

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Gabon: Chikungunya and Dengue fever epidemics in Franceville, Lastourville and Koulamoutou

DREF operation n° MDRGA004
GLIDE n° EP-2010-000111-
GAB
22 June, 2010

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (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 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 153,013 (USD 137,998 or EUR 111,363) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Gabon Red Cross National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 49,009 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Since April 2010, Gabon has been hit by the outbreak of the Chikungunya and Dengue epidemics. After laboratory analysis, 303 cases tested positive for the Chikungunya virus, 84 cases diagnosed with the Dengue virus, while 15 other cases of co-infections were discovered. No death has been reported yet. A management committee has been set up; victims have been hospitalized at the AMISSA BONGO teaching hospital in Franceville. The Provinces affected by these epidemics are Ogooué Lolo and Haut Ogooué, specifically the towns of Franceville, Lastourville and Koulamoutou, with a population of about 49,009 inhabitants. It is feared that Gabon could be affected by a general outbreak of the epidemics, especially as it is the peak of the farming season in that country. The morbidity of the disease could have a serious repercussion on the next harvests. The Gabon Red Cross will deploy 100 volunteers in these localities to carry out social mobilization, hygiene and sanitation activities, and provide assistance to health centres. It will carry out further investment in the implementation of a multifaceted advocacy programme.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 4 months, and will therefore be completed by October, 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by December, 2010).

[<click here for the DREF budget;](#)
[here for contact details;](#)
[here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

Since April 2010, Gabon has witnessed the outbreak of two epidemics: Chikungunya and Dengue fever. This information was disclosed on 28 May 2010 by Dr Jean Damasceine Khouila, Director General of Public Health, after collecting and examining the specimens of 616 suspected victims at the Franceville International Centre for Medical Research (CIRMF).

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The provinces hit by these epidemics are Ogooué Lolo and Haut Ogooué, specifically the towns of Franceville, Lastourville and Koulamoutou. It should be noted that the Chikungunya epidemic, whose symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue and muscle or joint pains, broke out in Libreville, the capital city, particularly in 2006 and 2007. Government is preoccupied with these epidemics that have occurred at a time when farmers are in the process of sowing seeds or planting, especially as its scope is unprecedented. If no urgent action is taken, the farming season risks being dealt a great blow. This situation is further compounded by the limited capacities of public services to tackle the problem.

Coordination and partnerships

Government has set up a response committee made up of all the actors (Ministry of Public Health, Franceville International Centre for Medical Research, the Gabon Red Cross, etc...). Government has also stepped up the treatment of diseases through the provision of medication, the spraying of insecticides in houses and vicinities, training health personnel and organizing sensitization sessions on these epidemics and laying emphasis on what needs to be done in order to minimise the risk of aggravating them.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The disaster management focal point, who serves as president of the Franceville local committee (Haut Ogooué province) and member of the National Disaster Response Team of the Gabon Red Cross, plays an active part in the response committee set up by the Ministry of Public Health. Furthermore, the focal point has organized the volunteers in a team in order to strengthen the teams from the Ministry of Public health in implementing activities to raise the awareness of the people. Also, in the Ogooué Lolo province, precisely in the locality of Koulamoutou, a team of volunteers has been mobilized for potential disaster response activities.

The needs

At the individual level, prevention can be achieved preferentially through the use of physical protection means (clothes, mosquito nets, etc.). The use of repellents is recommended, but precautions must be taken among pregnant women and children below the age of 12. For newborns aged below two months, repellents are not recommended and priority should be given to the use of insecticide-treated nets.

At community level, actions to fight against diurnal and urban mosquito vectors should be implemented:

- The most effective medium and long-term measure is the reduction of the number of breeding grounds by evacuating all reserves of lentic or stagnant water in and around houses; where such drainage is not possible, larvicidal treatment should be applied.
- During periods of epidemics, space spraying with insecticides helps, in the short term, to fight against the proliferation of adult mosquitoes and reduces the risk of transmission through bites.

Volunteers of the Gabon Red Cross envisage carrying out the following activities:

- Social mobilization campaigns punctuated with information, education and communication sessions to effect behaviour change, notably as regards vector control;
- Identification of suspected cases and referral to health centres;
- Provision of support to health centres in the management of cases, mindful of the particularly morbid nature of the 2 infections.

