

*This bulletin is issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. It provides overview of the floods situation and key action taken by National Red Cross/ Red Crescent Societies with the support of IFRC and RC/RC Movement partners. The multi-country floods' situation is rapidly evolving as it is published. The information would be updated as per the changing context.*

## Background and the Red Cross and Red Crescent action

While some countries in Africa are experiencing drought, others are facing devastating floods. The scale and scope of disaster risk, underlying vulnerabilities and complex socio-political and economic factors are unparalleled. Climate change and environmental degradation are exacerbating risk many times over. Recent forecasts suggest the flooding will continue to worsen over the coming weeks, likely to impact over one million people before this crisis is over.

In most of the affected countries, the flooding is severe. Affected countries include: (1) Cameroon, (2) Central African Republic, (3) Côte d'Ivoire, (4) Ghana, (5) Kenya, (6) Mali (7) Mauritania, (8) Niger, (9) Nigeria, (10) Senegal (11) Sierra Leone, (12) South Sudan. In addition, six other countries have reported flooding situations, namely: Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, DRC, Tanzania and Sudan. The Movement has responded to 12 flood situations with Disaster Emergency Relief Fund (DREF) or Emergency Appeals. Additional DREFs and new Emergency Appeals are likely, particularly in South Sudan and Central African Republic.

The active floods have affected over 421,000, of which 85,800 are, or will be, assisted by Movement DREF or Emergency Appeals. Working through different modalities including cash voucher activity, distribution of commodities, education and outreach and community engagement Movement partners are providing assistance with shelter, WASH, health, hygiene livelihoods, and food distributions. *Figure 1 below, blue indicates*



*countries where IFRC has currently active DREF or EA flood responses in Africa. October 2019.*

## Cameroon

The ongoing rainy season in the Far-North Region resulted in a break of the flood barrier along the Logone river in the Far-North Region, which separates Cameroon and the Republic of Chad. The 20-meter-wide breach along the Alvakai border flooded the area during the month of September. Due to the unavailability of repair materials, the breach could not be mended, and the rising water level caused overland flooding in neighbouring communities. A 30m rise in water level between end of September and the 4th of October 2019 caused serious flooding in the Maga Sub-Division, affecting the following communities: Nohoye, Pinfoung, Koundouma, Guiding, Sarahara, Lahai, Guirvidig, Dawaya, Gounmi and Mournna.



The Cameroon Red Cross conducted an early assessment and concluded that;

- 270 families (1890 people) have been rendered homeless in Maga, including 463 children (under 5), 349 pregnant women and nursing mothers, and 31 people with special needs.
- 367 affected families (2569 people) in Kai have been relocated by the authorities to safer villages
- Many people have been found injured in the rubble. Many are currently undergoing intensive treatment at the Lahai healthcare centre. However, the healthcare centre is overcrowded, thereby posing a threat as regards sanitary conditions.
- All open wells have been engulfed by the floods. Only a few boreholes were spared but their water-table stands at a high inundation risk. Moreover, the external structure of some wells is being eroded due to flood-throes.
- Many belongings and properties are either trapped beneath rubble or have been carried away.
- Poultry and livestock have been lost and farms engulfed by the waters severely impacting local livelihoods



The upcoming response, to last approximately three months, will target 329 of the most vulnerable households with shelter assistance (temporary shelters, mats, buckets to fetch water, water cans, kitchen kits and soap) to meet their immediate needs while their relocation continues, WASH (water purification supplies and guidance, hygiene promotion activities, dignity kit distribution, and sanitation

kits for community committees), health (cholera awareness campaign, mosquito net distribution, and first aid services from Cameroon Red Cross volunteers).

## Central African Republic

In late August 2019, the city of Paoua and Poumaïdji village experienced severe flooding. Provisional reports indicated that at least 295 households or 1,475 people, including 347 men, 356 women and 772 children were affected, including 25 pregnant women, 18 elderly people and 10 disabled people. One death and five injuries were recorded and nearly 300 houses have been destroyed.



