

# DREF operation update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Gabon: Violent wind in Mouila

DREF operation n° MDRGA003  
GLIDE n° ST-2010-000083-GAB  
Update n° 1  
30 June, 2010

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 and Red Crescent emergency response. 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.

**Period covered by this update:** 04  
May to 30 June 2010.

**Summary:** CHF 78,481 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 4 May, 2010 to support the Gabonese Red Cross National Society in delivering assistance to some 230 families, i.e. 1,150 beneficiaries.

Following the violent wind that occurred in Mouila, the chief place of the Ngounie Province in Gabon, The National Society has been using the DREF allocation to assist the most vulnerable people affected by the disaster. So far, the beneficiaries (about 1,442 people) have received 460 tarpaulins, 230 cooking kits, 460 insecticide treated nets, 2,070 pieces of soap and 460 mats. All distribution activities planned for this operation have already been completed, and the volunteers of the Gabonese Red Cross have started cleaning gutters and sensitizing populations to what to do in the event of violent wind in their locality. This operation is expected to be implemented within four months, and completed by 30 August 2010. In line with Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 30 November 2010).



Red Cross volunteers are cleaning gutters in Mouila to prevent flood in the coming rainy season / Désiré Takoumbo - IFRC

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

On 17 April 2010, violent wind followed by whirl occurred in Mouila, in the South Province of Gabon, leaving several families homeless and causing several material damages. Since then, the National Society has been able to cover the immediate needs of the affected people (the most vulnerable 230 families) thanks to the

DREF. All relief materials have been purchased, transported to the field, and distributed to the 230 most affected families. In addition, the volunteers of the Gabonese Red Cross have been conducting sensitization sessions to help reduce the risks of violent wind in Mouila. The Red Cross has only been assisting the most vulnerable affected people. There are many more affected people waiting for relief assistance, and the Gabonese Red Cross authorities are pursuing their advocacy for Government to concretize the promise it made to the victims when the disaster occurred. This assistance by Government has started, but remains very timid according to one of the victims.

## Coordination and partnerships

The collaboration between the Mouila local committee of the Gabonese Red Cross and the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs in Charge of the Family, and with the Mouila Governor's Office and the town council has been commendable. This has enabled Red Cross volunteers to smoothly conduct their activities (mass sensitization activities, door-to-door sensitization within the city of Mouila, including in the neighbourhoods that have not been affected by violent wind).

Government took part in the official ceremony to launch the Red Cross operation in favour of the people affected by violent winds, and congratulated the NS for their support in alleviating the sufferings of vulnerable people. A Member of Parliament of the locality has also donated food assistance to the victims.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
<b>Outcome: To contribute to improving the living conditions of 230 families (1,150 people affected by violent wind in Mouila, Gabon.</b>	
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <p>The non-food items needed are made available to the Gabonese Red Cross Society as soon as possible.</p> <p>The 230 families have received Red Cross assistance.</p>	<p><b>Activities planned</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Federation's logistics department in Yaoundé, make available to the Gabonese Red Cross 460 insecticide treated mosquito nets, 460 tarpaulins, 230 cooking kits, 575 blankets, 575 mats, and 1,150 pieces of soap of 200g each;</li> <li>• Distribute the items to the 230 families;</li> <li>• Ensure monitoring and evaluation of the distribution activities;</li> <li>• Report on the distribution activities.</li> </ul>

### Progress

To facilitate the operation, IFRC's Regional representation in Yaoundé sent a truck to Gabon containing the following items: 460 insecticide-treated mosquito nets, 460 tarpaulins, 230 cooking kits, 575 blankets, 575 mats, and 1,442 pieces of soap of 200g each. These items have actually been distributed to 1,150 people identified as the most affected and vulnerable. The items have been distributed on the basis of one cooking kit, two mats, two tarpaulins, two blankets and two mosquito nets per family. Each person affected and identified as a beneficiary of the operation received a piece of soap of 200g as prescribed by the SPHERE standards.

Prior to the distribution, which lasted for three days, the RDRT deployed to Gabon by IFRC trained 20 Red Cross volunteers of the Mouila local committee of the Gabonese Red Cross on simple non-food items distribution techniques. To attract the populations and get them involved in Red Cross activities, the volunteers have been pursuing the distribution of soap during sensitization campaigns; and this strategy has proven efficient as most people now join the Red Cross during sanitation campaigns.

### Challenges:

One of the main challenges is to convince Government to assist the victims, especially those that have not been reached by the Red Cross, to ensure that at least 70% of their needs are covered. What is urgently needed is the reconstruction of houses. Another big challenge was to compare Government's list of affected

people with that of the Red Cross to identify the most vulnerable. The Mouila local committee of the Gabonese Red Cross is yet to have an office, and this somehow disturbed the distribution, which took place in the open air and was interrupted by the rain.

<b>Emergency shelter</b>	
<b>Outcome: To contribute to improving the living conditions of 230 families (1,150 people) whose houses have been seriously deteriorated by the violent wind in Mouila, Gabon.</b>	
<p><b>Outputs</b> The beneficiaries and the general population have understood the need to adopt risk-free behaviour; and know how to manage violent winds.</p>	<p><b>Activities planned</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize sensitization sessions on what to do if violent wind occurs again;</li> <li>• Assist the local population in removing uprooted trees from the road, and exploring whether some parts of those trees could be useful for the rehabilitation of damaged houses;</li> <li>• Report on activities carried out.</li> </ul>

**Progress:**

Thirty Red Cross volunteers have been trained on what to do in response to climate change. Concretely, they have been shown how to develop sensitization messages in the event of violent wind.

The volunteers have developed a sensitization plan that provides the following:

- Four sensitization sessions per month on what to do during violent wind, on the basis of one session per week. This activity takes place in market places, busy crossroads, churches and mosques.
- Two general clean up campaigns and cleaning of gutters per week.

So far, the persons attending 10 churches and three markets of Mouila have already been reached with the messages on what to do in the event of violent winds. The Mouila Red Cross volunteers have registered these activities as a routine for their committee. This will prevent gutters from being obstructed by the branches of trees that collapsed as a result of violent wind.

The Mouila local committee received 10 first-aid kits to enable them to manage the people that need first aid during Red Cross activities.

Weekly reports on activities carried out are submitted to the headquarters of the National Society in Gabon.

**Challenges:**

- An early alert system needs to be put in place to enable the National Society and the community to react rapidly in the event of a disaster;
- Sensitization to the promotion of hygiene needs to be conducted routinely in all the local committees of the Gabonese Red Cross affected by violent wind;
- Operational hygiene and sanitation committees need to be set up in neighbourhoods to prevent diseases associated with lack of hygiene.

## 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.

## Contact information

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