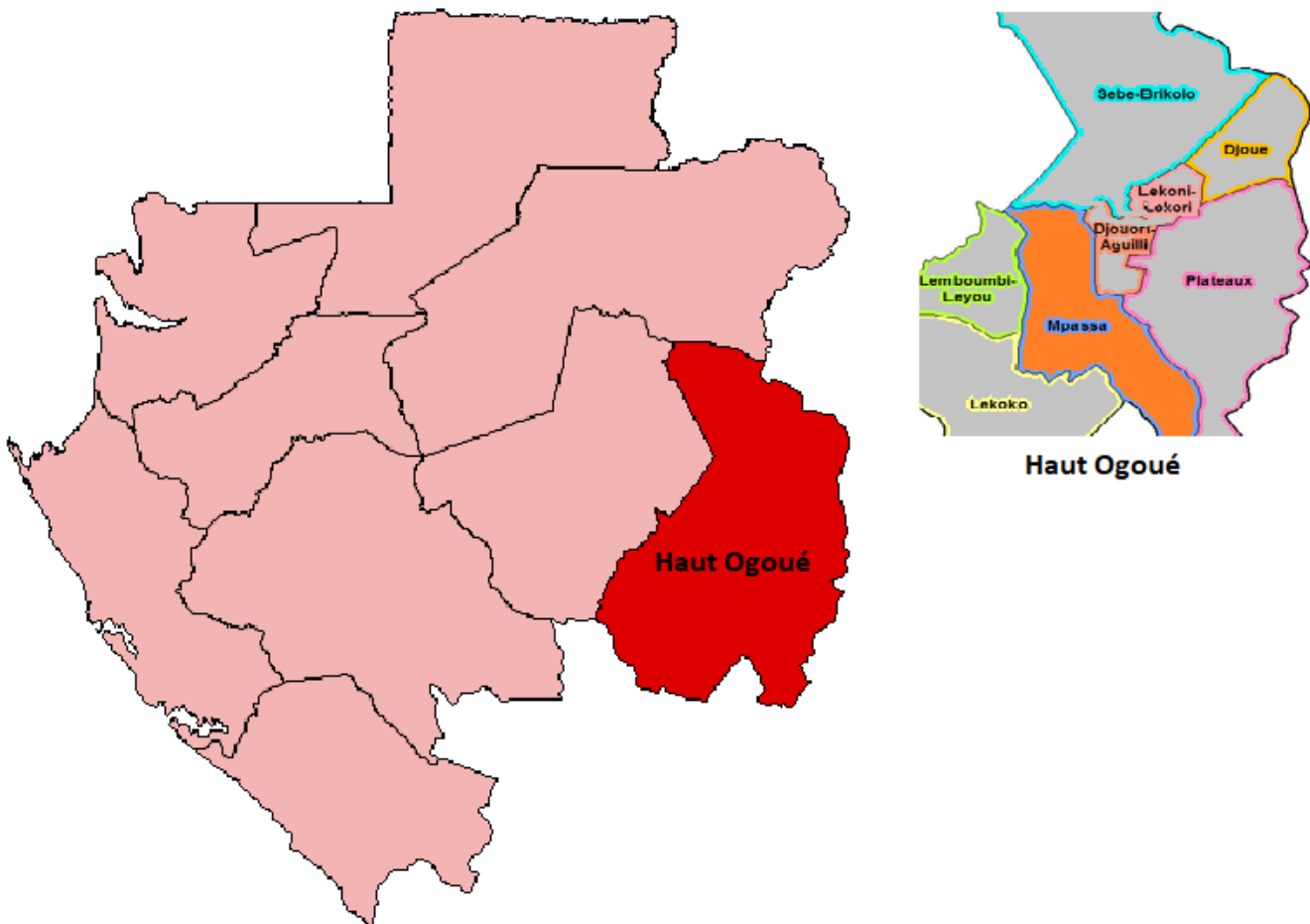




House destroyed by the windstorm surge, 15 May 2023

Appeal: MDRGA010	Country: Gabon	Hazard: Storm Surge	Type of DREF Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 157,377	
Glide Number:	People Affected: 3,000 people	People Targeted: 1,818 people	
Operation Start Date: 2023-05-25	Operation Timeframe: 4 months	Operation End Date: 2023-09-30	DREF Published:
Targeted Areas:	Haut-Ogooue		

Description of the Event



Map of affected province. Source: Gabon RC

What happened, where and when?

