

DREF operation final report



Republic of Congo: Population Movement

DREF operation n° MDRCG005

02 November, 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 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 247,375 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 23 November, 2009 to support the Congolese Red Cross provide life saving emergency assistance to some 10,000 beneficiaries, i.e. the most vulnerable among the over 24,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

With these funds Red Cross volunteers conducted sensitization campaigns in host communities and sites to prevent waterborne diseases, sanitation and hygiene, built shelters for the most vulnerable refugees and purchased and distributed non-food items (NFIs). Volunteers built also wells and latrines in public places in the host communities.



Displaced population receiving NFIs from Red Cross Volunteers/Congolese Red Cross

Implementing these DREF operation activities was challenged by very tough weather and road conditions. The operation had to be extended until May 2010. Moreover, it became even more difficult as more refugees crossed the border into Congo reaching a population of more than 106,000 people by January 2010. The International Federation and UNHCR have fortunately signed a MoU providing the necessary financial and technical resources to enable the Congolese Red Cross expand the operation and extend it to December 2010. With the DREF allocation, Red Cross volunteers assisted 485 vulnerable refugee households (2,700 people) with shelter and household items. The volunteers also provided adequate latrines to an estimated population of 20,000 people, and safe drinking water to 25,000 people. This support benefited both the refugees and the host communities.

The Netherlands Silent Emergency Fund made a contribution of CHF 30,257 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. 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

On 29 October, 2009 what was considered as an explosion of interethnic violence over disputed lands and fishing lake between the Enyelle and the Tandas in the district of Dongo in the Equateur province of DRC turned to be a politically motivated uprising. As a result of this, tens of thousands of people were internally displaced and received assistance from the Red Cross of DRC assisted by ICRC. As the conflict spread very quickly across Dongo and expanded to neighbouring districts the populations were left with no other choice than to cross the Ubangi River and seek refuge in the Dongu, Imfondo, Eboko, Boyélé and Bétou localities of the RoC, in the Likouala province.

Radio Okapi (the United Nations radio in DRC reported that some 24,000 people from DRC already sought refuge in RoC, and were staying in schools, churches, markets, cultural centres, police stations and abandoned factories. Other refugees were accommodated in host families. This was later confirmed by emergency needs assessments conducted by the interagency disaster management committee which included representatives from the RoC including the Congolese Red Cross. The assessments also revealed that the number of refugees had increased to more than 106,000 people and that the refugees were settling in host communities or spontaneous settlements reaching a total of 88 locations where refugees were found along the Ubangi River. However the biggest concentrations of refugees were found in Bétou, Dongu Imfondo, Eboko and Boyele areas.

The most pressing life saving needs were in the areas of shelter, health, hygiene and sanitation, food and households items. Cholera prevention was seen as a priority because the only access to water for many refugees is from the river. The fact that refugees settled on the river banks and did not have proper shelter for most of them made many displaced population suffer from Acute Respiratory Infections. Blankets and second hand clothing were also distributed as priority. To these priorities are added the protection for the most vulnerable (the elderly and the disabled) and education for school going children.

UNHCR and the RoC Government have decided to build a site to host the displaced people initially installed in the disused factory of FALCO, in Bétou centre, and in a school complex in the same district. An RDRT member from the Federation who is shelter and camp management specialist was designated to provide technical advice to UNHCR, local authorities and AARREC in the identification and the planning of the site. The site is currently operational and hosts some 1,500 refugees. It was named "15 Avril" site after the date the first refugees were installed there and has a capacity of 5,000 people. The construction of shelters is going on under the responsibility of AARREC with a change in the prototype, which is currently made of dirt walls and straw roof.

Coordination and partnerships

The coordination of the assistance to the refugees was done by the government of RoC and UNHCR. Also very active was the joint national interagency emergency response team led by the RoC Minister of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Action and Solidarity was very active and included representatives of UN agencies namely the World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), French and US embassies as well as the Congolese Red Cross.