To contain the epidemics in the already affected localities and their environs, it is urgent for the Gabon Red Cross to envision the effective short-term organization of sensitization campaigns through the mobilization of some one hundred volunteers of the committees of these localities. To that end, it will be necessary to purchase sensitization materials such as flyers, posters, brochures, etc. Door-to-door sensitization should be carried out to guarantee real behaviour change and reduce the risk of aggravating the epidemics.

In the medium term, individual and environmental hygiene is recommended. Advocacy should also be carried out with administrative authorities to step up refuse collection in urban areas and to trigger the large-scale spraying of houses. In the long term, the training of volunteers of the Red Cross committees of the localities concerned on the approach of Strategy 2020 should be envisaged.

Intervention strategy

Considering the scope of the disaster, the International Federation will continue to support the national society throughout the implementation of this operation, particularly its newly installed disaster management department. Concretely, it is planned that the International Federation will deploy a regional disaster response team (RDRT) member in Gabon to ensure close technical support to the national society. In addition, a training session will be organized in Fanceville, Lastourville and Koulamoutou of Red Cross volunteers on Information, Education, and Communication (IEC), sanitation, references, spraying of houses, distribution and hang-up of insecticide-treated mosquito bed nets, with special focus on vector control. The local populations will also contribute to the smooth implementation of the operation with their own materials for sanitation activities.

The proposed operation

Emergency Health	
Objective 1: Contribute to the improvement of the health situation of the populations exposed to the Chikungunya and Dengue epidemics in Franceville, Lastourville and Koulamoutou	
<p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Red Cross volunteers serve as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · sentries of the community and coordinate an early alert system; · a link between the health centre and the community/prevention; · a communication channel between the community, the Red Cross and the authorities ; • 80% of the population recognize the signs and symptoms of chikungunya and Dengue fever and go to the nearest health centre upon the first alert; • 80% of the population implement simple individual and environmental hygiene rules, and know how to destroy mosquito breeding grounds ; • 80% of the population receive insecticide-treated mosquito nets; • Strengthening of partnership between the Gabon Red Cross and the ministry of health, partners such as WHO and UNICEF. 	<p>Activities planned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of 100 volunteers in communication (IEC) to have an effect on behaviour change through permanent campaigns in their communities. • Promotion of individual and environmental hygiene notably through the destruction of mosquito breeding grounds, the drainage of stagnant waters, collection and disposal of household wastes, wastewater disposal, cleaning-out of gutters, spraying of houses and vicinities, weeding of grass around houses, dissemination of simple messages on cleanliness; • Sensitization of beneficiaries to sleep under mosquito nets ; • Draw up a list of those who received mosquito nets; • Distribution and hang-up of insecticide-treated mosquito nets ; • Monitor the effective and proper use of mosquito nets ; • Social support to the people; • Advocacy with administrative authorities and partners ;
Objective 2 : Strengthen the capacity of the National Society to prepare for, mitigate and control the outbreak of epidemic diseases	
<p>Outcomes:</p> <p>The branches and volunteers of the Gabonese Red Cross Society are capacitated to systematically prepared for and respond to future epidemic outbreaks in order to mitigate mortality and morbidity in the affected communities</p>	<p>Activities planned :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 3-day workshop for 26 participants; • Evaluation of the activities done so far in the response • Initiation of development of the Plan of Action and contingency plans in the branches imminently affected by epidemic outbreaks.