On Monday 15 May 2023, torrential rain accompanied by violent winds hit Franceville, the chief town of the Haut Ogooué Province in Gabon, causing extensive damage. The damage affected a large number of families, as well as public and private infrastructures, destroying schools, shops and electricity poles.

Nearly 3,000 people, or 500 households are affected, with almost 200 homes destroyed or swept away by the violent winds that accompanied the rains. Several businesses were also affected, as were schools and administrative buildings.

Some of the victims found refuge with relatives, friends and acquaintances. The public authorities also visited the disaster sites. The city's 1st and 3rd districts were the worst hit, and the rain keeps falling on Franceville.



Magoungou district. Sheet metal of a house completely destroyed at a crossroads. Quartier St Hilaire. Roof of the Lycée Monseigneur Jéan J.

Scope and Scale

According to information received from the Haut Ogooué provincial Red Cross committee, torrential rain accompanied by violent winds hit the town of Franceville on Monday 15 May 2023, causing significant damage. The damage affected around 500 households, as well as infrastructure such as schools, shops and electricity poles littering the roads, with major safety risks for the population. The provincial RC Committee is currently assessing the situation with volunteers, and from every indication, 303 households, or 1,818 people, are the most vulnerable of all those affected

Since the beginning of the rainy season, torrents of rain have damaged several public infrastructures in Franceville and other localities of the Mpassa Division. Buildings and houses have been affected, as well as access roads, in particular the railway linking Libreville to Mpassa, and the road linking these areas to the capital. The government needs to work hard to restore the road network as road access is a major challenge, if not virtually impossible during the rains. The most common means of access is by air.

The need for shelters is likely to be the greatest, followed by basic necessities for households whose houses were the worst affected, with collapsed roofs, walls or parts of houses. More than 200 houses have been affected. Most of the needs resulted from losses caused by high winds and collapsing roofs or buildings. The trees in the vicinity also contributed to the deterioration of public and private property.

Torrential rains in Gabon are slanting and heavy, generally accompanied by landslides and/or violent winds throughout the rainy season. The rainy season, which began in October, will last until at least end of May or early June, depending on climatic variations. In general, an average monthly rainfall of 200 to 250 mm is expected. The Haut Ogooué is the wettest province, especially in Ougoué Maritime.

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?

Yes

Did it affect the same population groups?

Yes

Did the National Society respond?	No
Did the National Society request funding from DREF for that event(s)?	No
If yes, please specify which operations	-

Lessons learned

Gabon Red Cross Society (GRCS) has not experienced such impact of windstorms for a long time. Indeed, past interventions engaged by the National Society was focused on floods response, preparedness ahead of elections or Marburg disease risks. Based on these past interventions, the main learnings to be considered are challenges linked to organization of the team, roles and capacity strengthening.

The GRCS disaster management are usually led by HQ command, requiring deployment from HQ which comes with its own challenges, especially now with the distances and ongoing rainy season. In addition, the response team of the NS at HQ level is quite new to IFRC procedures and DREF, requiring an onboarding to the minimum requirements and adequate definition of roles and responsibilities to maintain the level of mobilization and operability of the intervention teams.

Current National Society Actions

Assessment	The NS has deployed volunteers from the Haut Ogooué provincial committee to the field to assess the situation. In fact, the National President of the Gabonese Red Cross led a joint mission with Government members on 18 May in order to assess the situation and determine the support to be provided to the population.
Other	Regular information meetings are held between the HQ and the branches. Data continues to be updated depending on the capacity of the teams deployed. Discussions and coordination with local authorities continue.

