

# ***NIGERIA: FLOODS***

22 December 1998

*appeal no. 31/98*

*situation report no. 1*

*period covered : November - December, 1998*

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*The serious floods caused by the Niger River in Kwara and Niger States have now subsided, allowing the 9,000 victims of the flooding to return to their homes and to begin the process of rebuilding their lives. The distress was alleviated with a timely and effective response of the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) in launching an appeal and by immediately distributing emergency relief items, with the support of the International Federation.*

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## ***The context***

Serious flooding occurred along the banks of the Niger River in Kwara and Niger States (located in the middle of Nigeria) during the first two weeks of October. Dams at Kainji and Jebba were opened after the authorities felt that the structures might be damaged after a period of heavy rainfall. The result was serious flooding and the displacement of over 4,000 people in the Pategi, Edu, and Moro Districts of Kwara State, as well as 4,500 people in the Edati, Mokwa, and Lavun Districts of Niger State. Ninety three villages were affected, with many completely submerged. Mud-constructed houses were washed away, livestock was lost, and rice, maize, and cassava crops were destroyed in this mainly rural area where the vast majority of people are farmers. Some of the displaced persons were sheltered by people outside the flooded areas, but most were initially made homeless and built their own temporary shelters. Limited outbreaks of malaria and diarrhoea occurred in Mokwa and Edati Local Government, but no serious health problems were reported.

## ***Latest events***

During December many of those who were displaced returned to their villages and are in the process of re-building houses. The flooding has subsided with the end of the rainy season and the start of the harmattan, but the affected population have lost their harvest and many of their farming tools and fishing nets.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, from October 10 to 12 the Kwara State Red Cross Branch mobilized 80 volunteers to assist in the evacuation of people and essential goods. Second hand clothing was distributed to the victims. The Niger State Red Cross Branch was able to quickly move into the disaster areas and provide relief assistance and health education. An assessment of needs was carried out by the National Headquarters Emergency Preparedness Officer (EPO) from October 15 to 17, with

assessment visits conducted to the affected areas and meetings held with State and Local Government officials.

Based on conclusions reached, a decision was taken to assist 8,500 of the most vulnerable people on both sides of the river in Kwara and Niger States. These were primarily people who had either lost their homes or who had been completely displaced from the flooded areas. The immediate needs included blankets, mats, plastic sheeting, water containers and some food items.

Items were purchased in Lagos and transported to the two areas, with a first distribution made in Kwara State between October 24 to 27. Because of the extensive flooding, it was difficult reaching some of the affected people, but small trucks and boats were provided by the Local Government to transport the relief items. Over 4,000 people immediately benefited from the distribution of emergency relief items, with the assistance co-ordinated by the EPO and assistance from the Kwara State Red Cross Branch Secretary and 42 volunteers.

A second intervention carried out in Niger State between October 31 and November 4 was co-ordinated by the Youth Officer, with assistance from the Niger State Red Cross Branch Secretary and volunteers. Supplies procured with funds from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) were supplemented with a contribution from the Dutch Embassy. Emergency relief items were distributed to roughly 80 families in 39 villages.

## ***Outstanding needs***

Now that the displaced are returning to their villages, the needs include agricultural tools and fishing nets which were lost in the flooding. To this end, hoes, cutlasses, fishing lines, hooks, and nets will be procured and distributed during the week of December 21 - 27.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

Nigerian Red Cross staff discussed the situation with State and Local Government officials at regular intervals. Information was shared with Medecin Sans Frontière (MSF) who also carried out assessments of the affected areas. The distribution of items in both Kwara and Niger States was covered in the national press and also on state television. A video of the distribution in Niger State was carried on the NTA network.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

## ***Conclusion***

While the floods have receded and the worst of the damage to homes and crops is over, the appeal has only been partially covered at a time when contributions remain needed for work to rebuild homes and to alleviate the longer-term affects of the disaster. Further support from the donor community is therefore encouraged.

Peter Rees-Gildea  
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NAME: NIGERIA - FLOODS

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PLEDGES RECEIVED

DO	DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF
	<b>CASH</b>				
	REQUESTED IN APPEAL----->				260,0
ICE	ICELANDIC - RC		200,000	ISK	3,9
NET	NETHERLANDS - RC		25,000	NLG	18,2
SWE	SWEDISH - RC		250,000	SEK	41,8
	SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				64,0

**KIND AND SERVICES (INCL. PERSONNEL)**

DO	DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF
	SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0.

**NOT REQUESTED IN APPEAL**

DO	DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF

