

DREF operation update



Democratic Republic of the Congo: Floods in Kinshasa

DREF operation n° MDRCD002
GLIDE n° FL-2007-000197
COD
Update n° 01
10 March, 2008

The International Federation's 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 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.

Period covered by this update: 06 November, 2007 to 29 February, 2008.

Summary: CHF 284,893 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 06 November, 2007 to support the national society in delivering assistance to some 11,000 beneficiaries, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks.

The relief distribution was mainly based on essential non food items. To date, each of the 11,000 beneficiaries have received soap, mosquito nets, kitchen set, mattress, blankets, corn and beans. Eleven follow-up and evaluation missions are planned in March 2008 in the eleven high risk communes. Before closing the operation, an advocacy is planned in April before other official organizations and state-owned services for longer term mitigation actions to be taken against floods that have become recurrent in Kinshasa. This operation was expected to be implemented over six months, and completed by April, 2008. In line with Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 06 July, 2008).

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Red Cross volunteers registered all the beneficiaries prior to food and non-food items distribution:

The situation

Heavy rains experienced on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 October until Sunday October 28 in Kinshasa seriously affected 1,500 families in 11 high risk communes of Kinshasa, whose total population is 2,687,686.

According to weather forecast, the volume of water reached 222 mm per square meter, a rate never reached since 1961. The force of the water caused serious landslides and erosion in the 10 communes, killing 31 persons and causing the destruction/damage of 1,500 homes. About 11,000 people were directly affected. Many small-scale market gardens were damaged in many districts of Kinshasa and there were concern over increased respiratory infections due to flooded homes and latrines

During this reporting period, the situation of the affected populations got worse due to the deterioration of conditions in their localities (lack of food, clothes, and other non food items, etc.). After the destruction of houses, an evaluation was carried out and helped to draw up a plan of action with relief operation, sensitization of the populations on hygiene rules, and building capacities of the 11 communes with watsan materials to clean gutters.

Coordination and partnerships

Since the onset of the disaster, the Federation Representation in DRC has been in constant communication with the West and Central Africa zone in Dakar and has received support in the definition of the intervention. The Federation assisted the national society to make the initial needs assessment on the affected areas and prepare an information bulletin which led to DREF bulletin on 6 November 2007, to respond to the needs of 1,500 affected families. The response to DREF allowed carrying out activities within the framework of the first phase of the operation from 06 November, 2007 to 29 February, 2008. A crisis committee coordinated by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and composed of the Red Cross, Caritas, World Health Organization (WHO), UNFPA, UNICEF, MERU, FOLECO, Medical Inspection of Health Ministry and the DR Congo Red Cross was set up for the follow-up and management of the situation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: Floods affected populations in 10 communes of Kinshasa are assisted in food and non food items within one month.

Activities planned:

Expected results

- 1. 1,500 families affected by floods are protected against disease, acute respiratory infection, and malaria.**
- 2. Affected population has appropriate hygiene information**

Achievements: The national society set up an adequate structure for the implementation of the relief operation at national and local levels. A national supervisor was appointed to follow up activities and three volunteers for the coordination. The needs assessment showed that the commune of Masina initially mentioned on the DREF, was not qualified as vulnerable. Thus, it was replaced by two other, Kintambo and Selembao where damages and destruction were reported.

From 3 to 9 December, three meetings were held under the supervision and the coordination of Federation acting Representative. The presidents of the eleven communes and their respective disaster management officers attended the three meetings. From 10 to 16 December, two training sessions were organized for 100 selected volunteers from the Red Cross and the community in the eleven communes. These training sessions were based on hygiene promotion and simulation in case of early alert. Eleven early alert teams were set up for the prevention of floods. In addition, the records of beneficiaries have been updated and the materials purchased. From 17 to 23 December, relief distribution of food (corn, beans, oil and salt), non-food items (soap, mosquito nets, kitchen set, mattress, blankets, warning flags, signal stick) and cleaning materials (gloves, boots, wheelbarrow, shovels, pickaxes, and lime), took place in the eleven communes. Each kitchen kit contained two pots, two cups, two bidets). To fight against waterborne diseases, six water wells were disinfected through chlorination in Selembao.

Table 1: Food and Non food items distributed

Communes	Number of families	Soap	Mosquito nets	Kitchen sets	Mattress	Blankets	Corn (kg)	Beans (kg)	(
Matete	107	107	321	107	321	3 2 1	2,140	107	53
Kisenso	57	57	171	57	171	171	1,140	57	28
Makala	150	150	450	150	450	450	3,000	150	75
Bandalungwa	147	147	441	147	441	441	2,940	147	73
Selembao	74	74	222	74	222	222	1,480	74	37
Mont Ngafula	149	149	447	149	447	447	2,980	149	74
Limete	273	273	435	273	760	695	5,460	273	13
Lemba	112	112	336	112	336	336	2,240	112	56
Ngaliema	207	207	450	207	650	550	4,140	207	10
Kitambo	74	74	222	74	222	222	1,480	74	37
Kalamu	150	150	450	150	450	450	3,000	150	75
Total	1,500	1,500	3,945	1,500	4,470	4,305	30,000	1,500	75

The distribution was followed by sensitization on water hygiene, sanitation and better use of latrines. Public messages were addressed to the whole population by Red Cross volunteers. The communes of Selembao and Kintambo received half of the kit content given the low number of affected population comparatively to the other communes. From 24 to 30 December, Red Cross and community volunteers carried out cleaning operation in the different communes. This operation went on until February 24, 2008. It consisted of cleaning gutters and fight against erosion and floods in the affected homes. In addition, 680 homes were disinfected in February 2008.

Table 2: List of Watsan Materials. Selembao and Makala received half of the Kit content

Received	Distributed	Beneficiary commune
500 gloves	50 x 11	Bandalungwa
500 boots	50 x 11	Kisenso
100 kg lime	10 x 11	Mt Ngafula
250 shovels	25 x 11	Makala
250 pickaxes	25 x 11	Selembao
50 wheelbarrows	50 x 11	Kalamu
		Matete
		Limete
		Kintambo
		Ngaliema
		Lemba

Challenges: The national society, at national and local level, does not have a warehouse especially dedicated to the storage of strategic stocks for prompt disaster response. In addition, the lack of means of transportation and sufficient means of communication which can permit to carry out relief distribution with facility was one of the causes that delayed the operation.

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.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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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