

# Operations update



## Burkina Faso: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRBF010  
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000145-BFA  
Operations update n° 1  
21 October, 2010

**Period covered by this Ops Update:** 12 August to 13 October, 2010

**Appeal target (current):** CHF 2,803,535 (USD 2,701,942 or EUR 2,136,515)

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### Appeal history:

- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 270,984 (USD 259,787 or EURO 195,995) was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the Burkinabe Red Cross Society (BRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to the 1,000 most vulnerable and affected families in addition to the 600 families already assisted with the prepositioned stock provided by the Federation and other Red Cross partners.



Relief assistance from Burkinabe Red Cross volunteers/BRCS

**Summary:** Torrential rains on July, August and September 2010 caused extensive floods affecting more than 133,000 persons. To date at least 13 provinces are flooded in Burkina Faso. The Central Plateau regions and the Upper Basin are also affected albeit to a lesser degree. Flooded areas are spread over large geographical zones and some villages remain isolated and inaccessible by road. Considerable losses or damage related to the livelihoods, household materials and other assets have been reported. There has been a potential risk of outbreaks of waterborne and communicable diseases such as malaria, cholera, etc. The BRCS has mobilized teams of Red Cross volunteers to assist affected communities. Volunteers' activities aim to reduce the impact of floods and to prevent the outbreak of water related diseases. The International Federation through the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) of the Sahel Regional Representation has supported the National Society (NS) to conduct a detailed assessment of the situation and to implement the relevant relief activities. The assessment of the situation throughout the country relies on the readiness of the NS for disaster management, built over the course of carrying out several disaster response operations. The experience acquired during the record floods of last year in the capital Ouagadougou with the rapid deployment of Red Cross volunteers and the 'Build Back Better' programme at the Yagma location have been capitalized during the operation.

## The situation

In addition to the most affected areas in Yagha, Gnagna, Sanmatenga and Namentenga that were completely flooded in early August, there were reports of additional damages caused by heavy rains from other provinces including Houet, Ganzourgou, Bougouriba, Soum, and Oudalan. The latest reports indicated that several villages in Yatenga, Poni, Tuy and Banwa have also been flooded, with a worsening of the situation in Houet. The preliminary results of a detailed evaluation conducted by the BRCS in partnership with the deployed RDRT members in nine provinces from 23 August to 3 September 2010 confirm early reports issued by the

government. At least 16,064 households have been directly affected by the floods, with 133,362 persons recorded as being in need of relief. Fourteen people have been reported dead. Added to toll the completely devastated villages, shelters, granaries, livestock, properties, fields, school buildings, roads, wells, boreholes and other infrastructures. Roads have been cut off thus making access to vulnerable communities impossible. Other sites such as school buildings traditionally used as shelter for the displaced are at high risks of being flooded and destroyed. The regional market in Retkoulaga town was completely damaged causing a large scale loss of food and household goods and wares for the petty traders. The Red Cross volunteers carried out needs assessment in 229 communities and registration of the affected persons in need of assistance. The assessments were conducted through focus group discussions and review of data collected from the field. Local authorities and the Government disaster response body such as the National Council of Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR) facilitated the continuous collection of information regarding the relocation sites, assistance provided so far, population estimates, and health situation. The Red Cross detailed evaluation found that an affected family is made of eight persons on average, thus confirming the benchmark for Burkina Faso used by the CONASUR.

The majority of the affected persons are staying with host families on higher grounds and in larger villages where they are more likely to receive assistance. Many displaced families that sought refuge in schools and in administrative buildings have left, are in the process of leaving, or are seeking opportunities in the surroundings. Their prolonged stay has strained already poor sanitation facilities. The situation is most acute in the Coalla, Manni and Thion areas of the Gnagna province, around Solhan in the Yagha and in parts of the Namentenga province. The overall living conditions in those areas are marked by limited access to water, insufficient number of latrines and the overuse of existing ones. There is considerable concern in the short-term for outbreaks of water-borne epidemics and rising malaria. The devastation of subsistence homesteads and small family crops left most communities in precarious nutritional conditions.

