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DREF Operation Democratic Republic of Congo: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n° MDRCD016	
Date of issue: 19 December 2015	Date of disaster: 6 December 2015
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Josuaneflore Tene; IFRC Central Africa; Operations coordinator	Point of contact: Moise Kabongo Ngalulu, Democratic Republic of Congo Red Cross, Disaster Management Officer
Operation start date: 18 December 2015	Expected timeframe: Two months
Overall operation budget: CHF 191,646	
Number of people affected: 10,560 people (2,112 families)	Number of people to be assisted: 2,500 people (500 people).
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Red Cross of Democratic Republic of Congo	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant): Belgian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Spanish Red Cross, and Swedish Red Cross.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: None	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), extensive rainfall since mid-November 2015 has led to flooding across the country. On 6 December 2015, the acceleration of rains led to the overflow of the N'djili River causing flooding in the Debonhome, Kingabua Ndanu, Kingabua Pécheur and Salongo neighbourhoods of the capital Kinshasa, affecting 10,560 people (2,112 families); resulting in 31 deaths, and numerous injuries. An estimated 1,696 families (8,480) families have been displaced, after they lost their homes and property following the floods, and are now living in crowded conditions with host families (refer to "Table 1: Distribution of displaced population" for breakdown). The Processing Centre of the Water Distribution Authority serving Kinshasa along the river N'djili was damaged, which has reduced the available safe water supply, while sanitation structures have been blocked meaning that flood waters have not receded (buildings remain submerged), increasing the risk of epidemics. According to the DRC WEATHER Meteorologists, the rains will continue to fall until the end of December 2015, and the situation is therefore expected to worsen. Floods have also been observed in the provinces of Central Kongo, Bas Congo and Équateur; however information in these areas has not been verified.



Flooding in the DRC capital of Kinshasa /Photo CR DRC

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo (CR DRC) is a neutral humanitarian organization auxiliary to the public authorities, which has a pool of approx. 159,000 volunteers (one of the largest voluntary networks in the world). The CR DRC has provincial disaster response intervention teams (PDRT) with 110 members, a national disaster response intervention teams (NDRT) with 30 members, and 10 staff members that are regional disaster response team (RDRT) trained. Following the flooding in Kinshasa (on 6 December 2015), CR DRC mobilized 146 volunteers, who have carried out assessment, first aid, evacuation, search and rescue, as well as environmental sanitation (drainage of houses), and health and hygiene promotion (e.g. on the risk of epidemics).

Since 2013, DREF operations have been carried out in response to a Population Movement (MDRCD014) and response to an Ebola Virus Disease outbreak (MDRCD015) – as such the National Society (NS) will ensure that any lessons learned from these operations are applied (as relevant) in the response to the floods.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) have an in country presence in DRC, comprising two national staff, which are assisted by the Central Africa office located in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and the Africa regional office, which is based in Nairobi, Kenya. On 10 December 2015, the flooding, an alert was issued using the IFRC disaster management information system (DMIS). On 11 December 2015, an operational strategy call was convened with colleagues from the Central Africa office, Africa region and Geneva level. It was agreed that an allocation should be made from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the costs of the response to date, a more detailed assessment, as well as assistance to 500 families (2,500 people).

Partner National Societies (PNS) include the Belgian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross. In addition, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also has extensive presence in DRC. A Movement coordination meeting was convened with all partners to inform them of the situation; however as of 16 December 2015 there has been no offer of assistance forthcoming. In addition, with support from the IFRC, the CR DRC is developing several other projects in the DRC, including WASH and community health interventions in the Equateur province, a Cholera prevention intervention in Katanga and South Kivu provinces.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country:

As of 16 December 2015, there has been no response made by other stakeholders. The Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Solidarity in DRC convened a meeting, which was attended by the CR DRC, and a request was made to the National Society to support the public authorities with their response to the floods. Please note that additional consultation is required with other stakeholders including the public authorities, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and United Nations (UN) agencies to establish if they are intending to respond.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Needs Analysis

Based on the preliminary assessment, immediate needs of the affected population were identified including: emergency shelter, first aid, non-food items (NFIs) (blankets, kitchen sets, mats, mosquito nets, soap, hygiene kits (for women of childbearing age), environmental sanitation (clearing of pipes to enable water to flow more easily) and hygiene promotion. In total, 10,560 people have been affected in the Debonhome, Kingabua Ndanu, Kingabua Pécheur and Salongo neighbourhoods of Kinshasa, of which 8,480 (1,696 families) have lost their homes in property. Please refer to “Table 1: Distribution of displaced population” below:

Table 1: Distribution of displaced population (Source: CR DRC)

Neighbourhood	No. displaced families	No. displaced people
Kingabua Pécheur	600	3,000
Kingabua Ndanu	256	1,280
Salongo	460	2,300
Debonhome	380	1,900
Total	1,696	8,480

A more detailed needs and gaps assessment is required to provide more substantive information on the extent of the situation and the response that is required by all actors, especially in areas of Kinshasa that have been affected by the floods but where information on the scale of the flooding is not available.

