



DREF Operation-Final Report

The Gambia| Internal displaced population West Region

DREF Operation n° MDRGM015	Glide number: OT-2022-000159-GMB
Operation start date: 14 February 2022	Operation end date: 30 June 2022
Host National Society: The Gambia Red Cross Society	Operation budget: CHF 393,089
Number of people affected: 67,360 people (7,078 HH)	Number of people assisted: • 9,973 people with relief direct assistance (691 HH reached with direct assistance (5,654 people); 454 host families (6,011 people) and 12,092 migrants from Senegal) • 23,757 people with direct and indirect assistance reached with promotions (Around 2,000 people)
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), Gambia Immigration Department (GID), Gambia Police Force (GPF), Gambia Food and Nutrition Agency (GAFNA), National Social Protection Secretariat, Gambia Commission for Refugees, Foni Ding Ding Federation (FDDF), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) SOS Children's Village.	

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, and Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. The Canadian Government replenished the DREF on the occasion of this allocation. On behalf of The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS), the IFRC would like to extend gratitude to all for their generous contributions.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

The Casamance region of Senegal, south of The Gambia, has been the section of armed clashes between the Senegalese army and the separatist Movement des Forces Démocratiques de la Casamance (MFDC) since 1982. Tensions have waxed and waned over the past forty years but have persisted as a low-intensity conflict in the area.

The border between Casamance and The Gambia is long and porous: there are no official border crossing points and people move from one side to the other with little restriction. The border communities are historically interlinked, most notably through inter-marriage and trade, and have been partaking in the same social norms and customs since pre-colonial times.

On Monday 24 January 2022, sporadic gunfire was heard in the village of Ballen, in the Foni Kansala District of the Gambian West Coast Region, near the Casamance border, as a result of clashes between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) military mission in The Gambia (ECOMIG) and the MFDC. This exchange of gunfire led to the death of two ECOMIG soldiers. Seven more were captured by MFDC.



Geographic situation of Casamance in relation to The Gambia. Source: [Al Jazeera](#).

Even though all soldiers were later released, the event led to population movement in the area, culminating in the displacement of about 2,204 people from Gambian communities near the Senegalese border, in the districts of Foni Kansala and Foni Bintang Karanai. Households fled to villages along the Trans-Gambia Highway, roughly ten kilometres away from the border, where they found refuge. A total of 2,464 people, comprised of 2,204 internally displaced people (IDP) and 260 people from host families, were affected by the event. The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) launched a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) operation to provide assistance on food and basic needs to both host families and IDP.

Less than two months later, on Sunday 13 March 2022, the Armed Forces of Senegal launched an offensive in Casamance against the MFDC. The objective of the operation, according to an official statement, was to “dismantle the bases of the MFDC faction of Salif Sadio located along the northern [Gambian] border.”¹ As of 21 March 2022, fighting was still ongoing, with daily instances of shelling and firing.

The resurgence of violence prompted a wider population movement in both sides of the border: Senegalese and Gambians fleeing the area of the conflict and made their way to Trans-Gambia Highway villages, and beyond. Women, children and the elderly were the first to leave their communities. Most of the men who were initially unwilling to leave their property and livelihoods behind later evacuated the affected area due to the intensity of clashes. Many were making their way on foot, while a smaller proportion had access to motorbikes and vehicles. In total, more than 23,000 arrivals were recorded across 23 villages located in border districts of Foni Kansala, Foni Bintang Karanai, Foni Bondali, Foni Berefet, and The Kombos.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society Response

Following the first population movement at the end of January 2022, GRCS deployed its Emergency Response Team (ERT), comprising 33 personnel (volunteers and staff), to the area for 27 consecutive days, until 20 February 2022. The team were later extended to support the scale-up of the response from March to June 2022.

GRCS has participated in Joint Rapid Assessment with other key partners to identify and register the affected households. These households were later verified to further polish assessment results. GRCS conducted two needs assessments and completed the following activities:

- Non-food assistance through Essential households' items was provided to 1,141 Households (HH) families based on vulnerability criteria agreed with communities and
- 525 HH received shelter assistance.
- 1,382 households in the localities Trans-Gambia Highway villages, Bwiam received cash assistance.
- Support to host families was also provided via cash to Host families was also including as part of the need analysis from January displacements. The NS provided assistance through cash and livelihood to 75 Host families through a 1-month Cash for food support.
- Conduct of health and WASH promotion activities reached more than 23,000 people include IDPs, host and migrants. For All the affected population (IDP, migrants from Casamance, and host families).

¹ Cited in *Africa News*, “Senegal launches operation against rebels in Casamance”, 14 March 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/03/14/senegal-launches-operation-against-rebels-in-casamance>.

- Deployment a fully equipped ambulance to provide healthcare and basic life support service to host communities, and migrants, including pre-hospital care, psychosocial support, and referrals to existing health facilities.
- 23,757 people reached with health and wash promotion.

The Gambia Red Cross has benefit of trainings/refresher trainings to the response team with two days of security and safe access training, 2 days health and hygiene promotion trainings, 1 day for Minimum PGI training, 2 days for training on assessment and tools and 3 days training on emergency shelter with theoretical and practical sessions. Total of 30 volunteers and 10 staff benefit of these capacity building and were activated for this response. The learnings from this intervention will also benefit to the branches and HQ for future improvement of the response mechanism and appropriate measures to mitigate the challenges in this kind of crisis.



