

# Emergency appeal



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Nigeria: Population Movement

Emergency Appeal n° MDRNG007  
10 November 2008

This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 788,942 (USD 540,372 or EUR 689,033) to support the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,500 returnees while building the capacity of the Akwa Ibom and the Cross River Red Cross branches to implement the planned activities.

### Appeal History:

- CHF 75,939 (USD 69,035 or EUR 47,021) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 24 September to support the assessment mission.
- CHF 200,000 (USD 174,673 or EUR 136,987) was allocated from the Federation's DREF on 6 November to start up relief operations.



Returnees on the floor where they spend the night

### Summary:

This Emergency Appeal is to assist the approximate 2,500 returnees from the Bakassi Region living in four camps in the state of Akwa Ibom, Nigeria. The Appeal builds on the original DREF allocations, the first of which supported the RDRT/FACT team deployment, assessment and the development of a Plan of Action to assist returnees and the second, to start up the procurement and distribution of relief items. The Federation will support the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) relief activities based on the Plan of Action developed to assist the immediate needs of 2,500 returnees. Health sensitization and hygiene promotion will be carried out within and outside the camps where the returnees are residing to help prevent the spread of disease.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 7 February 2009; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 7 May 2009).

[<click here to view the attached Emergency Appeal Budget,](#)  
[here to view the map of the affected area](#)  
[or here for contact details>](#)

## The situation

The Nigerian Government's formal handover of the Bakassi Region to Cameroonian authorities on 14 August 2008 resulted in a significant population movement. Thousands of Nigerians residing in Bakassi feared for their security and fled to Nigeria's Cross River and Akwa Ibom States. Most returnees left without basic personal items or lost money and belongings due to violent attacks.

Despite enormous efforts made by Akwa Ibom's local authorities to provide makeshift camps (the majority of the returnees are concentrated in Akwa Ibom State), the support provided does not meet all of the returnees' immediate needs. In Cross River State, there are smaller numbers of returnees, and Government has been able to provide more support. Since the influx started, the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS), with support from their volunteers, has been receiving the returnees and providing limited assistance in temporary facilities or camps provided by the local authorities.

In support of the NRCS, the Federation's West and Central Africa Zone (WCAZ) office dispatched a joint Field Coordination and Assessment Team (FACT) and Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT), together with National Society representatives, who carried out an assessment in Akwa Ibom State and in Cross River State from 27 September to 7 October 2008. Information gathered from local government authorities on the number of returnees and the services provided was difficult to verify, and the FACT/RDRT mission therefore experienced difficulty in clarifying full information on the situation of the beneficiaries. Despite this, it is clear that assistance to the most vulnerable is urgently needed.

Meanwhile, the Government of Nigeria allocated funds to the Cross River State to begin the integration of the returnees. The state is attempting to mobilize these resources, and has commenced the rehabilitation of houses to accommodate the returnees. Government representatives indicate that returnees will be integrated into communities, but a comprehensive plan has yet to be implemented.

Returnees are residing in camps and residential areas in both the interior and coastal areas. Some are integrated into local communities. There are four main camps in Akwa Ibom State (Esit Eket, Ibiono Ibom, Ikot Abasi, and Okobo), accommodating approximately 2,500 returnees. In Esit Eket and Ikot Abasi returnees are living in empty houses without running water; government provided water is available in Ikot Abasi. In Ibiono Ibom returnees have crowded into the classrooms of an abandoned school and collect water from a nearby stream. In Okobo, returnees have occupied empty grass huts and collect rainwater to drink. In Esit Eket returnees are encroaching upon the resources of long term inhabitants, creating a potential conflict. Poor hygiene and sanitary conditions are adversely affecting living conditions in the camps (particularly Esit Eket, Ibiono Ibom and Ikot Abasi). There is a lack of bedding materials. Other returnees take out loans or perform hard labor to earn money to buy food. Most of the families observed during the assessment lack basic cooking utensils and other non-food items. Returnees' health is in jeopardy, particularly when water is not treated. There are also small camps in Cross River state; these camps are not as vulnerable as those in Akwa Ibom State.

A lack of appropriate interventions to date have increased the potential for a serious outbreak of various diseases, such as cholera, dysentery, typhoid fever, worm infections, skin infections and malaria. A possible increase in the spread of HIV/AIDS is also a concern. More than thirteen people have been confirmed dead in the camps. No immunization efforts have been reported since the arrival of the returnees.

