

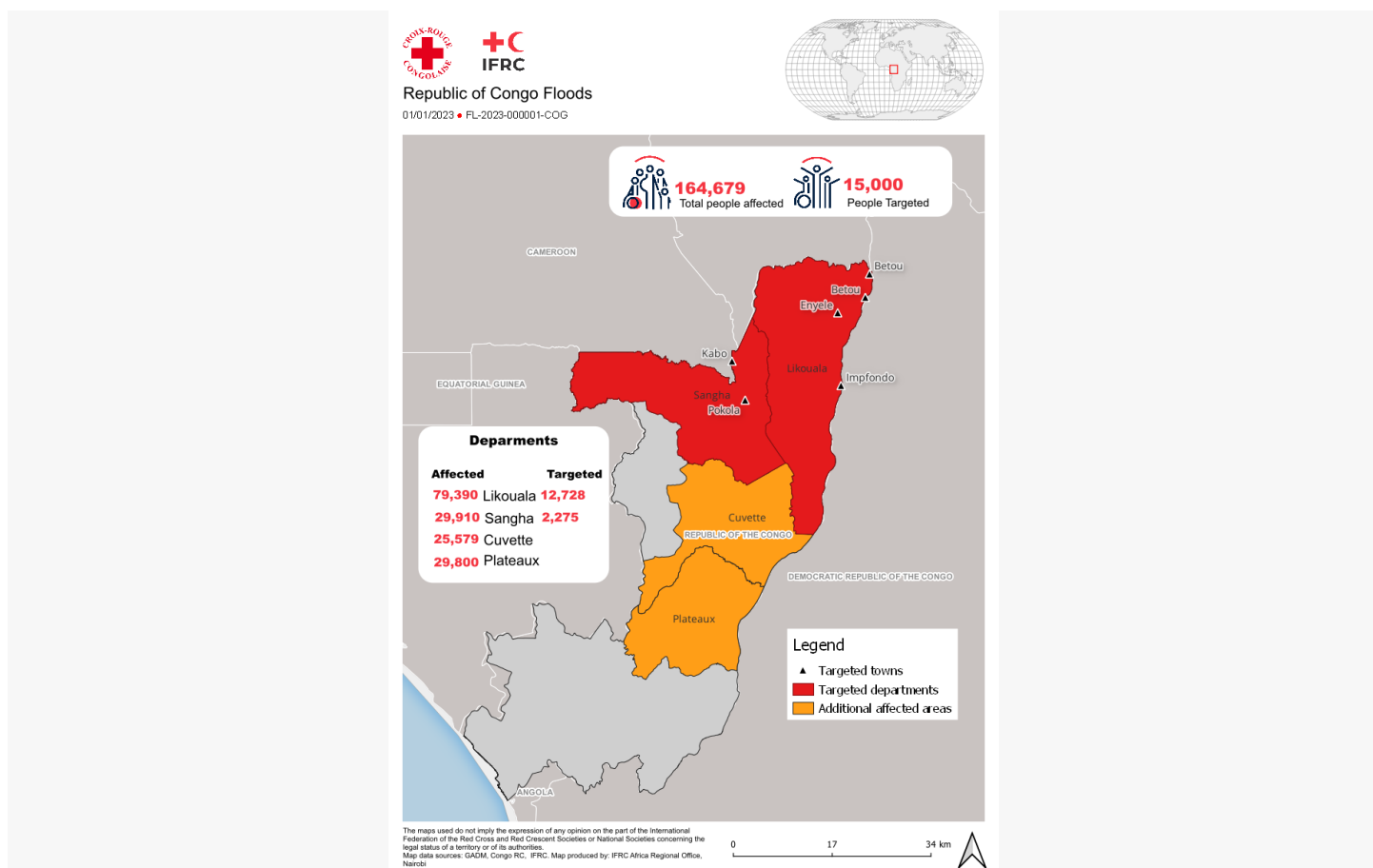


Red Cross volunteers working to restore a plot of land after floods

Appeal: <b>MDRCG020</b>	Total DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 489,727</b>	Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Hazard: <b>Flood</b>
Glide Number: <b>FL-2023-000001-COG</b>	People Affected: <b>164,679 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>15,000 people</b>	
Event Onset: <b>Slow</b>	Operation Start Date: <b>10-01-2023</b>	Operational End Date: <b>31-05-2023</b>	Total Operating Timeframe: <b>4 months</b>
Targeted Areas: <b>Likouala, Sangha</b>			

The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of Congolese Red Cross, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

# Description of the Event



Map with targeted department and affected by IFRC

## What happened, where and when?

The north-eastern part of the Republic of Congo has been affected by abundant rainfall since 2019. In November and December 2022, this part of the country was affected by flooding and violent winds. As a result of the torrential rains, the water level of the Congo River rose by 4.4m above the riverbed. This led to the total or partial flooding of several villages and districts. The departments most affected were Likouala, Sangha, Cuvette and Plateaux. There were 13 districts in the Likouala department, 7 districts in the Sangha department, 2 districts in the Cuvette department and 1 district in the Plateaux department. A total of 164679 people were affected by the flooding, according to government sources, following an assessment carried out in December 2022 with the participation of the Congolese Red Cross (CRC). The floods caused people to move from forests, churches and schools that were on farmland to neighbouring villages.

