

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The Gambia: Storm

**DREF operation n° MDRGM004
GLIDE n° ST-2008-000083-GMB
7 July 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: 05 to 30 June 2008.

Summary: CHF 34,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 13 June, 2008 to support the national society in delivering assistance to some 300 beneficiaries.

At the beginning of June, 2008 a severe storm hit the area around Darsilameh village in the Western Region of Gambia. The storm caused damage to more than 15 compounds, directly affecting more than 300 persons. Houses were destroyed, and the families therefore have no shelter.

At the first hours of the storm, the Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) volunteers from the Western Region branch assisted those affected to move belongings from their ruined houses, and carried out assessments in coordination with representatives of the Governor's office. The Federation has supported the GRCS with a DREF to assist the affected populations with. The DREF allocation allowed the national society to assist 300 beneficiaries through the distribution of roofing materials and risk reduction sensitization

This operation is expected to be implemented in 3 months, and completed by 31 August, 2008. In line with Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 30 November, 2008).



At a roofing materials distribution point

The situation

On 2 June, 2008 at around 2.00 P.M a squall of some 25-30 knots hit the area around Darsilameh village in the Western Region (WR) of The Gambia. According to the hydro meteorological Institute report, the squall came in from the South and damaged around 15 compounds within 15 minutes, affecting more than 300 persons in Darsilameh. Some houses were destroyed and some others have lost their roofs, living people without shelters.

An assessment mission has been carried out to the affected area. The assessment team comprised representatives of the Governor's office, The Gambia Red Cross Society members, Western Region Branch Office and Brikama Area council. To assist the affected people, GRCS has requested a DREF from the Federation.

Coordination and partnerships

The government through the Governor of Western Region put up a crisis committee. The assessment mission lead by the Gambia Red Cross team in the affected area was carried out in coordination with representatives of the Governor's office, The Gambia Red Cross Western Region Branch Office and Brikama Area Council. The team also participated on 21 June to the distribution of the materials needed to restore the 15 damaged houses.

The government through the Governor Western Region put up a crisis committee and offered to support the victims. The Western Region Brikama Area Council offered to support the victims with food for 10 days prior the arrival of any other support in order to help the families restore back to normality and provided the victims with 10 bags of 50kg of rice.

Taking into account the need of quickly response to the situation, a coordination meeting was held at the Office of the Western region Governor.

The Gambia Red Cross Society has been active through the process, coordinating and monitoring the situation from the affected area. Both the regional Red Cross office and the national headquarters are monitoring the re-roofing process undertaken by the community.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

During the assessment mission, following activities have been undertaken: visits to the affected households, registration of affected victims and preparation of beneficiary lists. The team coordinated by the GRCS Branch office collected secondary information from the Governor's office and compiled a Need Assessment Report.

The assistance to the victims for two months through the distribution of materials needed to re-roof houses before the raining season is ongoing.

. Western Region Branch trained Red Cross volunteers were at the site helping the victims immediately after the storm, and on distributing materials to the affected families.

Progress towards objectives

The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) action is focusing on the support to storm victims in Foni Darsilameh in Western Region of the Gambia to rebuild their houses, get access to information on risk reduction initiatives and have access to food items.

Emergency Shelter	
Objective: Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) will contribute to re-build houses and ensure the wellbeing of 300 beneficiaries in Foni Darsilameh in Western Region of the Gambia.	
Expected results	Activities planned
56 households receive roofing materials (corrugated iron sheets, nails, and palm sticks) and communities are sensitized on risk reduction initiatives	Training of 10 volunteers to support the community in the re-roofing process and sensitization on the risk reduction initiatives
15 damaged houses are re-roofed and 300 victims have recovered their houses within two weeks with the support of GRCS volunteers	Procurement of roofing materials with the support of the logistics unit
56 households receive appropriate material distributed by GRCS volunteers according to the level of damage in each compound. 10 heads of household receive 50kg of rice	Support the community in re-roofing their damaged houses and follow up the progress of the activities in the community Distribution of materials and food to the beneficiaries

The DREF allocation allowed the national society to assist 300 beneficiaries through the distribution of roofing materials comprising the following:

N°	Detail	Quantity
1	Corrugated iron sheets	30 packets
2	Rafters (wood)	400 pieces
3	Trusses (wood)	800 pieces
4	Nail (4 inches)	100 kg
5	Nail (3 inches)	150 kg
6	Cap Nail (3 inches)	200 kg
7	Rice (50 kg bags)	10 bags

Ten (10) Red Cross volunteers have been also trained to support the community in the re-roofing process and conduct sensitization activities on risk reduction initiatives. The activities have been implemented by regional teams, branch field coordinators and Red Cross volunteers, with supervision from GRCS national headquarters. The food items have been provided by the Western Region Brikama Area Council to GRCS for distribution

The Gambia RC is leading the operations with technical support from the Federation disaster response team in the zone office. The terms of this support is put down in a jointly signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Challenges:

Red Cross volunteers have faced logistical problems to reach the scene of the disaster.

There is a delay in information sharing between the national headquarter and the regional Branches because the GRCS does not have VHF and HF radio.

Another difficulty affecting the operations was the lack of local resource mobilization mechanism for GRCS first response before any DREF or external support is sorted.

Lesson learned:

The support of GRCS is even more consistent since the raining season is starting and many of those families cannot afford to rebuild the houses themselves.

During the distribution phase, the team noted some coping mechanisms that the community adapted with the situation before GRCS intervention;

1. Three households' victims went into loans from local suppliers to re-roof their houses before the arrival of GRCS support and these loan agreements have been cancelled as a result of the GRCS timely intervention in the area.
2. Some public places like the mosques have been used to host two single women household heads' families to sleep.

The National Radio and Television compiled a collection of the re-assessment of the situation and the distribution process with the victims and a cassette will be provided to the Red Cross and will be used in the TV shows for a risk reduction initiative for future disasters by the Gambian populations.

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

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact

vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

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

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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