

DREF operation final report



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
21 February, 2011

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 153,013 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 22 June, 2010 to support the Gabonese Red Cross Society in delivering assistance to some 49,009 beneficiaries.

From April to July 2010, over 500 cases of Chikungunya and Dengue fever were discovered in Franceville, Lastourville, Koulamoutou, Moanda and Mounana, putting at risk some 50,000 people. IFRC utilized DREF funds to help the Gabonese Red Cross assist the affected people and prevent the further spread of the diseases. Thanks to the DREF, the National Society mobilized and trained 100 volunteers. These volunteers then carried out social mobilization to rid the household environment of mosquito breeding grounds and to sensitize on the use of insecticide treated mosquito nets, followed by distribution and installation of some 12,000 treated nets.



Trained Red Cross volunteers distributed mosquito nets to help protect the populations / Gabonese Red Cross

Red Cross intervention contributed to stopping the spread of the diseases. By combining epidemic response with related 'on-the-job' training, the operation also strengthened the operational capacities of the Gabonese Red Cross Society to better respond to future epidemics. This can be considered a best practice for future operations.

The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Donor details 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

From April through July 2010, 443 cases of Chikungunya, 108 cases of Dengue fever and 15 cases of co-infection (both diseases in the same patients) were registered in Franceville, Lastourville, Koulamoutou, Moanda and Mounana. The total population at risks in these areas amounts to 49,009 inhabitants.

Victims were hospitalized at the Amissa Bongo teaching hospital in Franceville. It was feared that Gabon could be affected by a wider outbreak, especially as it was the peak of the farming season. Morbidity from the diseases was feared to have serious repercussions on the next harvests.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Achievements compared to objectives

Emergency Health	
Objective 1: To contribute to the improvement of the health situation of the populations exposed to the Chikungunya and Dengue epidemics in Franceville, Lastourville and Koulamoutou.	
<p>Outputs</p> <p>The Red Cross volunteers serve as:</p> <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; <p>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.</p> <p>80% of the population implement simple individual and environmental hygiene rules, and know how to destroy mosquito breeding grounds.</p> <p>80% of the population receive insecticide-treated mosquito nets.</p> <p>Strengthening of partnership between the Gabonese Red Cross Society and the Ministry of Health, and partners such as WHO and UNICEF.</p>	<p>Activities planned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of 100 volunteers in information, education and 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; • Monitoring of the effective and proper use of mosquito nets; • Social support to people; • Advocacy before administrative authorities and partners;
Objective 2: To strengthen the capacity of the National Society to prepare for, mitigate and control the outbreak of epidemic diseases.	
<p>Outputs</p> <p>The branches and volunteers of the Gabonese Red Cross Society are capacitated to systematically prepare 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 affected by epidemic outbreaks.

Achievements:

When the epidemics occurred, Gabon Government set a crisis committee to manage the situation. The Red Cross that was part of this committee had the lead in social mobilization, sanitation and hygiene promotion. To fully play its role, the National Society (NS) mobilized and trained 100 volunteers on Dengue and Chikungunya epidemics management and sensitization techniques, with the participation of 50 volunteers in Franceville, 25 in Lastourville and 25 in Koulamoutou. The July 2010 training was organized as a training of trainers and utilized the Epidemic Control Manual for Volunteers (ECV). The training was the first one on the

continent given in French and was particularly successful given the national society's hitherto relatively modest capacities in health.

In addition to the 100 volunteers, 22 NS executives, i.e. health and first-aid officers from the local committees of the Gabonese Red Cross Society, were trained on control of epidemics in Gabon, with focus on Chikungunya and Dengue fever. To strengthen the operational capacities of the NS, IFRC donated 50 overalls; 100 boots; five sprayers; 20 miner's pans; 20 wheelbarrows; 20 racks; 20 machetes; 20 pickaxes; 12,000 long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITMN); five megaphones; 140 masks; 100 pairs of gloves; 150 litres of cresol; and 500 posters and leaflets.

