

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Burundi: Election Preparedness

DREF operation n° MDRBI005  
24 December 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 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 21,300 was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)'s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 29 April, 2010 to support the Burundi Red Cross Society (BRC) to prepare for possible unrest during the elections that occurred between May and September 2010.

As an auxiliary to the Burundi Government, the BRC in close collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) developed a contingency plan to be able to respond effectively in case of unrest during the election period. The National Society deployed a total of 30 trained Emergency response teams in

17 provinces. The teams comprised of a driver, a nurse or medical staff and two First Aid persons. Coordination of the teams was done by the BRC branch secretaries the 17 provinces supported by five regional coordinators, with overall supervision from the National Society headquarters. During the operation, a total of 48 people with minor injuries were given first aid and 60 seriously injured persons were able to be given first aid and evacuated to nearest health facilities.

The BRC was supported by the IFRC, ICRC delegation in Burundi and Partner National Societies (PNS) based in Burundi; Belgian Red Cross, Finnish Red, French Red Cross, Luxembourg Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross.

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

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



**Burundi Red Cross volunteers attend to a person injured during the civil unrest (Photo: Burundi Red Cross)**

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

## The Situation

According to the Human Rights Watch report, competition between the ruling party and opposition parties involved in the elections resulted in high levels of tension between party affiliates. Several parties recruited youth to cause unrest in the population. Members affiliated to various political parties, especially the youth, clashed on a number of occasions from November 2009. The violence situation increased a month before the first elections. In many provinces, acts of violence were experienced in the north.

Burundi Red Cross developed a contingency plan in close collaboration with the ICRC in preparation for response in case of civil unrest. The plan aimed to ensure that BRC volunteers are trained and ready to support a total of 30 polling stations, which were identified as most at risk to civil unrest. The volunteers were expected to provide First Aid, while transporting those seriously injured to hospital. The plan also ensured that Burundi Red Cross teams and Red Cross Movement partners were involved in election preparedness activities. The major challenge faced by the Burundi Red Cross emergency teams was reaching all affected villages due to the vastness of the areas to be covered.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

With support from the IFRC, ICRC and PNS, the Burundi Red Cross was able to train one or two First Aid and emergency brigade teams in the 17 branches. The National Society organized coordination meetings with the ICRC and PNS present in Burundi, which led to the mobilization of vehicles prepositioned to provide transportation in case of injuries. The National Society ensured regular meetings and planning of activities with Civil Protection. This ensured proper coordination of the operation between relevant stakeholders and thus, avoided interferences and confusion. As a result, First Aid was provided to the 48 injured persons and the approximately 60 seriously wounded people were evacuated to the nearest hospitals or health centers.

Despite challenges faced by the emergency teams, all the activities were executed as planned. This has increased the confidence the Burundi population has towards the National Society.

The National Society's response to the operation was greatly appreciated by government authorities, the civil society and the population in general. The Burundi Red Cross was recognized as the only organization to respond to the unrest situation and hence the population increased their confidence in the National Society. Human life was saved due to the actions of the Red Cross volunteers. Local communities also understood the role of Red Cross volunteers/members during this period of election violence.

## Achievements against objectives

### Early Preparation

#### Activities planned

- Train volunteers, students from the Medical University and local nurses on First Aid activities.
- Conduct refresher training for volunteers aimed at strengthening their capacity to respond effectively through First Aid and evacuation activities.
- Establishment of rescue centres to be used by Emergency Brigades.
- Human resource expenses.

### Achievements

A First Aid training workshop was conducted for 36 Red Cross volunteers. Refresher training was also held where an additional 36 volunteers were taken through sessions on First Aid on minor injuries and evacuation of casualties to nearest health facilities in case of serious injuries. Practical First Aid sessions were conducted to enable the Red Cross volunteers get acquainted with the various First Aid equipment. A total of 18 rescue centres were created for the emergency teams in order to enable proper channelling of messages to and from the affected areas. This was done in six provinces



Red Cross volunteer during a simulation exercise (Photo: Burundi Red Cross)

The ICRC provided 30 First Aid kits, which were distributed to 17 provinces. Due to the high risks of violence; some provinces had to get more than one kit. The kits were distributed as follows: 3 in Gitega, 2 in Ngozi, 1 in Murambya, 1 in Mwaro, 1 in Karusi, 1 in Rutana, 2 in Buzanza, 3 in Bujumbura Rural, 2 in Bujumbura Mairie, 2 in Cibitoke, 2 in Makamba, 2 in Kirundo, 2 in Ruyigi, 2 in Muyinga, 1 in Kayanza, 2 in Bururi and 1 in Cankuzo.

The National Society also mobilized 30 vehicles for the operation. The ICRC provided seven of the vehicles and drivers to cover First Aid stations of Bujumbura Mairie, Ngozi and Gitega Provinces. The IFRC and PNS provided fuel and allowances for volunteers to enable them to cover the affected areas.