Distribution of relief items, March 2022. Photo: Gambia Red Cross Society.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement response in country

In addition to RCRC partners actions in the [plan and update](#), exchanges of information on the security situation and coordination on how to best meet humanitarian needs have been ongoing between the GRCS, IFRC and the ICRC:

The **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** was the main funding partner of this DREF operation. The IFRC deployed an Operations delegate from the Sahel Country Cluster delegation to work alongside the GRCS. Technical support was provided to the National Society to review the initial EPoA and extend the proposed assistance to the later displaced populations after the second clash.

The **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** supported 300 households with cash for Economic Security as a contribution to their livelihoods. A Cash and Markets Specialist was deployed to The Gambia to support GRCS on planning the first Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM). However, since his arrival coincided with the resurgence of violence and the renewed population movement, the PDM was completed remotely through telephone calls and few household visits to safe communities.

Due to the unpredictability of the situation, ICRC's contribution to address the second phase of the response was still being defined until the end of the DREF.

ICRC supported the Gambian RC to provide a series of dissemination on International Humanitarian Law. The GRCS has also been in contact with the **Senegalese Red Cross** on the evolving situation. Once the situation stabilized and access to border regions in Senegal and The Gambia was re-established, both National Societies stood ready for coordinated action.

Overview of other actors' response in country

On the January displacement, GRCS, ICRC and Government of The Gambia were the active actors in the response. In the later development of the situation, more actors were present in the field.

The Government of The Gambia acknowledged the last clashes through an official statement, published on 14 March 2022. In this statement, the country's President entrusted the Vice President with coordination of the response, with the concurrence of all relevant government ministries, departments, and agencies.² The Office of the Vice President resumed coordination of Government stakeholders and external partners, including the GRCS. As the scope of the crisis increased, so did its visibility, and additional partners joined national coordination meetings, most notably the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNOCHA.

The President of The Gambia pledged GMD 5,000,000 (approximately CHF 87,000) for the IDPs through the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA).³

² **GRTS News**, "President Barrow Says Gambia Will Not Be Used As Launch Pad in the Ongoing Casamance Conflict", 14 March 2022, <https://grts.gm/news-article-details/news/president-barrow-says-gambia-will-not-be-used-as-launch-pad-in-the-ongoing-casamance-conflict>

³ **The Point**, "Barrow pledges D5M for displaced persons in the Foni", 15 March 2022, <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/barrow-pledges-d5m-for-displaced-persons-in-the-foni>

- On 21 March 2022, the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** conducted a field visit in the affected area, in coordination with GRCS. UNFPA provided 998 Dignity Kits which were distributed by GRCS to adolescent girls and women both to the IDPs and host communities. UNFPA also provided over Two million dalasi (GMD 2,000,000.00) for Community Mobile Clinic in all the 5 affected districts of Foni servicing the affected communities with GRCS supporting the running at no cost.
- **The United Nations Children Funds (UNICEF)** provided 140 Family WASH kits which were distributed by GRCS to the IDPs.
- **The IOM** also provided 160 Family WASH kits and NFIs/EHIs which were also distributed by GRCS to the IDPs.
- **A Gambian Association in the United States of America (USA)** provided 31 bags of rice and 31 gallons of cooking oil to 31 displaced families. These were also distributed by GRCS.
- **The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** military mission in The Gambia (ECOMIG) remains stationed in the communities of Bwiam and Kanilai, both located in the affected area, Foni.

Coordination mechanism deployed for this response:

In terms of coordination, GRCS kept government and local partners informed on the ongoing and planned actions to be implemented. Regular meetings were held in the field with authorities, and local partners (listed below) to share information, updates, and to avoid any potential overlapping between this DREF operation and other potential coming assistance.

GRCS coordinated with authorities, the NDMA, Movement partners and other partners to obtain security information and ascertain the level of risk. National Society teams were only deployed to the field to provide humanitarian assistance after having obtained security clearance from these key actors.

As mentioned earlier, a Joint Rapid Assessment was conducted between the 15 and 19 March 2022 by the Gambian government entities (NDMA, National Social Protection Secretariat, Gambia Commission for Refugees, Gambia Immigration Department, Gambia Food and Nutrition Agency), the GRCS, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the World Food Programme (WFP). Following the second clashes, The Gambia Armed Forces increased their presence in the field to further monitor the security situation at the border.

In all activity implementation in the communities, GRCS has been in close coordination and collaboration with other relevant partners in the field, most especially the community leaders and security forces.

Needs analysis and scenario planning.

Needs Analysis

Following clashes in the Gambia on 24th January, populations living close to the Senegal border fled their homes to other parts in The Gambia or to Senegal, with most seeking refuge in villages along the Trans-Gambia Highway. The-displaced communities were temporarily hosted by relatives or friends or other members of the communities. Majority of households initially displaced in January 2022 were again forced to leave their homes for a second time after the renewed clashes March of the same year. Portions of households who acted as host families during the initial population movement were also similarly displaced in the subsequent clashes.

Overall needs have remained in line with those identified in the January 2022 movement:

- Health first aid, services and Psycho-social support; access to safe water,
- Dignity kit and hygiene improvement conditions and items for WASH,
- Need of temporary shelter before returning in the calm period,
- Access to immediate food and solution for income disruption or destruction as concerns under livelihood,
- Relief basic items to support family daily needs,
- Protection and inclusion challenges anticipated as well as risk communication.

