

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Ghana: Floods Extension

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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 and 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.

Period covered by this update: 1 July to 30 September, 2010

CHF 134,948 (USD 124,353 or EUR 101,870) was allocated on 1 July, 2010 from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Ghana Red Cross Society (GRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 5,000 beneficiaries and to replenish disaster preparedness stock.

Summary

On 20 June, 2010 many parts of southern part of Ghana experienced flooding with varying degrees of destruction leaving more than 7,500 people displaced while the figures kept rising by the day. Steady downpour was recorded for about four days that left thousands homeless and official report declared about 45 people perished.



The GRCS distributed NFIs in the Central region/Umar Mairiga (RDRT)

With support from IFRC through the deployment of an RDRT member, GRCS mobilized 110 volunteers to assist the affected people in evacuation, reparation of damaged houses and settlement of the displaced persons in temporary shelter centres.

As the humanitarian community and the Government of Ghana distributed emergency food and non-food items to the affected communities, GRCS further conducted a need assessment for supplementary and gap filling of non-food items (NFIs). Based on the assessment, the team recommended assistance to a total of 3,180 households with NFI package made up of blankets, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, water purification tablets, mosquito nets, farming tools and emergency shelter kits. While some NFIs were available as part of GRCS's pre-positioned stock, additional food and NFIs were procured and donated by in-country partners like the Swiss Red Cross, UNICEF and Iranian Embassy in Accra to meet the needs of the affected communities.

As of 13 September 2010, GRCS and IFRC have successfully completed the distribution of NFIs to 3,180 affected targeted households including the distribution of 900 tarpaulins as part of the shelter kits to be

completed in the coming days for 300 households in their reconstruction and/or homes repair.

The GRCS seeks for an extension of one month at no extra cost to complete the distribution of shelter kits to target beneficiaries and carry out sanitation sensitization activities in the target communities of the South of Ghana. This operation will now be completed by 31 October, 2010. In line with Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by January 2011).

The GRCS and IFRC would like to thank the donors and partners of the DREF who have generously replenished the first grant. These donors include the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (DG ECHO), Netherlands Silent Emergency Fund and Canadian Government through the Canadian Red Cross.

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The situation

The 2010 rainy period in Ghana have been steady and heavy especially in the southern part of the country leading to heavy flooding in the many communities in the South. By the third week in June 2010, the floods have caused varying degrees of destruction leaving thousands of people displaced while property including houses, bridges and shops washed away. Among the most affected areas, Greater Accra-Ashaiman was the worst hit with 11 deaths. In these areas flood waters rose almost to roof level and occupants had to struggle to swim to safety. Many people living close to the river that runs through the town were mostly affected. In Agona Kwanyako in the Central Region 10 deaths were reported, and hundreds more rendered homeless. A part of the town was reportedly cut off from the main town. In the same Region, the floods affected nine communities with many houses submerged as River Ayensu burst its banks. In all 1,300 people were displaced by the floods in Gomoa East District. Swedru Township was also divided into two halves following the collapse of the two main bridges restricting the movement of residents. Agona Nyakrom was completely cut off from the rest of the country following the collapse of a bridge linking the town to the rest of Ghana. Many travellers from Cape Coast to Accra and vice versa were stranded at Winneba Junction because of the collapse of a portion of the bridge which links the main Cape Coast-Accra highway. The impact of the floods caused by heavy rainfalls in Ghana continued to be felt as more regions were being affected in the Brong Ahafo, Eastern, Western and Northern regions of Ghana.

