

# DREF operation update

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Nigeria: Population Movement

Emergency Appeal n° MDRNG007  
Update n° 1  
17 March, 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 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:** 6 November to 31 December 2008.

**Summary:** CHF 275,939 (USD 238,680 or EUR 188,367) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 6 November, 2008 to support the national society in its Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) deployment and in delivering assistance to some 1,400 beneficiaries in Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria.

The movement of Bakassi residents into the southern part of Nigeria after the Nigerian Government formally handed over of the Peninsula to Cameroonian authorities resulted in serious humanitarian crisis. The returnees sheltered in various camps in Nigeria were received by the Nigerian Red Cross volunteers and provided with limited humanitarian assistance at the initial stage. With support from the Federation DREF allocation, the national society intensified its relief assistance to the returnees in their camps in Akwa Ibom. The Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) has procured and distributed non-food items to target beneficiaries. The trained Red Cross volunteers have carried out sensitization activities focusing on good hygiene practice and health education in the camps. The state branch of the NRCS has also strengthened its capacity from the operation.



Identification and registration of returnees

[<click here to view contact details>](#)

## The situation

The Nigerian Government's formal handover of the Bakassi Peninsula to Cameroonian authorities on 14 August, 2008 resulted in an important population movement. Thousands of Nigerians residing in Bakassi

feared for their security and fled to Nigerian southern states of Cross River and Akwa Ibom abandoning their belongings due to violent attacks.

With most of the returnees in Akwa Ibom, local government authorities provided makeshift camps to them while the state branch of the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) through its volunteers provided limited humanitarian assistance to them from its limited stock. However, the support did not meet the immediate humanitarian needs of the returnees. With financial support from the central government, the Cross River government was able to give support to the smaller number of returnees in the state.

In support of the NRCS, the West and Central Africa Zone (WCAZ) office dispatched a joint Field Coordination and Assessment Team (FACT) and Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT), together with the national society representatives, who carried out an assessment in Akwa Ibom State and in Cross River State from 27 September to 7 October, 2008. The outcome of the mission showed a clear and urgent need for humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable returnees. The returnees who were mostly in Akwa Ibom State were sheltered in four main camps (Esit Eket, Ibiono Ibom, Ikot Abasi, and Okobo), accommodating approximately 2,500 returnees. In Esit Eket and Ikot Abasi returnees were living in empty houses without running water; government provided water in Ikot Abasi. In Ibiono Ibom they crowded into the classrooms of an abandoned school and collected water from a nearby stream. In Okobo, they occupied empty grass huts and collected rainwater to drink. In Esit Eket returnees were encroaching upon the resources of long term inhabitants, creating a potential conflict. Poor hygiene and sanitary conditions were adversely affecting living conditions in the camps (particularly Esit Eket, Ibiono Ibom and Ikot Abasi). Most of the families observed during the assessment lack basic cooking utensils and other non-food items.

With support from the Federation DREF allocation, the NRCS through the Akwa Ibom State branch has provided humanitarian assistance to the returnees sheltered in the four camps where non-food items have been distributed to 1,400 persons. The trained Red Cross volunteers also carried out sensitization activities in the four camps. This along with government efforts contributed in preventing outbreak of epidemics such as cholera, dysentery, typhoid fever, worm infections, skin infections and malaria in the camps.

The initial appeal targeted 2,500 beneficiaries in the two affected states of Cross River and Akwa Ibom. However, only 36% of the DREF was financed.

## Coordination and partnerships

The national society has been operating in the region since the returnees arrived from Bakassi. The Red Cross has been the only institution to carry out a detailed and comprehensive assessment to determine the number of returnees, their location, their needs and the issues they are facing. The reluctance of other institutions to become involved due to security concerns has resulted in the limited existence of plans and actions to support returnees and therefore limited partnerships. There have been limited contributions of food and non-food items from local government authorities, oil exploration companies operating in the area, and other private individuals.