While the January clashes led to internal population displacement from two districts (Foni Kansala and Foni Bintang Karanai), the second resurgence of the conflict had affected five West Coast Region districts: Foni Kansala, Foni Bintang Karanai, Foni Bondali, Foni Berefet, and The Kombos. According to the 2021 census data from The Gambia Social Registry, total population for these five districts is 67,360 people, around 7,078 households, meaning almost 40% of the population were directly or indirectly affected by this event with arrivals recorded into 23 Gambian border villages.

Furthermore, fighting along the border had set farmlands ablaze (cashew farms are common in the region) and led to bush fires, both in Casamance and in The Gambia. GAMBIA has faced with this population movement a long and increasingly humanitarian need for displaced population.

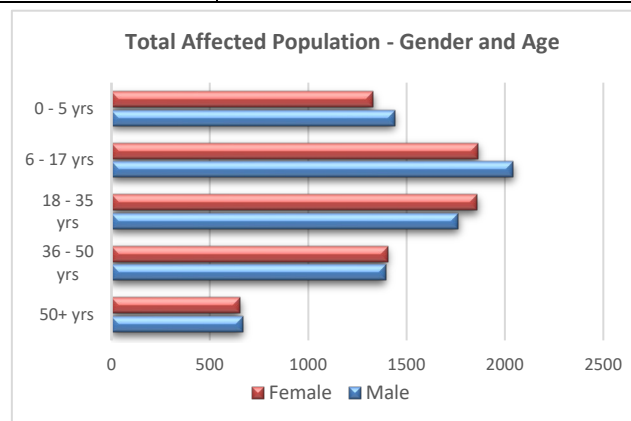
The increased trend of displaced households with the second round of clashes has exacerbated the observed issues, challenges and needs but the needs pillars remain the same identified during the Joint Assessment conducted between 15 and 19 March 2022 by Gambia Government entities, The Gambia Red Cross Society, UN and other partners. Find details of need analysis in the [plan](#) and [update](#).

The GRCS continued to monitor the situation and collect data. Below is the table with the evolution of impact and figures on displaced population from the rapid assessment after the first clash to displacement figures latest report after the second resurgence of clashes on 13th March 2022.

Summary of population in need and affected	First Population Movement (24 January 2022)	Latest data after Second Population Movement happened from March. (Latest data by NS) ⁴
Affected districts	Foni Kansala and Foni Bintang Karanai	Foni Kansala, Foni Bintang Karanai, Foni Bondali, Foni Berefet, and The Kombos
Fled from (Home Communities of IDP)	Ballen, Kappa, Funtang, Monom, Boipul, Karol, Luluchor, Gikess	More than 20 villages.
Hosted in (Host Communities)	Bajagharr, Sibanor, Arangallen, Krunulai, Bujingha, Kambong, Kampant, Bwiam, Madina, Kanilai, Farato, Joyer, Buluntu, Burock, Sangajor, Jomo Kunda, Batabut Kantora, Batabut Danellow.	48 villages identified. Including all those that hosted in the first Population Movement.
Total affected population (IDP, refugees / migrants and host families)	2,464 people (300HH)	23,757 people (1,325HH)
Total number of Internal Displaced Population	2,204 people (225HH)	5,654 people (576 households)
Total number of people in host families	260 people (75HH)	6,011 people (454 households)
Total number of refugees / migrants	No reported migrants	12,092 people
Percentage of women within the affected population	Not completed during the first Rapid assessment	62%
Number of children under 5 in total affected population		2,029 people (20.3%)
Identified displaced male household heads, in 644 assessed households		235 (36,5%)
Identified displaced female household heads, in 644 assessed households (same sample below)		409 (63,5%)
Number of displaced households with pregnant and/or lactating women		169 (26,2%)
Number of displaced people living with mental health issues		45 (7%)
Number of displaced people living with chronic illness		40 (6,2%)

The clashes continued to prompt new population movement, though in smaller proportions than during the first days of March. There were continuous assessments and monitoring of the situation to further refine situational and response analysis. Especially for vulnerability, protection and inclusion considerations.

- The larger proportion of female household heads amongst displaced populations spoke about gendered division of labour, with men staying behind in home communities longer to protect the family livelihood (cattle, and farmland). Women were thus entrusted with the care of children, youth, and elderly family members as they fled to safety. The provision of humanitarian assistance must take household composition into consideration, ensuring distributions were performed in safe, women-friendly spaces as much as possible and that in-kind goods, once distributed, could be transported without difficulty by women, youth or elderly people.
- The displacement exposed women, girls, and children to a heightened risk of gender-based violence, on their way to and in host communities. Overcrowding also affected the level of privacy women and girls could maintain, with potential effects on protection.
- People living with mental health issues and/or chronic illness also had the risk of encountering violence and/or discriminatory attitudes, most notably in times of crisis, and special consideration were given to ensure they are targeted through protection activities.



⁴ GRCS Verified Data as of 13 May 2022. 23,757 people.

GRCS presence in the field, and the above-mentioned *data from the Assessment* were useful in providing humanitarian and government actors with essential data to structure their response.

Target through this intervention

The Gambia actions contributed to cover immediate needs to 23,757 affected people (around 1382 HHs), taking into account the different successive impact of the clashes from January to March leading to displacement of more people than initially projected at the launched of the operation.

The target included a minimum of 691 HH reached with direct assistance (5,654 people); 454 host families (6,011 people) and 12,092 migrants from Senegal.

The geographic areas targeted also expanded from the initial two districts identified after the first clashes to five districts of West Coast Region when clashes broken more severely on March (Foni Kansala and Foni Bintang Karanai). These were the most affected by the resurgence of violence in Casamance, and where the affected population had been registered: Foni Kansala, Foni Bintang Karanai, Foni Bondali, Foni Jarrol and Foni Berefet.

