

NIGERIA: FLOODS

appeal no: 31/98
26 October 1998

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 260,000
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 8,500 BENEFICIARIES FOR 2 MONTHS***

Summary

Serious flooding occurred along the banks of the Niger river in Kwara and Niger States in central Nigeria on 10 October, leaving over 8,500 people displaced. Reports have been received from branches of the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) in the affected areas and a more detailed assessment has been carried out by the Headquarters Officer in charge of Emergency Preparedness and Response.

The Disaster

Heavy rainfall has resulted in serious flooding and the displacement of over 4,000 people in the Pategi, Edu and Moro Districts of Kwara State and 4,500 people in Edati, Mokwa and Lavun Districts of Niger State. Dams at Kainji and Jebba were apparently opened causing large scale flooding along the banks of the River Niger. 93 villages were affected, some of them are completely submerged. Many houses made of mud were washed away and livestock, rice, maize and cassava farms were destroyed in this mainly rural area where the majority of people are farmers. Some bodies were seen floating in flood waters. Cases of diarrhoea and malaria have been reported in Mokwa and Edati local government areas. It has been reported that 5,000 people have been treated for injuries and shock. Some of the displaced have been sheltered by people outside the flooded areas but many remain homeless and are using local materials such as leaves and branches to fashion simple accommodation.

The Response so far

Government Action w

The local governments alerted the State Disaster Committee units and a combined team of both the State and local government officials is currently assessing the situation.

Red Cross Action w

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, Kwara State branch mobilized 80 volunteers to assist in the evacuation of people and essential goods. Some second hand clothes were distributed to the victims. Niger State branch was able to move into the disaster areas and provide some assistance to the victims. It is carrying out health education activities in the area. Reports detailing the extent of the flooding, the damage and the effect on the local population have been received at NRCS Headquarters from the branches in both Kwara and Niger states. The Officer for National Training and Emergency Preparedness conducted an assessment in the affected areas on 15 October and sent the report to the NRCS HQ. The International Federation has provided CHF 100,000 from the Disaster Emergency Relief Fund (DREF) to allow the National Society to begin providing relief to the flood victims.

Other Agencies' Action w

MSF sent an assessment team including an epidemiologist to the area on 15 October and found that 2,000 people in Pategi district were displaced and faced immediate health, food and shelter needs. MSF is also considering a possible intervention.

Co-ordination w

Presently, there is no co-ordination body but the Federation and the Nigerian Red Cross will keep in close contact with the government emergency agency, NERA and other agencies.

The Intended Operation

Immediate Needs •

The Red Cross has targeted approximately 8,500 people from Pategi, Edu and Moro Districts in Kwara State and Edati, Mokwa and Lavun Districts in Niger State, with 1,000 of these in need of food supplies. The immediate needs include blankets, mats, plastic sheeting, water containers, plates, spoons etc.

<i>District</i>	<i>No. of displaced</i>
Pategi	2,500
Edu	1,000
Moro	500
Edati	1,000
Mokwa	3,000
Lavun	500
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>8,500</i>

Anticipated Later Needs •

Later needs would include fishing equipment, including nets lost during the floods and seedlings to allow the flood victims to resume agricultural activities once the flood waters recede. There is also a need to establish a small stock of relief materials for the National Society's disaster preparedness programme.

Red Cross Objectives •

The objectives of Red Cross are:

- | to provide food and non-food relief items to the most vulnerable communities in Pategi (Kwara State) and in Mokwa (Niger State);
- | to carry out health education activities in all the districts affected by the flooding.

National Society/Federation Plan of Action

Emergency Phase: October - November 1998 •

Purchase in Lagos and distribution of the non-food and food relief items to the affected communities is planned during this phase. The majority of these communities are still accessible by road. Health education activities will be carried out in all the affected communities by 100 volunteers in each branch, focusing on safe water and environmental sanitation. Posters and hand bills in the two major languages of Nupe and Yoruba will be produced and distributed and radio jingles will be broadcast.

Phase Two: November - December 1998 •

Purchase and distribution of seedlings and fishing equipment.

Capacity of the National Society •

The Nigerian Red Cross Society has considerable experience carrying out emergency operations. The NRCS, with the assistance of the Federation, conducted a vaccination operation in the north of Nigeria in 1996 in which over 2 million people were vaccinated against meningitis. They have also made interventions in the aftermath of communal riots in a number of locations in Nigeria providing non food relief items. The NRCS has been the implementing partner of the UNHCR and has carried out monthly aid distributions to refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The Nigerian Red Cross has 8 senior staff at its headquarters in Lagos with five vehicles. In Niger State, there is a full-time branch secretary with over 1,000 active volunteers. In Kwara State, there is a part-time branch secretary with 500 active volunteers. There are Red Cross divisions in the affected areas. The Officer for Training and Emergency Preparedness will supervise distribution of relief items.

Present Capacity of the Federation in Nigeria •

The Federation Delegation in Nigeria consists of the Head of Delegation and the Health Delegate.

Evaluation •

Monitoring and evaluation will be carried out by the Assistant Secretary General of the NRCS.

Budget Summary

Please see Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

There is a large group of people in urgent need of shelter and immediate food. Intervention by the Nigerian Red Cross will ensure the survival of 8,500 people who have lost their homes as a result of large scale flooding in the States of Niger and Kwara.

Margareta Wahlström
Under Secretary General,
Disaster Response & Operations Coordination

George Weber
Secretary General

ANNEX 1**BUDGET SUMMARY****IN CHF**

NIGERIA: Floods - APPEAL No. 31 /98

RELIEF ITEM**- Food**

Cereals Millet/Corn (6,250 kgs)	9,900
Rice (12.5 MT)	8,800
Oil (625 lts)	3,000

- Non Food

Blankets (8,500 pieces)	51,000
Mats (8,500 units)	37,000
Plastic sheeting - 1000 mts	12,000
Water containers/Jerrycans (5,000 units/25 lts)	12,000
Kitchen sets (8,500 sets)	42,500
Stoves (2,000 pieces)	18,500
Lanterns (2,000 pieces)	7,000
Fishing equipment	2,000
Seedlings	6,500
Basic Emergency Drugs	10,000

TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	220,200
---------------------------	----------------

NEEDS IN CASH

Transport, storage & vehicle costs	8,000
Personnel (including Regional Delegation support)	10,000
Personnel (local staff)	2,300
Travel & communications	1,000
Information (health education posters)	11,000
Administrative, office & general expenses	3,000

Secretariat operational support	10,000
---------------------------------	--------

TOTAL NEEDS IN CASH	45,300
----------------------------	---------------

TOTAL APPEAL CASH & KIND	265,500
-------------------------------------	----------------

LESS CASH ON HAND	0
-------------------	----------

NET REQUEST CASH & KIND	265,500
------------------------------------	----------------

NB: all items can be procured locally

