



## BURKINA FASO: FLOODS

31 August 2007

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.*

### In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 126,065 (USD 104,705 or EUR 76,403) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over one month, and will be completed by 30 September 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged. [Click here to go directly to the attached map](#)

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*

### Background and current situation

Heavy rains, recorded in several parts of Burkina Faso since the beginning of August 2007, have led to floods which have marooned villages, washed away livelihoods and caused extensive damage to houses and infrastructure.

Photo right: Floodwater has covered and marooned entire villages, rendering them inaccessible and destroying houses.

In the department of Bama (an agro-pastoral area located 30 kilometres from Bobo Dioulasso, the economic capital of Burkina), about 1,035 households (9,832 people) have been displaced after their houses were destroyed by the raging waters. The displaced people are currently accommodated in schools and tents put at the disposal of the Bobo Dioulasso branch of the Burkinabe Red Cross Society (BRCS). For the time being, it has not been possible to assess the exact number of people injured or the extent of damage caused by the floods, since more than two-thirds of affected villages are marooned and still unreachable. Bama, which is in the Houet Province, has a population of approximately 98,200 inhabitants.



The urban commune of Banh was also hit by floods following heavy rains on 5-6 August 2007; it is situated 70 km north of Ouahigouya (Yatenga Province). Within 24 hours, the 165 mm rainfall had also affected the rural commune of Banh, destroying century-long assets. Scores of livestock (cows, sheep and goats) – the exact number of which is still unknown – were carried away by the fast flowing waters alongside household belongings and clothes. Around 650 mud houses were destroyed and those still in place either have cracked walls or are uninhabitable. More than 350 family storage granaries containing ears of millet were also destroyed.

Since the rains in Banh poured at daytime, men, women and children were able to flee and take refuge on higher grounds; many lives were thus saved. A large part of the population is currently sheltered in the few solid buildings, including a health centre, the inspection office and schools; these were also flooded for four days. This situation has raised acute needs in terms of housing, such as tents, more so because children will soon be going back to school. There is also a need for food supplies and non-food items, since populations have lost almost everything.

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Still on 5 and 6 August 2007, the communes of Solenzo and Sanaba, in Banwa Province – North West of Burkina – were also hit by floods after a heavy downpour. The floods affected 5,562 people, destroyed 740 houses and carried away 113 storage granaries. Approximately 56 animals were killed while more than 1,676 hectares of cultivated land were washed away.

From 12 to 13 August 2007, the department of Po in Nahouri Province, south of the country (150 km from Ouagadougou, the capital) were also flooded. The flooding caused four deaths, severely injured one person, and rendered 201 households homeless. A vast majority of people in the department of Po have been left homeless and with no survival facilities or appropriate food. Because the displaced people are depending on contaminated water for consumption, they are exposed to the risk of diarrhoeal diseases. Furthermore, because of the proliferation of mosquitoes due to stagnant water, there is a high risk of contracting malaria.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

Immediately the first spate of flooding occurred, the Burkinabe Red Cross Society mobilized volunteers and first-aid workers, through its provincial committees, to support state services. At least 50 Red Cross volunteers were mobilized to support in the evacuation of casualties and creating awareness on water and sanitation (WatSan) issues.

Additionally, the National Society provided eight tents, five tonnes of cereals and ten parcels of second-hand clothes (each weighing 55 kg) to assist the flood affected people. The society also prepared and provided flyers for awareness raising campaigns against cholera and waterborne diseases in the affected areas.

#### **Action by the government**

Immediately after flooding occurred in the department of Bama, the Government of Burkina Faso initiated assistance operations. The government has provided financial aid through the Ministry of Social Affairs and National Solidarity. On 14 August, a delegation led by the Minister of Social Action and National Solidarity visited Bama to assess the situation; a BRCS team was part of the delegation.

People who have been rendered homeless are currently sheltered in temporary sites set up by the government. Teams from the provincial departments of Social Affairs have been appointed to provide psychological support to affected people in their villages and to help in conducting damage and needs assessments. The government has also put in place measures to guarantee security of the affected people.