For the final cash distribution, a refined selection criteria were developed with specific consideration for women-headed households, persons with disabilities, elderly people and/or children under 5 years, and pregnant or lactating women.



A Red Cross volunteer providing First Aid assistance, March 2022. Photo: Gambian Red Cross Society.

Scenario Planning

Following second phase of cashes, the second scenario of the plan was activated and used as a basis for re-designing of this operation. This led to scaling up of the intervention to accommodate wider affected locations and an increase in the number of affected people. A second allocation and a 4-month extension were made to ensure GRCS could cover the needs resulting for the resurgence of clashes. Although the situation remained relatively stable as of June 21, there were still rumours of potential clashes again in the area at the end of this operation. To note, the area in the history has experienced similar clashes. Thus, even though the DREF operation has closed, GRCS will continue to closely monitor the situation, assess new developments, and continue to be on standby for a possible response need.

More details on scenario planning, please go to the scenario section on [the plans](#).

Exit strategy:

Although the operation has closed, GRCS will continue to monitor the area through its ERT in the WCR as the situation in the area is very unpredictable. This is due to the fact the conflict between the Senegalese government and the MFDC group has been existing for a long time with periodic attacks on each other. Clashes may wind down, continue, or escalate. The prevailing scenario will inform GRCS continuous planning and actions: this includes, launch a new operational to address new needs, or new targeting through other global tools. IFRC will support the National Society as needed throughout the process. Constant communication will be maintained with affected communities through the GRCS field teams, to engage local community leaders and authorities as needed and anticipate emerging issues. A demobilization strategy with community engagement plan has been defined and implemented by the GRCS, through a Lessons Learnt session where representatives of the affected communities were invited and informed about the closure of the DREF operation.

Operation Risk Assessment

On the risk identified in the plans, the most significative were security and access. Both happen to be a challenge of population movement crisis. Please see table of risk in the [MDRMG015 plans](#) for all the assessed risk under this operation. In line with scenario planning the intervention priority and approach has been contingent on how conflict progressed in Casamance and continued impacting populations of the area from January 2022.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

The operations sought to provide basic assistance and urgent needs to 23,757 people including IDP, migrants from Casamance, and host families following displacement after clashes in January and March 2022.

Updated strategy:

In February 2022, a DREF Operation was initiated to meet humanitarian needs related to a recent population movement in The Gambia, following clashes in the Senegalese region of Casamance. The initial timeframe of the DREF Operation was 2 months from February to March 2022. The operational strategy developed in the EPoA was mostly implemented as planned with areas of focus for this operation being livelihoods and basic needs, health and WASH, with distribution of relief items to prevent further deterioration of current conditions. [See detail in the EPoA here.](#)

However, due to the changing and overwhelming situation, the timeframe was extended to 30 June 2022 (03 additional months) and funding increased to CHF 393,089. With this, The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) has been continually updating the "[Go Alert](#)" that was posted at the 'IFRC Go Platform' since the beginning of the incident.

Expanding the scope of the operation was justified in the face of renewed violence in Casamance in March and the erratic and more extensive population movement it prompted on both sides of The Gambia-Senegal border. Indeed, GRCS has modified the response strategy by extending the target, the response team and the relief assistance with a top-up of the budget. All activities planned in the EPoA and extended in the update n°1 have been fully implemented. Main operational imperative and strategy focus on this operation is summarised as follow:

1. **Needs assessment and registration of affected households:** Two assessments were **conducted** following the first and second population movements. These assessments and registrations provided relevant information to GRCS Management for timely decision on the response options. Final implemented strategy was guided by results of the need assessments and continuous monitoring of the situation.
2. **Emergency Shelter support** was focused on provision of Essential households' items: 3 blankets, 3 mats, 1 family hygiene kit, and 1 kitchen set.
3. **Livelihoods and basic needs** were covered through cash assistance for all 691 displaced households for 3 months, and 02 months to 316 host families. Livelihood and essential households' items (basic needs) was provided to all targeted households (IDPs, migrants, host families) with food assistance through cash distribution; 2 months for displaced families and refugees and, 1 month for host families. Considering that the initial host and displaced population even if part of the second displacement, were affected and their needs were important and considered.
4. **Health** was to provide ambulance services in the field for 05 months, a distribution of mosquito nets to newly displaced households and health promotions, distribution of mosquitoes, first aid, PSS and awareness.
5. **WASH** sector covered distribution of family hygiene kits 691 displaced households and hygiene plus sanitation activities among the targeted communities. The previous plan of procurement of individual items was replaced with streamlined procurement and distribution strategy, where households receive one kit of hygiene items. Family hygiene kit per displaced household, which contained: one 15-liter bucket, one 3-liter water container, two tubes of toothpaste, five toothbrushes, one towel, three bars of soap (for bathing), five laundering soaps, three sanitation pads, five underwear's, one bottle of hand sanitizer, two hair combs, one bottle of body lotion, one packet of face masks, one packet of baby diapers, one packet of baby wipes.
6. **Protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI).** As part of the needs assessment, a gender and diversity analysis has been conducted in Shelter and WASH to understand how different groups have been affected, which have informed how response activities were to be carried out and how to adapt messages and team deployment in management of sensitive messages, discussions, or groups. A day training on the Minimum Standards for Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) was conducted for 30 volunteers in order to strengthen their capacities on gender and protection issues while providing basic humanitarian services to the people affected by the conflict and for future humanitarian operations of the National Society. GRCS has also printed out information posters on issues of protection and gender empowerment which were distributed in the communities during the final cash distribution phase, which was done alongside sensitization of community members on issues of protection and gender.
7. **The Lessons learnt and review of the operation.** The Final activity of the DREF operation was the Lessons Learnt session. This Lessons Learnt session was organized to evaluate the DREF operation and identify ways for improvement in the future. Participants to the session included GRCS staff, volunteers, GRCS Board, beneficiaries, QMoney, IFRC, ICRC, NDMA, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, Foni Ding-Ding Federation, Gambia Immigration Department, Gambia Police Force, Gambia Armed Forces, GAFNA, Office of the Vice President, the Regional Governor for WCR, and the media. The activity was conducted in Sindola Lodge in Kanilai, WCR.