Access to health services in Nigeria is not free, and returnees must pay for health services. The distance to the nearest health facility from each of the four camps is 10 km or more. There is an urgent need to support the returnees in health and care, the provision of relief materials, and with safe drinking water. The Nigerian government has offered free health services to returnees in Okobo camp, but the cost of transportation to the health facility is unaffordable for most residents.

## 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 attempt a detailed and comprehensive assessment to determine the number of returnees, their location, their needs and the issues that affect them. 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.

The Nigerian Red Cross Society will take the lead in this operation with the technical and financial support from the Federation and ICRC. There is good cooperation between the Movement partners in country and the ICRC will coordinate family reunifications and integration, and the Federation and NRCS will support activities in this aspect of the operation.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

To date the Nigerian Red Cross Society Akwa Ibom branch was able to assist more than 170 families through the distribution of non-food items from their stockpile, focusing on returnees in camps. The Cross River branch also provided limited assistance to returnees in Cross River state, who are integrated in communities and in the few small camps. The National Society conducted an initial assessment with the ICRC, followed by the joint RDRT and FACT assessment with the National Society. Both the Akwa Ibom and the Cross River branches plan to continue to support the returnees but are constrained in their intervention due to lack of resources and capacity.

To enable the NRCS to implement the planned activities according to the FACT/RDRT plan of action, the Federation has supported the proposed operation with a DREF, focusing on supporting the start up of the procurement and distribution of non-food items to meet the immediate needs of the returnees. This intervention is targeting the most vulnerable people in the camps (945 beneficiaries). Health sensitization and hygiene promotion will also be carried out within and outside the camps.

The activities in the camps will be closely monitored by coaches; experienced branch level volunteers who will oversee planning. Each coach will be responsible for two camps. The coaches will report to the DM and Health coordinators of the National Society. The Nigerian Red Cross headquarters will organize a field visit to insure the proper implementation of this programme. Technical support will be provided through the engagement of one RDRT member specialized in DM/Relief at the beginning of the implementation, to establish procedures and strengthen branch capacity. The entire operation will be supervised by the Federation's Disaster Management delegate in Lagos. This DM delegate will be the designated appeal manager and will establish a mechanism to ensure good communication, monitoring and reporting of the whole operation.

During the proposed operation the Red Cross will review and assess the needs to determine if more long term activities are appropriate, including with surrounding and host communities. If necessary and if security permits, the proposed FACT/RDRT plan of action will be fully implemented through a revised Emergency Appeal. In the case the long term activities are not integrated into a revised Emergency Appeal, there is the possibility to integrate long term activities proposed by the FACT/RDRT within the National Societies' ongoing plans and Annual Appeal.

### The needs

The needs of the returnees residing in the camps are numerous and immediate. Among the urgent needs are mainly non-food items including: bedding materials, cooking utensils, clean water, latrines, hygiene kits, hygiene and nutrition education, and insecticide treated mosquito nets (ITNs).

To successfully enable the National Society to implement the project, branch capacities need to be enhanced and supported. The replenishment of their stocks will enhance their capacity to respond in future emergency situations in the state, as will the mentoring and training of branch volunteers as supported by the National Society coordinators, RDRT member and Federation team in Lagos and the provision of some material support to the branches.

### The proposed operation

The focus of the proposed operation is to improve the conditions of 2,500 returnees residing in the four camps in Akwa Ibom State, with emphasis on the health and wellbeing of the population. Non-food items, hygiene kits, and health education / hygiene promotion activities will be provided. In addition to the provision of relief items and hygiene promotion for returnees in the camps, affected communities will also be assisted in

building their capacity in regards to hygiene and sanitation awareness to improve their resilience to vector and waterborne diseases common in the area.

Finally, assistance will also be provided to returnees to regain self sufficiency and develop income generating activities (IGA) to help them integrate into the area in the longer-term and the Nigerian Red Cross Society will be given the necessary technical support required in this area. Partnerships will be potentially developed with organizations with expertise in developing IGAs to support this. Although the main support will be provided to the returnees in Akwa Ibom State, the situation in Cross River State will be monitored, and appropriate necessary support will be considered for returnees in the Cross River State at the same time.