## Coordination and partnerships

The NS closely collaborated with other key operational agencies or organizations. With the support of ICRC, the BRCS distributed 400 non-food items (NFI) Kits to 400 households. In partnership with Luxembourg Red Cross 1,350 NFI kits were mobilized to assist 1,350 households. The Spanish Red Cross has contributed in sending 500 NFI kits. The NS was requested by the World Food Programme to distribute 335,386 tons of cereals to 4,424 affected households (23,628 direct beneficiaries) in the province of Gnagna. The distribution took place from mid-August to the end of September 2010. Besides, the BRCS signed an agreement with the French Embassy to provide 400 kits of NFI to 400 households in the department of Koundougou precisely in the province of Houet. The agreement seeks to reinforce the capacities of 75 volunteers on first aid and disaster management. With the Federation's disaster relief funds 1,000 households will be assisted with 1,000 NFI kits.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Overview

At the early stage of the disaster, the provincial committees of the Red Cross mobilized volunteers to conduct field visits to evaluate the situation. A number of 45 trained and active volunteers distributed relief items across the provinces and supported emergency evacuation, providing life saving first aid to some 400 people. The NS President of the Burkinabe Red Cross conducted a field visit on 25 July in partnership with the Government delegation to check the disaster situation. The NS used its prepositioned stock to support 600 families in Soum, Namantenga and Gnagna. Each family received two mats, two blankets, one jerry can, one bucket, one kettle and one kilogramme of soap. However given the scale of the disaster, and the results of the detailed evaluation of the situation in nine provinces the BRCS provided more than 1,750 families with non-food items and tents.

### Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
<b>Outcome: 10,000 most vulnerable flood affected households (about 80,000 people) benefit from the distribution of Non-Food Items (NFI) as well as clothing for children.</b>	
Expected results	Activities planned

10,000 affected families receive non-food items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire and transport 10,000 sets of NFI; with each set comprised of two blankets and two sleeping mats and kitchen utensils;</li> <li>Store NFIs in the capital Ouagadougou and pre-position NFI sets to local warehouses near distribution sites for maximum efficiency, in compliance with Red Cross policies and procedures;</li> <li>Distribute all NFI sets to 10,000 registered households;</li> <li>Monitor, document and report on distribution.</li> </ul>
2,500 most vulnerable families receive clothing for children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire and transport 200 bales of second-hand clothing for children and 10,000 pairs of shoes for kids;</li> <li>Distribute second-hand clothing and shoes to children of 2,500 most vulnerable families in targeted communities in Gnagna, Yagha and Namentenga Provinces;</li> <li>Monitor, document and report on distribution.</li> </ul>

### Progress:

The NS started distributing NFI sets in the province of Namentenga on 30 July immediately after the disaster occurred. The distribution started with the emergency stocks available. One NFI set comprises of two sleeping mats, one bucket, one jerry can, one piece of soap of 1kg, one kettle, one hygiene kit, and one kitchen kit. The following table is showing the items distributed to the affected communities:

Kits	Sleeping mats	Blankets	Jerry cans	Buckets	Kettles	Soap	Hygiene kits	Kitchen kits	Loincloth	Tarpaulins
<b>Quantities</b>	5,100	2,700	1,350	1,750	1,750	1,750kg	1,750	1,750	2,400	400

With the support of Luxemburg Red Cross and ICRC, the BRCS was able to reach 1,750 households on 26 September.

The following table gives more details on the number of households that have been reached:

Dates	Provinces	Departments	Distribution sites	Number of targeted families	Number of assisted families
30 July	Namentenga	Tougouri	Saint Dominique school	100	100
30 July	Namentenga	Bouroum	Retkoulga and Birguin school, and Bouroum high school	100	100
31 July	Soum	Boukouma	Liki school	200	200
01 August	Gnagna	Manni	Tintua Centre	200	200
11 August	Ganzourgou	Zorgho	PP Amitié school	150	150
12 August	Ganzourgou	Mogtédou		50	50
27 August	Soum	Arbinda	The office of the mayor	250	250
04 Sept	Yagha	Sèba	The Red Cross branch	300	300
06 Sept	Sanematenga	Pensa	The office of the mayor	150	150
05 Sept	Oudalan	Déou		250	250

In addition to what has been mentioned above, 250 families in Soum and 150 others in Sanematenga received each six loincloths, six mats and one tarpaulin. Therefore, the 400 families were provided with 2,400 loincloths.

