

Final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

West and Central Africa: Flood preparedness and response

Emergency appeal n° MDR61003
Final report
21 August, 2009

**Period covered by this Final Report: 18
November 2008 to 30 May 2009.**

Appeal target (current): CHF 1,209,435 (USD
11,209,889 or EUR 804,145).

Appeal coverage: 100%; [click here to go directly to
the updated donor response report](#), or [here to link to
contact details](#) >

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on a preliminary basis on 11 July 2008 for CHF 750,000 for two months to assist 47,500 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 483,047 was allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the National Societies and contingency stocks.
- Operations Update no. 1 was issued on 14 August, 2008.
- The Appeal was revised and extended on 11 September 2008, bringing the overall appeal budget to CHF 1,082,233 (USD 1,003,089 or EUR 719,569), and extending the operation to the end of November 2008.
- The Appeal was again revised on 4 December 2008 and 28 March 2009 bringing the overall appeal budget to CHF 1,209,435 (USD 11,209,889 or EUR 804,145) and extending the operation to 31 May 2009.



*Watsan VCA in Maritime Region (Post emergency activity)/
Photo Togolese Red Cross*

Summary: Heavy rains were predicted for the 2008 rainy season in West and Central Africa, with rainfall reaching 500 mm per day and flooding affecting river bank regions in several countries within the zone. This appeal therefore was launched to support the National Societies in the west and Central Africa zone to respond to flooding and its related consequences. Some countries were affected by smaller-scale flooding. Serious flooding affected Benin, Togo, Cameroon and Chad and a separate appeal was launched for these two countries in Central Africa.

The appeal enabled the zone to train RDR Team Leaders and actions were taken for their rapid deployment, to provide technical support in contingency plan writing or updating, and pre positioning emergency stocks in Dakar, Accra and Yaoundé. The stocks provided by the appeal have been used to support the National Societies, providing humanitarian assistance to 44,875 beneficiaries affected by the floods caused by the torrential rainfall during from July to December 2008. The National Societies have procured non-food items (NFI) and have mobilized their volunteers and staff in the affected communities to distribute the items to the most vulnerable families. To prevent the potential outbreak of epidemics, trained Red Cross volunteers have been carrying out health education activities and good hygiene practice

dissemination in the target communities. This action contributed to alleviating the sufferings of targeted beneficiaries. The global strategy prepared communities and local Red Cross to respond in a timely and efficient manner to disasters within the very first hours of the disaster and to reduce the number of DREF request and the assistance cost. Most of local Red Cross branches, together with communities have experienced Early Warning-Early Action (EW/EA) based on climate prediction information increasing the visibility of National Societies at country level.

The situation

Extreme events may occur, particularly floods, mainly in the Volta region. These predictions made by the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) were confirmed by the series of floods that occurred during the year. The following table summarizes the number of affected families per country:

Countries and Localities	Number of affected families
Benin	1,548
Burkina Faso	142
Cameroon (Yaoundé – Ekirozock - Nkomassi and Mdamvout)	5,100
Chad	8,118
Central African Republic	190
Congo (Loua, Ganga, Longolo, Mantsimou, Moukoundji, Ngouaka, Yorro, Ouenzé, and Talangai)	101
Democratic Republic of the Congo	675
Gambia	80
Ghana	82
Guinea	840
Guinea Bissau	150
Liberia (Monrovia)	68
Mali	200
Niger (Zender)	860
Senegal (Dakar, Kaolack and Saint-Louis)	2,936
Togo	7,143

In Congo, torrential rains accompanied by landslide occurred in Brazzaville, the capital in November 2008, and continued throughout December. Houses were destroyed living people homeless, several water points and about one hundred graves were destroyed, thereby exposing the populations to waterborne diseases. To alleviate the sufferings of the affected populations, the Red Cross National Societies developed and implemented plans of action which have been supported (kind and/or in-kind) by the International Federation Zone through the emergency appeal.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Achievements against objectives

The overall West and Central Africa Zone strategy for the 2008 flood season was based on “Early Warning – Early Action”. The prediction received at Zone level from ACMAD and Columbia University IRI was shared with National Societies and Disaster Management (DM) focal points in flood prone countries. This information was made understandable for communities and sent to Red Cross and Red Crescent branches, local partners and local authorities. All actions were based on the adapted Early Warning System in place in each country. Trained volunteers in each flood prone country organized awareness campaigns and helped communities to undertake the appropriate community-based actions to reduce the impact of the floods.