Movement Partners Actions Related To The Current Event

IFRC	The IFRC Cluster Office based in Yaoundé held a meeting with the NS to get more information on the situation in the affected region. Support has been given to post an alert on the GO Platform and a Cluster team has been activated to assist the NS in developing a response plan
ICRC	No ICRC action has been taken at the moment.
Participating National Societies	No PNS present in Gabon

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	Officials from the Haut Ogooué Governor's office visited the area to assess the situation. According to a press release signed by the Prime Minister on 15th May 2023, the President of the Republic has instructed the Government to visit Franceville from 17th to 18th May 2023 to provide aid and assistance to the victims, as well as to assess the extent of the damage and explore ways and means to remedy them. No detail has been given on the nature of the assistance to be provided and the number of people who will be assisted by the authorities.
UN or other actors	No action has been taken by the United Nations system or other actors.
Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?	
No coordination mechanism has been put in place. However, the coordinator of Gabonese RC operations in Haut Ogooué met with the Governor to talk about the situation.	



Needs (Gaps) Identified



Health

At community level, this situation is creating mosquito niches and factors conducive to diarrhoeal diseases and other diseases linked to dirty water. The risk of a disease/epidemic occurring must be prevented. The sensitisation of communities is an immediate priority.

The destruction of infrastructure and the management of debris expose communities to the risk of injury.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The rains were violent but swift, washing away roads, garbage and community structures. According to information received from the provincial Red Cross committee, several drainage channels were destroyed, creating a high-risk environment for households, especially children and vulnerable groups. In addition, the reservoirs of rainwater naturally created by the absence of run-offs due to the transported debris limit environmental hygiene conditions and foster vector niches.

A number of households that have found refuge with host families are also in need of ongoing household hygiene support, helping to prevent water-borne diseases and poor hygiene.

Immediate access to drinking water is also necessary for these households, for whom some of the water supply routes normally used have been cut off or damaged by the winds, or whose wells and boreholes have simply become cloudy during the rainy season or have received significant debris, and require measures to clean up and stabilise the quality of the water.

As the government is committed to restoring the infrastructure, the GRC will first ensure immediate access to drinking water by supplying water treatment equipment.



Shelter Housing And Settlements

According to data collected by the branches up to 18th May, 200 houses were damaged by the winds in Franceville and its vicinity. These homes are either uninhabitable or too risky for families to move into. The debris also damaged household equipment. With no other options, many households keep living in their homes or in neighboring host households.

Operational Strategy



Overall objective of the operation

The overall objective of this operation is to provide direct assistance to 303 households (1,818 people) in the areas of shelter and household items, basic needs, hygiene promotion and health.

In addition, the National Society will be carrying out an ongoing assessment on the ground to obtain further information on the damage caused by the violent winds, and if necessary, update the response strategy for this operation. The initial timeframe for this operation is four months to make sure that the NS has time to carry out all the activities.

Operation strategy rationale

This operation is defined based on existing data due to access limitations following damage caused by high winds. GRC intends to provide immediate assistance to 303 households in the following sectors

1- Shelter and household items through Multi-purpose Cash (Target: 200 households or 1,200 people):

The National Society intends to provide shelter support to 200 households whose homes were partially or totally destroyed. The support will be given in cash so that households can easily focus on the most pressing need for each family. This method of support will also enable households to maintain their dignity by leaving them the choice of how to use the cash provided.

Having signed an agreement with Airtel (a local mobile phone company), the NS will consider the possibility of using this contract to provide cash support, either through mobile money transfers or other methods. As there are no further details on the market analysis, this operation will first make available XAF 100,000, or CHF 148 per household. The calculation of this sum is an estimate, as the average rent in Gabon for a modern room is XAF 50,000, so this amount will be used for two months' rent.

In addition, a lump sum of XAF 30,000 (CHF 44) will also be given to the targeted households to enable them to buy the minimum household items they will need, such as kitchen equipment, blankets and mattresses, depending on their needs.

A total of XAF 130,000 will be distributed to 200 households, and a further XAF 5,000 will be added as withdrawal fee. The fees of the Financial Service Provider (FSP) have also been budgeted at 2% of the total amount to be transferred to the beneficiaries, which is 26,000,000 CFAF, i.e., 5,200,000 CFAF for the FSP fees. All this will be confirmed during the assessment by analyzing the contract that the Gabonese Red Cross signed with Airtel

The funds provided will be multi-purpose, allowing families to either find an accommodation to rent, meet their basic needs in the host households and/or cover health costs according to their priorities.

A market assessment will be carried out at the start of implementation to confirm the strategy mentioned above. The cash strategy may be revised/adapted to better meet the needs, where relevant. The Cash Manager from the IFRC Delegation in Yaoundé will provide technical support to the NS for the market assessment and will carry out a field mission to validate the amounts

2- WASH (Target 303 households or 1,818 people):

In order to guarantee access to drinking water for the most vulnerable households, the Gabonese Red Cross intends to purchase and distribute Aqua tabs tablets for water purification in sufficient quantities for 30 days. According to Sphere standards, each person should have access to 5 litres of water a day. So, for a full month, each household will need 5L X 6 people x 30 days, or 900 litres of water per month. Each Aqua tabs tablet is supposed to purify 20 litres of pure water and is not suitable for cloudy water. Each household will therefore need 45 Aqua tabs tablets. Based on the above, a total of 13,635 Aqua tabs tablets will be purchased and distributed to 303 households for a period of one month. Some 100 additional tablets will also be purchased for use during the demonstrations



To help conserve water, jerry cans or buckets with covers will be purchased and distributed to the 303 households that will also receive Aqua tabs.

In order to limit the health risks associated with exposure to bad weather, to hygiene and sanitation conditions having deteriorated seriously, especially for households that have lost their roofs, sanitation materials will be distributed to the 303 most affected households, i.e., soap and bleach. Demonstrations on the use of the WASH materials will take place before their distributions to enable an efficient practical application. Hygiene promotion through sanitation campaigns will also take place 3 days a month for 3 months, i.e., 3 campaigns. During these sessions, the management of usual water committees will also be promoted to contribute to environmental hygiene. Supported by community water drainage and cleaning work.

In order to limit the waiting time for people in need, an assessment of the markets in Franceville will be carried out, which will make it possible to define a distribution channel that takes into account the current logistical challenges and the need for rapid action. The current options are to supply by land via Cameroon or on the spot in Franceville, depending on the results of the assessment. This is being supported by the IFRC delegation in Yaoundé, which is currently carrying out an analysis of the logistical, supply and shipping system for WASH items and shelters (if Cash proves impossible) as part of a material distribution approach.

3- Health (Target 303 households or 1,818 people):

GRC will ensure that first aid and psychological first aid is provided to the affected people as required. This will be done for 14 days from the start of implementation.

The NS will seize the opportunity of sanitation campaigns to also pass on messages about health, and how to prevent water-borne diseases and/or those linked to a dirty environment. Budgeting will therefore be done under WASH.

To prevent malaria, insecticide-treated mosquito nets will be distributed to 303 households.

4- Needs assessment: A total of 25 volunteers and 8 staff members including 4 from headquarters and 4 committee focal points will be deployed to support these assessments. Roles and responsibilities will be defined according to the NS standard disaster management procedures. The assessments will spread over 07 days and an update of the operation will be made if necessary.

The intervention will be coordinated with officials from the Haut Ogooué Governor's office to ensure synergy of actions. The findings of these assessments will be analyzed, and the NS will be able to decide on the actions to be taken according to its mandate and also the people targeted for assistance.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

All the 303 households provisionally identified as being the most vulnerable will be targeted by this operation and will all receive WASH and health support. All the 200 households that have lost their homes will receive cash support to cover their needs in terms of shelter and household items.

