

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The Gambia: Floods

DREF operation n°MDRGM006
GLIDE n°FL-2010-000181-GMB
Update n° 02
27 December, 2010

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 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.

Period covered by this update: 18 October to 24 November 2010.

Summary: CHF 287,261 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 20 September 2010 to support the Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) in delivering assistance to some 1,000 families.

The GRCS has procured operation and relief materials and distributed non-food items (NFI) to 800 affected families. The National Society (NS) transported the relief items to the nearest distribution sites, trained volunteers on improved shelter, established criteria for identifying beneficiaries and those to receive cash vouchers, as well as distributing coupons to the identified beneficiaries. Coordination meetings were regularly held with the National



The beneficiaries were provided with needed commodities after the floods in The Gambia: Photo GRCS

Disaster Management Agency, the regional partners, including the regional disaster management committees and other stakeholders. The assessment and identification of the beneficiaries for the cash vouchers and the construction of latrines was done in consultation and participation of the government regional disaster coordinators in order to ensure transparency and accountability.

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

The Canadian government (CIDA) contributed CHF 37,716 (CAD \$40,000) 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>

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The situation

Heavy rainfall since mid July of 2010 resulted in flooding which damaged the infrastructure and affected the livelihoods in The Gambia. The floods hit the Western, Upper River, Lower River, North Bank, Central River regions and the Kanifing Municipal Council. The River Gambia in the Upper River Region part over-floated for about 150 meters of the river banks causing flooding in residential areas, markets and the offices of the Medical Research Council located in Basse. Access to both banks of the river proved to be very difficult with ferry crossing at a standstill. The movement of people, goods and services from both sides have been handicapped. This has affected the data collection process from the field and has created limitation in the assessment process within the Upper River Region.

With the support and overall coordination by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), local authorities under the lead of the local Red Cross branch volunteers were able to quickly assess the situation on the ground and initiated immediate response by distributing food and non-food items (NFIs) in the selected districts or wards. The Government of The Gambia declared a state of national disaster in the country on 7 September, 2010 and launched an appeal both at in-country level and abroad for additional relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Coordination and partnerships

Soon after declaring a state of national disaster, the government of The Gambia following pledges made to support flood victims has paid out ten million Gambian Dalasi. Half of the funds were geared towards procurement and distribution of food stuff, which mainly included rice and oil. The Government launched an appeal soliciting support from local and international partners. Rice and oil have been distributed by the central government through regional governors to the affected people

The UN system together with the government and partners conducted a joint assessment to identify the effects of the floods and its implication on food security, livelihood, and general health concerns. Other partners such as Concern Universal and other stakeholders are ready to intervene in areas that are not yet covered. Regular coordination meetings were organized under the National Disaster Management Agency. Furthermore, members of the general public and institutions have been handing over their donations to the Agency through the Vice President who has been chairing the National Disaster Council.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Soon after the approval of the DREF allocation and the delivery of non-food items from the IFRC Sahel Regional Representation, 200 most affected families in the Kanifing Municipality have received NFIs during the distribution activities. A total of 800 additional families were as well provided with NFIs during the last distribution from 12 to the 22 October 2010. The NS has procured mattresses, bed sheets, soap (for laundry and toilet), cement, iron sheet for the construction of toilet.

Progress towards outcomes

Cash disbursement

Outcome: To contribute to the reduction of the vulnerability of 790 displaced families hosted in schools and other public structures with cash distribution.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Provide cash disbursement to 790 displaced families to help in the repair of their destroyed houses.

Progress: Regarding the cash distribution, the NS planned to support 500 families hosted in schools and public places under the shelter transition. Since the DREF application many other families were affected. As a result there was re-allocation on the budget from the hygiene kits to increase the total beneficiary population to 790 families. In this regards, beneficiaries were identified through the needs assessment, criteria developed for the identification process, and cash coupons distributed to the beneficiaries.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: To contribute to the reduction of the vulnerability of 1,000 families victims of flood with the provision of relief materials.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Relief items are procured and distributed to 1,000 most affected families within the regions of Kanifing Municipality, West Coast Region, Lower River Region, North Bank Region, Central River Region and Upper River Region.

Progress: The targeted 1,000 beneficiaries' families to benefit from non-food items have already received assistance. The three regional disaster response team members (RDRT) from the NS have been deployed in the regions to support the national disaster response team (NDRT) and community disaster response team (CDRT) members in each region in the implementation of activities. Simultaneously, meetings were held with the regional governors and regional disaster management committees on the planned activities and the coordination of the operation.

Emergency health

Outcome: To contribute to the prevention of communicable disease outbreaks among 1,000 of the most affected communities.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Agreements have been reached with Regional Health Teams through the request of the Vice President and chair person of the National Disaster management Governing Council to implement the above outcome in the communities;
- The risks of communicable diseases outbreaks are reduced for 1,000 families and the health status of the community is maintained;
- Target beneficiaries are reached by volunteers disseminating messages regarding malaria and Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (LLIN) use and assisting their correct hanging.

Progress: As requested by the Vice President of the Republic to involve the Ministry of Health on health related issues, the GRCS held meetings with five regional health teams for the implementation of hygiene promotion, sensitization of hang-up of mosquito nets and sensitization of mother carers. This activity has been achieved by the regional health teams under the supervision of the regional Red Cross Branch Officers. Regarding malaria prevention, all mosquito nets have been procured by the IFRC Sahel Regional Representation and delivered to the NS. A total of 400 out of 2,000 mosquito nets have already been distributed to the 200 most vulnerable families within the Kanifing Municipality.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: To contribute to the improvement of access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation facilities for 1,000 families affected by the floods.

Outputs and activities planned:

- Materials are procured and volunteers identified to support the beneficiaries in the construction of latrines.
- All 1,000 families affected by the floods in the six regions have access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation facilities.

Progress: All the beneficiaries for the construction of toilets were identified and materials for the construction were purchased. The volunteers were identified as well to support in the construction. Skill persons from the department of community development were identified in each region to supervise the construction work.

Challenges: The only challenge to this activity is the burden on the NS that has to take care of the logistics cost.

Communications/IT/Reporting and monitoring

Outcome: To contribute to the improvement of the capacity of the National Society to engage in social mobilization to reach flood affected families to ensure timely reporting and monitoring of the activities.

Output and Activities Planned:

- Communications materials are developed to reach flooded victims, and vulnerable populations at risk;
- Populations at risk are sensitized on flood detection, evacuation and risks reduction associated with floods;
- Timely and accurate reports are prepared and shared.

Progress: All activities implemented by GRCS have been covered by the media in the country. The capacity of the NS on social mobilization has been improved through the collaboration with the regional health Ttams. The leasing of a vehicle also complemented in the speedy implementation of planned activities.

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

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