

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° 4
02 March, 2010

Period covered by this Ops Update: From 08 January to 17 February, 2010.

Appeal target (current): This revised Emergency Appeal now seeks CHF 3,500,000 (USD 3.3m or EUR 2.3m) in cash, kind, or services to assist 8,000 families for 6 months. The operation will be extended by one month, to be completed by the end of March, 2010. A Final Report will be made available by June, 2010 (three months after the end of the operation).

The budget has been increased to include the recovery phase of reconstruction in line with the latest government strategy in relocating most of the flood victims to permanent green land sites on the outskirts of Ouagadougou City where most of the infrastructure is to be provided.

Appeal coverage: 81%; [click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)



Tents set up for affected populations/International Federation

Appeal history:

- This **Preliminary Emergency Appeal** was initially launched on 9 September, 2009 for CHF 2,765,053 million for 6 months to assist 8,000 families.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 200,000 was allocated on a regional basis from the Federation's DREF to support the National Society to respond.
- **Three Operations Updates** were issued: the first on 21 September 2009, the second on 28 September 2009 and the third on 17 January 2010. These Ops updates focused on the findings of Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) and Emergency Response Units (ERUs).

Summary: Unprecedented rainfall of 1 September, 2009 in Ouagadougou left more than 150,000 people affected with nearly two thirds of them made homeless. Initially, the affected people sought temporary shelter in schools and public sites. The Burkinabe Red Cross Society (BRCS) immediately responded by mobilising its volunteers from the initial assessment phase all through to the implementation of the relief operation. After the completion of the assessment phase and the revision of the initial plan of action, the BRCS, with the support of the International Federation which includes both FACT and ERU carried out the relief phase 1 and 2 of its plan of action. These phases consisted in distributing non-food items (NFIs), installing sanitation facilities and supporting the relocation of beneficiaries in the temporary shelters on sites provided by the government.

The operation also reinforced the water distribution network and the promotion of hygiene activities. The implementation over the reporting period faced delays due to changes in the government's strategy and the BRCS had to adjust to this due to its auxiliary role. There has been steady progress in terms of results despite some confusion at the early stages among agencies due not only to the complexity of the disaster affecting an urban setting, but also the local authorities taking the lead and not allowing independent actions.

During the emergency phase, the BRCS, the International Federation and Movement partners including ICRC distributed basic NFIs consisting of kitchen sets, jerry cans, blankets, hygiene kits, sleeping mats, soap and mosquito nets to some 3,900 families. Continuous hygiene promotion and provision of sanitation facilities in the alternative sites (over 100 rapid latrines) enabled to contain waterborne diseases with no related outbreak or epidemics. Following the emergency phase which ended in November, the operation is now focused on the recovery phase. The government has opted for a strategy which consists of transferring the affected people from the temporary sites to more permanent sites to vacate schools for students and public buildings. These sites had been closed in mid October and approximately 4,500 families moved to the alternative sites and are housed in tents or temporary shelters. Currently these sites are also to be evacuated. According to government statistics 24,000 affected families of which 14,000 coming from flood risk zones need to move to relocation sites in Yagma and Bassinko area in the outskirts of Ouagadougou. The remaining 10,000 have rebuilt on their former property.

Priority is given to the 4,500 families to locate in these identified sites and the operation is expected to last for three weeks. After the registration, the families will receive official papers for the plot; direct distribution of materials; 1.5 tons of cement and corrugated iron sheets; and 50,000 CFA in cash. This assistance will also be extended to those affected and living with host families. The transfer and installation of affected people on the new sites require access to water for construction and human consumption therefore there is the need to drill boreholes for water supply in the relocation site. The increased budget takes into account the necessary work to cover the flood affected populations' need for potable water and other inputs to make the relocation sites ready to welcome beneficiaries. The two other groups of beneficiaries consist of affected families that own their land and that have to reconstruct in their former plots, but lack the means; and the others that are former tenants who must rent houses again and have temporarily lost their livelihood activities. For this second category, the government has initiated a distribution of cash grants representing at least two months of rent to the most vulnerable households. In addition to the support provided by the International Federation and the ICRC, the operation has received support from the British, Canadian, Japanese, Monaco, Netherlands, Spanish, Swedish, Swiss, Belgian and the Benelux Red Cross societies as well as the German embassy and cooperation, French embassy, ECHO and OPEC funds. There have also been private initiatives such as that of staff members of the WHO in Geneva as well as US based Burkina Faso gentleman that cycled to raise funds.