First Aid	
Objective: To provide First Aid services to persons affected by election violence	
Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A cadre of volunteers are trained and ready to support 30 polling stations identified as most vulnerable to civil unrest.</li> <li>The Burundi Red Cross volunteers provide First Aid to the injured, while transporting those seriously injured to hospital.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct rapid assessment of areas at high risk of violence.</li> <li>Procure and disseminate the First Aid training manual in conflict and other violence situation.</li> <li>Recruit and train 36 additional volunteers to support the operation.</li> <li>Set up simulation exercises focused on management, evacuation by ambulance of casualties at the voting stations.</li> <li>Support communication during the election operation.</li> <li>Provide First Aid and evacuate wounded and other victims to hospitals or health centres.</li> <li>Reporting of activities done by Emergency Brigade Teams after elections operations.</li> </ul>

### Achievements



Red Cross volunteer during a simulation exercise (Photo: Burundi Red Cross)

The IFRC supported the training of 156 First Aid volunteers who were deployed in 17 provinces to assist in case of injuries. As a result of the training and procurement of necessary equipment for response, 48 people with minor injuries received First Aid services and 60 seriously injured persons referred to the nearest health facilities. Due to the fast response from the emergency teams, these people's lives were saved.

The IFRC and PNS ensured effective communication during the election operation - between polling stations and First Aid stations; between First Aid stations and provincial coordination; between the provincial coordination, the regional and national coordination.

### Challenges

In responding to violence situations, the emergency team faced some challenges. The major one was difficult to

reach all villages in the target provinces. The vastness of these areas, in addition to the limited number of vehicles and volunteers in an emergency team, made it impossible to fully cover all the affected villages.

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

## **Achievements**

Coordination of the operation commenced during the drafting of a contingency plan, which was developed in close collaboration with the relevant Government authorities (Civil Protection), the ICRC and other Movement partners. It ensured that Burundi Red Cross teams and Red Cross Movement partners were involved in election preparedness activities. The National Society held regular meetings with Civil Protection (the police and the army). This ensured proper coordination of the operation between relevant stakeholders and thus, avoided duplication of activities.

Effective communication during the election operation was ensured. A proper communication system was established to ensure the smooth flow of information updates between the polling stations First Aid stations, branches, regional and the national headquarters.

## **Conclusion**

Response to the conflict situation went fairly well despite several challenges faced by the emergency teams during the implementation of planned activities. These challenges have enabled the National Society learn as well as come up with recommendations necessary to address future challenges. This operation would not have been successful without the Burundi Red Cross volunteers who assisted in First Aid and evacuation of the injured people to health facilities. Without them, the lives of the injured would not have been saved.

The Burundi Red Cross also had an opportunity to demonstrate its mission, its values, and principles as well as how it operates when it comes to beneficiary selection and implementation of activities. This was really appreciated by the community members.

## **Lessons Learned**

- The good communication between the field and headquarters confirmed the feasibility of establishing an early warning system for the purpose of preparing communities for eventual disasters or conflicts.
- Good cooperation between Burundi Red Cross volunteers and Movement partners, government structures, as well as the Burundi populations facilitates effective response to operations.

## **Recommendations**

- In order to be better prepared for future situations of a similar nature, there is need to train Red Cross Action Teams (RCATs) in safer access and management of conflict situations. This will enable them to respond better to conflict situations
- There is need to sensitize all Burundi Red Cross partners, especially local partners and leaders, on the importance of first aid during conflict situations. This would ensure that a larger number of community members have basic knowledge of first aid to be able to save lives.
- The capacity of the disaster management department needs to be strengthened in terms of Emergency Response Unit (ERU), Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) and RDRT. This can be done through training relevant staff and volunteers at the National Society. Currently, Burundi Red Cross has only two RDRT members; one is in relief, but was deployed in Haiti, the other one is in water and sanitation.

## 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 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

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[<Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/4-2010/12
Budget Timeframe	2010/4-2010/8
Appeal	MDRBI005
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Consolidated Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>	<b>21,300</b>					<b>21,300</b>
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>
<b>Income</b>						
<b>Other Income</b>						
Voluntary Income	21,300					21,300
<b>C6. Other Income</b>	<b>21,300</b>					<b>21,300</b>
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)</b>	<b>21,300</b>					<b>21,300</b>
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	<b>21,300</b>					<b>21,300</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	<b>100%</b>					<b>100%</b>

## II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>
<b>C. Income</b>	<b>21,300</b>					<b>21,300</b>
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	<b>-21,295</b>					<b>-21,295</b>
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	<b>5</b>					<b>5</b>

## III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance A - B
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>	<b>21,300</b>						<b>21,300</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,500	8,463					8,463	-5,963
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>8,463</b>					<b>8,463</b>	<b>-5,963</b>
<b>Personnel</b>								
Regionally Deployed Staff	7,500							7,500
National Society Staff		4,225					4,225	-4,225
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>4,225</b>					<b>4,225</b>	<b>3,275</b>
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	5,000	2,647					2,647	2,353
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>2,647</b>					<b>2,647</b>	<b>2,353</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Communications	5,000	1,512					1,512	3,488
Financial Charges		3,146					3,146	-3,146
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>4,658</b>					<b>4,658</b>	<b>342</b>
<b>Programme &amp; Service Support</b>								
Programme & Service Support	1,300	1,304					1,304	-4
<b>Total Programme &amp; Service Support</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,304</b>					<b>1,304</b>	<b>-4</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>21,300</b>	<b>21,295</b>					<b>21,295</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>5</b>					<b>5</b>	