

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Benin: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRBJ006
GLIDE n° FL-2009-000127-BEN
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The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 90,882 was allocated on 10 July, 2009 from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Cross of Benin in delivering immediate assistance to some 5,285 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged. On 6 August 2009, CHF 574,355 was allocated to support the Red Cross of Benin to extend the assistance to some 22,035 beneficiaries for three months.



The Red Cross of Benin distributed emergency relief items to people affected by the 2009 floods in Benin/ Red Cross of Benin

The torrential rainfalls in Benin during the second half of 2009 caused a lot of human and material damages in the country which prompted the Government of Benin to declare it a national disaster and called for international humanitarian assistance. According to the Red Cross of Benin, about 87,500 persons including 21,130 children were affected by the floods. The National Society (NS) with support from the International Federation's DREF assisted in alleviating the suffering of the people most affected by the floods. It has mobilized, trained and deployed its volunteers and staff in the affected communities to assist in the distribution of basic relief non-food items procured from the national and regional emergency stocks after conducting an assessment of the situation in collaboration with local authorities. The National Society also carried out sensitization sessions on good hygiene and sanitation practices and assisted in the treatment of wells in the affected communities.

The Red Cross of Benin as a member of the crisis committee set up by the government worked in close collaboration with other actors during this period. The collaboration led to the success recorded during the operation. The intervention of the Red Cross contributed to alleviating the suffering of the most affected persons as the Red Cross provided them with their immediate basic needs which also contributed to their starting the process of rebuilding their lives. The intervention of the Red Cross also contributed to the reduction in cases of water related diseases and the knowledge of beneficiaries in good hygiene and sanitation practices was also enhanced.

A total of 29,822 persons benefited from the non-food items procured and distributed by the Red Cross while 10,030 persons were sensitized on good hygiene habits and 575 wells treated. The activities of the Red Cross also enhanced its image among the affected population, the government and other actors. The operation assisted the NS in strengthening the capacity of its local branches involved in the operation through training and procurement of emergency intervention tools. However, the poor condition of roads worsened by the flood water initially affected the Red Cross activities. The National Society was also faced with the request of the

affected communities for food assistance. The operation was extended at no costs to accommodate other communities affected by floods in other parts of the country during this period. With the completion of the national and regional stocks replenishment, unspent amount of CHF 262,549 has been returned to the International Federation's DREF pool as there was over-budgeting during the application for the extension. 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>

<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>

The situation

The heavy rainfalls which commenced in June 2009 and the blockage of drainage system led to heavy flooding in Cotonou and Abomey-Calavi and affected about 18 communities in these localities. A preliminary assessment carried out by the Red Cross of Benin and the local authorities showed that an estimated 13,464 persons of 2,064 households were affected among whom were 5,749 children under 5 years old. A second assessment carried out by the Red Cross after the government declared the situation a national disaster and called for national and international humanitarian assistance showed that the actual number of people affected was 60,238 persons in these communities.

Many buildings including schools, health centres and other infrastructures were submerged by the flood water. Water points, latrines, culverts and many personal belongings such as clothes, school materials and domestic animals were also affected. With their houses flooded by water, the affected people sought shelter in unorthodox ways, including on table tops or other surface, as there was no other alternative.

The Red Cross of Benin was one of the first humanitarian agencies to intervene in assisting the affected people. As such it was able to scale up assistance through International Federation's DREF. However, as the operation was ongoing, another heavy rainfall in the north of the country during the month of August led to the overflow of the Mono River and caused heavy flooding in 58 villages in Athiémé, Lokossa and Grand-Popo with more villages at risk of the disaster. The Red Cross volunteers carried out a rapid assessment and the result showed that a total of 59,419 persons of 9,746 households were affected with three deaths and many houses including farmlands, crops and livestock washed away. Many of the affected populations were temporarily sheltered in public buildings like schools. The floods affected wells and damaged many latrines in the communities. This impact coupled with the poor sanitation habits of the communities raised health and hygiene risks in these vulnerable communities. The affected communities were also at risk of food and economic insecurity as 17,851 hectares of their farmlands were affected (Source: Centre de Promotion Agricole). The floods in these areas prompted the Red Cross to revise its operation and sought for an extension to the initial DREF to be able to support the recently affected population with immediate relief assistance.