With technical support from the Federation, the NRCS took the lead in the operation. There was a good cooperation between the NRCS and the Federation in the implementation of planned activities.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Progress towards objectives

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

**Objective: Improve the living conditions of people in the four camps (2,500 returnees) in Akwa Ibom State for three months.**

Expected results	Activities planned
People in the four camps (2,500) are provided with household items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement and distribution of NFI for 2,500 returnees in four camps</li> <li>• Training of volunteers in the distribution of items for the returnees</li> </ul>

**Progress and impact:** With the logistic support from the Federation, the NRCS procured and distributed non-food items to 1,400 target beneficiaries in the camps (see table above). Relief items procured and distributed include kitchens sets, hygiene kits, blankets, sleeping mats, lanterns, plastic buckets, jerry cans, water purification materials, soap, Insecticide Treated bed Nets (ITN), wheelbarrows and shovel (for cleaning exercise in the camps). The items were procured locally using the Federation procedures. The items distributed are impacting positively on the conditions of living of the returnees in the camps. They now have some basic relief items to sustain their temporary stay in the camps. This has also complemented the effort of the local branch that had initially provided relief support to the displaced population in two of the camps from its limited disaster preparedness (DP) stock.

The national society trained 40 volunteers for the distribution phase of the operation. The selected Red Cross volunteers were trained in distribution best practices, safer access, Red Cross code of conduct, crowd control, and identification and registration of beneficiaries. The trained volunteers, 10 for each of the camps have effectively carried out the distribution in the camps. The volunteers also sensitized the returnees on how to make good use of the items distributed.

## Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

**Objective: Populations in the four camps have clean drinking water and live in a clean environment.**

Expected results	Activities planned
Safe drinking water is provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training of volunteers in the use of water purification materials</li> <li>• Distribution of water makers</li> </ul>
A clean living environment is achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction and/or rehabilitation of latrines.</li> </ul>
Target communities are aware of major illnesses and their prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment and training of 10 mothers' clubs in health and nutrition promotional messages</li> <li>• Organization of health and nutrition education sessions with beneficiaries</li> <li>• Distribution of health information and education materials</li> </ul>

**Progress and impact:** To ensure safe drinking water in the camps, the Red Cross has procured and distributed water treatment guards to target beneficiaries sheltered in the camps. The 40 Red Cross volunteers who had also received training in the use of water purification materials, health education, hygiene and sanitation worked in the four camps to sensitize beneficiaries on water purification. The water purification exercise was done through demonstration on the use of the water guards. This has contributed to the reduction in outbreak of water borne diseases in the various camps as the beneficiaries are making good use of the water purification materials.

Trained health educators also worked in collaboration with the trained Red Cross volunteers sensitizing the returnees on good hygiene and sanitation promotion in the camps. Their efforts were complemented by members of the mothers' clubs who have also organized health education sessions with mothers in the camps. Their sessions focused on issues related to mother and child care, HIV/AIDS, family planning among others. Members of the mothers' clubs were mobilized from the state branch and deployed in the camps for this exercise. The national society has planned to organize training sessions for mothers in the camps with the aim of establishing mothers' clubs in the four camps.

With the provision of shovels and wheelbarrows by the Red Cross to the camps, returnees are now carrying out regular cleaning exercise in the camps, to help prevent outbreak of diseases in the camps.

## Health and Care

**Objective: Increase the resilience of returnees in four camps within Akwa Ibom State and surrounding communities that received Bakassi returnees within three months.**

Expected results	Activities planned
Populations in the four camps know how to use insecticide treated nets (ITNs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement and distribution of ITNs for 2,500 returnees</li> <li>• Training of volunteers in ITN instructions and distribution</li> <li>• Distribution and sensitization of communities on the use of ITNs</li> </ul>
Volunteers are trained in sensitization activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct training sessions for volunteers to sensitize returnees</li> </ul>
Target communities are aware of major illnesses and their prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct health and nutrition education sessions with beneficiaries.</li> <li>• Carry out education sessions thrice a week, reviewing a variety of topics: hygiene, malaria, drinking water, immunization, etc.</li> <li>• Distribute health Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials</li> <li>• Advocate for immunization (measles, etc.)</li> </ul>
Target groups are aware of the component of good nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of mothers' clubs and Emergency First-Aid Teams (EFAT) in target communities.</li> <li>• Training of mothers' clubs and EFATs in health and nutrition</li> <li>• Sensitization of beneficiaries on good nutrition</li> </ul>

**Progress and impact:** The Red Cross has procured and distributed Insecticide Treated Nets (ITN) to target beneficiaries. A total of 840 pieces of ITN have been distributed at the rate of three per family. The Red Cross volunteers had earlier received training in the distribution and how to sensitize beneficiaries on the use. The national society has carried out health education sessions in the target camps with the assistance of health educators and volunteers. The sessions focused on good hygiene, malaria, the importance of immunization and purification of water for drinking.

