

Emergency appeal



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

West and Central Africa Zone: Early Warning/Early Action for climate events

Emergency appeal n°
MDR61005
6 August, 2009

This preliminary emergency appeal seeks CHF 918,517 (USD 852,531 or EUR 604,645) in cash, kind, or services to support National Societies of West and Central Africa to assist 25,000 beneficiaries. This operation is expected to be implemented over 9 months, and will therefore be completed by 31 May 2010 as the disaster season starts in July in West Africa and ends in April in Central Africa; a Final Report will be made available by July 2010 (three months after the end of the operation).

Summary: This appeal is launched to prepare National Societies, in particular the Red Cross of Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo, for the enhanced risk of climate related hazards in the coming months, based on seasonal climate forecasts by the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD). The appeal will enable National Societies in the region to respond more effectively to the expected small and medium emergencies in the framework of early warning-early action (EW-EA). Should the region also experience large-scale disasters, a specific emergency appeal will be launched separately. Donors and partners are invited to support with in-kind for contingency stocks and non-earmarked funds to allow flexibility and adaptability to emergencies' contexts.

This 2009 EW-EA operation aims to build on the 2008 similar experience when an EW-EA appeal made the difference with only two persons recorded dead as opposed to 30 the previous year. In 2008, the cost per beneficiary was 30 per cent lower than in 2007 with an efficiency of intervention within 48 hours. This had positively impacted on the living conditions of the most vulnerable communities and had positioned the National Societies supported by the Federation as key and preferable partners for Governments and other humanitarian actors during emergencies related to floods in the affected countries. This anticipative approach had been strongly approved by most of the Participating National Society (PNSs) supporting emergency operations in the zone as this was an innovative way to manage risk and to improve the responses' capacities. Floods and storms have happened – till today – as predicted by the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD) seasonal forecast, and by weekly ACMAD tailored bulletin for the Federation West and Central Africa Zone.



Red Cross volunteers assisting families affected by floods

Heavy rains and storms since June 2009 cause severe flooding in Ghana, Benin and Central African Republic as well as storm in Gambia. It is estimated to 35,000 people who have been affected and are in need of immediate relief assistance in the form of basic non-food relief, shelter, food, clean water, sanitation and recovery. DREF allocation is being used in initiating relief operation.

Based on the situation, this Emergency Appeal responds to a request from the National Societies in the countries likely to be affected, and focuses on implementing an early warning-early action framework in setting up a community based early warning system, organizing refresh training course on contingency planning, increasing National Societies' rapid assessment capacities, putting on standby Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) for rapid deployment, strengthening regional contingency stocks and integrating livelihood issues as appropriate for timely response.

[<click here to view the attached Emergency Appeal Budget;](#)
[the map of the affected area;](#)
[or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

The West and Central Africa Zone is characterized by a high vulnerability on the one hand and an increasing severity of hazards on the other. These two factors cause heavy disaster consequences to the most vulnerable people, in terms of losses of social economic gains and increasing of poverty. The populations' vulnerability in West and Central Africa is well summarized by the two following indicators: 275,000,000 persons, 72% living on less than two USD a day. Seven out of the 10 countries with the highest under-five mortality rate in the world are located in West and Central Africa Zone. The hazards' frequency and intensity are accentuated by climate variability. Even small shocks could push thousands of people into needs for humanitarian assistance. The Political volatility in the Region increases the disaster complexity with potential conflicts.

In light of the rising risks, the West and Central Africa Zone is systematically monitoring climate information on all timescales, following the Early Warning, Early Action paradigm. Among others, this enhanced the use of climate information and focus on early action ahead of the actual emergencies in a much more effective response to the 2008 flood season in West Africa (as documented in an independent evaluation and in the 2009 World Disaster Report, chapter 3). Please see the Web link below.

https://fednet.ifrc.org/graphics/Fednet_files/Disaster_Management_11/DMF/Com_Prep/Practices_and_CS/IFRC_Brochure_finale.pdf

For the 2009 flood season, the regional climate, the seasonal forecast for July, August and September 2009, released by ACMAD predicts different impacts in three specific zones in the region (see below):

Areas	Predictions
Zone 1	Enhanced probability of below normal precipitation (and enhanced probability of drought)
Zone 2	Normal precipitation most likely
Zone 3	Enhanced probability of above-normal precipitation (and enhanced probability of floods)

The Regional Climate Outlook Forum in West Africa (PRESAO) 12 released on 21 May 2009 (figure 1), indicated that the western part of the West Coast and Sahel region may experience below-normal rainfall, with enhanced probability of drought, (zone 1 in the map). The probability of normal precipitation in the Zone II has been pointed out in the map but with potential localised floods and/or localised drought. As for the Zone 3, it is characterized by an enhanced probability of above normal rainfall which means an enhanced risk of floods. The Hydrological map from AGHYMET, the technical branch of CILSS focusing on food security, agricultural production, and natural resource management (Figure 2) which is based on forecast of river basin level confirms the climate seasonal forecast.