At the time of the 2021 floods, the government had put in place a strategic plan to respond to flooding in the affected localities, with the support of UN agencies and partners including the Red Cross. In support of this plan, the CRC provided assistance to communities through a DREF. Unfortunately, the lack of funding in general has limited the implementation of this plan and left the majority of the population still in need. Partner support for the government's response plan is essential.

On 30 December 2022, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Solidarity and Humanitarian Action sent a letter to the Congolese Red Cross (CRC) requesting assistance for the victims of the 2022 floods, whose needs have been identified as very large.

The Congolese Red Cross (CRC) contributed to the humanitarian response through its DREF intervention launched on 10 January 2023. The results obtained at the end (on 31 May 2023) are presented in this report.





Data collection for market analysis in Ouessou city

## Scope and Scale

The floods disaster was on a massive scale. Huge impact recorded on communities' infrastructure following the floods reported from the big rainy season of September 2022.

According to the Ministry of Humanitarian Action, between September and December 2022, a total of 220,000 people were affected by flooding in the 4 northern departments: Plateaux, Cuvette, Likouala and Sangha. Huge needs were evaluated following the detailed joint assessment led by Government where lack of drinking water (use of river water for drinking); lack of latrines, a scarcity of primary health care and access to food being part of the main humanitarian incidence.

Most of the people affected were in precarious conditions with at least 164,679 people directly affected by the floods. There were 7,161 houses totally or partially destroyed according to the Ministry of Humanitarian Action. Based on that report and triangulated information evaluated by the respective branches, NS also identified the following:

- Likouala: 79,390 people affected in up to 7 districts with 3,985 houses totally or partially destroyed and up to 97 hectares of farmland flooded. The most affected with a high level of vulnerability were reported in Betou, Impfondo and Enyellé with 45,548 people (2,948 Households) heavily affected in terms of livelihoods and culture impacted, houses destroyed in addition to the people affected. 754 houses were destroyed in Betou and 1,721 in Impfondo. The proximity with rivers created a condition that heightened the impact of floods that heavy rains caused. In Enyellé city, 489 houses were flooded, and in Pokola 567 houses were flooded. In the locality of Kabo in the Sanghe department, 244 houses were destroyed.
- Sangha: 29,910 people affected, representing 1,223 HH and over 24 hectares of land covered by overflowing waters. The impact was recorded in 3 localities of which Kabo and Polola were the most affected, totaling 24,634 people being affected.
- Cuvette and Plateaux department being the less affected with both having 55,000 people affected but a low direct impact on farmlands, housing and settlements.

There were also 173 hectares of flooded crops in the 2 departments (Likouala and Sangha).

The most vulnerable targets included some 28,644 children under the age of 5, 8,317 women, at least 9,652 pregnant or breast-feeding women, and 640 people with disabilities.

Following the floods, an increase of prices in the market for basic necessities was noted, making the affected population even more vulnerable.

The northern part of the country is still the most exposed to flooding where the population has little opportunity to recover/be resilient and are subject to frequent displacement as a survival coping mechanism and a lot of humanitarian pressure following this crises over the past years. In 2019, flooding affected around 170,000 people in the North and Centre of 8 departments (<https://floodlist.com/africa/congo-brazzaville-floods-december-2019>). In 2021, around 50,000 people have been affected by flooding along the main rivers in the Likouala, Sangha, Cuvette and Plateaux departments in the centre and north (<https://floodlist.com/africa/congo-brazzaville-floods-november-december-2021>).

## National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	No
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	-

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>Continuous technical support from the IFRC Cluster based in Kinshasa and movement coordination was provided in the planning and implementation of the DREF with a view to providing assistance to the affected populations.</p> <p>Two IFRC resource persons were deployed to the field for monitoring and evaluation missions. IFRC also had an active role in preparing and holding a workshop on the lessons learned from the DREF. The Kinshasa Delegation also supported the CRC in institutional capacity building and digital maturity.</p> <p>Both in-country deployed personnel, appointed staff and remote management and coordination positions were available to support NS leadership in the coordination with the various stakeholders in the planning, implementation and closing of this operation.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>The French Red Cross delegation, which is present in the country, has provided financial support to the CRC for its participation in the 1st joint rapid assessment mission with the Government and agencies of the United Nations System.</p> <p>Information sharing was maintained through existing RCRC platforms and coordination with all Movement partners.</p>

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

With the aim of reducing the suffering of the affected populations, the ICRC, through its office in Kinshasa, closely monitored developments in the flood situation in Congo Brazzaville and advised the NS on the measures to be taken in accordance with its mandate.

