

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Benin: Severe storms

DREF operation n° MDRBJ005
GLIDE n° ST-2009-000090-BEN
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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 21,010 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 5 May, 2009 to support the National Society in delivering assistance to some 300 beneficiaries.

The Red Cross of Benin (RCB) contributed to alleviating the suffering of people affected by the severe storms that caused heavy material damages in Challa Ogoï community of Ouessè in Benin during the last week of April 2009. The National Society procured and distributed some building materials to 60 selected most affected households. Accessibility in the target community was a major constraint, however the trained Red Cross volunteers from the affected community were able to sensitize an estimated 18,000 on good hygiene and sanitation practices. They assisted them as well in tree planting to reduce the impact of any potential storms in the future. The effort of the Red Cross has contributed to the prevention of outbreak of epidemics and also to the early reconstruction of some of the affected houses. The Red Cross also strengthened the capacity of its local branch through the training of volunteers on distribution and sensitization techniques. The participatory approach of the Red Cross enhanced its image in the community and strengthened its collaboration with local authorities.



The Red Cross of Benin assisted some of the beneficiaries in the reconstruction of their houses/Red Cross of Benin

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The situation

The severe storms that preceded the raining season during the last week of April 2009 in Benin caused heavy material damages to an estimated 95 residential houses including a school building in Challa Ogoï in Ouessè district of the Collines region of the country. The houses and the school building had their roof partially or completely destroyed by the storms. The heavy downpour that followed the storms resulted in the collapse of some of the houses built with mud. During an assessment carried out by the Red Cross of Benin in collaboration with the local authorities and the affected community, more than 800 persons including

children and the elderly were affected with over 475 of them sheltered with family members and friends because of the severe damages.

The situation in some of the households temporarily sheltering the affected people became of health threat as their houses were overcrowded. Their poor living condition coupled with the rain falls were exposing them to epidemics such as malaria, cholera, diarrhea and some other water borne diseases. The local branch of the Red Cross in collaboration with the local authorities and the affected community carried out a preliminary assessment of the situation to know the extent of damage. With assistance from the International Federation, RCB intervened and assisted some of the affected families to reconstruct their houses including the school building. The National Society also carried out sensitization activities in the community and assisted in tree planting to prevent such disaster in future. The effort of the Red Cross was also complemented by the local authorities who also assisted some of the affected people with tons of cement.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross of Benin as the only humanitarian organization to come to the assistance of the affected community at the early stage held series of meetings with the local authorities, community leaders and the head of the affected primary school after a joint assessment of the situation was carried out. The meetings focused on assistance to the community and the preparation of an action plan for the Red Cross intervention. The local authorities complemented the efforts of the Red Cross by also contributing to alleviating the suffering of the affected people through the provision of some tons of cement to the affected people to reconstruct their damaged houses.

Achievements against objectives

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)

Objective: To assist 60 selected households (300 persons) and the community school to improve their living condition through the distribution of construction materials to repair their houses and the school building.

Activities planned:

- Procure and distribute 840 corrugated iron roofing sheets, 900 pieces of wood, 70 kg of assorted nails, 150 rolls of wire;
- Conduct refresher course for 10 volunteers on relief distribution methods;
- Ensure that beneficiaries make effective use of the items received.

Impact: The Red Cross of Benin procured and distributed 840 corrugated iron sheets, 900 pieces of wood, 70 kg of nails and 150 rolls of wire to 60 most affected households and the school. The selection process was based on the following criteria: affected households with less than 5 years old children, pregnant women and elderly people. The effort of the Red Cross in this regard impacted a lot on the community as it contributed to the prevention of outbreak of diseases resulting from overcrowding as beneficiaries were able to reconstruct their houses on time and move out from where they sought temporary shelter. Pupils were able to return to school on time as the school authorities repaired the damage school roof through the Red Cross assistance. The early return to school provided the school the opportunity to complete the academic syllabus for the term.

