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DREF operation final report

Benin: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRBJ008
GLIDE n° [FL-2011-000091-BEN](#)
9 April 2012

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.

Summary: CHF 167,241 was allocated from IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Cross of Benin in delivering immediate assistance to some 5,000 beneficiaries and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks utilized. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

The Red Cross of Benin, with support from IFRC, has successfully reached a total of 5,840 people (1,002 households) in the municipalities of Lokossa, Abomey and Bopa through relief items and awareness campaigns on good hygiene practices.

In this operation, Red Cross volunteers within the affected communities received orientation on relief distribution, water, sanitation and hygiene as well as the Red Cross Red Crescent code of conduct. The trained volunteers were subsequently involved in the distribution of non-food items such as tents, sleeping mats, mosquito nets and soap to vulnerable families in Abomey, Lokossa and Bopa. They also sensitized affected persons on the use of water purification tablets (Aquatabs) and jerry cans for water storage, provided by the Red Cross in support of good hygiene practices.

The timely implementation of the DREF operation helped reduce the level of vulnerability of flood-affected households, especially to disease outbreaks, through the provision of specific non-food items. As a part of lessons learnt, it was felt that some response areas need to be improved through further capacity building to increase the impact of interventions. This includes appropriate training on hygiene promotion due to limited knowledge and skills in health, rehabilitation and sanitation.

Total funds spent in this operation is CHF 148,220. A balance of CHF 19,201 was returned to DREF.

Partners who supported the replenishment of this DREF allocation include the Canadian Red Cross/ Canadian government and the Netherlands Red Cross/ Netherlands government.

The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish



Red Cross volunteers during sensitization campaigns on good hygiene practices. Photo: Red Cross of Benin

Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors.

IFRC, on behalf of the Red Cross of Benin, would like to thank all donors for their generous contributions.

Details of all contributions to the DREF for 2011 can be found on:

http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2011.pdf

[<click here for final financial report; and here for contact details>](#)

The situation

The heavy rains that started the week of 20 June 2011 caused severe flooding in municipalities and communities of Loose, Thyme Bop and Continuo Littoral. The continuous downpour, especially in the first week of July, resulted in heavy flooding in most areas, including those usually safe from floods. Despite coordinated efforts with local government officials in providing tents to the affected communities, schools were also occupied by affected families. While the Early Warning System (EWS) developed with the support of the National Society helped to mitigate the impact of the flood in 22 municipalities, other areas where the EWS capacity was not available were seriously affected due to the continuous heavy rain.

According to information received from local authorities and the branches of the Red Cross of Benin, some districts that have never been flooded before were also affected. Volunteers had difficulties reaching some affected areas and populations because of the remoteness of villages, and the degradation of access roads.

The earlier assessment by Red Cross of Benin of the water, sanitation and hygiene systems in the affected communities highlighted the vulnerability of population to serious waterborne and diarrhoeal diseases including cholera. Despite all efforts, there have been reports of cholera outbreak in some areas. This was attributed to the destruction of water sources, with floodwater being used for domestic use. The continuous rain has also compounded the sanitation status of the communities, where open defecation and dumping of garbage are increasing the risks of epidemic outbreaks. Meanwhile, the floods destroyed acres of arable land, and crops, water points, houses, latrines and other properties like clothing, domestic animals.

Coordination and partnerships

The Red Cross of Benin mobilized its volunteers through its collaboration with local authorities to carry out a rapid assessment of the situation. Despite the difficulties of access due to water levels, the Red Cross carried out a systematic assessment of the affected households. The National Society has initially provided 100 of the prepositioned tents at its headquarters in Porto-Novo to support the efforts of the City Council in Lokossa, where at least 300 households were displaced and were living in school buildings. Community disaster response team (CDRT) members, with assistance from the national disaster response team (NDRT), carried out sensitization and awareness activities on waterborne diseases as well as good hygiene and sanitation practices. The CDRT teams also carried out targeting of beneficiaries in the affected communities for the distribution of NFIs and WASH items.