*Figure 2 Volunteers to help the vulnerable to collect the rest of their belongings to join host families*

The Central African Red Cross immediately responded by conducting rapid assessments and assisting with evacuations. During the ongoing response, the Central African Red Cross is providing assistance to repair 295 residences and provide emergency shelter for 199 households that are unrepairable. Households will also receive essential household items to improve living standards. To help address the health needs of affected people, the response also includes malaria prevention efforts (awareness raising and net distribution) along with psychosocial care services and general health promotion programmes.

To address the need for drinking water, the Central African Red Cross is distributing water purification materials (buckets, aqua tablets) along with guidance on proper use, hygiene and dignity kits, along with soap and hand washing kits. Further water access improvements include the rehabilitation of wells and water sources. The response is scheduled to last until December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

### Côte d'Ivoire

Heavy rainfall was observed in parts of Cote D'Ivoire in October 2019 and resulted in the flooding of six cities (see Table 1 below); Abidjan, Aboisso, Grand Bassam, Ayamé, and Man causing significant damage and loss of lives. In Ayamé the river overflowed its banks resulting in all commercial districts and Akobo village to be flooded. Similarly, in Alépé, river flooding was experienced affecting communities along the river.

A total of 12,900 people (2,150 households) have been affected, 202 homes completely submerged, 72 houses destroyed, 32 people injured, and 12 deaths. Most of the 12,900 flood-affected people have lost their necessities, such as food and non-food items. More than 612 people are also homeless and relocated to host families or temporary sites. Several latrines and septic tanks were washed away and a health centre has also been flooded. Main water sources (wells and water sources) were flooded and contaminated. Aboisso is a cholera hot spot and therefore there is a high risk of waterborne diseases.



*Figure 3: Flood-affected areas ©Cote D'Ivoire Red Cross Society*

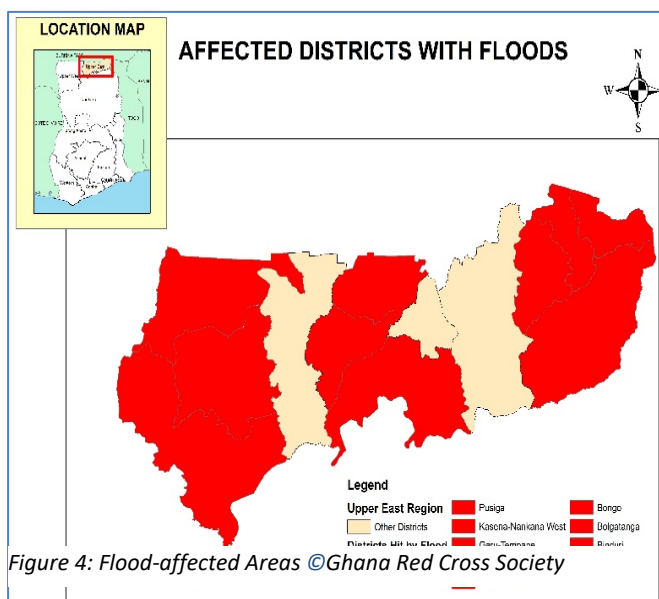
The RCRC flood response targets seven at-risk areas in Abidjan and the interior affected by the floods (Abidjan, Ayamé, Grand-Bassam, Aboisso, Songon, and Man). A total of 500 households (3,000 people) will benefit from the operation. A total of 100 households will be given support to purchase household items through a cash and voucher assistance (CVA). Another 300 households will be given an unconditional cash grants to support their livelihoods and basic needs. A total of 500 households (inclusive of those benefiting through cash and voucher assistance) will receive aqua tablets and hygiene promotion. The response is anticipated to continue until February 2020.

## Ghana

In early October 2019, Ghana experienced heavy rains and, combined with water releases from the Bagre Dam in Burkina Faso, this caused serious flooding and extensive damage to farmlands, houses, properties and loss of lives across the country.

