

DREF operation update



Gambia: Local storm

DREF operation n°MDRGM005
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Update n° 1
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The International Federation's 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 response to emergencies. 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: 2 to 19 July 2009.

Summary: CHF 75,305 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on July 2009 to support the National Society in delivering assistance to 327 families representing 1,635, beneficiaries in Western Region, Lower Region, Central River Region and Upper River Regions of the Gambia. Out of this allocation CHF 50,000 was sent to start the operation.

This wind storm destroyed more than 150 houses. Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) ensured that the victims were supported to re-roof their houses in order to move back with dignity. Forty volunteers were also trained to support the community in the re-roofing process and sensitization on risk reduction initiatives.



Roofing materials provided to homeless families.

The situation

On 02 July a serious wind storm affected almost the entire country of the Gambia causing a wide spread destruction of houses with families displaced and some hospitalized due to the falling block. A field mission was conducted for a rapid assessment of the situation by the Red Cross regional office and the national disaster management committee to ascertain the damages caused by the disaster.

The same team after having realized the seriousness of the situation, started to support populations in various regions of the country distributing the materials needed to re-roof the houses. The distribution exercise was done according to the level of damages and involved the verification of affected households, registration of affected victims and preparation of beneficiary lists.

Coordination and partnerships

All the relief activities were implemented by the regional disaster teams, branch field coordinators, Red Cross volunteers and the regional disaster management committee, under the supervision of the National Society. The Government through the regional disaster management committee was present at each

distribution center to monitor the distribution for the intended purpose and for the right beneficiaries. This was done for the entire distribution site.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Emergency Shelter

Objective: The Gambia Red Cross Society will address the shelter needs of a target population identified in the assessment of 327 homeless families (representing 1,635 people) in River Region of Gambia with an appropriate planned support.

Activities planned:

- Procurement of roofing materials with the logistics unit;
- Transportation and distribution of the construction materials to the target beneficiary families identified in the assessment (8 packets of corrugated iron sheet, 4,5 kilos of nails and 20 pieces of palm sticks);
- Refresher training for 40 volunteers to support the communities in the re-roofing process and sensitization on risk reduction initiatives;
- Technical support to the communities in re-roofing their damaged houses by trained volunteers;
- Following-up the progress of the activities in the community and reporting;
- Advocating and monitoring the other needs of the affected communities to be covered by other partners.

Progress: The Gambia Red Cross Society was very active through the entire relief process and coordination of activities. It facilitated the procurement of roofing materials as well as held refresher training in the re-roofing of damaged houses and the sensitization on risk reduction. Thanks to all these efforts, the branch volunteers' relief actions towards the victims were effective as they moved back with dignity.

Challenges:

The Gambia Red Cross Society is still advocating to the other institutions and organizations to support the remaining victims. However there is still a gap to complement what has been provided by the National Society.

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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