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	In response to this disaster, the Congolese government declared a state of emergency by letter No. 210989/PM/CAB dated 14 December 2022, and is seeking assistance from humanitarian organizations present in Republic of Congo.



	<p>The Ministry of Humanitarian Action conducted an assessment with humanitarian actors in the Red Cross. Parliamentarians and authorities (MPs/politicians) from the affected localities in turn brought food and non-food items to the affected populations. Red Cross volunteers supported these authorities in the distribution of food and non-food items. The government also developed a coordination plan identifying sectors of intervention, placing the Red Cross in the health, water, sanitation and livelihood sectors.</p> <p>The Ministry of Humanitarian Action, through the Heads of Social Affairs, also provided support during the registration of beneficiaries, in collaboration with CRC teams on mission in the targeted districts.</p>
<p><b>UN or other actors</b></p>	<p>Several coordination meetings were organised under government leadership.</p> <p>The UNHCR, with its presence in Likouala and Plateaux, focused on setting up temporary shelters for disaster affected populations in these areas.</p> <p>WHO: helped deliver a batch of medicines to the Ministry of Health for distribution to health centres in the affected areas.</p> <p>UNICEF: distributed school kits to children who had lost their school supplies in the disaster, and took part in coordination meetings to ensure an appropriate planning and response.</p> <p>WFP has reinforced food aid in all the affected areas through the Ministry of Humanitarian Action.</p>

**Are there major coordination mechanism in place?**

The Ministry of Humanitarian Action organised coordination meetings with partners at national level, that the Congolese Red Cross attended. The meeting was a means of coordination for all the partners. The Congolese Red Cross ensured continuous information sharing with the movement's partners.

During this DREF operation, the Congolese Red Cross took into account the recommendations made during the workshop on lessons learned from the DREF Population Movement (Ngabé) concerning the importance of good strategic and operational coordination. The CRC set up internal and external coordination with internal coordination being under the supervision of the Management Board and was part of the national platform set up by the Ministry of Humanitarian Action with the UN system in Brazzaville. At departmental level, the CRC was present and an active member of the crisis committees under the supervision of the Prefects and Sub-Prefects of the localities targeted by the operation. The National Society is an active member of all the national and local platforms tasked with disaster risk management in the Congo. The National Civil Protection Agency, which is the platform's lead agency, works in synergy with the NS in both disaster prevention and management. It was in this context that civil protection officials in the disaster-stricken areas were supported by NS volunteers deployed in the field to assess needs and register beneficiaries.

## Needs (Gaps) Identified

### Shelter Housing And Settlements

The floods caused the displacement of people whose homes were destroyed. In Betou, the assessment identified around 13,861 displaced people and 8,304 homeless people.

### Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The government's rapid assessment report showed that 173 hectares of crops were flooded in all the affected areas. Several hectares of food crops were destroyed, particularly in the localities of Kabo and Pokola Pikounda, as well as in the surrounding villages. The situation was similar in the locality of Betou. In Enyelle, where a large proportion of the population farms, the floods had a negative impact on plantations and livestock, blocking access to pastures and washing away livestock and dugout canoes, which are one of the people's sources of income.



Based on the seasonal calendar, the growing and fishing seasons have been disrupted and harvests have been reduced for most of the region.

The assessments identified the following needs:

- Livelihood support (NFI, purchase of fishing gear, improved crops)
- Food assistance for affected households, including children under 5 and pregnant women
- Food insecurity and high prices on basic foods.
- Reduced income from fishing, farming and livestock.



## Health

The people were directed to the nearest health centres by CRC rescue teams using canoes. As the health workers were themselves affected by the disaster, it was difficult to care for these people due to the lack of basic necessities. The health centres lacked support in terms of health kits as part of the health training (FOSA), and sewage treatment kits, which were important for the proper care of the affected communities. Affected households (displaced persons/refugees in host families) had no protective equipment against bad weather and were exposed to malaria vectors. The distribution of blankets and mosquito nets was necessary to limit the negative effects on their health, and must be accompanied by community awareness-raising.

In the management of cases of water-borne diseases. It should be noted that this operation did not cover this need, but evaluations showed that the Likouala and Sangha health centres needed more first-aid products to treat the sick.

Given the number of people affected by the disaster, psychological crises are a recurring problem in this disaster-stricken community. It should be noted that almost 35% of this displaced population needs psychological support, aggravated by the insalubrity and overcrowding of the host families and all the protection problems that this entails. Chronic patients, people with disabilities, the elderly, female-headed households, child-headed households, pregnant and breastfeeding women and widows all feel a strong need for psychosocial support.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Hygiene and sanitation needs were high. More than 1,890 latrines were damaged by flooding in the Likouala and Sangha departments, leading to the pollution of water sources by excrement. It should be noted that in the affected areas, only 15% of households had usable latrines, and water was stagnating in community spaces. There is still a clear risk of water-borne and faecal-oral diseases.

# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

The DREF allocation objective was to assist 15,000 people (3,000 households) affected by the floods, by providing support in the areas of hygiene and water sanitation, livelihoods, health (combating water-borne and contagious diseases, case referral) and community involvement in the Likouala (Betou, Impfondo and Enyellé) and Sangha (Kabo and Ouesso) departments for 4 months.

## Operation strategy rationale

The strategy of the Congolese Red Cross (CRC) was to contribute to reducing the risk of exposure to health risks and difficulties resulting from flooding. The aim was to include a cash and in-kind support for the most pressing needs; ensure psychosocial and first aid support as well as health and WASH; ensuring socio-community cohesion in the various actions carried out jointly with the beneficiaries and the various platforms (social action district, departmental crisis coordination, representatives of the affected communities).

To achieve this, it was planned to mobilise 150 volunteers and 7 supervisors to implement the operation. The CRC was expected to focus on the following areas:

- Strengthening livelihoods through the distribution of cash following a rapid and detailed assessment, followed by a market analysis in the different zones of the operation with the identification of beneficiaries and the provision of cash assistance and a post-cash distribution assessment.
- Assistance with water, hygiene and sanitation by making household drinking water potable through the distribution of Aquatabs, followed by awareness-raising by CRC volunteers trained and equipped with IEC WASH/Health equipment. The DREF allowed to provide



volunteers with sanitation kits and pre-position equipment and protection kits, followed by hygiene promotion by the volunteers.

- Promote health by raising awareness of water-borne diseases and referring cases to the nearest health centre.
- Contribute to community involvement and accountability by setting up a complaints collection and management committee for each locality targeted by the operation, and by setting up and supporting a community feedback system (including the monitoring of rumours and/or perceptions). Radio messages were also broadcast in local languages on the main role of the Red Cross and its main multi-sectoral interventions, its relationship with public and political services and social mobilization to promote good practice via discussion groups.
- Information sharing and coordination has been kept with Government, stakeholders and all RCRC partners involved for a joint effort on addressing the disaster and main vulnerabilities. • • Communication was maintained through the existing platform: meetings, visits and joint activities were frequently used for combined efforts and decision making.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who was targeted by this operation?

The operation targeted 15,000 people, i.e. 3,000 households identified and registered as flood affected population in the localities of Enyellé, Betou and Impfondo in the Likouala department and the localities of Kabo and Ouessou in the Sangha department.

The targeting starting point was the scope of impact with initial geographical selection of the most affected areas and the most significant vulnerabilities to be addressed taking into consideration assessment data, continuous evaluation and actions from others partners.

These target localities were confirmed with the administrative authorities during the joint CRC/IFRC assessment mission in February 2023 to several flooded districts and a large number of affected households.

### Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection of the population was made by involving the Heads of CAS and the Heads of Integrated Health Centres or the Chief Doctors of the base hospitals and the Heads of State Services. This was done on the basis of the following criteria:

- Households that had lost their homes
- Households headed by women
- Elderly people living alone
- Households with pregnant or breastfeeding women
- Households with people living with disabilities
- Households with children under 5
- Households with young orphans
- People displaced for security reasons

The multi-sectoral rapid assessment forms completed and signed by the Heads of the Social Affairs Circumscription, were made available to the CRC.

## Total Targeted Population

Women	4,268	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	2,846	Urban	-
Men	5,521	People with disabilities (estimated)	7%
Boys (under 18)	2,365		
Total targeted population	15,000		



# Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Difficulties in carrying out field visits due to accessibility constraints in the target localities. Missions often had to be carried out by crossing the river in paying pirogues or ferries, whereas the NS does not have any canoes. Added to this were the poor state of the roads and the rising cost of fuel. These constraints have led to an overrun in the transport budget.	The CRC teams combined several activities and monitoring missions in order to avoid several trips and crossings on the water.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

During the operation, CRC volunteers deployed in the two target departments were provided with insurance and personal protective equipment.

## Implementation



### Multi Purpose Cash

**Budget:** CHF 276,441

**Targeted Persons:** 15,000

**Assisted Persons:** 15,000

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of PDMs carried out	1	1
Number of evaluations completed	2	2
Number of households receiving cash grants	3,000	3,000
Percentage of assisted households surveyed who state that cash assistance is sufficient to cover their basic needs	95	98

### Narrative description of achievements

The CRC team deployed for the DREF carried out several activities to ensure the success of the cash transfer process. These included

- Identifying and registering the most vulnerable heads of household,
- Confirming the primary needs and priorities, preferences of the targeted communities
- Engaged the communities on the cash criteria, process and preferred feedback system,
- Raising awareness through home visits to public administrative squares, markets, crossroads and places of concentration around the selected sites, awareness-raising via radio broadcasts and the distribution of cash via mobile money. Awareness-raising messages focused on the distribution mechanism and modality (electronic monetary transfer via mobile money, the amount of 50,000 FCFA, etc.), the criteria for selecting people to be assisted, the activities' periods, and also the collection and management of feedback from community members (complaints committee, etc.).
- Interactive discussions with key leaders and agents from the Ministry of Humanitarian Action were organized to ensure alignment and agreement on the process,
- In parallel of the planning of cash process and engagement of stakeholder and communities, a monitoring of local markets were conducted.