## Capacity Building and Disaster Risk Reduction

**Objective 1: To contribute to building the safety and resilience of returnees in Akwa Ibom State**

**Objective 2: To increase the capacity of the Akwa Ibom and Cross River State branches to manage disaster response and longer-term programmes**

Expected results	Activities planned
200 returnees from Bakassi are earning an income through skills acquired	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation with communities regarding areas for skills development</li> <li>• Identification of beneficiaries for skills training</li> <li>• Partnership with skills providers</li> <li>• Procurement of tools for income generating activities (IGA)</li> <li>• IGA for 200 beneficiaries in specific skills</li> </ul>

	<p>areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution of IGA tools to beneficiaries</li> </ul>
Akwa Ibom branch has increased logistic capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replenish Akwa Ibom State branch stock</li> <li>• Procure operational assets for the branch to facilitate their work to implement the project</li> <li>• Post-training follow up of IGA skills</li> </ul>
Akwa Ibom and Cross River branches have increased disaster management (including disaster risk reduction) capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training of existing volunteers to implement the relief effort</li> <li>• Recruit and train 40 new volunteers in the community</li> <li>• Procurement of two four-wheel drive vehicles, two laptops and printers to increase the logistic and information processing and communications capacity of the branches.</li> </ul>
Branches are managing the programme in line with the programme plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct monitoring and evaluation training for branches and those supporting them</li> <li>• Organize report writing training for team leaders, coordinators, branch secretary and zone coordinators</li> <li>• Regular reporting from the field to the branch and the International Federation</li> </ul>

**Progress and impact:** The national society has replenished the stock of the state branch. The branch had earlier assisted some of the returnees with limited non-food items from its warehouse. Items replenished include 250 pieces of blankets; 250 pieces of sleeping mats; 1,000 pieces of plastic plates; 1,000 pieces of plastic cups and 1 bale of fairly used clothes.

The capacity of the state branch has also been enhanced with the training of 40 new volunteers involved in the operation. The volunteers drawn from the communities where the camps were located were expected to enhance the activities of the Red Cross at the community level even after the operation. The Federation supported the state branch in the recruitment and training of a driver to facilitate logistics during the operation.

**Challenges:** The delay in the commencement of the operation was due to some administrative and logistics issues on the part of the national society. However, activities picked up as soon as these issues were resolved.

#### NFI distributed by the NRCS

No	NFI	Total quantity	Beneficiaries
1	Wheelbarrow	10 pieces	2/camp
2	Shovel	80 pieces	20/camp
3	Lantern	280 pieces	1/household
4	Kitchen set	280 sets	1/household
5	Blanket	840 pieces	3/household
6	Sleeping mats	840 pieces	3/household
7	Hygiene kit	840 pieces	3/household
8	Bucket	280 pieces	1/household
9	Jerry can	560 pieces	2/household
10	Water guard	3,360 bottles	12/household
11	Soap	4,200 pieces	15/household
12	ITN	840 pieces	3/household

#### Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The national society's headquarters with the state branch have been working in close collaboration with government authorities at state and local levels to ensure that assistance reach target beneficiaries. The Red

Cross has also been working in close collaboration with the local and national media to ensure visibility of the Red Cross. This manifested greatly with the media coverage given to the distribution phase of 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

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

- **In Nigeria:** Chinyere Emeka-Anuna, Acting Head of West Coast Regional Office, Lagos, email: [chinyere.emekaanuna@ifrc.org](mailto:chinyere.emekaanuna@ifrc.org), phone: (234)12.69.52.28; Fax: (234) 12.69.52.28; Adamu Babale, Acting Secretary General, [email:nigerianredcross2003@yahoo.com](mailto:nigerianredcross2003@yahoo.com), phone: (234) 80.28.46.17.26
- **In Dakar:** Alasan Senghore, Federation Head of West and Central Africa Zone, email: [alasan.senghore@ifrc.org](mailto:alasan.senghore@ifrc.org) phone:(221) 33.869.36.40, Fax:(221) 33.820.25.34, Youcef Ait-Chellouche, Disaster Management Coordinator, West and Central Africa Zone; email: [youcef.aitchellouche@ifrc.org](mailto:youcef.aitchellouche@ifrc.org); phone: (221) 33.869.36.44
- **In Geneva:** David Lynch, Operations Coordinator, email: [david.lynch@ifrc.org](mailto:david.lynch@ifrc.org); phone: (41) 227.30 46.75

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