Prior to the flooding, and based on the seasonal forecasts, the following preparedness activities were undertaken:

- Organization of a flood preparedness workshop to elaborate plans of action to map risks, development and use early warning systems (EWS), and devising Red Cross branch alert systems;
- Organization of a regional disaster response team leader training organized for 15 regional disaster response team (RDRT) members ready to be deployed within 48 hours after a disaster;
- Administrative arrangements (travel visas and insurance) made for RDRT to be rapidly deployed during floods;
- Development of flood contingency plans with National Societies in Senegal, Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Gambia, Niger, Mauritania, Nigeria, Ghana and Burkina;
- Launching of an Emergency Appeal for stock pre-positioning in Dakar, Accra and Yaoundé to have the emergency stocks of relief items near affected areas and allow a rapid response;
- Organization of a pilot shelter training workshop in collaboration with the shelter department in Geneva and Mali Red Cross for 20 participants in Bamako;
- Dissemination of the seasonal forecast, through National Societies and Movement networks and also through partners and donors networks such as USAID, Participating National Society (PNS's), and local donors;
- Sharing of weekly meteorological predictions for precipitation from ACMAD and IRI with National Societies to promote proactive action;
- Development of a pilot EWS with Togolese Red Cross;
- Technical support to National Societies affected by floods (for example DREF's for cholera in Benin);
- Contributing to the rehabilitation of houses, distributing non-food items (NFI) to affected people and cleaning gutters in order to prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases. The Red Cross also planted sward and "Tonkin" as a means of preventing subsequent landslide, with the full participation of local authorities and populations.

Overview

The Senegalese Red Cross Society (SRCS) supported by the Federation carried out an evaluation mission in the most flood affected zones of Dakar (Diamaguène, Pikine, Guédiawaye, Dalifort, Sam Sam and Diacksao). With the support of the Federation, the National Society distributed sets of two treated mosquito nets and two sleeping mats to each of the 20 displaced families. More than 3,400 affected persons have been registered. Sensitization activities carried out covered water and sanitation (watsan), prevention of malaria, basic health rules and diseases related to stagnant water. A joint Federation and Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)/USAID field visit resulted in USAID supporting the Federation and the Senegalese Red Cross with USD 50,000 to support non-food items distribution and health and hygiene promotion to prevent epidemics of water-borne diseases.

The Red Cross of Benin in collaboration with local government authorities had carried out two preliminary assessments of the situation in the affected areas. Red Cross volunteers have registered 525 most vulnerable affected families of 4,660 persons using the selection criteria of family size, age, pregnant women and nursing mothers. The Red Cross has strengthened the capacity of 30 selected Red Cross volunteers through training in registration, warehouse management and distribution techniques in conformity with Federation standards. The training was facilitated by two Red Cross volunteers who had previously received RDRT training. Through the support from the International Federation, the National Society has procured and distributed Insecticide Treated Nets (ITN), blankets, bowls, and plastic plates and spoons to the registered 525 households.

The Togolese Red Cross (TRC) has conducted an assessment of the flood situation in the affected communities in collaboration with local authorities and community leaders. The National Society mobilized and conducted refresher training on how to complete a registration card that enabled the collection of reliable statistical information. The Togolese Red Cross assisted affected persons in evacuating some of their belongings and the communities left their homes for safer places because of the early warning campaigns carried out by members of the mothers' clubs. The Federation played a coordination role, and established a coordination mechanism. The Federation and RDRT members facilitated the coordination process and the work of other partners to assist the most vulnerable. With support from the International Federation, the TRC procured and distributed ITN, kitchen sets, sleeping mats and blankets bowls and second hand clothes. It trained as well 24 National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) volunteers on the new watsan kit 2 use. This material supplied through the German Red Cross support will be deployed in case of new disaster within the country.

In Gambia, the Zone supported the Gambia Red Cross Society to assist 50 displaced families through the provision of NFI. The WCA Zone provided funds, technical support and relief items through the revised emergency appeal. These included buckets, soap, water tabs and jerry cans (see below watsan section for distribution details). Additional financial support of CHF 10,000 was provided for local procurement of additional relief supplies (corrugated iron sheets) and to cover the cost of distribution and community sensitizations.

