

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

BENIN: FLOODS Extension

DREF operation n° MDRBJ006
GLIDE n° FL-2009-000127-
BEN
06 August, 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: from 10 to 31 July, 2009.

CHF 483,473 (USD 425,554 or EUR 320,690) are allocated to support the Red Cross of Benin to extend the assistance to some 22,035 beneficiaries for three months. The operation will be completed by the end of September 2009. A Final Report will be made available by December 2009 (three months after the end of the operation).

CHF 90,882 (USD 83,462 or EUR 59,845) was allocated on 10 July, 2009 from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Benin Red Cross society in delivering immediate assistance to some 5,285 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.



Beneficiaries returning home after distribution/Benin Red Cross

Summary: The torrential rains in Benin during the last week of June 2009 have caused heavy flooding in the southern part of the country especially in the Atlantic and Coastal regions. According to the Red Cross of Benin (RCB) rapid assessment, 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 National Society. The Government of Benin through the Ministry of the Interior has declared the floods as a national disaster and is calling for local and international humanitarian assistance to the affected communities.

The Red Cross of Benin with the support of the Federation through a DREF has intervened by assisting the most affected 5,285 persons (1,057 households) with basic non-food relief items including mosquito nets, blankets, soap, water purification tablets and clothing for children. The Red Cross volunteers have also carried out sensitization activities on good hygiene before relief items distribution.

The new evaluation of the situation in the field carried out by the National Society showed that most of the people affected are still at risk and the number of affected people to assist has reached now 60,238 people because of the ongoing rains and water stagnation.

Therefore the National Society plans to extend its intervention to alleviate the suffering of the affected persons, and communities that are newly affected by the floods.

This operation was expected to be implemented over one month, and will therefore be extended to September 2009; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by December 2009).

The DREF allocation has been replenished by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) and the Canadian Government. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO.

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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

The situation

The torrential rains during the last week of June 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 in Cotonou: Agontinkon, Fifadji, Ahogbohoulè, Agongbomè, Ahwansori, Ladji, Vossa, Akpakpadodomè, Yagbé, Minontchou, Avotrou, Zogbohoulè, Ayibatèn, Irédé, Agbodjèdo, and Cadjèhoun/Houéyiho.

The Red Cross of Benin in collaboration with local authorities carried out a preliminary assessment of the situation. According to the Red Cross, seven persons have died and an estimated 13,464 persons from 2,064 households have been affected by the floods. Some 5,749 children under five years were among the affected. Many buildings including schools, health centres and other infrastructures have been submerged by the flood water. Potable water points, latrines, culverts were also affected. Personal belongings such as clothes, school materials and domestic animals estimated at millions of francs CFA (national currency of Benin) got destroyed and/or lost. 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 Government of Benin after assessing the situation has declared it a national disaster and is calling on humanitarian organizations, both local and international, to attend to the affected communities. The access to the affected localities is very difficult. The new figure is shown in the table below.

Affected Commune/Arrondissement	Number of affected households	Number of beneficiaries	Infants (below 5 years)	Men	Women	Pregnant women	Damaged houses
Cotonou	5,110	25,550	1148	13131	11271	160	57
Calavi	4,561	22,803	1637	8189	12972	1244	13
Dangbo	775	3,875	179	2332	1364	35	11
Porto- Novo	1,602	8,010	456	1109	1270	51	6
Total	12,048	60,238	3,420	13,806	10,793	1,490	87

Source: Benin Red Cross Society.

Coordination and partnerships

The National Society is playing an integral role in the national emergency response systems, which coordinate disaster response activities. At the local level Benin Red Cross branches are working together with local authorities and community leaders. The coordination aims at ensuring efficiency in the provision of humanitarian assistance, minimizing/eliminating waste of resources and avoiding overlapping. The Mayors of Cotonou, Porto Novo, Dangbo and Calavi are working with the Central Government to find a sustainable solution to the situation. Coordination mechanisms chaired by the Director of prevention and Civil Protection are in place and information on "who does what" are being shared. The RCB is actively involved in these mechanisms with a remarkable leadership. The comprehensive assessment carried out by the National

Society on the risks and damages has been coordinated with the technical services department of the municipalities and local authorities. The lists of the targeted beneficiaries were validated by the local authorities and all distribution activities were undertaken so far in close collaboration with them. This helped facilitate the assistance and address some issues or misunderstanding raised by the communities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross of Benin mobilized and deployed its teams of volunteers (NDRT and RDRT members) from the national and local branches in the flooded areas to assist the affected people in evacuating their belongings and providing first-aid treatment to the injured and psychological support. At the headquarters the National Society's management worked closely with the volunteers on the ground and other stakeholders to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the situation since the rain is still pouring and the water stagnates, to have a holistic picture of the situation. The Federation Zone has deployed the delegate for disaster response management to support the RCB to achieve the comprehensive assessment with three (03) Beninese RDRT members and to ensure coordination and the provision of information to the humanitarian agencies.

