

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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: MUNITIONS DEPOT EXPLOSION IN LAGOS

8 February 2002

Appeal No. 3/2002

Launched on 31 January 2002 for CHF 748,133 for three weeks. Budget increased to CHF 1,020,000 (see attached budget).

DREF Allocated: CHF 150,000

Beneficiaries: 12,000

Operations Update No. 1; Period covered: 31 January - 4 February 2002

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 86.5%

Related Appeals: Annual Appeal no. 01.03/2002 - Nigeria 2002 Annual Appeal

Outstanding needs: CHF 137,529

Update/Summary: In response to this disaster, the Federation has taken the lead role in coordinating relief assistance to the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS). The NRCS continues to co-ordinate efforts with both the State Government, NEMA and military authorities to assist victims of the disaster with a focus on feeding and shelter. The ICRC has been especially helpful in directing contact with embassies and they have also provided some transport support. Co-ordination with UNICEF and the WHO continues in the field in terms of health. Red Cross volunteers continue to provide first aid on an ad hoc basis and will monitor the public health situation of the displaced in camps when these become established. Collaboration with CARITAS and the Salvation Army (who had emergency field posts established with cooking facilities during the Cantonment operation) also continues. Shelter remains the major outstanding need, and while it is not clear if the original estimate of 12,000 people to be assisted for three weeks is to be retained or exceeded, the NRCS may need to take a flexible approach in the level of response to meet the immediate needs of any increased numbers of displaced. It is also essential that the NRCS warehouse emergency stock lost in the fire be replenished.

Operational Developments:

Several new developments have occurred since the launch of the Emergency Appeal on 31 January, 2002. The night of 1 February at approximately 9:00 PM, the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) warehouse situated in the Army Ordinance Depot, Yaba on Mainland Lagos caught fire and was destroyed with a total loss of stocks estimated at CHF 660,000. The Nigerian army is investigating but the cause of the blaze remains unclear. The

incident has left the NRCS with no stock preparedness for relief operations. However, the major purchases for the current operations had not yet been made.

On February 2 at 2:45 PM, NRCS operational field staff and all other organisations working in the Abalti Barracks Yaba were told by Ikeja Army Cantonment authorities that they would, along with the Government's National Emergencies Management Agency (NEMA), assume responsibility for all matters relating to the camp. Only the officially recognised affected population which the army estimates at 385 families or a total of 1925 people will be evacuated to Abalti Barracks Yaba. The evacuation by the Nigerian military began on Sunday and ended on Wednesday. The total Ikeja Cantonment population was estimated at between 15,000-20,000 individuals. Most of the remaining population have thus far refused to be relocated to the grounds of Police College Ikeja. While the State Government has established an office and cooking facilities in readiness for their relocation to grounds of Police College Ikeja, the planned tented accommodation to be installed by Berger Nigeria PLC (see the Emergency Appeal) has not yet happened. The situation remains fluid due to the fact that it remains unknown when and how many evacuated people from the Cantonment will take refuge or seek relief on the grounds of Police College Ikeja.

On Sunday 3 February, in a separate incident rioting broke out in the densely populated Mushin area of Lagos between members of the Hausa and Yoruba tribes. The cause remains yet unclear but several sources agree that an altercation between two individuals, a Hausa and a Yoruba, quickly degenerated into ethnically based mob violence. The conflict soon spread into the Mile 12 area of Lagos. Calm returned two days later when the army and police were sent in. An estimated 100 people were killed and over 1,000 homes burned. Over 5,000 people were displaced of which 500 individuals were given temporary shelter in Abalti Barracks Yaba while the remainder took refuge in Lagos University Training Hospital. The majority of these were subsequently transferred to the Police College Ikeja. Most displaced are not yet returning home as they fear more violence. Instead, they have grouped together based on ethnic lines in order to protect themselves from further attacks. The few that have returned home have simply gone to see what belongings they could recover but have not remained.

In light of the dramatic changes on the ground during the past several days the Federation is considering revising its Emergency Appeal objectives to better address the changing situation. Between 3,000 - 5,000 people affected by the Lagos Mushin conflict have been accommodated by the State Government to the grounds at Police College Ikeja who are currently receiving assistance from NEMA, State Government and others

Red Cross and Red Crescent action w

The NRCS operational plan for the munitions depot explosion disaster remains essentially the same but due to new developments described above may the location of the distribution may be altered. The number of beneficiaries are expected to remain at 12,000.