With this equipment and the knowledge acquired through the training, Red Cross volunteers continued sensitizing the populations in the affected localities, reaching about 30,000 people. They also distributed 12,000 ITMN and taught the beneficiaries how to install and use them. Volunteers also disinfected 1,600 latrines, treated 70 water points, sprayed 450 dustbin places, oriented 393 people to the nearest health centre, and made 529 demonstrations of how to correctly use ITMN.

Impacts:

Since the end of the operation in late September 2010, no new cases of Chikungunya and Dengue fever were registered. Red Cross volunteers have since been carrying out sensitization on a routine basis to help prevent another outbreak of the epidemics. The NS expressed its gratitude to IFRC as this operation contributed to strengthening their operational capacities not only in the fight against Chikungunya and Dengue fever, but also in the management of all epidemics.

Challenges:

Subsequent to the training, the health coordinator of the NS resigned. This presents an obstacle in implementing plans for the NS headquarters to support the volunteers trained in cascading their knowledge down to branch level.

Lessons learned:

The use of DREF to provide "on-the-job" training of NS volunteers in the case of epidemics can be considered a good practice, to be emulated in future operations.

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

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>](#)

*The attached financial report highlights an unspent balance of CHF 18,987 which has been returned to the DREF, As well as several issues of variance between budgeted and spent figures. The most salient ones are explained below:

Personnel - Given the known capacity constraints of the Gabon NS, the decision was made to bring in a regional disaster response team (RDRT) to assist in assessment and subsequent response to the epidemic, as well as aid in meeting reporting obligations and liaising with IFRC and other partners in the field. By drawing on nearby available expertise, RDRTs provide a valuable mechanism for NSs to shore up their capacity in times of emergency and are particularly appropriate for DREF operations such as this. More frequent use of RDRTs will help keep skills sharp as well as provide opportunities for capacity building of national societies.

Supplies - Only Mosquito nets was charged under this budget line, other items were budgeted but not charged.

Financial Charges - The unbudgeted amount charged on the project is a currency exchange loss share for this project. Future budgets should take into account the likelihood of such charges caused by fluctuating exchange rates.

MDRGA004 - Gabon - Epidemic

Appeal Launch Date: 16 jun 10

Appeal Timeframe: 16 jun 10 to 31 oct 10

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/6-2011/2
Budget Timeframe	2010/6-2010/10
Appeal	MDRGA004
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	153,013					153,013
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	134,026					134,026
C6. Other Income	134,026					134,026
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	134,026					134,026
D. Total Funding = B + C	134,026					134,026
Appeal Coverage	88%					88%

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	134,026					134,026
E. Expenditure	-134,026					-134,026
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

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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)		153,013					153,013	
Supplies								
Water & Sanitation	1,313	9,199				9,199	-7,886	
Medical & First Aid	64,893	21,971				21,971	42,922	
Teaching Materials	4,313						4,313	
Total Supplies	70,519	31,170				31,170	39,349	
Transport & Storage								
Storage		1,642				1,642	-1,642	
Distribution & Monitoring		12,408				12,408	-12,408	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	21,850	1,777				1,777	20,073	
Total Transport & Storage	21,850	15,827				15,827	6,023	
Personnel								
International Staff		1,939				1,939	-1,939	
Regionally Deployed Staff		9,105				9,105	-9,105	
National Staff		2,674				2,674	-2,674	
National Society Staff	21,575	21,847				21,847	-273	
Total Personnel	21,575	35,566				35,566	-13,992	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	8,650	9,258				9,258	-608	
Total Workshops & Training	8,650	9,258				9,258	-608	
General Expenditure								
Travel	19,925	5,466				5,466	14,459	
Information & Public Relation		3,769				3,769	-3,769	
Office Costs	200	5,115				5,115	-4,915	
Communications	600	2,981				2,981	-2,381	
Financial Charges		16,612				16,612	-16,612	
Other General Expenses	356	83				83	273	
Total General Expenditure	21,081	34,025				34,025	-12,944	
Programme & Service Support								
Programme & Service Support	9,339	8,180				8,180	1,159	
Total Programme & Service Support	9,339	8,180				8,180	1,159	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	153,013	134,026				134,026	18,987	
VARIANCE (C - D)		18,987				18,987		