Several humanitarian actors were actively involved in field operations. This included MSF and Medicines d'Afrique (MDA) that are providing health care assistance, drugs and non-food items. AAREC (the Association for assistance to DRC refugees) was in charge of the distribution of food items provided by WFP and UNHCR. UNICEF provided bladders for the distribution of potable water in some villages of Bétou, and has been conducting children nutrition surveillance in the various sites, in collaboration with Médecins d'Afrique. The humanitarian actors are also contributing to water and sanitation efforts, as well as construction of shelters.

UNHCR, Médecins d'Afrique and AAREC were already in the field before the arrival of the displaced persons in November 2009. They have been assisting DRC refugees that arrived in Congo Brazzaville between 2004 and 2005. In April ACTED, in partnership with WFP, has carried out distribution activities along the North River course and the south river route. It also plans to conduct a Watsan project for the construction of water wells, latrines and distribution of NFIs. Coordination meetings have been organized to determine the roles of each actor to avoid duplication of efforts.

UNHCR has expressed the wish that all the partners in the field get involved in the construction of shelters. In June 2010, a MoU was signed between IFRC/CRC and UNHCR concerning social welfare, hygiene promotion, NFIs distribution and education. Arrangements were made with UNHCR, MDA and AARREC to enable Red Cross staff and volunteers working in Bétou area benefit from their adequate transport facilities (boats) for the training and supervision of volunteers in the villages. The MOU between UNHCR and IFRC takes effect from June and will last until the end of the year.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To improve the living conditions of 2,000 families of refugees identified as the most vulnerable in the Bétou, Dongou and Impfondo localities through the distribution of non-food items.

Activities planned:

- Identify the most vulnerable refugees;
- Purchase and transport materials to the targeted localities;
- Train Red Cross volunteers on food distribution and other relief activities techniques;
- Distribute food and non-food items to targeted beneficiaries;
- Produce distribution reports.

Progress

This sector mobilized 170 volunteers trained in identification of specific needs and the provision of adequate services to the most vulnerable among the refugees. The following criteria were used: large families, children from 0-5 years, unaccompanied children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, elderly people, and the chronic care patients, etc. About 5,900 vulnerable people were identified and 3,000 of them were assisted with NFI items procured with the DREF: 1,040 pieces of soap were thus distributed to 500 families; more than 160 blankets, 132 mosquito nets, 80 pieces of tarpaulins and 50 sleeping mats were distributed to the elderly, pregnant and/or lactating women were also distributed to the NFI donated by UNHCR were distributed to 1,920 families.

With funding from UNHCR, the assistance provided to the most vulnerable among the refugee was expanded to include SGBV prevention and response. In this view 46 volunteers including some refugees were trained in SGBV surveillance, referrals and psychosocial support. During the reporting period, 45 cases of SGBV were identified and managed. About 700 people were educated about sexual and sexist violence in the sites of Bétou centre and 300 others in the site of Ikpengbele along the North River by volunteers and by trained focal points. Under the MoU with UNHCR, the Red Cross is also in charge of the payment of teachers, the construction of semi-durable infrastructures and the provision of education materials for 29 primary schools with a total of 10,770 refugee students, 253 refugee teachers and 29 school directors.

Restoring Family Links (RFL) activities was conducted with support from ICRC. Parents of three unaccompanied minors could be positively traced and family reunion planned. Tracing of the parents of five other minors continues.

Challenges

Since the beginning of the operation, children have not received clothing nor have women received hygiene kits in adequate quantities. This represents a huge gap in the response provided by the international community to the refugees. Approximately 22,400 children are concerned and 14,000 women of childbearing age.

Emergency health

Objective: To improve the living conditions of 2,000 families of refugees identified as the most vulnerable in the Bétou, Dongou and Impfondo localities through community-based health activities.

