

# ***SENEGAL: FLOODS***

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## ***The Disaster***

Last July and August heavy rains in Senegal caused widespread material damage in the regions of Saint-Louis, Tambacounda, Kaolack and Kolda. Up to 184 millimetres of rain fell in Kolda. The region of Saint-Louis was particularly affected by flooding as it is situated in the delta of the River Senegal and the few existing dikes were insufficient to hold back the swelling waters. Greater damage was recorded in rural areas than in urban districts where constructions are better built.

Floods caused major material damage, including some one thousand collapsed huts and a significant number of huts requiring repair. Large expanses of crops and grain stores were wiped out. At Kédougou (district of Tambacounda), 400 hectares of crops were destroyed and 5000 tonnes of cereals were lost. This loss has been devastating as it occurred between harvest periods, affecting the food supply and income of some 90,000 families.

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

The Secretary General of the Senegalese Red Cross immediately visited the disaster-affected regions and met the presidents of the Red Cross regional committees to assess the damage. National Society stocks of medicaments against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, water disinfectant, and 50 mats were provided as emergency aid to the victims in Dagana (Saint-Louis), the first to be affected by the floods. The National Society also provided 500 litres of diesel oil for the 230 motor-pumps used to remove the standing water. The Senegalese Red Cross has identified 15,000 persons to be the most vulnerable among the victims and in immediate need of food and tents for temporary shelter.

## ***Needs***

The Senegalese Red Cross has identified the following priorities:

- to provide 135 tonnes of rice for 15,000 persons for one month (cost: CHF 84,000)
- to purchase 150 tents locally to house flood victims (cost: CHF 75,000)

Relief will be distributed, within each district, by the Senegalese Red Cross relief administrators as well as by first aid volunteers and volunteers from each regional committee. The National Society will handle logistics arrangements to ensure the smooth running of these operations. All activities will be supervised and co-ordinated by the Senegalese Red Cross and the government Directorate for First Aid and Youth.

CHF 100,000 has been released from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to enable the Senegalese Red Cross to launch the operation. Donors are asked to support the needs for rice and tents identified by the National Society and to help reimburse the DREF.

For further information, please contact Barbara Petersen, desk officer, telephone +41 22 730 4312, email: [petersen@ifrc.org](mailto:petersen@ifrc.org).

Peter Rees-Gildea  
Director  
Operations Funding and  
Reporting Department

Bekele Geleta  
Director  
Africa Department