The assessments will focus on the general situation in Franceville and its vicinity, but more specifically on the most affected populations in the 1st and 3rd districts, which sustained the heaviest damage, and will be used to update the response strategy for this operation if necessary

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The local administrative authorities supported by the NS local disaster response team visited the affected areas and pre-estimated the number of people in need at 1,818 disaster victims. These are broken down in the table below:



Total Targeted Population

Women:	360	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	756	70.00 %	30.00 %
Men:	240	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	462	20.00 %	
Total targeted population:	1,818		

Risk and security considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
The continuity of violent winds and rain with the possibility of landslides and flooding in the area where Red Cross teams are deployed is a real risk.	Mark out a safety zone during deployment and equip volunteers with protective equipment (PPE). Make sure that teams are informed of the weather situation.
Occurrence of water-borne and parasitic diseases.	Health prevention measures have been included in the operation, by supplying teams with drinking water, making sanitation kits available.
The problem of access in the affected areas, with the destruction of infrastructure (buildings, electricity poles) and damaged roads.	Equip volunteers and assessment team with protective equipment and discuss with the authorities about the measures to be taken to clear access routes as quickly as possible. The use of alternative means of communication and transport than road and rail, including an international supply system.


Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

All staff will be equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE). Teams will make sure not to go beyond the security perimeter. A rescue team will be deployed and daily briefings and debriefings will be conducted. Given that Franceville is 700 km from Libreville, the main means of access is by rail. However, this has been closed for passenger transportation for over a month following a landslide on one section. As the road network is not developed, the only mean of accessing Franceville is by air, which is very expensive.

To reduce the risk of RCRC personnel falling victim to crime, violence or road hazards active risk mitigation measures must be adopted. Security orientation and briefing for all teams prior to deployment will also be undertaken to help ensure safety and security of response teams. Standard security protocols about general norms, cultural sensitivity and an overall code of conduct will be put in place. Minimum-security requirements will be strictly maintained. All National Society and IFRC personnel actively involved in the operations must successfully complete prior to deployment the respective IFRC security e-learning courses (i.e., Level 1 Fundamentals, Level 2 Personal and Volunteer Security and Level 3 Security for Managers). IFRC security plans will apply to all IFRC staff throughout the operation. Area specific Security Risk Assessment will be conducted for any operational area should any IFRC personnel be deployed there; risk mitigation measures will be identified and implemented.





Planned Intervention

	Shelter Housing And Settlements	Budget	CHF 2,955
		Targeted Persons	1200
Indicators		Target	
Number of blankets distributed		1200	
Number of volunteers involved in sensitisation on shelters		25	
Priority Actions:		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment of shelter needs and response approach.• Market analysis for access to missing materials for building reinforcement• Sensitisation on building risk and evacuation assistance	


	Secretariat Services	Budget	CHF 38,806
		Targeted Persons	60
Indicators		Target	
Number of people deployed from the delegation		3	
Number of follow-up visits.		2	
Number of supply and distribution plans produced		1	
Number of lessons learned workshops facilitated by the delegation		1	
Priority Actions:		<p>On the IFRC side, an Operations Surge will be deployed to support the National Society in assessments and implementation for 3 months. In addition, the Cash Officer from the Yaounde delegation will be deployed at the beginning of the operation to support market analysis and assessment. He will also support the updating of the service contract with Airtel to facilitate Cash response. This update will determine whether the response will be in the form of cash, vouchers or whether everything will have to be redirected towards in-kind distribution.</p> <p>The logistics team is working closely with the NS team on procedures for purchasing equipment and transporting them to the</p>	