The Red Cross of Benin worked in collaboration with the national emergency response committee put in place by the government. The Red Cross of Benin in line with the Movement's approach to assist the most vulnerable people revised and adapted its relief distribution plan to the beneficiaries' real needs. The National Society has been playing an integral role of leadership in the committee and has collaborated with local authorities and community leaders to ensure efficiency in the provision of humanitarian assistance, minimizing/eliminating waste of resources and avoiding overlapping of tasks. The comprehensive assessment carried out by the National Society on the risks and damages was well 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 in close collaboration with these authorities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross volunteers including NDRT and RDRT members mobilized and deployed in the affected areas assisted the affected population covered by the DREF extension. The Red Cross volunteers sensitized the population on good hygiene practices, distributed NFIs and disinfected wells in the target communities.

Achievements against outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: About 4,407 most vulnerable households affected by the floods in Cotonou, Porto Novo, Dangbo and Abomey-Calavi benefit from the distribution of non-food items (blankets, mosquito nets, and clothing for children).

Outputs

- Distribute non-food items at target distribution points;
- Monitor the emergency situation;
- Procure, airlift, transport and distribute 4,407 mosquito nets; 8,814 blankets; 6,840 pieces of children clothing;
- Replenish the stock used from DISAO+ project and the Federation regional stock;
- Monitor and assess the emergency activities and submit reports on the distribution of relief items.

Impact: The Red Cross of Benin in conformity with its distribution plan initially sourced NFIs from its national emergency stock put in place with the support of the Spanish Red Cross (DISAO+ project) and the Federation regional stock to carry out the first phase of distribution. The National Society also procured some items locally to complete the distribution. The distribution strategy was based on the immediate and basic needs, number of persons in each family and the extent of vulnerability of the target beneficiaries. According to some of the beneficiaries, the Red Cross intervention was just when needed especially in protecting them against malaria, cold and some water borne diseases. The Red Cross assistance afforded them the opportunity to start thinking of restarting their lives with the immediate basic needs it has provided.

Table 1: Statistics on NFIs distributed

Localities	Beneficiaries		Distributed items					
	N° of households reached	N° of persons reached	Blankets	Mosquito nets	Plastic buckets	Water treatment tablets	Soap	Fairly-used cloth kits
Cotonou	1,570	7,850	2,915	1,570	1,570	13,410	683	149
Abomey- Calavi	655	3,275	1,465	655	655	26,650	800	655
Dangbo	192	1,642	349	176	192	3,519	823	175
Athieme (IDPs camps)	342	1,601	653	342	342	30,780	1,617	300
Athieme (villages)	1,094	8,924	2,144	1,094	1,094	98,480	5,786	1,094
Lokossa	900	6,530	1,785	900	900	80,960	4,455	810
Total	4,753	29,822	9,311	4,737	4,753	253,799	14,164	3,183

The National Society replenished its DISAO+ funded national stock initially used during the intervention. Some 400 blankets, 400 ITNs and 400 plastic buckets were procured for the replenishment by the Red Cross of Benin. The National Society also replenished the regional stock of the International Federation located in Benin at the completion of the distribution phase of the operation. Items replenished include blankets, ITNs, buckets among others.

Challenges: The delay in the procurement of some relief items delayed the distribution phase of the operation. The Red Cross was also faced with the request by the affected communities for assistance in the provision of tents, the reconstruction/rehabilitation of their latrines, houses and the provision of food items as their farmlands and crops have been washed away by the floods thereby exposing them to food insecurity.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

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

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned

- Procure, airlift, transport and distribute 22,035 pieces of soap (250g each);
- Procure 396,630 water purification tablets and 4,407 jerry cans;
- Promote health and hygiene within the affected areas;
- Edit health and hygiene promotion kits;

- Treat 575 water points;
- Refresh training for 267 volunteers on hygiene and health promotion.

Impact: Cases of outbreak of water related epidemics have reduced and the beneficiaries of the Red Cross intervention have enhanced their knowledge in good hygiene and sanitation practices. The National Society procured and distributed hygiene kits (water treatment tablets, plastic buckets and soap) to the target flood affected populations. The National Society's 267 trained volunteers sensitized, through demonstration, a total of 2,444 persons on the use of the water treatment tablets. They also sensitized a total of 18,030 persons on good hygiene and sanitation practices in Cotonou, Abomey-Calavi, Porto-Novo, Lokossa, Athiémé and Grand-Popo. The Red Cross volunteers, equipped with PHAST kits, disinfected 575 wells in these communities.

