

Operations update

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

West and Central Africa: Flood preparedness and response action in Benin and Togo, and smaller- scale flood operations

Emergency appeal n° MDR61003
Operations update n° 2
15 October, 2008

Period covered by this Ops Update: 15
August to 8 October, 2008.

Appeal target (current): CHF 1,082,233
(USD 989,244 or EUR 689,320).

Appeal coverage: 58%; [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on a preliminary basis on 11 July 2008 for CHF 750,000 for 2 months to assist 47,500 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 483,047 was allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the National Societies and contingency stocks.
- Operations Update no. 1 was issued on 14 August, 2008.
- The Appeal was revised and extended on 11 September 2008, bringing the overall appeal budget to CHF 1,082,233 (USD 983,845 or EUR 670,111), and extending the operation through the end of November 2008.



A Red Cross volunteer explaining to beneficiaries how to use a water purification guard /Red Cross of Benin

Summary: The Red Cross Societies of Benin and Togo, with support from the International Federation, have been providing humanitarian assistance to people affected by floods caused by torrential rainfalls during the months of June- September 2008. The National Societies have procured non-food items (NFI) and have mobilized and deployed their volunteers and staff in the affected communities to distribute the items to the most vulnerable affected families. In collaboration with government agencies, UN agencies, international and local NGOs as well as other Movement partners, the Red Cross Societies of Benin and Togo have also distributed food items and additional non-food items to the affected population. To prevent the potential outbreak of epidemics, trained Red Cross volunteers have been carrying out health education and good hygiene practices in the target communities and camps. Serious flooding has also affected the Mambere Kadei prefecture of the Central African Republic (CAR), and additional countries are affected by smaller-scale flooding. The Federation has assisted the CAR and other National Societies to respond to smaller scale floods (Ghana, Senegal, and the

The situation

Benin

Torrential rainfalls during the last week of July 2008 caused heavy flooding in Ouinhi, Zou district in the central region of Benin. The heavy rains caused the Mono and Zou rivers to overflow, resulting in flooding in Sagon, Tohoué, Dasso and Ouinhi communities. According to the preliminary assessment carried out by the Red Cross of Benin in collaboration with government local authorities, the number of people affected by the floods has risen to 6,983 with approximately 15 deaths. Some 1,560 children are among the displaced. Property such as houses, farm crops and livestock worth thousands of USD were either damaged or washed away by flood water. Most of the houses including schools were constructed with mud and straw which made them more exposed and easily washed away. Most of the affected families are farmers and have sought shelter with their relatives and friends. With their means of livelihood ruined and coping mechanisms already reduced, the affected communities are exposed to food insecurity and epidemics. The main source of portable water, a river, has been polluted by the flood waters. The stagnant flood water in communities and the poor hygiene practices of community members could also lead to the outbreak of epidemics as the few available latrines have also been washed away by floods.

The inaccessibility of some of the affected communities is increasing their vulnerability. The major roads leading to these communities are very bad due to the nature of the soil. The roads were easily washed away by the floods. The Red Cross of Benin mobilized and deployed its team of volunteers from the neighboring local branches to the affected communities to assist those affected in evacuating their belongings and provide humanitarian assistance such as first aid and psychological support. The Ministry of Health has offered medical supplies to the health facilities in the area. After the second assessment conducted by the Red Cross and the local authorities, there is the need to assist 525 most affected households with non-food items such as blankets, insecticide treated nets (ITN), water purification tablets as well as hygiene and kitchen kits.

Togo

The two major rivers (Zio and Haho) overflowed after the continuous heavy rainfalls in the Plateaux and Maritime regions of Togo from 15 to 27 July, 2008 causing extensive human and material damages. Based on the preliminary assessment carried out by the Togolese Red Cross, 81 communities were affected with six deaths, 79 injured and more than 1,600 families rendered homeless. Nine bridges were damaged thereby affecting the transportation of goods including food items to the northern parts of the country and access to some affected communities. The number of displaced persons continues to increase; they are sheltered in six temporary camps located in schools. Some are temporarily staying with friends or relatives. Most of the displaced are farmers, civil servants and craftsmen including children. Properties including houses, farm crops, and livestock worth thousands of US dollar have been lost in the flooding.

