

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Burkina Faso: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRBF008
GLIDE n° FL-2009-000172-BFA
Operations update n° 1
21 September 2009

Focus on the Field Assessment and Coordination Teams (FACT) and Emergency Response Units (ERUs)

Period covered by this Ops Update: 9-14
September 2009;

Appeal target (current): CHF 2,765,053

Appeal coverage: 32%; [click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details](#) >

Appeal history:

- This preliminary Emergency Appeal was initially launched on 9 September 2009 for CHF 2.7m for 6 months to assist 40,000 beneficiaries.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 200,000 was initially allocated on a regional basis from the Federation's DREF to support the National Society to respond.

Summary: Since 2007, the Burkina Red Cross Society (BRCS) has benefited from the support of the International Federation within the framework of floods preparedness in the form of training, visibility and provision of security materials. Throughout these previous operations, the operational capacities of the BRCS have been enhanced following the "learning by doing" approach. The BRCS has extensive experience in responding to flood-related disasters, relief operations and social mobilization during health epidemics. However it is difficult for the National Society to cope with the current situation in the flood-affected areas due to its limited capacity, and for this reason has requested the support of the Federation. The FACT is proving instrumental in this respect in supporting the National Society to finalize the assessment and the global plan of action. Despite the progress and achievements to date and the clear commitment of the BRCS, donor support to this appeal has been limited, and the Federation is concerned that the overall operation (particularly the initial relief phase) will be compromised unless the anticipated support is received.



Recovering household items from flood-damaged homes. Photo: Federation FACT and BRCS.

The situation

Heavy and persistent rainfall in late August and into September 2009 affected an estimated 150,000 people; the Burkinabe Red Cross Society (BRCS) carried out assessment and developed plans to assist 8,000 of the most vulnerable families. Based on a request from the BRCS, a preliminary Emergency Appeal was launched on 9 September 2009, seeking CHF 2.7m in cash, kind, or services to support the National Society to assist some 40,000 beneficiaries for six months to mount an appropriate and timely response in delivering assistance and relief in the following sectors: non-food



Flood damaged areas: Photo: Federation FACT and BRCS.

relief item distribution, emergency shelter, emergency sanitation, and hygiene promotion. The BRCS mobilized its teams of volunteers to assist the affected communities to reduce the impact of the disaster and prevent the outbreak of water related diseases, and the Federation has deployed a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) to support the assessment and coordination efforts, and to work with the regional disaster response team members already in place. Two Emergency Response Units (ERUs) for relief and logistics were deployed. This operations update reflects the activities of the work undertaken by these Federation resources.

CHF 200,000 allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) was vital in supporting the National Societies in carrying out preparatory-type activities. The situation in the region continues to evolve, and the Federation is adjusting its operation accordingly.

Emergency operations are underway and coordination mechanisms have been put in place by the Government in the form of a Crisis Committee to coordinate all operations with authorities (National, Regional, Central, Districts and Sectors) with BRCS/IFRC, UNDAC and UN agencies and NGOs.

The BRCS continues to closely monitor the situation. It appears that the number of people living in emergency centres is declining and some people have found solutions to return home or to friends/relatives. It is already apparent that those staying in the emergency centres are the most vulnerable as they have no other option available to them at this time. Ongoing assessments will provide more up-to-date information in the coming days.

In preparation for Phase 2 (re-settlement sites), the authorities have identified 37 potential sites within Ouagadougou's five districts (arrondissements). In the pilot phase, six sites (in two districts/arrondissements) have been identified and site planning has been elaborated by the government authorities and shared with humanitarian actors. The capacity of the six pilot sites is estimated by government authorities at 10,660 people.

