

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Gabon: Violent winds

DREF operation n° MDRGA002
GLIDE n° VW-2009-000079-GAB
26 October, 2009

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 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.

Summary: CHF 58,070 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 20 April, 2009 to support the Gabonese Red Cross Society in delivering assistance to some 800 beneficiaries.

Serious violent winds occurred in the Mouila Council (chief place of the Ngounie Region of Gabon) and in Libreville, the capital of the country in April 2009, causing considerable material damages that required immediate action to help and protect affected people. The International Federation allocated funds from its DREF. These funds have been used to distribute blankets, mosquito nets, tarpaulins, soap and cooking kits to about 160 affected families, i.e. 800 people reached. These people reached also received financial support to rebuild their houses that had been destroyed by the violent winds. This operation contributed to enhancing the operation capacities of the Gabonese Red Cross Society as the volunteers who were involved seized the opportunity to learn by doing along side with the Federation-sent Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members.



Gabon Red Cross volunteers contributed to the reconstruction of houses with DREF funds /Gabon Red Cross

The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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The situation

Since the end of February 2009, Gabon was exposed to torrential rains accompanied by floods and violent winds, particularly in the Nyanga region, precisely in the Moulengui Bindza division, a bordering city with the Republic of Congo located over 600 km from Libreville. In April, the situation worsened as strong winds occurred in Libreville and in the Mouila region, causing serious material damages and leaving many homeless people.

The Red Cross identified 160 most affected families, i.e. 800 people needing immediate assistance, and DREF funds were allocated to facilitate the operation. The proposed plan of action was implemented as planned. Non-food items were distributed, and sensitization sessions were carried out to help reduce the risks of violent winds. However, it should be noted that the Red Cross only assisted the most vulnerable people affected. There are many more affected people awaiting relief assistance, and Gabon Red Cross authorities were pursuing their advocacy activities before Government to make sure that the other vulnerable people are assisted.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Achievements against objectives

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)
Objective: To contribute to improving the lives of 800 most vulnerable people affected by the winds in Libreville and Mouila.
Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize a training session for volunteers on distribution techniques; • Purchase 320 treated mosquito nets, 160 tarpaulins, 160 kitchen sets, 320 blankets, and 320 mats; • Distribute the Non Food Items (NFI) to the identified vulnerable; • Produce reports on distribution activities.

Impact:

Forty Gabon Red Cross volunteers and five opinion leaders (heads of neighborhoods) have been trained on common distribution techniques in Libreville and Mouila. The training was facilitated by the Regional disaster management team member who was deployed in Gabon to assist the National Society in implementing this operation. All the NFI have been purchased and distributed to the 160 most vulnerable families identified as planned, on the basis of 93 families in Libreville and 67 families in Mouila. The non-food items included 320 treated mosquito nets, 60 tarpaulins, 160 kitchen sets, 320 blankets, and 1,600 balls of soap of 200g. Each of the 160 most vulnerable families identified also received the sum of CHF 25 to help purchase materials for the rehabilitation of their houses that were damaged by the violent winds. These materials included sheet metals and bags of cement.

The following table summarizes the distribution as it unfolded in the field:

Locality	Number of families	Mosquito nets	Blankets	Cooking kits	Tarpaulins	Soap
Libreville At the headquarters of the Gabonese Red Cross Society	93	253	218	93	30	427
Mouila « Maison des Sœurs de la Trinité »	67	67	102	67	30	370
Total	160	320	320	160	60	1,600

The items distributed, contributed to protecting the people reached from bad weather, and to improving their living conditions. No case of violent wind-related disease was registered throughout the operation.

Challenges:

An increase in the prices of tarpaulins occurred in the local market, and the funds available enabled to purchase only 60 tarpaulins, instead of 160 as indicated in the initial DREF Bulletin. The National Society then had to define new criteria for the distribution. To that effect, they targeted families with pregnant women or children under five identified as the most vulnerable. The other challenge was linked with the identification of the most vulnerable because almost all the people affected are in need for assistance. Joint efforts by

Government and Red Cross authorities facilitated this identification. The distribution was also delayed by the rain in Mouila.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: To contribute to promote environmental hygiene to avoid epidemic outbreaks.

Activities planned

- Conduct a training session for volunteers on hygiene and sanitation promotion;
- Assist the affected populations to cut the trunks of trees to retrieve their belongings;
- Assist to clean up roads blocked by the trunks;
- Organize awareness sessions on what how to face further disasters and ensure hygiene in temporary shelters;
- Sensitize populations to hygiene and sanitation rules;
- Purchase and distribute 1,600 balls of soap of 200g and 10 cleaning tools;
- Produce activities report.