The Togolese Red Cross (TRC) deployed its emergency teams of volunteers to the affected areas to carry out preliminary assessments and to provide first-aid assistance to the victims. According to statistics from the Togolese Red Cross, some 7,143 households of 44,735 persons have been registered so far. The National Society is working on the statistics collected to determine the extent and degree of damage per household. After the evaluation and application of the beneficiary selection criteria (families with flooded homes damaged, female heads of household, women with children under 5 years and/ or pregnant), 3,272 families (16,360 beneficiaries) were selected in the Maritime region, 849 families (4,245 beneficiaries) in the Plateaux region, and 154 families (770 beneficiaries) in the Central region.

These beneficiaries are being supported by the whole component of the Movement, with the facilitation of the Federation (see NFI distribution table on page 7 and watsan distribution table). The Federation is providing a framework for Movement partners to respond. These activities are being implemented by the local branch in the affected areas as well as the neighboring local branches. The Togo Red Cross continues to provide first-aid assistance to the affected communities. In addition to the Movement partners that have come to the assistance of the affected communities, other humanitarian actors and government agencies including UNICEF and Caritas are collaborating with the National Society to deliver assistance to the displaced. The US Embassy in Lomé donated USD 50,000 to the Togolese Red Cross to assist those affected. The donation was directed to procure basic non-food relief items to assist 1,473 affected families in the Prefecture of Zio. The Spanish Red Cross also provided modest funding to the Togo National Society. WFP provided food items, distributed by the Togo Red Cross, covering 288 families (see food distribution table on page 7).

Central African Republic

In the CAR, heavy rains fell in the Mambere Kadei Prefecture from 2-3 August, resulting in floods and a landslide in Berberati, an area located 600 km North West of Bangui, the capital of the CAR, along the border with Cameroon. The zones that were most affected were Ndembo and Batali, the 6th and 3rd subdivisions of Bangui, respectively. According to the results of an evaluation conducted by Red Cross volunteers of the Berberati local committee, the landslide left three male children dead (the children were 12 to 13 years old), affected 51 families and left 795 people homeless. The 225 persons included: 12 elderly people, 101 children below the age of five, 46 children older than 10, and 5 pregnant women. One hundred-fourteen (114) houses were also destroyed, 31 partially and 83 completely. Six CAR Red Cross volunteers were injured as they tried to save vulnerable people and remove the corpses that had been buried by the landslide. This was because of a lack of protective equipment.

Water points have been contaminated by flood waters and the contents of destroyed latrines. Children below the age of five have been living under life threatening conditions since then. The affected people urgently need assistance. The information sent in late September by the President of the Berberati local committee of the Congolese Red Cross Society states that the rains continued to fall heavily, and that more houses were being destroyed. The following basic non-foot items were procured locally and distributed: 200 blankets, 200 sleeping mats, 2,100 bars of soap, and 10 buckets.

Ghana

Information received from ACMAD and SANOBIL, a power utility company in Burkina Faso, indicated the possibility of excessive rainfall in Burkina Faso from July to September this year. The Federation was reliably informed that this rainfall could possibly lead to the spillage of excess water from the Bagre and Kopinga reservoirs in Burkina Faso, threatening an increase in the level of the White Volta River. Therefore, communities along the White Volta Basin in the three northern regions were warned to take precautionary measures to avoid imminent flooding. The communities include: the Upper East Region (Sapeliga on the Burkina Faso border; Binduri, Nagoliga and Vokop in the Bawku East District; Gogo, Sako and Bazua in the Bawku West District) and the Northern Region (Bukperi and Tokori in the East Mamprusi District; Wuyimma, Bimma, Bulbiya, Soo, Kpasinkpe, Logri No.1, Yagaba, Yag-Namoo, Son-Nawoo, Kpatarigu, Fio, Chamaa, Sulugu, and Janga in the West Mamprusi District).

The Bawku East District Assembly has also embarked on massive education and public awareness exercises in all the communities especially the communities along the White Volta. The Ministry of Water Resources has directed that all buildings within and around water courses in the country will be demolished and their owners compensated. The Minister of Water Resources, Work and Housing called on metropolitan, municipal and district executives and chiefs to ensure that all buildings in water courses in their jurisdiction be identified and demolished to avoid disasters during heavy downpours. In Accra, the minister emphasized that all buildings within and around 15 metres of all major drains in flood-prone areas would be demolished.