Transitional shelter	
Outcome: To ensure that 3,000 families that are still living in improvised shelters or in “alternative sites” receive appropriate materials and tools to build transitional shelters or to repair their damaged houses in some 80 targeted communities.	
Expected results	Activities planned
3,000 most vulnerable families are safely accommodated in transitional shelters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map shelter needs and identify intervention sites within target areas.</li> <li>Identify and target 3,000 highly vulnerable families without adequate shelter.</li> </ul>
3,000 displaced families receive materials to build safer shelter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enable the provision of emergency shelters to families still living in relocation sites.</li> <li>Enable the provision of safe, adequate and appropriate transitional shelter solutions using ‘Build Back Better’ techniques</li> </ul>
3,000 beneficiary families are sensitized on best building practices during the reconstruction process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procure and distribute emergency shelter kits for up to 500 units to families still living in relocation sites;</li> <li>Procure and distribute building materials and tools to 2,500 families to repair and improve traditional damaged clay houses (materials include cement, corrugated sheets, wood, accessories, fixtures, and basic hardware tools);</li> <li>Procure construction materials based upon sorted beneficiary registration lists;</li> <li>Work out settlement agreements with beneficiary families and local authorities, including families that are rebuilding their homes;</li> <li>Distribute construction materials once families have agreed on the settlement agreements.</li> </ul>
120 local builders and floods affected families are trained in safe construction–‘Build Back Better’–to reduce their vulnerability and to support the reconstruction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize shelter workshops for the Burkinabe Red Cross volunteers to strengthen capacity for sensitization.</li> <li>Conduct basic ‘Build Back Better’ workshops to disseminate knowledge and good practices for safer traditional housing construction in the targeted communities.</li> <li>Promote safe and sustainable building methods where possible through the provision of technical assistance and guidance to all involved in the shelter and reconstruction activities.</li> <li>Define eligibility criteria and select 120 participants and family beneficiaries to ‘Build Back Better’ for Builders workshop.</li> <li>Update the existing BRCS curriculum on good traditional housing improvement and construction methods including training-of-trainers (ToT) approach to the workshops for builders (masons, brick makers, carpenters, and apprentices). The technique draws from the 2009 BRCS experience and trainings with Craterre and LOCOMAT.</li> <li>Coordinate and collaborate with LOCOMAT regarding the selection of local materials as well as the updating of the guidance on traditional housing construction.</li> <li>Conduct six ‘Build Back Better’ for Builders workshops in convenient locations near the intervention sites. The trainers who will facilitate the workshops include Red Cross volunteers, staff, former Craterre/LOCOMAT trainees, and local resource persons.</li> <li>Carry out monitoring and reporting activities.</li> </ul>

### Progress:

The BRCS has been requested by the administrative authorities to set up tents for the benefit of flood victims. Academic year was about to open opening and the government was seeking shelter for displaced families who sought refuge in school buildings. From 29 July to 3 August, a total of 105 tents were set up in the departments of Bouroum, Tougouri, Retkoulga, and Birguin Sagatenga. A feasibility study has been conducted for the setting up of 220 temporary shelters for 220 most vulnerable households.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (integrated approach with Health objectives)**

**Outcome: The risk of water and vector borne diseases has been reduced through the provision of safer water, adequate sanitation as well as health and hygiene promotion to 10,000 families (or 80,000 beneficiaries) in 11 provinces for six months.**

