

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Nigeria: Population movement

DREF operation n° MDRNG007  
24 September 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.

**CHF 75,939 (USD 69,035 or EUR 47,021) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in assessing the situation for delivering immediate assistance to some 100,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** Up to 100,000 people have been displaced in southern Nigeria in the long disputed Bakassi peninsula. The situation degenerated after the official administration hand over from the Nigeria government to Cameroon authorities on 14 August 2008. It seems that the causes of this population movement are the fear of persecution from the security services of the new authorities.

School age children in the displaced camps have disrupted their academic activities and the rainy season is making it worse for populations living in makeshift camps without the basics. More than 13 camps have been set up in Akwa Ibom State with very low hygiene standards, high concentration mosquitoes and people sleeping on the ground without mats. Concerns are for the health of displaced populations who still have to meet basic needs for shelter and food.

Very limited humanitarian assistance has been provided while the challenge is enormous and there is a need for in-depth assessment for the relief operation. A Federation field assessment team led by two FACT members and comprising three RDRT members is being deployed to assist in the process.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 02 months, and will therefore be completed by 24 November, 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 24 February, 2009).

[<click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details >](#)

## The situation

Discussions on the Bakassi peninsula have been ongoing for more than five years, and a political solution has been finally reached between Cameroon and Nigeria authorities. The official ceremony of the administration hand-over occurred on August 14, 2008. Since, thousands of the peninsula residents started fleeing back to the south of Nigeria because they fear persecution.

Up to 100,000 displaced Nigerians are sheltering in makeshift camps 10 kilometres away in the state of Akwa Ibom. Most returnees came back without basic personal belongings or having lost all money to violent attacks at the peninsula. According to reports in the field, more people keep on arriving and this may lead to an

impending humanitarian crisis. The whereabouts of over 300 Nigerian (some of them children) is yet to be determined.

Despite enormous efforts made by Akwa Ibom's local authorities in providing makeshift camps at Mbo, Oron, Okobo, Uruan, Udung Uko, Esit Eket, Nsit Atai, Nsit Ibom, Ibiono Ibom, Ikot Ababsi, Eket and Onna LGAs, the influx is overwhelming to address returnees' basic needs. This has caused a challenge to local authorities to providing assistance in terms of food, shelter, clothing, and health and care bearing in mind that hygiene and sanitation has become a great concern to local populations and displaced persons. There are ongoing discussions between central and local authorities to determine the overall government intervention.

Fear of escalating insecurity is being expressed since the peninsula has suffered attacks by both Nigerians and Cameroonians over the past year, with casualties registered on both sides.

## Coordination and partnerships

The local government is coordinating the assistance and a committee composed of seven people has been set up to handle the resettlement plan. Limited emergency supplies have been given to some returnees on arrival by local authorities.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the influx started, the Nigerian Red Cross Society has been active, especially volunteers, in receiving and assisting populations in makeshift camps provided by local authorities. Emergency team members have been put on alert for imminent deployment despite the lack of equipment to handle such an important number of people. The local branch is organising itself and is liaising with the national headquarters to develop a plan of action to assist the most vulnerable, mainly children. Sensitisation on HIV is being conducted since the region has a high HIV/AIDS prevalence rate.

## The needs

**Beneficiary selection:** This situation presents a challenge with basic needs in non-food items, shelter, food and basic health and care. Displaced persons in some camps have even resorted to road-side begging to meet their daily needs. Meanwhile, hygiene conditions of the camps seem to be below acceptable standards including high concentration of mosquitoes thus the exposure to health related risks.

## The proposed operation

This operation will mainly be focusing on assessing the situation ascertain the appropriate approach and develop a workable plan of action together with the Nigerian Red Cross Society to assist displaced persons. Based on the assessment and discussions with the NRCS, the Federation will consider the delivery of other immediate assistance with a focus on health, basic relief items, and hygiene.

## Relief Assessment

**Objective:** To develop a plan of action for the assistance of 100,000 people from Bakassi based on the assessment.

### Activities planned:

- Conduct field assessment;
- Make recommendation to ensure an appropriate response level according to the severity of the disaster;
- Coordinate with partners and advocate for their involvement;
- Liaise with government official to discuss and agree on an exist strategy.

## Budget summary

TYPE	VALUE IN CHF
<b>SUPPLIES FOR BENEFICIARIES</b>	
Medical and First Aid	697
<b><u>TOTAL BENEFICIARIES NEEDS</u></b>	<b>697</b>
<b><u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u></b>	<b>4,936</b>
<b>TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>GENERAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>67,306</b>
Travel	51,306
Communication & Telephone	13,000
Operation cost and other Admin Costs	3,000
<b><u>TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS</u></b>	<b>70,306</b>
TOTAL GLOBAL	<b>75,939</b>

## 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:**

- **In Nigeria:** Patrick Bawa is acting Secretary General, phone: +234 8028461726, email: [nigerianredcross2003@yahoo.com](mailto:nigerianredcross2003@yahoo.com) or [kbbawa@yahoo.com](mailto:kbbawa@yahoo.com)
- **In Nigeria:** Chinyere Emeka-Anuna, Acting Head of West Coast Regional Office, Lagos; phone: +234 12695228; Fax: +234 12695228; email: [chinyere.emekaanuna@ifrc.org](mailto:chinyere.emekaanuna@ifrc.org)
- **In Dakar:** Alasan Senghore, Head of Zone, West and Central Africa Zone, phone:+221 33 869 3640, Fax:+221 33 820 25 34, email: [alasan.senghore@ifrc.org](mailto:alasan.senghore@ifrc.org); Youcef Ait-Chellouche, Disaster Management Coordinator, West and Central Africa Zone; phone: +221 33 869 36 44; email: [youcef.aitchellouche@ifrc.org](mailto:youcef.aitchellouche@ifrc.org)
- **In Geneva:** Niels Scott, Federation Operations Coordinator (Africa); telephone +41 22 730 4527; fax + 41.22.733.0395; email: [niels.scott@ifrc.org](mailto:niels.scott@ifrc.org)

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