Local media in Ghana reported that as many as 29 people (to be verified by local authorities) have died in flood-related incidents. Media reports also suggested that between 1,000 and 4,000 buildings have been destroyed or severely damaged, including almost 2,000 in Kassena-Nankana Municipal, which includes the town of Navrongo and 830 in Bongo district.

The Ghana Red Cross Society is responding to the crisis through a DREF and providing assistance to 26,083 people (4,333 households) through shelter household items, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and health activities. A total of 600 households (3,600 people) whose houses are completely destroyed where and in need of basic household items in the districts of Bulisa North, Botgatanga and Navrunog and another 4,333 households were generally affected by the floods in the 13 districts with health and hygiene promotion activities and preparedness covering the rest of the affected areas. The response is anticipated to continue until February 2020.



## Kenya

In early September, national, regional and global forecasts indicated that many areas of Kenya especially the Western half was expected to receive above normal rainfall. The onset of the rainy season was expected to be second to third week of October with a delay in the South-eastern and Northern parts of the Country. Since the second week of October many areas of the country have been experiencing heavy rainfall resulting to floods effects in a number of Counties. The Northern parts of the country have been the most affected with displacement of populations, damage to infrastructure, and disruption of livelihoods. In parts of the Rift valley, West Kenya and Central highlands, heavy rains have also been experienced with varying levels of impacts reported.

The sustained heavy rainfall is likely to cause flash floods downstream in various parts of the country. In the last one week, North Eastern and Upper Eastern have received intense rainfall resulting in flash floods that further led to the loss of a number of livestock. Landslide and destruction of sections of tea farms was also reported in the Central Kenya.

Current estimates indicate that 84,364 people have been affected, 17 fatalities, and 2 people have been injured. So far, 531 acres of land with crops have been destroyed and 21,675 livestock have been washed away.

The Kenyan Red Cross has undertaken actions to prepare capacity for the following response, to last until February 2020:

- Activation of Red Cross Action Teams in high risk counties



- Completed Contingency Planning for Floods in which it is estimated that roughly 35,000 households will be displaced during this rains season.
- Prepositioning of Non-food items in Coast (for 2,000HHs), North Eastern (for 2,000HHs), Upper Eastern (for 1,000HHs), North Rift (for 1,000HHs), Lodwar (for 500HHs), Central (for 5,00HHs), North Eastern (1,000HHs), and South Rift (1,000HHs).
- Development of early warning messages to be disseminated through the various media including community visits.
- Sensitization of response teams on disease surveillance as well as health and nutrition outreaches.

Additionally, the Kenyan Red Cross been working with the National Government and County Disaster Response teams to support the communities affected by floods by:

- Comprehensive needs assessments in the affected areas
- Conducting search and rescue/ recovery actions
- Development and dissemination of early warning messages to communities in flood risk areas
- Issuing of flood and landslides alerts to communities in mapped areas based on rainfall predictions
- Hygiene promotion activities is currently ongoing in Kilifi, Wajir, Marsabit and Kisumu Counties on Cholera and other waterborne diseases
- Distribution of NFIs for the most vulnerable households is ongoing in Marsabit and Wajir counties targeting 262HHs and 300HHs respectively
- Roll out of cash assistance to 150HHs in Moyale, Marsabit County

## Mali

Mali, which has been heavily affected by various crises (e.g. food insecurity, security, political tensions), experienced heavy rainfall in August 2019 affecting the Koulikoro, Timbuktu, Kidal, Mopti and Ménaka regions of Mali, leading to extensive damage. From the initial assessments conducted by Mali Red Cross Society (MRCS) on 28 August 2019, 6,474 people or 1,729 households have been affected by the floods with severe consequences on the livelihoods of families as food stocks have been washed away by the flood water. Some 845 houses were reported to have been destroyed, leaving hundreds of people homeless. The Mali Red Cross responded immediately conducting rapid assessments, establishing basic needs for direct assistance.

