

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## BENIN: FLOODS

DREF operation n° MDRBJ006  
GLIDE n° FL-2009-000127-  
BEN  
10 July, 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.

CHF 90,882 (USD 83,462 or EUR 59,845) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to some 5,285 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

**Summary:** The torrential rains in Benin during the last week of June 2009 have caused heavy flooding in the south of the country especially in the Atlantic and Coastal regions. According to the Red Cross of Benin (RCB), 18 residential areas have been affected with more than 2,000 houses submerged by flood water. Seven persons have died in Godomey and Cotonou districts, according to the Red Cross of Benin.



Floods in Akoqbatò/Red Cross of Benin

The Government of Benin through the Ministry of Interior has declared the floods as a national disaster and is calling for local and international humanitarian assistance to the affected communities. The national society is mobilizing its team of volunteers and collaborating with government, local authorities and other humanitarian agencies in the country to assist the affected communities to reduce the impact of the disaster and prevent the outbreak of water related epidemics. The Red Cross of Benin is planning to intervene by assisting the most affected persons with basic non-food relief items. The national society also plans to mobilize and train selected Red Cross volunteers to carry out sensitization activities on good hygiene practices among the affected population. The intervention of the Red Cross aims at reducing the suffering of the affected persons, members of their households as well as the entire communities affected by the floods.

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

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

## The situation

The torrential rains during the last week of June 2009 have caused heavy floods in the Atlantic and the coastal regions of Benin. The heavy flooding is compounded by the construction of houses in drainage areas, thereby blocking the water ways. The blockage has caused flooding in two residential areas of Akogbato and Cocotomey in Abomey-Calavi and in 16 other areas namely Agontinkon, Fifadji, Ahogbohoulè, Agongbomè, Ahwansori, Ladjì, Vossa, Akpakpadodomè, Yagbé, Minontchou, Avotrou, Zogbohoulè, Ayibatèn, Irédé, Agbodjèdo, Cadjèhoun/Houéyiho all in Cotonou. The Red Cross of Benin in collaboration with local authorities carried out a preliminary assessment of the situation. According to the Red Cross, 7 persons have died and an estimated 13,464 persons from 2,064 households have been affected by the floods. Some 5,749 children under 5 years were among the affected persons (see table below).

Affected communities	Total number of affected communes	Affected population	Total number of affected households	Total number of affected population				Number of deaths
				Men	Women	Infants (below 5 years)	Total	
Cotonou	16	136 898	1 424	1 559	2 430	5 115	9 104	5
Abomey-Calavi	02	19 219	640	1 124	2 602	634	4 360	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>156 117</b>	<b>2 064</b>	<b>2 683</b>	<b>5 032</b>	<b>5 749</b>	<b>13 464</b>	<b>7</b>

**Source:** Red Cross of Benin

Many buildings including schools, health centres and other infrastructures have been submerged by the flood water. Also affected were potable water points, latrines, culverts as well as personal belongings such as clothes, school materials and domestic animals estimated at millions of French CFA (national currency of Benin). Most of the houses in the Akogbato area are shift houses thereby making them easy to be submerged by floods. With their houses flooded by water, the affected people have had to seek shelter with the remains of their belongings in unorthodox ways, including on table tops or other surface, as they have no other possibilities.

The disaster has also affected the livelihoods of the majority of the victims who are dependent on small scale businesses and handicrafts. The situation has prevented them from accessing their places of work, as roads are flooded and risks exposing them to future food insecurity. The flooding has also raised the risk among affected communities of water related epidemics such as cholera, diarrhoea and malaria from polluted water points and stagnant flood water. In addition, many health facilities in the affected areas are also flooded and are not functioning or not able to be accessed. The Government of Benin after assessing the situation has declared it a national disaster and is calling on humanitarian organizations, both local and international, to come to the aid of the affected communities according to local newspaper reports.

## Coordination and partnerships

At this moment, the Mayors of Cotonou and Calavi are working with the Central Government to find a possible solution to the situation. The Red Cross of Benin is collaborating with the technical services department of the Cotonou Municipality to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the risks and damages. Some local community leaders are also making individual efforts to provide additional assistance to the affected population.

The Ministry of the Interior has deployed teams of firemen in the affected communities to pump water out of the houses into the lagoon with motor-driven pumps. Unfortunately, this water returned because the drainage system is not functioning. The Municipal Council also deployed a team on the ground to reinforce the teams of firemen to clean the drainage channels to facilitate water run-off towards the lagoon.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross of Benin mobilized and deployed its teams of volunteers from the local branches in the affected areas to assist the affected people in evacuating their belongings and providing first aid treatment to the injured and psychological counselling. The management of the national society at the headquarters is

working closely with the volunteers on the ground and other stakeholders to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the situation. The volunteers are presently sensitizing the affected communities on preventive measures against epidemics, though this is progressing slowly as access to the affected areas is difficult. The national society is also mobilizing funds to scale-up its assistance to the affected communities.