The different participants had the occasion to speak on the implementation and impact of the DREF intervention as well as the humanitarian commitment of GRCS in the country. The PER approach was adopted to evaluate the intervention with involvement of all participants, include partners who were called to form 6 groups and have freely discussed on 1). Relevance and Appropriateness of the intervention, 2) Effectiveness, 3) Efficiency, 4) Impact, 5) Coordination and Communication, 6) Management. The achievements, gaps, and recommendations of each of these thematic areas were later presented to the wider team by group representatives and are captured in the below table. The different feedback and outcomes from that session will serve as reference in the future. GRCS also received statements of complement and appreciation from beneficiaries and partners who attended the session. An informative brochure of all the activities and engagements of GRCS in the DREF operation was also produced and distributed to all partners on that occasion as part of the GRCS communication and visibility.

Detailed progress against outcomes is captured in the Detailed Operational Plan section below.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

	Shelter People reached: 23,757 (691 HH) Male: 9,645 Female: 14,112	
Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through emergency shelter and settlement solutions.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households who received a response in shelter	691⁵	525
Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households identified for distribution	691	1382
# of households who received essential household items (EHI)	691	932
% of households who report satisfaction with items distributed	100%	75%
% of targeted households who report satisfaction with the distribution process (including identification criteria)	100%	95%
# of volunteers trained on shelter module	30	30
# of volunteers mobilised for identification activities	30	33
# of post-distribution monitoring (PDM)	2	2
Narrative description of achievements		
Activities carried out: • Mobilization of 33 volunteers during registration activities prior to distribution. • Distribution of 675 blankets for IDPs displaced in January 2022, and procurement to replenish NS stocks. • Distribution of 675 sleeping mats and blankets for all displaced households, and procurement to replenish NS stocks. • 2 Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) conducted to assess the impact of the cash distribution. • Training of 30 volunteers on emergency shelter module • One-time procurement and distribution of one kitchen set per displaced household.		
Challenges		
The main challenge faced on the shelter component was to procure and distribute the blankets and mats all at the same time. There was limited stock in the market and thus, this led to a little delay in the procurement process.		

⁵ Revised targets for Shelter take into account that the initial 225 displaced households have now been re-displaced and are part of the currently displaced 691 households (IDP and refugees/migrants).

Lessons Learnt

It was realized that the distribution of the blankets and mats was very helpful for families as a complementary to the cash provided to them. This has saved them cost in trying to purchase these goods. Otherwise, they could have used a good amount of the money to procure the blankets and mats and compromising their basic food needs. It was also realized that the timely provision of the EHI/NFI was helpful as it saved them from sleeping on the floods and exposing them to more vulnerabilities.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 23,757

Male: 9,645

Female: 14,112

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of surveyed households who report that cash assistance meets their needs	80%	97%

Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households identified for cash assistance distribution	1,382	1,382
# of households reached with cash assistance	1,382	1,382
# of displaced households reached with Cash for food	691	1,141
# of host households reached with Cash for food	316	241
# volunteers trained on cash assistance	25	13
# of volunteers mobilised for identification activities	30	33
# of post-distribution monitoring (PDM)	2	2

Narrative description of achievements

Cash transfers were conducted in one of the Trans-Gambia Highway villages, Bwiam, where Financial Service Provider (FSP) QMoney agents operated out of four distribution desks. The amount per household **was D5248, which was calculated and agreed as the minimum cost for a household food basket.**

A Field Coordination centre was set up along the Trans-Gambia Highway village of Sibanor, from which the team coordinated with key stakeholders and partners, such as local community leaders, The Gambia Police Force, The Gambia Armed Forces and The Gambia Food and Nutrition Agency (GAFNA).

The final phase of the cash transfer was done in the last week of June 2022. The beneficiaries for this phase were only the displaced households (IDPs and those from Casamance) and not the host households. A total of 450 beneficiary households were supported with a cash amount of D5248 each. The distribution was organized in four Distribution Points in Foni: Bondali Bwiam, Sibanor and Somita. Prior to the cash distribution, volunteers were in the communities to sensitize the community members and their leaders about the cash distribution dates, the distribution points, and the selected beneficiaries. During the cash distribution, the volunteers also collected and recorded feedback from beneficiaries to help us determine their level of satisfaction. The PGI volunteers were also in the field doing sensitization activities for community members on different areas related to protection and gender issues. They were also posting informative posters in public places. The posters contained information about PGI issues and contact numbers that community members could use to reach out to PGI support teams in the country.

Main activities carried out:

- One refresher training was organized for 13 volunteers. Due to cash distribution taking place in a single location, the number of volunteers who needed to be trained was revised downwards from 25 to 13 volunteers.
- Financial service provider (FSP) QMoney was activated by the NS and cash transfer delivery was organized through mobile money.
- An electronic beneficiary household verification exercise was completed (with tablets) and shared with the FSP.