The Sahel CCST has been supporting Mali RC, providing guidance, tools and coordination among the Movement and external partners. A DREF amounting CHF 245,890 has therefore been released on 06 September 2019. An RDRT was deployed to support the Mali RC Team to implement the agreed EPOA.

The ongoing response is targeting 800 households, with assistance with shelter (emergency shelter kits, safe shelter guidance, and essential household items), food (Cash Assistance Voucher programme where feasible), health (health promotion sessions regarding water borne diseases and malaria), and WASH (water storage equipment and water purification tablets, soap and mosquito net distribution).

The DREF activities focus on the following areas

- Development of the detailed evaluations and cash feasibility study tools



Figure 5 MRC volunteers and staff conducting rapid assessments

- Development of the volunteers' training modules
- Development of ToRs for field missions and trainings of volunteers

### Mauritania

From 26 to 27 August 2019, Guidimakha Wilaya (one of the poorest Region of Mauritania, with difficult access and landlocked characteristics), located in southeast Mauritania, witnessed torrential rains in and around the regional capital city of Sélibaby. These torrential rains caused heavy human and material damages in three districts; Sélibaby, Ould Yenja and Ghabou.

In Sélibaby city, houses, roads, markets, water-supply infrastructure, and general infrastructure were severely damaged. According to the latest information, a total of 4,200 households were affected including 850 homeless households.

The National Society has collaborated with the RCRC Movement partners (French RC, Belgium RC, Lux RC, Spanish/Livelihoods RCRC Reference Centre) who have expressed their availability and willingness to support the floods response. Indeed, with support from Sahel Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) a CHF 230,894 DREF allocation was granted on 17 September 2019. An RDRT was deployed to support the NS DM Team as well as a Surge DM (with mainly a Cash Transfer expertise) was seconded to this DREF operation by Belgium RC to strengthen the response mechanism. French RC also supported the Mauritania Red Crescent in the assessment process in the Gorgol Region, second largest province simultaneously affected by the floods.



Figure 6: A district of the city of Seilibaby totally flooded © MRC

The Mauritania Red Crescent responded immediately, assisting the evacuation of the most affected and identifying others in need in conjunction with the administrative authorities. Mauritania Red Crescent, as key local and operational partner worked closely with UNICEF to distribute NFI kits, household items and deliver WASH activities to affected communities.

The DREF operation focus on providing 12,000 people with temporary shelter assistance, as well as an increased awareness of hygiene and sanitation risks, along with mitigation efforts and the distribution of hygiene kits.

The following actions have been taken to date:

- Preparation of the detailed needs assessment, cash feasibility study and/or traditional assistance intervention. This activity will determine the strategy to be adopted for the next steps of the operation
- Development of the volunteers' training modules
- Development of ToRs for field missions and trainings of volunteers
- Mobilization of 50 volunteers for the implementation of the DREF activities
- Sharing the DREF activities' implementation with authorities and concerned ministries.

## Niger

Seasonal rainfall and subsequent high-water levels in the Niger and Benue rivers have caused flooding across Nigeria since June 2019. Floods have worsened after water levels peaked in late September and have affected 32 of the 36 states and Federal Capital Territory, killing several people, displacing over 20,000, and causing crop damage to varying degrees across the country. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) in Niger warned on 18 October that levels of the Komadougou in Diffa were more than 60cm above alert stage. This has caused significant damage in all socio-economic sectors of the Diffa region and particularly in the localities bordering the municipalities of Chetimari and Diffa.



*Figure 7: Delivering Relief in Niger*

The Movement is responding the crisis via a DREF in support of 6,000 flood-affected individuals (1,000 households) through a cash transfer programme to support immediate livelihoods needs, as well as by providing WASH services and hygiene promotion programmes in Cross River, Kogi, Niger and Taraba States of Nigeria. The response will last approximately four months.

