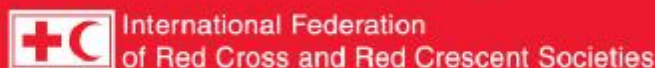


# DREF operation final report



## The Gambia: Wind Storm

DREF operation n° MDRGM004  
GLIDE n° ST-2008-000083-GMB  
21 January 2009

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 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.

**Summary:** CHF 34,000 (USD 30,294 or EUR 22,844) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on June 2008 to support the national society in delivering assistance to 113 beneficiaries.

Following the receipt of funds, 56 out of the 113 households assisted have rehabilitated their houses with corrugated iron sheets, assorted nails, and wood. Ten (10) most vulnerable households were also supported with rice as a food supplement. Additionally, 20 Western Region Branch volunteers were trained on mechanism of relief distribution mechanisms. Volunteers were also trained in community sensitization on risk reduction during emergencies and three communities around Darsilameh were sensitized on risk reduction.



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## The situation

On June 2, 2008 around 2pm a squall of 25-30 nautical miles struck the area around Darsilameh village in the Western Region of The Gambia. The hydro meteorological department reported that the squall came in from the south and damaged approximately 15 compounds within 15 minutes, and affected 300 persons and 113 households in Darsilameh.

The Gambia Red Cross Society assisted the fifty six (56) most vulnerable affected households. Even though not all the materials needed by the victims can be provided by the national society, the provision of relief materials improved living conditions of victims, and 56 households have rehabilitated their houses. The intervention has also improved the risk reduction capacities of the community.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Regional Red Cross Branch Office was seen as a lead agent in the relief process, from the initial disaster data collection to the response. Red Cross volunteers assisted affected households to remove

belongings from their damaged homes soon after the storm. The branch has conducted community sensitization on risk reduction, and has improved its own capacity through the operation. The intervention allowed to improve living conditions of the victims and facilitated their return to normal daily life. These beneficiaries are now concentrating their efforts on their farmland, which will contribute to ensuring food security.

The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) was active throughout the entire process from coordination to the monitoring of the situation in the affected area. The timely intervention by the national society has contributed to prevent the victims from taking a loan payable from the sales of farm products and/or animals, which would considerably affect food stocks. The practice of five heads of household taking collective loans is also important to prevent because it could oblige recipients to pay within a short period of time or bank on their yearly farm produce.

## Progress towards objectives

**Objective 1: GRCS supports storm victims with roofing materials for the re-roofing of the damaged houses and provides rice to single household heads.**

The response by the national society was to support the 56 most vulnerable out of 113 affected households with re-roofing materials (corrugated iron sheets, assorted nails, and wood). In addition to the roofing materials distributed, ten 50kg bags of rice were distributed to ten single headed households.

**Objective 2: The material will be distributed to each compound according to the level of damage.**

A re-assessment was done in the community in order to confirm the report of destroyed houses and to determine whether the number of beneficiaries is the same as initially reported. It was ascertained that the results are the same and the distribution was properly conducted.

**Objective 3: GRCS through its volunteers will support the victims to put up their roof in the next two weeks and conduct a risk reduction sensitization.**

Twenty (20) Red Cross volunteers were sent to two affected communities to sensitize them on risk reduction measures. The community of Darsilameh was supported in the re-roofing of their houses.

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Overall objective: The GRCS will contribute to the well-being of 60 homeless families.**

**Specific objective: To ensure that affected households receive roofing materials to repair damaged houses (eight packets of corrugated iron sheet to each house destroyed, 10 kilos of nails, and 20 pieces of palm stick for roofing support). GRCS volunteers will provide support.**

**Expected result: Damaged houses are re-roofed within two weeks.**

#### Activities planned

- Training of 10 volunteers to support the community in the re-roofing process and sensitisation on risk reduction initiatives;
- Procurement of roofing materials;
- Distribution of roofing materials to targeted beneficiaries.
- Support to community to re-roof damaged houses.
- Follow-up the progress, and monitor impact.

#### Impact

Through this operation 56 households representing 300 beneficiaries were supported with housing materials, and 10 most vulnerable single heads of households representing 60 people were also provided with food. The material provided for roofing will enable affected households to calmly face the next storm and develop a safety community against storms. The negative coping strategy of taking out loans that a few victims had begun was prevented as a result of the intervention. The intervention allowed victims to have more time to continue with their food crop production for household food security.

## Challenges

The distribution team faced some challenges during the distribution process, but these challenges were overcome by the team. These include: victims that were not registered in the initial assessment due to prioritization complained that they were also affected by the storm, but this was after the assessment team had already left the scene. Red Cross volunteers experienced logistical difficulties because one of the major problems of the GRCS is mobility. The GRCS found transportation difficult, especially when a quick response is required during assessment and relief distribution activities. The material resources of the GRCS are limited and hinder efficient response. The GRCS did not have any emergency relief stock for the estimated 1,200 families affected by the 2008 floods and wind storm victims of the Gambia, and no ambulance to evacuate casualties to health facilities. Transportation was difficult even to conduct timely and detailed assessment and monitoring.

## Conclusion

During the distribution period, the team supported some coping mechanisms that the community had adopted in response to the situation before GRCS' intervention. Five (5) household victims took out loans from local suppliers to re-roof their houses before the arrival of GRCS support; these loan agreements were cancelled as a result of the GRCS timely intervention in the area. Public places like the mosques were opened to support two single women heads of household that were not housed by neighbours to temporarily provide them with a place to sleep. More storms are expected in the country according to meteorological department.

## 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

### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDRGM004 - Gambia - Storm

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/6-2008/10
Budget Timeframe	2008/6-2008/8
Appeal	MDRGM004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Consolidated Response to Appeal**

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>	34,000					34,000
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	27,413					27,413
<b>C5. Other Income</b>	27,413					27,413
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)</b>	27,413					27,413
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	27,413					27,413
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	81%					81%

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>C. Income</b>	27,413					27,413
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	-27,413					-27,413
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	0					0

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRGM004 - Gambia - Storm

Final Financial Report

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### III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>34,000</b>					<b>34,000</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Food		15,445				15,445	-15,445	
<b>Total Supplies</b>		<b>15,445</b>				<b>15,445</b>	<b>-15,445</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	7,000	5,995				5,995	1,005	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>5,995</b>				<b>5,995</b>	<b>1,005</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
National Society Staff	3,225	572				572	2,653	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>3,225</b>	<b>572</b>				<b>572</b>	<b>2,653</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	1,350	1,104				1,104	246	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,104</b>				<b>1,104</b>	<b>246</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	19,220						19,220	
Information & Public Relation		204				204	-204	
Office Costs	295	119				119	176	
Communications	700	366				366	334	
Financial Charges		1,826				1,826	-1,826	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>20,215</b>	<b>2,515</b>				<b>2,515</b>	<b>17,700</b>	
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	2,210	1,782				1,782	428	
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>2,210</b>	<b>1,782</b>				<b>1,782</b>	<b>428</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>34,000</b>	<b>27,413</b>				<b>27,413</b>	<b>6,587</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>6,587</b>				<b>6,587</b>		