With the DREF the volunteers have distributed shelter kits (blankets, mosquito nets) and hygiene kits (soap and chlorine tablets) and clothing for children. The items distributed were locally procured and also taken from the regional and DISAO+ (Spanish Red Cross project to support Benin disaster management) prepositioned stocks. These stocks will be replenished through the DREF. They have also sensitized the affected communities on preventive measures against epidemics during the distribution campaigns.

Progress towards objectives

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

Progress:

All activities planned were carried out except the stock replenishment that is in progress. The distribution was based on the real needs of beneficiaries taking into account the number of household's members and their vulnerability. Small size families have received kit1 (1 blanket + 1 mosquito net), the bigger ones have got the Kit2 (2 blankets + 1 mosquito) and families in high risk areas of epidemic have received kit1 or kit2, soap, water purification tablets, and children clothes. See details in the table below:

Communes and districts	Number of families assisted	Items distributed				
		Number of blankets	Number of mosquito nets	Number of water purification tablets	number of piece of soap	Number of children clothes parcel
Commune of Cotonou						
13ème district. Agla Ahogbonouè	241	458	241			
13ème District. Houéyihô	14	14	14			
1er District. Yagbé, Avotrou,	114	217	114			
2ème Arrond. Irédé	20	23	20			
8ème District. Vossa	105	109	105			
6ème District. Ladjì	46	89	46			
3ème District. Agbodjèdo	53	99	53			
8ème District. Agontikon	20	39	20			
TOTAL 1	613	1,048	613			
Commune of Abomey- Calavi (Godomey Salamey)						
Agbocodji	176	521	176	6,390	301	176
Sèdegbé	173	330	173	6,490	306	173
Salamey petit port	111	215	111	4,995	193	111
Total 2	460	1,066	460	17,875	800	460
Global	1,073	2,114	1,073	17,875	800	460

According to the beneficiaries the operation was very helpful for their protection against malaria, cold and water borne diseases.

Challenges:

At country level the RCB was the first humanitarian actor which started assisting to the affected communities because NDRT trained with support of DISAO+ have rapidly conduct the assessment and identified the initial needs of the most vulnerable.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: To reduce the risk for waterborne diseases through provision of drinking water and sensitization on good hygiene practices to 1,057 most vulnerable households affected by the floods in Cotonou and Calavi.

Activities planned:

- Strengthen the capacity of volunteers of the Red Cross of Benin in water treatment and the use of purification materials and good hygiene practices;
- Equip the volunteers with protection materials (boots, rain coat, etc.);
- Distribute water purification tablets and sensitize the population on their use;
- Sensitize the population on good hygiene and sanitation practices.

Progress: About 200 volunteers were briefed on water treatment process. These volunteers have they sensitized the population on good hygiene and sanitation practices during the distribution of relief items, About 7,853 people in the affected areas were reached. The distribution of relief items in the neighbourhoods with limited access to clean water and hygiene facilities included soap and water purification tablets. The beneficiaries were also briefed on the use of the tablets. All this has a significant impact on the behaviour of the affected communities and has reduced the risk of epidemics. The operation is slowly progressing as access to the affected areas is difficult and the number of most affected people has increased.

Challenges: The main challenge is the limited logistical capacity of the RCB to conduct door-to-door visits. The initial DREF allocation did not allow assisting all the affected people because the number has increased, and new areas have been flooded.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The RCB flood response activities provide an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the added value of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to the public. The BRCS assistance was relayed on "Canal TV" (with national coverage) and in 10 daily newspapers; and the OCHA SITREP disseminated to humanitarian agencies at national and regional levels. It was a good opportunity for the National Society communication department to improve the visibility on the volunteers' action that is highly appreciated by the Government and country wide.

Way forward

Following the assessment carried out by the Red Cross of Benin, out of the 60,238 people affected by the floods, the National Society plans to assist 22,035 persons (4,407 households) identified as the most vulnerable. The criteria used to identify 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 under five, elderly people with no other support and pregnant women. The needs are for blankets, mosquito nets, soap, potable water and clothing for about 3,420 children under five to protect them against bad weather. 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 practices. In the short term, there is a need for sanitation support including the clearing of drainage (see details in the table below).

The operation extension targets about 22,035 beneficiaries (4,407 households) including the 1,073 assisted during the first phase of the operation.