The Ghana Red Cross has also identified and validated areas at risk of floods inside Accra. These include Alajo, the Odaw River drainage area, East Legon, Tetteh Quarshie, Ous, Christiansburg, Awoshie, Kwashieman, Mallam, Dzorwulu, and Airport. The factors that make these areas vulnerable include low elevation, uncoordinated development, and lack of drains or poor drain management.

Senegal

From September 1-4, Dakar received 133mm of rain, twice as much rain as would normally be expected. Several neighborhoods in Dakar and its suburbs were flooded, as well as neighborhoods in the cities of Thiès, Diourbel, Saint Louis and Kaolack. More than 70 families in these various cities are currently displaced; some are relocated in schools or are staying with neighbors or relatives.

According to the assessment conducted by Senegalese Red Cross volunteers, a growing number of more than 3,400 families are currently affected by the floods. Displaced families living in urban areas sometimes have difficulties finding shelters. Most affected families remain in their homes despite the rising waters, and there are risks of outbreaks of water-borne diseases. Numerous communities are affected by the heavy rainfall, but have adapted to receiving large quantities of rain; many are well prepared with sandbags and water drainage systems.

Gambia

On the evening of 2 September 2008, heavy rain and strong wind storm hit the Gambia. This resulted in flooding and damage to roofs and homes in over 50 compounds, thereby affecting over 2,200 people and displacing 48 families. Compounds were affected in three government administrative regions: Kanifing Municipality, Western Region, Lower River Region and Upper River Region (least affected).

On September 9, in the Lower River Region, 37 families were made homeless.

The Gambia Red Cross conducted an assessment, which was challenging because of the nature of the different communities affected and the distance between them. The food stuffs of the communities were spoiled and communities were without immediate food. Affected families were hosted by their neighbors, resulting in overcrowding in the homes of host families, and causing shortages in housing, bedding, and food. Hygiene was lacking and there was a risk of an outbreak of communicable diseases. In Ebo Town, people were living with water in their houses and experienced an increase in mosquitoes.

Immediate needs included food items, building materials, bedding materials, cooking utensils, hygiene promotion and improvement of drainage for houses. NFI and WatSan items were sent to Banjul in 24 hours by road from Dakar. Items were taken from the Dakar stock.

Coordination and partnerships

In Benin, the Red Cross of Benin has been working in close collaboration with the Federation West Coast regional representation and the disaster management coordination team in Dakar for technical support. The National Society has also been collaborating with local authorities in the region (the Ministries of Health and Internal Affairs), with which a joint assessment was carried out. The National Society has been cooperating with the ministries on the way to deliver assistance to those affected. Due to the difficult terrain of the affected area, it has been hard for some local NGOs to access the affected communities to conduct assessments. Officials of the Red Cross of Benin have also met with WFP to advocate for food assistance. These activities are being implemented by the neighbouring local branches of the National Society. The local branch of the Red Cross in the affected area is not active.

In Togo, the Togolese Red Cross has been collaborating with other humanitarian actors in Togo such as UN agencies (WFP, UNICEF, WHO, FNUAP and FAO) and Caritas. OCHA, the Togolese Red Cross, OCDI and PLAN-TOGO are coordinating the planned intervention. As an integral member of the National Emergency Planning Commission (CNPS), the Togolese Red Cross is working in close collaboration with these humanitarian agencies to ensure effective and efficient service delivery to the affected communities.

The Togolese Red Cross is also working in collaboration with other Movement partners in Togo to provide assistance to the affected populations. The National Society is tasked with the mobilization and deployment of its volunteers to assist in registration and distribution of relief items to the affected population and has been effectively carrying out this responsibility. The Togolese Red Cross is also working in close collaboration with the West Coast regional representation and the disaster management coordination team in Dakar in this regard and with the West Coast Bureau DM coordinator in Lagos.

In CAR, local government authorities accompanied local Red Cross volunteers and authorities during the evaluation of the situation in the field. The Representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs who was part of the evaluating team sent a report to his Ministry, which has yet to respond. Apart from this ministry, the only actor assisting flood and landslide victims in the field is the CAR Red Cross Society, though with very limited means. The Red Cross has put a monitoring committee in place. This committee is meeting with the National Society and have been attending meetings organized by the governor to evaluate the situation.