## The needs

In the preliminary assessment carried out by the Red Cross of Benin, out of the 13,464 people affected by the floods, there are approximately 53% identified as vulnerable, including 58% children, 5% elderly, and 11% pregnant women who are in need of immediate assistance. The national society therefore plans to assist 5,285 persons from 1,057 households, who have been identified as the most vulnerable. The criteria used in identifying this target group include the extent of damage to their makeshift houses, the level of lost belongings, and the inclusion in the household of children less than five, elderly people with no other support and pregnant women. The immediate needs are for blankets, mosquito nets, soap, clothing for about 4,200 children to protect them against bad weather, and potable water for a total of 1,057 households.

There is also the need for the treatment or reconstruction of wells polluted by the disaster and the need to sensitize the affected population on good hygiene practice. In the short-term, there is a need for sanitation support including the clearing of drainage. The national society plans to carry out these activities during the sensitization and hygiene promotion phase of the operation. The national society will brief the volunteers on how to carry out such Red Cross intervention activities and equip them with the necessary tools and protection equipment.

## The proposed operation

The intervention will be focused on the distribution of non-food items (blankets, mosquito nets, soap and clothes for children) and on psychological assistance for the most vulnerable households affected by floods in the communities of Cotonou and Abomey-Calavi. The Red Cross will carry out sensitization and education sessions on good hygiene practices including sessions on water purification.

<b>Relief distributions (Basic non-food items)</b>
<p><b>Objective : 1,057 most vulnerable households affected by the floods in Cotonou and Abomey-Calavi benefit from the distribution of non-food items (blankets, mosquito nets, clothes for children and hygiene kit)</b></p>
<p><b>Activities planned :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult the local authorities in the affected communities to update the list of most vulnerable families affected;</li> <li>• Monitor the emergency situation;</li> <li>• Distribute non-food items at target distribution points;</li> <li>• Replenish the stock used from the federation stock in the region</li> <li>• Procure locally some items (clothes, water purification tablet)</li> <li>• Monitor and assess the emergency activities and submit reports on the distribution of relief items.</li> </ul>

<b>Water and sanitation</b>
<p><b>Objective: The risk for waterborne diseases has been reduced through provision of drinkable water and sensitization on good hygiene practices to 1,057 most vulnerable households affected by the floods in Cotonou and Calavi.</b></p>
<p><b>Activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen the capacity of volunteers of the Red Cross of Benin in water treatment and the use of purification materials and good hygiene practices;</li> <li>• Equip the volunteers with protection materials (boots, rain coat);</li> <li>• Distribute water purification tablets and sensitize the population on their use;</li> <li>• Sensitize the population on good hygiene and sanitation practices.</li> </ul>

## **APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY**

DREF NAME : DREF Benin FLOODS

ORIGINAL

### **RELIEF NEEDS**

500 Shelter	47,425
505 Construction Materials	
510 Clothing & Textiles	
520 Food	
523 Seeds & Plants	
530 Water & Sanitation	27,482
540 Medical & First Aid	
550 Teaching Materials	
560 Utensils & Tools	
570 Other Supplies & Services	
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>74,907</b>

### **CAPITAL EQUIPMENT**

580 Land & Buildings
581 Vehicles Purchase
582 Computers & Telecom Equipment
584 Office/Household Furniture & Equip.
587 Medical Equipment
589 Other Machinery & Equipment

### **TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES**

590 Storage - Warehouse	
592 Distribution & Monitoring	2,000
593 Transport & Vehicles Costs	4,080

### **PERSONNEL**

600 International Staff	
640 Regionally Deployed Staff	
661 National Staff	
662 National Society Staff	2,963
670 Consultants	

### **WORKSHOPS & TRAINING**

680 Workshops & Training	225
680 <i>Monitoring and evaluation</i>	

### **GENERAL EXPENSES**

700 Travel	
710 Information & Public Relations	
730 Office running costs	400
740 Communication Costs	400
750 Professional Fees	
760 Financial Charges	
790 Other General Expenses	

### **PROGRAMME SUPPORT**

599 Programme Support - PSR	5,907
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**Total Operational Needs 15,975**

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**Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind) 90,882**

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## 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