The BRCS, with the support of the Movement partners, have offered to provide water distribution, sanitation and hygiene promotion to one of the pilot sites. The BRCS and the Federation will review site planning with authorities and other actors in line with SHERE guidelines. The BRCS is providing vital assessment information to all parties. Below is a summary of the most recent BRCS assessment:

Greater Ouagadougou (urban):

- Some 150,000 total affected. 853 injured; 12 people deceased.
- Accommodated in 97 temporary shelters: 52,976 people (9,647 families).
- Accommodated with host families: 97,025 people (19,405 families); assessment is ongoing to confirm exact figures and locations).

Outside Ouagadougou (remainder of the country): the BRCS's initial assessments show that 19,212 people (2,015 families).

The emergency response timeline established by Government and humanitarian actors is divided into 3 phases:

- Phase 1: Emergency phase. Temporary shelters in public building until 21 September (Schools open on 01 October).
- Phase 2: Re-settlement of families from 97 emergency centres to 37 temporary re-settlement sites for approximately. 3 months.
- Phase 3: Re-construction and re-location.

Coordination and partnerships

Movement response and coordination:

- Movement meetings are held regularly (BRCS Directors and counterparts, FACT, ERU, PNSs (Spanish Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross) and ICRC).
- Federation (Zone): 2 vehicles (1 landcruiser, 1 pick-up truck) have been loaned to the operation.
- ICRC: is providing NFIs to BRCS for distribution Two land cruisers and one truck have been put at the disposal of the BRCS. A field officer and ECOSEC (Economic Security) delegate are in country from Abidjan to assist the BRCS.
- Belgian Red Cross: are working on a proposal for ECHO for the Rapid Reconstruction of 500 homes.
- Spanish Red Cross: Providing NFIs to BRCS. A delegate arrived in country to assess and assist the BRCS in distribution.

Government coordination: coordinating bodies:

- CONASUR (Comité National de secours d'urgence et de rehabilitation): Coordination body supported by UNDAC to organize and coordinate mechanisms for the operation, with all humanitarian actors at the National level.
- CORESUR (Comité Régional de secours d'urgence et de rehabilitation): Coordination body supported by UNDAC to organize and coordinate mechanisms for the operation, with all humanitarian actors at the regional level.

Activities are implemented in coordination with the following governmental bodies within the greater Ouagadougou area: central mayor's office; district mayor's office (arrondissement); the local administration of each sector.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (Basic non-food items)
Objective: 8,000 most vulnerable flood affected households (some 40,000 people) benefit from the distribution of non-food items (blankets, shelter kits, family tents, mosquito nets, tarpaulins, sleeping mats, kitchen sets)
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. • Procure and distribute non-food items, including mosquito nets, blankets, sleeping mats, tarpaulins, to 8000 targeted families. • Distribute non-food items at target distribution points. • Replenish the stock used from the federation stock in the region. • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Progress, achievements and constraints: The BRCS has based the operation on delivering support to **8,000 families**, and have started distribution from stocks available in country. The BRCS has distributed NFI family kits to **152 families** (see table below).

Date	Site	Families assisted	Kit	Quantities
3-Sep	ECOLE KUGRI NAMALGUE	92	Sleeping Mat	150
			Blanket	200
			Basin	100
			Bucket	200
			Jerry can	100
			Soap	300
			Towel	200
8-Sep	CANDAF	30	Sleeping Mat	120
			Blanket	120
			Basin	60
9-Sep	CMA	30	Bucket	120
			Soap	240
			Towels	120
Total		152	Sleeping Mat	270
			Blanket	320
			Basin	160
			Bucket	320
			Jerry Can	100
			Soap	540
			Blanket	320

The relief ERU is currently working with the BRCS in distribution planning, taking into account the stocks on hand and anticipated stock arrivals. Distribution monitoring and reporting will begin with BRCS/ERU distributions (started on 17 September). The BRCS is initially targeting those affected in three of the five districts in Ouagadougou and has registered 3,940 families to date. It is monitoring changes that occur in the emergency centres as they affect NFI distribution planning.

**BRCS volunteers conducting needs assessments in flood damaged areas:
Photo: Federation FACT and BRCS.**



Emergency shelter

Objective: At least 500 affected households have safe and adequate shelter and settlement solutions through the provision of locally appropriate materials, tools, or tents.