In the Gambia, the National Society worked in partnership with the Regional Disaster Management Committees in the collection of information and in the mobilization of necessary resources. The National Disaster Management Committee was officially informed and participated in data collection. UN representatives together with Concern Universal are also in the field and provided some support to the victims. Following the completion of data collection, a coordination meeting was conducted.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Revised Objective: About 4,800 families (24,000 beneficiaries) affected by floods (4,275 families in Togo, 525 families in Benin) will benefit from the distribution of non-food relief items.

Specific Objective 1: To assess the immediate needs of the affected people.

Activities planned	Expected results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact local government authorities in the affected communities; • Monitor the situation; • Strengthen the capacity of Red Cross volunteers; • Compile the list of affected populations in each community; • Ensure availability of a reliable database. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The staff and volunteers of the Red Cross (of Togo and Benin) are deployed and visible in the field; • 75% of the volunteers are actively involved in the registration of victims; • A database with the list of affected persons per community is available.

Specific Objective 2: To procure and distribute basic non-food items to 4,800 affected households.

Activities planned	Expected results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrain 100 volunteers and NS staff on registration of beneficiaries based on international standards/best practices. • Identify, select and register the most affected households; • Ensure that distribution is handled in conformity with Federation standards; • Monitor and assess distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers and staff of the Red Cross of Togo and Benin have enhanced their knowledge in best registration and distribution standards; • The most vulnerable affected populations have been identified and registered; • The 4,800 identified and registered households have received basic non-food items; • Checks and control of movement of items are carried out.

Progress and impact

In Benin, the Red Cross of Benin in collaboration with local government authorities had carried out two preliminary assessments of the situation in the affected areas during the month of July. The National Society deployed its volunteers in the affected communities. They have been working in collaboration with government officials to assist the affected people with humanitarian assistance. With the assessment conducted, the Red Cross has identified the number of people affected.

The Red Cross has strengthened the capacity of 30 selected Red Cross volunteers through training in registration, warehouse management and distribution techniques in conformity with Federation standards. The training was facilitated by two Red Cross volunteers who had previously received RDRT training. The trained volunteers were deployed to the target communities to select and register the most affected households. The Red Cross volunteers have registered 525 most vulnerable affected families of 4,660 persons using the selection criteria of family size, age, pregnant women and nursing mothers. The lists of the registered persons were pasted at registration centres in all the affected communities. The management officials and the national society and the two RDRT trained volunteers assisted in monitoring the exercise and offered technical support.



Red Cross volunteers at a training session/Red Cross of Benin

The Red Cross of Benin has created seven (7) distribution centres in the affected communities. Through the support from the International Federation, the National Society has procured non-food items such as ITN, blankets, bowls, and plastic plates and spoons, and distributed them to the registered 525 households (see table below). The distribution were carried out in conformity with Federation standards and monitored by management officials and the RDRT trained volunteers of the Red Cross of Benin. The beneficiaries appreciated the efforts of the Red Cross and pledged their cooperation with the Red Cross in the implementation of activities intended to alleviate their suffering. They implored the Red Cross to also assist with basic food items as most of their farm crops have been washed away by flood waters.

NFI distributed by the Red Cross of Benin

District/N° of villages	Beneficiaries		NFI/household					
	N° of households	N° of persons	Blankets (2)	ITN (1 per family)	Plates (6 per family)	Big bowls (6 per family)	Small bowls (6 per family)	Spoon (6 per family)
Sagon / 6	111	1,562	222	111	666	666	666	666
Ouinhi-Centre / 8	103	785	206	103	618	618	618	618
Tohouès / 5	141	987	282	141	846	846	846	846
Dasso / 9	170	1,342	340	170	1,020	1,020	1,020	1,020
TOTAL	525	4,676	1,050	525	3,150	3,150	3,150	3,150

In Togo, the Togolese Red Cross Society has conducted an assessment of the flood situation in the affected communities in collaboration with local authorities and community leaders. The National Society mobilized and deployed some of the Red Cross volunteers who had benefited from training during the 2007 flood operation in these communities. The volunteers carried out registration of the affected people based on international standards and best practices. The Togolese Red Cross had conducted refresher training on how to complete a registration card for 30 Red Cross volunteers. The volunteers were taken through the code of conduct, guiding volunteers during emergency intervention before their deployment. Through training and provision of census sheets, volunteers selected the most vulnerable and to assess the situation and needs. This has enabled the collection of reliable statistical information.