The situation

The severe rains on 1 September, 2009 when 263 mm fell for 12 hours, widespread displacement occurred within an around Ouagadougou (Greater Ouagadougou), affecting all the five districts. The affected population found refuge in solid facilities such as schools and other public buildings, some others were welcomed by host families (friends, relatives) living in non flooded areas of Ouagadougou. With the beginning of the school year, there was a need to relocate the displaced and affected people to alternative resettlement sites.

The Burkina Faso government has set up a programme and two commissions were formed (one in charge of the distribution of lands and the other for building materials) for the relocation of the displaced 14,000 families to new permanent sites. The operation will be happen in two phases. The first phase targets 3,751 families which are now living in the alternative sites and will go off in three steps: firstly allocate a plot to the registered families with the plot's documents; secondly provide recipients with some building materials including 30 bags of cement, 20 corrugated iron sheets and timber; thirdly distribute an additional start of 50,000 CFA given per family for the reconstruction of their new homes. Priority is given to relocated family land owners with land located in now unauthorised locations to rebuild in the new sites. For the tenants, a two month-rent support is given to families upon departure from the temporary sites and then to lands owner living in authorised areas that had been accidently flooded. Houses can be rebuilt on the same place.

Each site for the relocated families is managed by the Communal Authorities, the Ministry of Habitat and the employees of the Social Welfare Services while security and protection is provided by the municipal Police. A formal set-up was put in place with an infirmary located in a UNICEF tent and MSF has provided a mobile clinic. There are also warehouse tents for food and firewood/charcoal distributions; water is provided by the municipal

water board (there is no water storage system); latrines and showers have been built with concrete blocks. The sanitary facilities on the sites are insufficient; the tent capacity ranges from 8 people to 30 people in one tent.

National Society Capacity Building: Since 2007 the Burkinabe Red Cross Society has benefited from the support of the International Federation within the framework of floods preparedness, early warning/early action, in the form of training, visibility and provision of security materials. Throughout these previous operation, the operational capacities of 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.

Coordination and partnerships

- **HELP:** Supported the reconstruction of 470 houses for disaster; households individual coaching, 280,000 CFAF, to complement the Government 470 households with support for the conduct of (50,000 F CFA per household); income-generating activities cover assistance to families with temporary shelter.
- **ODE (Office de développement Évangélique):** Provided support to the reconstruction of housing with the supply of vouchers; assisted in micro credits for women through income-generating activities; supported the medical centre SHIFFRA hardware dentistry.
- **UN - Habitat:** the Ministry of Habitat and Urbanism and the UNCT expert's technical support and coordination of the Shelter group, other expert to support the bricklayers and disaster reconstruction; reconstruction aid for 100 households; the bricklayers and disaster relief to construction techniques training; training of women and young people on how to prepare for responses to natural disasters.
- **Save the Children Canada:** Supported drilling of four boreholes and six public latrines in the Yagma and Bassinko. They started in early February 2010.
- **UNICEF:** Carried out drilling of six boreholes and the possibility of rehabilitation of old boreholes. About 1,000 individual latrines were built. Commitments for reconstruction at the panes (nutrition, education, protection and health). Outdoor sites are not fully covered by interventions carried out by the Government and humanitarian actors. The Government began its programme of assistance to affected populations in the provinces.
- **ACF:** promotion of hygiene in the districts of Bogodogo (sector 30) due to the distribution of 1,000 hygiene kits (with three blankets and two nets) (from 15 December, 2009 to 31 January, 2010).
- **ECHO:** funding the rehabilitation phase of this appeal.

