



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: 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

CHF 28,718 (USD 21,739 OR EUR 18,350) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO ASSIST SOME 3,870 BENEFICIARIES FOR TWO MONTHS. UNEARMARKED FUNDS TO REPAY DREF ARE ENCOURAGED.

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>

The situation

With its 34,000 inhabitants, Inkisi is the administrative centre of the Lukaya District (Bas-Congo Province), which is located about 100 km South of Kinshasa, along the border of the Inkisi River.

Following a joint report published by the Red Cross and Caritas, the heavy rains that were experienced in the locality from 18 to 20 February 2006 caused the Inkisi River to overflow, thereby causing floods in 400 houses affecting a total of 645 families (3,870 persons).

On 22 February, 383 persons- including 100 children, 142 women and 141 men- were sheltered in schools and churches. Given the precariousness of living conditions in the temporary shelters (promiscuity, exposure to mosquitoes, etc.); many decided to leave the sites and join their relatives and friends whose houses had not been flooded.

So far, the damages consist mainly of the loss of properties such as household goods, electrical appliances, clothes, etc. In addition, cassava and corn plantations have been destroyed.

The water supply authority continues to supply water, thereby reducing the risk of a cholera outbreak. The locality experienced a similar disaster in 2004.

Affected persons are progressively coming back to their homes as water dries away.



A view of some of the flooded houses

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Inkisi local committee of the Red Cross deployed 25 volunteers to attend to people in accommodation sites, sensitize affected populations on hygiene rules, construct temporary shelters (erection of six tents), and to help families evacuate their properties and children.

On 21 February 2006, The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo¹ sent a team to the field to assess the situation with the support of the Federation, to update the data available. The national headquarters supported the local committee by providing 15 tarpaulins, 10 blankets, two first-aid kits, 20 security patches, and a batch of SRO.

Co-ordination

A crisis committee coordinated by the District Commissioner has been set up. This committee is composed of the Red Cross, Caritas, World Health Organization (WHO), and the decentralized structures of the ministries of Health, Environment, Social Affaires and Family. The Kisantu health zone put a batch of drugs at the disposal of affected people. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has been ensuring the disinfection of accommodation sites with the support of Red Cross volunteers.

The local committee coordinates Red Cross actions in the field. The national society headquarters and the Federation delegation in Kinshasa have been maintaining permanent contact with the local committee to monitor the new developments.

The governor's office of the Bas-Congo province, the Vice President of the Republic in charge of reconstruction, and a private individual distributed food items like rice, fish, tins, and in addition he donated cash contributions of CDF 1,500 (USD 3.33) to each affected family.

Needs

The immediate needs of the 645 affected families in accommodation sites and in foster families include non-food items such as blankets and mosquito nets, protection and intervention materials such as gloves and boots, as well as financial resources to take good care of volunteers and ensure coordination.

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

Proposed action

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

Activities

- Distribution of mosquito nets and blankets to 645 families affected by the floods;
- Giving volunteers a one-day briefing on water and sanitation-related sensitization;
- Sensitizing the populations on the hygiene rules in order to prevent cholera;
- Disinfecting water wells after the rain waters have dried away;
- Advocating before other organizations and state-owned services for longer term actions to be taken against floods that have become recurrent in Inkisi;
- Setting up a community-based early warnings system on floods;
- Organize two follow up and evaluation missions.

Strategy and implementation

The activities planned within the framework of this operation will be carried out with the participation of all the actors present in the field, i.e. non-governmental organizations (NGOs), neighbourhood associations, state and religious institutions, etc. The national society will seize the opportunity of this operation to revitalize the local committee and increase its disaster preparedness and response capacity. Special attention will be paid to the specific needs of women. Teams composed of Red Cross and community-based volunteers will execute the actions planned. The Programme Initiative Congo (PIC) approach which is based on the integrated capacity building of the Red Cross and the community will be used within the framework of this operation.

Plan of action

- Re-assess/update data.
- Distributions of non-food items to 645 families.
- Sensitizing the populations on cholera prevention.
- Disinfecting water wells.
- Advocating before other organizations and State-owned services for longer term actions to be taken against floods.
- Setting up a community-based early warnings system in Inkisi.
- Organizing two follow-up and evaluation missions.

Budget

See below

[Budget below; click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)

TYPE	VALUE IN CHF
BENEFICIARIES NEEDS	
Shelter	3,200
Clothing & Textile	15,480
Water & Sanitation	963
Teaching Materials	270
Utensils & Tools	4,445
<u>TOTAL BENEFICIARIES NEEDS</u>	24,358
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme support (6,5% of total)	1,753
Transport & Vehicles	500
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
National staff	1,250
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>	
Travel	600
Communications	65
Office Costs	193
<u>TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS</u>	4,360
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	28,718