

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Equatorial Guinea: Fire in Malabo

DREF operation n° MDRGQ001
GLIDE n° FR-2010-000082-GNQ
Update n° 1
1st July, 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: 27
April to 30 June 2010.

Summary: CHF 36,139 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 27 April, 2010 to support the Equatorial Guinea Red Cross National Society in delivering assistance to 50 families, i.e. 250 beneficiaries.

Thanks to this DREF allocation, the Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea was able to assist 92 families, i.e. 640 people identified as the most vulnerable among the people affected by fire in Malabo. The beneficiaries received 100 tarpaulins, 50 cooking kits, 100 insecticide treated nets, 250 pieces of soap of 200g each, and 125 mats that

have been purchased using the DREF allocation. The other materials distributed to the additional 42 families that were not planned were purchased using the money the National Society has raised locally. The beneficiaries also received clothes. The items received contributed to improving the living conditions of the 640 beneficiaries who expressed their gratitude for what they termed a "humanitarian gesture". Red Cross volunteers are currently being trained on fire management by the national Fire brigade. It is planned that after the training, they will go along sensitizing the populations on what to do to prevent fire, and on what to do in the event of fire to reduce its effects. The populations have been very grateful of this Red Cross action as they now rush to the National Society seeking for assistance. This operation is expected to be implemented within 3 months, and completed by 27 July, 2010. In line with Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 27 October, 2010).

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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Red Cross volunteers distributed relief materials to fire victims in Malabo / IFRC

The situation

From January to May 2010, the overpopulated neighbourhoods of Malabo, the capital city of Equatorial Guinea, registered 12 fire disasters. These fire disasters caused several damages and completely ruined already extremely poor populations, leaving them hopeless and with no means of subsistence. In reaction to the series of disasters, the Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea sought support from IFRC to assist the most vulnerable people affected by fire. IFRC then allocated some funds from its DREF to enable the National Society to implement their plan of action in favour of the 250 beneficiaries identified. So far, the operation has been going on smoothly.

Coordination and partnerships

Considering the scope of the disaster, the Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea organized a fund raising campaign in Malabo. The campaign consisted of preparing and selling special food to well-wishers as a means of collecting more funds to assist the ever increasing number of people affected. This campaign enabled the National Society to locally raise FCFA 5,000,000, i.e. over CHF 11,000, adding to the CHF 36,139 from the DREF. Consequently, the National Society was able to assist 92 families, i.e. 640 people, instead of 50 families as planned, i.e. 250 people.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Outcome: To contribute to improving the living conditions of 50 families (250 people) affected by fire in Malabo.	
Outputs The non-food items needed are made available to the Equatorial Guinea Red Cross Society as soon as possible. The 50 families actually receive Red Cross assistance.	Activities planned <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In collaboration with the Federation's logistics department in Yaoundé, purchase 125 blankets, 125 mats, 100 tarpaulins, 100 mosquito nets, 50 cooking kits and 250 pieces of soap of 200g each or 125 pieces of soap of 400g each;• Transport these items to Malabo;• Distribute the items to the 50 families;• Ensure monitoring and evaluation of the distribution activities;• Report on distribution activities

Progress:

The logistics department of IFRC's Regional Representation in Central Africa facilitated the purchase and transport of the materials from Yaoundé to Malabo. The materials included 125 blankets, 125 mats, 100 tarpaulins, 100 mosquito nets, 50 cooking kits and 250 pieces of soap of 200g each. With the additional funds raised locally by the National Society, they purchased and distributed clothes to as many beneficiaries as possible, reaching 92 families (640 people). The distribution ceremony took place at the headquarters of the Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea in Malabo on 19 May, 2010 in the presence of the newly appointed IFRC's Central Africa Regional Representative, and the President of the National Society. The ceremony was also attended by the authorities of the Malabo City Council, and was properly covered by the national media to whom the beneficiaries expressed their gratitude for what they termed a "humanitarian gesture" from the Red Cross.

Challenges:

The humanitarian challenges in Equatorial Guinea are huge, while the Red Cross National Society's capacities are very weak.

Emergency shelter
Outcome: to contribute to improving the living conditions of 50 families (250 people) who have lost their houses to the fire in Malabo.

<p>Outputs The beneficiaries and the general population have understood the need to adopt risk-free behaviour.</p> <p>Shelter solution is proposed to the targeted 50 families.</p>	<p>Activities planned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train Equatorial Guinea Red Cross volunteers on fire management (the training will be facilitated by Government fire fighters); • Organize sensitization sessions on the acts that are likely to alleviate the effects of fire in the event of a fire outbreak, and also presenting preventive actions, and most importantly the things that the population should not do to prevent this kind of disaster; • Distribute financial support to each of the targeted 50 families to locally purchase building materials; • Assist the 50 families in rebuilding their houses; • Report on activities carried out
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Progress:

While waiting to receive proper training on fire management from the national fire fighters, Red Cross volunteers have been sensitizing the populations on how to avoid fire incidents. They have also been telling them what to do in the event of fire while waiting for specialized relief teams.

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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