NB: Meetings are being organized; the coordination meetings which are held every three weeks have ended on 9 February, 2010; the cluster meetings (WASH, SHELTER) are also moving on. Red Cross maintains its internal meeting which takes place on Mondays till the end of programmes and will finish at end of March.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

The BRCS volunteers were mobilized to assist the affected communities. They undertook activities to prevent the outbreak of water related diseases. With a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) to support the assessment and coordination efforts, the National Society has worked and reinforced the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members already in place. Simultaneously, two Emergency Response Unit (ERUs) were deployed for relief and logistics. With the support from the French Embassy, the BRCS volunteers have distributed hygiene kits, kitchen and watsan sets for 1,000 families on the Hippodrome site and in-kind donation from the German Embassy and German cooperation of a further 1,000 kitchen kits.

Emergency health

Overall Objective: Integrated approach with Health Objectives	
The needs for the affected population are adequate with safe water supply, sanitation (especially excreta disposal), solid waste disposal, drainage, and vector control and hygiene promotion and meet the SPHERE/WHO standards to contain and reduce morbidity and mortality while restoring dignity.	
Expected result 1	Activities planned and achieved (or in process)

<p>The risk of waterborne diseases is reduced through the provision of non-food items to the most vulnerable. NFI are distributed to 8,000 households (40,000 people)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute jerry cans, soap, buckets: done and completed in December 2009. • Support CONASUR in its programme of drilling 20 boreholes for potable water supply with the drilling of two boreholes, the installation of two hand pumps and the construction of two community water points in Yagma. The drilling company has completed the geophysical studies and completed the siting of the two boreholes. Drilling has started on 12 February, 2010 and the operational water points to be completed in mid-March, 2010. • Actively participate in the WASH cluster and CONASUR meetings, advocate for the Red Cross and report WASH cluster strategy and action to the IFRC technical and operational management: regular and active participation in the weekly WASH cluster meetings is jointly followed up by the NS's watsan manager and the Federation watsan delegate. The WASH cluster is now run on a bi-weekly basis and is due to finish at the end of March, 2010. The watsan delegate has advocated for the Red Cross with a presentation concerning IFRC watsan ERUs and RDR's in Ouagadougou Technical University on February 9 • Monitor and evaluate the watsan activities and provide reporting: joint monitoring, evaluation and reporting are done on a continuous basis by the delegate and his counterpart from the NS.
<p>Expected result 2</p>	<p>Activities planned and achieved (or in process)</p>
<p>The risk of waterborne diseases is reduced through the sufficient and uninterrupted provision of potable water to the most vulnerable flood-affected households through the provision of water tanks and bladder in the alternative sites (minimum of 5,000 people).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the capacity of BRCS volunteers with training in emergency water supply, sanitation and water treatment: three-day watsan field training has been attended by four NS watsan volunteers. Ten-day watsan training has been carried out from 17 to 26 February, 2010. • Deploy required equipment of the water and sanitation Kit 5 (5,000 people): no water treatment needs was required in the field, but training on the assembly and use of Kit 5 is planned (end of February 2010). • Position bladder and tanks in the sites: three tanks were used, dismantled and stored in the warehouse by the end of January. • Monitor and evaluate the watsan activities and ensure reporting: joint monitoring, evaluation and reporting are conducted on a continuous basis by the delegate and his counterpart from the NS.