Activities planned:

- Sensitization to the dangers of malaria and HIV/AIDS;
- Administration of first-aid assistance to injured persons;
- Treatment and support for old people.

Progress

Red Cross volunteers organized more than 100 sensitization events on basic sanitation, malaria control and HIV/AIDS prevention in Dongou, Impfondo and Bétou targeting heads of families and people in public gatherings. According to the records by Red Cross volunteers, a total of 1,700 households benefited from these activities. Also specific condom demonstration activity was conducted with 700 youths and adults of reproductive age (mostly women) through door-to-door approach in the two sites in Bétou.

Very few first-aid interventions were conducted by Red Cross volunteers because the overall health condition of refugees did not require specific actions by the Red Cross. Injured refugees were cared for by MSF and MDA.

Challenges

The main challenge was related to the very low risk awareness of refugees of waterborne diseases and other communicable diseases. The Red Cross branch in Bétou was only formed in November 2009 and the volunteers are still in a learning process.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: To reduce the risks of water borne diseases and improve the sanitation system for the displaced population for the next three months.

Activities planned:

- Train Red Cross volunteers on basic water and sanitation techniques;
- Sensitize the refugees to hygiene rules and the dangers of not cleaning hands;
- Support the distribution of potable water;
- Sensitize refugees to the conservation and use of potable water;
- Support the treatment of targeted water points;
- Support the disinfection of existing latrines, and the creation of emergency latrines;
- Participate in environmental sanitation activities.

Progress

With the DREF, sixty volunteers were trained on water and sanitation (20 in Bétou, 35 in Impfondo, 20 in Dongou and five in Boyele) and they reached out to some 50,000 people with hygiene promotion messages. The volunteers have treated a total of 10 water points and 25,000 litres of drinking water. They built four long lasting latrines in three host communities and constructed three wells in two communities.

Working in close coordination with AAREC, Red Cross volunteers distributed some 6,000 water purification tablets to 1,700 households in five locations. Furthermore, in Boyélé, 15 volunteers were mobilized to work with MDA for the distribution of aqua tabs in households and are raising awareness on community concerns for refugees during food distribution by WFP partners. In Landza, 10 mobilized volunteers participate in outreach activities alongside MDA for water chlorination with aqua tabs. Concerning Liboko and Eboko 30 volunteers are mobilized for awareness raising and chlorination of water in Eboko and Liboko. At Eboko, MSF has involved the Red Cross volunteers in measles vaccination by the last week of 2009.

ICRC, the French Red Cross and the Congolese Red Cross carried out a watsan evaluation to thoroughly assess the situation and make recommendations for specific actions as part of an overall response of the Movement. The assessment revealed the need for the Red Cross to get more involved in community activities on hygiene promotion, rehabilitation and construction of latrines, rehabilitation, treatment and drilling of wells.

Under the MoU with UNHCR, Red Cross volunteers continued the awareness sessions on hygiene promotion, disinfection of latrines and water treatment made by volunteers in the 15 Avril and Moundzombo sites. About 676 people were sensitized on the importance of washing hands before eating and after using the latrines; 72 latrines in the 15 Avril site are disinfected every week by volunteers from watsan sector; 218 people are sensitized on the proper use of a garbage pit in the site of 15 Avril. For the cleaning up of the site

by the refugees, 40 toilets and 43 latrines are cleaned by the beneficiaries themselves. Mounddzombo site was however closed in August 2010 and the refugees were transferred to “15 Avril”.

Emergency shelter and site planning, socio community activities

Objective: To improve the living conditions of 4,000 families of refugees identified as homeless in Bétou through technical support for site planning, shelter and hygiene promotion activities.

Activities planned:

- Identification of a site that meets the required standards;
- Site planning;
- Adoption and implementation of a suitable shelter model;
- 100 shelters for the most vulnerable in off-site communities;
- Awareness of beneficiaries in the proper use of infrastructure (shelter and sanitation);
- Awareness about the culture of peace and non-violence.