Coordination and partnerships

Different agencies under the coordination of NADMO have been mobilized in monitoring and conducting joint assessment mission in the affected areas. The GRCS is being represented in all coordination meetings in the affected regions and in Accra. There is likelihood of continued partnership between GRCS and UNICEF in other areas outside the relief efforts. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are also interested in partnering with the GRCS in livelihood interventions and other areas to be worked out soon. The National Society (NS) has signed an operational MoU with UNICEF to come to the assistance of the affected communities. The MoU facilitated by the RDRT deployed member resulted in UNICEF providing NFIs to the NS for distribution. Items delivered to the GRCS under this partnership included basic family water kits, water purification tablets, family hygiene kits, plastic plates, spoons, cups and basins.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

The GRCS with support from the Swiss Red Cross and UNICEF provided relief assistance made up of food and non-food items to people affected by floods in Swedru, Gomoa East and Agona East Districts in the Central Region. The items distributed included rice, plastic buckets, mats, soap and vegetable oil. A total of 2,300 families in 17 communities in these districts benefited from the GRCS intervention. As the NS continues to procure more relief items with funding from International Federation DREF support, the list of over 2,000 families identified and registered in the two districts of Tema and Ashaiman of Greater Accra Region has been revised with the re-orientation of the volunteers to target the most vulnerable population for registration and distribution of ration cards. The proposed distribution sites in the two districts were identified and distribution of NFIs was carried out during the last week of July 2010. The Ghana Ministry of Interior had

to grant tax exemption to the GRCS on NFIs availed by the Federation to the NS from its regional stock kept in the UNHRD warehouse in Accra, Ghana.

Meanwhile, the GRCS is being represented in all coordination meetings in the affected regions and in Accra. There is likelihood of continued partnership between GRCS and UNICEF in other areas outside the relief efforts as UNICEF has delivered the following to the GRCS in favour of the affected people in the regions: 2,050 plastic basins (of 10 litres capacity), 114 boxes of family hygiene kits, 210 pieces of blankets and 8 squatting mobile toilets.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are also interested in partnering with the GRCS in livelihood interventions and other areas to be worked out soon.

An RDRT member was deployed to help the GRCS in this operation especially for the life saving activities through the Federation West Coast Regional Representation. This also enabled the fostering of relationships with other stakeholders of the GRCS in the disaster response by liaising with them, sharing information and helping with standard methodologies for response as part of capacity building.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: About 1,000 most affected households have received specific quantity and quality of non-food items based on the assessment and selection criteria from Red Cross.

Activities planned

- Procure and distribute non-food items at target distribution points;
- Mobilize and train 50 Red Cross on registration and distribution strategies of the Red Cross;
- Conduct a rapid emergency needs assessment in the target communities;
- Procure and distribute backyard gardening tools (hoes, cutlasses, boots, racks) and seeds to 300 target households;
- Control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user;
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide report on distribution of relief items;
- Develop an exit strategy.

Progress and impact: Since the launch of this flood operation, the GRCS mobilized 110 volunteers and organized two-day refresher training on topics such as code of conduct, emergency assessment, relief management (distribution) fundamental principles and basic values, selection of target beneficiaries and standard operating procedures. The knowledge acquired at the training enabled them to be operational in the distribution of NFIs in four regions and eight communities as outlined in the summary table below:

Localities		Distributed items										
Region	Affected areas	Number of households	Sleeping mats 2	Mosquito nets	Blankets	Soap (bars)	Rice (Bags)	Oil	Water jerry cans	Buckets	Tarpaulins	Used cloths
Greater Accra	Tema Metro	310	400	400	400	450			310		310	2 bales
	Ashaiman	255	300	300	300	360			250		250	2 bales
Central	Agona Swedru	1,257	1,257	-		1,257	314.25	1257		1,257		-
	Agona Nyakrom	600	600			600	150.25	600	-	600		
	Gomoa East	498	498			498	124.5	498		498		
Volta	Ketu South	264	820	850	500	750			230		270	4 bales
Eastern	Kwawu South	74	200	200	200	300			100		50	1 bale
	Fantiakwa	34	150	150	150	100			90		20	1 bale
Total		3,290	4,225	1,900	1,550	4,315	589	2,355	980	2,355	900	10 bales

In addition to the relief distribution, first aid was provided to some 785 people and replenishment of 15 first-aid kits has been completed.