Expected result 3	Activities planned and achieved (or in process)
<p>The risk of waterborne diseases has been reduced through the construction of family pit latrines and showers for about 10,000 people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the capacity of 14 BRCS volunteers in assembling latrines and showers: this has been done in the old alternative sites from September to December 2009. • Deployment of Kit 5 (includes moulds for pit latrines): done for calibration and testing, done for hygiene promotion boxes, done for construction of 208 latrine slabs from October 2009 to January 2010; • Deployment of 50 double rapid latrines (100 latrines): 100 rapid latrines used in the old sites are dismantled and stored in NS warehouse in January 2010; • Construction of 300 reinforced concrete slabs to be given to the most vulnerable people during their latrines building in the relocation sites: A total of 208 slabs have been constructed; as the target has been revised to 150 latrines, 150 slabs were transported to Yagma in January; 50 of them will be given to needing NGOs (emergency stock) and eight were damaged during transport. The digging of 150 latrine pits is going on and construction of 12,000 blocs for the lining of latrine pits is continuing. A total of 150 lined latrine pits will support the slabs and activities which will be completed by mid-March 2010. • Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of watsan activities.
Expected result 4:	Activities planned and achieved (or in process)
<p>The risk of waterborne diseases has been reduced through vector control and waste disposal for about 8,000 families (40,000 people).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All these activities were conducted and completed up to early January 2010.
Expected result 5	Activities planned and achieved (or in process)
<p>The risk of waterborne diseases is reduced through sensitization on good hygiene practices to the most vulnerable flood-affected population in alternative sites (integrated approach with health objectives) to about 57,000 displaced people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the capacity of BRCS volunteers in good hygiene practices: continuous hygiene promotion in Yagma is conducted by 13 NS watsan volunteers, one supervisor and one manager. • Sensitize the population on good hygiene and sanitation practices: In January and early February, hygiene promotion and sensitization campaigns were conducted by the 15 volunteers in 100 households through door-to-door meetings and health education sessions in Yagma. • Monitor and evaluate the watsan activities and ensure reporting.
Expected result 6:	Activities planned and achieved (or in process)
<p>Integrated approach with Health: BRCS capacity is strengthened through the training of 15 trainers in the SARA/PHAST methodology adapted to current needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the capacity of BRCS with training in PHAST/SARAR methodology in emergency situations. • Train 14 watsan trainers and seven health trainers by the end of February. Three-day watsan field training has been attended by 4 NS's Watsan volunteers in early February. Ten-day watsan training is moving on from 17 to 26 February, 2010. • Monitor and evaluate the watsan activities and ensure reporting.

Challenges: The plots distributed by the government are located on areas where access to water is scarce (4km from the nearest well). The national emergency organization (CONASUR) has a limited capacity to produce potable water and water for construction in the relocation sites. CONASUR has requested support for its drilling campaign to the WASH cluster member organizations. Consequently, the WASH cluster members and the CONASUR are planning a drilling campaign of 20 boreholes equipped with hand pumps and water points in the two relocation sites of Yagma and Bassinko. The BRCS is participating as an active WASH cluster member; to increase its visibility in the floods response it will be drilling of two boreholes with hand pumps and water points.