Impact:

Forty Gabonese Red Cross volunteers and five opinion leaders (heads of neighborhoods) have been trained on the techniques of Communication for the change of behavior (CCB) linked with hygiene and sanitation conditions in Libreville and Mouila. The training was facilitated by the Regional disaster management team (RDRT) member who was deployed in Gabon to assist the National Society in implementing this operation. The trained volunteers have been carrying out door-to-door sensitization sessions on hygiene and sanitation once per week since 20 April, 2009. This activity has so far contributed to reducing the risk of diseases associated with risky behaviors.

In the absence of adequate tools like a cutting-off machine, Gabon Red Cross volunteers cut off the trunks of trees blocking the way, using machetes. Ten cleaning kits have been purchased and distributed to affected people, on the basis of three in Mouila and seven in Libreville. The populations have been using these kits for the weekly sensitization sessions, especially in affected markets and schools of Libreville and Mouila.

Out of the 1,600 pieces of soap that were purchased, 797 were distributed in the above-mentioned distribution sites, and the rest (803 pieces) were distributed during hygiene sensitization sessions in targeted places like markets and schools. This served as an incentive for vegetable sellers who now have started washing their vegetables before selling them. Moreover, identified hygiene focal people in schools and neighborhoods, who also benefited from this special distribution of soap, have intensified the sensitization of their peers to the need of respecting hygiene rules. Three schools have been sensitized to hygiene rules and have appointed hygiene focal people who were conducting sensitization sessions. Four markets have been sensitized by Red Cross volunteers, and two focal points have been identified. Hygiene and sanitation activities continued until July 2009 in all the neighborhoods affected by violent winds.

In broad terms, this operation enabled Gabonese Red Cross Society to consolidate their position as auxiliary to Government. Community adhesion to Red Cross action was perceived through the involvement of community volunteers in all activities carried out within the framework of this operation. This is a clear sign that henceforth, the national society will find it easier to carry out their community-based actions with the participation of communities, especially after the hard times they went through in the hands of institutional crisis.

Challenges

Some neighbourhoods of Libreville have alarming hygiene and sanitation conditions, with houses built anarchically, thereby exposing the populations to diseases and landslide. In order to reverse this situation, joint efforts by Government, the communities themselves, the Red Cross (through sensitization and community education on hygiene rules and risk reduction), and other actors will be required, and the earlier the better.

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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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRGA002 - Gabon - Local Storm

FINAL Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/4-2009/10
Budget Timeframe	2009/4-2009/7
Appeal	MDRGA002
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	58,070					58,070
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	57,708					57,708
C5. Other Income	57,708					57,708
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	57,708					57,708
D. Total Funding = B + C	57,708					57,708
Appeal Coverage	99%					99%

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	57,708					57,708
E. Expenditure	-57,708					-57,708
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

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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)		58,070					58,070	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief		3,691					3,691	-3,691
Shelter - Transitional		1,587					1,587	-1,587
Construction - Housing		2,203					2,203	-2,203
Construction Materials		12					12	-12
Clothing & textiles		9,515					9,515	-9,515
Teaching Materials	625							625
Utensils & Tools	25,720	5,476					5,476	20,244
Other Supplies & Services		853					853	-853
Total Supplies	26,345	23,338					23,338	3,007
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	5,000	5,392					5,392	-392
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,121	960					960	161
Total Transport & Storage	6,121	6,352					6,352	-231
Personnel								
International Staff		804					804	-804
Regionally Deployed Staff		11,126					11,126	-11,126
National Staff	2,430							2,430
National Society Staff	12,700	8,730					8,730	3,970
Total Personnel	15,130	20,661					20,661	-5,531
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1,825	47					47	1,778
Total Workshops & Training	1,825	47					47	1,778
General Expenditure								
Travel	2,750	2,173					2,173	577
Information & Public Relation		1,865					1,865	-1,865
Office Costs	1,000	544					544	456
Communications	1,125	699					699	426
Financial Charges		-1,721					-1,721	1,721
Total General Expenditure	4,875	3,560					3,560	1,315
Programme Support								
Program Support	3,775	3,751					3,751	24
Total Programme Support	3,775	3,751					3,751	24
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	58,070	57,708					57,708	362
VARIANCE (C - D)		362					362	