#### **Action by other organizations**

Upon request from the National Committee for Emergency and Rehabilitation Assistance (CONASUR)<sup>1</sup>, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) dispatched emergency stocks for flood-affected people in Kourittenga and Bama. The items included 208 mats, 434 blankets, 156 torches, 100 17-litre buckets and 200 one-litre containers.

Technical inter-departmental meetings were held to assess the situation and to prepare a work plan in order to draft a funding request to assist 15,000 affected people. There were also contributions from individuals, local authorities and associations.

### **Coordination**

A crisis committee has been set up by administrative authorities and is coordinating all field activities. The committee reports to national officials and shares information with humanitarian partners in Burkina Faso.

### **Needs**

Despite all the efforts made and assistance provided so far, more than 940 households are still living in precarious conditions. They urgently need shelter, food, non-food assistance such as blankets and mats, and insecticide-treated nets. As far as water and sanitation issues are concerned, there is an urgent need for hygiene material, such as soap and towels as well as chlorine for water treatment.

### **Plan of action**

Given its limited resources, and for efficiency purposes, the Burkinabe Red Cross Society intervention will focus on assisting displaced people in Bama (Houet Province) and the department of Po (Nahouri Province).

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<sup>1</sup> In French: Comité National de Secours d'Urgence et de Réhabilitation (CONASUR)

**General objective: The Burkinabe Red Cross Society contributes to reducing risks of water and vector borne diseases and improving living conditions of flood-affected people in Houet and Nahouri provinces.**

**Specific objective 1: First aid materials are provided to 940 households (4,700 people) affected by floods in the departments of Bama (Houet Province), the department of Po (Nahouri Province).**

**Specific objective 2: Awareness-raising activities on WatSan issues and waterborne diseases are carried out by 50 Burkinabe Red Cross Society volunteers among affected populations in Houet and Nahouri provinces.**

**Specific objective 3: The risks of diarrhoeal diseases and malaria, due to an unhealthy environment and consumption of contaminated water, are decreased.**

**Expected results:**

- 940 flood-affected households have received non-food assistance from the BRCS;
- Flood-affected people live in a healthy environment due to a reduction in the risks of water borne, vector borne and water related diseases;
- There is a reduction of morbidity rate due to diarrhoeal diseases and malaria in Houet and Nahouri provinces;
- Affected populations are more aware of future potential disasters and possible mitigation measures;
- Disaster management and risk reduction capacities of Houet and Nahouri provincial committees are enhanced;
- A quick and simplified early warning mechanism is set up and promoted in communities living in areas prone to floods;
- A contingency plan on floods is prepared.

**Activities planned to achieve objectives:**

- Providing relief items to flood-affected households;
- Training Red Cross volunteers, opinion and association leaders on WatSan issues, diarrhoeal diseases and risk reduction;
- Raising awareness of hygiene, sanitation, diarrhoeal diseases, malaria and risk-reduction among the affected communities;
- Implementing a monitoring and assessment system.