The Togolese Red Cross started implementing its flood contingency plan in the three regions immediately after the disaster began. Red Cross volunteers trained during the 2007 floods operation were mobilized and deployed to the affected communities to provide first-aid service and psychological support to the affected people. They also assisted affected persons in evacuating some of their belonging; registered affected people; and evaluated the extent of damages. Residents of Atiéguou Zogbedji have left their homes for safer places because of the early warning campaigns carried out by members of the mothers' clubs in the community. The Red Cross volunteers in collaboration with the department of social services and the Army of Togo are presently running activities at the various temporary sites set up for displaced persons. The Red Cross has made available 2,000 litres of bottled water for drinking at camp sites of Togblékopé, Atiégu and Kalégougan.

The Federation has taken a coordination role in this situation, and created a solid coordination mechanism for the distribution of goods donated by PNS. The Federation and RDRT facilitated the coordination process and the work of others to assist the most vulnerable.

With support from the International Federation, the Togolese Red Cross has procured and distributed non-food items such as ITN, kitchen sets, sleeping mats and blankets (see table below). The Red Cross has been collaborating with and assisting other stakeholders and Movement partners in the procurement and distribution of basic food and non-food items to the affected population.

Non-food items distributed include sleeping mats, ITN, blankets, bowls, kitchen sets, and gently used clothing. Food items distributed include corn, beans, cooking oil, and salt. The National Society also distributed items procured with funding support from the US Embassy in Lomé to communities in the Prefecture of Zio. Items procured and distributed from the support include sleeping mats, kitchen sets, blankets, ITN, bars of toilet soap, condoms and gently used clothing.

For the distribution phase 83 volunteers were mobilized; 63 for the Maritime region and 20 for the Plateaux region and briefed on the distribution and standard Federation procedures. Goods donated by Movement partners were distributed by Red Cross volunteers.

NFI distributed in Togo

REGION / PREFECTURE	N° of villages expected	N° of villages served	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES				NFI DISTRIBUTION						Partner
			Families Expected	Total Beneficiaries Expected	Families Served	TOTAL Beneficiaries served	Blanket	Mats	Kitchen sets.	ITN	Cloth	2nd hand clothes	
							2/fam	2/fam	1/fam	2/fam	6/fam	Bundle	
PLATEAUX REGION	21	21	835	2,469	849	1,743	1,367	2,659	845	1,129	1,938		
PREFECTURE DE L'OGOU	1	1	256	663	288	663	568	568	284	568			Swiss RC
PREFECTURE DU HAHO	8	8	314	646	302		302	1,510	302	302	1,812		ICRC
AGOU	1	1	27	80	21		21	105	21	21	126		ICRC
AGOU	10	10	212	955	212	955	424	424	212	212			IFRC
KLOTO	1	1	26	125	26	125	52	52	26	26			IFRC
MARITIME REGION	45	44	3,476	19,669	3,272	19,307	2,892	10,620	3,120	3,940	8,760		
PREFECTURE DE VO	2	2	104	679	104	679	208	208	104	104			IFRC
PREFECTURE DE ZIO	9	9	626	4,605	625	4,609	1,250	1,250	625	625			IFRC
PREFECTURE DU ZIO	6	6	692	663	666	1,473	600	1,028	514	1,334			US Embassy
PREFECTURE DU ZIO	19	19	1,549	10,851	1,460	10,519		7,300 5/fam	1,460 1/fam	1,460 1/fam	8,760 6/fam		ICRC
PREFECTURE DU GOLFE	5	4	398	2,333	309	1,489	618	618	309	309			IFRC
PREFECTURE DE L'AVE	4	4	107	538	108	538	216	216	108	108			IFRC
CENTRAL REGION	3	1	0	0	154	0	267	114	200	228		4	
PREFECTURE DE TCHAOUDJO	3	1			154		267	114	200	228			Swiss RC
												4	
TOTAL	69	66	4,311	22,138	4,275	21,050	4,526	13,393	4,165	5,297	10,698	4	