A total of 704 families benefited from the Red Cross assistance during this reporting period. Items distributed included mats, shelter kits, kitchen sets, tarpaulins, soap, jerry cans and mosquito nets. The most vulnerable were also assisted by volunteers in the construction of emergency shelter.

The local Red Cross branch has worked with local authorities on the management and coordination of the crisis. The coordination aimed at ensuring efficiency in the provision of humanitarian assistance, minimizing or eliminating the waste of resources and avoiding duplication. Apart from the municipal authorities, the Benin Red Cross was the only institution that operated in the areas of Lokossa, Abomey and Bopa.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Achievements

The Red Cross of Benin assisted a total of 1,002 vulnerable families in this operation. The criteria for the identification of target groups took into account the extent of the damage on their homes, the number of children under five in each family, elderly people with no support, pregnant women and women-headed households with young children. The most urgent needs were blankets, mats, mosquito nets, soap, buckets, jerry cans, aqua tabs, tents for the homeless, used clothing for children under five and kitchen set for those living under the tents.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome 1: 1,000 households (5,000 beneficiaries) affected by floods in Benin will benefit from the distribution of non-food items (tents, sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito nets, clothes for children, kitchen kits, hygiene kits).

Outputs	Activities Planned:
Relief items are procured and distributed to 1,000 most affected Households and selected through established Red Cross selection criteria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procure and distribute non-food relief distribution items to 1,000 most affected households Mobilize and brief 100 Red Cross volunteers on registration and distribution strategies of the Red Cross; Carryout needs assessment to ensure the availability of a reliable database Control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user; Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Achievements

All planned activities were implemented. The distribution was based on the needs of beneficiaries, taking into account the family size and level of vulnerability. Smaller families each received 1 blanket, 2 sleeping mats, 1 jerry can, 1 bucket, 90 aqua tabs, 10 bars of soap, 1 mosquito net, and used clothing, depending on the number of children under 5 years in the household. The larger families received 2 blankets, 4 sleeping mats, 1 jerry can, 1 bucket, 90 aqua tabs, 10 bars of soap, 1 mosquito net, and 1 lot of used clothing, depending on the number of children under 5 years in the household.

A total of 170 tents were set up for the displaced populations of the communes of Lokossa et Abomey-Calavi. Red Cross volunteers supported the installation of tents donated by the government to the affected populations of Ouinhi Zangnannado. The volunteers sensitized displaced populations on hygiene and sanitation, conducted home visits to better protect the elderly. Pregnant women were also educated on the respect of prenatal consultations, etc. The population received sanitation kits comprising shovel, gloves, boots, masks and wheelbarrows.

Assistance to flood affected populations in Lokossa, Abomey and Bopa

Municipalities	Villages	Targeted households	Reached households	Number of beneficiaries	blanket	Sleeping mats	Mosquito net	soap	Jerry can	bucket	Kitchen set	Tents	Used clothing	Aqua tabs	persons sensitized
Lokossa	Tinou (Camp)	45	40	171	55	110	0	400	40	40	40	120	17	0	
	Tinou (Village)	128	126	673	200	400	0	1,260	126	126	0	0	0	0	
	Houin (Tokpa)	120	118	572	118	470	0	1,180	118	118	0	0	70	0	
	Total	293	284	1,416	373	980	0	2,840	284	284	40	120	87	0	1,416
Abomey-Calavi	Kpodji Lèmont	79	79	625	138	274	79	790	79	79	26	30	34	771	
	Houèkègbo	142	135	754	227	454	135	1,350	135	135	0	20	55	1215	
	Houèkèhonou	57	57	374	100	204	57	570	57	57	0	0	0	513	
	Misséssinto	105	99	402	154	336	99	990	99	99	0	0	55	891	
	Gassa Godomey	28	28	144	42	90	28	280	28	28	0	0	37	252	
Total	411	398	2,299	661	1,358	398	3,980	398	398	398	26	50	181	3,642	2,299
Bopa	Gbkpodji centre	80	80	560	144	280	80	800	80	80	0	0	64	7,200	
	Ahouloumè	55	55	480	99	198	55	550	55	55	0	0	44	4,950	
	Bolimè	63	63	265	114	228	63	630	63	63	0	0	51	5,670	
	Tchantchanpo	41	41	265	74	148	41	410	41	41	0	0	33	3,690	
	Platoé	60	60	457	108	216	60	600	60	60	0	0	48	5,400	
	Houéganmè	21	21	98	38	76	21	210	21	21	0	0	17	1,890	
Total	320	320	2,125	577	1,146	320	3,200	320	320	320	0	0	257	28,800	2,125
Grand Total		1,024	1,002	5,840	1,611	3,484	718	10,020	1,002	1,002	66	170	525	32,442	5,840