	<p>field. Colleagues from the WASH, Health, PMER, CEA, PGI, Communication and Cash sectors will provide remote support not only for the development of assessment tools, but also for the implementation of the operation.</p> <p>The delegation will also monitor the operation throughout and will support the updating and closure of this intervention through 3 staffs (Cash, programme and finance manager), ensuring the organization of a lessons-learned workshop</p>
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	Health	Budget	CHF 14,017
		Targeted Persons	1818
Indicators		Target	
Number of people sensitized		1818	
Number of insecticide-treated mosquito nets distributed		909	
Priority Actions:		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rapid training of volunteers on epidemic prevention, psychological support• First aid and psychological first aid• Sensitisation of the population on water-borne diseases,• Distribution of mosquito nets	


	Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	Budget	CHF 14,687
		Targeted Persons	1818
Indicators		Target	
Number of Aquatabs tablets distributed		13635	
Number of households receiving Aquatabs for water purificatio		303	
Number of households reached with WASH activities		303	
Number of soaps distributed		1818	
20 L buckets with cover / Jerricans distrib-uted		606	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purchase and distribution of Aquatabs• Promotion of environmental hygiene through the sensitisation of the population, distribution of items for water purification and environmental hvgiene following the damage caused by the vio-	

Priority Actions:	<p>lent winds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information, education and communication materials will be developed and printed to promote hygiene and health. • Purchase and distribution of household hygiene and sanitation materials: Soap, bleach, jerrycans, mineral water, permanganate, buckets, etc.
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	Protection, Gender And Inclusion	Budget	CHF 2,670
		Targeted Persons	1818
Indicators		Target	
% of sensitive feedback that is received and dealt with appropriately		100	
% of feedback collected relating to PGI, PEAHS and child protection		100	
% of the team involved in the intervention having been briefed on PGI and PEAHS		60	
Priority Actions:		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Training/briefing of volunteers and staff on PGI and PEAHS (prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment)- Coordination with other sectors to mainstream PGI using PGI minimum standards in emergencies for sectors in order to ensure community dignity, access, participation and safety, with data collection disaggregated by age, gender and disability.-Consultation with communities at risk to inform and approve planned actions as the situation evolves.-Active participation of women and local leaders in the identification and registration of associations to be supported- Putting in place of separate and secure discussion sites or platforms for vulnerable groups and people with specific needs.	

	National Society Strengthening	Budget	CHF 23,150
		Targeted Persons	1818
Indicators		Target	
Number of volunteers insured		25	
Number of follow-up missions (Pro-gramme and Finance)		2	
Number of evaluation missions		1	
		30	

Number of Personal Protection Kits for volunteers on the field (PPE and raincoat)	
Number of staff mobilized and deployed in branches for monitoring	4
Number of lessons-learned workshops organised	1
Priority Actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building for volunteers and branch focal points • Mobilization and deployment of teams for activities • Monitoring and feedback of branch data • Purchase and supply of protective equipment for volunteers • Evaluation report produced and updated • Post distribution monitoring • Organization of the lessons learned workshop

	Multi-purpose Cash	Budget	CHF 59,736
		Targeted Persons	1200
Indicators		Target	
# of people receiving cash support in target households		1200	
# of households receiving cash for shelter and household items		200	
# of needs assessments conducted for which an assessment report was provided		1	
# of market assessments conducted for which an assessment report has been provided		1	
# of people trained on cash		25	
Priority Actions:		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions on the feasibility of cash will be addressed during the assessment to determine community preferences on the intervention approach. The National Society's level of preparedness for cash assistance will also be analyzed and reviewed.• Multi-sectoral needs assessment.• Assessment of the markets and the feasibility of cash via Airtel, including community preferences.• Launch of a procedure to extend the contract with the FSP or a contract for multi-purpose cash.• Distribution of cash for shelter and household items.• Assessment of supply chains and risks.• Assessment of the national and international supplier database for items.	

- Capacity building of staff and cascade to volunteers on cash. This phase will include training for the main intervention teams and 25 volunteers.