Beneficiary Selection: In total, the DREF operation expects to target an initial 500 families (2,500 people) in Kinshasa – approx. 30 per cent of the displaced population, which will be identified/selected based on their level of vulnerability, including displaced households (whose homes were destroyed), the chronically ill, elderly, female-headed households, lactating mothers and under-five children, pregnant women, and/or people with disabilities..

DRC RC will ensure that the DREF operation is aligned with the IFRC's commitment to realize gender equality and diversity; by adapting beneficiary selection criteria those that targets (women headed-households, people with disabilities). Other aspects considered will include prevention of sexual violence and gender-based violence, and the protection of children.



Flooding in the DRC capital of Kinshasa
Photo CR DRC

Risk Assessment:

Since the rainy season is just beginning, it is possible if no action is taken to ensure that sanitation structures (e.g. drains and gutters) are not cleaned, and then flooding could extend beyond Kinshasa into other areas of the country, especially in flood prone areas such as Bukavu and Kongo town. As per the intention to conduct a more detailed needs and gaps assessment, it is possible that the DREF operation will be extended into new areas if required. As noted, the Processing Centre of the Water Distribution Authority serving Kinshasa was damaged, which has reduced the available safe water supply, which exposes the affected population to epidemics, specifically cholera, which has in recent years become widespread in countries in Central Africa including DRC. Given the large population in Kinshasa, it is essential that measures are taken to ensure that people have access to safe water supply (e.g. through the distribution of water treatment chemicals, and storage containers) as well take measures to manage potential outbreaks (e.g. through the distribution of ORS sachets).

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

Immediate survival needs of the flood-affected population are met through the provision of essential emergency relief, shelter, health, water, and sanitation and hygiene promotion assistance, targeting a total of 2,500 people (500 families) in the Debonhome, Kingabua Ndanu, Kingabua Pécheur and Salongo neighbourhoods of Kinshasa, for a period of two months.

Proposed strategy

The proposed strategy aims to support the CR DRC in assisting a total of 2,500 people (500 households) that are flood-affected with immediate relief, shelter, health, and water sanitation and hygiene promotion interventions, including:

- Conduct a detailed needs and gaps assessment in consultation with relevant partners and beneficiaries, which will be focused on other areas of Kinshasa that have been affected by the floods, but where information on the scale of the flooding is not available. If required, the results of the assessment will lead to a revision to the Emergency Plan of Action for the DREF operation.
- Replenishment of first aid kits (50) that have been used by volunteers in the initial response to the floods; and to enable first aid services to be provided to the affected population.
- Procurement/distribution of insecticide treated long lasting mosquito nets (two pcs per family) to reduce the risk of malaria to the affected population.
- Procurement/distribution of water treatment chemicals (aqua tabs) to enable household water treatment, as well as products for cholera treatment (oral rehydration sachets). Each family will receive sufficient aqua tabs to provide them with safe water supply for two months.
- Procurement of environmental sanitation materials (Brushes, bleach, chlorine, detergent, hoes, mixing containers, rakes, soap, sprayers and wheel barrows) and protective equipment (boots, gloves, helmets, nose covers and protective suits), which will be issued to community sanitation committees (4 committees) that will be established in the areas of implementation. Please note that the community sanitation committees will then be responsible for cleaning the drains and gutters in their communities to help reduce the risk of waterborne disease.
- Training of volunteers (30) and supervisors (five) on health and hygiene promotion, and use of IEC materials (three-day training). Following the training the volunteers and supervisors will be mobilized to carry out health and hygiene promotion outreach activities with the affected population for two-three days per week (depending on other activities planned, e.g. distributions) for eight weeks.
- Procurement/distribution of hygiene related NFIs comprising buckets (one pc per family), hygiene/dignity kits (one pc per family), jerry cans (one pc per family) and soap (10 pcs per family); and provide sensitization on their use; as well as sensitization on their use. Please note that the buckets and jerry cans will enable the affected population to conserve water, the supply of which has been disrupted due to damage caused to water systems.
- Training of volunteers (on use of shelter kit, and distribution techniques (Target: 30 volunteers + 5 supervisors) (two days). Following the training the volunteers and supervisors will be mobilized to support the affected population with the construction of temporary shelters/repair of existing structures.
- Procurement/distribution of NFIs and emergency shelter items comprising in accordance with IFRC procurement standards (Blankets (two pcs per family), kitchen sets (one pc per family), mats (two pcs per family), nails (100g per family), shelter kits – local specification based on consultation (one pc per family), tarpaulins (two pcs per family), slats (four pcs per family) and timber (four pcs per family).