Expected results	Activities planned
<p>6,000 women and girls over 12 years have been provided with hygiene kits and 10,000 families have received buckets, jerry cans and soap.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verify registration lists based on the existing data on beneficiary identification of 6,000 women and girls over 12 years in Gnagna, Namentenga, and Sanmatenga provinces;</li> <li>• Acquire 6,000 hygiene kits;</li> <li>• Acquire and transport 10,000 buckets, 10,000 jerry cans, and 10,000 pieces of soap for 10,000 most vulnerable families affected by floods;</li> <li>• Prepare distribution plans;</li> <li>• Distribute the kits at target distribution points;</li> <li>• Monitor, document and report on distribution activities;</li> <li>• Evaluate activities and ensure adequate reporting.</li> </ul>
<p>The health status of the population affected by the floods is improved through behaviour change and hygiene promotion activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train five health BRCS staff (Health Coordinator, three supervisors/Team leaders) in Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation in Emergency Response (PHAST);</li> <li>• Provide sufficient Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials produced locally for awareness raising activities for the BRCS volunteers;</li> <li>• Mobilize 150 BRCS volunteers and 20 trained NDRT team leaders and supervisors;</li> <li>• Procure and distribute water purification tablets and sensitize the communities on their use;</li> <li>• Organize at least 100 community awareness-raising sessions on health, water treatment, and good hygiene and sanitation practices in at least 100 targeted communities;</li> <li>• Facilitate the creation of Water and Hygiene Committees in each of the 100 targeted communities;</li> <li>• Organize at least one follow-up supervision visit at each site;</li> <li>• Carry out monitoring, evaluation, and reporting activities.</li> </ul>
<p>Safer water is provided to some 80,000 persons in 100 communities as damaged wells and pumps are treated, repaired, and improved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the mapping of areas with the most damaged water systems. Rank, prioritize and select 100 intervention sites for maximum impact;</li> <li>• Remove stagnant waters and treat surface waters and main water points in the targeted communities;</li> <li>• Repair bore-hole wells and hand/foot operated water pumps in selected sites of the 100 most vulnerable communities;</li> <li>• Improve wells (with higher walls, pulley bars and concrete slabs) in 100 communities identified as being highly at risk and most exposed to recurrent floods.</li> </ul>
<p>The most affected people in 100 communities have improved access to safer water.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively participate in the Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) coordination meetings, advocate for the Red Cross and report on WASH cluster strategy and action to the Federation technical and operational management;</li> <li>• Support the CONASUR, the Head Office for Water Resources (DGRE) and the National Office for Water and Sanitation (ONEA) in the restoration of primary distribution systems in flood-prone areas.</li> </ul>
<p>The risk of waterborne diseases is reduced through sanitation campaigns in 100 communities at risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen the capacity of volunteers of the BRCS in water treatment, the use of purification materials, and good hygiene sanitation practices;</li> <li>• Train BRCS 20 WatSan, hygiene and health awareness trainers using SARA/PHAST, with the Regional Low Cost Water Supply and Sanitation Centre (CREPA) modelled methodologies;</li> <li>• Procure detergent, chlorine/bleach, wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, picks, pitchforks, gloves, masks, plastic boots, t-shirts and hats, for 15 teams and community mobilizes who will operate in at least 100 targeted sites;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize community clean-up actions of public places, villages, river banks, stagnant waters, and water points;</li> <li>• Facilitate the identification and adoption by the communities of adequate waste disposal sites and measures;</li> <li>• Organize basic health campaigns;</li> <li>• Hold at least 100 community sensitization meetings;</li> <li>• Prepare appropriate materials and conduct community sensitization on the use of water purification tablets, disease identification and prevention (for malaria and cholera) and referral advice.</li> <li>• Carry out monitoring, evaluation, and reporting activities.</li> </ul>
The risk of vector borne diseases has been reduced through vector control for about 10,000 families (i.e. 80,000 people).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen the capacity of 20 BRCS volunteers through training in disinfection techniques and the use of pulverizing equipment;</li> <li>• Treat traditional and bore-hole wells in at least 100 targeted sites;</li> <li>• Disinfect latrines in targeted sites as part of the clean-up actions;</li> <li>• Malaria net distribution to 8,000 families who had previously not benefitted from net distribution under DREF allocation;</li> <li>• Hang up activities for those 8,000 families;</li> <li>• Follow up activities for 2,000 families who had already benefitted from the malaria net distribution under the DREF operations;</li> <li>• Include malaria key messages in the distribution activities as well as into the health sessions planned;</li> <li>• Carry out monitoring, evaluation, and reporting activities.</li> </ul>
The risk of waterborne diseases is reduced through the rehabilitation and improvement of pit latrines for at least 10,000 families in 100 communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction and rehabilitation of 80 communal latrines in 40 relocation sites (i.e. schools buildings), including the vacated sites;</li> <li>• Rehabilitation and improvement of 1,000 latrines in 100 communities with works including the construction of concrete slabs, the deepening of pits, and the improvement of latrine structures (doors, corrugated roofs, fixtures and walls);</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the WatSan activities and provide reporting.</li> </ul>
Reduction of mortality and morbidity through the provision of preventive health care oriented programmes for 8,000 families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train 20 volunteers on prevention messages on communicable diseases, malnutrition messages and detection and referring detected malnourished children;</li> <li>• Purchase and transport 16,000 mosquito nets and distribute two pieces to each of the 8,000 families;</li> <li>• Carry out hang up and community fighting malaria sensitization activities complemented with provision of nails and strings for volunteers during the campaigns.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** On the onset of the disaster, the volunteers trained in hygiene promotion conducted sensitization activities in the areas where flood victims were staying. They also assisted the wounded people and referred them to health centres. In early October, a number of 10 National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members and 60 volunteers were trained to carry out sensitization sessions in the five most affected provinces (Namentenga, Gnagna, Soum, Yagha, and Houet). A total of 262 sensitization sessions have been held, 988 households have been visited and 4,838 people reached in the five targeted provinces. Besides a need assessment on latrines has been carried out and will lead to the installation of 100 latrines.

## How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

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