Affected communes	Targeted affected population	Total number of targeted affected households	Infants (below 5 years)	Pregnant women
Cotonou	9,550	1,910	1,148	160
Abomey-Calavi	7,600	1,520	1,637	1,244
Porto Novo	4,010	802	179	35
Dangbo	875	175	456	51
Total	22,035	4,407	3,420	1,490

The intervention will be focused on the distribution of non-food items (blankets, mosquito nets, soap and clothes for children) and on the provision of psychological assistance for the most vulnerable households in the communities of Cotonou, Porto Novo and Abomey-Calavi. The treatment or reconstruction of wells polluted by the disaster will be part of the assistance. The Red Cross will carry out sensitization and education sessions on good hygiene practices including sessions on water purification. Early recovery assessment activities are included in relief assessments and will be progressively strengthened over the coming weeks. A key early response will be to seek feedback from affected communities on the appropriateness of relief items being provided to enable the Red Cross and other humanitarian actors to improve the quality of relief provision. Further assessment will enable extension and revision of the plan of action to attend to regions which are not yet accessible.

Relief distributions (Basic non-food items)

Objective: To distribute non-food items (blankets, mosquito nets, clothes for children) to 4,407 most vulnerable households affected by the floods in Cotonou, Porto Novo, Dangbo and Abomey-Calavi.

Expected results	Activities planned
1. The 4,407 most vulnerable households affected by the floods have benefited from the distribution of non-food items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute non-food items at target distribution points Monitor the emergency situation; Procure, airlift, transport and distribute 4,407 Mosquito net, 8,814 blankets; 6,840 pieces of children clothes; Replenish the stock used from DISAO project and the federation stock in the region; Monitor and assess the emergency activities and submit reports on the distribution of relief items.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion	
Objective: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate	
Expected results	Activities planned
2. Safe drinking water is provided to the affected population and no epidemics occur in the area of operation over the planned period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure, airlift, transport and distribute 22,035 pieces of soap (250g); • Procure 396,630 water purification tablets and 4,407 jerry cans; • Promote health and hygiene within the affected areas; • Edit health and hygiene promotion materials; • Treat 575 water points; • Refresh training for 267 volunteers on hygiene and health promotion

Capacity of the National Society and Community	
Objective: To strengthen the disaster response capacity of targeted National Societies' branches of communities in high-risk areas.	
Expected results	Activities planned
3. Capacity of The national societies branches in disaster response has been improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresher training for 267 volunteers of the branch in beneficiary identification and relief distribution methodology; and conduct health and hygiene promotion activities; • Earlier deployment of RDRT to support the NS in appropriate response implementation.

The RCB has quite an extensive experience in responding to flood-related disasters, relief operations and social mobilization during health epidemics. However it is difficult for the National Society to cope with the situation in the flood affected areas due to its limited capacities; thus the Benin Red Cross Society has requested the support of the Federation. The National Society has a good network of volunteers who help to manage distribution and sensitization activities.

Logistics

The zone logistics unit in Dakar, Senegal, is providing support to the RCB. A detailed and up-to-date mobilization table is available on the Federation's web site [<Click here to view the attached latest mobilization table>](#). The Federation will be working on the mobilization of specific relief items to respond to needs in the field; donors are encouraged to coordinate with the Dubai Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) regarding outstanding needs. Shipping instructions will be provided to donors with a commodity tracking number issued prior to shipping any goods to the operation area. Procurement of goods and transport can also be arranged through the RLU.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The Federation's Zone information Manager, together with the regional information officer, will continue to assist the National Society to formulate strategies to address the public and the media, document the distribution process, witness the interaction between Red Cross staff, volunteers and beneficiaries, and produce relevant articles and photographs.

DREF BUDGET SUMMARY

RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	47,425	127,275	-79,850
Construction Materials			0
Clothing & Textiles			0
Food			0
Seeds & Plants			0
Water & Sanitation	27,482	159,195	-131,713
Medical & First Aid			0
Teaching Materials			0
Utensils & Tools			0
Other Supplies & Services			0
Total Relief Needs	74,907	286,470	-211,563

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Land & Buildings			
Vehicles Purchase			0
Computers & Telecom Equipment		12,000	-12,000
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.			
Medical Equipment			
Other Machinery & Equipment			

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse			0
Distribution & Monitoring	2,000	17,700	-15,700
Transport & Vehicles Costs	4,080	46,605	-42,525

PERSONNEL

International Staff			0
Regionally Deployed Staff		12,600	-12,600
National Staff			0
National Society Staff	2,963	31,342	-28,380
Consultants			0

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	225	12,630	-12,405
<i>Monitoring and evaluation</i>			

GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel		10,800	-10,800
Information & Public Relations		10,000	-10,000
Office running costs	400	2,400	-2,000
Communication Costs	400	6,000	-5,600
Professional Fees			0
Financial Charges		3,500	-3,500
Other General Expenses			0

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR 5,907 31,426 -25,518

Total Operational Needs 15,975 197,003 -181,028

Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind) 90,882 483,473 -392,591

Available Ressources

Net Request 483,473 483,473

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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