## How we work

*All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

### **The Federation's Global Agenda**

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

#### **Global Agenda Goals:**

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## **Contact information**

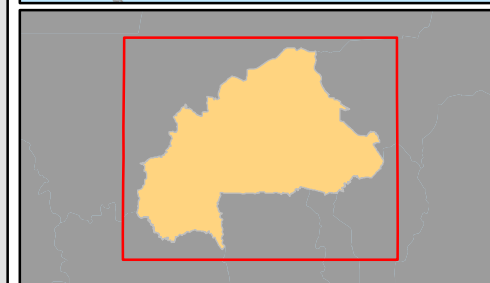
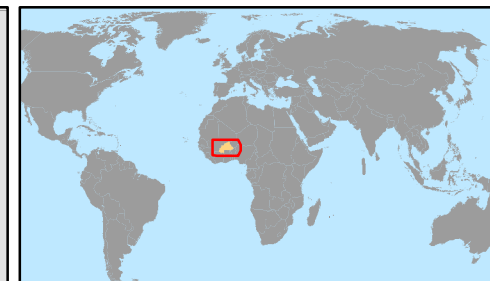
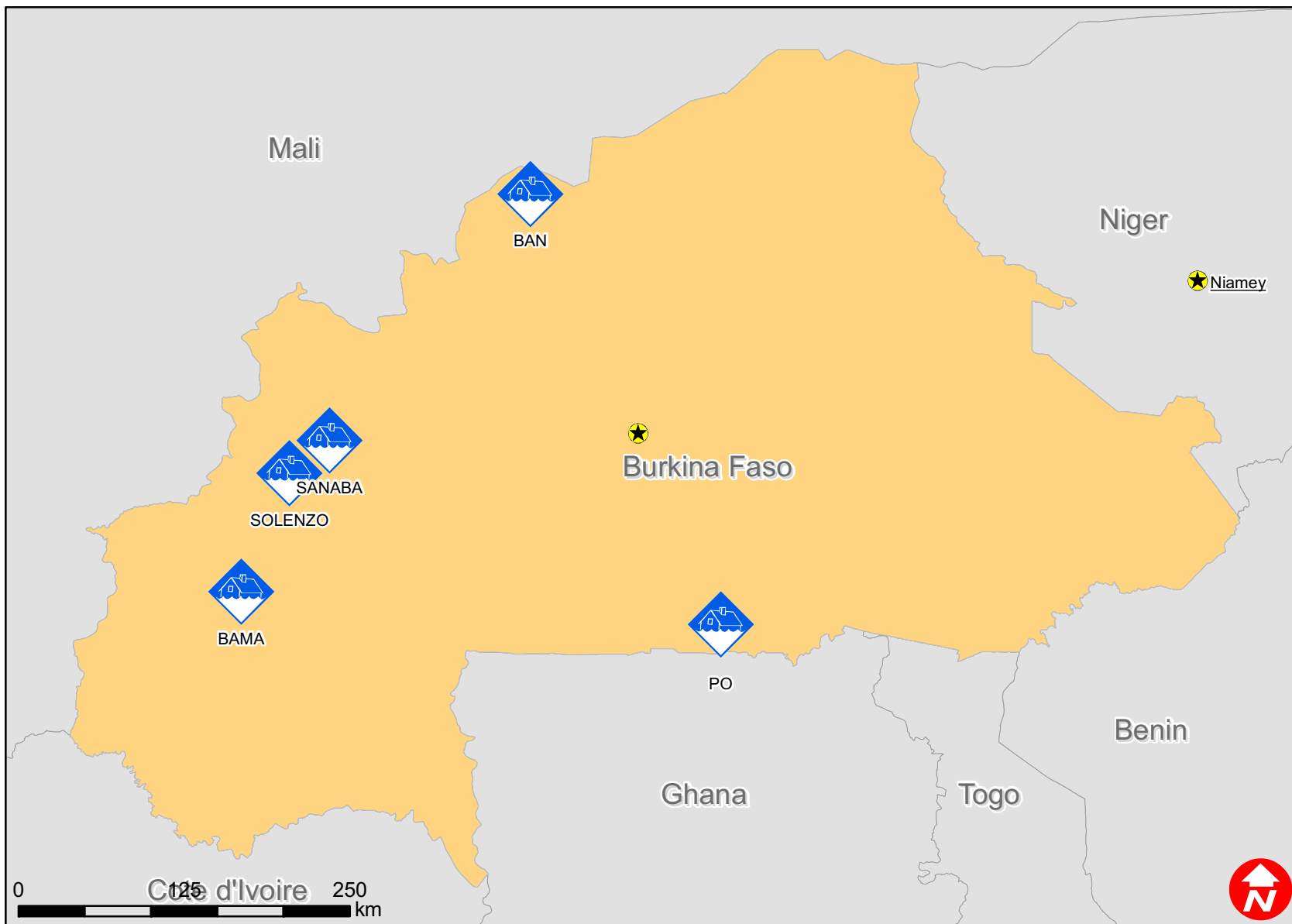
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[<Map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



## Burkina Faso: Floods



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Departments affected by floods



Capitals