

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Gambia: Local Storm

DREF operation n° MDRGM005  
GLIDE n° ST-2009-000128-  
GMB  
14 January, 2010

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 75,305 (USD 69,335 or EUR 49641) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on July 2009 to support the national society in delivering assistance to support 354 displaced families representing 1,635 beneficiaries.

On 02 July a storm hit the area of River Region in Gambia. As a result, damages occurred to upper, central West and lower part of the region, affecting 2,350 persons. A total of 354 families were displaced to neighbours and relatives; because of the destruction of their houses, they do not have any shelter for themselves and their families.

The government through the regional disaster management committees conducted the assessment with the Red Cross offices in the region and launched an appeal for an immediate support to victims. The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) River Region Branch volunteers were at the site helping them to move their belongings from the ruined houses. Through the proposed operation, the GRCS will distribute roofing kits to assist 1,635 beneficiaries in their houses roofing.

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>  
<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>

## The situation

Since the beginning of July to end of October, 2009, there has been unprecedented heavy downpour of rains and strong wind storms across the country resulting to heavy floods and an important destruction of houses and people's livelihoods. The floods and wind storm affected all the seven regions of the country. The extent of destruction and damages was high due to the high level of rain fall and strong wind coupled with poorly constructed houses in both urban and rural areas. The Red Cross volunteers' and members conducted assessment to collect information from the field.

In September, over 1,995 houses were completely destroyed and 371 others were damaged. The floods have exposed communities to diseases, high economic losses mounting vulnerability and deteriorated hygiene and sanitation conditions, and in some places caused water contaminations. Due to the huge number of buildings that collapsed across the country, fatal casualties resulting to five deaths, a premature birth, and severe injuries have been reported.

Health problems were recorded in many places, namely skin diseases, malaria, diarrhoea, etc. Many victims have also lost their basic properties including household items, clothes, books for pupils, livestock, and other essential belongings. The majority of these affected people, mostly children, pregnant women and the

elderly, have been left with no means of subsistence. The total number of affected people including the displaced is 14,258 based on the estimated numbers from all the regions as of 14 September, 2009.

The number of affected people countrywide is estimated at 14,258 i.e. 1,914 households, while 1,995 families were displaced. However, the GRCS supported only 354 displaced families out of 1,995 to recover their livelihoods. This number represents a beneficiary population of 2,124 people. Some families were supported with roofing materials in re-constructing their collapsed houses, while others were provided with non-food items. The National Society, in cooperation with local authorities had identified the beneficiaries, as a response to the current situation. The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) mobilized its national intervention team to carry out non-food items distribution activities. Branches in the affected region have followed the agreed plan of action to support the most vulnerable flood-affected families, as part of national contingency plan and in cooperation and coordination with the government through the regional disaster management committees.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

An assessment team visited the areas in various regions and conducted a rapid needs assessment of the disaster. The report of the assessment revealed that five villages were affected in the Upper river region, five others in the Central river region, in Lower river region four villages were affected and finally in the Western region nine villages were affected. The period of the storm was short but very heavy and caused serious widespread destruction of housing and household belongings. The community volunteers helped community members whose houses could have been repaired. The other households recorded in the assessments need urgent support for shelter.

## Achievements against objectives

Emergency shelter	
Objective: The Gambia Red Cross Society will address the shelter needs of a target population identified in the assessment of 354 homeless families (representing 1,635 people) in River Region of Gambia with an appropriate planned support	
Expected results	Activities planned
<p>The living conditions of 354 families have improved and their houses are rebuilt with shelter kits support.</p> <p>The resilience of the affected populations is improved through education and access to good sanitary services</p> <p>The capacities of the NS to deliver are improved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement of roofing materials with the logistics unit;</li> <li>• Transportation and distribution of the construction materials to the target beneficiary families identified in the assessment (8 packets of corrugated iron sheet, 4.5 kilos of nails and 20 pieces of palm sticks);</li> <li>• Refresher training for 40 volunteers to support the communities in the re-roofing process and sensitization on risk reduction initiatives;</li> <li>• Technical support to the communities in re-roofing their 150 damaged houses by trained volunteers.</li> <li>• Follow-up of the progress of the activities in the community and reporting;</li> <li>• Advocating and monitoring the other needs of the affected communities to be covered by other partners.</li> </ul>

### Construction and shelter kits

The National Society supported the most vulnerable families in rebuilding or repairing their houses. The regions supported are Lower River region, Upper River region, North Bank region and Western region. In addition to houses rehabilitation, 20 single headed women families were given mattresses to reduce their risk and help support in improving their living conditions. These regions have been supported with construction materials, and due consideration has been given to the geographical location, norms and culture.