The International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) also issued a rainfall forecast for August-October indicating an increased probability (40% chance) for above-normal rainfall for countries in the Federation's Central Africa region including Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and northern corners of

the DRC and Congo. The WCAZ plans to monitor shorter-timescale forecasts for this area closely, since urban areas in the region can be highly vulnerable to floods from only slight increases in rainfall. The Zone will also pay close attention to Central Africa seasonal rainfall forecasts that will be issued later this year by the Regional Climate Outlook Forum in Central Africa (PRESAC) for the months of October-December, and, if needed, will revise the appeal accordingly.

The West and Central Africa zone (WCAZ) aims to systematically use this information from regional climate and hydrology institutions to improve preparedness and response to disasters in the region. In this case the preparedness for an anticipated response in the three prediction condition zones will be carried out through community based EWS (Early Warning System) and contingency planning according to predicted risks. This reinforces the normal activities carried out under the annual appeal but with specificity on some uncovered areas that are different to the last year prediction. The other actions to be taken will consist on increased readiness for conducting a rapid assessment, timely deployment of Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) or international experts to support National Societies' National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT) and BDRT as well as strengthening the prepositioned stocks strategy in the West and Central Africa Zone. Livelihood will be integrated in the disaster management process. It should also be noted that both flood and drought cause crop losses and damages in the food and agriculture sector particularly the basic cereals production and the impacts household food security.

Coordination and partnerships

National Societies in the affected countries will play an integral role in their national emergency response systems, which coordinate disaster preparedness and response activities. At the local level National Societies will work together with local authorities and community leaders. They will also maintain close coordination with the Federation's West and Central Africa Zone Office based in Dakar. The regional representations of Yaoundé and Abuja will liaise closely with the Participating National Societies (PNS) working in the region to ensure that the activities undertaken in response to floods fall within the framework of the National Societies and the Zone overall plans of action. The Federation Zone office will concurrently ensure coordination and information provision at the regional level. The coordination mechanism both at country and regional level will concern food security, livelihoods and recovery. The consultations with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have been established on a regular basis to monitor drought situation in the Zone 1 (see figure 1). This will enable the zone to adjust its response strategy and if needed revise the appeal according to the need as drought cases are reported.

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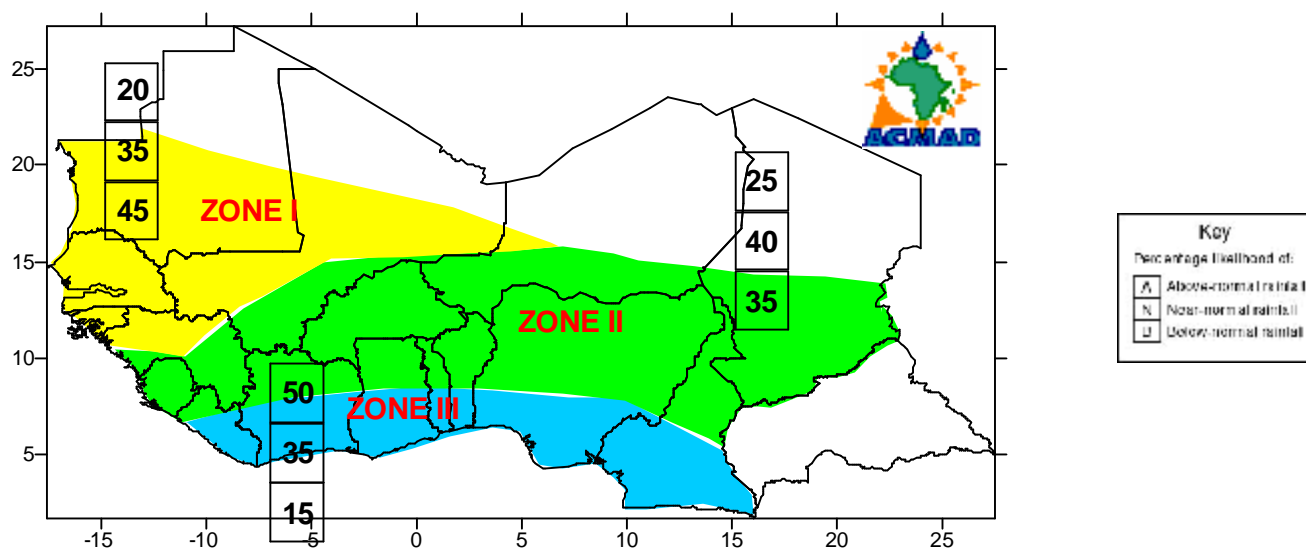


