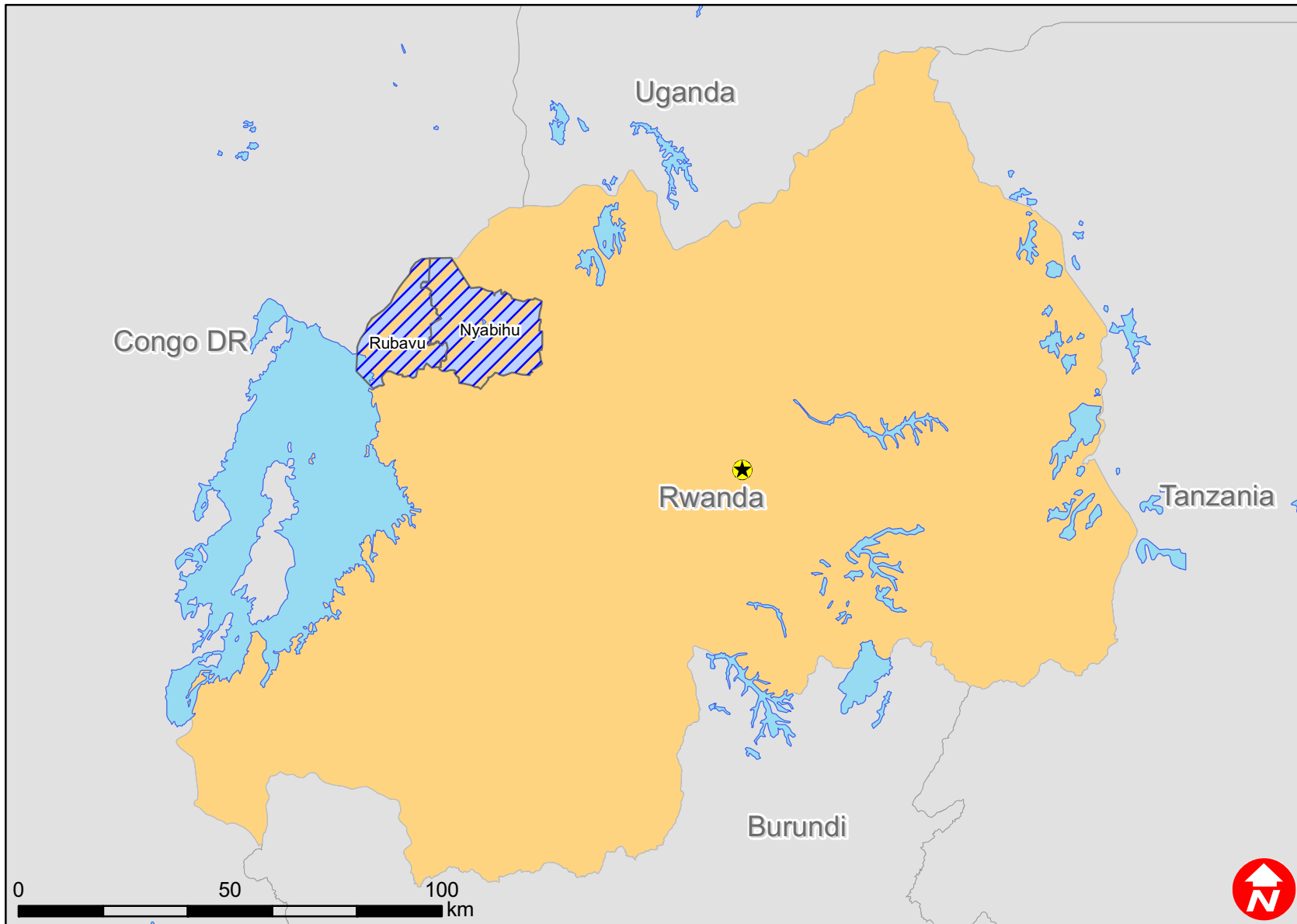
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Rwanda: Floods



Heavy rains in Nyabihu and Rubavu districts situated in Rwanda's Western Province on 12 September, 2007 have led to floods and landslides. The rains have caused extensive damage in the two districts resulting in 15 lives lost, 1,020 households displaced while 3 people are missing. Out of those who have been accounted for, 9 have been injured and were rushed to hospital. According to reports from the Rwandan Red Cross 342 houses were completely destroyed and 678 partially damaged.

-  Capitals
-  Affected districts