* When more than one partner intervened in the same villages, the targeted beneficiaries are different

Food Distributed in Togo

REGION / PREFECTURE	N° of villages expected	N° of villages served	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES				FOOD DISTRIBUTION				Partner	
			Families Expected	Total Beneficiaries Expected	Families Served	TOTAL Beneficiaries served	Corn	Beans	Oil	Salt		
								75 Kg	7.5 Kg	4.5 kg	0.75 kg	
PLATEAUX REGION (PREFECTURE DE L'OGOU)	1	1	256	663	288	663	11,200	1,120	673	120		WFP

Challenges: The distribution phase was delayed because of difficulty in procuring some NFI in large quantity in Benin. However, this was resolved as soon as capable suppliers were identified. Although, the human resources capacity of the Red Cross of Benin initially was a challenge, the presence of two RDRT trained volunteers greatly assisted the management of the National Society in effectively carrying out the planned activities. In Togo, one major challenge faced was the inflated figure recorded in one locality. The affected community inflated the number of persons affected and some people who no longer live in the community were registered. However, the Red Cross volunteers were able to detect these anomalies and made the necessary correction.

Senegal

The Senegalese Red Cross supported by the Federation carried out an evaluation mission in the most flood affected zones of Dakar (Diamaguène, Pikine, Guédiawaye, Dalifort, Sam Sam and Diacksao). In Pikine, Senegal, 20 families were displaced by floods and relocated in schools (5 families in Diamaguène and 15 families in Dalifort). The Senegalese Red Cross with the support of the Federation distributed sets of two treated mosquito nets and two sleeping mats to each of the 20 families displaced by floods. The items selected for distribution were based on the real needs of the 20 families. The National Society continues to register and sensitize affected persons and conduct assessments to develop a plan of action. More than 3,400 affected persons have already been registered. The sensitization covered water and sanitation, prevention of malaria, basic health rules and diseases related to stagnant water.

Senegalese Red Cross volunteers are working in the field to conduct a second assessment and register affected and displaced people. A follow up assessment has been completed which identified potential health risks. A plan of action has been developed: sensitization for health, water and sanitation, malaria and diseases related to stagnant water is ongoing.

The Federation and the Senegalese Red Cross will follow up with the displaced families' cases to provide continued support for their identified needs. The Senegalese Red Cross continues to monitor the situation with the support of the IFRC through climate forecasts (ACMAD and the Columbia University International Research Institute for Climate and Society [IRI]).

In the end of September Senegal received additional heavy rains. The water table is currently full; with these rains the water level was raised a second time and homes were again flooded. A joint Federation and Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)/USAID field visit resulted in USAID supporting the Federation and the Senegalese Red Cross with USD 50,000 to support NFI distribution and health and hygiene promotion to prevent an epidemic of water-borne diseases.

Gambia

The Federation supported the Gambia Red Cross to assist 50 displaced families through the provision of NFI, funds from the WCA Zone Revised Emergency appeal for floods, and technical support. Relief goods were sent within 24 hours from the regional stock in Dakar to Banjul by road. These included: buckets, soap, water tabs and jerrycans (see below watsan section for distribution details). Financial support of CHF 10,000 was sent for local procurement of additional necessary relief supplies and to cover the cost of distribution.

The funds provided for:

- 88 corrugated iron sheets.
- distribution and monitoring.
- truck transportation.
- 7 days of community sensitizations.
- training of 40 volunteers.

Gambia Red Cross action included assessment, first aid, sensitization, and NFI distribution. Volunteers also helped families to reroof their homes. The Gambia Red Cross will continue to follow up with displaced families.

Central African Republic

In CAR, stock locally procured and distributed included: 200 blankets, 200 sleeping mats, 2,100 bars of soap, and 10 buckets. An RDRT was deployed to support the National Society to distribute NFI, and to support the creation and implementation of a distribution plan. Both the NFI and operational costs for distribution are covered by the appeal.

