

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

BURUNDI: Election Preparedness

**DREF operation n° MDRBI005
29 April, 2010**

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 emergency response. 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 21,300 (EUR 14,539 or USD 18,425) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Burundi Red Cross Society to prepare for the upcoming elections. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

The Government of Burundi is preparing for five elections over the next five months:

- District level (Commune): 21 May 2010;
- Presidential: 28 June 2010 and in case of the second vote on 26 July 2010;
- Parliament: 23 July 2010;
- Senate: TBA;
- Colline level (community): 7 September 2010.

Members of various political parties, especially their affiliated youth members, have clashed on a number of occasions since November 2009. A surge in violence is currently as been witnessed as we come closer to the district level election schedule for 21 May 2010.

The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments, and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on

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

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 1 August 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation by 1 November 2010.

<click here for the DREF budget or here for contact details>

The situation

Burundi is preparing for the second multiparty elections after recently getting out of decades of civil war. Tensions remain high between former adversaries that have now turned into political parties. Large numbers of demobilized youth that were former combatants remain unemployed and marginalized, which pose a serious risk to stability and non violent elections.

According to the most recent Human Rights Watch report, increased violence has occurred in the contest leading to the local, presidential and legislative elections, scheduled between 21 May and 7 September 2010. The competition between the ruling party and at least four opposition parties (UPD, FRODEBU, FNL and MSD) has resulted in high levels of tension between party supporters. In many provinces, acts of violence have been registered, specifically in the northern parts of the country. Some of the provinces could experience unrest as the population remains armed, especially the youths.

Coordination and partnerships

The coordination of the operation will be in collaboration between the Burundi Red Cross, ICRC, Partner National Societies (PNS) and the Government. Civil Protection will manage the voting centres and provide transport in the form of four ambulances. The Ministry of Health will take charge of the victims evacuated by Burundi Red Cross and Civil Protection ambulances.

The ICRC has provided CHF 15,000 for the implementing the plan of action as well as pledged seven vehicles to serve as ambulances, while the remaining transport needs will be provided by Burundi Red Cross.

All PNSs in Burundi have supported the development of the disaster preparedness plan of action and have provided funding to support the planned activities. Over 80 percent of the funds required have been raised from PNSs and ICRC Country Delegation. This DREF request will cover the outstanding financial gap and allow the Burundi Red Cross to fully execute all planned activities.

The IFRC Regional Disaster Operations Manager met with Burundi Red Cross and ICRC to review and discuss the plan of action. The Burundi Red Cross will continue to inform IFRC Regional Delegation on the evolution of the situation on the ground.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

- The Burundi Red Cross developed a preparedness plan of action for the first two elections, which are most likely to experience civil unrest. The plan of action seeks to increase the readiness level of the National Society's Emergency Brigade Teams. Focus is on increasing the number of First Aid trained volunteers available for mobilizing during the elections as well as enhancing emergency communications in high risk areas.
- Coordination of meeting on election preparedness with ICRC and PNSs present in Burundi, and so far CHF 28,000 has been mobilised as well as 30 vehicles for the elections.
- The Burundi Red Cross and ICRC have identified 30 most high risk election areas, thus the plan of action provides for emergency First Aid and hospital referral within the 30 voting stations, which expect an average of 2,000 voters each (60,000 beneficiaries).
- ICRC has already provided First Aid kits to facilitate and cover the entire operation.
- Meeting and planning activities on election with Government (Civil Protection), which allowed for coordination between stakeholders, thus avoiding interferences and confusion.

The needs

- To train more Emergency Brigade Teams on First Aid in conflicts situations at all voting stations.
- Simulation exercises on early warning of incident, First Aid actions and the evacuation of victims to the nearest hospitals by ambulances.
- Improvement of network communication from the community level (local volunteers) to the headquarters via provincial branches.
- Reinforce communication with stakeholders such as government (civil protection), public health and home office affairs ministries to allow a quick and good coordination.
- Mobilise enough vehicles and others equipments to facilitate the monitoring and supervision.

The proposed operation

The Operation proposed by Burundi Red Cross for before, during and after the General Election.

I. Early Preparation

- Workshop for volunteers, students from the Medical University and local nurses on First Aid activities.
- Workshop and refreshment of volunteers aimed at strengthening their capacity to respond effectively through First Aid actions and evacuation activities.
- Establishment of rescue centres used by Emergency Brigades.
- Procurement of medical equipment, storage facilities and vehicles.
- Human resource expenses.

II. Response and Assistance.

- Trained First Aiders are equipped and ready to respond effectively to provide assistance to casualties before, during and after the district and presidential elections.

First Aid
Objective: Provide First Aid services to victims of election violence.
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct rapid assessment of areas at high risk of violence.• Procure and disseminate the First Aid training manual in conflict and other violence situation.• Recruit and train 36 additional volunteers to support the operation.• Set up simulation exercises focused on management, evacuation by ambulance of casualties at the voting stations.• Support communication during the election operation.• Provide First Aid and evacuate wounded and other victims to hospitals or health centres.• Reporting of activities done by Emergency Brigade Teams after elections operations.

Expected Results:

- A cadre of volunteers are trained and ready to support 30 polling stations identified as most vulnerable to civil unrest.
- The Burundi Red Cross volunteers will provide First Aid to the injured, while transporting those seriously injured to hospital.

Coordination
Objective: Contribute to the election coordination of the Red Cross Movement and Government (Civil Protection)
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitate coordination meetings on the election with ICRC and PNSs present in Burundi.• Meeting and planning activities on election with Government (Civil Protection).• Provide logistics (ambulances, fuel, transport of First Aid equipments, etc.).• Ensure emergency communications systems in the thirty high risk areas are fully operational.• Contribution to the election operation with other actors.

Expected results:

- Burundi Red Cross teams and Red Cross Movement partners are involved and coordinate election preparedness activities.

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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The International Federation's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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

Budget Summary

MDRBI005 Burundi Election Preparedness		
Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief		0
Shelter - Transitional		0
Construction - Housing		0
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		0
Construction - Materials		0
Clothing & Textiles		0
Food		0
Seeds & Plants		0
Water & Sanitation		0
Medical & First Aid		0
Teaching Materials		0
Utensils & Tools		0
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements		0
Total Supplies	0	0
Land & Buildings		0
Vehicles		0
Computer & Telecom		0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		0
Medical Equipment		0
Other Machinery & Equipment		0
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0
Storage		0
Distribution & Monitoring		0
Transport & Vehicle Costs		2,500
Total Transport & Storage	0	2,500
International Staff		0
Regionally Deployed Staff		0
National Staff		0
National Society Staff		7,500
Other Staff benefits		0
Consultants		0
Total Personnel	0	7,500
Workshops & Training		5,000
Total Workshops & Training	0	5,000
Travel		0
Information & Public Relation		0
Office Costs		0
Communications		5,000
Professional Fees		0
Financial Charges		0
Other General Expenses		0
Total General Expenditure	0	5,000
Cash Transfers to National Societies		0
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		0
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0
Program Support	0	1,300
Total Programme Support	0	1,300
Services & Recoveries		0
Shared Services		0
Total Services	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	0	21,300