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DREF final report Senegal: Floods in Thiès

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRSN005 30 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 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 192,662 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Senegalese Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 1,000 families affected by floods in the city of Thiès. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

In keeping with its mission of serving the public and assisting public authorities, the Senegalese Red Cross (SRC) provided relief for flood victims in the city of Thiès after the downpour of 1 and 2 August 2011, in which more than 1,500 families were affected and some 6,000 people directly affected.



A fully rebuilt latrine in the district of Cité Lamy/ Photo: SRC

Following an assessment mission, a plan of action to assist the most vulnerable among the affected populations was elaborated. The operation reached the targeted 1,000 households with essential relief materials, supplies for water and hygiene as well as promotion of safe hygiene practices to prevent spread of waterborne disease. Volunteers and technical experts built 100 latrines. Although the operation had planned to provide temporary shelter to 328 displaced families, the detailed assessment conducted prior to the start of operations showed that the majority of the affected people had returned home. As a consequence, the operation did not need to spend what it had budgeted for shelter and a balance remained to be returned to the DREF. Thirty volunteers from the Thiès Departmental Committee were trained for five days on shelter by the members of the SRC NDRT/Shelter.

The European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), as well as the Netherlands and Canadian Red Cross Societies/governments contributed to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors and partners of DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID), the U.S.A., as well as the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, thanks all for their generous contributions.

[<click here for the final financial report \(remaining indicated balance to be returned to DREF\), or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

The regional seasonal forecasts of the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD) predicted higher than normal rainfall in some parts of West Africa, including Senegal. From 1 August 2011, the western central regions of Senegal experienced torrential rains. Additional rains caused flash floods. In the end, some 6,000 people were affected, focusing on the city of Thiès. The situation was chaotic in the city and some essential services were disrupted. The discharge of septic tanks and wastewater led to fears of disease outbreak. Senegalese Red Cross volunteers were deployed from the outset to assess the situation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Some 328 displaced families whose houses were destroyed were evacuated by Red Cross volunteers and temporarily housed in neighbouring homes and schools. In coordination with the disaster committee, Red Cross volunteers remain engaged in ongoing needs assessment. The planned response aimed to reduce immediate vulnerability through provision of essential relief materials, to improve shelter for the 328 displaced families, to help prevent outbreak of communicable diseases and malaria, and improve access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation.

Throughout the emergency, the Red Cross was the only actor in the field. Other humanitarian organizations (United Nations System, ECHO, NGOs, etc.) came to SRC for information. This operation helped the Senegalese Red Cross, and especially its regional and departmental branch in Thiès, to affirm their leadership in the emergency response field. Government authorities were contacted as soon as the DREF was approved and an information tour was conducted prior to the start of the activities. Regular updates were sent to the regional and departmental administrative authorities at every step and the final report will be sent to them for their information and assessment.

A delegation from ECHO accompanied by IFRC came to Thiès when the distribution activities began. Local government services were contacted and participated on a one-off basis in certain activities (National Fire Brigade, National Hygiene Service, Regional Social Action Service, etc.).

Achievements against outcomes

Emergency health and Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Outcome 1: To contribute to the reduction of vulnerability to floods for 1,000 families with the provision of relief materials.	
Outcome 2: To contribute to the improvement of shelter for the 328 displaced families.	
Outputs (expected results)	activities planned
Relief items are procured and distributed to 1,000 flood affected families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement and distribution of 2,000 blankets and 2,000 sleeping mats for 1,000 families affected by the floods; • Procurement and distribution of 328 tarpaulins and 328 shelter tool kits to 328 displaced families; Procurement of 50 boots, gloves, masks, and rain coats respectively for 70 volunteers; • Procurement and utilization of 10 megaphones and 10 sets of batteries by volunteers during the implementation phase; • Transport and warehousing of procured materials to the nearest point for distribution; • Relief refresher training for 20 volunteers.

Impact: The affected households had lost most of their belongings. An emergency relief action was undertaken for the 1,000 most affected households. Five types of items were provided for each household:

- Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Mosquito Nets (LLINs) x 2 units
- Mats x 2 units
- Blankets x 2 units
- 15-litre bucket with lid x 1 unit
- 20-litre Jerry can x 1 unit

The households identified during the volunteers' survey received vouchers to pick up their relief packages from the Red Cross Reception Centre in Thiès. Distribution activities mobilized 50 volunteers and lasted 5 days. All of the 1,000 household equipment packages were distributed by the end of the 5 awareness days.

A second distribution round was conducted for the hygiene kits that comprise the following:

- One 1-kg bar of soap
- 9 litres of household bleach
- 5 boxes of powder soap
- 100 Aquatabs
- 1 personal hygiene kit (toothbrush, towels, etc.)