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

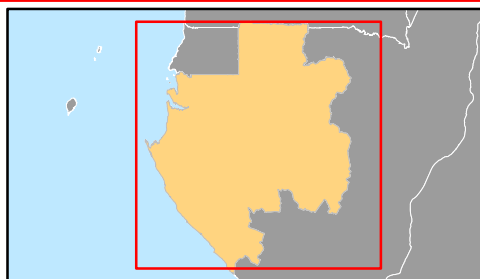
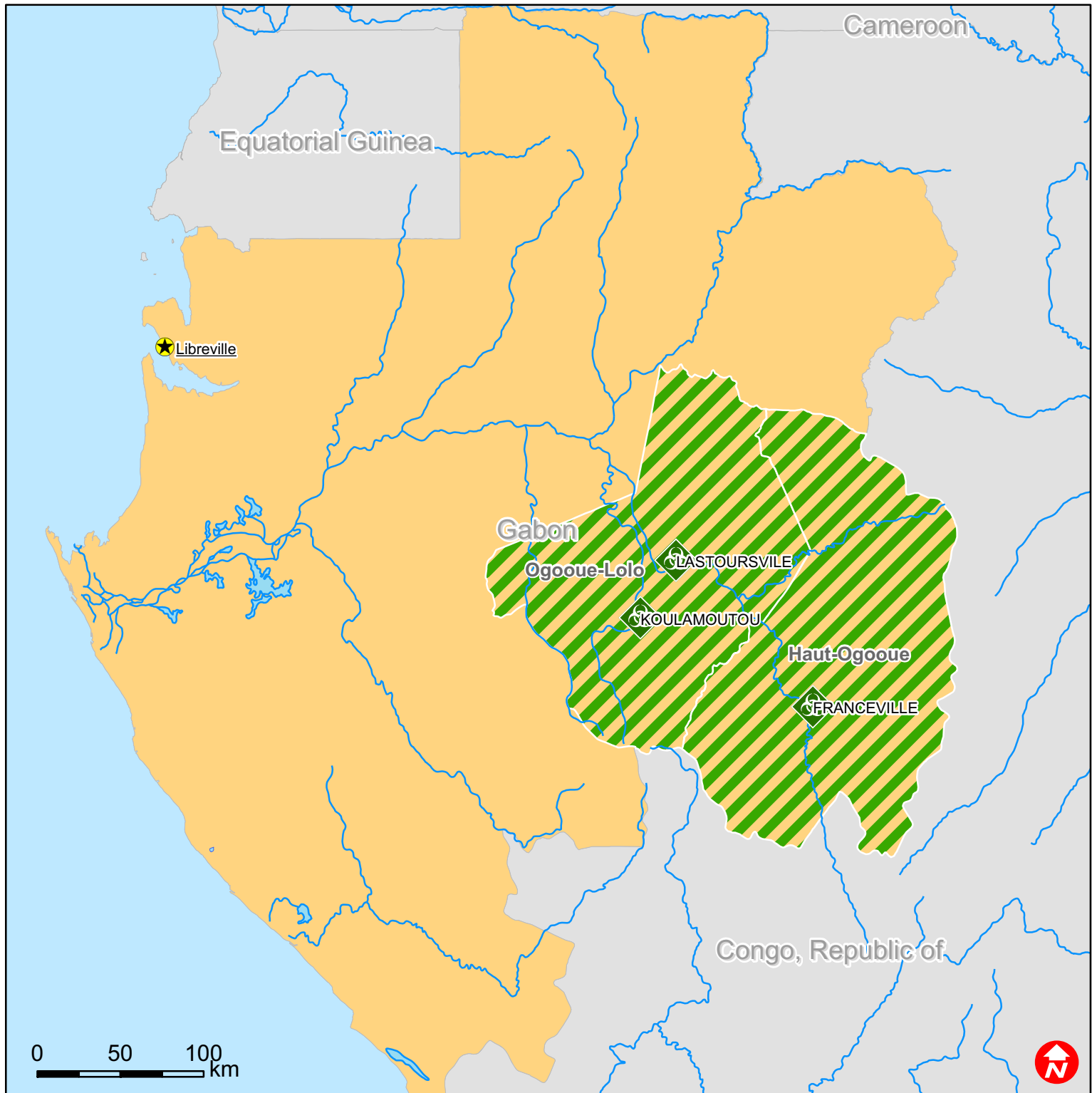
Budget summary



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	1,313	1,313
Medical & First Aid	64,893	64,893
Teaching Materials	4,313	4,313
Ustensils & Tools		0
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements		0
Total Supplies	70,518	70,518
Land & Buildings		0
Vehicles		0
Computer & Telecom		0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		0
Medical Equipment		0
Other Machinery & Equipment	21,850	21,850
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	21,850	21,850
Storage		0
Distribution & Monitoring		0
Transport & Vehicle Costs		0
Total Transport & Storage	0	0
International Staff		0
Regionally Deployed Staff		0
National Staff		0
National Society Staff	21,575	21,575
Other Staff benefits		0
Consultants		0
Total Personnel	21,575	21,575
Workshops & Training	8,650	8,650
Total Workshops & Training	8,650	8,650
Travel	19,925	19,925
Information & Public Relation	0	0
Office Costs	306	306
Communications	600	600
Professional Fees	0	0
Financial Charges	0	0
Other General Expenses	250	250
Total General Expenditure	21,081	21,081
Cash Transfers to National Societies		0
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		0
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0
Program Support	9,339	9,339
Total Programme Support	9,339	9,339

Services & Recoveries		0
Shared Services		0
Total Services	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	153,013	153,013



Gabon: Epidemics (Chikungunya and dengue)



-  Most affected towns
-  Affected provinces