Activities planned:

- Assess the extent of the shelter needs and preferred shelter solutions.
- Enable the provision of safe and adequate locally appropriate shelter solutions through appropriate programming methodologies.
- Promote safe and durable shelter where possible through the provision of technical assistance and guidance to all involved in the shelter activities.
- Promote increased awareness and understanding of safe and adequate shelter response programming with the National Society and affected communities.

Progress, achievements and constraints: The BRCS continues to monitor the floods situation closely. It appears that the number of people living in emergency centres is declining and some people have found solutions to return home or to friends/relatives. It is already apparent that those staying in the emergency centres are the most vulnerable as they have no other option available to them at this time. Ongoing assessments will provide more up-to-date information in the coming days.

In preparation for Phase 2 (re-settlement sites), the authorities have identified 37 potential sites within Ouagadougou's five districts (arrondissements). In the pilot phase, six sites (in 2 districts/arrondissements) have been identified and site planning has been elaborated by the government authorities and shared with humanitarian actors. The capacity of the six pilot sites is estimated by government authorities at 10,660 people.

The BRCS, with the support of the Movement partners, have proposed to the authorities to provide water distribution, sanitation and hygiene promotion to one of the pilot sites with a capacity of 5,032 people. BRCS/IFRC will review site planning with authorities and other actors in line with Sphere guidelines. The proposal was welcomed by the authorities.

Plans / recommendations for the future: More in-depth assessments are needed regarding: housing damage and population to be transfer to the re-settlement and will be conducted. At the moment, 4,000 plastic sheets (tarpaulin) are required (2,123 are in country). The BRCS, supported by the FACT shelter delegate, are working on a strategy for Phase 2. The strategy would be to assist families willing and able to erect a temporary shelter on friends/families land/property. Some 2,000 families will receive tarpaulin and 1,000 toolkits will be purchased locally to assist these families.

A training was held on 19 September for 6 BRCS volunteers on how to use the shelter kits, and will be an opportunity to design and set up two types of 'temporary shelter' for the temporary resettlement for the affected population. This is also a capacity building opportunity for the BRCS. Further assessments in the emergency centres are being considered in order to establish the number of families that could re-settle temporarily to friend's/relative's land if they were provided with shelter kits.

Present BRCS role and capacity:

- Supporting the temporary re-settlement of displaced families.
- Volunteer training in how to properly use the shelter kit.
- Increasing the BRCS shelter capacity to clarify their role in the reconstruction phase
- The present role of the BRCS can be strengthened and expanded, especially as an entry point for shelter recovery and may be able to act in a monitoring function in its application.

FACT shelter recommendations and future activities:

- Visual assessment of housing damage impact.
- Begin the preparation of the BRCS's strategy for Phase 2 (re-settlement in temporary sites).
- Deliver a joint FACT/ ERU short training on how to use the shelter kit in this context.
- Market survey of tools and local material to support Phase 2 and 3.
- Support the coordination mechanism.

Water and sanitation
<p>Objective: The risk of waterborne diseases has been reduced through the provision of potable water and sensitization on good hygiene practices to the most vulnerable flood-affected households through the distribution of jerrycans, provision of water bladders in the districts, construction of family pit latrines, and sensitizing the communities on good hygiene practices.</p>
<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the capacity of volunteers of BRCS in water treatment and the use of purification materials and good hygiene practices. • Distribute water purification tablets and sensitize the population on their use. • Distribute jerrycans, soap, buckets. • Sensitize the population on good hygiene and sanitation practices. • Position bladders in the sites. • Construct family latrines. • Monitor and evaluate the watsan activities and provide reporting.