In Central African Republic, stock of relief items were locally procured and distributed to 159 families. They included: 200 blankets; 200 sleeping mats; 2,100 bars of soap, and 10 buckets. An RDRT was deployed to support the National Society to distribute NFI, and to support the implementation of a distribution plan. Both the NFI and operational costs for distribution are covered by the appeal.

Ghana Red Cross Society (GRCS) carried out community awareness raising activities in flood prone communities, mainly in the area often affected when dams in Burkina Faso are opened. The GRCS district branches conducted an intensive education campaign to sensitize communities on prevention measures. Farmers were being educated on the risks of farming close to river banks, and those living on low lying lands are being advised to move upland and farm in areas not prone to floods. Communities were also advised to reinforce their roofs, and build embankments along their walls to strengthen them. It is encouraged that each family devises an evacuation plan in readiness for any emergency. In Accra the emergency response teams encouraged communities in flood prone areas not to dump refuse into the gutters and develop evacuation plans. Sensitization activities probably reduced the potential effect of floods and the effects related to the opening of the dam in Burkina Faso.

In Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Niger, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Guinea, and Liberia National Societies responded to the floods and provided assistance to affected persons. Additional assistance from the Federation was considered not necessary because of the strong capacity of the National Societies in disaster management. National Societies' actions included: assessment, provision of locally procured non-food items, first aid, sanitation, sensitization, monitoring, shelter, and assisting affected populations to move their belongings from damaged houses. The Red Cross Society of Niger received USD 50,000 from the US Embassy in Niamey to assist the most affected populations in three communes. An appeal was launched for Chad and Cameroon to address additional needs for affected populations. The Burkinabe Red Cross Society reported 30 deaths in the North region due to landslides. After heavy rains in the capital Ouagadougou, the local Red Cross carried out an assessment. They identified 112 affected families and provided with first aid, and food and non-food items. The Burkinabe Red Cross Society's capacity was sufficient to respond to this disaster.

In Mali (Gao), 200 families were affected in Camara, Lambidou and Fatao. Over 500 houses collapsed and 86 granaries were destroyed. The zone worked with ICRC to support the plan of action to cover the needs of affected people with basic non-food relief items.

In Chad, heavy rain resulted in flooding, and Government authorities conducted an initial assessment of the situation. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the Red Cross also assessed the situation and implemented assistance through Chad and Cameroon appeal. The zone deployed a RDRT to support mainly the national Society's recovery plan of action through the present appeal and local funds.

In Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), with the support received from WCAZ, the Congolese Red Cross (CRC) mobilized 41 teams composed of 35 Red Cross volunteers to provide assistance to flood-affected people in Brazzaville. These teams distributed non-food items, including 450 blankets, 230 cooking kits, 450 impregnated mosquito nets, 25 buckets and 1,475 bars of soap. All the items purchased were not distributed. Fifty (50) blankets, fifty impregnated mosquito nets, five buckets and 125 bars of soap were left and pre-positioned in the warehouse of the Congolese Red Cross for subsequent interventions. In the area of water and sanitation, the volunteers of the Congolese Red Cross planted over 100 m² of sward and "Tonkin" as a means of stabilizing the soil and preventing subsequent landslide, with the full participation of local authorities and the populations. They cleaned gutters in four councils, namely Yorro, Mpila, Mougali and Talangai. The Red Cross also carried out advocacy activities which resulted in urbanization work by the government in the affected localities. Red Cross volunteers conducted seven sensitization sessions, reaching 3,678 people with hygiene and sanitation messages. Congolese Red Cross also participated, alongside with Government agents, in the exhumation and burial of over 200 corpses that had been excavated by flood and landslide.

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)

Objective: Contribute to improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable 8975 families (over 44,875 people) through the distribution of basic need items.

Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most affected households are identified, selected and registered; • Volunteers and NS staffs are retrained on registration of beneficiaries based on international standards/best practices; • Distribution activities are handled in conformity with Federation standards; • Distribution activities are monitored, assessed and well reported. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting new evaluations of the situation; • Updating the list of the most vulnerable people; • Updating the needs; • Purchasing the items to be distributed; • Organising Red Cross volunteers ahead of the distribution sessions; • Following up the distribution and reporting on the distribution; • Assisting the populations in putting in place a community-based flood-oriented Early Warning/Early Action; • Advocating before administrative authorities and partners for sustainable action to be taken against floods and landslide which have become recurrent in the zone.

Impact:

All the activities planned in this sector have been carried out, and this contributed to improving the living conditions of the beneficiaries. The victims of floods were at the risk of getting infected with respiratory diseases as they had been made homeless. The beneficiaries appreciated the efforts of the Red Cross and pledged its cooperation in the implementation of activities intended to alleviate their suffering. Red Cross volunteers contributed to setting up a flood early alert system monitored by the populations themselves, volunteers and local authorities. The strategy prepares communities and local Red Cross to respond in a timely and efficient manner to disasters within the very first hours and to reduce the number of DREF request and the assistance cost. Most of local branches of Red Cross together with communities are experienced on Early Warning - Early Action (EW/EA) based on climate prediction information and the National Societies are getting more visibility at the country level.

Challenges:

- The bad state of roads leading to the target communities and the limited capacity of local market in non food items supplying have often delayed distribution.
- Although a lot is being done by the National Societies in the area of disaster management, increased efforts need to be made in the sector of reporting, which is a serious problem likely to affect subsequent operations.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: Prevent the outbreak of water borne diseases and other epidemics in the affected neighbourhoods.

Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watsan supplies to the most affected households are procured and distributed; • Awareness campaigns on good hygiene practices, water and sanitation among the target communities in collaboration with local NGOs have been carried out • The affected populations have been assisted to purify their drinking water; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying new water points and wells, as well as latrines to be disinfected; • Organising Red Cross volunteers into groups prior to the sensitization campaigns. Focusing on the hygiene rules to be respected, especially in the neighbourhoods surrounding the cemeteries where corpses are exhumed and buried. Brazzaville volunteers have already been trained to that effect within the framework of the cholera operation which is ongoing; • Acquiring hygiene and sanitation materials; • Treating water wells and points, disinfecting latrines, in collaboration with the populations.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capacity of Red Cross volunteers in water treatment and sanitation Strengthened. 	
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Impact: The activities carried out in this sector contributed to meeting the objectives of the assistance, i.e. to prevent the outbreak of water borne diseases and other epidemics in the affected neighbourhoods. Volunteers of the Red Cross National Societies cleaned gutters treated contaminated water sources and rehabilitated the latrines that had been damaged by floods. People in the areas of this operation now have access to potable water and appropriate latrines. Populations have learned how to manage subsequent floods and therefore prevent the outbreak of flood-related diseases. However, it was realized that there is a serious water and sanitation problem in many Red Cross Branches, which needs to be tackled if the lives of thousands of people must be protected. Long term plans of action are currently being prepared in collaboration with local authorities and Government to propose an adequate solution to the problem. If these plans of action are implemented, it will get a long way to solving the floods problem which has become recurrent within the zone as a whole and in west coast in particular.

Challenges:

- There is a real hygiene and sanitation problem in the affected localities and intensified sensitization efforts are required to enable the populations to adhere to and get involved in community-based sanitation activities;
- The awareness of the communities needs to be raised regarding the risks surrounding them, as well as the need for them to get involved in mitigation activities.

Lessons learned:

- Based on the lessons learned from the 2007 floods in West Africa, the zone has been able to mobilize resources to respond to floods;
- Climate information is a good tool to improve and adapt response strategy in term of disaster management

Regional Issues

- A portion of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) stock in Dakar, labelled with Spanish Red Cross stickers, has been distributed in Gambia and Senegal in response to floods (see earlier appeal documents for details);
- The Danish Red Cross replenished a portion of sub-regional contingency stocks: 7,200 jerry cans, 2,500 tarpaulins, and 8,000 blankets;
- The British, Canadian, German, Japanese, and Netherlands Red Cross Societies provided generous financial support through this Federation Emergency Appeal;
- The Finish Red Cross has supported to replenish a portion of the stock used during operations;
- USAID Senegal also provided financial contribution to the operation in Senegal through the Federation. Funding of 50,000 USD was provided to complete assistance provision to flood affected communities in terms of health training and NFI stock transport and distribution costs.