Operational support services

Human resources

For this DREF operation, the following human resources will be required:

- Provincial coordinator (Kinshasa) will be designated to supervise the implementation of the DREF operation; and a contribution will be made to support his/her costs for a period of two months.

- Head of operation will be recruited for two months to act as a focal point for the DREF operation.
- A NHQ WatSan officer will be designated to support the implementation of the DREF operation (e.g. support with training etc.) for a period of 24 days ((three days per week for eight weeks). The NHQ WatSan officer will be issued with a per diem and an allowance for accommodation.
- Four NDRT will be designated to support the implementation of the DREF operation (e.g. support with training etc.) a period of 24 days ((three days per week for eight weeks). Each NDRT will be issued with a per diem and an allowance for accommodation.
- Five supervisors will be initially mobilized to support volunteers with the activities planned, for a period of 24 days (three days per week for eight weeks). Each supervisor will receive a daily per diem.
- 30 volunteers will be initially mobilized to support the implementation of the DREF operation, for a period of 24 days (three days per week for eight weeks). Each volunteer will receive a daily per diem, as well as a Red Cross rain bib and rain jacket. If the DREF operation is revised, it is expected that the number of volunteers required will be increased. Please note that volunteers involved in sanitation activities will also be issued with protective equipment (boots, gloves, helmets, protective suits, sanitiser etc.).
- A CR DRC driver will be recruited for two months; and security personnel also hired for one month to ensure the safety and security of NFIs that are being stored.
- An IFRC Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) team member (shelter profile) will be deployed for one month, and a RDRT team member (logistics) to support the CR DRC with the implementation of the DREF operation (e.g. support with training on the use of the shelter kit etc.). An IFRC driver will also be recruited for one month. Additional technical support will also be provided by the IFRC regional operations coordinator and finance assistant.

Logistics and supply chain

- Procurement plans: Local procurement of all items will be carried out with support from the IFRC Central Africa office due to the challenges in transporting items from Yaoundé, Cameroon to Kinshasa, DRC in terms of cost and timeliness. The IFRC Central Africa, Africa region and Global Logistics Service (in Dubai) will ensure office will ensure that the CR DRC is equipped with the relevant information on the procurement procedures; and the RDRT will be expected to support them to ensure compliance.
- Transport and fleet needs: Vehicle fuel and maintenance costs have been budgeted; as well as transportation of the NFIs and shelter materials from the warehouse to the areas of implementation. In addition, an IFRC vehicle will be leased for one month to support the RDRT.
- Logistics and warehousing: The CR DRC will rent warehouse space for a period of one month to storage the NFIs and shelter materials prior to distribution.

Communications

In collaboration with the IFRC Central Africa office, the CR DRC will ensure communication and visibility of the National Society operating in the affected areas. The CR DRC communications and public relations officer the general secretary of Kinshasa will be accompanied by five journalists, will support the collection of case studies of best practices, photographs, key messages, human interest stories, which will lead to the production of a documentary film as part of the show "30 Minutes of humanitarian action" on at least five television channels, as well as radio broadcasts.

Security

No security problems or access issues in the affected areas have identified. In addition, the Provincial Committee of the CR DRC has good relations with the political and administrative authorities of the place.

distribution techniques (Target: 30 volunteers + 5 supervisors)								
Mobilization of volunteers to provide demonstration/sensitization on temporary shelter construction (Target: 30 volunteers)								
Shelter project evaluation								

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Budget Group	Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	64,000
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	12,000
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	29,789
Medical & First Aid	2,500
Teaching Materials	5,649
Utensils & Tools	14,900
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	128,838
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	1,375
Distribution & Monitoring	950
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,200
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	6,525
International Staff	12,000
National Staff	450
National Society Staff	9,912
Volunteers	6,360
Total PERSONNEL	28,722
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	5,515
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	5,515
Travel	6,457
Information & Public Relations	1,392
Office Costs	0
Communications	1,000
Financial Charges	1,500
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	10,349
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	11,697
Total INDIRECT COSTS	11,697
TOTAL BUDGET	191,646