Progress

After the joint decision by the Congolese Government and UNHCR to relocate the displaced persons that had invaded Falco factory and a school building, a joint team comprising representatives of UNHCR, Sub Prefecture, Services de l'Economie Forestière and AARREC selected a site with a capacity of 6,000 refugees, with the possibility of extension. The International Federation's RDRT member deployed in the field, who is a shelter specialist helped finalize the selection of the site.

Though the Red Cross did not play a primary role in the site management, an agreement between UNHCR and IFRC was made for the involvement of the expatriate regional resource as an adviser to AAREC who had the responsibility for the construction of the site but did not have the required expertise. Furthermore the Red Cross was in charge of community services in the site and the quality of these services could be hampered by inadequate site planning and management.

For the effective implementation and management of the MoU with UNHCR, the International Federation and the Congolese Red Cross established a field team of paid staff for a proper coordination of activities. The team provided training and supervision to volunteers from Bétou branch and is composed of one expatriate regional resource (RDRT) and five staff members from Congolese Red Cross headquarters. They report to the Secretary General of the Congolese Red Cross and the Federation Country Representative in Kinshasa.

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>](#)

MDRCG005 - Republic Congo - Population Movement

Appeal Launch Date: 20 nov 09

Appeal Timeframe: 20 nov 09 to 23 may 10

FINAL Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/11-2010/10
Budget Timeframe	2009/11-2010/05
Appeal	MDRCG005
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
A. Budget	247,375					247,375
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
Other Income						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	<i>247,375</i>					<i>247,375</i>
C6. Other Income	247,375					247,375
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	247,375					247,375
D. Total Funding = B + C	247,375					247,375
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	247,375					247,375
E. Expenditure	-247,302					-247,302
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	73					73

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

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)		247,375					247,375	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief		1,953					1,953	-1,953
Clothing & textiles	60,500	4,833					4,833	55,667
Food		113					113	-113
Water & Sanitation	44,700	26,251					26,251	18,449
Medical & First Aid	19,100							19,100
Teaching Materials	6,000	3,305					3,305	2,695
Utensils & Tools		5,329					5,329	-5,329
Other Supplies & Services		2,722					2,722	-2,722
Total Supplies	130,300	44,505					44,505	85,795
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles		7,406					7,406	-7,406
Computers & Telecom		-2					-2	2
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.		12,778					12,778	-12,778
Total Land, vehicles & equipment		20,183					20,183	-20,183
Transport & Storage								
Storage		923					923	-923
Distribution & Monitoring	40,992	3,115					3,115	37,877
Transport & Vehicle Costs		31,164					31,164	-31,164
Total Transport & Storage	40,992	35,202					35,202	5,790
Personnel								
International Staff		1,399					1,399	-1,399
Regionally Deployed Staff	7,000	3,250					3,250	3,750
National Staff	975	6,991					6,991	-6,016
National Society Staff	22,740	41,511					41,511	-18,771
Consultants		137					137	-137
Total Personnel	30,715	53,288					53,288	-22,573
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	10,000	8,483					8,483	1,517
Total Workshops & Training	10,000	8,483					8,483	1,517
General Expenditure								
Travel	9,400	32,106					32,106	-22,706
Information & Public Relation	2,200	6,948					6,948	-4,748
Office Costs	5,589	20,171					20,171	-14,582
Communications	1,500	8,250					8,250	-6,750
Professional Fees		1,528					1,528	-1,528
Financial Charges	600	805					805	-205
Other General Expenses		479					479	-479
Total General Expenditure	19,289	70,287					70,287	-50,998
Programme Support								
Program Support	16,079	15,143					15,143	936
Total Programme Support	16,079	15,143					15,143	936
Services								
Services & Recoveries		211					211	-211
Total Services		211					211	-211
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	247,375	247,302					247,302	74
VARIANCE (C - D)		74					74	