Conclusion

The actions and activities implemented through this appeal, helped to increase National Societies' response capacity to conduct effective assessments that support appropriate response and implementation in collaboration with Government and local embassies, PNS and other humanitarian partners. The zone's support enhanced the visibility of the National Societies by demonstrating their preparedness and relief capacity. Beyond these technical responses, the Appeal flood 2008 enabled the WCA Zone and the whole Federation to position itself in the area of EW/EA and the use of climate information to improve and adapt response strategy.

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:

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[<Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDR61003 - West&Central Africa Floods

FINAL Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/7-2009/6
Budget Timeframe	2008/7-2009/5
Appeal	MDR61003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	1,729,787					1,729,787
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>British Red Cross</i>	165,094					165,094
<i>Canadian Red Cross</i>	7,466					7,466
<i>Danish Red Cross</i>	6,871					6,871
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	26,380					26,380
<i>Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)</i>	5,852					5,852
<i>Germany Red Cross</i>	36,788					36,788
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	61,935					61,935
<i>Netherlands Red Cross</i>	242,250					242,250
<i>New York Office (from Western Union Foundation)</i>	10,715					10,715
<i>Unidentified donor</i>	-41					-41
<i>USAID</i>	54,700					54,700
C1. Cash contributions	618,008					618,008
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>USAID</i>	-0					-0
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	-0					-0
<u>Inkind Goods & Transport</u>						
<i>Danish Red Cross</i>	137,442					137,442
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	491,826					491,826
C3. Inkind Goods & Transport	629,268					629,268
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Services</i>	-536					-536
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	483,047					483,047
C5. Other Income	482,511					482,511
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	1,729,787					1,729,787
D. Total Funding = B + C	1,729,787					1,729,787
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	1,729,787					1,729,787
E. Expenditure	-1,729,667					-1,729,667
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	120					120

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDR61003 - West&Central Africa Floods

FINAL Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/7-2009/6
Budget Timeframe	2008/7-2009/5
Appeal	MDR61003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		1,729,787					1,729,787	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	815,351	320,411				320,411	494,939	
Clothing & textiles		256,014				256,014	-256,014	
Water & Sanitation	383,396	73,269				73,269	310,127	
Medical & First Aid	31,875	21,423				21,423	10,452	
Teaching Materials		1,370				1,370	-1,370	
Utensils & Tools		245,641				245,641	-245,641	
Other Supplies & Services	54,445	38,643				38,643	15,802	
Total Supplies	1,285,066	956,773				956,773	328,293	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	5,000						5,000	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	5,000						5,000	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	15,000	71,796				71,796	-56,796	
Distribution & Monitoring	62,250	233,649				233,649	-171,399	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	96,250	10,025				10,025	86,225	
Total Transport & Storage	173,500	315,469				315,469	-141,969	
Personnel								
International Staff	20,000	42,038				42,038	-22,038	
Regionally Deployed Staff	10,000	7,249				7,249	2,751	
National Staff	3,230	7,666				7,666	-4,436	
National Society Staff	49,123	85,604				85,604	-36,481	
Consultants		4,167				4,167	-4,167	
Total Personnel	82,353	146,725				146,725	-64,372	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	71,800	82,438				82,438	-10,638	
Total Workshops & Training	71,800	82,438				82,438	-10,638	
General Expenditure								
Travel	-70,979	40,015				40,015	-110,994	
Information & Public Relation	21,000	7,073				7,073	13,927	
Office Costs	27,248	14,584				14,584	12,664	
Communications	23,862	6,086				6,086	17,776	
Professional Fees		424				424	-424	
Financial Charges	-1,500	46,162				46,162	-47,662	
Other General Expenses		1,373				1,373	-1,373	
Total General Expenditure	-369	115,717				115,717	-116,085	
Programme Support								
Program Support	112,436	101,352				101,352	11,084	
Total Programme Support	112,436	101,352				101,352	11,084	
Services								
Services & Recoveries		10,620				10,620	-10,620	
Shared Services		572				572	-572	
Total Services		11,192				11,192	-11,192	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1,729,787	1,729,667				1,729,667	120	
VARIANCE (C - D)		120				120		