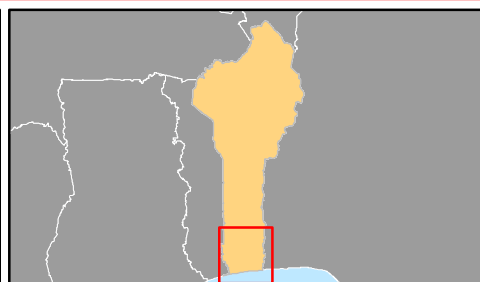
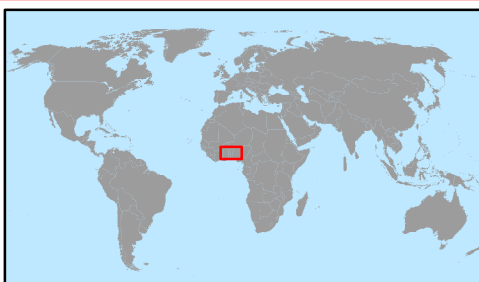
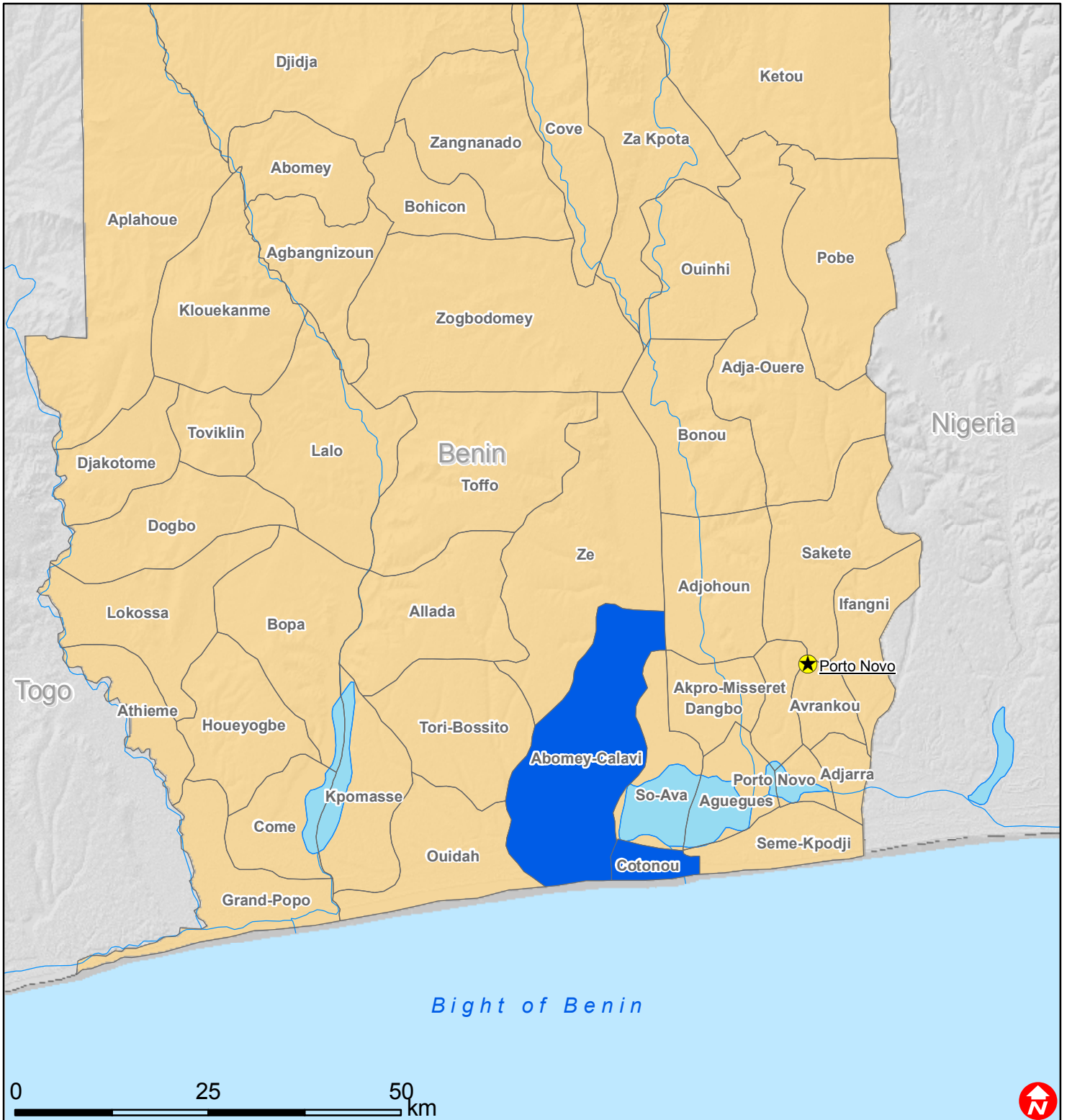
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[<DREF budget or map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



# Benin: Floods



- Capitals
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Provinces
- Affected areas