### Health and risk reduction sensitization and sanitation

This part of the operation has contributed to increasing communities' resilience and reducing the risks of disasters. The National Society's Health Department in partnership with the Department of State for Health (Health Education Unit) carried out sensitization in all the affected communities. The exercise has contributed to reducing the risks that surfaced during floods including sanitation. The volunteers have carried

out the sensitization activities focusing on simple risk reduction strategies i.e. hand washing before and after eating and washing of hands after using toilets. The communities that were sensitized include Kotu quarry, Ebo Town, Brikama and Sanchaba Sulay Jobe.

### Capacity Building

For proper and efficient implementation of these activities, the National Society has recruited and trained 30 volunteers. Building the capacities of people involved in the operation has contributed to its successful implementation, mainly in raising the awareness of the affected communities on hygiene and sanitation.

### Supervision, monitoring and evaluation

In each of the regions, the Branch officers and the Disaster Management Coordinator and their respective Regional Governance supervised the implementation of activities. The monitoring was carried out by the Secretary General and the National Youth Director representing the President to ensure the smooth implementation of activities and promote transparency in the whole exercise. At the end of the relief operation, a field mission was conducted to assess the entire operation namely the achievements, the gaps identified and provide a general recommendation to address the gaps and the next steps.

### Achievements

- Three hundred and fifty-four (354) families in the western regions were sensitized on flood related risks and 85 families were supported with non-food items and shelter kits for re-construction of destroyed houses.
- Ninety (90) families in Lower River region have been supported to be more resilient to floods. This was done through provision of required information and technical support provided by the trained volunteers on improved housing structure.
- Adequate human resources were recruited. Five volunteers were trained on shelter construction in each of the affected regions. They have supported relief distribution activities and the construction of temporary houses for the displaced families.
- Community sensitization activities have been conducted on hygiene promotion and risk reduction for 106 communities nationwide.

### Regional intervention result:

The GRCS response teams in all the affected regions carried out relief distribution to the selected beneficiaries. The Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT) members have conducted an assessment on affected people. On 7 November, 2009 the headquarters sent non-food items (NFIs) to the branches for distribution displaced victims. The regional Governors and the regional disaster management committee have inspected the materials for transparency and accountability for both the beneficiaries and the Gambia Red Cross Society. The table below shows regional distribution results.

Region	Households	Beneficiaries
Lower river region	90	450
Western region	85	425
Upper river region	80	400
Central river region	80	400
North Bank region	14	70
Kanifing municipality	20	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>1,845</b>

The distributions were conducted by the branch officers and their team of volunteers to disaster victims in the affected regions on 9 and 12 November, 2009. The following NFIs have been distributed: 50 shelter kits, 300 mosquito nets, 100 blankets, 300 tarpaulins, 1,234 pieces of soap, 300 buckets, 300 jerry cans, 135 packets of iron sheet, 1,800 rafters, 1,800 trusses and 700 kilos of cap nails. The victims thanked the GRCS for the assistance and called on other donors to emulate the GRCS.

### Constraints:

Reaching some beneficiaries was a challenge. Indeed the transportation of the NFIs from the administrative premises of the region that constituted the centralized distribution point to the beneficiaries was sometimes delayed. The lack of experience of the newly created national disaster management agency was also a challenge in terms of information flux.

#### Recommendations:

- To pre-position the emergency relief stock and the needed logistics means for quick and prompt response to disasters;
- To establish and train more CDRTs and RDRT in the communities and the regions for quick response to disaster;
- To support small community development initiatives for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

## 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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[<Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

# International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRGM005 - Gambia - Local Strom

FINAL Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/5-2009/12
Budget Timeframe	2009/5-2009/10
Appeal	MDRGM005
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>	75,305					75,305
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Other Income</u>						
Voluntary Income	75,240					75,240
<b>C5. Other Income</b>	75,240					75,240
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)</b>	75,240					75,240
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	75,240					75,240
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	100%					100%

## II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>C. Income</b>	75,240					75,240
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	-75,240					-75,240
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	0					0

## III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		75,305					75,305	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief	58,280	55,538				55,538	2,742	
Teaching Materials		316				316	-316	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>58,280</b>	<b>55,853</b>				<b>55,853</b>	<b>2,427</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,000	966				966	34	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>966</b>				<b>966</b>	<b>34</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
National Society Staff	9,800	8,831				8,831	969	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>8,831</b>				<b>8,831</b>	<b>969</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	400						400	
Office Costs	330						330	
Communications	600	442				442	158	
Financial Charges		4,257				4,257	-4,257	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>1,330</b>	<b>4,699</b>				<b>4,699</b>	<b>-3,369</b>	
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	4,895	4,891				4,891	4	
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>4,895</b>	<b>4,891</b>				<b>4,891</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>75,305</b>	<b>75,240</b>				<b>75,240</b>	<b>65</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>65</b>				<b>65</b>		