Challenges

Following the implementation of this DREF operation, it is urgent to train Red Cross volunteers to strengthen their capacities in terms of relief activities. The Benin Red Cross volunteers need shelter training especially on how to assemble tents, since the National Society is constantly solicited by local institutions and the government

even if it is not involved in some operations because of its expertise in setting up tents. Unfortunately the number of volunteers trained in this area is very limited.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome 2: The risk of waterborne disease is reduced through the provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH) for 1,000 most vulnerable households affected by floods.	
Outputs	Activities Planned:
<p>Improved knowledge of 1,000 most affected households and target communities on WASH.</p> <p>Improved access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train 100 volunteers in Benin Red Cross on water treatment and use of products for the domestic water treatment and hygiene promotion using the ECV Manual for volunteers. • Provide voluntary protective equipment (boots, raincoats) • Distribute 250,000 Aquatabs to 1,000 affected households including host communities and educate the community on usage • Raise awareness on hygiene and sanitation.

Achievements: A total of 100 volunteers of Lokossa, Abomey and Bopa communes were briefed on hygiene promotion techniques and water treatment activities. Some 1,002 households received relief items which include Aquatabs, soap and jerry cans. Detailed information on the distribution of these items are reported under the “Relief distributions” section. Concurrent with these distribution activities was information dissemination and sensitization on hygiene and sanitation.

Challenges: The awareness on WASH was very low in the targeted communities, and as such, it took a longer time for the volunteers to effectively disseminate and sensitize them in this regard. The effect of the WASH awareness was not as effective as hoped due to lack of latrines around the areas where emergency shelters were constructed, resulting in open defecation.

Prepositioning of contingency supplies (Emergency shelter, WASH and non-food items)

Outcome 3: Procurement and stocking of non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and health materials and emergency shelter for 1,000 most affected households in the event of flood disasters in Benin Republic based on the assessment and selection criteria from Red Cross	
Output	Activities planned:
<p>NFIs, Emergency Shelter and WASH items for 1,000 households are procured for prepositioning to respond in the event of flood disasters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop cost benefit analysis (CBA) and other procurement process based on Federations guidelines • Procure non-food items (blankets, mats, buckets, kitchen sets etc) , Emergency Shelters and WASH items

Achievements: All of the materials earmarked for prepositioning has been successfully procured, stored and available for future distributions based on the assessment report of emerging cases. These items comprise of the following:

Items	Quantity
Blankets	1,000
Mats	1,000
Jerry cans	1,000
Soaps	2,000
Buckets/basins	1,000

Capacity building (Sensitization, awareness and campaigns)

Outcome 4: National Society is better prepared to respond to imminent floods	
Output	Activities planned:
<p>National Society staff and volunteers are informed about the nature and trend of floods based on early warning (EW) and are updated on contingency plan implementation and DRR sensitization and awareness campaign strategies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid orientation on implementation of Contingency Plans • Rapid orientation and refresher on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - emergency response, - First Aid, - emergency shelter construction, - emergency health, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sensitization on information dissemination and communication with local branches for EW and during emergencies.
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Achievements: Rapid orientation sessions were successfully carried out in this operation prior to the volunteers' deployment to further share these messages with targeted communities. The volunteers involved were also trained in basic first aid as well as methods of information dissemination and communication.