The one-day refresher training on distribution of non-food relief items conducted for 10 selected Red Cross volunteers has enhanced and updated their knowledge in modern distribution techniques especially in identification, registration and organization of relief items' distribution. The training has also strengthened the capacity of the local branch on how to carry out a comprehensive analysis of disaster in their community with a view to preparing small scale contingency plan in the future. The involvement of the affected community and the local authorities in the operation from the onset gave them a sense of belonging as they saw themselves contributing to taking decisions that affect their wellbeing. Their involvement also contributed a lot to the success of the operation. The participatory approach of the Red Cross also increased the image and visibility of the Red Cross in the beneficiaries communities as many of them expressed their desire to identify with the Red Cross through membership.

Challenges: The local branch of the Red Cross had not been very active before the disaster. The affected community is also in a remote area with villages far from one another. All these challenges impacted on the training conducted as the selected volunteers had to travel from their different villages for the training. The

Red Cross would have loved to assist the remaining 35 identified affected households as solicited by the community but was constrained by lack of funds.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: To contribute to improving the knowledge of the community in good hygiene and sanitation practices.

Activities planned

- Sensitize the target population on good hygiene and sanitation behaviour;
- Conduct refresher training in hygiene and sanitation promotion for 10 Red Cross volunteers;
- Sensitize the target population on environmental issues such as tree planting;
- Carry out monitoring visits to ensure continuation of good hygiene and sanitation practices in the target community.

Impact: The Red Cross has strengthened the capacity of 10 selected Red Cross volunteers in water, hygiene and sanitation promotion. The sensitization activities of the volunteers in the target villages were well received as they communicated to the community in their native language. The strategy impacted a lot as some community people seized the opportunity to ask questions and get enlightened on health and hygiene related issues. They now have a better understanding of regular sanitation exercise in their communities as well as the importance of water treatment before drinking.

The Red Cross volunteers also sensitized the community on the importance of tree planting during different public sessions organized with the community. The people now realized the importance of tree planting as another form of reducing the risk of storm disaster in their community. Through the participatory approach, the community and the Red Cross carried out tree planting activity in the community. The beneficiary community of Challa-Ogoi seeing the environmental importance of trees has promised to ensure the survival of the trees as it will also be contributing to their own survival.



Red Cross volunteers assisted the community in tree planting/Red Cross of

Challenges: Logistics was a constraint to the smooth implementation of the sensitization activities as the target villages were far from one another thereby making accessibility difficult. However, the Red Cross volunteers, with determination, were able to reach these villages. The number of volunteers selected for the sensitization was not enough. Hence, those selected 10 had to work extra hours to cover the target villages.

Conclusion

Lessons learned

- The participatory approach employed by the Red Cross during the operation contributed to its success;
- Such operation could be used as a means of improving capacity at the branch level as well as among the community people;
- The Red Cross initiative in assisting the affected people encouraged the local authorities to also intervene by also giving assistance to the affected community.

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

MDRBJ005 - Benin - Heavy Storm

FINAL Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/5-2009/9
Budget Timeframe	2009/5-2009/7
Appeal	MDRBJ005
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
A. Budget	21,010					21,010
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	17,443					17,443
C5. Other Income	17,443					17,443
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	17,443					17,443
D. Total Funding = B + C	17,443					17,443
Appeal Coverage	83%					83%

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. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	17,443					17,443
E. Expenditure	-17,443					-17,443
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

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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	
BUDGET (C)	21,010						21,010	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	10,655							10,655
Construction Materials		9,591					9,591	-9,591
Seeds,Plants		118					118	-118
Teaching Materials	1,100							1,100
Other Supplies & Services	550							550
Total Supplies	12,305	9,709					9,709	2,596
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	1,895							1,895
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,630	2,354					2,354	276
Total Transport & Storage	4,525	2,354					2,354	2,171
Personnel								
National Staff	250							250
National Society Staff		1,814					1,814	-1,814
Total Personnel	250	1,814					1,814	-1,564
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	700							700
Total Workshops & Training	700							700
General Expenditure								
Travel	1,000	496					496	504
Information & Public Relation		539					539	-539
Communications		118					118	-118
Financial Charges		733					733	-733
Other General Expenses	864	546					546	318
Total General Expenditure	1,864	2,432					2,432	-568
Programme Support								
Program Support	1,366	1,134					1,134	232
Total Programme Support	1,366	1,134					1,134	232
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	21,010	17,443					17,443	3,567
VARIANCE (C - D)		3,567					3,567	