Figure 1: Probabilistic forecast map of precipitation for the July-August-September season, 2009 (Prediction conditions: Zone 3: wet; Zone 2: normal; Zone 1: likely dry). Source: ACIAD

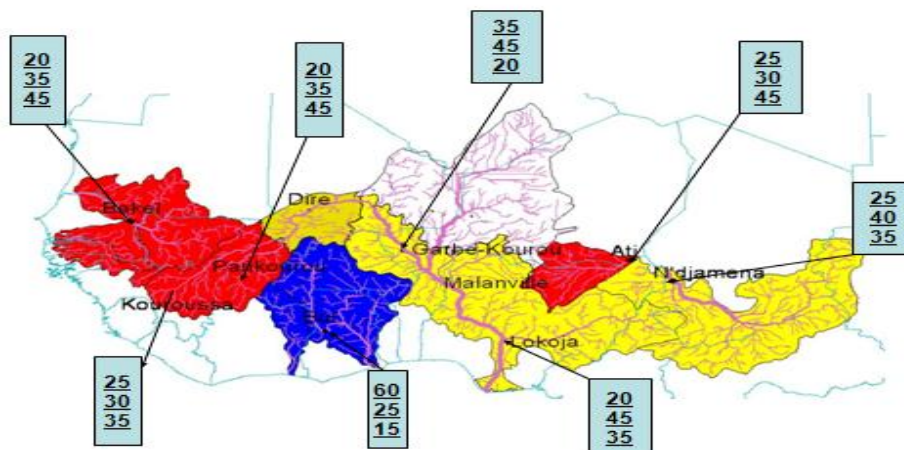


Figure 2: Probabilistic forecast **map of hydrology** for the July-August-September season, 2009 (Conditions predicted indicate most likely scenario for the river basin: **Blue Zone** above average river discharge-likely flood; **Yellow Zone**: near normal river discharge; **Red Zone**: below average river discharge). Source: AGRHYMET

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

This year 2009, the rainy season starting in June 2009 has already caused floods or storms in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin, Gambia, Ghana and Central Africa Republic (CAR). The prediction bulletin issued by the meteorological institution recommends preparedness and readiness for the worst situation in terms of floods and other climate related emergencies in the coming months. In Liberia Côte d'Ivoire and Togo the response to light floods was conducted by local well trained and equipped volunteers and supported by DREFs (see the web link to DRFEs below).

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?09/MDRGM005do.pdf

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?09/MDRBJ006do.pdf

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?09/MDRCF007do.pdf

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?09/MDR行为002do.pdf

In Benin

The torrential rains during the last week of June 2009 caused heavy floods in the Atlantic and the coastal regions of Benin. The heavy flooding is compounded by the construction of houses in drainage areas, thereby blocking the water ways. The blockage has caused flooding in two residential areas of Akogbato and Cocotomey in Abomey-Calavi and in 16 other areas namely Agontinkon, Fifadji, Ahogbohoulè, Agongbomè, Ahwansori, Ladji, Vossa, Akpakpadodomè, Yagbé, Minontchou, Avotrou, Zogbohoulè, Ayibatèn, Irédé, Agbodjèdo, Cadjèhoun/Houéyiho in Cotonou. The Red Cross of Benin in collaboration with local authorities carried out a preliminary assessment of the situation. According to the Red Cross, 7 persons have died and an estimated 13,464 persons from 2,064 households have been affected by the floods. Some 5,749 children under 5 years were among the affected persons.

In Gambia

On 02 July 2009 a storm hit the area of the River Region in Gambia. As a result, damages occurred to the upper, central west and the lower part of the region, affecting 2,350 persons. A total of 327 families were displaced to neighbours and relatives; because of the destruction of their houses, they do not have any shelter for themselves and their families.

In Central African Republic

The torrential rains in Central African Republic, since 3 July, have caused heavy flooding in Bangui the capital. According to the CAR Red Cross Society 11,000 people have been made homeless and are living in harsh conditions, few of them find places in schools. One death has been reported.

In Ghana

Several hours of rain during the night of Friday 19 June 2009 and subsequent heavy down pours along the coastal and forest belt of Ghana from 6 to 8 July 2009 caused massive destruction of private and public properties in most communities in the western parts of Accra, Eastern, Volta, Central, Western and Ashanti Regions. The floods were caused by choked and narrow gutters and erection of structures and buildings on water courses and affected 19,700 persons.