## Nigeria

Due to heavy rainfall and high-water levels in rivers Niger and Benue, Cross River, Kogi, Niger, and Taraba States experienced flooding from 21 to 27th September 2019. On the 21st and 22nd September, river water levels peaked which affected many communities in the above-mentioned States. Indeed, some 18,640 people (3,104 households) are affected by these floods in 54 communities while some 4,485 people (746 households) are currently displaced due to the flood waters.

The Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) undertook a rapid in-depth needs assessment from the 23 September to 3 October 2019 covering nine states. Based on the initial assessment the following were identified that Some communities across the states have had serious destruction of properties and disruption of livelihoods. Also, water distribution networks have been affected in urban centers and water points are completely flooded especially in rural communities and blockages of waterways.

The Nigeria Red Cross Society is responding to the crisis via a DREF in support of 6,000 flood-affected individuals (1,000 households) through a cash transfer programme to support immediate livelihoods needs, as well as by providing WASH services and hygiene promotion programmes in Cross River, Kogi, Niger and Taraba States of Nigeria. The response will last approximately four months.

## Senegal

In late September 2019, heavy rainfall and consequent flooding in Senegal led to widespread destruction of livelihoods, as farms and fields have been washed away. The Senegalese Red Cross Society (SRCS) in collaboration with local authorities conducted a rapid assessment on 17 September 2019. The results of this initial assessment revealed that some 991 affected households, or 8,919 people have been affected are in a precarious situation. In addition, 6 deaths have been reported of which 04 deaths were caused by lightning bolt, and two from drowning in the flood waters. The most affected people are women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities who are now being sheltered in schools with a limited access to essential services.

On 16 September 2019, 50 volunteers of SRCS Committees and response teams (4 national staff members and 4 NDRT specialized in Wash, Health, Shelter and Cash transfer) were deployed to the regions of Dakar and Kaolack to provide assistance to the affected communities. In collaboration with territorial authorities, they supported the evacuation of 408 people. In the same vein, field teams also conducted a rapid assessment of the situation and provided psychosocial first aid services to a dozen households. Assistance services were provided to 4 500 displaced persons (500 households) who live in school premises and unfinished houses through hygiene promoting activities. Senegalese RC, with the support of the Sahel Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) submitted a DREF application, which was granted on 01 October 2019. A RDRT was deployed to support to the National Society Team in the implementation of the agreed EPOA.



*Figure 8: In Kaolack and Dakar regions, many people are homeless due to floods*

The operational assistance addresses the urgent needs of 4,500 people or 500 households most affected by the floods in Rufisque and Guédiawaye departments in Dakar Region and Kaolack department in Kaolack Region of Senegal, through support to access safe shelter and settlements and to recover essential household items, as well as health and WASH assistance. A market assessment has been successfully completed and a Cash Voucher Assistance programme will be implemented to support shelter and household items replacement needs. Health assistance is focused on raising awareness about improved hygiene and sanitary practices, supplementary feeding for infants, ORS and iodized salt distributions and use of available public health services.

Improved access to potable water is planned via water purification systems and training, distribution of hygiene and dignity kits, soap and cleaning agents.

The DREF activities have started with:

- Preparation of the detailed needs assessment and cash feasibility study tools
- Mobilization of 55 Red Cross volunteers
- The orientation of 55 Senegalese Red Cross volunteers on assessment tools

## Sierra Leone

Freetown, the capital city of Sierra Leone experienced persistent torrential rains from late May 2019 to August 2019 causing flooding in low lying areas and landslides in the eastern part of the city. The main road to the city's centre was rendered impassable due to the flood waters, heavily constraining vehicles and pedestrians having to find alternative routes. The raging floods resulted in substantial destruction of houses, road networks and destroyed the livelihoods of approximately 5,381 people. The city continues to experience more rainfall which may cause more flooding and spread to additional communities which would further increase the number of affected people.