A first rapid analysis of the market in the villages was carried out, mainly in the areas around the relocation sites. The aim of this assessment was to monitor price trends and determine the extent to which displaced people will be able to access the basic products they usually buy on the markets. The market system was functional and also enabled the electronic money transfer mechanism to be confirmed through a mobile money provider. A continuous monitoring of prices was ensured by the respective branches to ensure the cash amount and product most needed were still aligned with market.

31 volunteers were trained to carry out the assessments and prepare the money transfer. A total of 3,000 heads of household received a cash transfer. They received FCFA 50,000 in a single distribution.

- A post-distribution monitoring mission was carried out.

It found that 98% of the heads of households who had received cash transfers said that the humanitarian assistance they had received was sufficient to cover their basic needs. At the time of the survey, 94.3% of respondents had already spent all the money they had received. Overall, 43% had used it to run a small business or improve their fields, 37.9% to buy agricultural inputs, 34.5% to buy building materials, 30.3% for education, 25.4% for health expenses, 15.5% for food, 8.7% for repair labour, 3.4% for savings and 1.9% to buy clothes. In 12.9% of cases it was the man who decided how to use the money, in 54.2% of cases it was the woman head of household and in 32.2% it was the man and woman together.

Stories :

A woman from Betou who received the cash transfer.

"I thank the workshop organisers for getting me from Betou to Brazzaville. I did not expect that. I couldn't have imagined one day that I would be sitting in a workshop like that. For the Red Cross, my impression is really that I'm emotional. My emotion is swallowed up because what I had to say has already been said in the workshop. I thank the Red Cross because I received the cash. In Betou, I was even the first to receive the message on the telephone.

Other times we had been identified, but the Red Cross came to identify us and it is the first time I have received the cash. Our plot was really flooded. We couldn't get into the house. With the money I received, I bought some red earth to try and put on the plot. That helped a bit, but I don't want it to end there. We have to keep going, because when there's flooding, we feel really sorry. We have local toilets and when there's flooding, both the plot and the toilet are at the same level. We don't know where to put our feet, but the Red Cross has come to show us what we can do to transfer cash and how to live. If this continues, even in the villages that are flooded, we'll have another idea of leaving the area that's flooded to go and find another area that isn't flooded. I'm delighted to have arrived in Brazzaville and taken part in the Red Cross workshop, and I'd like to congratulate the Red Cross".

Likouala Departmental Director of Humanitarian Action

"The Red Cross operation I saw in Likouala was a first. Even no politician has ever done this. When it happened, the people were jubilant; totally jubilant. On the evening of Friday 21 April 2023, I was at home and I started to see the people at home and the people were saying: Chief, it's good! it's good! I asked what was good? they replied: What you said last time, now it's really effective! It's not easy to get money like that and I told them that for Impfondo alone, you have 86 million. That's unheard of! Go and do your activities and you'll see how much more you'll get.

With the Red Cross, thank you, and that day when I crossed the road, I met the secretary general of the department. What's going on? I said chief, it's the money from the Red Cross. They came here and fulfilled their contract. We started causing trouble and strangely enough there was a kiosk next door where we could withdraw money. The kiosk was full of people. And that's when he knew it was true. But the people want it to continue, but it's a lot of money! For the next Red Cross activities, you know some beneficiaries didn't get any money. Their name is on the list, but they haven't received the money on their phone, so if the Red Cross can manage that, that would be the best solution. But they're happy, everyone. And when you go down the streets of Impfondo, if you're dressed as a Red Cross, they even want to carry you in triumph".

## Lessons Learnt

- The CRC has learned a major lesson, which is to sign agreements with other financial service providers, such as microfinance institutions, to help facilitate the distribution of cash. The aim is to extend its portfolio of partners to provide a wider choice and greater efficiency in cash transfers.
- Given the difficulties encountered in registering beneficiaries, more than half of whom did not have valid identity cards, the direct cash transfer tried out by the CRC would have been a more effective solution for this operation.

## Challenges

- Difficulty in identifying and registering beneficiaries due to lack of identity papers and their absence (in the fields) at the time of the activity.



**Budget:** CHF 41,048

**Targeted Persons:** 15,000

**Assisted Persons:** 18,585

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of volunteers trained	45	45
Number of people who received first aid	350	175

## Narrative description of achievements

From the start of the disaster, 28 volunteers from the Betou branch of the CRC were deployed to provide relief and psychosocial support to 89 people trapped in camps, while 10 volunteers from Impfondo and 7 from Enyellé helped relatives of victims found dead in the water to bury them (a total of 19 bodies were buried on the Enyellé and Impfondo farms). A total of 150 volunteers were deployed for this DREF, including 34 volunteers who provided relief and psychosocial support in the five districts targeted by the operation, distributed as follows: 6 volunteers in Enyellé, 12 volunteers in Impfondo, 4 volunteers in Kabo, 6 volunteers in Ouessou and 6 volunteers in Betou. In total, the PSS activities reached 11,320 people.