	Community Engagement And Accountability	Budget	CHF 1,356
		Targeted Persons	1818
Indicators	Target		
# of volunteers trained on the evaluation method	25		
% of feedback collected that are treated	100		
# of FGD conducted	12		
# of community meetings	12		
Priority Actions:		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Briefing of volunteers on CE• Support for the development of assessment questionnaires through the integration of questions relating to CEA,• Organisation of focus group discussions to gather information on the assessment and present the results,• Information sharing with communities and inclusion in the selection process.• Focus group discussions with communities.• Setting up of feedback and a feedback management system.• Community involvement in environmental sanitation measures.• Organization of community meetings to communicate on the criteria for selecting beneficiaries	

About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

For this operation, 25 volunteers will be deployed in Mpassa Division, Haut Ogooué Province. In addition, 4 staff at national headquarters level whose role will be to supervise and participate in the implementation of the assessment and 4 NDRT staff will be deployed at provincial level to ensure the local coordination.

To implement the operation, other departments will support the technical team. These include:

- Logistics & Procurement, which will coordinate with IFRC Cluster logistics for the various items to be purchased as well as their transportation to the field.
- APS Manager (Psychosocial Support)- His role is to coordinate the psychological assessment and support of disaster victims and volunteers involved in the operation; he will also set up counselling units.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Manager: will coordinate and plan the evaluation activities to be carried out in the field, draw up the evaluation report and make sure that the evaluation tools are filled in correctly; will help to set up indicators to aid decision-making; analyze and interpret the results for statistical processing.

- Community Engagement and Accountability Manager: will be in charge of collecting community feedback and make sure that the DREF implementation team take ownership of the CEA approach.
- Health Manager: Will coordinate health activities (distribution of mosquito nets, health promotion activities).
- WASH Officer: Will coordinate WASH activities in the field (sensitization, distribution of kits).
- Financial Manager: responsible for budget monitoring, the mid-term financial report and the final financial report. Will ensure compliance with IFRC and GRC management procedures, develop financial management tools for the activity

Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

A disaster management resource person/surge with expertise in programme evaluation and management will be deployed to support the National Society in the assessment and implementation. This deployment will last 3 months. At the Yaoundé cluster level, technical support for the development of assessment tools and the analysis of the information collected will be provided by all sectors.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

Depending on the availability of WASH items on the ground and if Cash support is not possible, the IFRC in Yaoundé and the National Society will work together to ensure that IFRC procurement procedures are followed.

How will this operation be monitored?

Given that GRC is currently implementing a Marburg Virus preparedness operation, it is imperative to ensure that the monitoring of this intervention is carried out in such a way as not to overlook any of the operations. The NS will therefore start by defining clear roles and responsibilities, with precise reporting for each position's responsibility. 4 local branch supervisors will be involved in the response for 3 months and will be responsible for passing on all information to Headquarters. There will also be two monitoring missions each (finances and programmes), to enable proper monitoring of activities and coordination with the field teams

As far as the IFRC is concerned, the surge deployed will be responsible for monitoring the operation throughout the period of their deployment and will work under the leadership of the IFRC's GRC coordinator in Yaoundé. As for the technical aspects, the Cash Manager will monitor the updating of the financial service provider's contract with the NS, while other technical departments such as CEA and finance will provide support. The IFRC cluster PMER team will provide support to monitor this operation by putting in place monitoring tools and mechanisms

A one-day lessons learned workshop will be organized at the end of the operation. It will bring together the beneficiaries, the local authorities, the partners, the volunteers, the management team, GRC managers and the IFRC delegation to assess the quality and relevance of the actions undertaken in this operation and thus enlighten future operations.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation.

To foster the visibility of GRC actions, the NS will make the most of its media pages, mainly on social media. Strategic meetings with local leaders and authorities will also help to promote NS actions, volunteers in their mission and the visibility of Red Cross actions in the field.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRCG010 - Gabon Red Cross Society Windstorm

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	95,196
Shelter and Basic Household Items	2,955
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	59,423
Health	14,017
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	15,081
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	2,364
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	1,356
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	61,956
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	38,806
National Society Strengthening	23,150
TOTAL BUDGET	157,152

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



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[Click here for the reference](#)

