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## DREF operation update Ghana/West Africa: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRGH004**  
**GLIDE n° FL-2011-000106-GHA**  
**Update n° 1 – 14 November, 2011**

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: 19 August to 30 September 2011.**

**CHF 91,510 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to the Ghana Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,500 beneficiaries. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

The Ghana Red Cross Society (GRCS) has been assisting some households affected by the torrential rainfall in Ghana on 20 July, 2011. The floods which affected 130 communities in 15 districts of the Eastern and Volta Regions damaged 1,875 houses damaged and claimed 9 lives.

The GRCS, with support from the IFRC DREF is supporting 500 most vulnerable households with non-food items (NFIs) and also providing WASH sensitization in their communities. A total of 267 households have been supported with NFIs including mats, blankets, mosquito nets, jerry cans, buckets, water purification tablets (Aquatabs) and oral rehydration salts (ORS).

The National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) had coordinated with other humanitarian organizations including the Red Cross, in evacuation and sensitization of people in affected areas to move to higher terrain for safety. Many of the affected persons are being sheltered in schools, public buildings and houses of community leaders. The Ghana Red Cross Society (GRCS) through its local branches mobilized and deployed its volunteers who assisted the affected population in evacuation, first aid and psychological counselling.

The Ghana Red Cross Society seeks for an extension of one month to complete the replenishment of prepositioned NFI stocks used during the operation. This operation will now be completed by 18 November, 2011. In line with Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is therefore due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 17 February, 2012).

The GRCS and IFRC express their appreciation to DG-ECHO and to the Netherlands Red Cross and government for their contributions to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors and partners of DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the U.S.A., as well as DG-ECHO, the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID),



Red Cross volunteers were mobilized to assist the population affected by the floods/ GRCS

the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, thanks all for their generous contributions.

Details of contributions to DREF are found at: [www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010\\_2010.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2010.pdf) for 2010, and at: [www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010\\_2011.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2011.pdf) for 2011.

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## The situation

Heavy rains in south Ghana that caused flooding in some parts of the country especially in the Eastern and Volta regions since 20 July 2011 affected more than 45,000 and destroyed farmlands and infrastructure including bridges and roads.. The districts most affected were Akyemmansa, Birim South, Birim Central, Kwaebibirem, Fanteakwa, Kwahu West, Kwahu North, Birim North, Atiwa and West Akyem in the Eastern Region, South and North Tongu, Keta and Adanyigbe in the Volta Region. The heavy rains have caused landslide near Nkwaben in the Atiwa district of Eastern Region covering several acres of cocoa farms. The floods have made lives uncomfortable for the flood victims since they were compelled to sleep in tents, in houses of local chiefs and in some other public buildings. The impact of the floods on the affected communities was worsened by the overflow of River Birim and four others affecting mostly Adankrono, Kade, Akwatia and Boadua in the Kwaebibirem District. At Adankrono, the Birim River has flowed more than 500 metres from the toll bridge to the town. At Boadua, the Mmo River also damaged buildings near it and has covered a portion of the road to Toppreman, which has cut off the community from the outside world. The Abansa, a tributary of the Mmo River also overflowed its banks at Akwatia and destroyed houses and household effects, especially at Kotokoli Zongo, Kwaladinga and Sadams.

Though flood water has receded and some of the over 15,000 affected people have commenced reconstructing their houses, many are still vulnerable with little or no means to effect the reconstruction. Meanwhile the many of the affected families are still residing with friends and relatives and the rest are still staying in classrooms and town halls.

## Coordination and partnerships

The National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), UN Agencies in Ghana, Ghana Red Cross Society and some NGOs undertook a 2-day technical assessment in Eastern and Volta Regions. 50 GRCS volunteers were assisted by the Swiss Red Cross to conduct an assessment in 5 districts in the Eastern Region. The President of Ghana, District and Municipal Chief Executives and some government officials have visited the affected areas.

Donations of NFIs and medicines from both the public and private sector were also made to the affected persons through NADMO and GRCS. These relief materials which included mattresses, used clothing, curtains, buckets, cups and bowls amongst others were then distributed to the affected persons by the Red Cross volunteers.. Coordination and emergency meetings are also ongoing with full participation of the GRCS. The Swiss Red Cross has donated family kits to 500 affected victims at Kade, Asunafo and Asuboni Rails in the Eastern Region. Graphic Communications Group Ltd. has presented relief items to victims of Adaklu-Anyigbe district of the Volta Region. The items donated include mattresses, used clothing, curtains, buckets, cups and bowls.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The GRCS with support from the Federation DREF have assessed the situation in the affected communities and deployed 100 volunteers in the field. The volunteers went through a rapid orientation on relief distribution and WASH. The GRCS at the onset of the disaster provided tarpaulins and some NFI to 200 affected households at Akim Oda. With this support, the national society was able to identify 500 most vulnerable households and provided them with non-food items including mats, jerry cans, mosquito nets, soap and blankets to 267 households. The death toll has reduced due to sensitization of people to move to higher ground by GRCS volunteers. The volunteers are also educating the affected people on WASH. The volunteers are rendering first aid services in the affected communities and providing psychological support and counselling to the affected people. The Disaster Management Team is also monitoring the situation in the three regions in the north of Ghana.

## Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
<b>Outcome: The 500 most affected households have received specific quantity and quality of non-food items based on the assessment and selection criteria from Red Cross</b>	
Output	Activities Planned:
Relief items are procured and distributed to 500 to most affected households and selected through established Red Cross selection criteria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procure and distribute non-food relief distribution items to 500 most affected households;</li> <li>• Mobilize and brief 100 Red Cross volunteers on registration and distribution strategies of the Red Cross;</li> <li>• Carry out needs assessment to ensure the availability of a reliable database;</li> <li>• Control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user;</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> </ul>

### Progress

The distribution of NFIs have commenced with about 267 households representing 52 percent benefiting from various NFIs materials including (blankets, mats, buckets and kitchen sets). The GRCS with the support of 100 Red Cross volunteers who were trained on registration and distribution strategies carried out an in-depth assessment to determine the extent of basic needs of the affected persons which the Red Cross is addressing through this operation. The items have also been procured and stored in strategic stores close to the affected areas.

### Challenges

Due to poor accessibility, distribution of relief items was difficult. However, the Red Cross is collaborating with the community members and local volunteers in devising ways of getting materials to the affected population. These include the use of local trucks and canoes driven by the volunteers.

Emergency Health	
<b>Outcome: Contribution to the prevention of communicable diseases among 500 most vulnerable households in the two most affected regions.</b>	
Output	Activities planned:
The risks of communicable diseases are reduced for the most affected communities and the health status of the community is improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procure and distribute 4,000 sachets of ORS to 500 most affected families in the two target regions;</li> <li>• Procure and distribute 1,000 mosquito nets to 500*** most affected families;</li> <li>• Disseminate key messages concerning LLIN use and malaria (targeting pregnant women and caretakers for children under 5);</li> <li>• Provide rapid orientation to 100 volunteers on first aid, health preventive measures on diarrheal and communicable diseases using the ECV Manuals for volunteers;</li> <li>• Provide Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials for health, and risk reduction sensitization activities;</li> <li>• Conduct health sensitization activities to the most affected communities in the two affected regions.</li> </ul>

### Progress

50 Red Cross volunteers were trained on emergency health and basic first aid. The most vulnerable including pregnant women and lactating mothers received mosquito nets and were sensitized on the importance of hanging the nets. The trained volunteers along with health workers assisted in the administration of ORS.

## Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

**Outcome 2: The risks of waterborne diseases are reduced through hygiene promotion, health education and availability of safe drinking water in target communities in the affected districts.**

Output	Activities Planned:
500 most affected households in the flooded areas have access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mobilize and train 100 Red Cross volunteers on good hygiene, water purification method and health promotion;</li><li>• Procure and distribute 10 cartons of Aqua tab and 500 pieces of jerry cans to 500 most affected households;</li><li>• Procure and distribute 2,000 bars of soap, 500** kitchen sets to the targeted most affected households;</li><li>• Sensitize the target communities on Household water treatment techniques, good hygiene and health practices;</li><li>• Provide first aid services to the affected communities.</li></ul>

### Progress

100 volunteers were taken through rapid orientation on WASH. These trained volunteers are passing this information to the community members to help improve sanitation and provide clean water. Aqua tabs were also distributed for water purification purposes. The GRCS has distributed bars soap and jerry cans to encourage hand washing and proper water storage respectively. 267 households identified as the most vulnerable benefitted from the distribution of these items.

### Challenges

The distance to water sources is a limiting factor. The people will have to trek long distances to the stream before getting water. With the distribution of the jerry cans and aqua tabs they are now able to treat and store drinking water.

### Logistic

The materials were transported to the affected areas using hired trucks. Some areas were inaccessible, as such, the local people and Red Cross volunteers had to devise other methods especially canoe and wheel barrows in transporting the items.

## Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The GRCS has continued to collaborate with local media and with the local communities, using indigenous methods in disseminating of information with regards the intervention.

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## Contact information

### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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## DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 19 August, 2011 Month Year for CHF 91,510 for 2 months to assist 2,500 beneficiaries.
  - 1 DREF operation update so far issued.
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## 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 (NGOs) 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.

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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.
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