Emergency shelter	
Overall Objective: To support the affected families in re-establishing their traditional ways of sheltering with improved safety through the Shelter-Recovery programme in the most effective and equitable manner considering the scale of needs and the limited resources.	
Phase 1:	Activities planned and achieved (or in process)
300 floods affected families that are still in temporary emergency centres, in "alternative sites" or with host families receive emergency shelter (family tents) or are part of a cash programme to help preserve their livelihood to encourage their physical and mental well-being, human dignity and prevent the further deterioration of their situation.	<p>Cash for rent: we will not be implementing this part of the programme due to various reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was difficult to assess who had received the government grant or not (the lists of the Red Cross were ready); • Not many tenants remained on the alternative sites; • Difficulties to follow-up 180 families spread out in the city; • Due to an overall coverage of 81% of the appeal, this programme was put on low priority. <p>Tents: 61 tents have been distributed in October and November in three different alternative sites. As the government did not want the beneficiaries to take the tents with them, the Red Cross dismantled all the used tents. All 180 tents received as in-kind donation are stocked as emergency response tool in the warehouse of the Red Cross for future disasters.</p> <p>Challenges: the programme has ended; an exit strategy has been worked out (tents as emergency response tool for the BRCS).</p>
Phase 2 (early recovery):	Activities planned and achieved (or in process)
3,000 families that are still in emergency centres, in "alternative sites" or with host families receive shelter kits to build an emergency shelter in relatives or friends land or to repair their damaged houses, complemented with support to start the reconstruction of their houses.	<p>The initial objective to help 3,000 households has been scaled down to 2,525 households due to an overall coverage of the appeal of 81%. Due to a large contribution of ECHO and many in-kind donations for this programme, the biggest portion of the programme will be implemented. This objective is focused on the relocation site of Yagma. In total approximately 1,100 households have received the shelter kit (inclusive the tarpaulins) and the local materials to build a transitional shelter (see booklet). Training sessions are simultaneously carried out with the distribution activities and a team of four volunteers are monitoring the activities at Yagma. In total (not full-time) approximately 50 volunteers are used in this programme.</p> <p>The lists of beneficiaries are ready for approximately another 700 families. At the end of February 2,000 families should have received the transitional shelter. The remaining 525 local materials will be purchased before the deadline of 28 February and will be distributed in March. A small extra budget for volunteers has been reserved for this.</p> <p>Challenges: The execution of the programme has faced some delay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revising the budget with the IFRC team in Burkina Faso to know the exact amount to be spent for shelter. • Delay in the Comparative Bid Analysis (CBA) for the supplier for the next 1,100 families. • Delay in the delivery of the local materials. There is a shortage of cement bags and a meeting was held with the cement factory to discuss the possibility to give priority to the Red Cross project. Nevertheless, as the government was also experiencing delay with the factory, the finance director mentioned he will not be able to give priority in such short notice. The distribution is heading forward without distributing the cement for the moment and beneficiaries will return to pick up the bags. • Among the local materials, two iron sheets are given (for doors). But as the wind at Yagma is increasing and in the shelter kit there are no real hinges given for the doors, it has been discussed to not give the iron sheets as they could injure people if they are not properly fixed. Discussions have started to increase the number of beneficiaries (as the iron sheets will not be distributed).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of the beneficiaries is parallel with the attribution of plots in Yagma. The commissions of the government attributing the plots are not very willing to work together with the Red Cross. As this process is slow, it is difficult to predict how many people are moving on a daily basis to the relocation site. The government has restarted showing the people their plots and progress has been made. • The container with the remaining 1,423 shelter kits is on its way; however it can not be located precisely. The Federation logistician in Burkina Faso has mentioned that the 'bill of lading' is a copy and not the original. The Federation logistics coordinator in Dubai has been informed and he is tracing the document. Logistics unit is working with the transit agent to try and locate the container.
Phase 3 (recovery):	Activities planned and achieved (or in process)
<p>The knowledge on how to better build back is mastered by 400 people before starting the reconstruction of the permanent houses.</p>	<p>During the last week of January, Craterre (France) came to help Locomat (Burkina) with the training of the "chefs de chantiers". In total 18 people were trained and five extra were integrated from the Catholic Relief Service (CRS) that is going to build 400 permanent houses. The training is specifically made for the foundations and the upper structure of the building. Focus is given to identify good materials and to have discussions on cost versus quality looking at the capacity of the plot and the capacity of the beneficiaries. Only local materials found at the site of Yagma will be used and four different types of foundations and two different kinds of "soubassements -- bases" will be shown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundations: "pisé -- adobe", "grantique" cyclopean concrete and "wild stone" and solid cement blocs. • "Soubassements -- bases": non solid cement blocs and adobe consolidated blocs. <p>The first session of 58 masons has ended. The programme intends to train another 300 masons during the next five weeks. In February, all costs will be paid with the ECHO funding and the expenses (per diem, lunch and local materials) and in March costs will be paid by the CRS (a mail will be sent once the exact budget has been given to CRS).</p>

Challenges: Delay has been recorded in the programme implementation due to changes in the ECHO budget, minor changes in the methodology of the programme and due to delay in the delivery of materials (logistics). The programme is heading forward.

Monitoring and evaluation:

From 1 to 4 February a planning meeting was held in Ouagadougou with Federation delegates, PNSs and BRCS volunteers that are involved in floods operation management. The financial situation was discussed and a plan of action elaborated, discussed and approved according to the remaining priorities.

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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