- The cash transfer for two months was established at GMD 5,248, in line with costs for the minimum food basket in The Gambia.
- Cash transfers were completed for 1382 households⁶ : 691 displaced households (IDP, refugees/migrants) and 241 host families. A 3-time distribution was schedule consecutive to the different wave of displacement after the two successive phasis of clashes, first in January and then March 2022.
 - A first distribution reached 300 HH that were initially displaced with the
 - In the second distribution, both displaced and host households were supported with cash: 932 HH.
 - The third distribution was only for 450 beneficiary households who were still displaced and have taken refuge in targeted villages. This was done in the last week of June 2022 at a maintained amount of GMD 5,248 per household.

Two (02) post distribution were conducted: one after the first allocation and a second after completing all cash distribution added in the update 1. The second Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) was conducted from the 1st to 3rd July 2022. This activity was led by the PMER officer. This PDM was conducted to get feedback from the beneficiaries on the benefits that the cash support has on their families, and to also understand their level of satisfaction with the cash distribution process including the approach of personnel from both GRCS and QMoney. This would help GRCS to understand the challenges (if any) faced by the beneficiaries in trying to receive their cash support and how to improve on the service delivery in the future. It was also to assess the cash transfer format (Mobile Money) used in the response, whether it was easily understood, secured and reliable for the beneficiaries. From this PDM, the main outcomes were that:

- 97% of the beneficiaries mentioned that the cash they received from GRCS was able to meet their basic needs.
- 75% of the beneficiaries reported satisfaction with the items they received.
- 95% of the beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the cash distribution process, that is, the use of mobile money.

Challenges

- The main challenge encountered during the cash distribution was reaching out to the beneficiaries who came from Casamance (Senegal). Some of them managed to go back to Casamance and were unreachable through telephone calls and other tracing means.
- Another challenge was security threat in the area as some of the communities were unsafe and required specific measure with important logistic deployment.
- The households who initially acted as host families received each a 1-month Cash for food transfer. However, some of these households (number unknown) were later displaced. Others were later re-hosting displaced families which exhausted the food reserves purchased with the cash support.

Lessons Learnt

- It was a good idea to include the host families as beneficiaries of the CVA. This has resulted to a friendlier environment for the Red Cross to implement their activities in the communities.
- Cash support was appreciated as the best response mechanism by the beneficiary as it provided them the options to meet their priority needs which were specific to each household.
- The use of a Financial Service Provider (FSP) to distribute the cash to the beneficiaries through mobile money was a form of risk transfer for GRCS, especially with this situation of uncertain security.



Health

People reached: 23,757⁷

Male: 9,645

Female: 14,112

Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment.

Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of first aid boxes purchased	20	5

⁶ Beneficiary list for each batch of cash installments was updated ted to the

⁷ Approximate data, to be validated and confirmed in the final report.

# of people provided with ambulance services	100	1,231
# of cases referred to a hospital	20	16
Outcome 4: Transmission of diseases of epidemic potential is reduced.		
Output 4.1: Community-based disease control and health promotion is provided to the target population.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of trainings provided on health	1	1
# of volunteers trained	30	30
# of people reached through health promotion activities	4,900	3,879
Output 4.2: Vector-borne diseases are prevented.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of mosquito nets distributed	2,073	675
Narrative description of achievements		
Activities carried out: - A two-day training on Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) for 30 volunteers was completed. The training was useful in providing health promotion activities to the affected communities including dissemination of health messages and conducting community health talks. The DREF trained volunteers on Psychosocial support. - Distribution of 675 long-lasting impregnated mosquito nets was completed, and NS stocks were replenished. This was useful in reducing exposure to mosquito bites, thus reducing cases of Malaria infection. - Mobilisation and deployment of first aid unit with ambulance in support. Fortunately, there were no severe cases reported of needs for ambulance services after the January population movement but with long clashes period and the security context, the ambulance was kept on stand-by for readiness. - Health promotion activities were only partially implemented during the first phase of the operation, following the January population movement, due to the small number of available trained volunteers and the fact that all IDPs returned home within 2 weeks of the event. With the training of 30 volunteers, however, the NS has been able to deploy this action following the most recent population movement. 17 volunteers and staff have been in the field disseminating health messages door-to-door in host communities, organizing community health talks, and setting up group discussions on targeted topics (vector-borne diseases, water-borne diseases, and health promotion). - Procurement of 5 big equipped First Aid bags and first aid was provided to arrivals by volunteers deployed.		
Challenges		
The duration for the community ambulance service was not enough to meet the needs of the affected population as there were a lot of people with health needs.		
Lessons Learnt		
- As Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) require time, the continuous movement of displaced families has affected the outcome of the psychosocial support provided as people continue to be in a state of panic. Similar operations should consider this challenge when designing PSS intervention for communities affected by conflict. - The team has detected chronic and non-communicable diseases especially cardiovascular disease in many community members, which could be related to high level of stress. There is need to factor in NCD interventions in similar operations as a resultant of the high stress levels communities face in such situations. - The communities commended the Red Cross as the first and only partner who have stayed with them for a considerable period during the trying times.		