Ghana

The Ghana Red Cross carried out public education and community awareness raising activities for flood prone communities, mainly in the area often affected when dams in Burkina Faso are opened. The GRCS district branches conducted an intensive education campaign to sensitize communities on prevention measures. Farmers are being educated on the risks of farming close to river banks, and those living on low lying lands are being advised to move upland and farm in areas not prone to floods. The communities are also advised to fortify their roofs, as well as build embankments along their walls to strengthen them. It is encouraged that each family devise an evacuation plan in readiness for any emergency. In Accra the Emergency Response Teams encouraged the communities in the flood prone areas not to dump refuse into the gutters and to also develop evacuation plans. The sensitization activities probably reduced the potential effect of floods as well as the effects related to the opening of the dam in Burkina Faso.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: To contribute to the reduction of water borne epidemics through the distribution of watsan supplies and good hygiene awareness activities in the affected communities.

Activities planned	Expected results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure and distribute watsan supplies to 4,800 most affected households in Benin and Togo; • Carry out awareness campaigns on good hygiene practices, water and sanitation among the target communities in collaboration with local NGOs; • Assist the affected populations to purify their drinking water; • Strengthen the capacity of Red Cross volunteers in water treatment and sanitation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affected populations are sensitized on good hygiene practices, know how to purify water and have access to portable water; • Red Cross volunteers have enhanced their knowledge of water purification; • At least 75% of the affected populations are protected against water borne epidemics.

Progress and impact

In **Benin**, before the distribution phase of the operation, the Red Cross volunteers in the neighboring branches had been carrying out awareness activities on good hygiene practices among the communities affected by the floods. This was intensified during and after the distribution phase. Through the support from the International Federation, the National Society has procured WatSan items including jerry cans, soap, washing powder, and water purification tablets and distributed them to the registered 525 households (see table below). During the distribution of water purification tablets, 30 Red Cross volunteers earlier trained in water treatment and sanitation carried out demonstration exercises on water purification using the distributed tablets. The volunteers used local languages for better understanding. Some of the volunteers have been carrying out house-to-house visits to teach beneficiaries about the water purification process. The Red Cross volunteers have reached 7,000 persons with good hygiene and sanitation messages in the affected communities.

WatSan distributed by the Red Cross of Benin

Beneficiaries			WatSan Supplies				
District/N° of villages	N° of households	N° of persons	Soap (6 per family)	Washing powder (6 per family)	Jerry can (1 per family)	Wash basin (1 per family)	Water tablets (2 per family)
Sagon / 6	111	1,562	666	666	111	111	222
Ouinhi-Centre / 8	103	785	618	618	103	103	206
Tohouès / 5	141	987	846	846	141	141	282
Dasso / 9	170	1,342	1,020	1,020	170	170	340
TOTAL	525	4,676	3,150	3,150	525	525	1,050

In **Togo**, Red Cross volunteers and staff deployed to the affected communities continue to sensitize the communities on good hygiene practices. Red Cross volunteers distributed the procured water purification tablets to beneficiaries and provided instruction on the use of the tablets after distribution. With support from the International Federation, the Togolese Red Cross procured watsan items including water guards, jerry cans and soap (see table below). The Red Cross has been collaborating with and assisting other stakeholders and movement partners in the procurement and distribution of basic food and non-food items to the affected population. Watsan items procured and distributed with the assistance of Movement partners and US Embassy in Togo include buckets, soap, kitchen sets.

Demonstrations of water guard usage were carried out at all distribution points prior to watsan distribution. Before distribution beneficiaries are sensitized on the Movement of the Red Cross and its activities, the proper use of the water guard, and proper hygiene practices.