Regional Preparedness

From 2 to 4 June, the WCAZ has jointly organized a workshop with OCHA Regional Office, selected National Societies and Government institutions to share coordination mechanisms for appropriate preparedness and response programs to prepare for predicted risks by climate organizations. Red cross action will implement the framework of early warning, early action which means build partnership with "Science" in order to get early information for the Red Cross to take early action to avoid further deterioration of the status of the affected communities. Focus will be given on EWS, qualitative assessment, contingency planning, putting RDRT for deployment, contingency stocks, and livelihood issues. Predictions on rain above normal conditions in Guinea Golf happened as forecasted.

Several countries within the Zone have been supported in 2008-2009 through Community-based Disaster Response Teams (CDRT) and National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) trainings which have built both National Societies and communities' capacity to respond to disasters. ACMAD bulletin tailored to the Federation has been regularly disseminated to National Societies focussing on "red floods" related to imminent risks. Regional contingency stocks are managed in such way to keep always a given level of capacity which means used item should be replaced. A RDRT alert had been already sent out to 15 RDRT members to get them ready for rapid deployment. Regular inter-agency meetings are organized weekly in Dakar to exchange information on "WHO DOES WHAT AND WHERE"

The needs

This appeal is launched to cover 25,000 (5,000 families) beneficiaries hit by anticipated climate related hazards based on the enhanced risk appearing in ACMAD seasonal forecast. The targeted beneficiaries' figures are based on the 2008 floods appeals. The Red Cross and Red Crescent movement should be ready to intervene in the framework of early warning, early action through:

- An appropriate community based Early Warning System;
- An immediate/rapid assessment;
- A contingency planning focussing on predicted risks (floods and/or drought);
- An immediate support to National Societies for early action through RDRT deployment (international staff when necessary);
- The strengthening of the regional contingency stock as close as possible to communities at risks;
- Livelihood as an integrated part of disaster management for early recovery;
- The monitoring, evaluation and documentation to capitalize experience for the future.

The proposed operation

1- Early Warning System

It consists of supporting the National Societies to identify and build structured dialog with community at risks, build National Societies' capacity in information dissemination through an appropriate communication network. The Early Warning and Early action should be discussed with communities in an appropriate community management structure which will lead to a joint decision making on increased preparedness facing disasters or evacuating when necessary. An International Federation desk will be set up at ACMAD office to monitor the seasonal prediction, provide update and issue short term forecast tailored to the Federation's needs. The Federation's desk will help to translate meteorological information provided by seasonal and short-term Climate Risk Alerts into intelligible messages that can be disseminated in communities through the Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteer network to incite a community action. The utilization of seasonal alerts will allow pre-positioning of essential stocks in key locations throughout the region and training of volunteers, whereas the short-term alerts will enable WCAZ's staff to mobilize key staff members and volunteers in advance to ensure that rapid assessments and earlier response can be enacted. In this sense, the use of climate information at multiple time scales provides a "ready, set, go" mentality, in which the seasonal forecasts ensure that the zone is "ready", the short-term alerts signal when to get "set", and when the event strikes, it is time to "go".

2- Contingency planning, assessment and risk monitoring:

A Refreshed course on contingency planning focussed on predicted risks will be organized at national society level and supported by regional resource persons when appropriate. The contingency plan (WHAT TO DO) will be accompanied by related Standard Operating Procedures (WHO DOES WHAT) to link clearly the early information to early action. Consultations with partners on contingency planning process will be conducted to avoid overlaps.

Based on short term bulletin and early warning from both meteorological services, the assessment teams in the area at risk will be ready for field deployment as soon as alerts are received or immediately after disaster occur. These teams are committed to monitor the risks community level and reports would be sent even if the disaster does not occur. Timely assessment determines timely response and time is a major element in disaster response effectiveness.

3- RDRT preparedness for rapid deployment

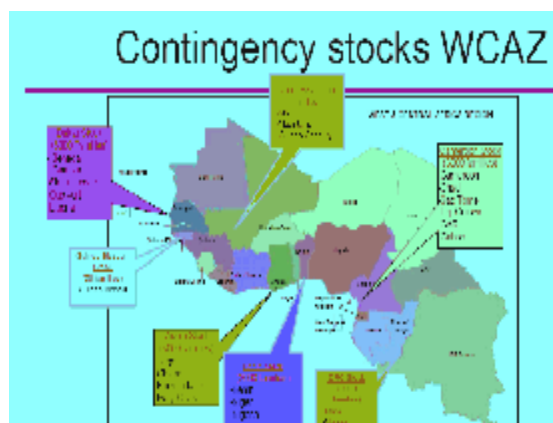
During 2008 and 2009 the RDRT were trained in the zone on basic relief training but also specific trainings have been provided for health emergency intervention, logistics and Finance. The most experienced RDRT will be ready for deployment (insurance, visa and other administrative issues, equipment etc).