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 23,757

Male: 9,645

Female: 14,112

Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with hygiene promotion activities	9,973	1,700
# of households who received WASH items	932	932
% of women and girls who received dignity kits ⁸	24%	932
# of volunteers who received 2-day refresher training on health and hygiene promotion, PSS and First Aid	30	30

Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of target female beneficiaries who report improved hygiene condition in relation to menstrual hygiene management	100%	N/A

Narrative description of achievements

Activities carried out:

- Distribution of WASH items (buckets with lids, soap, Dettol soap) were completed for 300 households: 225 IDP and 75 host families.
- Hand sanitizer and procedural masks were provided to deployed personnel (staff and volunteers). This helped to reduce exposure from infection among the GRCS personnel.
- A two-day training on health and hygiene promotion, PSS and First Aid was organized for 30 volunteers to equip them with skills and knowledge to support hygiene promotion and health interventions.
- As was the case with health promotion activities, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities were only partially implemented during the first phase of the operation, following the January population movement, due to the small number of available trained volunteers and the fact that all IDP returned home within 2 weeks of the event. However, with the training of 30 volunteers, implementation increased after the second wave of population movement. The same core group of 17 volunteers and staff has been disseminating hygiene promotion messaging in host communities, through group discussions and individual conversations. This has been useful in keeping communities aware of how to preserve good health and avoid infections.
- Sanitation materials (chlorine and bottles of bleach through the DREF budget, and AquaTabs from NS stocks) have also been provided to host communities to support sanitation and water treatment.
- Distribution of one family hygiene kit to 932 displaced HH received.
- Procurement and dispatch to the response team the necessary protection include hand sanitizer (120 bottles) and procedural masks (500) to deployed personnel (staff and volunteers).
- Procurement of 307 dignity kits for women and adolescent girls was completed, although there was little delay due to unforeseen delays along the supply chain. This activity was incorporated in the procurement and distribution of family hygiene kits, which include materials for dignity kits. All the women in childbearing age received menstrual hygiene promotion/sensitization.
- Hygiene promotion continued in host communities, through group discussions, workshops, and demonstrations on the use of hygiene items post-distribution. Posters to raise awareness on sanitation and hygiene issues were processed and distributed in the communities.

Challenges:

- The distance between the communities was far and mobility was limited due to security reasons, this has made the work inconvenient.

⁸ This indicator was no more reported or kip on track as dignity items was distributed in the family hygiene kit (WASH items indicator).

Lessons Learnt

- Following the hygiene promotion sessions, there was an improvement of positive behavioural change towards sanitation and hygiene practices which included household water supply management with the use of Aqua tablets in the vulnerable communities.
- Some areas were highly inaccessible due to distance and high insecurity, which threatened to leave out on some beneficiaries. Future operations should factor in enough mobility (such as Tricycle motorbike "Tuk Tuk" or vehicle allocation) for volunteers' movement in the communities to ease activity implementation.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: 9,973.

Male: 3,790

Female: 6,183

Outcome 1: Communities become more peaceful, safe and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by PGI activities	2,000	9,973

Output 1.1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained on PGI in Emergencies Minimum Standards	30	30

Narrative description of achievements

Activities carried out:

- A one-day training session on PGI in Emergencies Minimum Standards for 30 volunteers was completed on 20 March 2022.
- No implementation budget was planned in the initial EPoA for PGI activities. Costs related to the deployment of PGI-trained volunteers and procurement of necessary materials (printouts, booklets, posters) were later included, which allowed the NS PGI focal point to implement the planned PGI strategy.
- Volunteers trained on PGI in Emergencies Minimum Standards have contributed to needs assessments and identify priority protection activities and support with their implementation.
- Volunteers trained in PGI in Emergencies Minimum Standards have supported with a gender and diversity analysis, in WASH and Shelter areas of intervention, to ensure different needs from different groups are taken into account when response activities are carried out.
- PGI community sensitization to beneficiary communities

Challenges

- The number of targeted communities was high and the distance between the communities were far from each other.
- The first stage of the operation, volunteers had to work under pressure in order to complete the tasks within the required number of days in relation to the operational plan for a quick assistance in a month.

Lessons Learnt

- Pairing the volunteers (Male & Female) gives a positive response to the operations by facilitating the community engagement and acceptance of GRCS sensitization messages across.
- The balance between the resources deployed to achieve the different goal should be better evaluated a take into consideration the necessary time or increase the number of people engaged (volunteers) to allow a work under less pressure, more adequate for a volunteering.
- Future operations should allow for more days and resources to support the PGI activities, especially in this context.

Strategies for Implementation

Outcome S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached through the operation	23,757	23,757

Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers reached	85	50 ⁹

Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Assistance is improved

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of IFRC monitoring visits	2	2
# of lessons learned workshop	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

Activities carried out:

- A two-day training on Emergency Relief Operation, more specifically in armed and conflict settings, was completed for 30 volunteers and 10 staff. to prepare response team at all levels to the challenges of the response, to increase their knowledge of safety and security practices and protocols, and to deepen their understanding of the Safer Access Framework.
- Two IFRC monitoring visits were completed; one in March 2022 to support the revision of the DREF Operation through this Operation Update, and another on in July during the Lessons Learnt session.
- A field coordination center was set up in the Trans-Gambia Highway village of Sibanor, to ease the coordination and activities with key stakeholders and partners. This field management approach has allowed a strong and efficient coordination between the intervention team and the local community leaders, The Gambia Police, The Gambia Armed Force and The Gambia Food and Nutrition Agency (GAFNA).
- One day training on PGI for 30 volunteers was completed.
- Two days training on Health and Hygiene Promotion for 30 volunteers was completed.
- Two days training on Emergency Needs Assessment for 30 volunteers and 10 staff was completed.
- One day training on Emergency Shelter for 30 volunteers was completed.
- The trainings were useful in impacting skills to volunteers, thus increasing their capacity to conduct the various interventions. This will also be useful in future response were funding for training sis not available.
- Lessons Learnt Session at the end of the operation was successfully conducted.