The CRC trained/retrained 45 volunteers on health-related topics (first aid, psychosocial care, Epic with a focus on water-borne diseases). These volunteers were deployed to promote health.

The majority of the displaced population needed psychological support. This was exacerbated by the health problems and overcrowding in the host families and all the protection problems that this generates. Chronically ill people, people with disabilities, the elderly, female-headed households, child-headed households, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers, widows felt a strong need for psychosocial support and the most vulnerable of them crossed to the other side of the DRC for care.

The CRC purchased 45 first aid kits. A total of 175 people received first aid treatment. Some of them were referred to the nearest health facilities by the CRC rescue teams using pirogues. It should also be noted that it has been difficult to treat the people referred due to a lack of basic necessities, despite state support for these health centres in terms of 75 first aid kits (insufficient quantities).

The households affected did not have any protective equipment against bad weather, although awareness-raising sessions were held by volunteers on the prevention of water-borne diseases. Health promotion activities reached 18,585 people.

## Lessons Learnt

The volunteers have improved their awareness-raising activities by regularly explaining to members of the target communities the concepts of vulnerability criteria prior to registration, and then on health and WASH. For the NS and all the stakeholders, it was an effective approach to use and continue to improve in future interventions.

## Challenges

Lack of first aid items in health centres to provide care for disaster victims



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

**Budget:** CHF 70,954

**Targeted Persons:** 15,000

**Assisted Persons:** 18,585

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of households receiving aquatabs	3,000	3,000
Proportion of population affected by hygiene promotion activities	90	100

## Narrative description of achievements

The assessments also covered the WASH sector. The involvement of the communities in this process also facilitated their participation in the actions to be undertaken.

This confirmed the needs identified at the start of the operation. As a result, 44 volunteers were trained in WASH issues. They were deployed to promote good water, hygiene and environmental sanitation practices. In all, 18,585 people were reached by awareness-raising activities to prevent water-borne diseases.

CRC teams also distributed Aquatabs to 3,000 households. Heads of household were given information on treating water at home.

The NS also implemented measures to mitigate the effects of flooding identified by the communities (increasing the height of dams, draining gutters, sanitation work, etc.).

## Lessons Learnt

A good result was the adhesion of the members of the target communities in the sensitization activities and the use of aquatabs. Awareness raising coupled with sanitation and distribution of aquatabs was a good practice, however aquatabs are not sustainable, as after the end of the operation communities continued to demand them.

## Challenges

Faced with the gap in drinking water, a community solution could be to raise awareness of the need to introduce aquatabs locally, but this product is not available on local markets.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

**Budget:** CHF 1,206

**Targeted Persons:** 15,000

**Assisted Persons:** 8,247

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of volunteers and supervisors trained on minimum standards for ERP	157	157

## Narrative description of achievements

Overall, the 150 volunteers and their 7 supervisors were trained in the minimum standards of PGI (Protection, Gender, Inclusion). They were made aware of the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

The assessment teams were trained in the CEA approach and its specific tools for initial needs assessment. This focused on communication skills, participation, feedback and PSEA/Inclusion modules to ensure good target group engagement and involvement. Information on volunteers has been integrated into the PSEA. This has ensured good involvement and participation of the target groups and host



populations. There has also been the identification of safe referral pathways for patients seeking psychological support and their referral done accordingly.

## Lessons Learnt

It is important to include local CAS agents and specific committees (indigenous people, mothers' clubs, youth clubs, etc.) in the CRC volunteer teams during DREF operations for more inclusive actions while seeking gender equality in participation in thematic workshops and other activities. In the same vein, it is important to strengthen meetings with opinion leaders, influencers and other partners to ensure continued involvement in activities during operations.

## Challenges

No major challenges reported



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 19,619

**Targeted Persons:** 15,000

**Assisted Persons:** 6,171

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of IEC materials distributed	3,000	2,456
Number of volunteers trained	45	42

## Narrative description of achievements

In order to strengthen the DREF's work with the people of Sangha and Likouala, 150 volunteers were deployed, 42 of whom were involved in community engagement and accountability (CEA) in the selected districts. They were distributed as follows: 8 CEA volunteers in Betou, 7 volunteers in Enyellé, 13 volunteers in Impfondo, 6 volunteers in Kabo and 8 volunteers in Ouesso. In the course of their work, the volunteers reached 6,171 people directly.