4- Stocks

Based on the distribution plan established last year for the emergency stocks prepositioned and with the support of PNS, the WCAZ has already prepositioned NFI stocks in Accra, Yaoundé and Dakar. DISAO has prepositioned small stocks in Benin, Mali, Guinea Bissau and DRC. Additionally, based on the PRESAO-12, stock will be situated in countries at risk, including the National Societies of Liberia, Côte D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria and Cameroon.

The proposed plan aims at strengthening these stocks with NFI in order to reduce the timeframe required to reach flooded communities. Based on the needs, items should be dispatched from regional stocks when disasters occur. With this storage plan the challenge to assist the needed communities in 48 hours will be taken up. Logistics officers will be recruited where it is necessary to give the needed support for transportation and all logistics issues. The Federation will support with the pre-positioning of Non-Food Items to support the Red Cross National Societies in disaster response. National Societies will distribute relief items to families, whose houses have been destroyed or damaged and whose personal belongings have been lost. The WCAZ NFI Storage Plan document explains where the stocks will mostly cover:

- Dakar Stock (5,000 families): Cape Verde, Gambia, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone;
- Mali Stock (1,000 families): Mali, Mauritania, Guinea Conakry;
- Accra Stock (3,000 families): Burkina Faso, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Togo;
- Benin Stock (2,000 families): Benin, Niger, Nigeria;
- Yaoundé Stock (3;000 families): Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Eq. Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome
- DRC Stock (2,000 families): DRC and Congo Brazza;
- Guinea Bissau Stock (50 families): Guinea Bissau.



5- Livelihood issues

As the seasonal forecast predicts some areas at risk of flooding where livelihood are likely to be disturbed, pre-empting some actions towards pastoralist and agricultural communities are to be launched. The Federation foresees to support National Societies to distribute some items like agricultural tools and adapted seeds to some families at high risk.

Overall Objective: Strengthen the disaster response capacity of the National Societies in the management of disasters focusing on predicted climate risks in a appropriate manner.

Early Warning System	
Objective 1: The relevant information is communicated and the appropriate action is taken in consultation with communities at risk.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Volunteers at the community level are aware about weather forecast and are well organized to inform and support communities to be better prepared to related disasters and take early action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminate an appropriate information to communities using low-cost communication networks (radio, sms and so on) according to the local context; Identify the communities at risk and build dialog structure with communities leader/management structure; Train the local volunteers committee in translating meteorological information to communities in intelligible messages and actions; Link early warning to action through contingency plan.

Contingency planning	
Objective 2: Refreshed trainings on contingency planning and assessment are organized.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Volunteers at the branch level are trained and well prepared. The contingency plans are focussed on predicted risks in coordination with partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refresh trainings for the branches on contingency planning with food security and early warning system and early action components including assessment; Community risk monitoring (rivers, dams, weathers, rainfall); Carry out simulation exercises and implement contingency plan during disasters.

Stocks	
Objective 3: Pre-positioning of non-food items for 25,000 beneficiaries.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Contingency stock are provided with NFI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply all NFI through PNSs support and with the Federation Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in Dubai; Strengthen warehouses within the flood prone region with NFI; Warehouse maintenance and management.

Livelihood	
Objective 4: reduce the impact of the climate related shock in the livelihood.	
Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adapted seeds and agriculture tools are procured and distributed to targeted beneficiaries; Secure the grown seeds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the targeted beneficiaries; Procure and distribute agricultural tools and adapted seeds in collaboration with partners (FAO and WFP); Provide advice and technical support when needed through AGRHYMET support; Improve the seed storage systems.

Computers & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>	
Storage - Warehouse	
Distribution & Monitoring	37,500
Transport & Vehicles Costs	
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	16,000
National Staff	10,000
National Society Staff	
Consultants	
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>	
Workshops & Training	10,000
<i>Monitoring and evaluation</i>	15,000
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>	
Travel	
Information & Public Relations	
Office running costs	
Communication Costs	30,000
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme Support - PSR	59,704
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Total Operational Needs	178,204
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Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	918,517
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Available Resources	
<hr/>	
Net Request	918,517
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Yasemin Aysan
Under Secretary General
Disaster Response and Early Recovery Division

Bekele Geleta
Secretary General

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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[<Emergency Appeal budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



West and Central Africa: Early warning - Early action for climatic events

