

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## ***NIGERIA: FLOODING IN KANO AND JIGAWA***

31 October 2001

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***This Information Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.***

### ***The Situation***

Following exceptionally heavy rains between 27 August and 2 September 2001, floods devastated large areas of Kano and Jigawa States in the northern part of Nigeria. Continuous torrential rainfalls led to the overflow of rivers and the two main dams of Tiga and Challawa. The areas affected by the flooding in the two states lie within Hadejia-Jamaare Rivers Basins, which are very prone to flooding.

As of 20 October 2001, the flooding has now almost fully subsided in both States. There is no further information available on the final assessment of crop damage. The total number of displaced families remaining in the refuges provided by the State Governments of Kano and Jigawa are as follows: Jigawa 3,726 and Kano 1,664. The majority of verified and registered homeless displaced families remains: Kano State 6,377 and Jigawa State 12,290. The majority of these displaced families have taken temporary refuge with neighbours or with other family relatives.

Both State and Local Government Area (LGA) authorities of the affected areas are continuing to provide food assistance to those in refugee camps approximately every four weeks. It is unclear what quantities and at what regularity this will continue in the future. Government representatives and local leaders were present at all Red Cross distributions and contributed to the organization of beneficiaries and orderly distributions. The Government is committed to providing camp shelter to those in need for the foreseeable future as well as to monitoring health and providing support at least at some basic level. The Chairman of Dawakin Kudu LGA promised to assist the re-activation of the Red Cross Division in his LGA and to donate a vehicle and provide other material support.

It is evident that the displaced families in camps are finding ways to survive through a combination of Government and Red Cross food rations, harvesting undamaged remaining food crops and through their extensive family and community networks. There is no evidence of child malnutrition.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

As previously reported, the Nigerian Red Cross had distributed rations of rice, millet, beans, oil, soap and detergents to 1,835 families in 10 camps in Kano and Jigawa States. Distributions of rations consisting of 4 kg. of rice, 2 kg. of beans and 1 lt. of vegetable oil, have since been made to a further 3,000 camp resident families in the following LGAs:

- Jigawa - Auyo, Kafin Hausa, Miga, Ringim and Taura and
- Kano - Dawakin Kudu, Gaya, Kumbotso and Madobi.

The distribution procedure followed by Red Cross Branch volunteers, under the supervision of the two Zonal Disaster Preparedness and Response Officers with Branch Secretary / Training Officer support, was carried out as follows:

- Registration and accreditation of displaced persons.
- Distribution of ration cards accordingly.
- Pre-packaging and organised distributions.

In all 45 Red Cross Branches (25 in Jigawa and 20 in Kano) volunteers were engaged in the operation. Relief supplies were purchased locally in Kano as follows:

Quantity	Item	Cost Per Item (in Naira)	Total Cost (in Naira)
240	50-kg bag Rice	3'200	786'000
60	200-kg bag Beans	8'000	480'000
160	18-lt. tin Veg Oil	2'300	384'100

This second phase of distributions started on 16 October and was completed on Saturday, 20 October.

### **Unmet needs and Red Cross action**

The level of future assistance delivered by the Government Authorities and others remains uncertain. The Red Cross will continue to monitor the health (including WatSan and epidemics) and nutritional status, provide health education and any small-scale food relief assistance which can be financed and resourced locally. It is clear that 1,850 families taking refuge in camps and who did not receive any assistance under the second phase of Red Cross distribution are in need of support; however, lack of funding has determined that no further major Red Cross food distribution can be made. A plan for rehabilitation assistance for the 18,667 displaced families was detailed in a Rehabilitation Concept Paper recently submitted to the Office for US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) / USAID.

### **Conclusion**

This operation was effectively carried out and provided vital and timely food relief assistance to a total of 4,835 families in need, equivalent to approximately 27,000 people. It provided an important psychological boost to people who were traumatized by the sudden events which led to their homelessness. The Red Cross system of relief transparency and accountability was admired by both beneficiaries and Government alike and the Government authorities have indicated that they would wish to adopt a similar system for their future distributions. The operation provided an opportunity for local Red Cross Branch capacity building and volunteer motivation.

The fact that most of the Red Cross relief provided was financed by the United States government was well disseminated and appreciated by Government authorities, cultural and religious leaders and the beneficiaries themselves.

*For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

*For further details please contact Anne Kirsti Vartdal, Federation Desk Officer, Phone 41 22 730 4485; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email [vartdal@ifrc.org](mailto:vartdal@ifrc.org). All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*

Peter Rees-Gildea  
Head, a.i.

Bekele Geleta  
Head

Relationship Management Department

Africa Department