Water and sanitation Distribution in Togo

REGION / PREFECTURE	Number of villages expected	Number of villages served	NUMBRE OF BENEFICIARIES				WATSAN DISTRIBUTION						
			Families Expected	Total Beneficiaries Expected	Families Served	TOTAL Beneficiaries served	Wash basin	Soap	Bucket	Jerry can	Water Guard	Plastic Sheet	Partner
							1/fam	4/fam	2/fam	1/fam	2/fam	1/fam	
PLATEAUX REGION	21	21	835	2,469	849	1,743	284	5,556	568	238	476	323	
PREFECTURE DE L'OGOU	1	1	256	663	288	663	284	1,136	568				Swiss RC
PREFECTURE DU HAHO	8	8	314	646	302			3,020				302	ICRC
AGOU	1	1	27	80	21			210				21	ICRC
AGOU	10	10	212	955	212	955		1,060		212	424		IFRC
KLOTO	1	1	26	125	26	125		130		26	52		IFRC
MARITME REGION	45	44	3,476	19,669	3,272	19,307		22,541	1,460	1,146	2,292	1,460	
PREFECTURE DE VO	2	2	104	679	104	679		520		104	208		IFRC
PREFECTURE DE ZIO	9	9	626	4,605	625	4,609		3,125		625	1,250		IFRC
PREFECTURE DU ZIO	6	6	692	663	666	1,473	7,991	2,211					US Embassy
PREFECTURE DU ZIO	19	19	1,549	10,851	1,460	10,519		14,600 10/fam	1,460 1/fam			1,460 1/fam	ICRC
PREFECTURE DU GOLFE	5	4	398	2,333	309	1,489		1,545		309	618		IFRC
PREFECTURE DE L'AVE	4	4	107	538	108	538		540		108	216		IFRC
CENTRAL REGION	3	1	0	0	154	0	102	422	264				
PREFECTURE DE TCHAUOUDJO	3	1			154		102	422	264				Swiss RC
TOTAL	69	66	4,311	22,138	4,275	21,050	386	28,519	2,292	1,384	2,768	1,783	

* When more than one partner intervened in the same villages, the targeted beneficiaries are different

During this reporting period, the Red Cross in collaboration with Regional Centre for Portable Water and Sanitation (CREPA) formed an awareness and sensitization team in each of the four Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camps in Baguida, Adamavo I and II, and Adakpamé. Members of the team include men and women from the IDPs and Red Cross volunteers. The teams were trained on environmental and personal sanitation and hygiene and identification of challenges facing their camps. Each team presented their camp's needs to the training team. The aim of the sanitation team training is to ensure good hygiene practices in the camps. Regular monitoring visits will be made to the camps to assess progress and impact of the teams' activities.

Gambia

Federation support was provided to the Gambia Red Cross to assist 50 displaced families through the provision of watsan supplies. Watsan relief supplies were sent within 24 hours from the regional stock in

Dakar to Banjul by road. Financial support of 10,000CHF was sent for local procurement of additional necessary relief supplies and to cover the cost of distribution.

Volunteers were trained in the use of water tabs, and watsan and hygiene sensitization was conducted with beneficiaries before watsan supplies were distributed. Distributed goods included the following:

Gambia Watsan Distribution

Items	Qty
Buckets 15 Ltr	50
Soap	500
Water Tabs	10,000
Jerry Cans	50

Challenges: The major challenge was the request of the communities in Benin for assistance in basic food items. The National Society is continuing its advocacy to other stakeholders in this regard.

Emergency health

Objective: To contribute to improving the health conditions of the affected communities.

Activities planned	Expected results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitize populations on community-based health; • Procure and distribute ITN to 4,800 most affected households. • Procure and distribute condoms to adults in affected areas in Togo; • Carry out STI/HIV/AIDS awareness activities among the affected communities in Togo. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The affected communities have enhanced their knowledge in community-based health; • About 4,800 families have received ITN and are using them; • Cases of malaria and STI, and HIV/AIDS infection have reduced in the affected communities.

Progress and impact

In Benin, the Red Cross of Benin has procured and distributed 525 ITN to 525 families in the target communities affected by the floods. The Red Cross volunteers have also sensitized beneficiaries on the benefits of ITN and how to hang them. Volunteers will carry out house-to-house monitoring to ensure that beneficiaries effectively use the nets. The Red Cross volunteers are also sensitizing the communities on the benefits of maintaining a healthy environment. Meanwhile, the Red Cross provided first-aid assistance to the affected communities

In Togo, the Red Cross has distributed condoms to adults in the Prefecture of Zio. The Red Cross volunteers have intensified the Red Cross STI/HIV/AIDS awareness activities in the target communities.

Challenges: Apart from the bad state of roads leading to the target communities in Benin, no major challenges were faced in the emergency health efforts. There is the need for regular community-based health education activities in the communities.

Regional Issues

A portion of Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) stocks in Dakar, labeled with Spanish Red Cross stickers, have been distributed in Gambia in response to floods operation needs. The Danish Red Cross has replenished sub regional contingency stocks depleted by this operation.

The British, Canadian, German, Japanese, and Netherlands Red Cross Societies have all provided financial support to this operation through the Federation Emergency Appeal.

How we work

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.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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.

Contact information

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