At the end of the operation, it was felt that future focus should to strengthen the knowledge and capacities of volunteers in the area of water and sanitation, to enable them to promote health and sanitation messages more effectively in their communities.

Lessons learned

The timely implementation of DREF operation contributed significantly in supporting floods affected populations to reduce their level of vulnerability with the provision of non-food items. The support also contributed to the improvement of the image of the National Society, thereby increasing the Red Cross membership and volunteer base. Some response areas need however to be improved in terms of capacity building. This includes appropriate training on hygiene promotion due to limited capacity in terms of health, rehabilitation and sanitation.

At the end of the operation, it was felt that the objectives of the operation should be extended and go beyond water treatment at household level through the distribution of Aquatabs. Emergency latrines should be included in future operations for community members, particularly those living in tents, to avoid open air defecation and thereby avoid many diseases, combining both hardware and software components for the improved impact of WASH interventions.

Conclusion

This operation allowed strengthening the leadership of Red Cross of Benin and volunteers' capacities, particularly in terms of beneficiaries' identification, sensitization mechanisms and distribution techniques. The close collaboration between the National Society and municipal authorities to ensure complementary relief actions resulted in an added value in the support to affected communities. The operation was highly appreciated by the beneficiaries and the local authorities who have spared no effort to make it easy for the Benin Red Cross. The authorities hope that the promptness with which the National Society has responded to the disaster will be maintained for the benefit of beneficiaries.

Contact information

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DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 29 July 2011 for CHF 167,461 for three months to assist up to 5,000 beneficiaries.
- A DREF operation update was issued on 24 November 2011 to extend the operational timeframe for a month to complete the procurement of disaster preparedness stocks.



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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 \(NGOs\) 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.

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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.
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MDRBJ008 - Benin - Floods

Appeal Launch Date: 29 jul 11

Appeal Timeframe: 29 jul 11 to 29 oct 11

Interim Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/7-2011/12
Budget Timeframe	2011/7-2011/10
Appeal	MDRBJ008
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	167,241					167,241
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	148,220					148,220
C4. Other Income	148,220					148,220
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	148,220					148,220
D. Total Funding = B + C	148,220					148,220
Appeal Coverage	89%					89%

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	148,220					148,220
E. Expenditure	-148,220					-148,220
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

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III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)	167,241						167,241	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	41,710	16,666				16,666	25,044	
Construction Materials		10,353				10,353	-10,353	
Clothing & Textiles	32,301	38,623				38,623	-6,322	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	20,400	19,709				19,709	691	
Medical & First Aid	1,600						1,600	
Teaching Materials	1,280	1,465				1,465	-185	
Utensils & Tools	20,932	22,568				22,568	-1,636	
Total Relief items, Construction, Suj	118,223	109,384				109,384	8,839	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	581	8,997				8,997	-8,416	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	10,614	8,928				8,928	1,686	
Logistics Services		1,498				1,498	-1,498	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	11,195	19,424				19,424	-8,229	
Personnel								
National Staff	4,410						4,410	
National Society Staff	14,928	3,676				3,676	11,252	
Volunteers		8,558				8,558	-8,558	
Total Personnel	19,338	12,234				12,234	7,104	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	800	254				254	546	
Total Workshops & Training	800	254				254	546	
General Expenditure								
Travel	2,600						2,600	
Information & Public Relations	1,700	5,851				5,851	-4,151	
Office Costs	1,914	2,117				2,117	-203	
Communications	400	823				823	-423	
Financial Charges	200	-11,763				-11,763	11,963	
Other General Expenses		848				848	-848	
Total General Expenditure	6,814	-2,123				-2,123	8,937	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	10,871	9,046				9,046	1,824	
Total Indirect Costs	10,871	9,046				9,046	1,824	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	167,241	148,220				148,220	19,021	
VARIANCE (C - D)		19,021				19,021		