The operation had planned to provide temporary shelter to 328 displaced families, to hold until public authorities found more sustainable solutions. However, delays in the onset of the planned activities due to funding meant that in the six weeks between the flooding and the start of activities, the majority of the affected people had returned home and the shelter materials were no longer required.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: To contribute to the improvement of access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation facilities for 1,000 flood affected families.	
Outputs (expected results) and	activities planned:
All 1,000 families have access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure 60,500 purification tablets for 1,000 families; • Construct 80 family latrines for the most vulnerable families affected by the floods and that have no access to proper latrines; • Procure and distribute 1,000 hygiene kits to 1,000 families; • Procure and distribute 20 Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) kits to volunteers to work with the flood affected communities in Thiès; • Conduct refresher training for 20 volunteers in household water treatment and hygiene promotion; • Procure and distribute 5,000 bars of soap, 1,000 jerry cans, 4,000 detergents, and 1,000 buckets for 3 months for 1,000 families; • Conduct hygiene promotion activities.

Impact: Three specialists from the SRC watsan NDRT provided five-day training in hygiene, water and sanitation, as well as on PHAST, for 50 volunteers from the Red Cross Departmental Committee of Thiès. Following the training, a 15-day campaign unfolded in partnership with the health districts of Thiès and the National Hygiene Service. Volunteers identified the eight most affected districts and a go-forward plan was designed and validated in conjunction with the administrative authorities of Thiès. The campaign covered nearly 7,500 households, i.e. more than 80,000 people.

Construction and rehabilitation of latrines

After the emergency activities and the end of the rainy season, the Red Cross conducted a survey of the households requesting reconstruction or rehabilitation of latrines. In this framework, 30 volunteers spent 7 days carrying out surveys in the field, after which a commission handed down a decision identifying 40 latrines to be rebuilt and 60 to be rehabilitated.

A civil engineer and a professional mason were contracted to accompany the 50 volunteers who were to carry out the work. Five days of training were provided upstream to harmonize their approach and a pool of five watsan NDRT members were deployed onsite for technical support. The watsan focal point of the IFRC Sahel Office was also asked to provide technical support.

Within 25 days, the team was able to complete all 100 latrines, much to the appreciation of the communities.

Communications and media

The third aspect of the emergency relief action involved a communications campaign focusing on three aspects: installation and use of LLINs; hygiene measures in floods; and communication for behaviour change. Most of the activities carried out in the framework of the DREF in Thiès were announced on the local channels of national networks, with the highlight being the press conference held on completion of the latrines in the affected districts.

Lessons learned

- Beneficiary identification is a vital step in the process, and volunteers who live in the neighbourhoods they assess are in a position of conflicts of interest;
- Activities were planned without taking account of unforeseeable events (Muslim holidays, rain, etc.);
- The sequence of activities led to fatigue among the volunteers; this should be taken into account in future planning;
- It is better to plan for a larger number of affected persons when the next floods occur at the start of the rainy season.

Conclusion

The response for the flood victims in Thiès was properly implemented and, according to independent monitoring reports from the field, everything went well. The population greatly appreciated the action undertaken. The lessons learned and the final evaluation will serve as a basis for planning for future activities of a similar type.

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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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Saving lives, changing minds.



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

MDRSN005 - Senegal - Floods in Thies

Appeal Launch Date: 10 aug 11

Appeal Timeframe: 10 aug 11 to 10 nov 11

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/8-2012/3
Budget Timeframe	2011/8-2011/11
Appeal	MDRSN005
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	192,662					192,662
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	192,662					192,662
C4. Other Income	192,662					192,662
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	192,662					192,662
D. Total Funding = B + C	192,662					192,662
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

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	192,662					192,662
E. Expenditure	-137,979					-137,979
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	54,683					54,683

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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)	192,662						192,662	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	40,575						40,575	
Clothing & Textiles	27,000	22,241				22,241	4,759	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	61,238	65,657				65,657	-4,419	
Teaching Materials	2,275	2,454				2,454	-179	
Utensils & Tools	9,220	6,320				6,320	2,900	
Total Relief items, Construction, Su	140,308	96,673				96,673	43,635	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	5,000	6,156				6,156	-1,156	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	15,670	6,473				6,473	9,197	
Logistics Services		868				868	-868	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	20,670	13,497				13,497	7,173	
Personnel								
National Staff		132				132	-132	
Volunteers	12,175	13,631				13,631	-1,456	
Total Personnel	12,175	13,763				13,763	-1,588	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	3,500	3,717				3,717	-217	
Total Workshops & Training	3,500	3,717				3,717	-217	
General Expenditure								
Travel	1,750	133				133	1,617	
Information & Public Relations	1,000	976				976	24	
Office Costs	500	564				564	-64	
Communications	500						500	
Financial Charges	500	229				229	271	
Other General Expenses		5				5	-5	
Total General Expenditure	4,250	1,907				1,907	2,343	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	11,759	8,421				8,421	3,337	
Total Indirect Costs	11,759	8,421				8,421	3,337	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	192,662	137,979				137,979	54,683	
VARIANCE (C - D)		54,683				54,683		