The Red Cross operation will be coordinated with local authorities. To enable the branch to implement all the planned activities, the Federation will support the Akwa Ibom Red Cross branch and the Cross River branch of the NRCS to build their capacities to implement, supervise, monitor the overall exercise and carry out some activities in their routine activities.

#### Relief distributions of basic non-food items

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

Expected results	Activities planned
Four camp populations (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>

So far, the branch has already provided support to the displaced population with the limited DP stocks available in the Red Cross warehouse. At least 176 families in two of the camps were able to benefit from the following assistance:

Items distributed	Location 1 – Ibiono Ibom camp (76 families)	Location 2 – Ikot camp (100 families)	Total
Blankets	228	272	500
Mats	228	272	500
Plastic buckets	196	204	400
Plastic plates	483	517	1,000
Cups	483	517	1,000
Used clothes	4 bails	6 bails	10

The Red Cross volunteers provided some psychological support to the returnees and also conducted sensitization in the camps on hygiene promotion. The National Society will also monitor the needs of families and small camps in Cross River State.

#### 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
Four camp populations know how to use insecticide treated bed nets (ITNs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procure and distribute ITNs for 2,500 returnees.</li> <li>Training of volunteers in ITN instruction and distribution.</li> <li>Distribution and sensitization of communities on the usage of ITNs.</li> </ul>
Volunteers are trained in sensitization activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training volunteers in returnee sensitization.</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. Education sessions will be provided by the volunteers 3 times per week. A variety of topics will be reviewed (hygiene, malaria, drinking water, immunizations, etc.).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution of health Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials.</li> <li>• Advocacy for immunizations (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>

### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

<b>Objective: Four camp populations drink clean drinking water, and live in a clean environment.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
Safe drinking water is provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training of volunteers in 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>• Conduct health and nutrition education sessions with beneficiaries.</li> <li>• Distribution of health information and education materials.</li> </ul>

### Capacity Building and Disaster Risk Reduction

<b>Objective 1 : Contribute to building the safety and resilience of returnees in Akwa Ibom State</b>	
<b>Objective 2: Increase the capacity of the Akwa Ibom and Cross River State branches to manage disaster response and longer-term programmes</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
200 Bakassi returnees 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>• Develop partnership with skills providers.</li> <li>• Procurement of tools for income generating activities (IGA) for 200 beneficiaries in specific skill areas.</li> <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 logistical, 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 M&amp;E training for branches and those supporting them.</li> <li>• Report writing training for Team Leaders, Coordinators, Branch Secretary and Zonal Coordinators.</li> <li>• Regular reporting from field to the branch and the IFRC.</li> </ul>

### Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The National Society branches together with the NRCS National Headquarters will work in advocating for proper integration of the returnees in the camps. This will be done through advocacy with the State and Local Government Authorities. The media, which plays a vital role in disseminating information on the functions of the Red Cross, will be actively engaged in providing the necessary information to the public. The branch

through the National Society will provide regular updates on the implementation of the operation. In the case that long term activities are implemented, the Red Cross will advocate for other humanitarian agencies to become involved.

### Budget summary

See attached budget (Annex 1) for details.

Thomas Gurtner  
Director  
Coordination and Programmes Division

Bekele Geleta  
Secretary General

### 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:** Adamu Babale, Acting Secretary General, phone: +234 8028461726, email: [nigerianredcross2003@yahoo.com](mailto:nigerianredcross2003@yahoo.com)
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[<Emergency Appeal budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

## APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Nigeria: Population movement

MDRNG007

**ORIGINAL**

### RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	69,900
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	163,400
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	128,000
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	

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**Total Relief Needs 361,300**

### CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Land & Buildings
Vehicles Purchase
Computers & Telecom Equipment
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.
Medical Equipment
Other Machinery & Equipment

### TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	
Distribution & Monitoring	22,500
Transport & Vehicles Costs	96,500

### PERSONNEL

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	75,939
National Staff	4,575
National Society Staff	18,480
Consultants	

### WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	52,495
<i>Monitoring and evaluation</i>	

### GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	12,250
Information & Public Relations	12,500
Office running costs	8,600
Communication Costs	27,500
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	45,022

### PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	51,281
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**Total Operational Needs 427,642**

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**Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind) 788,942**

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**Available Ressources**

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**Net Request 788,942**

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