It should be noted that meetings with the volunteers, the Departmental Directions of Social Affairs (DDAS), the Circonscription of Social Action (CAS), opinion leaders and women's groups took place twice a month for 4 months. Meetings were also held with the implementation committees (religious leaders, neighbourhood chiefs, women's groups) via WhatsApp. There were also meetings with the Native Feedback Committee in the Kabo District and the Betou District, not forgetting contracts with Radio Ouesso in the Sangha, and Radio Betou and Impfo in the Likouala. Programmes were broadcast on topics such as: What is a cash transfer? The selection criteria for cash transfers, etc. A total of 21 broadcasts were produced over nearly 4 months, indirectly reaching the target populations.

## Lessons Learnt

The trained volunteers carried out CEA activities in all the localities targeted by the operation. Their actions made it possible to collect community feedback in order to adapt the mode of assistance to the constraints on the ground. This was very useful when distributing cash transfers and aquatabs. Based on the CEA actions, proposals were made on the strategy for registering and identifying beneficiaries, such as RC tokens/badges to be used only during the cash transfer operation for local financial assistance, and then communication on the criteria for selecting heads of households to receive the cash transfer.

## Challenges

Radio broadcasts were unable to cover Kabo and Enyellé because there are no community radio stations.





## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 44,375

**Targeted Persons:** 6

**Assisted Persons:** 6

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Surge Deployed	1	1
Field monitoring mission at the level of the villages	5	6

### Narrative description of achievements

During the operation, one (1) cash transfer specialist was deployed to Congo for 3 months.

The IFRC, through its Cluster team based in Kinshasa and the team deployed for the Likouala-Sangha DREF, provided regular support for the implementation and monitoring of activities in the field.

During the four months of implementation of the activities, 6 missions were carried out. These missions made it possible to:

- Strengthen the CRC's institutional base,
- Support the continuous assessment and triangulation of data,
- Identify the heads of households who had received the cash transfer,
- Support co-facilitate of Training/refresher training for volunteers when necessary with surge and IFRC technical
- Support the cash distribute cash transfers and NFIs and feedback system for the process and post-distribution monitoring
- Post distribution monitoring of cash transfers and management of complaints.

During these field missions, the CRC team was accompanied by Surge Cash. The post-distribution monitoring mission was carried out jointly with CRC managers, CRC operational teams, an IFRC team from Kinshasa and the local authorities of the target communities in Likouala and Sangha.

### Lessons Learnt

The consolidation of the CRC's institutional anchoring and the creation of a framework for consultation with stakeholders are important for the success of the Red Cross' actions. The mission to monitor the governance of the CRC contributed to its institutional anchoring. It also made it possible to meet the local authorities and present the Red Cross operation to them. They then relayed the information to the neighbourhood chiefs and then to the community.

### Challenges

There has been an underestimation of the costs associated with field missions, in particular because of the increase in the cost of fuel at the station and at the resellers, and also because of the difficulties of access (by road and by river) to the activity areas. A solution to the problem of access to the areas could be to collaborate with the other humanitarian actors and the state authorities present, who have good transport capacity. To this end, the return journey of the IFRC's Surge Cash transfer to Brazzaville was facilitated by the Departmental Director of Social Action and she was transported by helicopter. It has also been suggested that the IFRC purchase a canoe to facilitate travel on the river.



## National Society Strengthening

**Budget:** CHF 36,083

**Targeted Persons:** 157

**Assisted Persons:** 157



## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Deployed Supervisors	7	7
Volunteers trained, insured and deployed	150	150

## Narrative description of achievements

In terms of strengthening the NS, the following results were achieved:

- A total of 150 volunteers and 7 team leaders were trained/retrained in the different areas of the operation and deployed to ensure the success of the operation
- 44 CRC volunteers, including 9 from Betou, 7 from Enyellé, 12 from Impfondo, 6 from Kabo and 10 from Ouessou, carried out awareness-raising operations on environmental hygiene, food protection, making drinking water drinkable by distributing aquatabs, household waste management, sanitation and the use of latrines.
- 42 CRC volunteers, including 8 from Betou, 7 from Enyellé, 13 from Impfondo, 6 from Kabo and 8 from Ouessou, carried out awareness-raising activities on the AEC.
- 34 CRC volunteers, including 6 from Ouessou, 4 from Kabo, 12 from Impfondo, 6 from Enyellé and 6 from Betou, provided psychosocial support to vulnerable groups.
- 30 CRC volunteers, including 6 from Betou; 5 from Enyellé; 9 from Impfondo; 4 from Kabo and 6 from Ouessou, raised awareness among beneficiaries about cash transfers.
- 5 CRC staff were deployed on a part-time basis to support field activities with the volunteers.

Logistical support was provided regularly throughout the operation. Two vehicles were used on all missions. Resources were also available for the purchase of inputs and the distribution of protective equipment for volunteers and supervisors.

- A lessons learned workshop was organised during the last week to capitalise on the operation in order to improve future interventions, but also to help strengthen the institutional and operational capacities of the Congolese Red Cross and make it a leading humanitarian partner in the country.