The major focus of the NRCS work is now centered on the grounds of Police College Ikeja with the expectation that the number of people taking refuge to reach 10,000 by the end of the week. Up to 500 people from the Ikeja Cantonment were registered yesterday at the on the grounds of Police College Ikeja by Red Cross volunteers. Most displaced from the Cantonment have so far refused the leave but it is expected that they will be evacuated during the course of the week. People are very hungry and cooked food has begun being prepared by the NRCS who are currently feeding 3,000 people with a main cooked meal each day. Six tents, previously used at the Cantonment operation have been erected on the College grounds for Red Cross use.

The NRCS had a meeting with the Lagos State Authorities and the National Emergencies Management Agency (NEMA) to reconfirm the roles and responsibilities regarding caring for people within the grounds at Police College Ikeja. The NRCS has committed to providing dinner for the occupants on a daily basis. Water and sanitation is the responsibility of the Lagos State authorities, while NEMA will provide assistance on general camp management and supplementary food. The NRCS and the Federation have carried out a health assessment on the grounds of Police College Ikeja and have found there to be no outstanding health needs. The Federation has now arranged with the US Embassy that on Monday the NRCS is to receive 40 large tents

which had been previously used in peace keeping training. These will be used to shelter those people from the Cantonment who cannot find alternative accommodation.

Tracing and family reunification activities continue both for those inside and outside the Cantonment. Around 500 families affected by the exploding ordinance outside the Cantonment area are being provided with food and non food relief. Distributions of approximately 600 dry food and non-food rations for those affected by the explosion outside the Cantonment continue daily. Many of the displaced are taking refuge in various military establishments across Lagos which today have been registered for RC relief distributions.

A distribution and control center was established by NRCS in the Catholic Comprehensive College in Maryland from which this part of the operation continues. Red Cross volunteers continue to provide first aid and health monitoring for all displaced within the grounds at Police College Ikeja.

The ICRC is responsible for supporting the NRCS response to the Mushin riots operation. During the operation the NRCS deployed 50 volunteers to assist the injured during the ongoing riots in Lagos. 80 people were given first aid on the spot and 77 individuals were transported to hospital by Red Cross volunteers.

The NRCS has been at the forefront both during the munitions depot explosion and the recent ongoing riots providing relief and comfort to those affected by these traumatic events. During the riots the President of the NRCS went out at great personal peril and using a megaphone made a plea for the cessation of violence. The NRCS has enjoyed media praise and recognition by the public and by private sector. The following donations have been made to the National Society : Shell Oil Company has recently donated CHF 372,000 while City Bank Nigeria donated close to CHF 15,000; Spanish Government CHF 103,000 and Spanish Red Cross CHF 26,494. These contributions will be used towards the plan of action as outlined in this Appeal as they have been donated directly to the NRCS. Final financial reporting on these direct contributions will be the responsibility of the NRCS.

Relief distributions w

Although the grounds at Police College Ikeja have been chosen as the main operational site, sufficient accommodation has not yet been put into place. Furthermore, refusal of the remaining displaced to leave the Military Cantonment Ikeja has also left the location of relief distribution an open question.

The Lagos State Ministry of Works has promised to provide a warehouse for the NRCS free of charge which, however, this may take some time, Meanwhile a commercial warehouse has been rented under a one month contract for storage of all relief items.

Objective 1: Food Distribution

The current population of displaced on the grounds of Police College Ikeja is 5,000 but is expected to rise to 10,000 by the end of today. It is envisioned that they will be provided with one cooked meal each day by NRCS. NRCS is currently providing cooked meals for 3,000 people per day at the Police College. The originally planned distribution in Abalti Barracks Yaba grounds will not take place because the military has assumed responsibility there. The appeal has revised the ration to be provided to the displaced (revised ration: 2.0 kg rice, 300 grams beans, 100 grams oil, 75 grams sugar, 25 grams salt, and 2 small tins of fish per family per day). The new ration is reflected in the revised budget. Distribution of these dry food rations are taking place today to over 1,000 people in five military camps for the displaced across Lagos.

Objective 2: Family Pack Distribution

The plan to provide rehabilitation assistance packs to 2,500 families remains an option but can only occur after the current emergency phase has ended and when it is clear where the Cantonment people decide to go.

Objective 3: Shelter Distribution

The Federation has now arranged with the US Embassy that on Monday the NRCS is to receive 40 large tents which had been previously used in peace keeping training. These will be used to shelter those people from the Cantonment who cannot find alternative accommodation.

Tracing w

When the displaced leave the Military Cantonment Ikeja, the NRCS will continue registering them and providing tracing and family reunification services. For now it is foreseen that they will be relocated to the grounds of Police College Ikeja.