The management of security being at the center of this intervention, the following actions were implemented in addition to the trainings above:

- Constant field movement monitoring and frequent briefings and update to the team.
- GRCS continued to liaise with authorities which work with Gambia Police Force and Gambia Armed Forces on security to access the latest information on the security situation and the safe access. GRCS worked closely with ICRC to coordinate and share security information to support continuity of operation.
- Engage with leaders and institution and coordinate with local actors through its regular activities. In the area the National Society has also built a relationship of trust with current host communities. Heads of villages, school headmasters and organizations such as the Foni Ding Ding Federation (FDDF), Gambia Police Force, Gambia Armed Force were continuously consulted prior to organizing humanitarian assistance in targeted communities. The organizations provided information on the security situation which ensured safe access for GRCS teams.
- The ICRC was consulted and coordinated on issues of security and humanitarian access, as needed. The updated plan after renewed clashed was based on consultations with movement and security advice.
- Finally, security protocols were developed and enforced in the field. For instance, GRCS ERT members moved in a convoy, visibly displaying Red Cross Flag. All GRCS vehicles were fitted with HF/ VHF radios while staff and volunteers were provided with individual radio phones and trained on radio communication to enhance communication in areas out of mobile phone network. Visibility items were worn by all team members and team members paired to work together.

⁹ Approximate data, to be validated and confirmed in the final report.

D. Budget

The DREF has made 2 allocations to The Gambia Red Cross on the occasion of this crisis for a total of CHF 393,089. By 30 June 2022, end date of the operation, the NS completed the expenditure at CHF 392,486 (99% of the budget in 5 months. The balance of CHF 603 will be returned to the DREF pot.

Contact information

Reference documents



Click here for:

- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

The Gambia Red Cross Society

- Alasan Senghore, Secretary General; phone: +220 3537730; email: alasan.senghore@redcross.org / alasan.senghore@gmail.com
- Abdoulie Fye, Director of Programmes and Operation, Abdoulie.fye@redcross.org

IFRC Sahel Country Cluster Office

- Alexandre Claudon de Vernisy, Head of Sahel Country Cluster Office; phone: +221 78 371 95 57; email: alexandre.claudon@ifrc.org

IFRC office for Africa Region:

- Rui Alberto Oliveira, Regional Operation lead, Response and Recovery Department, Nairobi, Kenya; email: rui.oliveira@ifrc.org
- Matthew Croucher, Head of Health and Disaster Response and Recovery Department, Nairobi, Kenya; email: matthew.croucher@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- **Operation:** Santiago Luengo, Senior Officer, Operations Coordination, DCC unit Geneva; email: santiago.luengo@ifrc.org
- **DREF:** Nicolas Boyrie, DREF Lead, email: nicolas.boyrie@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- IFRC Africa Regional Office for Resource Mobilization and Pledge: Louise Daintrey, Head of Unit, Partnership and Resource Development, Nairobi, email: louise.daintrey@ifrc.org;

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- **IFRC Africa Regional Office for Logistics Unit:** Rishi Ramrakha, Head of Africa Regional Logistics Unit, email: rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org; phone: +254 733 888 022

For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- **IFRC Africa Regional Office:** Beatrice Okeyo, Regional Head PMER and Quality Assurance, email: beatrice.okeyo@ifrc.org

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 (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian 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.

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



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2022-2023/3	Operation	MDRGM015
Budget Timeframe	2022	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 20/Apr/2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRGM015 - Gambia - IDPs West Region

Operating Timeframe: 14 Feb 2022 to 30 Jun 2022

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	393,089
DREF Response Pillar	393,089
Expenditure	-392,486
Closing Balance	603

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	850	812	39
AOF2 - Shelter	64,337	65,521	-1,185
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	185,699	185,034	665
AOF4 - Health	21,964	21,099	865
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	61,189	62,627	-1,438
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	2,676	2,428	249
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	336,716	337,520	-805
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	45,865	45,733	132
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	10,508	9,195	1,313
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC		38	-38
Strategy for implementation Total	56,373	54,966	1,406
Grand Total	393,088	392,486	602

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2022-2023/3	Operation	MDRGM015
Budget Timeframe	2022	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 20/Apr/2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRGM015 - Gambia - IDPs West Region

Operating Timeframe: 14 Feb 2022 to 30 Jun 2022

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	305,383	305,066	317
Clothing & Textiles	50,790	50,737	53
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	43,907	43,799	108
Medical & First Aid	21,324	21,263	62
Utensils & Tools	17,828	17,743	85
Cash Disbursement	171,534	171,524	10
Logistics, Transport & Storage	12,324	12,321	3
Transport & Vehicles Costs	12,324	12,321	3
Personnel	17,632	17,515	118
National Society Staff	800	753	47
Volunteers	16,832	16,762	70
Workshops & Training	9,399	9,398	0
Workshops & Training	9,399	9,398	0
General Expenditure	24,358	24,232	126
Travel	6,397	6,378	19
Office Costs	7,755	7,753	1
Communications	5,638	5,604	34
Financial Charges	4,568	4,496	72
Indirect Costs	23,991	23,955	37
Programme & Services Support Recover	23,991	23,955	37
Grand Total	393,088	392,486	602