

# DREF Bulletin Update



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: INKISI FLOODS

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*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries.*

### In Brief

Period covered by this update: 17 March to 24 March 2006.

#### History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 28,718 (USD 21,739 or EUR 18,350) was allocated from the Federations DREF on 17 March 2006 to respond to the needs of this operation and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population.
- This operation is expected to be implemented for 2 months, and will be completed by 16 May 2006; a DREF Bulletin Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 16 August 2006).

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

#### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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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 is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

*For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

## Background and current situation



Lukaya District (Bas-Congo Province), which is located about 100 km south of Kinshasa, along the borders of the Inkisi River.

According to a joint report published by Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Caritas, the heavy rains that fell in the locality from 18 to 20 February 2006 caused the Inkisi River to overflow, thereby causing floods in 400 houses belonging to 645 families (3,870 persons).

Presently, the water has dried away and the majority of families have returned to their respective homes. Since the floods occurred, the populations have benefited from important support provided by various national and international organizations and state-owned institutions.

The rainy season is ongoing and heavier rains are expected by April, which increases the risk of new floods.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Inkisi local committee of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo<sup>1</sup> deployed 25 volunteers to attend to people in the accommodation sites, to sensitize affected populations on hygiene habits, construct temporary shelters (erection of six tents), and to help families evacuate their children and properties during the emergency phase. On 21 February 2006, the national society sent a team on the field to assess the situation with the support of the Federation, and this made it possible to update the available data. The national headquarters supported the local committee with 15 tarpaulins, 10 blankets, 2 first aid kits, 20 security patches, and a batch of SRO.

Red Cross volunteers are currently disinfecting houses and taking part in the distribution of food that has been provided by Government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector- through Caritas. So far, Red Cross volunteers have disinfecting 340 houses.

A second joint Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo/Federation field mission was conducted on 14 March 2006 to update data on the prevailing situation before the launching of the plan of action funded by DREF. A DREF allocation was approved on 17 March for CHF 28,718 to enable the national society to respond to the needs of the affected communities.

## Co-ordination

The crisis committee that was set up at the onset of the disaster has been meeting on a regular basis under the coordination of the District Commissioner. The committee is composed of the Red Cross, Caritas, WHO and the decentralized structures of the ministries of health, environment, social affairs and family.

The local committee coordinates Red Cross actions in the field. The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo headquarters and the Federation's Delegation in Kinshasa have maintained permanent contact with the local committee to provide support when needed.

<sup>1</sup> Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo - refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=187>

UN agencies- World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF); NGOs- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Caritas, Inkisi-Kisantu Solidarity; the government (notably the Ministry of Health) and the private sector have supported the affected populations with food (310 bags of rice of 50 kg each, 150 cartons of horse mackerel, 200 cartons of oil-based tins, a 100kg-bag of beans, and two 20kgs bags of salt) and non-food items (a significant batch of soap, about 600 tarpaulins, chlorine for the disinfection of houses, a batch of drugs and various agricultural implements for sanitation activities. All these items are managed by the crisis committee.

Unfortunately, the NGO that was carrying out the disinfection of water wells abandoned the project halfway.

### Needs

The situation has changed drastically as the water dried away, allowing the majority of people to return to their homes and the important quantity of donations from various structures over the past days. The current needs (which have not changed significantly) are impregnated mosquito nets for the 645 affected families, protection and intervention materials for Red Cross volunteers (sprayers, gloves, masks and boots), fuel for the motor pumps that are used in draining water from wells as well as financial resources to take care of volunteers and ensure coordination.



*A view of a house that was flooded during the emergency phase.*



*Present situation after the waters have dried away (normal).*

### The operation

**Objective: Reduce the effects of floods on the vulnerable people in Inkisi.**

Proposed actions aim at reducing the risks of water-borne diseases and other diseases related to poor sanitation (including malaria) following the floods. The actions are also intended to launch disaster preparedness activities of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo local committee.

Blankets and tarpaulins will be purchased as initially planned during the emergency phase. However, there is no longer a need to distribute these items anymore. Instead, they will be used to reinforce the contingency plan against floods, which is part of the activities scheduled in this operation, given that April corresponds to the period of heavy rains and consequently the risk of new floods. Action will be taken in close collaboration with the Crisis Committee.

### Plan of action

See the plan of action in annex 1 below

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