Progress, achievements and constraints: general overview:

- **Water Supply** – most reports and information so far point to safe water availability in the city and environs is good – in quality and quantity – though provided in an ad-hoc manner in the Emergency centers. Needs at this stage in those emergency centers are for more temporary water storage and distribution points (tanks and tapstands) fed from the municipal supply therefore not needing water treatment. Some sites have had additional storage provided but not all are connected yet or have tapstands. Several agencies are providing this such as PLAN, Unicef, Water Aid, MSF and ACF.
- **Excreta Disposal** – The city does not have a good sanitation coverage at the best of times – figures vary between 16-22% with access to latrines – therefore, many residents are more used to open defecation, especially in the less densely populated peri-urban areas – however, the dangers of this when displaced people are forced to live in temporary shelters with few or non-existent latrines pose above normal health threats. However, most centres have a limited number of latrines but insufficient according to SPHERE standards, some latrine contraction is continuing.
- **Bathing** – some centres are now having communal bathing areas erected – some centers have no bathing facilities.
- **Surface water** – the rainy season is continuing and some small surface water ponds were noticed – but the nature of the topsoil, quick runoff and the high temperatures results in standing water diminishing quite quickly. This also is good for pit latrine construction as it was noted that there is the water table is not high in most areas due to fast runoff and/or evaporation.
- **Solid Waste** – the flash floods have accumulated some solid waste in some areas but not significantly. In fact, the flooding probably removed a considerable amount of solid waste down the several large storm drains/canals that were observed as having been cleared as a result of the floods. Solid waste at the emergency centres will soon pose a problem, especially as wet feeding was on-going and waste food and other household waste was building-up. A short answer would be digging rubbish pits and covering the refuse with a thin layer of soil daily. The BRCS volunteer 'sensitization' will focus more upon waste disposal as well as passing the other key health and hygiene messages.
- **Vectors**- noted the solid waste problem which could increase the fly population. Mosquito nets are certainly needed for the affected population wherever they are based either in host families or the temporary shelters. The capacity to carry out residual or knock down spraying should be considered as a contingency.
- **Health/Epidemics** – No significant reports as yet but the threat of diarrhoeal or other expected diseases must be assumed as higher than normal.

BRCS watsan role and capacity: There is three RDRT watsan trained BRCS staff, one of whom is the BRCS watsan coordinator or focal person. The BRCS has limited experience or capacity in watsan programming in the conventional sense, either long-term or in emergency response.

There are 5 BRCS volunteers who have had some basic watsan training which has cascaded from the watsan RDRT's but no formal or focused watsan training has been carried out apart from briefings in general health/hygiene messages ('sensitization' or 'software').

The present activities related to watsan/hygiene promotion in this operation so far is the 'sensitization' role, much appreciated by the other humanitarian players and Government, basically acting as an information and HP interface with the affected population. The volunteers visit each emergency centre twice a week.

Watsan infrastructure (either temporary or semi-permanent) can only be delivered by the BRCS with significant external technical support; initially this will come from the FACT watsan in assessment of needs and planning the expanded intervention. This technical support is being supported by the deployment of a watsan RDRT from Cap Verde who will stay for some weeks and a watsan delegate who should be deployed for 2-3 months.

Watsan/hygiene promotion planned interventions:

- If the emergency centres are evacuated as planned (before 01 October) and people relocated to temporary resettlement sites (37 'Temporary Resettlement Sites' have been identified by Government in the city (these sites have no infrastructure as they are in large part sports fields), the BRCS and Movement partners will undertake a role in providing watsan and hygiene promotion interventions (and most likely in coordination with shelter interventions). This will be in the form of providing 'rapid' latrines' (prefabricated latrines; 100 double stall types will be flown in from Dubai and a watsan Disaster Response Kit 5 will be brought from DM stocks in Dakar), which can provide water treatment, storage and distribution to 5,000 people including vector spraying, hygiene promotion material and latrine construction materials and tools. (In total, the equipment and materials sufficient for watsan/hygiene promotion for 1,000 families or 5,000 people.)
- In the case that only a limited number of the affected population transfer to the new Temporary Resettlement Sites – the same materials and equipment can be used for improving the watsan facilities at the emergency centres and/or at household level for those who may return to their home compounds and who still need help.
- The BRCS watsan Team will consist of the three RDRT trained watsan staff and a core group of 15 volunteers to whom additional training is planned both 'on the job' practical training and a formal training course (PHAST principally) to be facilitated by CREPA (Centre Regional pour l'Eau Potable et l'Assainissement) – the watsan regional resource centre based in Burkina Faso.

The overall watsan strategy therefore is to have a flexible response capacity for any of the possible scenarios – or indeed a mixture of scenarios, whatever the case, and to target the affected communities in coordination with Government and the other watsan players where needs are greatest, initially up to 5,000 people.

The second potential scenario is if far larger numbers of people are relocated to the Temporary Resettlement Sites, beyond the combined capacity of the humanitarian actors and Government. In this instance further ERU watsan resources may then still be considered.

Emergency health
Objective: Basic emergency health needs have been responded to by preventing diseases such as malaria, cholera, and diarrhoeal
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide community sensitization on disease identification and referral advice. • Distribute mosquito nets and oral rehydration salt (ORS) in an appropriate manner. • Manage and conduct a basic health campaign. • Monitor and evaluate the health activities and provide reporting.

Progress, achievements and constraints: A second field assessment was carried out in three sites (schools) in Basquy district. Schools visited: l'école Sacre Coeur, L'école Norghin A and B, L'école Nemnin

Site/School	No. of displaced At the site	Health services Available at site	Provided by	Type of health service
Sacre Coeur	800	Yes Daily, Free of charge	MOH	Consultation clinic (nurses)
Norghin A & B	412	Yes Daily, Free of charge	MOH	Consultation clinic (nurses)
Nemnin	809	Yes Daily, Free of charge	MOH	Consultation clinic (nurses)

All of the above mentioned emergency centres provide health consultation services and have small medication kits including paracetamol, ibuprofen, ORS, vitamin A, de-worming. In Norghin, antibiotics (Amoxicillin) and artesunam are also available. No mosquito net distributions had taken place in the emergency centres visited.

Living conditions in the schools are crowded and with inadequate hygiene conditions. In one classroom 4-5 families sleep. So far there has not been any vector control in these schools, and classrooms are reportedly full of flies. Food is provided by WFP, and is prepared in several cooking sites traditionally with open fires on big pots by the women of the community and then shared collectively. Food distributions are working well in these centres, however, lack of firewood was one of the problems identified.

Revised mapping of health partners and their activities in Ouagadougou (source WHO):

Organisation	Activity	Target population	Timeframe for operation
HELP (Hilfe zur selbshilfe)	NFI distributions & Food distr.	Flood victims in Ouagadougou (2000hh)	7.9.-30.09.2009
MSF Luxembourg	Primary healthcare, help to mobile clinics and fixed clinics	Vulnerable displaced population 16 000-40 000	1 month
MSF Luxembourg	Watsan, latrines	Vulnerable displaced population 16 000-40 000	1 month
UNICEF	Health, nutrition, Watsan, communication, Logistics	150 000	3 months?
OMS	Public health, support to health coordination, epidemic surveillance, technical advice, medical support	Flood affected population 150 000	Continuous
Plan Burkina Faso	Hygiene/sanitation, nutrition, health	160 000	3 months
Agence de Médecine Préventive	Public health, preventive medicine, epidemic surveillance, vaccinations (operational research, training)		
GTZ/PROSAD	Rehabilitation of infrastructure, replacement of destroyed medical supplies, medical supplies	Obstetric and gynaecological patients in the national hospital	From September 2009 onwards
ACF	Sanitation/hygiene, construction of 150 latrines, 100 showers, cloth washing and cleaning kits, distribution of hygiene kits (1000), latrine cleaning kits(30), trash bin (20)	Displaced population at the sites	2 months

The overall health situation is being followed closely, including planning for future interventions according to the needs raised as the displaced families will be moved to new temporary resettlement sites in order to ensure their access to health care. Vaccinations against measles and tetanus have not started but the decision will be taken by health authorities in the coming week.