Challenges: The deplorable condition of the roads worsened by the flood water made access to target houses for disinfection difficult at the beginning. However, with the flood water receding, the Red Cross volunteers were able to carry out planned activities.

Logistics

The International Federation offices in Dakar and Abuja provided logistic support to the National Society during the operation. The support cut across procurement and provision of operational vehicle.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The flood response activities of the Red Cross of Benin provided an excellent opportunity for the National Society to demonstrate the added value of the intervention of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to the public. The Red Cross assistance was given a national coverage by the two local television stations (Canal TV and ORTB TV), two radio stations (Wèkè and Capp FM) and other national dailies like *Challenge*, *le Matinal*, *le Matin*, *la Nation*, and *Fraternité*. The OCHA SITREP was also disseminated to humanitarian agencies at national and regional levels.

The Federation's Zone information team assisted the National Society in the formulation of strategies to address the public and the media, to document the distribution process, to witness the interaction between Red Cross staff, volunteers and beneficiaries and to produce relevant articles and photographs that enhanced the visibility of the Red Cross in and outside Benin.

Lessons learnt

- Collaboration with other agencies through the crisis committee set up by the government prevented the duplication of tasks among stakeholders especially in the area of distribution of NFI.
- The CDRT and NDRT experience as well as training during the Spanish Red Cross DISAO+ project contributed greatly in the management of the Red Cross intervention; hence, the need to replicate the project in other branches.
- The operation contributed a lot to enhancing the capacity of branches that were directly involved in the flood operation especially in emergency tools and human resources.
- The Red Cross activities during the operation has enhanced the image of the Red Cross of Benin and opened an avenue for further collaboration with the government.

How we work

All IFRC 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 IFRC'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 IFRC'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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[<final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRBJ006 - Benin - Floods

FINAL Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/7-2010/8
Budget Timeframe	2009/7-2009/11
Appeal	MDRBJ006
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	574,355					574,355
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	574,355					574,355
C6. Other Income	574,355					574,355
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	574,355					574,355
D. Total Funding = B + C	574,355					574,355
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	574,355					574,355
E. Expenditure	-311,806					-311,806
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	262,549					262,549

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		574,355					574,355	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	174,700							174,700
Clothing & textiles		99,497				99,497		-99,497
Water & Sanitation	186,677	15,590				15,590		171,087
Utensils & Tools		18,040				18,040		-18,040
Other Supplies & Services		9,513				9,513		-9,513
Total Supplies	361,377	142,640				142,640		218,737
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	12,000	8,701				8,701		3,299
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	12,000	8,701				8,701		3,299
Transport & Storage								
Storage		23,161				23,161		-23,161
Distribution & Monitoring	19,700	13,924				13,924		5,776
Transport & Vehicle Costs	50,685	7,235				7,235		43,450
Total Transport & Storage	70,385	44,320				44,320		26,065
Personnel								
Regionally Deployed Staff	12,600							12,600
National Staff		235				235		-235
National Society Staff	34,305	35,820				35,820		-1,515
Total Personnel	46,905	36,056				36,056		10,849
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	12,855	19,771				19,771		-6,916
Total Workshops & Training	12,855	19,771				19,771		-6,916
General Expenditure								
Travel	10,800	7,634				7,634		3,166
Information & Public Relation	10,000	7,907				7,907		2,093
Office Costs	2,800	381				381		2,419
Communications	6,400	4,246				4,246		2,154
Financial Charges	3,500	15,917				15,917		-12,417
Other General Expenses		7				7		-7
Total General Expenditure	33,500	36,090				36,090		-2,590
Programme Support								
Program Support	37,333	19,476				19,476		17,857
Total Programme Support	37,333	19,476				19,476		17,857
Services								
Services & Recoveries		4,752				4,752		-4,752
Total Services		4,752				4,752		-4,752
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	574,355	311,806				311,806		262,549
VARIANCE (C - D)		262,549				262,549		