Figure 9: Flooded neighbourhood in Freetown @SLRCS

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society immediately mobilized First Aid teams as well as ambulances to assist the injured, along with conducting rapid needs assessments and the distribution of blankets and tarpaulins.

The ongoing response, to continue until early November, will assist 1,800 people with shelter (blankets and tarpaulin distribution, along with household item kits and mosquito nets), health care (psychosocial support and general health awareness campaigns), drinking water (aquatab, jerry-can and bucket distribution and guidance), sanitation (laundry and body soap, hand sanitizer distribution), and hygiene (general hygiene promotion campaigns along with community sanitation equipment).

## South Sudan

Continuous heavy seasonal rains led to severe flooding across 29 counties in South Sudan. Nearly 1 million people have been affected according to UN OCHA. Needs assessments are ongoing and figures are still being confirmed. Need for humanitarian assistance is high in the East and North-east of the country, particularly in Maban, and Pibor counties. Concerns are high in Maban, which is home to over 150,000 refugees. Among the main needs identified so far are emergency shelter, food, water, sanitation and health care. However, floodwaters are obstructing the delivery of aid and hindering access to those in need, including to refugee camps and POCs. The floods have destroyed housing, roads, and schools and have left many people in search of dry and higher ground. Severe infrastructural damage to bridges and roads has prevented humanitarian access to communities whose livelihoods and day-to-day survival is primarily dependent on humanitarian assistance. SSRC and Movement Partners are currently assessing and monitoring the flood affected areas of Bor, Pibor, Maban and Kuajok for access to start initiate response.

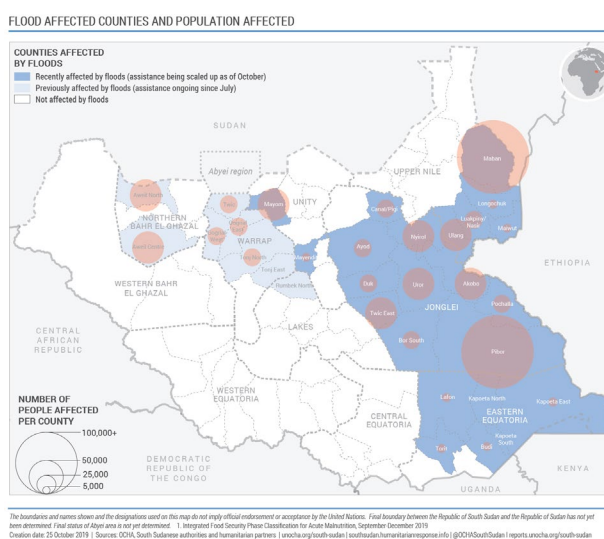


Figure 10: Map of flood affected areas of South Sudan

Floods continue to affect local communities in the areas of Northern Bahr el Gazal, Upper Nile, Unity, Jonglei, Warrap, Eastern and Central Equatoria, with up to 234,800 people displaced (UNOCHA 16 September 2019 Report).

It is expected that above normal heavy rains across the country will continue until end of October 2019. Communities across the flood plains have developed strong coping mechanisms to deal with annual flooding, however many vulnerable groups, especially women and children continue to face harsh living conditions as well as at high risk to waterborne diseases and malaria.

In its initial response the South Sudan Red Cross assisted with active search and rescue operations, distribution of water purification tablets, carried out hygiene promotion activities as well as distributed digging tools to the affected communities to establish drainage ditches.



Figure 11: SSRC Volunteers providing NFIs to Flood affected households in Nyamlel (July'19) ©SSRC

The ongoing response is providing immediate basic assistance to address the most acute needs of 34,560 people (5,760 households) in Nyamlel, Aweil Town/Centre and Gok Machar in the former Northern Bahr el Ghazal State. This includes shelter assistance, distribution of essential household items, distribution of hygiene kits (complimented with hygiene promotion) and access to potable water. Response duration is approximately three months.

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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 (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.

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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.