Recommendations and future activities:

- Distribute mosquito nets (part of the NFI family kit ration) and ensure BRCS volunteers participating in distributions will provide appropriate sensitization about the use of LLIN mosquito nets.
- Ensure continuous monitoring of the situation.
- Encourage good coordination between other health actors and other sectors.
- Carry on with the sensitization that BRCS volunteers are managing at the emergency sites.
- Finalize health plans of action.
- Propose that 2-3 BRCS volunteer team leaders attend the PHAST training.
- Carry out specific health training on preventive health education and interpersonal communication to 10 BRCS volunteer team leaders.
- Acquire and provide appropriate IEC (Information Education and Communication) material to volunteers.
- Revise and/or further develop (as necessary) existing monitoring and reporting formats for health awareness raising at BRCS.

Logistics and relief item mobilization

The Federation's West and Central Africa Zone logistics unit in Dakar and the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in Dubai are providing support to the Burkinabe Red Cross. A preliminary mobilization table is provided below; it will be updated and made available shortly on the Federation's web site. The Federation will be working on the mobilization of specific relief items to respond to needs in the field; donors are encouraged to coordinate with their Federation logistics counterparts regarding outstanding needs.

Mobilization Situation Update (as of 17 September 2009)

Item Description	Quantity requested for 8,000 families	Value CHF	Stocks in country	Quantity mobilized	Value CHF	%	Balance to be mobilized	Balance value CHF
PUR Sachet 4gr	592000	23680	0	0	0	0,00%	592000	23680
ORS sachet 20.5gr/1L	40000	2400	0	0	0	0,00%	40000	2400
Buckets	8000	47920	1750	1750	10482	21,88%	6250	37438
Jerry Can	8000	16240	0	1582	3211	19,78%	6418	13029
Soap	8000	6400	3250	10750	8707	134,38%	-2750	-2307
Blanket	40000	236000	0	2150	10169	5,38%	37850	225831
Sleeping Mat	40000	20000	7375	7375	3687	18,44%	32625	16313
Mosquito Net, LLIN	16000	104000	2500	5700	37050	35,63%	10300	66950
Kitchen Set	8000	264000	1750	1750	57750	21,88%	6250	206250
Hygiene Kits	8000	160000	0	0	0	0,00%	8000	160000
Family Kit (Swiss)	500	12500	0	500	12500	100,00%	0	0
Rapid Latrine	100	60000	0	100	60000	100,00%	0	0
Warsan DR Kit5	1	80000	0	1	80000	100,00%	0	0
Tarpaulins	4000	74160	2123	2763	51225	69,08%	1237	22935
Tent 4x4	500	175000	0	0	0	0,00%	500	175000
		1,282,300			334,781	26.11%		947,519

Progress, achievements and constraints: The total value of items to be mobilized is CHF 1,282,300 CHF to meet the needs of 8,000 families (excluding transport). As of 17 September, the operation has secured confirmed or pledged contributions for 26.11% of this amount.

Stocks located in country or in the region have allowed the distribution of NFIs to begin, however because of limited stocks, NFI family kits are not complete and this will require a second round of distributions. The FACT and ERU teams estimate an initial distribution rate of 1,000 NFI family kits per week and it is expected that this rate can increase to 2,000 NFI family kits per week, eventually taking 4 weeks to reach the 8,000 families targeted. Only timely contributions to the pipeline and a timely arrival of goods in country will allow the BRCS, with support from the ERU relief, to achieve the objective within the established timeframe.

The BRCS is currently operating two warehouses and has procedures in place to receive, document and secure commodities received for the response. A Log ERU is scheduled to arrive on 21 September to assist the BRCS with stock management and reporting and will implement LOGIC System.

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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