

# DREF operation update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Rwanda: Floods

**DREF operation n° MDRRW003**  
**GLIDE n° FL-2007-000159—RWA**  
**Update n° 1**  
**11 April 2008**

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

**Period covered by this update:** 26 October, 2007 to 26 February 2008.

**Summary:** CHF 188,899 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 26 October, 2007 to support the National Society in delivering assistance to some 1,020 households (5,100 beneficiaries).

Implementation of the Rwandan Red Cross plan of action is ongoing. Non-food items distributed so far include blankets, plastic sheeting, kitchen sets, sleeping mats and wrappers for women. Other items distributed include water tanks, water bladders and taps. In addition, the RRC is planting trees in areas that have suffered massive soil erosion.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 6 months, and completed by 17 April, 2008. In line with Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation.

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**A temporary settlement site in Nyabihu District that is managed by the Rwandan Red Cross (photo by RRC).**

## The situation

The latest figures following the heavy rains, floods and landslides that occurred in the Rwandan Western Province, affecting Nyabihu and Rubavu districts indicate that a total of 18 lives were lost and 1,020 families displaced. Two people are still missing, nine people among those injured are undergoing treatment. A total of 342 houses have been completely damaged and 678 partially damaged with walls cracked, roofs blown away or windows shattered. The water system has also been damaged and this has raised fears of water contamination as the communities seek alternative water sources for domestic use. The affected areas are very productive agriculturally, producing almost 80 percent of potatoes and vegetables for local consumption.

The displaced families are in two transit camps in Bigogwe and Kanzenze where the Rwandan Red Cross is managing their overall welfare. The National Society is recognized by the Rwandan Government as the lead agency in the management of the shelter camps. As shown in the table below, the total number of households sheltered in both camps has increased to over one thousand up from 644 as at October, 2007.

**Table 1: Resettlement of the affected populations into transit sites**

District	Settlement site	No. of households	No. of people assisted	Increase (%)
Nyabihu	Bigogwe	664	3,505	51
Rubavu	Kanzenze	356	1,879	12
Total		1,020	5,384	58

## Coordination and partnerships

The Rwandan Red Cross received support from its Partner National Societies including the German Red Cross, Belgium Red Cross-Flanders, Spanish Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The table below shows sheetings provided by members of the Red Cross Movement. In addition, the German Red Cross has also provided 4 sprayers, 20 disinfectant products (Creoline) and 36 bales of clothing. The ICRC has provided 560 blankets to be distributed by the Rwandan Red Cross.

**Table 2: Shelter items provided by Red Cross Movement partners**

Red Cross Partners	German Red Cross	Spanish Red Cross	Belgian Red Cross-Flanders	ICRC	Total
Sheeting's (4 by 5m and 4 by 6m)	890	162	390	8	1,450

The Rwandan Government plans to set aside land to be used for resettlement of the most affected populations. Each household has received tarpaulins of 20 by 30m for construction of temporary shelter. The World Food Programme (WFP) is working on modalities to implement a food-for-work programme, where the affected groups living in temporary shelters will be organized to construct shelter facilities in exchange for food supplies.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Focusing on risk reduction, the Rwandan Red Cross volunteers have organized tree planting activities in the areas that suffered massive soil erosion and land degradation in Nyabihu and Rubavu districts. Approximately 1,500 trees have been planted by the volunteers and willing community members. This activity is expected to continue in the coming days.

## Progress towards objectives

The Rwandan Red Cross is implementing its plan of action with support from the International Federation. Distribution of relief items is being conducted simultaneously as procurement and transportations are done. The Rwandan Government is providing food items which have been distributed by the RRC. Non-food items distributed so far include blankets, plastic sheeting, kitchen sets, sleeping mats and wrappers for women. Other items distributed include four water tanks, water bladders and taps.

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items) and shelter

**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.**

**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)**

### Progress

The Rwandan Red Cross volunteers have distributed food items provided by the Rwandan Government. A total of 1,020 households have benefited from the food supplies that include maize, beans, vegetable oil, sugar, salt, Irish, potatoes, banana and cassava. The National Society also used funds provided by the Federation to procure Sosoma (an inexpensive local blend of sorghum, Soya and maize into a rich nutritional pudding) for distribution to children of less than five years. A total of two tonnes have been purchased and distributed to the children.

The National Society is providing non-food items to the beneficiaries. Sleeping mats, blankets and wrappers have been procured and distributed as shown in the table below.

**Table 3: Distribution of non-food and shelter items**

Non-food items	Blankets	Sleeping mats	Wrappers	Plastic sheeting	Kitchen sets
Procured	2,040	3,014	1,542	1,228	1,283
Distributed	1,272	656	656	1,228	812

## 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).**

### Progress

Fifteen Red Cross volunteers, six local authority representatives and five beneficiary representatives have received training in participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation in emergency response (PHASTER) as well as malaria prevention methods. Construction of hygiene promotion facilities has been ongoing and a total of 33 latrines, 35 composts and 33 bathrooms have been set up for use by the affected communities in Rubavu and Nyabihu. Regular sensitization sessions have been conducted to ensure that the latrines and compost sites are used appropriately. The campaigns have also been used by the RRC volunteers supported by the local authorities and beneficiary representatives to create awareness on malaria prevention, hygiene-related water-borne infections using the PHAST methodology.

A total of 4 water tanks, 3 bladders of 10 and 15 cubic metres, 2 water taps and a motor pump have been procured and are being set up for water supply. 1,410 hygiene kits have been procured for distribution to the affected communities. The Red Cross volunteers have been distributing hygiene promotion items as shown in the table below. In addition, 1,100 potties for children have been distributed. Procurement of the full consignment of insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs), involving negotiations with suppliers and transportation, is ongoing.

**Table 4: Distribution of hygiene promotion items**

Hygiene promotion items	Jerry cans	Hygienic pads	Soap (bars)
Procured	1,224	1,410	11,657
Distributed	712	800	6,224

**Specific Objective 3: To contribute to the prevention of infant and maternal mortality through provision of components of minimum initial service package to the affected population.**

### Progress

Red Cross volunteers, in collaboration health workers, conducted sensitization sessions focusing on vaccination, nutrition as well as hygiene and sanitation, among other major health problems

## Logistics Support

**Specific Objective 4: To strengthen the National Society's logistics capacity through effective warehouse management.**

### Progress

Five RRC volunteers have been put in charge of the warehouse day-to-day management. Workshop reports are produced on a weekly basis and sent to the Red Cross head office.

## 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

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and

out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

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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