Challenges: Despite the pre-positioning of some relief materials in Ghana from the IFRC regional contingency stock, the process of dispatching these materials remained difficult due to heavy administrative procedures. Amid the hindrances in the operation, a lot of delays are registered in providing assistance to the victims especially when trying to comply with the minimal Sphere standards due to differences of intervening institutional visibility, mandate and agenda.

Although water receded within few days after the floods, additional downpour that followed thereafter made the whole operation difficult to access some affected areas. This increased the logistic needs and the number of beneficiaries, thus making it difficult to respond appropriately as planned.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: The risks of waterborne diseases are reduced through hygiene promotion, health education and provision of drinking water in target communities in the three affected regions for three months.

Activities planned

- Procure and distribute 7,500 water purification tablets and 1,000 pieces of water jerry cans to the 1,000 most affected households in the three regions;
- Procure and distribute 4,000 bars of soap, kitchen sets and 2,000 mosquito nets to the 1,000 most affected households in the three regions;
- Mobilize and train 50 Red Cross volunteers on good hygiene, water purification method and health promotion;
- Sensitize the target communities on water purification, good hygiene and health practices;
- Provide first-aid services in the affected areas.

Progress and impact: The first-aid education/clean-up campaign exercise has curbed outbreak of disease such as cholera in Ashaiman and Tema. The first-aid training in the affected communities has prevented and reduced injuries. The distribution of jerry cans, water purification tablets, buckets, soap, dettol and educational sessions conducted have been contributing to improving hygiene and sanitation in the affected communities. The activities of the volunteers in the provision of tarpaulins for those who have damp rooms have reduced the risk of pneumonia and Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI). The bed nets distributed and the support of the volunteers in ensuring hang up activities have also been contributory factor to the reduction in the risk of malaria although data are not available yet from health centres.

In collaboration with district assembly and sanitation providers such as Zoomlion, there will be sanitation sensitization exercise in October 2010.

Challenges: Though the volunteers were not familiar with the sensitization, they have used the opportunities provided by the operation to improve their knowledge in combining sensitization with relief distribution strategy.

Emergency shelter

Objective: To provide the 300 most vulnerable households in the affected communities with emergency shelter.

Activities planned

- Carry out damage needs assessment in the affected communities;
- Develop beneficiary selection criteria and register beneficiaries;
- Procure and distribute 300 shelter kits to the 300 target beneficiaries in the three regions;
- Support beneficiaries in emergency shelter reconstruction in the affected communities.

Progress and impact: GRCS sensitized the affected communities on the need to pull down partially destroyed buildings and structures that represent more threat to them and repair those that are still useful after the flood water recedes. GRCS has been collaborating with the government through NADMO in clearing debris in affected communities. The Red Cross has provided 900 tarpaulins to households whose houses were most affected by the disaster. The planning and training of households on how to construct and use shelter kits are in progress with the distribution of additional shelter kit tools to follow after the training.

Challenges

The government plan to relocate some affected families had been put on hold which affected the distribution of the complete shelter kit tools to support reconstruction. This was also to avoid misuse of the tools by beneficiaries. The beneficiaries are however making use of the tarpaulins which have also been serving other purposes.

Way forward

While activities within the plan of action for the four southern regions continue to be implemented till early October, an extension of the operation will allow the NS to complete the distribution of shelter kits and also complete its sanitation sensitization exercise in the target communities in these regions.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The intervention of the GRCS with support from the West Coast Regional Representation demonstrated the added value of the Red Cross activities to the public. The NS with technical support from the Regional Representation ensured adequate and effective coverage of the Red Cross intervention. The International Federation supported the GRCS in enhancing the visibility of the Red Cross in Ghana and outside as well as strengthening the capacity of the NS in information sharing and dissemination during emergency operation.

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

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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