The family reunification operation continues to be handled by the NRCS and is currently one of reunification run from the field with all documentation and dissemination handled on the spot. The Federation has agreed with the ICRC that if/when the circumstances are such that the situation calls for a major tracing operation which is beyond the capacity of the NRCS, the ICRC will be called upon to provide support. Due to the large Nigerian population in the UK, a special contacting arrangement between the NRCS and the Welfare Department of the British Red Cross Society has been established.

Objective 1: Beneficiary Registration

Before military authorities assumed control of the Cantonment, NRCS volunteers had registered 620 families representing just under 4,000 people. 5,000 people have been registered on the grounds of Police College Ikeja thus far, and registration will continue as newly displaced or evacuated arrive. However, some confusion has arisen from the fact that on the grounds of Police College Ikeja is now the refuge for both the displaced by ethnic conflict and the munitions explosion disaster. Red Cross volunteers also continue to register people affected outside the Cantonment which is proving slower and more difficult than expected as they are widely dispersed having found temporary accommodation with friends, family and neighbours yet. Over 1,000 families have so far been registered from non Cantonment sources.

Objective 2: Tracing and Reunification

Tracing and family reunification continues. To date, just over 1,835 missing people have been registered under the service. 1,655 mostly children have reunited with their families by the NRCS and there is an outstanding case load of 1,770 people of again mostly children.

National Society Capacity Building w

This disaster and the current Mushin conflict has had tremendous impact on the status of NRCS both in terms of the public perspective and Government role recognition. The new President of NRCS has been instrumental in this by his involvement in both the high profile media and Government interaction as well as being seen on the ground in all phases of the operation. This has translated into unprecedented public donation and closer cooperation with NEMA and the Ministry of Defense and others ministries of Government. The probability of increased Government subvention for NRCS has been improved. The disaster has resulted in increased interest in volunteering, with over 150 new volunteers being recruited in the Lagos metropolis alone.

Coordination

The Federation has taken the lead role in international coordination of relief assistance to the NRCS for the munitions explosion disaster. The ICRC has been especially helpful in directing contact with embassies and they have also provided some transport.

Co-ordination with UNICEF and the WHO continues in the field in terms of health. Red Cross volunteers continue to provide first aid on an *ad hoc* basis and will monitor the public health situation of the displaced in camps when these become established. Collaboration with CARITAS and the Salvation Army who had emergency field posts established with cooking facilities during the Cantonment operation worked closely with the Red Cross. The NRCS continues to co-ordinate efforts with both the State Government, NEMA and military authorities to assist victims of the disaster with a focus on feeding and shelter.

Outstanding needs

Shelter remains the major outstanding need. However a solution now appears imminent. It is not clear if the original estimate of 12,000 people to be assisted for three weeks is to be retained or exceeded. The NRCS assisted by the Federation may need to increase the level of response to meet the immediate needs of any

increased numbers of displaced. It is essential that the NRCS warehouse emergency stock lost in the fire be replenished, and the essential non-food supplies are reflected in the attached amended appeal budget.

For further details please contact: Anne Kirsti Vartdal, Phone : 41 22 730 4485; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: 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.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

John Horekens
Head
Relationship Management Department

Bekele Geleta
Head
Africa Department

		ANNEX 1
<u>REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY</u>	APPEAL No. 03/2002	
Nigeria: Munitions depot explosions in Lagos		
TYPE	VALUE	
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF	
Shelter & constructions	120'000	
Clothing & textiles	27'000	
Food & seeds	311'000	
Utensils & tools	158'000	
Other relief supplies	83'000	
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS		699'000
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
Computers	5'000	
Telecom. equipment	1'000	
Other equipment	47'000	
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme management	69'000	
Technical support	21'000	
Professional services	23'000	
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	28'000	
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	15'000	
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>		
Administrative & general	112'000	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS		321'000
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES		1'020'000

Nigeria: Munitions depot explosions in Lagos						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 03/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			07.02.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'020'000		TOTAL COVERAGE 86.5%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AMERICAN - GOVT/USAID		25'000	USD	41'470	04.02.2002	RECEIVED BY THE DELEGATION
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		50'000	GBP	120'000	04.02.2002	RECEIVED BY THE DELEGATION
CITY BANK OF NIGERIA				15'000	05.02.2002	DIRECT TF TO NIGERIA RC
JAPANESE - RC				24'000	05.02.2002	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		539'374	NOK	100'357	06.02.2002	
SHELL OIL CO.				372'000	05.02.2002	DIRECT TF TO NIGERIA RC
SPANISH GOVT				103'000	05.02.2002	DIRECT TF TO NIGERIA RC
SPANISH RC				26'494	05.02.2002	DIRECT TF TO NIGERIA RC
SWEDISH - GOVT		500'000	SEK	80'150	07.02.2002	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				882'471	CHF	86.5%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	