The workshop enabled the Red Cross to bring together the various stakeholders (community members, local authorities, WFP, WHO, IFRC, CRC, etc.) to take stock of the implementation of the operation. Participants discussed challenges, best practices and made recommendations. In general, it was concluded that the CRC operation had been relevant and effective, and had helped to build the capacity of staff, volunteers and other stakeholders in cash transfer.

According to the workshop participants, the operation was carried out satisfactorily, although a number of weaknesses were noted at institutional and operational level, leading to a number of recommendations:

- Hold weekly meetings between the national coordination and the technical staff of the Ministry responsible for the disaster response and recovery plan, which includes all the actions of the partners involved in this response, as well as the actions of the Congolese Red Cross.
- For future interventions and the implementation of the DREFs, in addition to the heads of the operational teams, the Departmental and Local Presidents of the NS must attend the crisis meetings organized by the Prefects of the disaster areas in order to ensure that the intervention dynamics adopted by the National Coordination of the CRC are integrated.
- Improve real-time sharing of information and Sitreps at the Kinshasa cluster to contribute to overall decision-making.
- Continue to raise awareness among volunteers of the Rights and Duties of Volunteers and the Fundamental Principles in future operations.

## Lessons Learnt

- The involvement of the Departmental Directors of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Heads of Circumscriptions (CAS) during evaluations, monitoring missions and in the implementation greatly contributed to the acceptance of the Red Cross by the affected communities on all the activities carried out in the different areas of intervention (Cash Transfer, Health, Wash, etc). Taking into account the contributions of the CAS has been beneficial for this operation, particularly in Kabo, Ouessou, Enyellé, Impfondo and Betou.
- It would be beneficial to improve the dissemination of existing documents on DREF operations at branch and sub-branch level and to raise awareness among volunteers so that they can actively participate in the activities. This is necessary in order to prepare for future disasters. They have acquired good knowledge about their roles as active volunteers. Their capacities were well appreciated during the visit of the CRC national leaders to the various sites where activities were implemented.
- The equitable distribution of material resources and mobility on a permanent basis in the operational zones is necessary for the effectiveness of humanitarian responses. This was the case during this operation, with good availability of most of the logistics.
- The creation of more income-generating activities by the NS/Local Branches could help mobilize additional funds to meet urgent needs.



## Challenges

Difficulties linked to access constraints by river to localities and villages (case of Pikounda and Pokola-Village)



# Financial Report

## DREF Operation

### FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

#### MDRCG020 - Republic of Congo - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 10 Jan 2023 to 31 May 2023

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/1-11	Operation	MDRCG020
Budget Timeframe	2023/1-05	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 03/Jan/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### I. Summary

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>489,727</b>
DREF Response Pillar	489,727
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-476,802</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>12,925</b>

### II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			0
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	276,441	253,776	22,665
PO04 - Health	41,048	45,399	-4,351
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	70,954	80,531	-9,577
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	1,206		1,206
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery			0
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	19,619	16,722	2,898
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
<b>Planned Operations Total</b>	<b>409,268</b>	<b>396,428</b>	<b>12,840</b>
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships		1,896	-1,896
EA02 - Secretariat Services	44,375	40,169	4,207
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	36,083	38,310	-2,226
<b>Enabling Approaches Total</b>	<b>80,459</b>	<b>80,374</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>489,727</b>	<b>476,802</b>	<b>12,925</b>

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

## Please explain variances (if any)

The total budget and allocation for the DREF operation was CHF 489,727 for a 4-month implementation period (from 10 January 2023 to 31 May 2023). The total expenditure reported in this operation is CHF 476,802 with a closing balance of CHF 12,925 (2,6%) that will be returned to the DREF pot with the closure of this intervention. Budget implementation rate is 97,4%. Explanations for variances of 10% and beyond are provided below:

- Logistics, Transport Storage

The price of fuel increased just after the DREF was validated, even though the budgeted amount was lower (475F compared with 500F). The roads in the intervention zones are difficult to drive on, which has led to the extension of mission days, logistic arrangements, hence

additional transport cost.

- Personnel

The Surge's allowances could not be paid because the end-of-mission reports were submitted very late.

The Surge spent more time in the field than in the city (Brazzaville), which meant that the cost of accommodation in the city was significantly reduced. This generated savings in this line.

- Consultants & Professional Fees

The complete coverage of certain areas of the operation (the most vulnerable) has added extra costs over and above the initial budget. With coordination with Government, the NS has to adjust some sub-location targeted (villages) to match with the vulnerabilities identified. These changes led to additional cost for most of the support cost, communication, material printing etc. This explains the over-consumption of the budget.

- Workshops & Training

The complete coverage of certain areas of the operation (the most vulnerable) has added extra costs to the initial budget with new arrangements for volunteers and the various trainings. The place for the trainings were then different from the initial planned of grouping them. This required additional budget to be re-oriented to cover the sub-locations targeted and trainings to be conducted in each. That approach also fits the different level of capacity in each area, allowing to adapt the training.



# Contact Information

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